

Special points of interest:

- Genealogy Library Progress
- Mystery Woman of Blackford County
- Wells County Civil War letter on eBay
- Humorous story by Jan Philpot
- Synopsis of Special Program at the March meeting

Volume 10, Issue 2

May 2005

Tour the Wells County Historical Society Museum

May 21, 2005 is the date for the tour. This will also be our regular meeting. We will meet at the Wells County Historical Society Museum at **10 AM**. The parking is located in the back so we will meet at the back entrance. There should be plenty of parking for everyone. We will have a tour of the entire building, then there will be some time to do some research if we wish. Even if you have been here before, now would be a good time to see parts of the museum that are not normally open to the general public.

HOME ICE CO. DELIVERY WAGON c. 1920

The photo at the right comes from Society member Tom Stogdill along with the question: "Does anyone know who the driver or the rider are in this ice wagon picture?" This picture would have been taken in Bluffton, Indiana. If you can identify either of the people at the right, please let Tom know. His email is: tstogdill@onlyinternet.net. Or you can call Connie at (260)543-2423 and she can pass the information along to Tom.



President's Corner

There are many things floating around the ol' genealogy society these days. Lots of activity and many projects being worked on by the members. I have been steadily gaining on the History of Uniondale. The more I learn the more I want to know, but isn't that the way we are in our research of our families. In my paper as I am writing, I am making notes in red ink where I need more information (or just want more). It seems some pages are more red than black.

Linda Thomas and I have been going each Wednesday to the library and scanning the old books from the court house. Hopefully, when we are finished (or before), we will have CD's of each book in our own library so you can view the information and do your research here. We have calculated that at the rate of one book a week it should take us about 50 years to get them all scanned.

Membership is down to only 46 members this year. If you know some one who has been a member in the past but hasn't been to a meeting lately why don't you give them a call and encourage them to re-join the Society. Blackford County only has 6 members, I would like to encourage each of you to become more active in the Society and perhaps we can have the same type of project activity in Blackford County as we do in Wells.

Connie

Blackford Wells Tracer

Genealogy Library Well On Its Way

Plans for the library are coming along nicely. A meeting of committee members was held this month and plans were made to obtain the furniture and office supplies which will be needed. It is hoped that a grant can be obtained with which to purchase a computer. More on that will be reported at the next genealogy society meeting.

Now for the important stuff! **We need your help!!!** We want to have genealogical data from all members of our society available in the library. We would like each one of you to make or print out a 5-generation chart to be kept at the genealogy library where other researchers can find it. And don't forget to put your contact information on it somewhere. (This will also be run in the newsletter. If you do not wish it to be placed in the newsletter, please indicate this when you bring or send it in.) If you have a family history that you would like to donate to the genealogy library, we would be happy to accept it.

We are also taking monetary donations. We will be purchasing several binders and protective sleeves in which to keep all the information that we received when we published Early Settlers of Blackford and Wells Counties. Binders will also be used for other things which we want to have easily accessible for people to browse through. Other items being purchased are typical office supplies, such as paper and pencils.

We want to make this a place that compliments and adds to what can be found in the Indiana Room at the Wells County Public Library. There will be some repeats of information available, but we will also have some unique pieces of information which does not reside at the main library.



Minutes of the March Meeting

President Connie Brubaker welcomed members to the March meeting with an amazing reading.

Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given with an ending balance of \$2,662.53.

Mickey Jones reported on the By-Laws revision project. The completion of the project has been delayed due to Micky's computer glitch. A big thank you was given to Cami Mount for all of her work with the By-Laws completion. Cami Mount reported that the first phase of the Deeds Project is near completion and the second and third phases will start this summer.

The proposed library to be located at the Pages In The Attic at the Uniondale location is moving along. Linda Thomas, Barbara Elliott and Barb Grubb will be helping with the furnishings.

Membership dues are now due. A single membership is \$10.00 and a family membership is \$15.00.

Space is still available to anyone interested in the Noble County trip to the Chicago Archives.

GenFest is scheduled for June 10 & 11, 2005, at Muncie. Barbara Elliott will be attending the conference for one day. It was decided to send some Blackford Wells Genealogy Society materials to be displayed

Our Library Volunteers will be conducting a Family Tree Workshop on Monday, May 2, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. You are to bring your 5 generation family chart. Volunteers helping with the workshop will be Vi Tester, Joan Gavilanez, Barbara Elliott, and Connie Brubaker.

The Obituary Index from the Bluffton News Banner has been completed for the years and 2003 and 2004. Work is in progress cataloging 2005 obituaries.

Motion to adjourn made by Micky Jones with second from Mary Lou Bumgarner.

Curt Witcher of the Allen County Public Library was introduced.

Submitted by Lynn Elliott

For more on Curt Witcher's program, see page 9.

BLACKFORD-WELLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: CONNIE BRUBAKER

VICE PRESIDENT: CAMI MOUNT

SECRETARY: LYNN ELLIOTT

TREASURER: MICHELLE JONES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LINDA
THOMAS (WITH CONNIE'S HELP)

SOCIETY RELATED EVENTS

*May 21, 2005—Meeting at the
Wells County Historical Society
Museum for tour and research*

*May 2, 2005 — "Creating a Family
Tree" meets at the Wells Co. Li-
brary.*

*June 10-11, 2005—GenFest in
Muncie, Indiana*

July 16, 2005—Business meeting

*September 17, 2005—Trip to
Huntington LDS Family History
Center*

*November 19, 2005—Annual
Meeting- Dan Remenschneider- mov-
ing cemeteries (tentative)*

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 her at 260-543-2423. You may also send them to Linda Thomas, 5391N-400W, Markle, IN 46770, or lvtforp@parlorcity.com or call her at (260) 758-2332. Need more! 😊



10 years ago

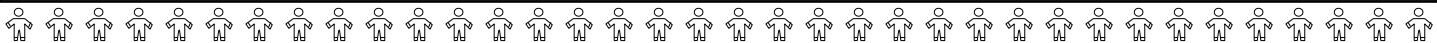
History of the Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society

The news letter was published by Diane Busche, only four times a year (we do six times a year). Lillie Harris followed as Editor for two years. The last year she had an Editor's helper in Virginia Wittwer. They both resigned in 1999. Kathy Davis became Editor in 2000. After the November election Kathy could no longer serve as Editor and Molly Kendall became Editor. In 2002 Connie Brubaker became Editor; she has been editor for the last 3 years, with Linda Thomas assisting the past year. And now, as of this newsletter, Linda Thomas will be the editor with Connie assisting.

Presidents of the Society have been but a few, well... actually only three. Virginia Wittwer was elected as President pro-tem on Saturday, October 21, 1995. At the next meeting which was November 18, 1995, Lynn Elliott was elected President. Lynn served as President until 1999 when Connie Brubaker was elected. Connie has been President since that time.

Vice Presidents of the Society have been Lucille Reidy, Connie Brubaker, Molly Kendall, Kathy Davis and Tom Stogdill. Lucille served as VP from 1996 until her untimely death in 1998. Connie was ask to finish her term and was elected in November to the office. Connie served until 1999 when Molly elected. Kathy Davis was elected in 2001 and the following year Tom was elected and served as vice president thru 2004. Cami Mount is the current Vice President.

More history will be shared in the next issue of "The Tracer." *Submitted by Connie Brubaker, President*



The Census Taker's Home!
(from the Sunday Afternoon Rocking series by Jan Philpot)



Ever wonder why those censuses just don't add up sometimes? Well we all have "our days" when our world is topsy turvy and effects most everything that happens, and I figure a census taker did too. Of course he might not have realized just how far reaching the effects of his bad day might be...

Well, I'm surely glad to be home, that I am. I tell you another day like this one and I am good mind just to fill them papers out on memory and be done with it. Here, put these socks over there next to the fire to dry out, will you? Got down yonder this mornin and everyone in Household 451 through 486 was gone. Some big shindig going on down there. Good thing the folks in 441 could tell me who they all was. Here, reckon you could go over some of the writin on this here page? Got smeared a bit in the rain. I think you can cipher most of it out.

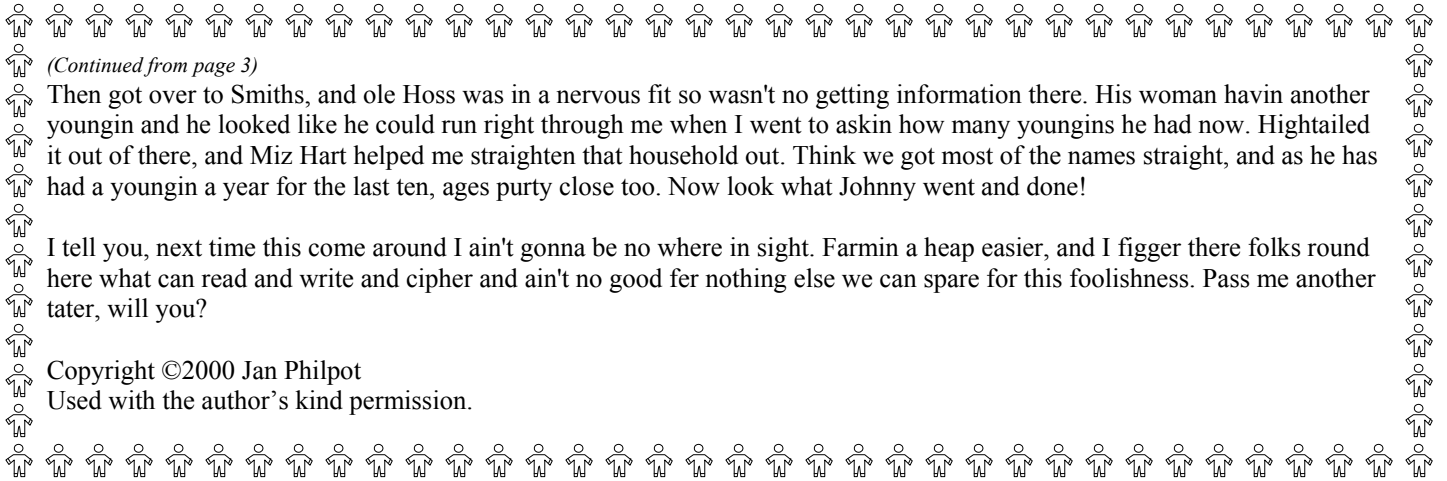
Then them folks down in the holler got suspicious over a census. Said, and derved if they had a point, what difference did it make who they was? Was them guvment folks up in Warshington going to come down here to say howdy do? So they finally let me write down they last name and first initial, but I think they wuz havin a bit of fun with me when they listed who lived in the house. Saw some winkin goin on and I believe I got the same house a youngins in two or three places. It been a day, woman. Honey, git that paper out of Johnny's mouth, will ya? I worked all day on that thing, and no call to let him go chewin it up.

Went up the river a piece and tried to get that done fore it come a downpour, but run into trouble there too. Ole Man Jenkins cur dog run me off and I tell you, ain't no call to get eat up over such a thing as this. They ort to be a limit what a man does for his country. Was lucky a man down the road mostly knew Jenkins was nigh on sixty years old and was living there with his woman and five youngins from his first marriage plus a passel from the second. We give em good Christian names. Best be doin something bout this pen. It give out on me halfway through. See you havin trouble too. Johnny! Hand that here, boy!

And I tell you I would ruther fight grandpap's British than mess with that feller out on the ridge. He got out his shotgun soon as he seen me comin and I went t'other direction. Had Jones tell me about him instead, and he didn't rightly know the feller's first name...said they called him "Squirrel", and it was ok just to put that cause wasn't nobody around here claimin him no how, and they for sure didn't want the guvment knowin there was any relationship. That coffee done?

(Continued on page 4)





(Continued from page 3)

Then got over to Smiths, and ole Hoss was in a nervous fit so wasn't no getting information there. His woman havin another youngin and he looked like he could run right through me when I went to askin how many youngins he had now. Hightailed it out of there, and Miz Hart helped me straighten that household out. Think we got most of the names straight, and as he has had a youngin a year for the last ten, ages purty close too. Now look what Johnny went and done!

I tell you, next time this come around I ain't gonna be no where in sight. Farmin a heap easier, and I figger there folks round here what can read and write and cipher and ain't no good fer nothing else we can spare for this foolishness. Pass me another tater, will you?

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Wells County Related Civil War Letter Found On eBay

One day, while checking for Wells County related merchandise on eBay, I was surprised and delighted to run across an item from Wells County. It was an honest-to-goodness Civil War letter! According to the item description, it was included with "13 Pieces of very rare Civil War correspondence from Kingsley Martin a private in the 7th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers during the years 1861-1862..." Unfortunately, the starting bid was \$250, a bit more than I want to pay for ANYTHING, especially something that wasn't connected to any of my family. But I had the bright idea of emailing the seller, someone who lived in Massachusetts, to ask if there might be any chance of obtaining a copy of just the Wells County item for the Genealogy Society. A few days later, I was holding the copy in my hand. He generously gave me permission to share it with our Society. The copy will then find itself a home in our new genealogy library. (Be sure to look for it when the library opens!)

A transcription of the letter follows as best as it can be made out. Most of it was previously transcribed on the eBay site and I have went through it and added a couple of things that seemed to be right.

Wells County Indiana December 8th 18??

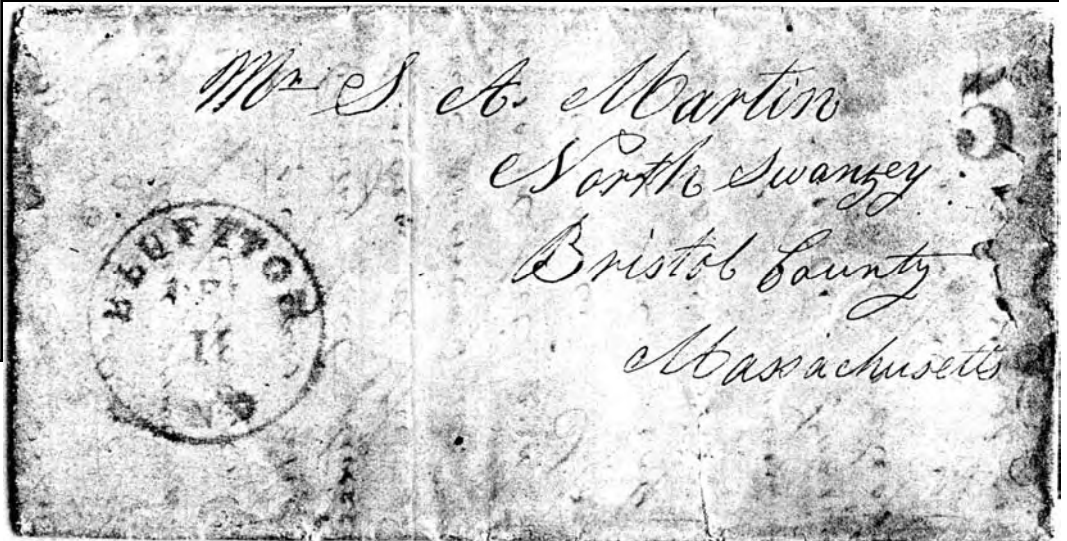
Mr Martin

Sir I received your letter of October 24th stating that you would come to the west and settle on your land if you can sell your property there for a fair price, and consequently do not wish to sell your land yet, you likewise wish to know what kind of constitutions the fever and ague attacks, and what the price of lumber is ?? In the first place in an aguish season it is no respecter of persons, the most robust as well as the most delicate constitutions are subjects to its attack but none need have it if they will use some antibilious medicines during the prevalence of the disease. We have been in the Country the last ten years and the ague has never been in the Country but twice during that time.

The price of lumber at the mill (which is but three fourths of a mile from your land) is for siding nine (*ed. I think*) dollars per thousand feet and all other lumber is ten dollars per thousand. Stone can be had by hauling them three and a half miles from the Wabash river. Carpenters wages is one dollar per day so that you can draw your own conclusions as to what a house would cost. Furniture can be had a Bluffton or Fort Wayne as cheap as any place that we ever lived at. The very best of bureaus cost about twenty two dollars, so on down to ten dollars other furniture on proportion. Dishes and Clothing are cheap, the best of domestick brown muslins is only seven to eight cents per yard, calicoes and other things in proportion. Cooking stoves range from ten to twenty five dollars according to quality. Chickens sell at about eight cents a piece.

The roads in the spring of the year is bad but not so bad as they was some years ago. Some kind of tenement can generally be had to go into untill you would have time to build a better. And in conclusion we should be glad to see you come and live among us, and improve the country, and bring as many sober, enterprising, industrious families with you as you can, here labour meets with a fair reward and there is every encouragement for people to come, nay while land is cheap and provision plenty.

(Continued on page 9)



AT RIGHT:
THE ENVELOPE
NOTE POSTMARK
IT WAS MAILED FROM BLUFFTON

Mystery Woman of Blackford County

Fort Wayne resident, Marge Counterman, is hoping that someone can help her to identify the young lady in the picture at the right. She has posted it online on the Ancestry.com message board for Blackford County, Indiana. Names which Marge is researching, and to which this young woman may be connected, are: ALBERT, WOODARD, ATKINSON, OLIVER, and DIAL. The name at the bottom of the picture shows that it was taken by a photographer or studio named Schaeffer which was located in Hartford City, Indiana. If you know who this woman is, or have any clues that might lead to her identity, please contact Marge at the below address. Any help would be much appreciated.

Marge Counterman
 7003 Westlawn Drive
 Fort Wayne, IN 46804
 Email: grannycount@verizon.net or grannycount@netzero.com



BLACKFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

-- Family Names List --

The following list contains some of the family history names in the Blackford County Historical (not genealogy) Society's Library. I found this on the internet and thought I'd place it here so you would know what is available.

Alexander, John
 Banter -- Wells Co., IN/Page Co., VA
 Bieber-Beaver
 Beeson/Beason
 Bell, Earl D. -- Autobiography
 Blackburn, John
 Bradshaws
 Bradford, John -- (John Davies Sr.,
 Johans Adam Gaumer & John
 Chadwell)
 Brose Family Tree
 Bugh Family History
 Campbell, William
 Cline Family History
 Cline-Kleefisch
 Cline Family, A sketch of
 Coffin Family
 Cogeshalls in America

Coons, Michael (Koontz)
 Crawford, Jane Todd
 Cronin, F. Patrick
 Current and Hobson
 Curts Family
 Davidson -- Autbio. & Reminiscence
 Davidson -- Journal of Mary A.
 Dillon -- Kigar, Gibson, Harrold,
 Heaton, Summer, Summers, Beales
 Dow -- Journal of Lorenzo Dow
 Drake -- From Mill Wheel to Plowshare
 Ebert Family
 Engel -- Clappers in America
 Ervin -- Soldier Boy in Blue Randon
 Reminiscences
 Ford -- History of the Ford Family
 Frazier, F. M.
 Frazier, George Everett

Gettys
 Goodin, Emma Belle -- Autobiography
 Goodin
 Hiatt - Hiett
 Jenks
 Johnson -- Descendants of William & John
 Kellan -- Brooks ans Kindred Families
 Kellogg Family History
 Marchal, Family tree of Valentine Marchal
 McEldowney
 Mellett and Hichman Families (Two vol.)
 Mendenhalls
 Mills Family History
 Michael, Richard Wayne, "My Life"

(Continued on page 9)

Old-Time Square Dances Were a Delight To The Pioneers Of This County

Smith Casterline married Ellen Mills, sister of Al Mills a former sheriff of Blackford county. Mr. Casterline served various terms as city and county surveyor. He owned and operated one of the first photographic galleries in Hartford City and many old fashioned tin types now in possession of the family are proof of his ability. He also wrote and set to music many religious songs, one in particular, he wrote many years ago for his grand-niece, Mrs. Frank Smith, is in her possession yet today. He conducted the old time singing schools both at Bailey and Lillibridge schools. He owned and played one of the first melodeons to make its appearance in this community and his home was always a popular place for the younger folks to gather. He kept a daily diary from his youth to old age and therein is to be found authentic records of the weather, what he did each day and any unusual event occurring in the neighborhood. These books are now in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Eva Stamm of New Castle, Ind., and his son, George of Muskegon, Mich. Charles Casterline, another son, was killed a few years ago, when struck by an automobile near Cleveland, Ohio, where his two children now reside. Charles was also a fine photographer, being engaged in that business at the time of his demise."

Transcribed from a Blackford County (probably Hartford City) newspaper, date and paper unknown, probably 1941

YE OLDEN TIMES

A monthly addition to your genealogy society newsletter. Edited & typed by Linda V. Thomas

I thought I was starting with the oldest newspapers on microfilm, but, lo and behold! I missed an even older section. I will finish what I have of *The Little Lively*, then back track to the older newspapers and work my way forward from there. The first of those will be from the *Bluffton Banner* which began publication in 1850. Be sure to note the date at the end of each section. :o)

It must also be mentioned that the articles I choose to place here are not always going to have several names in them of possible genealogical interest. Sometimes they may be more of historical value, but that has its importance, too, for those writing family history. It helps give a flavor of the times. I also, as some have noted, include things that are just humorous cause it's just plain fun! Now on to the "olden times"...

Prof. F. S. Reefy left here yesterday evening to take charge of the Lorain Constitution, at Elyria, O., which paper he has purchased. We wish the Professor abundant success in all his journalistic labors, except in so far as he may labor for the election of Greeley.

ARNOLD, BLISS & CO. have bought out the Hardware Store of GETTER, KENAGYS & CO. That branch of their business will be conducted under the name an style of JEFFREY BLISS & CO.

The following marriage licenses have been issued since last week's report:

Lorenzo G. Anthony—Margaret A. Wilson

Francis B. Tackett—Prudence Cunningham.

Judge Garton, County Commissioner, has been lying dangerously ill at his residence in Lancaster township for the past ten days, but we are gratified to learn that he is now improving, and is considered by his physicians to be out of danger. He is nearly 80 years of age, and an old and highly esteemed citizen.

A GOOD CITIZEN GONE.—Joshua J. Bennett, one of the best citizens of our county, died on Thursday last, of typhoid fever, at his residence near Vera Cruz. He was about 55 years of age and leaves a widow (second wife) with several small children.

Mrs. McFarren, wife of Jacob McFarren, and mother of George F. McFarren of this place, died at her home in Liberty township last week.

Wm. J. Boltin, the new Real Estate Appraiser, took out his commission from the Clerk's Office yesterday.

Last Sunday was decidedly "squaw winterish." Snowed a little, and was cold a few.

"Fanny Fern's" maiden name was Sarah Payson Willis, sister to N.P. Willis. She was the divorced wife of James Parton, Greeley's campaign biographer.

DIED.

In Lancaster township, 16th inst., of typhoid fever, EMMA, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Walker, aged 19 years.

The Little Lively
October 17, 1872—Page 4

We have now a Mail route established between Fort Wayne and Muncie. Now if our friends at Fort Wayne, Montpelier, and Hartford will do their duty, we can have a semi-weekly mail between the aforesaid points. It is but

a day and a half ride between the said places, and the roads are now opened and the streams bridged, so that the route is fully passable at any and all times. The plank road will be completed to this place during the summer, and the Bellefontaine Railroad will be completed to Muncie by next fall. This will give Fort Wayne and intermediate villages a direct intercourse to Indianapolis and to Madison on the Ohio river. If the proper efforts are used, in three months we can have the mail service in operation.

We hope that one will not wait for another to take hold of the measure first, but that he who sees the importance of the enterprise, will immediately go to work, get up a petition, and get all the subscribers he can, forward the same to us, and we will send them all to the proper Department of the General Post Office at Washington.

NEW BOOKS.—The Wells County Bible Society have received another lot of still better bound Bibles; and we can say that they are as good as can be obtained any where. They are offered so low that we cannot see how any man can do without. All who wish can be supplied by the gentlemanly Secretary, Dr. H. Courtney.—They are afforded for 30 cents. Call and get one.

THE ELECTION last Monday passed off quietly, and with good feelings. The poll was about 211. The following officers were elected:

Trustees—Lewis Prillaman, Smith D. French, H. B. Elston.

Justices of the Peace—Nelson Kellogg, John Burgess.

Treasurer—G. McDowell.

Clerk—C. Grimes

Constables—R. Russell, W. Cobbum.

Fence Viewers—W. Prillaman, Amos Townsend

Supervisors—R. McKinnis, I. Smith, L. Miller, J. K. Reiff, S. Riddile, Jno. A. Deam, T. Ogden, E. Huss, A. W. Johnson, J. Hammond.

"No License," by a small majority.

Bluffton Banner

April 10, 1851—Page 2

KHALIPHORNEIA

ALL IN SEARCH OF MONEY and no mistake. All those indebted to DEAM & SNYDER, for over one year and upwards, are requested to pay up immediately, as we must and will have money. If this call is not complied with, they will be waited upon by a legal officer. We are in earnest. Pay up, and then it will be all "All Right!"
 W. M. DEAM.
 FRED. SNYDER.
 March 13, 1851

DISSOLUTION.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE THIS DAY mutually dissolved their copartnership. All persons indebted to the late firm of Williams & Morgan, are requested to settle up their accounts immediately, The books will continue in the hands of Joseph Williams for collection.
 JOSEPH WILLIAMS.
 JOHN MORGAN.
 March 9th, 1851

MR. MORGAN will continue the business of Sawing, Grinding, and woolcarding as usual.

Notice.

The undersigned Administrators of the Estate of William Krill, late of Wells county, deceased, will on Saturday, the twelfth day of April 1851, 9er at public sale, at the residence of A.M. Krill, in Harrison township, in said county, the personal property of said estate, consisting of one wagon and harness for two horses one Fanning Mill, and other articles. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M. of said day, whole due attention will be given by J. P. GREER.
 A. M. KRILL, Adm'rs.

Emporium of Fashion.

No. 2, Market street, Bluffton.
 S. F. WEBB,
 Would respectfully inform his friends and the citizens of Wells county in general, that he still keeps his Shop at No. 2, one door west of J. Studabaker's Store, where he will be

happy to wait upon all who may favor him with their custom. Being in the receipt of the latest Fashions from the cities of N. York and Philadelphia, he flatters himself that he can please the most fastidious.

Bluffton, March 11, 1851

List of Letters

Remaining in the Post Office at Bluffton Wells County, Indiana, on the 1st day of April 1851, and if not called for on or before the first day of July next, will be sent to the General Post Office as dead letters.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Alexander Jole | Ketterman Abraham |
| Atchison Anthony | Kellar Samuel |
| Black Elizabeth Ana | Lamb John |
| Blake William | Methem Benjamin |
| Brimman Rebeca | Mrtin Samuel |
| Bell James | McClish Hubert |
| Black John | McFarren Caroline |
| Bolten Stewart | Marquis R C |
| Barber Emerson | Musan Michael |
| Berry James G | Ogden Thomas |
| Cloud Joseph | Parker Timothy |
| Cleveland Samuel | Ritter Ferdinand |
| Deam John A | Richards William W |
| Dixon Nathaniel H | Schaff?er Adelaide |
| Davis Elias | Strode William |
| Eckrote | Sower Samuel or |
| David | J S Reiff |
| Ellingham Charles | Shoemaker Samuel |
| French Lot | Souder Robert |
| Fouts Samuel W | Sowers George |
| Gentis John | Shigley John |
| Grove L. S. 3 | Soldner John |
| Goings Lewis | Sanford Janes 2 |
| Heiepe, Isaac | Tuttle Lillie |
| Hedges McClure | Thompsom Presley |
| Haines Elizabeth | Troup Elis |
| Harvey John | Turner Henry |
| Harvey Robert | Trigg James |
| Huselton Henry | Welty David |
| Hunsickare John | Wilson Woodford |
| Hammond Isiah | Walmer Henry S |
| Jolly Simeon | Zahr Michael |
| Jackson Levi | |

JOHN STUDABAKER, P.M.

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE

Bluffton Classical School.

Will commence on the first Monday in May next at which time we expect to have a commodious school room with a suitable recitation room fitted and ample accommodations for all who may favor us with their patronage. Suitable boarding can be had for

those from a distance on reasonable terms. Term of tuition as formerly.

W. M. DONALDSON, Principal.
 J. W. DONALDSON, Teacher.

SALE OF SCHOOL LANDS.

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN, that the undersigned, Auditors and Treasurer of the county of Wells, and State of Indiana, will epose at public sale, at the door fo the Court house, in the town of Bluffton, on the 17th day of May, 1851, between the hours of 10 o'clock A.M. and 4 o'clock P.M., on said day, all of Section 16, Town 27, R. 12 East; to be sold in 40 acre Lots; lying in the County aforesaid. One-fourth of the purchase money, and the advance interest at 7 percent., on the residue, will be required to be paid in hand to the County Treasurer, at the time of purchase. The residue at any time within twenty-five years by paying 7 per cent interest annually in advance. The necessary plats and valuations can be seen by any person calling at the Auditor's place.

JAMES DAILEY, Auditor, W.C.
 Wm. H. DEAM, Treasurer, W.C.

All for Oregon!

W. H. DEAM HAS JUST COMPLETED his new

FLOURING MILL,

at New Lancaster, where all kinds of custom work will be done on short notice. Also, grinding and packing flour on reasonable terms. Flour will at all times be kept on hand to exchange for wheat.

All those knowing themselves indebted to me, are requested to make immediate payment, as my circumstances urge me to make an immediate collection.
 W. H. DEAM

Feb. 11, 1851

Ho! For Oregon.

THE UNDERSIGNED WOULD RESPECTFULLY inform the citizens of Wells and adjoining counties, that we have permanently located in the town of Bluffton, where we design manufacturing and repairing guns in all the various branches. We will at all times be prepared to furnish to order, a superior quality of

RIFLE AND SMOOTH BORE GUNS.

Which we have no hesitation in recommending to the public, as we have had

long experience in the business. Induces us to believe that our work cannot be excelled, either for beauty, durability, or accuracy, in the Western country. We will also keep on hand Triggers, moulds, wipers, tubes, cylinders, & c., so that those wishing work (unreadable section - ed.) otherwise engaged.

Your attention is particularly called to our terms, which we will exchange work for money or produce at cash prices. Those who are willing to trade on these terms, are respectfully invited to give us a call, as we expect to work low but for ready pay only.

J. W. FLEMING.
ISAAC COVERT.

Bluffton, Feb. 1, 1851.

BLACKSMITHING.

THE Old adage of Sam Patch, " that some things can be done as well as others," may be fully demonstrated by a personal examination of the manner in which

E. N. BROWN,

Turns off Blacksmith work on Market street opposite the "Franklin House." He is prepared to manufacture

EDGE TOOLS

Of every description, which he will warrant equal, if not superior to articles of eastern manufacture.

He will likewise promptly attend to ironing

Wagons, Buggies and Carriages, in as good order as can be done east of the mountains, and as cheap as the cheapest.

If you want horses shod at a moments notice, you have only to call at the "Red Shop," on Market Street, where it will be done up "BROWN:" on the shortest notice.

July 25, 1850

MANSION HOUSE.

A. HALL---Proprietor.

THE subscriber desires to inform the traveling public that he has bought and fitted anew this large and commodious

Tavern Stand,

Formerly occupied by J. Tilman, Esq.,

on Main St., north of the public square in Bluffton where he hopes to merit and (? - illegible due to wrinkle) liberal share of public patronage.

His rooms are large and airy and he is determined to render the **MAN-SION HOUSE** all that a traveler or boarder could desire.

HIS TABLE

Will be furnished with as good articles as the markets can afford.

He is provided with one of the larg-est

STABLES.

To be found in Northern Indiana, in connection with which is a

WAGON SHED,

For the protection of wagons and bug-gies. As also a large WAGON YARD.

No reasonable effort or expense will be avoided to make his guests com-fortable.

July 25, 1850. A. HALL.

Bluffton Banner
April 10, 1851—Page 3

Ed. Note—The following were simple adver-tisements of businesses. They included no more than the name, what they did, and where they were located if that was mentioned, so I am simply going to list them.

Chair Factory—Zachariah Stahl, John Eyman

Saddlery—William R. Ferguson, No. 6 Market St., west of Main

Clothing & Shoe Store—Martin Win-ters, Market St. one door east of Ben-nett & Winters Grocery

Blacksmith—Samuel Jones, on John-son St.

Cabinet Ware, also coffins—Wm. McBride, on Main St.

Tannery—Samuel Decker, east side of Bluffton

Attorney at Law & Master in Chancery—S. G. Upton

Henry Courtney M.D., office on east side of Main St. opposite Auditor's office

Bluffton Boot & Shoe Emporium—J. A. Godard

Doct. J. J. Drummond—Physician & Sur-geon, office in courthouse, 2nd door at right hand upstairs

Wagonmaker & repairer—Jackson E. White, corner Johnson & Market

Doctor L. T. Melsheimer, Dr. T. Horton

(also a dentist), 3rd door at right hand up-stairs—courthouse

Saddle, Trunk & Harness Maker—David Witwer, one door west of M. Miller's Tav-ern

Franklin House—M. Miller, corner of Mar-ket & Johnson Sts., hotel & food

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April 10, 1851—Page 4

List of Letters

REMAINING in the Postoffice at Bluff-ton, Wells county, Indiana, October 1st, 1858. Persons calling for any of said letters will please say "Advertised."

Athen Benjamin	Simerson Robert
Alexander James M	Stoughton S J
Crites Cyrus	Snyder Joseph
Davis M E	Thrall Mrs Sarah J
Foster William	Tuelby Wm A
Hasty John	Whitman George
McDaniel Miss Leah	Owen John
Yates Jas E	

Notice of Distribution to Heirs.

NOTICE is hereby given that at the October term, 1858, of the Court of Common Pleas of Wells county, after final settlement of the Estate of Benja-min Mendenhall, deceased, Twenty dollars and forty-four cents were found remaining for distribution among the heirs. Said heirs are there-fore notified to appear at the next term of said court and receive their distribu-tive share.

GEO. McDOWELL, Clerk

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COUNTY OFFICERS

James Dailey,	Auditor.
George McDowell,	Clerk.
Evan H. Phillips,	Sheriff.
Wilson M. Bulger,	Recorder.
John Wandel,	Treasurer.
E. A. Horton,	Surveyor.
Samuel A. Smith,	Coroner.
James Bell,	} Commissioners.
John Ogden,	
G. H. King,	

Bluffton Banner
November 19, 1858—Page 3

<p><i>(Continued from page 5)</i> Monroe Family Reunion Overmeyer History and Genealogy Palmer, Samuel -- Autobiography Pershing Family in America Petty, Wright, Riley and Related Families Pharrs and Farris Pierce Chronicle Pugh Rarick Reasoner Family Records Ricketts/McGeath Family History Rawlings Rogers</p>	<p>Roll -- Charles and Martha Runkle Schmidt Family Reminiscences Schuhmacher -- Schramm History Schwarzkopf, Vergil -- Autobiography Secrest, Abraham Family -- Book 1 and 2 Sherwood, Daniel L. Shields, Peter Sidener, Orrin Wade Simonton, Benjamin G. -- Memoirs Sprague Stallsmith Family Records Steinhilber Streib</p>	<p>Turley, Roy H. Vallad, L. B. -- Biography Williams Genealogy Willman-Schmidt Family History Wrestler Family Wright -- the Hodson Story Winchell, Family of Families of the Pilgrims Village Blacksmith - Schmidt, the German Smith, the Englishman, Kovac, the Bulgarian</p>
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Special Program at Our March Society Meeting

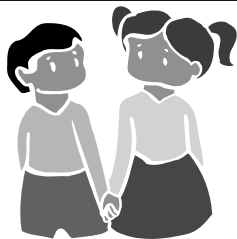
The program which Curt Witcher shared with us at our last society meeting was "An Overview of Land & Property Records". This outstanding program literally walked you through the research process step by step. He pointed out the importance of Land Records because they place an individual in a specific place during a particular time period. He explained how the original Land Patent could be searched online and a scan of the original record obtained. Along with this he told us how the land patent process worked.

He helped us to see the many ways which land records could enable us to track our ancestors where we could find no trace of them previously. We were reminded to check out how townships and counties may have shifted around the time we suspect our ancestor was in the area. Sometimes we'll find that they were there, but we were using the wrong geographic name in our search. Curt explained several terms that can be seen in the old deed books which could help us better understand the ancestor's transaction. Surprisingly, he shared with us that once in a while other things can actually be found in the very backs of some of the old deed books, things such as marriage records & wills.

Curt's presentation included definitions of the old "metes & bounds" system of measuring, as well as the rectangular system. He added a brief explanation of how the rectangular system worked. In addition, he told us that we needed to utilize maps more than we probably did. He concluded by sharing with us what we can find in PERSI, available at the Allen County Public Library, as well as the records on microfilm that are available through the Family History Centers scattered throughout the U.S. It is amazing that land records from other states that have been filmed by the Latter Day Saints can be obtained and viewed by this method.

He closed with a brief question and answer session. One question concerned how to obtain the microfilm held by the Family History Center. It is a simple matter of going to a family history center, or a library, such as Huntington County's or Allen County's, and ordering the microfilm. The cost is \$3.25 per film and will be held at the library for your viewing usage for 30 days.

Article a joint effort of Lynn Elliott & Linda Thomas



More Great Truths That Little Children Have Learned...

- Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.

Just a thought..

Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery, Today is a gift.
 That's why it is called the present.

-Unknown

(Continued from page 4)

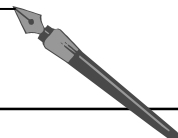
The plank road is finished from Bluffton to Fort Wayne and runs within a mile and a half of your land which makes a good market for all our produce.

Please to let us hear from you occasionally.

Yours Respectfully

J. Garton

Ed. Note—by the way, for those of you who are wondering, the auction for the 140-year-old letters closed out at \$635.50.



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: _____

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

Blackford Wells Genealogy Society
P.O. Box 54
Bluffton, IN 46714