

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- September meeting place changed
- Deed Project
- Genealogy Library News
- Gilham obituaries (Hartford City)
- Ancestry Charts
- Ye Olden Times

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4  
SEPTEMBER 2005

# Blackford Wells Tracer

## September Meeting Will Be In Bluffton (has anyone priced gas lately?)

The trip to Huntington has been postponed for a number of reasons. My apologies for the last minute rescheduling. This is the second time we've postponed this trip, so if it is something you're interested in, please let me know and I will try again next year, otherwise, I think we'll save this for some undetermined future date. I'm working on our schedule for next year and plan to have a tentative one for the November meeting so everyone knows what to expect in January, please let me know if you would like to see something in particular.

On the bright side, our esteemed president has graciously offered to put together a program for us. (Thank you, Connie, you're my hero) I will also have our deed project database with me and can give a demonstration if anyone would like to see it.

Cami Mount

## NEWSFLASH MEETING PLACE MOVED

The meeting of the Blackford Wells Genealogical Society will not take place at the Huntington County Family History Center as originally planned. It will instead take place at the public library in Bluffton, Indiana which happens to be our usual meeting place. Connie Brubaker will be the speaker and she will be giving a talk entitled "Genealogy at Work." What will this be about? Come to the meeting and you will find out. 😊

In case you are wondering, the name change for the society, as mentioned in the minutes on the next page, will take place at the first of next year. This newsletter will then become the Wells County Tracer.

## President's Corner

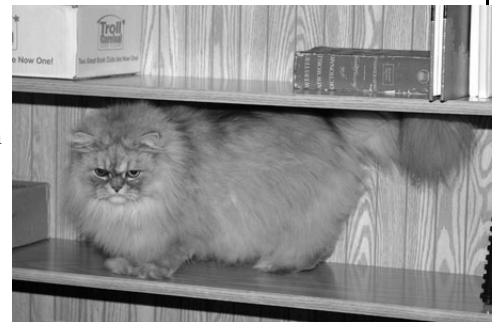
"I'm so excited" the research library is looking so nice. The gals worked really hard to get the binders filled and ready for our open house. Oh, did I forget to mention I would like very much to have an opening for the research library as soon as we are ready. But we need your help. Your family trees and any other extra information that can be added to our shelves.

How many of you have actually read our Constitution, Article II Objectives? 1. Collect, preserve, secure, document, organize, and record the early ancestry of any and all families that the Society or any of its members decide to study. Etc...

In order for the Society to fulfill its objectives we need to each submit the records of our early settlers and those whom we have researched. The brochure we hand out says that we have compiled and maintained pedigree charts and family group sheets for ALL our members. And maintain a cross reference surname file of ALL families of members being researched.

I would like to get these two things in order before the end of this year if at all possible. Included in this newsletter is a pedigree chart and a family group sheet. You may copy or ask for more copies if you have no way of copying them. These are only examples of what information is needed to complete the lists. You may send your family information in whatever format you are currently using. All of the pedigree charts and family group sheets will be put into binders for anyone to use in our research library. Please help get this together by sending your information to me directly or delivering it to the research library. My address is Connie Brubaker, 7077N-100W, Uniondale, IN 46791.

Our Society has also been invited to become a Chapter of the Indiana Genealogical Society. To do this we must have our non-profit status and at least 10 members of IGS. The membership for individuals is \$30 per calendar year. You will find a membership form in this newsletter. Although our non-profit may take several



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## Genealogy Library Update

A library work day is planned for September 15th at Pages From the Attic located north of Uniondale. This should be our final work day as there is not a lot that needs finished. Projects needing done are: finish putting the Early Settlers submitted information into their binders; photocopy some booklets of information which will be kept in our library and; inventory all the books, binders and other information we have. We will also be batting around ideas for the Open House.

Reminder: **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. See page 4 & 5 for more information. Don't forget to put your contact information on it somewhere. If you have a family history that you would like to donate to the genealogy library, we would be happy to accept it.

We will also accept monetary donations. If you meant to send yours and haven't done so yet, please mail them soon and indicate it's to be used for library expenses.



### GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing up is mandatory; growing old is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

## Minutes of the July Meeting

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the Society was held at the Wells County Public Library. The meeting was called to order by President Connie Brubaker. President Brubaker declared that a quorum was present.

**Report of Minutes:** May 2005 meeting minutes published in newsletter. Dorothy Manning moved to approve, Pat Dyson seconded. Motion to approve carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Connie Brubaker distributed report prepared by Mickey Jones to the membership showing a beginning balance of \$2598.84, receipts of \$15 and expenses of 571.83 resulting in a new balance of 2042.01. Pat Dyson moved that the report be approved, Nellie Sleppy seconded. Motion to approve carried.

**Correspondence:** Research on Robert Bennett for Karen Stephens is in process.

The Indiana Genealogical Society is accepting queries for their news letter, and is running a contest: Elaine Spiries Smith Family History Writing Award is the prize. Indiana Cemetery CD containing numerous Indiana counties is available for \$5, additional \$3 shipping & handling. Contact Connie for details if you are interested.

**Committee Reports:** Archive update provided by Linda Thomas. A computer with current software, and a printer/scanner/copier has been purchased. A work day has been scheduled for 9 a.m. August 11 to organize our current holdings. Copy fees of 10¢ for text or black & white pictures, \$1 for color copies, and 50¢ for blank CD's have been established. A letter informing local funeral directors, attorneys, realtors, and others who deal with estate administration of the existence and availability of the archive will be mailed. Wells County Public Library donated copies of the 1887 Adams Wells Biography and several local yearbooks.

**Deed Project** report published in newsletter. No response to letter to state archive requesting permission to purchase microfilm has been received. Cami Mount will follow up by telephone.

**Old Business:** Society name and tax status—Our new name, Wells County Genealogy  
(Continued on page 9)

## Open House

Wells County Genealogy

Library

01 Oct 2005

Time to be announced

Located at

Pages From the Attic

7077N - 100W

Uniondale, IN 46791

### BLACKFORD-WELLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: CONNIE BRUBAKER

VICE PRESIDENT: CAMI MOUNT

SECRETARY: LYNN ELLIOTT

TREASURER: MICHELLE JONES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LINDA THOMAS

### SOCIETY RELATED EVENTS

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

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

**Ed. Note:** The family group sheet promised by Connie will have to wait till next newsletter. I missed that I was to have it in here till I had printed most of the pages. Sorry Connie!

## **TOM GILLHAM DIES IN SAN FRANCISCO—FORMER RESIDENT SUCCUMBS IN HOSPITAL IN GOLDEN GATE CITY**

“Tom Gilham, 37 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Gilham of West Commercial Street and formerly a resident of this city, died Tuesday evening about 6 o’clock in a hospital in San Francisco, Cal. Death was due to intestinal trouble following an attack of typhoid fever. He had been ill some time, his wife and daughter having been called to his bedside several weeks ago from this city where they had come to make a visit.

The body will be brought back to his old home for burial. The funeral party, consisting of Jerry Gilham, a brother, who is in San Francisco, and his wife and child, is expected to arrive here on the Pennsylvania passenger at 3:28 Saturday afternoon. A committee from the local lodge of Elks will meet the party at the train. Definite funeral arrangements have not been made but the service probably will be conducted Sunday afternoon. Mr. Gilham was formerly a member of the local lodge of Eagles and that organization also will send a committee to the railroad station to meet the body. He was a member of the Elks lodge at Maricopa, Calif., and it is expected that the local lodge will be in charge.

Tom Gilham was born in Hanna, LaPorte County, Ind. He came to this city with his parents when about seventeen years of age and continued to reside here until about five years ago, when, with his wife and child, he went to Maricopa, Cal., to work in the oil fields. During his fifteen years residence in Hartford City he became

well known and had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances to whom the news of his death will be a severe shock.

Beside his widow and child, a daughter, aged 18(sp?), and the parents the following brothers and sisters survive; Scott a clerk in the local post office, and Chester, both of this city; Jerry, of San Francisco; Howard, of Flatrock, Ill., John, of Kendallville; Mrs. Anson Kline, of this city; Mrs. H. C. McMahan, of Knox, Ind.’ Mrs. C.W. Spangler, of Dewey, Okla.”

*The Evening News*, August 16, 1911

## **SCOTT GILHAM DIES AT NOON IN HOSPITAL—WAS ASSISTANT POSTMASTER HERE FOR PAST SIX YEARS – IN POOR HEALTH MANY MONTHS**

“Winfield Scott Gilham, assistant postmaster since June, 1912, passed away about noon today at the Dr. Caylor hospital at Bluffton where he was taken Monday afternoon for an examination. Mr. Gilham had been in ill health for three or four months, but until recently had been able to be at the office almost each day to supervise his work. During the past summer he is believe to overexert himself in work about his new home on east VanCleve street, and the result was valvular heart trouble, complicated later with kidney infection. When he took his vacation in the summer he came home from Ohio in a weakened condition, and his decline has been gradual since then. While physicians gave no hope, his death came sooner than expected. Some days ago he sold all of household furniture and was preparing to go to Oklahoma to visit a sister during the winter months, believing he might regain

his health. Dr. Caylor when he made his examination confirmed the first diagnosis of Dr. Dodds of this city, and said that death was only a question of hours or weeks.

Mr. Gilham was one of the most efficient employees who ever held a position in the local office. He went into service as a general delivery clerk sixteen years ago and proved so capable that Postmaster A.F. Kinsley selected him as the deputy postmaster, when Edwin Ford resigned. Mr. Gilham was always careful as to detail, always accurate, well posted on postal affairs, and always obliging and considerate in his dealing with the public. He was a graduate of the Hartford City High School and was noted at school for his ability to acquire knowledge.

“Scott” Gilham, as he was generally known, was born in Wanatah, thirty-seven years ago. He moved with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Gilham to this city when a boy of eight years and had lived here ever since that time. His mother was buried five years ago today and his father died about a year ago. He lived on West Kickapoo Street. Surviving are Mrs. Gilham, formerly Miss Nellie Thompson, to whom he was united in marriage November 10, 1909, a sister, Mrs. A.J. Kline, of 515 West Franklin Street, and a brother Gerald, who recently has been making his home with him and other brothers and sisters. Funeral arrangements will be announced Friday.”  
*Hartford City News*, December 26, 1918

## **JERRY GILHAM IS SUMMONED—DEATH CLAIMED CHARLES GERALD GILHAM WEDNESDAY EVENING AT BLACKFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL**

Charles Gerald (Jerry) Gilham, well known resident of this city and brother of Mrs. Anson Kline, died Wednesday evening about 6:25 o’clock, at the Blackford County Hospital following an illness with complication of diseases. Mr. Gilham had been in poor health for some time but his condition was not regarded as critical until last Saturday. He was taken to the hospital Sunday morning, but due to his weakened condition no hopes were entertained for his recovery.

The deceased was a member of the Christian church of this city and the Moose lodge. Charles Gerald Gilham was born June 7, 1878, at Wanatah, Ind., in LaPorte County. He was the son of Ezekiel and

### **ANCESTRY QUICK TIP**

#### **After the Research Trip by Yolanda Campbell Lifter**

My long-distance research trips are usually seven or more days in length. I arrive home with piles of paper and documents that I have collected along the way as well as all the digital photos I took.

To help make my post-trip recovery easier, I have developed a simple way to help myself. At the end of each day of research, I send myself an e-mail. I write where I was on that particular day and what I did. I note any libraries, courthouses, or cemeteries I visited. I also mention if I made any new discovery or found something that needs further follow-up. I list the name(s) of anyone I need to send a thank-you note. I report which client(s) I worked for that day and for how long.

I also mention anything that may help me on future trips to the same area such as a landmark for that hard to find cemetery or the name and location of a store I visited.

This method has helped me avoid feeling overwhelmed when I return home, and the task of organizing my new findings seems more manageable.

Reprinted with permission. *Ancestry.com Quick Tip*

(Continued on page 9)

# Ancestral Chart

Ancestry.com.

Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is  
the same person as No. \_\_\_\_\_

On Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                                                     |                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1</p> <p>BORN<br/>PLACE<br/>MARRIED<br/>PLACE<br/>DIED<br/>PLACE</p> <p>NAME OF SPOUSE _____</p> | <p>2</p> <p>BORN<br/>PLACE<br/>MARRIED<br/>PLACE<br/>DIED<br/>PLACE</p> |
| <p>3</p> <p>BORN<br/>PLACE<br/>DIED<br/>PLACE</p>                                                   | <p>4</p> <p>BORN<br/>PLACE<br/>MARRIED<br/>PLACE<br/>DIED<br/>PLACE</p> |
| <p>5</p> <p>BORN<br/>PLACE<br/>DIED<br/>PLACE</p>                                                   | <p>6</p> <p>BORN<br/>PLACE<br/>MARRIED<br/>PLACE<br/>DIED<br/>PLACE</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                                                | <p>9</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                    |
| <p>10</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                                               | <p>11</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                   |
| <p>12</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                                               | <p>13</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                   |
| <p>14</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                                               | <p>15</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>                                   |



## Articles for the news letters

I much appreciate the articles that have been received for the newsletter. Please keep them coming. They can be obituaries, family stories (funny or otherwise), or old newspaper articles. I gladly accept old photos (DON'T send originals, the PO could lose them), an idea or a tip that you have found helpful, a bit of the history of your family, (perhaps how they came to be in the county) or just about anything genealogy related. Send those articles either by email or snail mail to Linda Thomas, 5391 N-400 W, Markle, IN 46770 or [lvtforp@parlorcity.com](mailto:lvtforp@parlorcity.com), or call me at (260) 758-2332.

## Ancestry Charts

Now's your chance to get your family into our library. And it will hopefully be an easy method by which you may do it. We would like **everyone** to take the chart found on the facing page and fill one out for each family they are researching. This could mean you send us not just one, not just two, maybe not even just five, but 10 or more charts. And yes, that means making copies of the chart before you start filling it in. Please help our library in this way.

Number 1 (at the left) does not have to be you. It does not have to be your mother or father either. You may go back to one of your grandparents and start there if you would prefer. That is up to you. I understand that there is a great deal of privacy concerns, so do what you are comfortable with.

We would also like to run these charts in the newsletter over the next year or two (however long it takes to run them all). Keep that in mind while you are filling them out. If you do NOT wish for your chart to be placed in this newsletter, please drop a note in with the chart(s) that you send us indicating that you do not wish it to be printed in the newsletter. If that is not indicated, the charts will be printed here.

If you have any questions about how to fill out the chart, call Connie @ (260) 543-2423 or Linda @ (260) 758-2332. Please mail the charts to Connie

## Deed Project Update

Welcome to our new volunteer, Tom Stair of Oklahoma. We're so pleased he will be working with us. We need all the help we can get and Tom, who will be working at his local LDS Family History Center, is our first long distance volunteer. All that's necessary is access to an FHC and the time to volunteer. A special note to our non-resident society member: this project is no longer local - you can help. LDS will charge a nominal film rental fee, but we will reimburse you for that and any other reasonable expenses. Please consider it, we can give you as much or as little work as you want.

*Submitted by Cami Mount*

at Connie Brubaker, 7077N - 100W, Uniondale, IN 46791. Or you may bring them to the society's library during our Open House or at any time you would like to drop by in the near future.

## 10 years ago History of the Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society

*Continued from last month*

### Things that have changed over the years in the Society

- In July of 1996 the change discussed was whether or not to have advertisements in the news letter. It was decided to have the advertising leaving it to the Editor to decide the fees. As you can see there is no advertising in our newsletter.
- The change from having 4 meetings a year to 6. The change of the newsletter from 4 per year to 6.
- The Constitution and By-laws have been revised at least twice with only minor, but necessary, changes.
- Meetings are no longer held in Blackford County. They are held at the Wells County Library.
- The Vice President is now in charge of setting up and running the programs for the meetings.
- Membership has dropped from over 80 to a mere 47.

### Accomplishments by the Society members over the years:

- Ken Manning helped index the 1870 census
- First Family and Pioneer Family Certificate program
- The publishing of the "Early Settlers of Blackford and Wells Counties" book
- The Indexing of the Wells County Wills and publishing of the book
- Blackford County Civil War Veterans Index
- Wells County Cemetery Index
- The indexing of (land) deed records (in progress)
- History of various small villages of Wells County
- 1901 & 1902 Poneto papers scanned and put on CD
- Workshops on Beginning and Advanced Genealogical Research held at the library

I'm sure there are other projects completed or assisted with by the members. Please do not be offended if I missed your project in this list.

*Submitted by Connie Brubaker*

## YE OLDEN TIMES

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

We continue on with excerpts from the *Bluffton Banner* starting in 1859, then jump to a paper published in 1873. Some of the items may not be of genealogical interest, but I thought they were worth including for their historical value and an understanding of the times. I speak particularly of the beginning of *The Gem*. I thought it quite interesting how they obtained their subscribers and how they intended to do their "sheet" (newspaper).

The miller sat in his dusty room, and mused in the shadows dim, and while thus sitting and musing alone, a good thought came to him. Straightaway he filled a bran-new sack with flour of the choicest brand, and he placed the sack upon his back and carried it away and gave it to Mac, and--we were trying to say that MAC requested us--it being a good local item--to say that Mr. John E. Brown presented him with a sack of the choicest flour he ever had--and it is thirteen years to-day since he became a Benedict. When you want flour call on Mr. Brown, at the mill. He can supply you.

Another citizens' meeting was held last evening, and the following ticket was nominated:--

For Mayor--Wm. R. Ferguson;  
Secretary--T. H. Crosby;  
Marshal--S. A. Smith;  
Treasurer--H. Cook;  
Council--J. E. White; Jeff Bliss; H. Prillaman and S. Oppenheim;  
Street Commissioner--D. Black;  
School Commissioners--John Wandel, Amos Townsend and J. R. McCleery.

ECCLESIASTICAL.--The Rev. W. H. Fenneman, of the German Reformed Church will preach in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning, 13th

instant, at 10 o'clock A. M.; and from that time every two weeks, alternately in the morning at 10 and in the afternoon at 2 o'clock. The services in the morning, and at times those in the afternoon, will be conducted in the English language.

A Bible Class has also been organized, which meets regularly every Tuesday evening; and although a goodly number attend, there is yet room for more, and a cordial invitation is extended to all to come.

### MARRIED.

On the 3d inst., by Rev. W. H. FENNEMAN, at the residence of the bride's father in Rock Creek Township, Mr. WILLIAM MILLER and Miss SUSANNA BENDER, all of this county.

We wish the newly-wedded couple much joy, while at the same time we must regret that their *flowery* path of wedded bliss should be commenced by the groom "going on a Bender!"

### In the Wells Circuit Court, February Term, 1859.

STATE OF INDIANA }  
Wells County, Sct. } Be it remembered that on the 12th day of February, it being the sixth judicial day of said term, the following proceedings were had in said Court:

That whereas, the last day of said term has arrived, and it appearing by the record of said Court that the following cases are now pending in said Court, in which Hon. E. R. Wilson, the regular Judge of said Court is incompetent to preside, by reason of his having been of counsel to the parties therein, to-wit; Thomas C. Burling vs. John P. Greer; The State of Indiana Ex Rel James Dailey, Auditor, vs. A. W. Johnson et als; John P. Greer vs. John Studabaker; Wm. R. Winters vs. Evan H. Phillips; John A. Deam vs. Evan H. Phillips; Evan H. Phillips vs. John A. Deam; William Grayden et al vs. Ab'm Heilbronner; Jacob Eversole vs. Robert C. Bennet, Sen.; William Grayden et als vs. Abraham Heilbronner and Emanuel Heilbronner; John Studabaker vs. Adam Miller, and Jacob Waldheimer et als vs. Abraham Heil-

bronner and Frederick Nerddlinger, et als;

It is therefore ordered by the Court that a special term be held, to commence on the third Monday of June, A. D. 1859, at the Court House in said county, for the trial of said causes; and the said E. R. Wilson, Judge of said Court, hereby appoints said third Monday in June next for the commencement of the trial of the same, and then to continue from day to day thereafter until all of said cases are heard and determined.

It is further adjudged that the regular panel of Petit Jurors than and there be in attendance, to serve as a jury in the trial of said causes. It is further ordered that notice hereof shall be given by publication of a copy of this order--certified by the Clerk of this Court--in the *Bluffton Banner* and *People's Press* (two weekly newspapers printed and published in said county), for three successive weeks prior to said third Monday in June next.

STATE OF INDIANA, }  
Wells County, Sct. } I, George McDowell, Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of the order of adjournment of said Court at the said term, as the same appears of record on the Order Book of said Court.

Witness, my name and the Seal of said Court, affixed at Bluffton, this 23d day of February, A. D. 1859.

GEO. McDOWELL, Clerk.

Ahead of all competition!--The Elephant of the United States Press writing for the Banner!! It gives us unqualified pleasure to announce that Bonner--the immortal Bonner--the "tremenjus" Bonner--is expected to hereafter write "ONLY for the Banner." His first story, "A Tail of a Comet," will appear in the No. for March 11, 1859. Nine paper mills are engaged in manufacturing blank subscription books. As an additional inducement, we are pleased to state that Kernal Sylvester Shucks, Sr., writes only for the Banner--so does Bob and Joe; and--we write for it ourself!



MUNICIPAL ELECTION.--At a meeting of a portion of the citizens of Bluffton, irrespective of party, on Wednesday evening last, the following ticket was put in nomination for Corporation officers:--

- Mayor--J. A. Godard;
- Marshal--S. A. Smith;
- Clerk--C. W. Beardsley;
- Treasurer--Henry Cook;

Council--John Studabaker, Jonathan Johnston, Jacob Tribolet and Matthew Wilson;

Street Commissioner--William Harbaugh;

School Trustees--John Wandel, J. N. Reynolds and John Shoemaker

In the Court of Common Pleas,  
*April Term, 1859.*

State of Indiana, Wells County, Sct.  
Lucy McDaniel  
vs.  
John T. McDaniel, } Petition for Partition.  
Lafayette McDaniel }  
& Isabel McDaniel. }

BE it remembered that on the 30th day of November, 1858, the said Petitioner, by J. N. Reynolds, her attorney, filed in the Clerk's office of said Court, her petition in said cause; and it appearing from the affidavit of a disinterested witness, on file, that said Isabel McDaniel, one of said Defendants, is not a resident of the State of Indiana;—The said Isabel McDaniel is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said petition, and that the same will stand for hearing at the next term of said court, to be holden at the Court House in Bluffton, on the third Monday in April, 1859, and that unless she appear in said court on the second day of said term of said court, and plead, answer or demur thereto, the same will be heard and determined in her absence.

Attest, GEO. McDOWELL, Clerk

**Notice**

Is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed Administratrix of the estate of Smith Lounsberry, late of Wells County deceased. Said estate is suppose to be solvent.

Sally J. Lounsberry

**Bluffton Banner**  
**March 4, 1859, page 3**

**COUNTY OFFICERS.**

George McDowell, *Clerk*; James Dailey, *Auditor*; E. H. Phillips, *Sheriff*; Wilson M. Bulger, *Recorder*; John Wandel, *Treasurer*; E. A. Horton, *Surveyor*; Samuel A. Smith, *Coroner*; John Ogden, Samuel B. Arnold, William Linn, *commissioners*.

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

| NAMES              | POST OFFICES              |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| John McFadden,     | Warren, Huntington Co.    |
| Noah Cloud,        | " " "                     |
| James Osborn,      | Zanesville, Wells Co.     |
| Joseph Beatty,     | " " "                     |
| William R. Taylor, | Murray, " "               |
| William McBride,   | Barber's Mill, " "        |
| Samuel Gehrett,    | Reiffsburgh, " "          |
| David Canady,      | Nottingham, " "           |
| David Truesdale,   | Murray, " "               |
| Nelson Kellogg,    | Bluffton, " "             |
| Charles Grimes,    | " " "                     |
| Bowen Hale,        | " " "                     |
| Jonathan Garton,   | " " "                     |
| James Smith,       | Ossian, " "               |
| Joseph R. Lafever, | " " "                     |
| Jacob First,       | Liberty Center, " "       |
| Hampton Osborn,    | " " "                     |
| George Turner,     | Montpelier, Blackford Co. |
| Joseph H. Work,    | " " "                     |

**Central Hotel.**

CORNER OF MAIN AND MARKET STREETS,  
Bluffton, Indiana.

I. J. Covault, :: Proprietor.

THE CENTRAL HOTEL is at all times prepared to receive and accommodate travelers and others in a superior manner.

Bluffton, April 22, '58

L. S. MARSH,

FASHIONABLE TAILOR,  
SHOP over Oppenheim's Dry Goods store, where he may at all times be found ready to attend to all who may favor him with their patronage. He respectfully solicits his old friends to give him a call.

**C U T T I N G**

Done on the shortest notice, and in latest style—warranted to fit.

*Ed. Note—More simple business advertise-*

*ments of which I will list the name, what they did, and where they were located if that was mentioned.*

**Attorney & Counselor at Law—**  
Newton Burwell, Office in Clerk's office

**Attorneys & Counselor at Law—**  
David T. Smith & John R. Coffroth Htng., 3 doors s. of courthouse—D. T. Smith—**Notary Public**

**Attorneys & Counselors at Law—**J. N. Reynolds & L. M. Ninde, Office in room formerly occupied by J. P. Greer

**Estray Notice**

Taken up by John Ogden of Jefferson Tp., Wells county, Indiana, one Red Steer, supposed to be 3 years old last spring; no ear marks or brands perceptible, and appraised at fourteen dollars, by John Woodward & George Fryback, Jr.

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be correct.

J. R. Lefever, Justice of the Peace.

**Bluffton Banner**  
**March 4, 1859, page 4**

**THE GEM.**

Published Monthly by SMITH & BARKER

**TERMS.**

Single copy, one year, with prem. picture 30c

**Premiums to Agents.**

To every person who sends a club of 25 subscribers, accompanied by the cash, we give a handsome Photograph Album worth \$2.50.

For a club of 50, we give a fine Gold Pen and Silver Plated Extension Holder worth \$4.50.

Fro a club of 100, we give a \$13 Oreide Hunting Case Watch.

Each club subscriber also gets a premium picture worth nearly the money paid.

A club may be formed at different postoffice.

If agents fail in reaching the highest premium, they can send in their lists and get one or both of the other premiums.

**HERE WE ARE!**

This is not a mammoth sheet, but can be enlarged. It is so big for its size and so cheap for the money that it is impossible to conceive how anybody can successfully keep house or accomplish any of the other difficult and dangerous undertakings of life with-

out it.

*Apologetic.*—This number is late for the first of April (the almanac indicating 22nd,) but the delay has been occasioned by disappointment in getting engravings. As it is, we go to press as it is. Things will run better now that they are started. Look out for a sparkling gem next time and thenceforward.

*Nota Bene.*—Agents who are working for any or all of our splendid premiums are requested to make their lists as large as they can. We print five hundred extra copies of this edition, and will supply new subscribers until it is exhausted, after which their time will begin with the second number and run one month into the next volume.

*Business.*—It is the intention to make this a live and spicy little sheet. The larger our circulation the better we can make the paper, of course. Let everybody subscribe, and send extra copies to their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, lovers and sweethearts, and even to their friends in heathen lands like New Jersey and Texas.

That's "our say." Now we go to work.

Go to McFarren's for your fresh bread, cakes, pies, etc., or for a lunch when you come to town.

### A Card.

Parties known to me have taken particular pains to encourage a belief that I will not distribute the valuables to purchasers of my medicine as set forth in my circular. I feel it a duty to make this statement: I am permanently located in Bluffton, am now making preparations to engage in the manufacture of my remedies on an extensive scale to meet the constantly increasing demand, and it would be suicidal to a prosperous business to fail to fulfill all my promises.

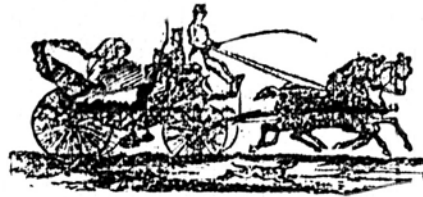
Thanking you all for your patronage, I am, very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

DR. J. H. BARKER

The enterprising citizens of Ossian are engaged in the laudable work of

laying a broad-gauge sidewalk from the center of town to the railroad. It will be a good thing to have, especially during "soft weather" like some we have had this spring.



"G'lang!" Spanking turn-out from Shaffer & Routh's New Livery Stable, West Market St., near railroad.

Dr. Bugh, at his Drug Store, has just received and is now putting up the finest Soda Fountain in this section of the moral vineyard, or for several miles in all the regions roundabout. It is one of Lippincott's celebrated make, Philadelphia, splinter new, and cost enough to make the first payment on a thousand head of fat cattle. Give the Doctor a call when the days become sultry and you want something refreshing.

Soda Water—first of the season—at Jake Smith's. he knows how to cook it to a turn, and everybody pronounces it delicious.

TAKE A PAPER.—Our accommodating Postmaster—F. N. Kellogg—takes subscriptions fro nearly all the periodicals published in the United States, together with many in Europe and the Sandwich Islands, and forwards the same promptly. Call and examine his list and get a paper at club rates.

Messrs. R. C. Bennett, A. B. Clark and L. L. Holmes are erecting a combination building, near The Gem Office, to be devoted to news Stand, Lunch Room, and Agricultural Warehouse.

### The Gem, April 1873, page 2

Remember that The Gem Office is in Hale's Building, 21 West Market Street, over Peppard's Grocery.

Davis, the restaurant man, in Curry's Block, feeds the hungry in splendid style and at moderate prices.

Good Beef Soup and etceteras, only 15 cents. Square meal, 25 cents.

*Ed. Note*—There is a huge advertisement for some medicine made by Dr. J. H. Barker at his laboratory at No. 37 West Market St. He called his remedy "Prince of Pain." Along with the bottle of medicine, the customer would receive a numbered certificate. Somehow the certificates led to a possibility of winning a prize, with prizes valued at 10c to \$200 with a \$1,000 grand prize. Included with the advertisements were letters of endorsement from various people, including some from Wells County. Rather than copy the lengthy ad, I have chosen only to copy the letters of the Wells County folks.

LANCASTER, IND., April 3, 1873.

Dr. Barker:

Dear Sir—I have used several bottles of your Prince of Pain in my family, and do cheerfully recommend it to all who suffer from pains, aches, coughs or colds. Indeed, as a family medicine it excels anything I ever used. Wishing you abundant success, I remain

Very respectfully yours, JACOB LASH.

HARRISON TP., IND., April 8, 1873

Dr. Barker, Bluffton, Ind.:

Respected Sir—Having had considerable sickness in my family the last few years, I have tried with varied success most of the advertised patent medicines, and your Prince of Pain is the first to meet my approbation. I have suffered with Dyspepsia for nearly 20 years, and tried all the various doctors without relief. Your medicine readily reached my case, giving the long-sought relief. I freely recommend it to sufferers.

Yours truly, HENRY OMAN.

Bluffton, Ind., April 9, 1873

Dr. J. H. Barker:

Sir—I would say that your medicine sells extremely well. I have sold one hundred and ten (110) bottles, and everybody is pleased with its effects. Some have bought as high as six bottles, and still they come and bring their neighbors with them. I have used it in my own family, and can say truly that it is the best medicine I ever used for



sore throat, headache, or pain in any part of the body, and it is well worth the price asked for it. Yours, J. H. C. Smith.

We have tried Dr. Barker's Prince of Pain and take pleasure in saying that it performs all that is claimed for it. To all suffering from any of the multitudinous aches and pains incident to life, we confidently recommend this remedy as a ready and efficient means of relief. We are pleased to learn that the Doctor is now fitting up a Laboratory on West Market Street for the pur-

pose of entering into the manufacture of his excellent medicine in Large quantities in order to supply the rapidly increasing demand. He is offering very liberal inducements to agents to engage in its sale. — *Bluffton Chronicle*, April 10.

This is an age of improvement and great discoveries. Among the greatest is Dr. Barker's pain cure. It is just what every family needs. Large bottles, holding nearly half a pint, only one

dollar. — *Bluffton Banner*

*The Gem*, April 1873, page 3

*(Continued from page 3)*

Cicily Gilham and was one of a family of eleven children, the following surviving: Mrs. Alice Kern, of Hanna, Ind.; Howard Gilham, of Elias, Tex.; Mrs. Mary McMahan, of Wichita, Kan.; Mrs. Anson Kline, of this city; John F. Gilham, of Pemberville, Ohio; Mrs. Gertrude Spangler, of Wana, Okla.; and Chester Gilham, of Sapulpa, Okla.

The Gilham family came to this city when Jerry Gilham was about twelve years of age. He was an oil worker by trade and was employed in the California fields for four or five years until the death of his brother, Thomas, when he went to Oklahoma. At the illness of his brother, Scott, former assistant postmaster here, Jerry returned to this city and had since resided here at the Birum hotel.

The body was removed from the hospital Wednesday evening and taken to the Baxter funeral parlors. It will be taken to the home of Mrs. Kline, north Jefferson street, some time Friday. No funeral arrangements will be made pending the arrival of members of the family."

*Hartford City News*, May 31, 1923

## Strangers in a Box

*Author unknown*

Come look with me  
inside this drawer,  
In this box I've often seen  
At the pictures, black and white,  
Faces proud, still and serene.

I wish I knew the people,  
These strangers in a box,  
Their names and all their memories,  
Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like,  
How did they spend their days?  
What about their special times?  
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time,  
To tell, who, what, where, and when,  
These faces of my heritage,  
Would come to life again.

Could this be fate,  
Of the pictures we take today?  
The faces and the memories,  
Someday to be passed away?

Take time to save your stories,  
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,  
Or someday you and yours,  
Could be strangers in a box..



*(Continued from page 1)*

months to a year to get in place, I would like everyone to consider this membership also. This is only an option that has presented it's self to us, we do not have to join.

Summer is coming to a close way too fast. So enjoy what is left of it and I will "see you in September". As I break out into song...aren't you glad this in only on paper...Connie

*(Continued from page 2)*

Society, was proposed by Mary Lou Bumgarner and seconded by Pat Dyson. Motion to approve carried.

To comply with our current by-laws, pursuing not for profit status was proposed by Cami Mount and seconded by Joan Gavalanez. Motion to approve carried. This process will begin immediately and be overseen by Mickey Jones.

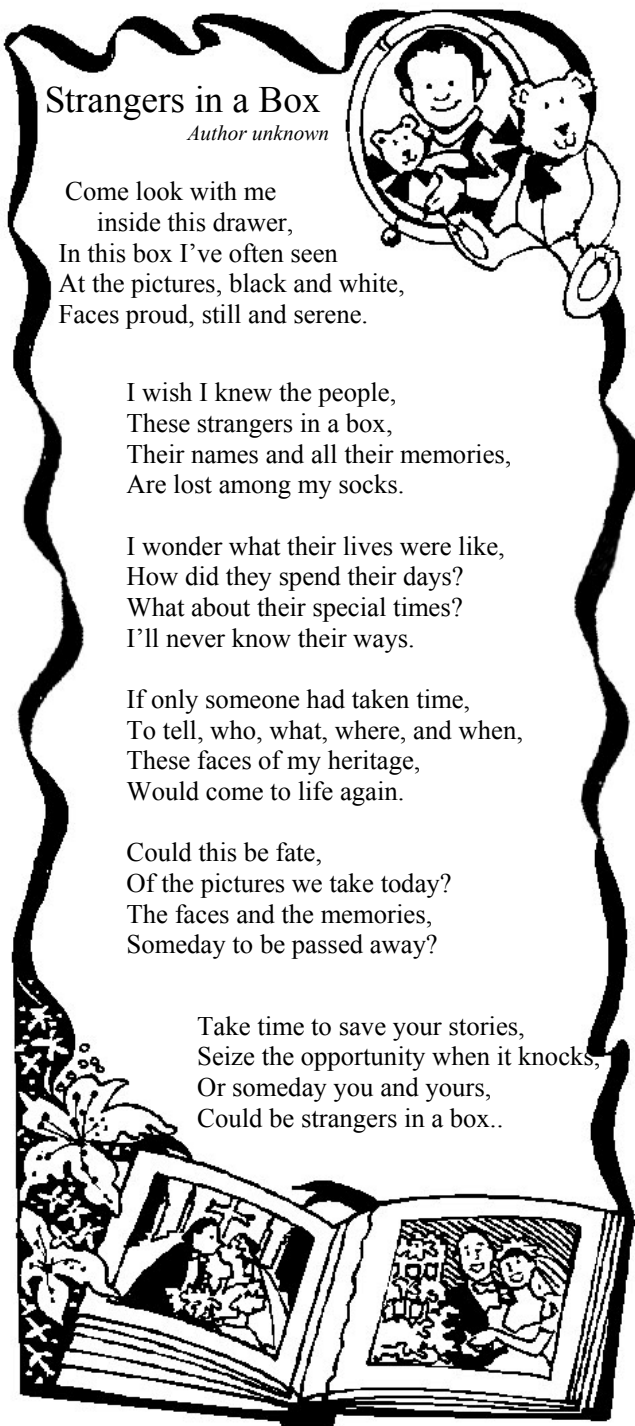
It was noted that several changes will be required to implement the name change—the society's web page, the research form (which requires other updates), the newsletter, and the by-laws. The By-law Committee was reconvened and will consist of Gerri Brown, Connie Brubaker, and Cami Mount.

**New Business:** Researching Indiana Genealogical Society affiliation was proposed by Connie Brubaker and seconded by Gerri Brown. Motion to approve carried. Cami Mount will report on those requirements at the September meeting.

The By-law committee was reconvened and will consist of Gerri Brown, Connie Brubaker, and Cami Mount.

**Announcements:** September 17, 2005 meeting will be held at the Huntington LDS Family History Center. A short business meeting will be followed by a tour..

*Submitted by Cami Mount*



### Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname(s) Researching: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues

Single—\$10.00 per calendar year for an individual

Family—\$15 per calendar year for a family

### BWGS BOOKS FOR SALE

We have 2 publications which we are running low on. There will NOT be a republication of either book. If you are wanting one, get your order in before they are gone.

|                                                    | Members                           |          | Non-Members |          | Quantity | Total Amt. |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|
|                                                    | Book                              | Shipping | Book        | Shipping |          |            |
| Early Settlers of Blackford and Wells Counties     | \$40.00                           | \$5.00   | \$45.00     | \$5.00   |          | \$         |
| Wells County Will Book (index of wills)            | \$15.00                           | \$5.00   | \$20.00     | \$5.00   |          | \$         |
| Both books                                         | \$55.00                           | \$6.00   | \$65.00     | \$6.00   |          | \$         |
| BWGS Membership--\$10.00 individual/\$15.00 family | (Circle one) Individual or family |          |             |          |          | \$         |
| <b>Total Amt. Enclosed</b>                         |                                   |          |             |          |          | \$         |

Mail to: (You can also pick books 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

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