



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Five Points Schoolhouse
- Chester Township Schools
- Tips on Old Negatives
- Family Group Sheets
- Ye Olden Times
- Searching the Old-Fashioned Way

Potluck! Potluck! Potluck!

At our next meeting on January 19th, we will be having our annual potluck meal. We will meet at the Historical Museum at 10 AM for our meeting and then we will eat afterwards. The society will provide the meat, drinks and table service and all members are requested to bring a dish of food to share with the group. This has been a popular meeting in the past and we expect it will be again. There's something about the mention of "food" that brings people around, or perhaps it's the great fellowship that goes hand-in-hand with the food that draws people to attend. So plan to come join us (even if you forget or don't have time to get your food together.)

Five Points Schoolhouse

Ed. Note: In 1959, a questionnaire was sent out by the Wells County Historical Society to people thought to be able to provide information concerning the one room schools of Wells County. This article consists of the questions and answers and the story that was written on the back.

By Mrs. Bessie Spaulding Shadle
May 19, 1959

Excerpt from the Chester Township School History Book Questionnaire:

Chester Township No. 5 or 5-points School

1. *How did it get its name?*
A. From the 5-points roads
2. *History, tradition or legend before you entered school*
A. a one room wooden school house built earlier than she knew. This old brick school built 1876.
3. *Your first day, first teacher; describe in full details.*
A. Lew Johnson, 1st teacher

2008

TIPS FROM THE TREASURER

Let me introduce myself as I am new in this position as the treasurer of the Wells County Genealogy Society. I am Joan Gavilanez and have been a member of the society for about five years. My grandmother and great grandmother were born in Newville (Vera Cruz) so I feel rooted here. My family moved to Bluffton in 1980, which is when I first discovered my Wells County connection and my genealogy addiction began.

Our society's by-laws state:

"Dues are to be paid annually in January of each year; failure to pay by April will result in loss of good standing with The Society and removal from the membership roster."

As this New Year begins, please, send your renewal dues. You will find a form on the back of your newsletter. Please update all information and mail it along with your check to
Wells County Genealogy Society
P.O. Box 54
Bluffton, IN 46714

Submitted by Joan Gavilanez

4. *Incidents involving you or others, tragic, comic, or unusual*
A. Let school out for shooting of well on J. D. Goodin's Farm.
5. *Conveniences: heating, seating, drinking water, working materials, toilet facilities, etc.*

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President's Corner

I want to start this New Year out by thanking everyone who helped in any way last year to make our year a success. But most of all I want to thank Mickey for the years she gave as Treasurer of our Society. Her knowledge and expertise in the laws and regulations of treasuring have been valuable to our organization. Thanks again Mickey.

I also want to give special recognition to Linda Thomas our Editor. The newsletter has been a great asset to our Society, too. I receive many emails in regards to how great the newsletters are and that they are so informative. Even when my Ginger cat died, I received emails about how much our members have enjoyed the cat pictures (Linda's idea) in each newsletter, and that they are looking forward to more pictures of the other two cats. I wish this, like the other offices in our Society, were paying jobs, because the work that goes into them is cause for a monetary reward for those who are working at them.

Another group I wish to thank is the Poneto Book committee. I know many hours and days have gone into the gathering of materials, typing and preparing the information for print and of course the final product. We are look-



(Continued on page 11)

Chester Township Schools

The consolidated school building at Chester Center was the outgrowth of a need that had existed since the old building at Keystone was condemned (*sic*) for high school purposes in 1919. Actual construction work was not begun until the spring of 1922 by contractors, Gordon and Reiff, of Liberty Center, under the direction of Architect Everett I. Brown of Bluffton. Labor troubles hindered the work considerably during the first season, but by the time winter set in, the building had been enclosed and roofed. Work was resumed early in the spring of 1923, and the building was completed and occupied for school purposes on September 24, 1923. At that time, students from ten other Chester Township Schools were consolidating into one school which was called Chester Center. Those eleven one-room schools were: McCallister, Slocum, Noe, Red, Chester, Gavin, Maddox, Shields, Five Points, Keystone, and Mt. Zion.

The building was one of the largest and most completely equipped in the county, and one of which the good people of the township were justly proud. The grounds were improved and beautified during the summer of 1924.

The members of the first graduating class were: Doris Arnold, Myrtle Brinneman, Chauncey Ladd, Mary Minnich, Gladys Smith, and Ruth Weaver. The members of the last graduating class are: Rose Abner, Michael Frantz, Cathy Hamilton, Dennis Hendricks, Lee Hilkert, Dedria Johnson, James Johnson, Charlene Katte, Karen Keller, Lamoine Nusbaumer, Jackie Riesen, Mick Sutton, and Judy Walker.

During the 1956 school year a new Agriculture Building was erected near the present Chester Building.

In the November election of 1962, the four southern townships of Wells County voted to consolidate their schools. On January 1, 1963, Chester Center, Liberty Center, Jackson Center, and Petroleum became known as the Southern Wells Community Schools.

Surnames for Sale

Surnames that I have in my ancestral line,
Four hundred now listed and all of them mine.
Are often most common like Jones or like Smith,
Like Johnson or Barber that we can live with;

But then there are others that lift, I suppose;
I've a Bliss and a Jasper, a Heaven and Rose.
And then there are some that just hit 'tween the eyes
And give you a shock, or a laugh, of surprise.

For years I have had one with name of John Death.
When I first had found him it near took my breath,
But then I thanked goodness I found not such often;
Then this week - believe it! - discovered Beth Coffin!

My wife I have teased about her pedigree,
That listed some queer ones as on my own tree,
For she has a Webb and a Cobb in her line.
Cobwebs in your ancestry surely is fine!

They say of our forebears we ought to be proud,
And not be supposing we're born 'neath a cloud,
But some of our names that we find make us wail
And tempted to offer some surnames for sale.

--Ora Barlow

*He that has no fools, knaves, or
beggars in his family must have
been begot by a flash of lightning!*

- Thomas Fuller, 1608-61



Minutes of the November '07 Meeting

The November meeting opened at 10:08 a.m. at the Historical Museum with President Connie Brubaker, presiding.

The following members were present:

Connie Brubaker	Roger Cook	Avon Crismore
Barbara Elliott	Lynn Elliott	Pat Dyson
Kathy Davis	Joan Gavilanez	Dorothy Hunt
Mickey Jones	Cami Mount	Laura Sawyer
Nellie Sleppy	Linda Thomas	Chris Williams
Amanda Alfred, program presenter		

A new member, Roger Cook, was welcomed into the Society.

Minutes of the September meeting were accepted with a motion from Barbara Elliott and second by Nellie Sleppy.

The treasurer, Mickey Jones, reported a beginning balance on July 13, 2007, of \$1,136.95. There were receipts of \$836.00 and expenses of \$200.57. A reported ending balance of \$1,772.38. Of this balance \$1,015.00 is Poneto book contributions. A motion was made by Joan Gavilanez with second from Cami Mount to accept the Treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Cami Mount reported on the deed project. Volunteers are still needed to help with this project. The 1820 deeds in Delaware County were discussed. Some of the members discussed a trip to Muncie to check on these deeds.

Nellie Sleppy reported on the Poneto Book project.

A discussion was held on the 1829 era Crum School.

The Hand Atlas of Indiana 1880 or 1878 was also discussed.

WELLS CO. GENEALOGY SOC.

PRESIDENT: CONNIE BRUBAKER
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SOCIETY RELATED EVENTS

January 19—Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch

March 15—Meeting & Speaker, Linda Thomas (Colonial Women Preachers)

May 17—Meeting

July 19—Meeting

September 20—Meeting

November 15—Meeting

(Continued on page 11)

Genealogy Photos

by Sterling E. Putman

I'd like to add an important topic to the article on using photos in genealogy: negatives.

I am so dismayed at the number of negatives that are thrown out because people do not know what to do with them. Negatives can be duplicated or scanned--producing many surprises.

It is expensive and many people are reluctant to have a studio do the work at high prices knowing that the picture may or may not turn out to be a treasure. But, most flatbed scanners can now be purchased with slide copier attachments so you can do it yourself at a much cheaper rate.

It's those out-of-date sizes that cause a problem. When I upgraded my systems a couple of years ago, I insisted that the printer have certain capabilities such as the ability to scan 4" x 5" press negatives and the older 120-size film. It cost extra, but I have been able to scan many negatives for myself, friends, and relatives. One of my treasures was discovering a 1948 photo of my father wearing a beard--something to my knowledge he never did in his entire life.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 17 October 2007, Vol. 10, No. 42.

Old Negatives

by DonRheta Margolis

I read the article in last week's issue concerning the value of old negatives in genealogy and couldn't agree more.

My mother died three years ago, the day before her eighty-fifth birthday. While going through her belongings, my sister and I found a yellowed envelope containing some old negatives.

Just this past year, I came across the envelope again and scanned them to see if they would be worth developing. Much to my surprise and delight, one of the photographs was a beautiful picture of her and her youngest brother when she was approximately sixteen or seventeen. I was able to determine the time frame from the postmark on the envelope. I had the pictures developed and sent copies to all my siblings. The date was 1935 and I was amazed at the quality of the pictures.

I encourage everyone to check old negatives--you don't know what treasures you might find.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 24 October 2007, Vol. 10, No. 43.

Bluffton Market August 8, 1862

I thought it would be interesting to show how the market was doing in the midst of the Civil War here in Wells County, so those of you who keep track of the markets today, you can compare then to now and let us know what you think.

Bluffton Market

Corrected weekly by Deam & Miller, Merchants and Produce Dealers, Main st. opposite Washington Hotel

Flour, \$ bbl.....	\$5.00
Wheat, white, \$ bu.....	.80
" red,	75
Corn, shelled,.....	25
" ear,.....	25
Rye,	37
Oats,	20
Potatoes,	20
Cloverseed,	3.21
Butter, \$ lb.....	8
Lard,.....	6
Eggs, \$ doz.....	5
Feathers, \$ lb.....	30
Wool, washed,.....	30@35
Beef hides, green,.....	3½
" dry,.....	7
White beans, \$ bu.....	75

FORT WAYNE, August 6.

Wheat, white, 95c.; red, 92. Corn 25. Oats 25. Eggs 8. Butter 7. Pork, \$2.75@3.25.

New York, Aug. 5.—Wheat, choice white, \$1.18; good red, 1.10. Dressed hogs, 4.00 to 4.25.

(Continued from page 1)

- A. Well outside school house; wood stoves inside; old tyme out house toilets.
- 6. *Neighborhood conditions; anything special or unusual*
A. (nothing written)
- 7. *Extra curricular activities such as singing schools spelling contests, ciphering matches, debating societies, dances.*
A. Had all of these — square dances
- 8. *Did women teachers have problems in disciplining big boys? Did any one lock out or run a teacher out from your school?*
A. "No" to both questions.
- 9. *Did students go on to special accomplishments or honors? Tell about them FULLY.*
A. Yes. Lot of school teachers, some government jobs.
- 10. *Did any of your teachers go on to achieve fame or honor? Tell about them FULLY.*
A. Lew Johnson—Senate position.
- 11. *Your views on advantages or lack of advantages of the one-room schools.*
A. Fine in their time. No crime ever came out of this school.
- 12. *Do not be afraid to write a full, good story about your school. Our grandchildren will enjoy knowing what we oldsters had to do with and without.*

The 5-points school house was built 1876—after the old one was torn down which was made of wood. The new school house built 1876—housed the school on first floor and the Grange Hall above on 2nd floor where the Grange meetings were held.

The woods and land surrounding the old school house owned by J. D. Goodin also the new one was where they used to hold the fair for that community for many years until they outgrew this spot of ground as they wanted a race track, so it was moved to Montpelier, Ind. At this fair they had 2 large buildings, one for hand work and furniture and the other for fruit, vegetables, jellies-honey—and cattle sheds for cattle, sheep, and hogs.

They had a Merry-go-Round—drawn by large farm horses, and a dance hall for square dancing. This 5-points school was not used for school purposes after 1920, but was used for a Horse Thief Detective Association meeting place until 1928, then was turned back to the J.D. Goodin-sons, Lawrence & Herman, as Mr. J. D. Goodin was the owner of land previous to this time.

[The Chester Township School History Book can be found in the Wells County Genealogical Library located north of Uniondale.]

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: Josiah/Joseph DAVIS

Born: 1853

Place: Indiana

Marr: 7 Oct 1874

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

WIFE: Elizabeth "Lizzie" FRY

Born: 1850

Place: Hampshire Co., Virginia or Ohio

CHILDREN:

1. **Name:** Ellsworth E. DAVIS

Born: Feb 1878

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: Ellsworth E. DAVIS

Born: Feb 1878

Place: Indiana

Died: 7 Mar 1932

Place: Fort Wayne, Indiana

Marr: 13 Jan 1898

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

WIFE: Olive Leona "Ollie" JOHNSON

Born: 6 May 1882

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Died: 19 Nov 1959

Place: Fort Wayne, Indiana

CHILDREN:

1. **Name:** Harold Russell DAVIS

Born: 30 May 1900

Place: Keystone, Wells Co., Indiana

Died: 19 Nov 1959

Place: Fort Wayne, Indiana

Spouse: Audrey Icel YELTON

Married: 10 May 1919

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Spouse: Irma

2. **Name:** Reta Myrl DAVIS

Born: 6 Sep 1901

Place: Liberty Center, Wells Co., Indiana

Died: 18 Apr 1989

Place: Wabash, Indiana

Spouse: Dale Leroy BURNETT

Spouse: Earl Frederick DYER

Married: 16 Aug 1937

Place: Centerville, Michigan

Spouse: Harry Bernell FAYLOR

Married: 20 Mar 1954

Place: Fort Wayne, Indiana

3. **Name:** Ruth Mildred DAVIS

Born: 3 Oct 1903

Place: Keystone, Wells Co., Indiana

Died: 2 Jul 1977

Place: Fort Wayne, Indiana

Spouse: Aaron Jennings Bryan HOUTZ

Married: 9 Dec 1922

Place: Bluffton, Indiana

Spouse: Mark HEASTON

Married: 1973

Ancestral & Family Sheets

This issue we have the Family Group Sheets of Kathy Davis. I will be running more of her Family Group Sheets in the next couple of newsletters. Kathy has a great deal of information in a nice hardbound book that is kept at our genealogy library north of Uniondale, so if you'd like access to her book, visit our library to take a look at them. Or, if you wish to contact Kathy Davis, she may be reached at: 9114 Goshen Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46818; phone number, (260) 693-3243 or by email, KDavis63@aol.com

There are MANY of you who have not sent in your Ancestral Charts or Family Group Sheets. So get crackin' and send your family group sheets and ancestral charts to Connie Brubaker (7077N 100W, Uniondale, IN 46791) or Linda Thomas (5391N 400W, Markle, IN 46770). Please let us know if you do not wish them published in the newsletter.

4. Name: Homer Johnson DAVIS**Born:** 3 Oct 1905**Place:** Wells Co., Indiana**Died:** 1 Apr 1982**Place:** Fort Wayne, Indiana**Spouse:** Unknown**Spouse:** Itha Ellen HARRINGTON**Spouse:** Dorothy Lee KING**Married:** 20 Mar 1946**Place:** Winchester, Indiana**5. Name:** Hugh Kenneth DAVIS**Born:** 22 July 1908**Place:****Died:** 1912**Place:** Fort Wayne, Indiana**6. Name:** Ruby Mae DAVIS**Born:** 18 Mar 1910**Place:** Fort Wayne, Indiana**Died:** 30 Dec 1983**Place:** Bradenton, Florida**Spouse:** Mode CRANOR**Married:** 7 Jan 1930**Place:** Wabash, Indiana**Spouse:** Clifton HOWELL**Married:** 6 Dec 1967**Place:** Peru, Indiana**Spouse:** Hubert WOODMANSEE**Married:** 12 Sep 1974**Place:** Illinois**7. Name:** Robert E. DAVIS**Born:** 1 Mar 1913**Place:** Fort Wayne, Indiana**Spouse:** Wanda Fay ULMER**Married:** 21 Mar 1937**Place:** Wells Co., Indiana**Spouse:** Elise SCHOEFF**Married:** 16 May 1941**Spouse:** Evelyn**Married:****Place:** California

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: Ellsworth E. DAVIS**Born:** Feb 1878**Place:** Indiana**Died:** 7 Mar 1932**Place:** Fort Wayne, Indiana**Marr:** 10 Oct 1917**WIFE:** Louise SEFTON

No children

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: James A. COTTON**Born:** 9 May 1842**Place:** Wells Co., Indiana**Died:** 28 Oct 1917**Place:** Newcastle, Henry Co., Indiana**Marr:** 1 Dec 1867**Place:****WIFE:** Mary Rebecca JOHNSON**Born:** 13 Apr 1850**Place:** Muskingum Co., Ohio**Died:** 9 Mar 1927**Place:** Newcastle, Indiana**CHILDREN:****1. Name:** Josephine COTTON**Born:** 30 Mar 1869**Place:****2. Name:** Myrtle COTTON**Born:** 5 Aug 1871**Place:**

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: George Washington COTTON

Born: 1 Aug 1851

Place: Bluffton, Indiana

Died: Sep 1925

Place:

Marr: Apr 1875

Place:

WIFE: Josephine Lovely McDANNEL/McDANIEL

CHILDREN:

1. **Name:** Bessie Pearl COTTON

Born: 1876

Place:

Spouse: Hamer McKINNEY

2. **Name:** Marshal S. COTTON

Born: 1878

Spouse: Opal

3. **Name:** Ralph Carlton "Carl" COTTON

Born: 1880

Place:

Spouse: Cecil STUART

4. **Name:** Franklin Fisk COTTON

Born: 1881

Place:

Spouse: Oral BOND

5. **Name:** Hazel B. COTTON

Born: 1885

Place:

Spouse: Mort TIGER

6. **Name:** Ruby Dean COTTON

Born: 1888

Place:

Spouse: Leroy Chester WOLFE

7. **Name:** Waldo COTTON

Born: 1891

Place:

Died: 1891

Place:

8. **Name:** George COTTON

Born: 1892

Place:

Died: 1896

Place:

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: James Argus DEAM

Born: 25 Oct 1820

Place: Montgomery Co., Ohio

Died: 12 Feb 1883

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Marr: 20 Jan 1844

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

WIFE: Ruth McDOWELL

Died: 1885

Place:

CHILDREN:

1. **Name:** John C. DEAM

Born: 9 Jul 1847

Place:

2. **Name:** Elizabeth DEAM

3. **Name:** Catherine DEAM

4. **Name:** Belle DEAM

5. **Name:** George DEAM

6. **Name:** Mary DEAM

7. **Name:** Emma DEAM

8. **Name:** Adam DEAM

9. **Name:** Madison DEAM

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: Wilson DEAM

Born: 13 Apr 1825

Died: 25 Jan 1885

Marr: 30 Nov 1848

Place: Montgomery Co., Ohio

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

WIFE: Hannah BURNELL

CHILDREN:

1. Name: Francis M. DEAM

Family Group Sheet

HUSBAND: James Lowell RUSSELL

Born: 4 Dec 1825

Died: 3 Jun 1912

Marr: 28 Mar 1847

Place: Picqua, Miami Co., Ohio

Place: Liberty Center, Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Liberty Twp., Wells Co., Indiana

WIFE: Elizabeth DEAM

Born: 5 Nov 1826

Died: 4 Sep 1899

Place: Dayton, Montgomery Co., Ohio

Place: Liberty Twp., Wells Co., Indiana

CHILDREN:

1. Name: J. Franklin RUSSELL

Spouse: Rita

2. Name: Elizabeth RUSSELL

Spouse: Joseph S. BULGER

Married:

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

3. Name: Matthias RUSSELL

Born: 15 Jan 1848

Died: 23 Aug 1918

Spouse: Diane/Mary S. WILHELM

Married: 23 Dec 1869

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

4. Name: Harriet Hattie RUSSELL

Born: 1850

Spouse: Jacob H. JONES

Married: 14 Jan 1869

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

5. Name: John R. RUSSELL

Born: 1 Nov 1852

Died: 13 Oct 1875

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

6. Name: George W. RUSSELL

Born: 18 Oct 1855

Died: 31 Dec 1891

Spouse: Jemina/Ida GROVE

Married: 9 Oct 1877

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

7. Name: Mary Belle RUSSELL

Born: 26 Nov 1858

Died: 13 Dec 1943

Spouse: David Spurgeon JOHNSON

Born: 16 Dec 1857

Died: 29 Jul 1924

Married: 4 Feb 1877

Place:

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

8. Name: William C. RUSSELL

Born: 16 Jun 1868

Died: 21 Nov 1886

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

Place: Wells Co., Indiana

YE OLDEN TIMES

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

Legal Notice.

In the Wells Circuit Court,
August Term, A. D. 1862

Sarah G. Baker }
vs. } Divorce
Daniel J. Baker. }

State of Indiana, }
Wells County, ss: }

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Clerk of the said Court, by affidavit filed, that said defendant is a non-resident of the State of Indiana:

Notice is therefore hereby given to said non-resident defendant, of the filing and pendency of said complaint, and that unless he personally be and appear before the Judge of the Wells Circuit Court, on or before the second day of the next term of said Court, to be holden at the Court House, in the county of Wells, on the 18th day of August, 1862, and answer or demur to said complaint, the same will be heard and determined in his absence.

T. L. WISNER, Clerk.
Wm. S. Smith, Att'y for Pl'ff.

Legal Notice.

In the Wells Circuit Court,
August Term, A. D. 1862

Maria T. Chandler }
vs. } Divorce
John B. Chandler. }

State of Indiana, }
Wells County, ss: }

It being made satisfactorily to appear, by affidavit filed, that John B. Chandler, the defendant in the above-entitled cause, is not a resident of the State of Indiana:

He, the said non-resident, is therefore hereby notified of the filing and pendency of the complaint in this cause, and that unless he appear and answer the same, at the next term of said Court, to be holden at the Court House of said county, in Bluffton, on the 18th day of August, 1862, the matters and things in said cause will be

heard and determined in his absence.
T. L. WISNER, Clerk.
Wm. S. Smith, Att'y for Pl'ff.

DISSOLUTION.

THE firm or Richey & Foncannon is this day dissolved, by mutual consent.
Bluffton, April 14, 1862.

THE business will be continued by the undersigned who will keep on hand for sale, at the lowest rates, a full and complete assortment of Groceries, Provisions, Wooden and Stoneware, Candles, Notions, &c., &c.

A share of patronage respectfully solicited.

H. FONCANNON & CO.,
VanHorn's Old Stand.

American House, Bluffton fad.

I HAVE rented, and entirely refitted from top to bottom, the large and commodious house, corner of Main and Cherry streets, and am now prepared to accommodate travelers and boarders in as good style, and at as reasonable rates, as any house in this place.

A share of patronage respectfully solicited.

G. CORWIN

Surveyor's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby gives, that we have employed the County Surveyor to survey and set apart our lands, situated in Sec. 14, T. 27, R. 11 East.

Survey to commence on Thursday, the 29th day of May, 1862.

HENRY HOUTZ, and others.
Applicants.

Bluffton Exchange,
Corner of main and Market sts., opposite the Court House, Bluffton, Ind.

ALMON CASE, Proprietor.

This House has just been refitted and refurnished, and now stands second to no Hotel in the West.

Travelers will find the best of accommodations.

Capacious stabling on the premises.

Bluffton Stage Office, Daily Line!

FROM and after March first, 1862, the Hack will leave the Exchange Hotel, in Bluffton, for Fort Wayne, every day [Sundays excepted,] at 6 o'clock a.m., arriving at Fort Wayne by 11 o'clock. Returning leave Fort Wayne each day at 2 o'clock p.m., arriving at Bluffton by 7 p.m. The line will make close connection with the trains on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago, and Wabash Valley railroads.

Packages taken to and from the Express Office, and light freights carried, at reasonable rates.

ALMON CASH, Proprietor
Bluffton Banner, May 23, 1862, p. 3

HOOP SKIRTS, at Oppenheim's from 20 cents to \$1.25.

Store in S. McCleery's new building, corner of Main and Wabash streets.

M. L. BULGER & CO.
Bluffton Banner, May 23, 1862, p. 4

More about Drafting.

We were probably in error in stating a short time ago that the Legislature would have to be convened to pass an enrollment act, before drafting could be resorted to in Indiana. We already have an enrollment act in our militia (or Indiana Legion) law. And even if we had not, there is a question whether it would be necessary to have such an act—though the prevailing opinion has been that it would. But Congress having the power to provide for the common defense, may call out the militia by draft, and make all necessary regulations for the same; but such call cannot be for a longer period than nine months. Successive drafts may follow until all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 have served nine months.

The *modus operandi* of drafting, as we understand it, is about this: Suppose we have 5 companies of enrolled militia, 101 men each, in this county, and a draft comes for 100 men, that is, 20 from each company. The 5 companies are mustered, 101 bits of paper or card (20 numbered and the rest blank) are put into a hat or box and thor-

oughly mixed, then the members of the first company draw—those drawing blanks being exempt, but those drawing numbered cards must “go to war,” or furnish a substitute. This continues until the whole 5 companies have drawn, when the 100 men are drafted.

It is still not likely that drafting will have to be resorted to in this State—at least, not while volunteering is as brisk as at present.

BLUFFTON, July 10, 1862.

I, one of the Committee appointed for the purpose of collecting funds to defray the expenses of the several Companies of soldiers for the U. S. Army that were gotten up at Bluffton, do certify that the following is a true statement of all moneys received and paid out by me, to-wit:

AMOUNT RECEIVED:

From W. R. Winters,	\$5.00
“ George Bayha,	1.00
“ John Shoemaker,	1.00
“ Dr. C. T. Melsheimer	3.00
“ A. Blosser	1.00
“ (<i>illegible</i>)	.50
“ E. A. Horton,	1.50
“ John Markley,	5.00
“ Dr. Lehman,	3.00
“ Daniel Miller,	3.00
“ P. P. Connett,	1.00
“ Peter Cravens,	3.00
“ J. V. Geary,	5.00
“ E. Blecher,	1.00
“ William Bagby,	1.00
“ William Gordon,	2.00
“ John Studabaker, (deposit)	100.00
Total,	\$137.50

PAID OUT:

To John Studebaker,	\$12.50
“ D. H. Drummond,	19.00
“ I. J. Covault,	6.00
“ 12 teams to Anderson, 3 days each, at \$2 per day each,	72.00
“ 1 team, expenses,	4.00
For boarding 102 men, and incidental expenses to Camp Anderson,	24.00
Total,	\$137.50

J. C. SILVER

[The above is an account of Mr. Silver's transactions with that “War Fund,” which we have had so much trouble in getting a report upon. Will

the other members of the Committee now report? or is their part of the funds so deeply sunk in the coffers of some Exchange Barbershop that it cannot be found?]

[OFFICIAL.]

War Department
Washington, D. C., Aug. 5.

Ordered, That the use of the telegraph lines being required for military purposes, all persons actually employed in constructing and operating telegraph lines at the date of the order calling for 300,000 men, be exempt from military duty so long as they remain in such service. By order of the President.

EDWIN M. STANTON.

Secretary of War.

☞ The 34th and 47th Indiana regiments are now at Helena, Arkansas, under command of Gen. Curtis.

☞ The 75th regiment has now 800 men in camp at Wabash. It will be full by the first of next week.

☞ Drafting has already commenced in the Eastern States.

The 47th Indiana.

The 47th Indiana regiment, commanded by Col. Jas. R. Slack, whose open-hearted and genial manners every one admires, continues to win golden opinions through the city. We hear it complimented on every hand. Its officers and soldiers have been so respectful and gentlemanly in all their bearings towards the citizens as to extort eulogies not only from all who love the Union, but even from many of those who cherish the most extreme dislike to all Lincolmites and Northerners. Their devotion to the stars and stripes intensifies their regard for personal and private rights, and every one animated. This patriotism may at all times (*illegible*) for protection. This could be (*illegible*) when they were at Bardstown (*illegible*), when they were at Commerce, and (*illegible*), and New Madrid, Mo., when they planted the national banner and the thundering cannon on Fort Thompson, Riddle's Point, at Tiptonville, and now in Memphis. Long may they deserve the good

name they have won.—*Memphis Appeal.*

Bluffton Banner, August 8, 1862, p. 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Announcement Fee—\$1 to a Subscriber, \$2 to a Non-Subscriber—payable in advance.

We are authorized to announce J. E. BROWN as a candidate for TREASURER—subject to the decision of the Wells County Democratic Nominating Election.

(*Ed. Note: the announcements continue in the same vein, so I will just list who and the office for which they are a candidate.*)

E. A. Horton—Treasurer

Jacob V. Geary—Treasurer

B. M. Elkins—Treasurer

Jas. L. Russell—Treasurer

Robert Souder—Commissioner in the 2nd District

John V. Davenport—Commissioner in the 2nd District

John A. Deam—Commissioner in the 2nd District

Nathaniel DeHaven—Commissioner in the 2nd District

Thankful to my friends for past favors, I will not be a candidate for nomination for the office of County Treasurer at the primary election.

JAS. DAILEY.

BRICK. — Mr. E. Poffenbarger has just finished burning his first kiln of brick for the season, containing 300,000—now ready for delivery to purchasers. They are machine-made, well pressed, and are superior to any ever offered in this market. Price, 50 cents per hundred, or \$4 per thousand. Call and see for yourself.

IMPROVING. — The man Johnson, who was so badly injured at Bagby's brickyard, last week, is slowly recovering. He has been removed to town and is now at Geo. Corwin's, under the treatment of Drs. McCleery & Melsheimer.

REMARKABLE CASE OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ANIMATION. — Mr. Washington Lewis, residing a short

distance north of town, on the Ft. Wayne road, was discovered in his bed, on Wednesday morning last, apparently dead. His wife and family were greatly alarmed, and sent for the neighbors. It was thought he was certainly dead, notwithstanding he had gone to bed well the evening before, his body being cold and no signs of breathing discernable. Arrangements were commenced for his funeral, when, to the agreeable surprise of his friends, he began to show signs of life, and in a short time was able to sit up. He had remained in this seemingly dead condition for more than an hour.

☞ Attention is invited to the card of Prof. McCleery, headed "80 competent teachers wanted." The Professor's plan is a good one, and all who contemplate teaching this winter, if not thoroughly posted already, should attend his course of lessons. The time and expense will be nothing in comparison with the benefits derived.

☞ Dr. Crosby's little boy was considerably injured yesterday by a vicious hog. Aid arrived opportunely, else he would have been torn to pieces.

80

COMPETENT TEACHERS WANTED FOR THE

Public Schools of Wells County.

THE undersigned respectfully announces to all persons wishing employment in the Public Schools of this county, during the coming fall and winter, that he intends, before the re-opening of the Schools, to grade the Teachers according to their knowledge of the Common School branches, and their ability to impart instruction in the same; and that it is his intention, during his connection with the Public Schools, never to grant license to an incompetent applicant.

He would therefore earnestly recommend, to all persons wishing employment in the Public schools, to immediately commence reviewing the Common school branches, and otherwise preparing themselves for the duties of the school room

He would also announce to those

wishing assistance in reviewing their studies, that he intends, on Saturday, August 23, 1862, at 10 o'clock a.m., to open a school for this purpose. Said class of teachers to recite to him on each Saturday thereafter until the first of December.

Teachers, may we not hope that all of you who know yourselves to be deficient in the Common School branches, will be present on that occasion?

JOHN S. McCLEERY,
School Examiner

Notice of Distribution to Heirs.

NOTICE is hereby given, that at the May Term of the Court of Common Pleas of Wells county, after final settlement of the estate of Daniel Coleman, deceased, four hundred and twenty-three dollars and thirty-one cents were found remaining for distribution a month the heirs. Said heirs are therefore notified to appear at the next tem of said Court, and receive their distributive share.

T. L. WISNER, CI'k

Sheriff's Sale.

BY virtue of an Execution, to me directed, I will expose for sale, at public auction, at the Court House door, in Bluffton, Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, on SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1862, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m., of said day, the following described property, to-wit:

The rents and profits, for a term of years not to exceed seven, of the west half of the south-east quarter of section fifteen (15), township twenty-five (25), range eleven (11) east, in Wells county, Indiana.

And on failure to realize therefrom the full amount of the judgment, interest and costs, I will, at the same time and place by public auction as aforesaid, expose for sale the fee simple of said real estate.

Executed as the property of Joseph Wilson, at the suit of William D. Wilson. NATHANIEL DEHAVEN,
Sheriff W. C.
G. S. Brown, Plff's Att'y.

Administrator's Sale.

I, Ezekiel Chew, Administrator of the estate of James T. Orr, deceased, hereby give notice, that I will offer at public auction, at the Court House door, in Bluffton, on Saturday, the 16th day of August, 1862, at 1 o'clock p.m., the east half of the north-west quarter of section numbered nine (9), township twenty-seven (27), north of range twelve (12) east, excepting from the same lot numbered eighteen (18), in the village of Eagleville, in Wells county, Indiana: also excepting a lot of two acres, more or less, taken off the north part of said half quarter, and attached and belonging to the Steam Saw-Mill Lot, now in possession of Matthew Wilson, leaving a balance of seventy-eight acres, more or less.

TERMS OF SALE. — One-third in hand — one-third in nine months — balance eighteen months. Deferred payments to be secured, and bear interest from day of sale.

EZEKIEL CHEW,
Administrator.

Druggist — Dr. W. C. Stockton, Murray, Ind.

Family Grocers — H. Foncannon & Co., Main Street, opposite Washington Hotel, Bluffton, Ind.

Clothing Goods, Groceries, etc. — S. Oppenheim. We are "receiving and opening a New Stock of Spring and Summer Goods..."

"TO SOLDIERS' WIVES, Whose husbands are in the army fighting for the Union as it was and the Constitution as it is, I will sell goods cheaper than any other house in Bluffton."

Picture Rooms! — A. A. White, Corner of Main and Washington sts., opposite the Court House.

Groceries, Boots & Shoes, Hardware, Woodenware, etc. — M. L. Bulger, "Have just returned from New York City with a large, splendid and varied New Stock..."

Cloths, Cassimeres, Tweeds, Vestings, etc. — Schlessinger & Rothschild, two doors north of Gregg & Wiley's Brick. "We have just returned from Cincinnati with a large and varied stock..." Senior proprietor has been a merchant tailor for past 8 years.

Clothing - cloth materials - carpets, boots-shoes, groceries— D. Gregg, White Brick Building, Corner Main & Market sts. "All of which have been purchased in the City for cash..."

Bluffton Banner, August 8, 1862, p. 3



From "Dear Abby"

Dear Abby: I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions?

~ Sam in California ~

Dear Sam: Yes. Run for public office.



Searching the Old-Fashioned

In Michael Neill's article, Finding James in 1870 (found at: http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=1558&o_iid=23557&o_lid=23557&o_it=23557), he says,

"And if all else fails: search the census manually--page by page-- in the area where your relative lived. In some areas this may be time consuming, but those of us who began our ancestral searches in the days before indexes are probably familiar with this approach. Once in a while we need to return to it. Manual scanning gives us an idea of the neighborhood and may help us to find relatives disguised as neighbors."

Boy does he have that right! I knew that my Spurgeon (Spurgin) family lived in Union Township, Clark Co., Indiana in 1870. I had found them on previous census tables, and they had several marriages with another branch of my family, the Branhams.

No matter how I set the search, they would not come up! Somehow none of them seem to be living there and yet I knew they had not moved.

I figured I had a couple of choices. I could look up some of their neighbors from the 1850 and 1860 census. (Since they were all farmers hopefully they still worked the same land.) Or, I could look at the alphabetical list of everyone in Union Township, Clark County for all of them--neighbors and family.

Success! Archibald Spurgeon was read by the translator of the handwriting for the electronic index as Surgeme and Branan for Branham. When I then pulled up the copy of the document I could understand how the indexer could come up with that spelling if they were not used to reading this sort of cursive script.

Lesson learned--just because they don't come up on the electronic search doesn't mean there were not there! Sometimes you just have to do it the old-fashioned way!

From Aleita Huguenin of Rancho Murieta, California

Previously published in Ancestry Weekly Journal: 9 July 2007

WWII MIA Personnel

The following website will tell you of Service Personnel who were not recovered following World War II. Ancestry.com has this included in their paid subscription, but for those who do not have access to it, this Dept. of Defense website lists them for free.



http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/WWII_MIA/MIA_MAIN.HTM

These are names actually found in census records.

Just a bit of humor in reality!

Sorry if these are related to you. It is all in good fun!

Comfort Castle - found in 1830 Columbia County, NY.

Constant Chase - found in 1830 Boston, Suffolk Co, MA.

Noble Crapper - found in 1790 Worcester Co, MD.

Orange Field - found in 1930 Miller County, GA.

Tiny Little - found in 1930 Chatooga County, GA.

Joy Rider - found in 1930 Bennington, Morrow County, OH.

Cotton Tufts - found in 1830 Weymouth, Norfolk Co, MA.

Page Turner - found in 1880 Putnam County, GA.

Frost Snow - found in 1920 Reed Island, Pulaski Co, VA.

(Continued from page 2)

New Business:

The Nominating Committee reported a slate of candidates:

President – Connie Brubaker

Vice. President – Cami Mount

Secretary – Lynn Elliott

There were two candidates for the office of Treasurer: Joan Gavilanez and Nellie Sleppy. An election was held with Joan Gavilanez being selected as Treasurer and Nellie Sleppy to help with the Poneto Book receipts.

Avon Crismore made a motion to amend the by laws to include a Membership Chairperson. Linda Thomas seconded the motion. Laura Sawyer was selected to assume the duties of the newly created Membership Chairperson.

Everyone was reminded that dues for 2008 are now due.

The next meeting will be held January 19, 2008, at the Wells County Historical Museum at 10:00 a.m. There will be a potluck lunch after the meeting. Members are asked to bring a covered dish.

Submitted by Lynn Elliott

(Continued from page 1)

ing forward to seeing the final result of all of your hard work.

And yet another group of dedicated members is the group who has been working on the deed project for the last 2-3 years. Cami and her helpers have been diligent in their quest to read and record every name on every deed in all those big heavy books. Since I have been doing the data entry and am down to the last book to enter, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I believe we can have it ready by the March deadline. Thank you to each one who has given time and energy to this project.

Our project of 2008, besides finishing the ones we've started, is to increase our membership locally. I want to contact past members and hope to encourage them to re-join. We will need to ask new members to join. I am hoping we can get more information in the news paper about our society so people will know there really is a Genealogy Society in Wells County. If anyone is interested in writing an article for the paper please let me know.

I will appoint the committees for 2008 at our January carry-in meeting. Any volunteers????

Connie

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Surname(s) Researching: _____

Membership dues
 Single—\$15.00 per
 calendar year for an
 individual
 Family—\$20.00 per
 calendar year for a
 family

WCGS ITEMS FOR SALE

	Members		Non-Members		Quantity	Total Amt.
	Book	Shipping	Book	Shipping		
Early Settlers of Blackford and Wells Counties (Book)	\$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		\$
Poneto Newspapers on CD (16 issues from 1901-02)	\$ 5.00	\$1.00	\$ 6.00	\$1.00		\$
BWGS Membership--\$15.00 individual/\$20.00 family	(Circle one) Individual or family					\$
Total Amt. Enclosed						\$

Mail to: _____ (You can also pick items up at Pages from the Attic, one mile north of Uniondale on Co RD 100 W)
 Wells County Genealogy Society,
 P.O. box 54,
 Bluffton, IN 46714

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