

WHITEWATER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Box 941

Connersville, IN 47331

Vol. 8 No. 2

June 2008

Individual membership dues are \$9 annually payable in June of each year.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month except December.

Meeting dates are: June 17, July 15 and August 19. **Dues are due in June.**

COMING EVENTS

June 13 & 14 – Gen Fest at New Castle Public Library. There will be classes on genealogical research on line (one on one in computer lab) and workshop on preserving paper records Friday June 13 at 6:30. One of the purposes is to make known resources in Henry County and surrounding area.

August 15 & 16 – Midwestern Roots 2008 at Marriott East, 21st Street & Shadeland Avenue in Indianapolis. This is a big conference with well known speakers and lots and lots of vendors. Registration is \$90 if you attending just one day or \$150 for both days. Registration after July 25 is \$105 and \$180. This is sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society. Their website is www.indianahistory.org.

October 10 & 11 – Franklin County Pioneer Reunion at Brookville.

TRIPS

At our May meeting it was decided it was too costly to charter a bus for a trip to the Allen County Public Library. There is still interest in going on July 26. At our next meeting we will discuss the possibility of still going to Fort Wayne.

OFFICERS 2008-2009

President: Karen Creamer
Vice President: Jim Orr
Secretary: Nancy Price
Treasurer: Bob Price

HERITAGE DAYS

We were pleased with the response to our booth at Heritage Days. Many took the opportunity to

look up their family on Ancestry.com with the help of Karen's laptop. We also got some new members. Welcome to Roy and Pat Cudworth and Sherri Robinson.

Welcome to Barb Smith who became a member at our May meeting.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mary Jane Miller attended IGS conference in Evansville in April and reported on that at our May meeting. The next conference will be April 25, 2009 at Marriott East in Indianapolis. Emphasis will be on military research.

POTENTIALLY FRAUDULENT SITES

Tri County Genealogical Society passed along the following information from Mike Ward of Ancestry.Com and The Generations Network, Inc.

“We have recently become aware of three websites purporting to allow family history research: SearchYour Genealogy.com, Ancestry-search.com and Australian-Ancestry.com. The sites claim to have ‘the largest online genealogical search tool’ and promote themselves as the foremost resources for genealogy, but from what we can tell, these sites are nothing more than a series of webpages with links to other services. These sites, in our opinion, are clearly fraudulent.

On each site, potential customers are lured to purchase under what we feel to be false, misleading and deceitful promotional material, and get little or no value out of money spent at the websites. Blog and message board posts from the community confirm this opinion.

The people/companies behind the websites are buying very high level paid search results on Google and other sites. In addition, they are using trademarks of well-known websites, including Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com to get higher-than-normal natural search results. It appears the site colors, fonts, and pictures on at least one site are designed to mislead people into believing the site is related to Ancestry.com.

As the leading online family history company, The Generations Network, Inc and its website properties including Ancestry.com and its global network of Ancestry sites, Genealogy.com and Rootsweb, we want to encourage consumers to validate and verify the legitimacy of a website before providing credit card information or paying for services. TGN will take appropriate administrative and legal action to do its part to protect the community from such sites.”

FAVORITE WEBSITES

WVGA website is www.wvgen@verizon.net

We have received several requests for help with Fayette County research. Here is one:

I am looking for the parents of my gggrandfather Simeon R. Fountain. Census records from Fayette Co., Ohio (yes, that is correct Fayette Co. in both Indiana and Ohio), state that he was born in Indiana in 1824. Simeon married Mary Ellen Sunderland in 1848 in Fayette Co., Ohio and they raised their family there.

In searching the census records for Indiana, I found a Moses Fountain living in Connersville, In in the 1820 census. There is a remote possibility that that Moses Fountain is Simeon’s father. Do you have anything on a Moses Fountain family?

Any help that you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

George Culy (geculy@gmail.com)

WAY TO GO KATHY

Although the website doesn’t say so yet, our own Kathy Keller has adopted Fayette County on the Genealogytrails.com website. She is also working on a master list for Fairview Cemetery in Rush County.

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

The Fayette County Cemetery Department has put together a book of all the pioneer cemeteries in the county. It lists names, directions and those buried in each cemetery.

These can be purchased from Darryll Morehead, Sr., 2601 Eby Drive, Connersville, In 47331 (dlmoreheadsr@hotmail.com)

The cost of the book is \$45.00. The CD Rom is \$10.00. When ordering the book, you will need to check with Darryll on the shipping cost.

CITY CEMETERY

John Walters and crew held workshops at City Cemetery the last 2 week ends in April. Although it was cool and rainy, they were able to repair several stones.

Volunteers are once again cleaning stones. Last year we were able to clean 1/3 of the stones in the cemetery. We hope to do that many or more this year.

FROM THE FILES

Connersville News, May 27, 1904

It was evident from the scene last evening at the High School auditorium that the commencement season was at hand and that the City of Connersville was to be a prominent participant in all of its attendant exercises. The brilliantly illuminated halls and rooms, the entrancing music, the splendidly looking youths and maidens, the inflowing tide of friends and relatives, and the happy atmosphere that prevailed all, made the picture of beauty, intelligence and refinement never to be forgotten.

After the impressive invocation by Rev. George C. Lamb, Miss Goldie Eshelman stepped forward and in a clear strong voice gave a fine oration of “sunshine” setting forth its importance and power to all life, and the infinite number of blessings it carries to all mankind.

Next, Harry Robinson, in an earnest speech, gave a comprehensive summary of the fitful career of Cubs, describing clearly the conditions prevailing during the last few years of Spanish dominion and how changed they have become since our country has given her independence and the life and customs of civilization.

The hero of Miss Ethel Coltrane’s speech was Count Leo Tolstoi.

Miss Bartha Dale was happy in the choices of her theme, for "George Eliot" is a character well known the world over as a writer of surpassing excellences.

Elmer Wait's speech was one of unusual interest. He showed how some of the millionaires of the present day got their start by the appreciation of land values.

The modern theory concerning the relation of germs to disease was the theme of Ralph W. Peck.

"The Old Ways" was the delightful subject of Miss Bessie Reisinger.

The "American Girl in Europe" was given by Miss Ethel Huston.

Harry Jobe spoke on the very appropriate subject of "Improvements of American Farm Life" and described the great changes that have taken place in the last quarter of the century in country life in general.

F. Byron Ansted was master of his subject "Wit and Humor" and deserves much credit for his easy and natural manner of speaking.

Miss Charity Sparks in a good voice told of the beginnings of George Eliot's career as a story teller and of his power in delineating tenderness and pathos.

Miss Ethel McKee spoke on the unique subject "The Advent of Ragtime."

Wm. A. Teifer elicited close attention from all when he spoke on "The White Man's Burden."

Hugh Beeson in an earnest tone and strong speech gave a brief account of the "Overthrow of the Moors."

"Modern Fiction" was well handled by Miss Nellie Brown.

(Note: There were a total of 15 graduates in the CHS class of 1904 and all gave speeches for commencement.)

Connersville News, August 12, 1887

TYNERS STATION

James Harlan of New Castle is visiting relatives here.

Merit Dehaven took in the temperance meeting at Liberty last Saturday.

Horace Lewis of Rush County visited friend here last Thursday and Friday.

Dehavens Grove is being nicely prepared for the Sunday School celebration August 18.

James McClerney of Falmouth was the guest of his brother in law, Mach Wright, last Saturday.

Thomas Hinkston died at his residence south of here last Sunday morning.

Edna Stewart left yesterday for a few weeks visit to Kentucky relatives.

Some of our young folks took in the social at Lockhart's Schoolhouse Wednesday night and report an enjoyable affair.

Died at the residence of his son in law, George Wolf, William Montieth Monday August 8 at 12:40 o'clock p.m. aged eighty years and twenty-two days. He leaves one daughter and one brother to mourn their loss. The funeral services were conducted at the Lick Creek Church by Rev. Vison Wednesday August 10 at 3 o'clock.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH TIPS

From: 101 Best Genealogy Research Tips

1. When You're Stuck, Write it Up
One of the best ways to break through a barrier in genealogical research is to stop and write your findings in a detailed report for yourself. The process of gathering your information, entering it in a narrative sequence, citing the sources you used, explaining why you used the sources you did and what they revealed, often points out gaps in your research that you hadn't noticed before or new ideas to pursue. Maybe you forgot to check all possible variants of the name; perhaps

the time span you searched was inappropriate. It could just be that you actually have all the information you need to solve the problem, you just hadn't put it all together in the right order to see the connections. So the next time you're finding yourself stuck, write it up!

2. Cherchez la Femme

When looking for information about our female ancestors, we are often told that we must find it in the records by, and about, the men in their lives. However, sometimes the reverse is true! For example, elderly widowed men frequently went to live with their married daughters in their final years. So to find the men's death certificates, obituaries, burial records and wills, we may have to first find their daughters. Another common occurrence is for men to migrate with their in-laws, so if you don't know their wives' maiden names, you may never figure out where they went or why.

3. Widen the Search Area

It's important not to unnecessarily limit the geographical extent of our search for records. It may seem unlikely for our automobile-less ancestors to have attended a church 20 miles away from their homes, or to meet spouses two counties apart, but such things did happen and more often than you think. Also, keep in mind that in the early years of settlement in a new area, the population might be so thin that a single minister served several congregations in a large circuit, so the records for a wide region might all be found together.

4. Be Repetitive: Ask Again, Search Again
Don't fall into the trap of assuming you got all the relevant information the first time you interviewed Aunt Mary or searched the census for your ancestor's township. Aunt Mary might not have understood what you were asking or could have been having a poor memory day or may have been distracted the first time you asked her about her grandfather's military service. So try again later, especially if you've found more information in the meantime that you can show her to help jog her memory and convince her that you really do care about "all that old stuff."

And our eyes can play tricks on us sometimes. What you didn't see the first time, might jump out at you the second. Or maybe, now that you

know a great deal more about your family, you'll recognize the neighbors as in-laws and discover that the lodger you ignored last time was actually a cousin.

5. Ignore Surnames

Yes, that's right! Ignore the surname. Sometimes fixating on surnames just limits our ability to find our ancestors, especially when we're using digital databases. I've found that scanning the given names instead of entering only given names and other criteria in search forms will frequently result in success when the surname was illegible, oddly spelled or incorrectly indexed. And occasionally, you can even find married daughters and remarried widows this way.

DUES

Tis that time again. Dues are due in June. They are \$9.00 for an individual or \$12.00 for a couple. You can mail these to WVGA, P. O. Box 941, Connersville, In 47331.

The following are paid till June 1, 2009

Lynann Adams
Neva Harvey
Ivory Steinard
Rosalind Webb, M. D.
Laura Smith
Norma Dawson Nash
Donald & Jean Stone
James & Patti Orr
Donna J. Powell
Kathy Keller
Roy and Pat Cudworth
Sherri Robinson
Barb Smith
Charlie Hughes
Bob and Nancy Price
OD & JoAnn Thurman
Hope Grizzell
Valarie Faris
Everett & Helen McCauley (life members)

MURPHY'S LAWS FOR GENEALOGISTS

Your grandmother's maiden name that you have searched for for four years was on a letter in a box in the attic all the time.

