

# WHITEWATER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Box 941

Connersville, IN 47331

**Vol. 8 No. 1**

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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: March 18, April 22 & May 20.

## WELCOME

Welcome to new members Jean and Ron Stone and Kathy Keller.

## RESOLUTIONS

At our January meeting Bob Price shared the following article with us. It is not something just for the new year; the info is timely any time.

### A GENEALOGIST'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By Joan Young

You've probably made the usual New Year's resolutions in the past. You know – the ones about eating less and losing weight, exercising more, cleaning out the attic and garage. If you are like most of us, those resolutions are soon broken or forgotten – until a new year rolls around again.

This year, give some thought to resolutions you could make for the New Year (ones that might be easier to keep than the above) that would help you to progress in your genealogical research. I have a list of genealogy resolutions I'm going to make for the New Year; perhaps you would like to adopt one or more of them for yourself.

### DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES

At the top of my list is being more meticulous about documenting where I found information – always listing a source for each event I've found and listing what records I've used to reach my conclusions.

Your source is where you learned your information. It might be a birth certificate, tombstone inscription, information your grand-aunt Susannah told you, or even Sally Jones'

research files. Don't list a document as your source if you didn't actually see the document. If Mary Smith told you she saw a document, then Mary Smith is your source unless or until you also see the document.

Documenting sources and then sitting back and reviewing them can help you determine whether your sources are good ones that you can readily accept, or whether you might want to dig a bit deeper for more reliable documentation. Mary Smith may be an excellent researcher but if you have taken her word for the evidence, you might want to obtain the original document she claims to have seen. You might find something in the document that Mary overlooked.

### RECORD NEGATIVE RESULTS

If you have searched the local newspapers looking for an obituary for Uncle Harry or checked the local cemetery records where you think he might have been buried, and you have come up empty-handed, make sure you record the fact that you have searched these resources and list the date on which you performed your search. This is an error I made in my early days of research and I can tell you it has led me to repeat searches unnecessarily in the future, in places I've already looked. Of course, recording the date you did your search is important as you might later find that new records have been discovered for the cemetery you previously searched.

### REVISIT DEAD ENDS

If you have been researching for any length of time, you have probably come to a dead-end on one or more of your ancestral lines. Among my brick walls is my Irish McConnell line, mostly because I have been unable to ascertain where they lived in Ireland before immigrating to America.

The new year is an excellent time to pull out all information you have gathered – clues and hints and family stories, and also the leads you eventually ruled out. Revisit the research with a fresh look. Also take into consideration that new information may have become available online that was not there when you last checked. Don't

forget to search the archives of the RootsWeb mailing lists and message boards as well as look for new Web pages and family trees that have been posted by others since you last looked.

<http://archiver.rootsweb.com>

<http://boards.rootsweb.com>

<http://wc.rootsweb.com>

#### CHECK OFF-SHOOTS OF YOUR BRICK WALLS

When you reach a dead-end, sometimes the best approach is to try to “move sideways” rather than back another generation. By this I mean you might want to attempt to learn more about the dead-ends ancestor’s spouse’s family or the ancestor’s siblings. You might be able to learn information about these other people connected to your ancestor. And through that research you may, in turn, learn about your ancestor.

In one instance in my research I was unsuccessful in obtaining a death certificate for my ancestor, but I was able to find one for his brother and their parents’ names were listed on his certificate. In another case, I found the tombstone for my ancestor’s brother and later learned my ancestor was buried in the same cemetery. By searching for a spouse or sibling’s family you might also find another researcher studying that family who holds the information you need.

#### CLEAN OUT THE ATTIC

Yes I know, you vowed in other years to clean out the attic and never got around to it; but maybe you have not thought of that chore in light of your genealogical research. If you (or your grandma) has an attic in need of attention, it could turn out to be a family history gold mine rather than just a place where “junk” is gathering dust. Consider making that resolution again and this time sticking to it and following through. You might be surprised at the treasures you find.

#### SHARE WHAT YOU LEARN

Share with others when you do make new discoveries and you will find that others will be willing to share with you. The greatest resource in genealogical research is other people

interested in the same families. Remember that RootsWeb provides the resources where you can meet and share information with newfound cousins.

<http://searches.rootsweb.com/share.html>

### HERITAGE DAYS

The Connersville Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with Historic Connersville, Inc and the Fayette County Cemetery Commission is sponsoring a two-day festival focusing on the history of Fayette County Saturday and Sunday April 12-13.

At the Miller Building participants have the opportunity to exchange genealogy compilations. You can set up a display from 9-5 on Saturday and 9-2 on Sunday.

There will also be a Pioneer Cemetery Tour with demonstrations given on cleaning, repairing and restoring tombstones.

There will be a historic tour to several places in Connersville including a stop at City Cemetery and Canal House. Tours will be given at Elmhurst on Saturday only.

On Sunday at 3 p.m. the Russel Cemetery will be re-dedicated. In the early ‘70’s this cemetery was bulldozed into a ditch. Several have worked to find parts of the original stones, find the original site of the cemetery and restore the cemetery. Russel Cemetery is located on the north side of IN 44 about 2 miles west of Bunker Hill.

WVGA is planning on having a table in the Miller Building for Heritage Days.

### ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

The annual meeting and conference for the Indiana Genealogical Society will be April 5 at The Centre, 715 Locust Street, Evansville.

Willard Library will be open until 8 p.m. on Friday April 4 for conference attendees.

Sessions at the conference will be:  
From County to Commonwealth: Early Kentucky

Out on a Limb: Trapped By Bad Research  
A 4-H Project Gone Bad  
Using The Internet for Genealogy Research  
Indiana Stone Carver: The Bicentennial of  
Thomas R. Reding  
Over There & Back: WW I Records  
Time For Reaping: Finding and Using Our  
Ancestor's Death Event Records

The Society of Civil War Families of Indiana  
will have an induction ceremony at 1:00  
followed by the annual meeting.

Registration is \$25 for IGS members and \$30 for  
non-members.

The Executive Inn is adjacent to The Centre and  
is offering rooms for \$69 a night. Reservations  
must be made before March 5.

#### **LIBRARY TO RE-OPEN**

After a devastating fire in October of 2006, the  
Warren County Library is re-opened. 98% of the  
library's collection including their genealogy  
section was destroyed. No one has been arrested  
for this crime. The library chose to rebuild at the  
same location which is across the street from the  
Warren County Court House in Williamsport.

#### **CIVIL WAR PENSION FILES**

The National Archives and the Genealogical  
Society of Utah have announced an agreement to  
digitize and index the National Archives'  
collection of 1.28 million pension files for Union  
veterans of the Civil War and their widows.

These pension files are currently only available  
at the National Archives in Washington, D. C.  
When completed, the digital files and index will  
be made available at all National Archives  
branches. The National Archives will also have  
the option of designating a third party to host the  
files online, such as Familysearch.org or a  
subscription-based website.

Currently the only way to see these files is go to  
Washington, D. C. or pay \$75 fee for the first  
100 pages when ordering by mail.

You can go to  
<http://www.archives.gov/press/pressreleases/2008/nr08-16.html> to see the full press release.

#### **BICENTENNIAL**

In June of this year Brookville will be  
celebrating their bicentennial. A book is being  
printed and will be available in June. This book  
was originally scheduled to be done in December  
2007 and will contain history information about  
Franklin County and genealogy of 125 families.  
The name of the book is "Franklin County: A  
Glimpse of the Past."

#### **FAVORITE WEBSITES**

Do you have Quakers in your family? Try one  
of the following websites:

[www.rootsweb.com/~quakers/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~quakers/)  
[www.quakermeetings.com](http://www.quakermeetings.com)

New England Ancestors? Try  
[www.newenglandancestors.org/](http://www.newenglandancestors.org/)

#### **FROM THE FILES**

*Connersville Evening News April 27, 1905*

Robinson's Crossing

A large number attended the Easter service at  
Robinson Chapel Sunday. The exercises were  
excellent. Collection \$10.68.

J. H. Lambert and family, J. H. Retherford and  
family, Davie Funk and David Funk were the  
guests of A. B. Lambert and wife, Sunday.

J. R. Retherford and family and Mary Kuhn  
attended the bazaar at Alquina Saturday night.

Mrs. Frank Weiser of Connersville and Miss Ida  
Tate of Anderson and Mrs. Nannie Retherford  
and family took dinner at W. B. Lambert's  
Friday.

Miss Mary Kuhn spent Saturday night and  
Sunday with Charles Lair and family.

J. L. Henry and wife spent Sunday at W. Albert  
Henry's.

Lemuel McNutt and John Kuhn visited Wes  
Mull Sunday.

Mary Hart and Alex Dickson's sister and two children spent Wednesday, the guests of Mrs. Nancy Ruck.

Lambert Funk, wife and daughter took dinner with Richard McMullen and family Sunday.

Sunday school next Sunday at 9:30. Subject "Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet" John 13:1-14. Everyone come.

### ***Connersville Evening News July 19, 1919***

#### **TRINITY CHURCH IS TO HAVE A MEETING**

A significant announcement comes today from members of the congregation of Trinity church. It is this: Next Tuesday evening, July twenty-second, the Right Reverend Joseph M. Francis, Bishop of the Indianapolis Diocese of the Episcopalian church is coming to Connersville, to meet the entire congregation of Trinity church, and to discuss with them a purpose to revive the church, to make some repairs upon and within it, to arrange for a resident Rector, and to strengthen and restore it generally to that estate which an edifice of that faith, in the firm belief of its members and friends, should keep in a city of the size of Connersville.

Old Trinity church, with its Gothic steeple and picturesquely faded eaves and walls, is an object of strong affection to the four score active members. The wish to bring it back, or more accurately to help it forward to a greater spiritual significance than it is able to wear at this time, has long been in the minds of its congregation. Now, the announcement that the bishop is coming sounds the call to a meeting at which whatever is done shall be resolved upon. Therefore, it is urged that all members be mindful of the time of the meeting, and permit no sort of excuse to hinder them from being present.

The last of the resident Rectors of Trinity church was the Rev. W. C. Otte, of revered memory. His residence, here ceased about fifteen years ago. Since then the Rev. Engle of Indianapolis, has come periodically to conduct church services. Pleasant as this has been, for such an arrangement, there is a great and growing wish in

the congregation for weekly services. Therefore, the visit of the Bishop and the meeting of the congregation have been arranged. It is sure that the city at large will observe the meeting and its outcome with a most cordial feeling of interest.

#### **HATS OFF**

Hats off to Sandy Brown who is indexing the 1922 obituaries from the newspapers. She did an excellent job on copying the Myers Funeral Home records and these are a great asset to the Indiana Room at the library.

#### **DID YOU KNOW THAT**

Did you know that death certificates were compiled at sad times and are more likely to contain mistakes; birth certificates and marriage certificates were compiled at happy times and are less likely to contain errors.

#### **MARRIAGE RECORDS**

The LDS marriage records indexing project for Indiana is almost done. You can go to the following website to see the records that are already on line: <http://search.labs.familysearch.org> (use http and not www.) Thanks to Karen Creamer for working so diligently on this project.

#### **WEBSITES**

Laura Smith would like to put together an up to date list of websites. Write down your favorite websites and give them to her at the next meeting or e-mail them to her at [butterfly@insightbb.com](mailto:butterfly@insightbb.com).

#### **MURPHY'S LAW**

The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated and at which the platform collapsed under him turned out to be a hanging.

You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.

