

WHITEWATER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Box 941

Connersville, IN 47331

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Individual membership dues are \$9 and dues for a couple are \$12.00. **DUES ARE DUE JUNE 1.**

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

Website: www.rootswebancestry.com/~inwvga

WVGA MEETINGS

No meeting in December. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The next meetings will be January 17 and February 15 at Trinity Episcopal Parish House.

OTHER MEETINGS

The Indiana Historical Society is sponsoring several genealogical meetings. Here are the first two.

“What’s In your Genealogy Research Toolbox?” Learn how to build a research toolbox that is organized, easy-to-use, and can be accessed from almost anywhere.

February 18 at Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center 10:00 a.m. to noon \$10 or \$8 if IHS member.

“Blog Your Ancestors: Read’Em, Write “Em, Find “Em”

You’ll learn what blogs are, as well as how to read blogs to find genealogy research leads. In addition, you’ll see how easy it is to create a blog in under five minutes.

February 18 at Indiana History Center 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$10 or \$8 if IHS member. You can attend both programs on February 18 and pay \$15 or \$12 if IHS member.

You can register online at www.indianahistory.org or call 317-232-1882 for more information.

MIDWESTERN ROOTS

This is the year for the Indiana Historical Society to sponsor Midwestern Roots. It will be

December 2011

July 20 and 21. Theme will be “Where Do You Think You Find It?”

If you attend only one conference in 2012, this is the one. Whether you’re just getting started or an experienced genealogist, there is something for you.

More details in next issue or you can go to www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots or call 317-232-1882

WELCOME

Welcome to new members Jackie Church and Nichole Wright.

DEATHS

Once again we are saddened to learn of the deaths of two of our charter members. Everett McCauley passed away September 24. His wife Helen had just died in August.

Hope Grizzel passed away November 1.

HERITAGE DAYS

Members felt that Heritage Days was very successful. 14 registered and most of them were beginners. Members were able to help them find family history. If the information was not available at the library, members provided information as to where it could be located.

Two became new members of WVGA and one renewed her dues.

The Heritage Days committee will be meeting soon to discuss the idea of having this event twice a year.

Karen Creamer would like to be at the library one Saturday a month to assist those that come in for genealogy help.

At the October meeting a discussion was held about having a beginner genealogy class without computers. The Community Education Coalition is willing to work with us and can come to the January meeting. Karen said she would work with Curtis Garrett on this after the first of the year.

BICENTENNIAL

The bicentennial committee needs help from everyone. It is just about 19 months until the big event. That seems like a long ways off but when you look at the number of events that will be held, it will take awhile to pull this all together. Most of the main committees have been established and sub-committees are forming.

There will be no meetings in December but will resume in January the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the Miller Building at 6 p.m. The meetings have been lasting about an hour followed by committee meetings.

HISTORY BOOK

The deadline has just passed for submissions to the new county history book. For the next few months the committee will be writing the history part of the book. Because of this it has not be advertised that family biographies can still be added to the book up until the time it goes to the publishing company. These can be taken to the library, mailed to the Connersville/Fayette Bicentennial Book at PO Box 448 or e-mailed to kpsumman@ydial.net. If you e-mail, do not include your picture as part of the text as the publishing company cannot extract it from the content.

70th ANNIVERSARY

December 7 is the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

FAVORITE WEBSITES

Because this is the sesquicentennial anniversary of the civil war, a lot of research is being done on the military in the war. Here are a couple of websites that may be of interest to you:

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss> This data base contains 6.3 million names from both sides, representing 44 states and territories

<http://www.indianadigitalarchives.org/> Civil War and Indiana National Guard records are the latest additions to this website. It's now home to more than 2.7 million searchable records.

Other civil war websites can be found at www.familytreemagazine.com/article/10-best-civil-war-websites

FROM THE FILES

Connersville Evening News August 27, 1906

KITCHEN SHOWER

Mrs. Lot Hamilton, assisted by her daughters, Lillian and Laura, entertained with a kitchen shower for Miss Katherine Fritch, Friday evening.

Miss Fritch is soon to become the bride of Mr. Jay Monroe and her friends were more than glad to show their appreciation for a girl who is held in high esteem by all.

The home of Mrs. Hamilton was beautifully decorated in asters and red and white hearts. The guests, numbering about thirty, were entertained in various ways but the chief enjoyment was the compiling of a recipe book for the use of the future bride.

Miss Fritch was then blindfolded and led by her sister, Miss Mayme, around the table, which was just groaning with pans, kettles and everything conceivable for use in the kitchen. According to tradition Miss May Strickler will be the next bride and Mrs. Kerwood will give the shower. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

A FAREWELL PARTY

This afternoon, about twenty ladies, neighbors and friends of Mrs. Homer Eddy, called at her home, on West Hill, and gave her a delightful surprise in honor of her departure from the city to Dunlapsville, where she will reside in the future.

Mrs. Eddy was presented with a handsome berry spoon engraved with the word "Neighbors" and a pretty cream spoon from a neighbor.

After partaking of a dainty collation, Mrs. Eddy was bade adieu, with an assurance from all that they would visit her in the near future at the farm.

Mrs. Eddy has endeared herself to the entire vicinity and it is with sorrow that her neighbors anticipate her removal. She leaves for Dunlapsville tomorrow.

INTERESTING HISTORY

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day, it was taken & sold to the tannery....if you had to do this to survive, you were "Piss Poor."

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot...they "didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell....Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs- thick straw-piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof...Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: peas porridge hot, peas

FAMILY SEARCH

porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, “bring home the bacon.” They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive...so they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

And that’s the truth...now, who said history was boring.

The most exciting feature of the revamped FamilySearch.org is its rapidly growing collection of genealogical records. The old version already had an impressive collection consisting mostly of transcribed birth, marriage, death and census records. Now FamilySearch has taken on the task of digitizing its entire microfilm collection and posting the images on line.

If you are a veteran user of FamilySearch, you’re probably wondering what became of your favorite databases and research guides. In general, record indexes, transcriptions and digitized images are now gathered together under Historical Records, while family trees and other family information submitted by researchers reside together under Family Trees. Family history articles, classes, videos and guides are now accessible from the Learn tab. Here is where your favorite features ended up on the new site.

The first listing will be the old site followed by the new location.

Ancestral File – Family Trees

Census – Historical Records

Historical Books – slated to move to www.familysearch.org

Index Records – Indexing

Library (Family History Library and Family History Centers) – FamilySearch Centers

Library Catalog – Library Catalog

Pedigree Resource File – Data will be added to Family Trees

Research Helps (Articles and Guidance) – Learn

US Social Security Death Index – Historical Records.