

# WHITEWATER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Box 941

Connersville, IN 47331

Vol. 12 No. 1

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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](http://www.rootswebancestry.com/~inwvga)

## **WVGA MEETINGS**

The next meetings will be March 20 (first day of spring), April 17, and May 15 at Trinity Episcopal Parish House at 7 p.m.

## **OTHER MEETINGS**

### **MEET & GREET**

There will be a Meet & Greet fundraiser occasion on March 8 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Below the Loft, 600 N. Central Avenue. This is to promote the bicentennial. This will be the last chance to buy the new history books. Once the book goes to publication, the price of the book increases.

## **INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Indiana Historical Society is sponsoring the following genealogy informational meetings.

March 25 – Researching Your Jewish Family History.

April 14 – 1940 Census

April 24 – Photo Preservation

May 19 – Using Federal Court Records to Discover Prohibition and Family History.

You can register online at [www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org) or call 317-232-1882 for more information. Registration includes admission to the *Indiana Experience* the day of the program.

## **IGS CONFERENCE**

Debra S. Mieszala will be the featured speaker at the 2012 IGS Conference at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne on April 28. Registration is \$30 for IGS members and \$40 for Non-IGS members. Registration at the door will

be \$45 for IGS members or non-members. You can register at [www.indgensoc.org/conference.php](http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.php) or mail registration to IGS, P. O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, In 46852-0507.

## **NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

2012 Family History Conference will be held May 9-12 at the Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. More than seventy-five nationally recognized speakers will provide over one hundred and seventy lectures on a wide variety of topics. Information can be found at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>.

## **MIDWESTERN ROOTS**

Midwestern Roots conference will be July 20 and 21 at Marriott East, 7202 E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Indianapolis. A wide range of nationally known speakers gather to help you continue on your journey to find your family story. For more information you can go to [www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots](http://www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots) or call 317-232-1882.

## **BICENTENNIAL**

Once 2012 arrived people realized that the bicentennial is only a year away. It is almost time to choose the daily events which will be held. It will take thousands to put on this event. There won't be another such activity for another 50 years so this is your chance to get involved and to help.

Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at the Miller Building. There will not be a meeting March 8 due to Meet & Greet.

The bicentennial now has a home. Char Lyn Grujoski has donated the use of her building at 416 Central Avenue for the bicentennial.

It is hoped that the 4-H building at the park will be renovated in time for the bicentennial. Members of the bicentennial committee have been working there every Saturday.

### **HISTORY BOOK**

The new county history book is in its final stages. The committee is working on the history part of the book. In April and May everything will be organized and the material sent to the publishing company. The committee will read proof on the book twice before it is printed. It is hoped to have the book in early December. There are over 200 biographies of families that lived in Fayette County. Most of the biographies have one or more family pictures with the bio. If you have been dragging your feet and not sent in yours, hurry – time is running out.

### **DEATH**

Mary Jane Miller passed away December 3. We all miss her.

### **1940 CENSUS RELEASE**

April 2 at 9 a.m. Eastern time the 1940 Federal Census goes online. The digital images will be accessible free of charge. There is no name index. Indexing projects are in the works.

The 1940 census includes much of what was asked on the 1930 census. In addition, there is also an “X” next to the name of the person who responded to the census questions. New information includes where people lived five years ago, highest educational grade achieved and detailed income and occupation questions.

### **RUSH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The Rush County Genealogical Society has completed their book *Let Us Die To Make Men Free – Civil War Soldiers of Rush County, Indiana*. The book features 66 named Rush County Civil War soldiers along with photos and their regiment breakdowns. The cost is \$20 plus \$5 shipping. You can go to their website at [www.rushcogs.com](http://www.rushcogs.com) for an order form. They also have an obituary program, a family group sheet project and they are starting on cemetery transcription books. A committee has been formed to transcribe, photograph and compile all information from the county cemeteries into

books divided by townships. They also have three books of marriage records from April 1822 to October 1862. A fourth book is coming soon and will include marriage records through January 1876.

### **DEARBORN COUNTY**

The Lawrenceburg Public Library continues to add to its online obituary index. It is accessible from [www.lpld.lib.in.us](http://www.lpld.lib.in.us).

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

The Franklin County Cemetery Commission recently completed a spiral bound book, *Pioneer Cemeteries of Franklin County, Indiana*. This edition deals primarily with cemeteries that were established before 1850 and includes photos and burial listings for many of the cemeteries that the commission has restored and currently maintains. For information on the book contact Julie Schlesselman at [Julie@fclibraries.org](mailto:Julie@fclibraries.org).

You can also contact Julie if you are interested in the *Remembering Those Who Served: Veterans and Service Personnel of Franklin County, Indiana*. The 768 page book recognizes over 8,800 men and women associated with Franklin County who served in the U. S. military, from the American Revolution to present day.

### **VITAL RECORDS IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Pennsylvania has long been considered one of the most difficult states for genealogists trying to access older vital records, but a bill signed into law in December 2011 has finally helped catch up with the times – at least a little. As of February 14, 2012 the PA Division of Vital Records has opened death records older than 50 years and birth records older than 105 years for public access, and put up free online indexes to both record sets to help facilitate access. The free PA birth index only covers the year 1906, as births from 1907 to the present are still covered by privacy laws, and pre-1906 birth records are held by the counties. The free PA death index covers the years 1906-1961.

Unfortunately, the new indices are in digitized, PDF format – organized by year and first letter of the surname. Although cumbersome to use, at least they are available online. The birth index for 1906 appears to be currently searchable, but be aware that a search does not necessarily pick up all of the names.

Copies of these 1906 birth records and 1906-1961 death records can be ordered by mail from the Pennsylvania State Archives for a fee of \$15.00 per record. An uncertified copy can also be obtained through the PA Division of Vital Records for a fee of \$3.00 per record. For now, the office advises you to expect to wait 16-20 weeks to receive your record.

Free Pennsylvania Birth Records Index:  
<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1086145&mode=2>

Free Pennsylvania Death Records Index:  
<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1085804&mode=2>

(Thanks to Barbara Craig for sending this information from the Montgomery County Chapter of OGS)

### **CEMETERY SEARCH**

Consort: denotes the person's still-living spouse  
Relict: denotes the person was a widow (er)  
Nee: French for born, referring to the maiden name of a married woman, such as "Jane Doe nee Buck".

### **FROM THE FILES**

*Connersville News-Examiner*  
July 22, 1933

#### **KATHERINE HERON DIES AT HOSPITAL**

Miss Katherine Heron, age 77, who for years has been prominent in civic and social activities of Connersville and who was regarded throughout the state as an authority on historical facts, died at 4 o'clock this morning at Fayette Memorial Hospital where she had been a patient since June 25. Her home was at 523 Western Avenue.

Born and reared here, Miss Heron had lived in Connersville all her life except for several years spent at school in Cincinnati. She was a member of the Women's Press Club of Indiana; the Indiana State Historical Society; the John Conner Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and the First Presbyterian Church; and was a charter member of the A.D.O.U. club.

Miss Heron was known throughout Indiana for her newspaper writings and her historical research work and readers of the News-Examiner are familiar with the many interesting articles which she has written, chiefly on local history.

The first local humane officer, she filled that office with an efficiency and capability that made it an important post in the welfare of the community.

In addition to her many other activities, Miss Heron served as a member of the Public Library Board and was one of those to whose untiring efforts credit is due for Connersville's present library building.

Miss Heron has traveled extensively, both in America and abroad. For 25 years she was associated in business with her brother, J. M. Heron.

Besides the brother, survivors are four nieces, Mrs. Isabel Heron Anstead of Connersville, Mrs. J. T. McKinney of Los Angeles, Calif.; and the Misses Carlene and Emma Johnson of Portsmouth, O.; and three nephews, Sherrard, Heron, and Kenyon Johnson, all of Portsmouth.

Funeral services will be conducted at 3 p.m. DST Monday at the brother's residence, 1617 Virginia Avenue, with burial in Dale Cemetery. Friends may call at the J. M. Heron residence after 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

#### **BOY DROWNS WHEN BOAT OVERTURNS**

Burdell Rice, colored, age 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rice, Sixth and Oak Streets, was drowned early this afternoon in Whitewater River near Third and Water Streets, when the boat in which he and Frederick Ellis, 14, were

rowing downstream tipped over. Rice was unable to swim, and Ellis and the latter's nephew, Eugene Craig, a younger child, were unable to hold him. The fire department was called and firemen worked for some time to revive the boy.

*THE EVENING NEWS*  
April 19, 1905

#### JENNINGS AND WATERLOO

The schools of Jennings and Waterloo townships, will hold their annual commencement together, this year. The graduating exercises will be held at the Springersville Christian Church, Thursday evening, May 18, and will consist chiefly of essays by the graduates from the two schools. Both townships furnish seven graduates each. The pupils of Waterloo township are: Otto L. Green, Zelma Wood, Harriet McMullen, Francis McMullen, Harold Jones, Paul Kline, Neva Scholl.

Those of Jennings township are: Ethel Hamilton, Rose Davis, Katherine Kehl, Bertha Ranck, Ethel Ferguson, Walter Scholl and Emma Ambrose.

#### POLICE FIND MIKE DILLON'S HORSE AND RIG

Mike Dillon, a farmer, living south of the city, came to town, a few days ago, and put his horse and buggy in Tom Shield's barn. Then he started out to enjoy himself, putting in one or two days on the job and sleeping at night in the livery barn.

Yesterday, he hitched up and says he tied his horse near Baehner's Saloon. Later, he reported to the police that the outfit had been stolen. The search began and Mike passed his own buggy standing outside Moffett's livery barn without knowing it. The horse was later found inside where either Mike or some friend had taken it.

*CONNERSVILLE NEWS-EXAMINER*  
June 24, 1938

#### ORANGE

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stewart returned home Tuesday evening after having spent the winter at Santa Ana, Calif.

Rev. Jess Gettinger of Hartford called on relatives and friends here Friday.

Mrs. Dorothy Dean of southern Indiana and Mr. and Mrs. Gates Davis and family of Rushville were entertained Sunday at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Davis.

Mrs. George Gebert and son Arthur of Connersville called on friends here Sunday.

Mrs. Lowell Cooper and little son Jackie of Knightstown spent Sunday night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. May, and attended the children's exercises at the Christian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur McKee and daughters Elizabeth and Frances, were in Indianapolis Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Matney were the guests of relatives in Connersville Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Sipe, son Richard and daughter Patricia were the Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Sipe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mingle.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Robeson and baby of Glenwood spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Medd, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Coon called on Mr. and Mrs. John Dawson and daughter Maxine Sunday afternoon.

#### BEST PLACES TO SEE DEAD PEOPLE

[www.cemeterysurveysinc.com](http://www.cemeterysurveysinc.com)

View nearly 240,000 burial records, many with photos of the actual headstones; the site is richest in coverage for the southeastern United States. (free for 7 days)

