

# WHITEWATER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Box 941

Connersville, IN 47331

Vol. 13 No. 2

June 2013

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)

## **MEETINGS**

Regular meetings will be June 11, July 16, and August 20 at the Trinity Episcopal Parish House.

There is a meeting for volunteers of the bicentennial on our June meeting night. This affects several of our members. We will meet at City Cemetery at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11. John Johnson will give us a list of symbols found on tombstones and we will see how many we can find.

It's June so it is time to pay dues.

## **FGS CONFERENCE**

The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their annual conference at Fort Wayne August 21-24. There are lots of speakers at this conference and the best part is that it is in Indiana, close to home.

Registration for the four days is \$190 by July 1, \$240 after July 1 and single day is \$80 before July 1 and \$100 after July 1.

To register you can go to [www.FGS.org](http://www.FGS.org). The official website for the conference is [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org).

## **MIDNIGHT MADNESS**

Willard Library's Annual Midnight Madness will be held June 17-22 in Evansville. If you had relatives in the Evansville area or just want to attend genealogy classes, here is your chance. Classes are free and open to the public. Reservations are requested, but not required. For more information go to [www.willard.lib.in.us/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.willard.lib.in.us/calendar_of_events). A tour of the Reitz Home will be held on

Wednesday, June 19. Cost for this is \$20 which also includes lunch.

## **IS IT REALLY HERE?**

After almost four years in the planning, Connersville's Bicentennial is here. Opening ceremonies will be on the steps of the Canal House June 28 followed by 9 days of activities. There are 107 events on the schedule. To see the complete schedule, you can go to [www.connersville200years.com](http://www.connersville200years.com)

Following the bicentennial a book will be published about the bicentennial. In 1963 a book was published that contained some information about the sesquicentennial and a lot of history. Inasmuch as we have just printed a new history book, the new book will be bicentennial only. We are committed to 72 pages but the committee is planning for approximately 100 pages. The order form is on the website mentioned in this article and they can also be obtained at bicentennial headquarters at 416 Central Avenue. They now have expanded hours – 11:00 to 5:00 Tuesday thru Thursday, 11:00 to 7:00 on Friday and 11:00 to 3:00 on Saturday. All books will be shipped. Cost is \$46.95 which includes the book, shipping, and Indiana State tax.

During the bicentennial there will also be a second headquarters location at the Administration Building at the park.

On May 16 the "older" members of our city and county were honored at an Elders Luncheon at the Miller Building. Approximately 260 attended. There was plenty of visiting about the "old days."

The next day a Taste of Connersville was held. Those that submitted recipes for the bicentennial cookbook prepared one of their recipes and members of the community had a chance to sample them. This was also the kickoff for the sale of the cookbook entitled "Sisters of the Skillet". 300 books were ordered and one week later only 30 books were left to be sold. Another shipment of books has been ordered and will be delivered about July 2. If you want to purchase a book, you can stop by headquarters and add your name and phone number to the list.

### CIVIL WAR MEMOIRS

The latest project of HCI is printing of the memoirs of Andrew Young Neff about his days in the Civil War. These were written by a man with limited education just like everyone else of that generation and were typed as near like the original writing as possible. Some of the words could not be interpreted. The Neff family is in the process of getting a copyright for these memoirs. The actual memoirs as typed are on 32 pages with only 3 paragraphs. The booklet will also contain information about A. Y.'s military unit, his biography, and family pictures.

### IGS NEWS

Julie Schlesselman of Brookville was appointed Southeast Director for the Indiana Genealogy Society. She has been Local History and Genealogy Department Manager of the Franklin County Public Library District since 2005. She also is on the board of the Franklin County Cemetery Commission and serves as IGS County Genealogist for Franklin County.

Entries from Shelby, Starke and Switzerland counties have been added to the Indiana marriage index 1811-1959. 57 counties are now searchable.

If you had an ancestor with military service (particularly the Civil War) that you can't find a burial location, you might want to check the Government Hospital for the Insane in Washington, DC – later renamed St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Many Indiana veterans were sent there for treatment and were supposedly buried in the hospital cemetery. FindAGrave has partial listings of the two halves of the cemetery.

Do you know the cause of insanity? The field of medicine in the 1800s was not as advanced as we know it today. This was especially true when it came to mental health. A 1901 annual report from the State Hospital for the Insane in Evansville listed the various causes of insanity in their patients, including: cigarette smoking, influenza, epilepsy, sunstroke, religious excitement, menopause and childbed fever.

### TIPS FOR MAKING CONTACT

From: Family Tree Magazine

Telephone: When cold calling, don't get mistaken for a telemarketer. Convey your possible relationship in the first 10 seconds, and show you're legitimate by dropping the name of another common relative (especially one you know personally). "Hello, my name is Dorothy Gale, and my Auntie Em gave me your number. I'm working on the family tree and I think we might be related."

E-Mail: Make your subject line specific as in "Possible Hatfield Family Connection" or "Are You Related To My McCoy Family?" Avoid red flag words in your subject line that might get the message caught in a spam filter (for example, "buy"). In the body of the e-mail, be clear and concise – you want to ensure the recipient understands how you're related and why you're looking to connect.

Letter: This is the preferred method for many because it allows the recipient to decide how, when and if to respond. In your letter, state who you are and show how you're related to the person you're contacting (enclose a family tree chart if possible). Be sure to provide your telephone and e-mail address – inserting a self-addressed stamped envelope for a response is also a nice touch.

Tip: Be respectful of your living relatives' privacy when sharing what you uncover – especially in posting on blogs and social media. Just because information is public record doesn't mean you should publish it. Always evaluate your sources and verify facts before posting.

### FROM THE FILES

*Connersville News Examiner*  
June 7, 1938

#### Dinner Party Honors Graduates

A prettily appointed dinner party was given Monday evening in the dining room of the Central Christian Church, complimenting the young folks of the church who were graduating from Connersville High School with the class of 1938 in May.

The honor guests were Robert Wright, Esther Hignite, Geraldine Croxon, Mary Huston, Russell Cloud, Irene Weiss, Mary Elsie Porter, Doris Porter, Joe Walden, George Williams, Ferris Pindell, and Marian Cherry. Fifty persons attended the delightful affair.

A color scheme of blue and white was carried out in the appointments and decorations and miniature ships were given for favors. Miss Lois Sweet, president of the Young People's Class, with which the graduates have become affiliated, gave welcome greetings and introduced each honor guest. E. W. Cotton, master of ceremonies introduced Miss Mabel Adams, leader of the Intermediate Senior Department, who presented a Bible, a gift of the church, to each Senior. Mr. Cotton also presented Mrs. M. E. Elliott and Mrs. M. C. Pruitt, leaders of the Young People's Class, who gave a short talk.

For the program Miss Gleda Houghton gave a group of readings, Miss Leah Elliott sang "Moon Melody" accompanied by Miss Sarah Elinor Hanby, pianist. Group singing was led by Miss Virginia Williams. Short talks were given by Mrs. Cotton, R. H. Crawford, Miss Lois Sweet, Robert Wright, and the Rev. George D. Wyatt, pastor.

*Connersville News Examiner*  
July 13, 1934

#### Shawmut Picnic

Thirty four members of Shawmut Society and 30 guests were present for the annual picnic of the organization Wednesday afternoon at Roberts Park. Two of the guests later became members. They were Mrs. Ruby Massey and Mrs. Alma Jackson.

A delicious picnic lunch was served cafeteria style by a committee comprised of Mrs. Ray Miller, Mrs. Fred Hahn, Mrs. Lucille Bennett and Mrs. Garfield Goodman. The invocation was given by Mrs. Allen Fries. At 2:30 the meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. C. C. Cates and the Lord's prayer was repeated in unison. Sixty-two visits with sick persons were reported as part of the organization's activities during the last two weeks. A committee comprised of Mrs. Hiram Waltz and Mrs. Grover Hurst was appointed to decide on some means of raising money. The club prize was won by Mrs. Ruby Scott and the donation prize went to Mrs. Clayton Stevens. Keno prizes were won by Mrs. Ruby Scott, Mrs. J. P. Ronan, Mrs. Lee Brothers, Mrs. Frank McCready, Mrs. Fred Hahn, Mrs. C. C. Cates, Miss Josephine Selm, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Walter Leffler, Mrs. Omer Adams, Mrs. Vern Perry, Mrs. Ida Utter, Mrs. Ed Hall and Mrs. James Fitzgerald. Refreshments were served after the business session in the afternoon.

The next meeting, July 25, will be held at the home of Mrs. Curtis Maple with Mrs. Lizzie Teller and Miss Josephine Selm as hostesses.

#### Alquina Ladies Aid

An interesting meeting of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Alquina Methodist church was held Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Glen White, southwest of Alquina. Assisting hostesses were Mrs. Frank Retherford, Mrs. Earl Gettinger and Mrs. Joseph White. The meeting was opened with the song, "What A Friend I Have in Jesus" and prayer by Mrs. Earl Gettinger. The business session was in charge of Miss Betty Conneway the president. Two contests, part of the afternoon's entertainment were given by Mrs. Lester Enochs and Mrs. Oran Crandle. Light refreshments were served by the hostesses.

The members present were Mrs. Charles Heizer, Mrs. Oran Crandel, Mrs. Clyde Binder, Mrs. W. O. Powell, Mrs. Wilbur Osborne, Mrs. Bert Titterington, Miss Orpha Price, Mrs. Herbert Oully, the Misses Eva and Betty Conneway, Mrs. Wayne Lake, Mrs. Lloyd Kenworthy, and Mrs. Virgil Myers.

Guests at the meeting were Mrs. Oliver Manlove, Mrs. Robert Manlove, Mrs. Lester Enochs, Margaret Gettinger, Ruth Lake, Wilma Myers, Marjorie Binder, Vivian Crandel, Joanne Enochs, Junior Osborne, Norman Lake, Keith White, Marvin Myers, and Lloyd Lee Kenworthy Jr.

For the next meeting August 9 the hostesses will be Mrs. Leslie Powell, Mrs. Dora Gettinger, Mrs. Q. A. Price and Mrs. W. O. Powell. The place will be announced later.

#### Degree of Honor Juvenile Club

Plans for a wiener roast next Wednesday evening following the regular meeting of the Junior Mechanics Hall were made by the Degree of Honor Juvenile Club at a meeting Thursday afternoon at the hall under the leadership of Mrs. Edgar Jones. Sixteen members were present.

#### THE MYERS FARM

(The following was submitted by one of our members, Frank Myers)

The history of the farm was told to me by my aunt, Garnet Elnora Myers Ewing, in 1973, when she gave

me an old photograph and painting of the farm. The following is what she told me:

The farm is located in Bentonville, in the southeast corner of Fayette County, Indiana (editorial correction – Bentonville is in the northwest corner of Fayette County). It was built by my great-great-grandfather on my father's side, William Manlove (January 19, 1815-1885), who was married to Margaret Munger. Their daughter, Mary Laura, who had three older brothers, married Calvin Myers. When William died, instead of leaving the farm to one of his sons, he left it to Mary and Calvin's son, Oliver Porter (my grandfather). Litigation followed over rightful ownership, and the farm was unoccupied for thirty years. This is why so many antiques were preserved.

Porter retained ownership of the farm, where he and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Overhiser, lived. They raised corn, a garden and pigs. Garnet Elnora was born in 1906 and Willard Calvin in 1913. It was while Oliver was building a modern kitchen, in the winter of 1919, that he became ill and died at the age of 32 of a mastoid infection. His third child, Porter LaVerne, was born about 6 weeks after his death.

The farm is of the Federalist Period, with doorknobs of Bennington pottery. I have several items from the farm, including Calvin Myers' Bible, 3 Eastlake parlor chairs, a 12-tube candle mold, and an Eastlake Seth Thomas clock. My daughter, Sue, has the old farm bell and an Eastlake clock shelf. My sister, Willa, a navy blue quilt that Mary made and may have some other items. The farm, which was rented by tenants who farmed the land, burned down due to an electrical fire in the spring of 1969. Mary and her children were very sad; but the family possessions had already been distributed to the families before the farm was rented.

A water color was painted by our friend, Dr. John Goodno, using the old painting and photograph as his guide. Today it hangs in my dining room. I had a copy made for my sister, Willa, in December 2012.

Marjorie Myers Totten  
December 29, 2012

(Note: It probably should have said the house which was rented burned down-----the tenants who farmed this farm did not live there. The same family has farmed this farm for 57 years.)

## SYMBOLS ON TOMBSTONES

Tombstones have visual symbols telling of the life of the deceased. Emblems on stones can indicate that a person was a member of the masons, odd fellows or any of the other lodges or simply tell of their life. They can tell of other associations . ethnic identity, or religious affiliation.

The task of interpreting symbols on a tombstone is a daunting one. Though most symbols do have a textbook meaning, it is quite possible that the particular item you find engraved on the tombstone was put there simply because someone liked the look of it. They liked the design and felt it was just somehow "right." Cemetery art is art no matter how you look at it.