

ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society, Inc
PO Box 2455
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Oct - Dec Q4 2010
Editor, Kim Ray

Happy 20th Anniversary, BCGS !

The following article is a reprint of the cover story from the first newsletter published by BCGS, dated Jan 1991. Editor: Dianne Brummett

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

(founded September 22, 1990)

At a meeting in the Bartholomew County Library on Saturday, September 22, 1990 a group of 30 persons interested in Genealogy founded the Bartholomew County Genealogical Society. A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and officers elected. The officers are: President: John W. Hamblen, Vice President: Morris Begley, Secretary: Wanda Williams and Treasurer: Karen Loy. The fourth Saturday afternoon (1:00 p.m.) of the month was selected as the meeting time in Room #1 of the Bartholomew County Public Library. The next three meetings will be on October 27, November 24 and December 22. Members were asked to bring a list of the surnames which they are searching to the October meeting.

Seven persons signed up as Life Members at \$100.00 each and 13 others became founding members at \$5.00 for 1990. Anyone joining in 1990 is a Founding Member. Regular dues were set at \$10.00 per calendar year beginning with 1991.

Following the business meeting John Hamblen called attention to the Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses: 1790-1920 by Thorndale and Dollarhide and cited examples of its usefulness in searching early 1800 records. This was followed by an around-the-room get-acquainted session. Future programs and activities will include seminars for beginners. Inquiries should be addressed to the Society at P.O.Box 2455, Columbus, IN 47202.

[Editor's Note: Below the cover story was a list of Officers for 1991, which were elected at the Dec Mtg. All the above mentioned officers stayed the same, but the list also included Editor: Dianne Brummett; Librarian: Helen Rowell; Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman. Appointments were also listed as Constitution and By-Laws: Carl Main; IN Genealogical Society Cemetery Project: Donna Kuhlman; Logo design: Linda Dye; and Heritage Quest Seminar Chairman: Morris Begley.]

BCGS 2010 Officers

President: Margot Green
Vice President: Jane Johnson
Secretary: Jennie Rauch
Treasurer/Membership: Sarah Bush
Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman
Genealogist: Karen Loy

Calendar

Oct 23: GENEALOGY DAY

Nov 20: Annual Mtg / Officer Election / Family Holiday Reminiscences

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Editor's Note: Many thanks to all BCGS Board Members for their time and articles to make Ancestors the "Voice of BCGS" ! As a courtesy, and to insure the personal communication with each of you, their columns are not edited. Hope you enjoy !

Uncovering Genealogical Gems – Genealogy Day – October 23

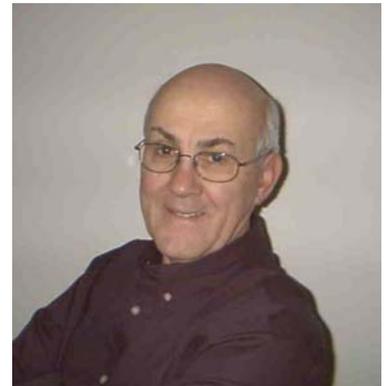
-by Margot Green

October is Family History Month. To celebrate, we are inviting you to spend the day with us learning about new resources, research tools, and techniques for expanding your family's story. Planned as an event for BCGS members and the community, Uncovering Genealogical Gems is a special day featuring three expert speakers. Mary Ellen Grossman, Second Deputy at the Bartholomew County Clerk's Office, will give us guidance in finding and using Courthouse Records – information that is valuable both to local residents and those doing their research at a distance. Julie Hughes, Executive Director of the Bartholomew County Historical Society, will offer tips for using old photographs to document family history. Ron Darrah, a Fellow of the Indiana Genealogical Society, our featured afternoon speaker, will focus on American military history, concentrating on research tactics that go off the beaten path. All of our speakers invite your questions. Come and join us in our quest to uncover those genealogical gems!

Location: Bartholomew County Public Library Red Room

Speaker Biography: Ronald L. Darrah

8126 Bittern Lane Indianapolis, IN 46256
(317) 594-9786 darrah@comcast.net



Personal: Born Wheeling, West Virginia, October 19, 1939
Indiana Resident since 1972
Two daughters; one grandson

Educational: B. S. in Education, Kent State University, 1967
Graduate Study, Kent State University, 1969-70
Undergraduate Student in History, IUPUI, 1996-2000

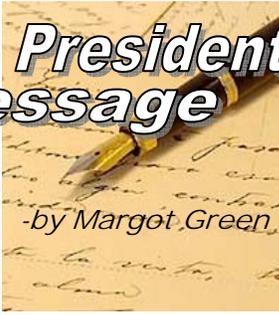
Occupational: Former Sixth Grade Teacher, Parma, Ohio
Supervisor of Warehousing, Indianapolis Public Schools (Retired)
Technical Sergeant, Indiana Air National Guard (Retired)

Genealogical: Founding Executive Director, *Genealogical Society of Marion County*
Chair of the *Indiana Genealogical Society* affiliate,
Society of Civil War Families of Indiana
Genealogist-Registrar of the Clarence Cook Chapter,
Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution
Fellow of the *Indiana Genealogical Society*
Member, *First Families of Ohio; Civil War Families of Ohio*
Genealogical researcher for 20+ years;
Researching Darrah, O'Neill, Blanchard, Bowen, and Allen

Synopsis: Advanced Military Workshop

Presented by Ron Darrah

“Once a genealogist checks the Federal military and pension files, where do they go after that? This fast-paced workshop for the Intermediate and Advanced researcher will focus on research tactics that go off the beaten path. Attendees will discover specialized record groups in specialized locations that cover American military activities from the Revolution to the modern day. Questions are encouraged, so bring your family problems waiting to be solved.”



President's Message

-by Margot Green

Member Survey Results

Many thanks to all of you who responded to the Member Survey published in the last Ancestors and offered on-line. Your suggestions will help us plan next year's activities, and those of you who offered to help in various projects and programs can expect an opportunity to be involved. Here is what you told us:

Saturday afternoon **meeting times** very narrowly (one vote) edged out Saturday mornings, with some expressing a preference for weekday evenings. In 2011, we expect to have one or two Saturday morning meetings as a test and possibly a weekday evening event (co-sponsored with the library) as well.

Program Topics: Internet and technology-related were the most popular by a wide margin. Some examples were: useful computer programs and tricks, finding and using genealogical websites, and accessing digitized records and books on the Internet.

Several of you also mentioned history-related topics such as: working with property deeds, courthouse research, and founding families of Bartholomew County. Also suggested were ethnic research, strategies for locating ancestors in other Indiana counties, and more hands-on activities such as work meetings in the Indiana Room.

Regarding what BCGS should **continue doing**, providing education was the top pick followed by publishing Ancestors, and continuing as we are. **Suggestions for improvement** included more advertising, developing a website with links, communicating more via email, and more member involvement.

Several of you indicated a **willingness to become involved**, especially in the following activities: computer data entry from home, cemetery research, website development, helping with refreshments, etc. for programs, contributing to Ancestors, and linking with schools and/or senior centers.

Of course, you don't need to wait for the next survey to share your ideas and suggestions. Contact us any time at bcgs47202@yahoo.com.

Again, we appreciate your input and will be incorporating as much of it as possible into BCGS activities in 2011 and beyond.

Margot Green, President

Technical Assistance Available Free from Larry Haak

-by Margot Green

BCGS member Larry Haak has kindly offered his assistance to members needing one-on-one help in a variety of technical areas, including:

- Converting Microsoft Office (Word, Excel) files to a different format readable by a PC without Microsoft Office
- Converting a file for use on the web (e.g. findagrave.com)
- Locating a specific web site
- Resolving GEDCOM issues (formatting, merging, etc.)
- Scanning a small number of pictures or slides (for large numbers, he will have to charge a small fee)

This list is not all-inclusive. Feel free to contact Larry if you have other technical needs. Also, Larry has an older Epson flatbed scanner he is offering free to anyone who wants it. Contact Larry by email at tree@pax-domini.org. (If you don't have email, Larry's telephone number is (812) 579-6609.) Thanks, Larry!

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society Founding Members

(as listed in the First Edition of BC Ancestors)

Janet Bay	Griffith & Elizabeth Marr*
Norma Beall	Marie McFadden*
Morris & Phyllis Begley*	Donna & Louis Mellencamp
Melba Brown	Anaa Mohr
Diane Brummett	Jane Murphy**
Ronald P. Bulthuis	Mary Jane Owens*
Doris L. Chambers	Eileen K. Pierce
Harold R. Crawford	Grace L. Potts
Jennie David	Wesley Robinson
Martha Davis	Max and Nancy Rodman
Linda Kay Dye	John & Helen Powell
Burhl Ellis	Evelyn Sanborn
Mary Ellen Grossman	Donna Sasse
John W. Hamblen*	Barbara Shumaker
May Lou Harris	Marcus Speer
Rose Harrison	Mary Francis Urbahns**
Charles W. Hathaway	Imogene Weisner
Marcella B. Jones	Bonita Welch
Donna Kuhlman	Wanda Williams*
Karen Loy*	Fred Zeigler
Carl Main*	

* Life Members

** Honorary Life Members

Honorary Life Members Named

(from First Edition of BC Ancestors)

At the December meeting the members voted to name Mary Frances Urbahns and Jane Murphy as Honorary Life Members in recognition of their many years of service to the genealogical community by unselfishly devoting hundreds of hours of their time assisting hundreds of people who were searching for their Bartholomew County Ancestors. Mary Frances works in the County Clerks Office and Archives and Jane is a longstanding volunteer in the Cline-Keller Library of the Bartholomew County Historical Society. Certificates will be presented in a ceremony at the January meeting.

Happy 20th Year Anniversary, BCGS !!

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society Presidents

1990 – 1992	John W. Hamblen	2000 – 2001	Jane Johnson
1993 – 1994	Ronald Bulthuis	2002 – 2003	Judith Scholtz
1995 – 1997	Ruth Thomas	2004 – 2007	James West
1998 – 1999	Marcella Jones	2008 – 2010	Margot Green

Highlights

by Jennie Rauch

Twelve folks attended the July potluck picnic, and had a chance to sell, buy, or swap genealogy treasures others were no longer needing in their personal library. As we all socialized during lunch, it was fun to hear the different ideas and share favorite resources members have been exploring.

Sarah reports FamilySearch-Beta has actual copies of church records.

Jane mentioned the local Latter Day Saints library is transitioning to microfilm, so we'll soon be able to view European records. They are on 30th street, East of Marr Road, but their hours are sketchy, so call first! Someone suggested we might all go together some time.

Carolyn Wheeler has a booklet entitled "This 'n That", full of entertaining terms we don't commonly use today. We'll try to share some in next year's Newsletters.

Jane had copies of a BEGINNING military research handout - good homework for the upcoming ADVANCED presentation by Ron Darrah at Genealogy Day, so we can get the most out of his speech.

September's program (26 in attendance!) focused on Kathy Charlton's experiences Researching Your English Roots. Did you know that England has a census every ten years, just like we do - but, like Canada, theirs is in the 01 years? E.g., 1891, 1901, etc. Thank you to the members who shared Kathy's handout during the presentation. Sarah was good enough to quickly scan her paper copy and send it online to those attendees who didn't get one. It sure helps when folks remember to put that e-mail address on the sign-in sheet at each function!

All for now - hope to see you at the October 23 Genealogy Day!

Want your Newsletter in COLOR? It's FREE, FAST & HOT off the Press!

Your 2010 membership offers that opportunity.....Just send us a request at

BCGS47202@yahoo.com

and get your next newsletter via. email !!



Researcher's Resources *-by Jane Johnson*

The most important new free searchable database web address that appeared this summer is another expanded pilot by the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints Family History Library. Spend some time at this new address.

<http://beta.familysearch.org>

Ancestors in the News

Transcribed by J. Johnson

The Evening Republican

Friday, July 3, 1885

About People

Miss May **Porter**, of Greensburg, is the guest of friends.

Misses Bessie **Ward**, of Indianapolis, and Hattie Kent, of Franklin, are the students of Miss Sallie **Stansifer**.

Miss Gertrude **Grayson** left on the afternoon train for a brief visit to her relatives and friends...

Mr. Theo Petitt.....is visiting friends...

Spencer **Brown**....died yesterday of heart disease.

After a two month siege of rheumatism, Night Yard Master Tom **Williams**' smiling face may be seen by lamp light and everything goes as merry as a marriage bell.

Perry **Polk**, one of the old J, M & I boys, but lately Internal Revenue Detective, has returned from the west....

Conductor Granville **McClellan** and Baggage Master Jim **Meeker**, after a two weeks' visit to Washington, Niagara Falls, Portland, Maine, and other cities in the East, have resumed their duties. They were in attendance at the reunion of the G.A.R. at Portland a few days ago, which was the grandest thing of the kind ever held in the United States.

Dr. **Herron**, the Indianapolis dentist, will be at the Bissell Hotel Monday and Tuesday, July 6th and 7th. Teeth extracted without pain, harm, or danger.

Bill Hutton and John Silcott, neither of whom are unknown to notoriety....

The Evening Republican

Monday, July 6, 1885

About People

Mr. Ken **Newsom** left this morning...

Mrs William **Lippe**, Mr. Ed and Miss Kate **Burker**, of Shelbyville, spent the Fourth with Mr. and Mrs. Will **Mitchell**.

Among those from Rushville who spent the Fourth and Sunday here were L W **Otto**, Louis **Sexton**, Joe Hooker **Wilson**, John **Lakin** and Robert **Innis**.

Mr and Mrs Joe **Wooley** entertained the following pleasant and numerous part of friends on Saturday:

Misses Caddie **Neighbors**, Kate **Duns**, Nina **Thomas**, Frank **McCay**, Messrs Will **Dunn**, Dick **Saylor**, Albert **Blakely** of Shelby county, Joe **Oonger** of Flatrock, Mill **Pherigo**, of St Johns and Charley and Eddie **McCarty**, of Hope.

G Washington **Dowell**

On Saturday night the police arrested ... at the House of the notorious Bishop women somewhere near Smoky Row.....he showed he had faced more courts than one....

(After theft)... his celebration was cut short by the visit of the police to the house of the swamp angels to whom he was paying unhallowed devotion.

Jerry F **Williams** has opened a harness.....

Fred **Roth** and Lizzie **Loescher** were married at the Lutheran church yesterday afternoon at three o'clock, Rev **Trautman** officiating.

William **Conner**, whom the mayor advised to leave town a short time ago, to change his boarding place, is in jail on the charge of assault and battery found by the last grand jury.

Edward **Mahan**...selling liquor on the Fourth. He was found guilty.....



-by Kim Ray

Did you attend the July Picnic? Wasn't Jane's idea on sharing old material GREAT?? How inspiring! My mom was visiting from Texas and she bought a few books super cheap! I picked up several articles of interest, but I liked the idea so well, that I have made notes or copies of my favorite things so I can recycle them again at next year's Picnic. I have started a "Sharing" collection of my own and will be glad to participate next year! What a neat idea, Jane!

Here's another good idea.... Look for your ancestors in an old book digitized online by Google at:

<http://books.google.com/>

These old books can be downloaded in their entirety! Here's what Google's Cover Page states:

"This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online. It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover. Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file – a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you."

15th Annual Genealogy Conference

Indy's Ethnic Heritage

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Indianapolis Senior Center
708 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN

- Native American's in Indy
- German-American Landmarks of Indianapolis; Influences on Indy culture
- Presentation and Walking Tour of Lockerbie community and the Athenaeum
- Scotch and Scotch-Irish in Indiana
- Ethnic Populations of Indy
- The Catholic heritage of Indianapolis and how it affects your genealogical research
- Roundtable Discussion

Conference Fee (Includes lunch), payable by check or cash at the door

Send an email to GSMC-Indiana@Comcast.net to register.

\$25 for GSMC and Indianapolis Senior Center members and \$30 for nonmembers.

☐ **Special:** If you reply to GSMC-Indiana@Comcast.net by **Nov. 1,**

\$20 for GSMC and Indianapolis Senior Center members and \$25 for nonmembers. (save \$5!).

For information on GSMC, go to www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ingsmc

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society presents
Genealogy Day 2010

Uncovering Genealogical Gems

Bartholomew County Public Library Red Room
536 Fifth Street, Columbus, IN

Saturday, Oct 23, 2010

9:45am – 3:00pm

Free Program

With Guest Speakers:

Julie Hughes

Executive Director,

BC Historical Society

*"Capturing the Past –
Tips for using old Photos"*

Mary Ellen Grossman

Second Deputy,

BC Clerk's Office

*"Everything you always
wanted to know about
Courthouse Records and
how to find them"*



Ron Darrah

Fellow, Indiana Genealogical Society, and Authority of Military History

*"Once a Genealogist checks the Federal Military and Pension Files, where
does he or she go after that?"*

Light Buffet Lunch Provided (\$3 donation)

For more info, call 812-372-9274 or email us at BCGS47202@yahoo.com

Karen's Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

-by Karen Loy

[Editor's Note: This is the 1st of 4 articles Karen submitted on Civil War Veterans from The Evening Republican]

The Evening Republican
March 26, 1941

W. A. Abbett, 98, Soldier in Civil War, Passes On

Mason Nearly 75 Years Dies Unexpectedly at Home Here.

Funeral Rites Friday
Veteran Saw Columbus
Grow from Village
Bounded by Fifth Street.

William A. Abbett, one of this county's three surviving veterans of the Civil War, died unexpectedly at 7:45 o'clock this morning at his home, 531 Chestnut street. He would have been 99 years old in June.

Mr. Abbett saw Columbus grow from a straggling, muddy town, little more than a village, to a modern city of five to six times as large.

He saw the second of four Tabernacle Christian church buildings erected and as its oldest member, turned the first shovel of earth last spring for the fourth now under construction.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon at Tabernacle church, with Dr. T. K. Smith in charge. Burial will be made in City cemetery. The casket will be open at Flanigan, Reed and Hull funeral home after noon Thursday until time of the services.

Mr. Abbett had not been ill, and was in the habit of taking a walk every day the weather was fit. He did so yesterday.

Stricken While Dressing.

He appeared to be in his usual health when he went to bed last night. He was stricken while dressing this morning, and died almost immediately.

The two other Civil war veterans still living in this county are Andrew J. Hunter, 1234 Franklin street, and William C. Kerr of East Columbus.

Mr. Abbett joined the Tabernacle church soon after his return from the war, and remained an active and influential member of the congregation the rest of his life.

He was a member of the Masonic order almost 75 years. He was also a member of the G.A.R. and the Knights of Pythias.

Shingled Roof at 85.

Mr. Abbett remained strong and active until his last few years. When he was 85 he put a new roof on his home. A clipping from our paper published at the time says:

"Neither the heat of the last few days nor his comparatively advanced age has prevented Mr. Abbett from performing his work on top of his house and this morning he had completed all the work on the south side. He works only in the mornings and late afternoons, stopping during the hottest hours, but neighbors are of the opinion that such exhausting work is quite a feat for one of his age."

Less than three years ago, Mr. Abbett attended a reunion of Civil war veterans several hundred miles away. He went to the Gettysburg reunion on the old battlefield in June, 1938, accompanied by his grandson-in-law, Fred Sulton. He was the only veteran between Indianapolis and Louisville making the trip.

Although 96 at the time, Mr. Abbett spent eight days quartered in a tent. He came back looking a little tanned and declaring, "I had the time of my life."

Here Since 4 Years Old.

Mr. Abbett was born June 4, 1842, in Kentucky, 18 miles

across the Ohio river from Madison. When four years old he was brought to Bartholomew county by his parents, and spent the rest of his life here, except for four years in Illinois, and the time he served as a Civil war soldier.

When he came here Columbus had a population of about 2,500 and there was nothing but woods north of Fifth street. At that time the streets were all dirt and full of chuck holes.

Mr. Abbett enlisted in July, 1862, and was assigned to Company D, 67th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but later when several regiments were consolidated was attached to Company K, 24th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served through the war, most of the time under General Grant, and was with Grant's army when it was captured Vicksburg, Miss. He was never wounded but said in an interview a few years ago that he was "pretty badly frightened several times." One of his closest calls came during the Vicksburg engagement when a bullet went through the top of his hat. His clothes were ripped by gunfire several other times. A cousin, Major Abbett of his same regiment, was killed in action.

Married in 1868.

Mr. Abbett married Miss Emma Lafever on March 10, 1868, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lafever on a farm four miles west of this city. He and his bride then came to Columbus to establish their home.

Mrs. Abbett's father operated the first drygoods and general store in Columbus. It was located on West Second street at the foot of Tipton knoll.

Mrs. Abbett died three years ago in January. Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Hattie Sackett, 85, of Los Angeles, Calif.; a

granddaughter, Mrs. Fred Sulton, with whom he made his home, and a great-grandson, Howard Sulton.

Tells of His Capture.

Mr. Abbett saw action in several of the southern states before being taken a prisoner. Telling about his capture, he said about 1,200 of his comrades were taken and were held captives in an old sugar mill for three months.

"We were exchanged and went back to the army," he said, in an interview in 1936. "However, two from our outfit deserted and gave information to the Confederate army. The next day the Confederates came down on us wearing Union uniforms and we were ordered not to fire. They advanced and captured 800 of us. They made us run along in front. And if we didn't run fast enough they whacked us with their sabers.

"We were later exchanged to the Union army and most of us went back to New Orleans. Later we were sent to Florida and to other states. I was sent to Texas and there discharged. I returned here in 1855."

ONE VETERAN IS LEFT HERE

With the death of William A. Abbett this week, and the removal of William C. Kerr to Edinburg, Bartholomew county is left with only one survivor of the Civil war.

He is Andrew J. Hunter, who lives with his daughter, Mrs. Gladys Rigby, at 1234 Franklin street.

Mr. Kerr, who will be 101 years old on June 4 if he lives, has moved from East Columbus to Hart street in Edinburg with his daughter, Mrs. Alice Harrison.

He is reported to be seriously ill with leakage of the heart.

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society, Inc
PO Box 2455
Columbus, Indiana 47202-2455
*Member of Indiana Genealogical Society and
Federation of Genealogical Societies*

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society Membership

Membership year extends from January – December and includes 4 issues of ANCESTORS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Enclosed is a check for 1year Membership: Individual (\$10) Couple (\$15)

_____ **NEW MEMBER(S)** _____ **RENEWAL** _____ **NEWSLETTER via. EMAIL**

RESEARCHING/additional SURNAMES: _____

Thanks for your Support !!

The public is invited to attend any of the BCGS meetings/outings. The meetings are held in the Bartholomew County Public Library Red Room at 1:00 on the 4th Saturday, bimonthly from January to November. Please always check the calendar for alternative times and locations. For more info, please contact us at: bcs47202@yahoo.com