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FOUNTAIN COUNTY

GENEALOGY SOCIETY, INC.

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Established 1995

West Central Indiana Genealogy Research Library

Located in the
d'Arlier Cultural Center
405 N. Mill St (P.O. Box 273)
Veedersburg, IN 47987

Calls are welcome during operating
hours at: 765-294-4954

E-mail: FocoGenSoc@netscape.net

Visit us on Facebook and
our web site:
www.focogensoc.org

HOURS:

*Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Meeting Updates:

New officers were elected at
the February meeting.

We could use more help at the
library and at home projects.



PURPOSE

Purpose is to teach, share and
support members, all interested
persons and the general public of
the importance of preserving all
documentation of a person's life.

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 **NEXT MEETINGS WILL BE:**

**March 9, 2023
4:00 p.m. – d'Arlier Center**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Like & follow us on our new
Facebook page,
Fountain County Genealogy
Society, Inc. to get current news
about the organization and library.

**MEMBERSHIP: \$20 per year
beginning in March of each
year. Current year back
issues after March will be
sent with membership. Other
back issues available at \$2
each**

Newsletter Committee

Steve & Christy Kruger



Lesia Epperson



Kim Martin



Linda Holycross

Old Mellott Depot disappearing - by Ruby D. Helgers - Country Cousin - From the week of April 20, 1970



(Photo from Jeff Bossaer collection. -- Mellott Depot)

The old Mellott depot, a landmark of the town, is being razed. It is located in the heart of town, along the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

The destruction of the old depot brings back fond memories, some good and some bad, to the older residents of the town.

The hometown boys meeting at the depot to depart for service in World War 1 is a sad memory but their return, by train, a happy one.

There were the "troop trains," in 1916, coming from the Eastern states, passing through Mellott, going to the Mexican border, at the time of unrest there.

When the depot agent knew of a troop train soon to be passing through Mellott, he would noise the word around. Girls and boys as well as grown-ups often rushed to the depot to see the passing train. Some of the girls picked up addresses, which the soldiers threw out the windows. They wrote to the soldiers and often mailed them cookies and homemade candy. In fact, one local girl got a husband, later, by this method. At the close of World War 1, she married one of the soldiers from New York City, who passed through the town in 1916.

Loved ones who had passed away, away from their hometown, were returned in the baggage coach of the passenger train and sorrowing relatives and friends gathered at the depot to receive the body. Freight was unloaded at the depot for Mellott and Newtown, two and a half miles north of Mellott, and hauled to its destination by drays (a horse pulling a "spring" wagon.)

One dray operated daily to and from Newtown.

The Mellott dray delivered about town. A pushcart took the bags of mail to and from the Mellott Post Office, which was not far from the depot. Pierce Allhands and Isaac Riley drove the Mellott dray for many years.

A two-seated horse-drawn carriage took the mail as well as passengers to and from the depot to Newtown. Sam Green, of Newtown, was one of the long time drivers.

It is said that night mail was left and picked up by the night passenger trains, by hanging the bags on a projecting hook, near the depot, as they passed.

In the early days four passenger trains and several freight trains passed through the town daily. One passenger train going east and one going west but didn't stop unless flagged down for passengers who wished to take the train and when the train had passengers who wished to stop at the local depot.

About 1920, William Miller and sons, Lee and Wayne, operated a garage in uptown Mellott. Mr. Miller was also a Chevrolet dealer and salesman. It is reported that as many as four such automobiles were shipped here in a box car (the automobiles must have been much smaller than they are these days.) Some of the older residents recall helping to unload these automobiles and they admit that they experienced much difficulty in doing so.

The old depot, in Mellott, was built about 1883, by George Hatt, father of Mrs. Maude Hatt Wade, age 86 years, a resident of Mellott.

The "right of way" for the first railroad through Mellott, which was a narrow gauge, was secured about 1881. About four years later, the railroad was changed to standard gauge, Charles M. Cooper, age 100 years, a Mellott resident, states he assisted in the building of the narrow gauge.

The railway, at that time, was known as the Clover Leaf Railroad, later the Nickel Plate and now the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

The first depot was built in a little settlement, just two miles west of Mellott, then known as Stephens station, all of which disappeared with the exception of one house.

The land was leased for the depot and approximately one mile of the right-of-way for the narrow gauge, by William Stephens, for 99 years and one dollar in cash.

It is reported that about a year later the depot burned to the ground. A new depot was then built, in Mellott, then known as Rice's Station. It was built on the north side of the tracks, on the east side of the range road, now Main Street of Mellott.

Mr. Hatt and family resided at Stephens Station, and it is reported that he walked down the railroad tracks to Rice's Station to build the local depot.

Fred Roberts is said to be one of the first depot agents. He was the son-in-law of Joshua W. Moore and wife, Mary E., of Mellott. They were among the early settlers of Rice's Station. Other early depot agents and telegraph operators were Home Chaplin, William (Pat) Patterson, Fred Gardener, and W.W. Williams. Later agents included John W. Mulverhill, O.V. Mills and Gus Costa, each serving for several years.

The last agent serving any length of time was David Richie, of Wingate, serving about six years. The last two agents were Dale Coleman, of Ridge Farm, Illinois and Roy Sanders, of Cates, each serving about one year.

.....Continued on page 3





Photo from Jeff Bossaer collection -- Mellott Depot

The depot as officially closed May 5, 1967.

Some interesting old records were found in the attic of the old depot, including ticket sales records, as well as express and freight.

No names on the ticket agents were listed but the sales of the tickets beginning in 1891 through 1894 were listed. Some of the sales were as follows: one adult – Wingate, 15 cents; Linden, 20 cents; New Richmond, 30 cents and Veedersburg, 25 cents

The two express and freight record books are unusual size with heavy pasteboard backs. One is 12 inches by 16 inches and the other is 14 inches by 18 inches. The books contain the records from 1883 to 1887. Some of the express and freight agents were recorded as follows: 1883, J.A. Parrett and Alonzo Gott; 1884, J.A. Long; 1885, J.L. Moore; and 1887, M.L. Brown. Many of the records bore no signatures.

According to these old records, the freight and express shipments were unusual in comparison to the shipment of today.

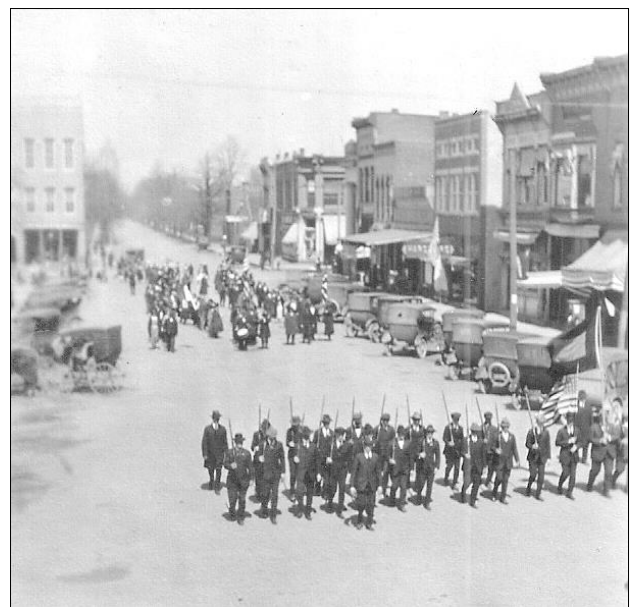
In 1883, a list of the merchandise unloaded at the depot, included the following items; barrels of sugar, crackers, popcorn, syrup, cider, bacon, ham, vinegar, coal oil and half barrel of fish; bag and boxes of coffee, boxes of pepper, figs and raisins; bags of beans and prunes; and tubs of lard. Also rolls of leather and miscellaneous hardware items as well as lumber and other building materials.

Some of the businessmen and other individuals, recorded, who received freight and express at the depot from 1883 to 1887, in Mellott as well as Newtown are listed as follows: Mellott – S. Riester and Son, S. Carpenter, J.P. Miller, Ben

Carpenter, J.W. Moore, Isaac Rice, Moore and Rice, JF. Riester, W.W. Harbaugh, J.B. Gephart, Perry Hatt, B. Mellott, W.T. Johnson and S.M. Rice; in Newtown – S. Helbig, Campbell and Son, Parrott Brothers, J. Bittenbender, D. Reed, H.H. Palin and H. L. Shultz.



Member, Marsha Patterson of Harrisburg, Illinois, donated the following pictures to our photo collection. Her great Uncle Trella Drake took them in Covington during WW I. He had been drafted and was willing to go but was rejected.



Downtown Covington 1917 - Parade to send the boys off





Picture taken along the railroad tracks south of the square over the hill between 3rd and 5th Street as troops left by train.



1917 Covington Parade sending our boys off to war.

* If you have old photos you would like to share in the Newsletter and have the ability to scan them on your computer, then send them to us in an email.

*If you shop at a Kroger store and have a Kroger plus card, did you know Kroger will donate to the Fountain County Genealogy Society, Inc. if you sign up ?

The past year has been very successful. I want to express a sincere thank you to Sharon Roberts and Joani Hunt for helping all the new officers and volunteers' transition into their roles last year. We truly appreciate you.

We have been cleaning and rearranging and answering email queries. We have been helping researchers in the Library.

We continue to receive boxes of history books, family histories, photographs and yearbooks.

We are adding to the wonderful collection of genealogy and history that has already been established.

We have become a team and everyone seems to have found their way to serve in the group. Besides regular meetings we have a group text that we communicate through several times a week.

We plan to update the Web Site soon.

An announcement will be coming soon about new projects added to the Library.

We can always use more help. Contact us if you would like to volunteer at the library or from your home. Yes, we have projects you can help us with from your home !



Officers were elected on February 9, 2023 for the March 1, 2023 – February 28, 2024 year. They are as follows: Secretary – Rita Jones, Treasurer – Christy Kruger, Vice President – Lesa Epperson, President – Kim Martin, Web Site Manager – Russ Nixon

We appreciate your support and hope you will continue by renewing your membership. The renewal year starts March 1, 2023. So this is the first newsletter of the renewal year. If your address label on this newsletter is RED and you did not send in your renewal, this will be your last newsletter. Please don't leave us ...



Historic Stone Bluff

Stone Bluff, a nice town five miles north of Veedersburg, may be a more historic community than Fountain "Countians" realize. This unincorporated residential village is known to have plenty of historic back ground, and even many elderly people remember when it was a busy business center. In those interesting years "the Bluff" as it often is called, was situated on the railroad. The town for most of its existence has had a grain elevator and has been a center for nearby farmers, albeit not too busy a one since the railroad gave up the ghost many years ago. The line was known as the Chicago and Indiana Coal railroad at one time and by various other names, and as the Chicago, Attica and Southern railway in its last years.

Many millions of dollars of coal were carried over the single track line during the nineties and twenties. When the southern coal veins began to give out and C & E gave up their lease it's days were numbered. The Momence Brazil were affectionately called "The Dolly Varden" in its earlier years. At one time four passenger trains were operated daily except Sunday. It was a five or six hour run to Chicago and not too comfortable a ride over a bumpy track. Sunday excursions to Chicago were operated in some summer months for two dollars round trip. When freight trains stopped at the depot in Stone Bluff there was a bustling scene of shuttling freight on and off the train. The mill was an interesting industry for it had a mill race and at one time was operated by water power.

There was a need for a barber shop. Marion Shepard built a building where Al Goddard worked twelve years. The opera house had many shows, some traveling troops and many were locals. Local music was given by Walter Harris violin, O.K. Galloway drums, A J. Galloway horn, Huber Galloway tuba, Winnie Babb cello, and Alta Goddard piano.

The church was built about 1879. The first school was located where Mr. & Mrs. John Babb lived for many years. A new school was built in 1900 and this was razed a few years ago. The school ground is now Meeker Park.

Joe Newman had a saw mill in the south west part of town, operated by a Buick motor. This was in the thirties. Zeff Ottinger had a blacksmith shop. Mrs. Ira Crane had a full line of millinery. Walter Harris owned the restaurant on the north side of the street, later selling to Allie and Favor Walton. The telephone office was east of this building. Mrs. Connie Wellheuser and Esther Wheeler were operators for some time. On June 16, 1948 the building was destroyed by fire. Due to fast action of Arch Hancock he removed the switch board without damage. It was placed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancock. Mrs. Hancock having been the operator served the patrons as soon as possible. In 1936 dues per month were \$1.75 paid at the office.

Will Campbell had a hardware store. O.K Galloway bought the building. He built a brick building which was the best building for a garage nearby. Homer Kemper had a grocery store and post office. Smith Hoagland had a coal mine on creek road. Coal was "Three Dollars" per load. Ira Cole had a butcher shop. Ira Crane had a grocery store and soda fountain. John Moore operated a drugstore. The three doctors have been Dr. Pearlman, Mayfield and Kerr. The I. O. O. F. lodge held its meetings up stairs in the opera house. Max Stearman operated the depot and was the first man to drive a Studebaker with no doors. Bill Stone had a Studebaker and owned a livery barn. Marion Shepard was a veterinarian and traveled with horses. It was near 1933 Stone Bluff was flooded from Coal Creek , from the north. Some had boats in the main street. Water came in Harry Starkey's grocery store and homes where ever it could. Many historians report Stone Bluff underlain with stone and coal. The community has today as always many fine citizens. - *Laura and Volney Furr writer*



Laura Newman Furr Obituary

Laura Newman Furr, 90. of Rt 3. Covington, died at 7:58 p.m. Sunday, August 5 , 1990 in Community Hospital, Williamsport. She had been ill for five years. She was born Jan. 12 1900 in Sidney, IL. In 1902, she moved to the Covington area where she spent most of her life and attended Stone Bluff Elementary School.

Her marriage was to Volney Marshall Furr in Veedersburg on Sept.5 1928. He farmed in the area for many years and survives. Mrs. Furr was a member of Salem Church near Stone Bluff, was a charter member of Troy Home Economics Club and a former member of the 4-H Council.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Nora Ruth Dunavan of Tilton, IL; a son, Homer M. Furr of Terre Haute; four grandchildren, Bill, Wayne, Diana and Andy Dunavan; four great grandchildren, Jason, Jamey, Jeremy and Brian Dunavan. Visitation was Tuesday at Maus Funeral Home, Attica. Service in Maus Chapel on Wednesday with Rev. Paul Ziebart officiating. Interment in Osborne Prairie Cemetery.

Sylvester B. Newman Obituary

VANBUREN CITIZEN CALLED BY DEATH Sylvester B. Newman, one of the best known citizens of North Van Buren township, near what is known as crazy corner, south of Newcastle church, passed away last Friday morning of uremic poisoning, due to some two years of failing health.

Mr. Newman was a substantial farmer and citizen always to be depended upon to do the right, fair thing and to stand for the living principles of truth and justice between his fellow man and his council was always sought in matters of church and state and his advice was always found to be timely and good. To know S.B. Newman was to love and respect him.

Sylvester B. Newman, son of John and Cinderilla Howey Newman, was born April 17, 1854 in Harden county, Kentucky. He was one of a family of eleven children. When young in years he moved with his parents to Topeka, Kans. Having a desire to travel, he left home at an early age and spent some time traveling through the States.

On February 2, 1882, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hilderbrant, and settled on a farm east of Attica. Later they moved to a farm near Sidney, Ill., and finally in 1902, choosing his present home in Indiana where he and his family have continued to reside.

Mr. Newman was a member of the Osborn's Prairie Christian Church and also of the Modern Woodman of America. He was a faithful man, cautious and industrious, constant in his Christian faith, and the interests of his wife and children were ever near his heart. In young manhood Mr. Newman chose farming for his occupation and was successful in this work.

Although in ill health for several years, he kept in active touch with the vital problems of the farmer. Bud, as he was familiarly called by old time friends, has left the memory of his kind words and obedience to the Golden Rule. On September 17, 1924, he took to his bed and on November 14, 1924 at 11:30 a.m., at the age of seventy years and seven months, he peacefully passed away, "as one who wraps the draper of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams.

The father is survived by his wife and three children, Clarence E., Joseph S. in their own homes and Laura at home, a constant attendant during his sickness. Five children, Charley, Clifford, Ethel, Effie and Melvin, who had "Crossed the Bar" and were in their Celestial Home to greet their father over there. Six grandchildren, Harold, Dorothy, Kenneth, Frances, Lillian and Joseph Jr., are left to mourn their loss, Also one sister and three brothers who live at a distance and were unable to be present on their brother's funeral day. Besides these are many other relatives and friends who will greatly miss him.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Osborn Prairie Church, Rev. Levi Woody in charge of the services and assisted by Rev. Blean. The song service was rendered by a male quartette of Covington. Modern Woodmen gave their ritualistic work at the grave, burial taking place in the Osborn Prairie cemetery, adjoining the church.



Atlas Cox

Atlas Cox was born 24 Nov 1826 in North Carolina and died 24 Aug 1864 at Little Rock AR of dysentery. His enlistment papers of 8 Feb 1864 show he has light hair, was 5'10 1/2" tall and had gray eyes. Other records show he was a member of Bloomfield Monthly Meeting.

A letter sent to Wife Abigail Jane Hockett, April 24th 1864:

I had some little hope today I would have the almost irrepresentable pleasure of receiving from you and the dear children a few lines, as a token of all that strong affection that has always bound us together. Isolated as we are by long weary miles, I cannot tell you how my heart reaches out toward you. Yet I trust and feel that we have a support that will bear us up if we but trust and lean upon it as becomes true Christians. I endeavour to lean upon it, well knowing that it is the only source from which we derive comfort and consolation in this most trying times in our lives; and I earnestly be favored with grace to bear all with a beaming degree of fortitude and cheerfulness. In all our trials and misfortunes, our hours of darkness and affliction there is a ray of radiant light penetrating the seemingly cheerless gloom becoming us on to far more glorious and joyful fields of happiness. Let us show ourselves equal to our privileges and our cup of happiness will in the end, be filled to overflowing.

I will mention one more thing here it did mention to you before I left home. I wanted Alfreds to come live with you for other reasons than tending the place and his assistance in providing for you. His religious influence, I felt, you would need as much as anything else. So too, I wanted you provided with clothes you and the children could go to church when you wanted to go. If we are poor, I have left home and all its endearments to offer my humble mite to obtain for our children a good government under which to live, and without which we cannot be happy: I say if we are poor, is that any reason we should debar yourself and the children common privileges of those who cannot, or will not make the sacrifice? You have greater rights to these comforts and privileges than families of those who stayed at home.

I have as pleasant time here as I could expect, and better than I expected, in fact. There are seven of us in this camp that mess together. We have a long building with partitions with chimneys in them to allow for more messes. We all eat together and have a nigger to wash and cook for us. We each pay him a dollar a month.

My roommate is a member of the Methodist church of Rockville by the name of Smith. The others are Moses Fowler, Bob ?ather, Levi Garver, Fred Hansel from Rockville, a Dutchman they call Buck, and James Cosby.

We have meeting twice a week, Sunday at two and Wednesday night, and sometimes Sunday night. There are a good many soldiers who are professors.

Atlas Cox was a farmer, a dealer in real estate, a shoemaker, and all-around handyman with almost any kind of implements and tools. Many years ago he started a nursery on his place, the first enterprise of the kind in Fountain County, and from it the settlers for a number of miles in every direction obtained the trees with which their orchards were planted. Abigail Hockett, who became the wife of Atlas Cox, was also of North Carolina birth and was born the same year as her husband. They reared a family of five children, whose names are as follows: Rebecca, who married William Swaim and lives in Parke county; Laura (deceased) was the wife of Walter Sutton; Candance, now Mrs. John Stout, lives in Mill Creek township, Fountain county; Celestia who married a Bodine, is deceased; Erasmus M., of this review, being the fourth in order of birth. Atlas Cox served for a short time in the late civil war, enlisting in the of spring to 1864 in Company K, Forty-Third Indiana Infantry, but his career was cut short the following August, when he succumbed to disease which resulted in his death. --page 425, 1913 Bowman edition, Fountain and Warren Counties History.

Family letters indicate he was put out of the church because he wanted to fight for equality of all men. But was later accepted back. Abigail Cox is buried 'old part' at Centennial; inscription on stone reads: and surely the gates of heaven shall open for her.

Our chaplain is a Methodist. The church here is called Army Church, neither Methodist, United Brethern, Presbyterian nor Baptist but a union of all.

This evening I was attacked by diarrhea pretty severely and at night and all the next day. I suffered considerable, but yesterday I have been very comfortable. I am quite weak and my bowels are very sore but I keep quite still, sit up awhile and then lay down and rest myself.

We have coffee, tea; sugar; mollasses -and butter sometimes; salt and beef; salt pork; white beans; peas; sour yeast loaf like we had in Indianapolis; flour and meal; sometimes potatoes, rice, hulled hominy, etc. Sometimes we have army cracker made of cold water without salt. These are baked and dried out very hard, about 4" square and a little over 1/4" thick. I like this bread very well. The salt meat salts the bread. The yeast loaf is not fit for a hog and I'm astonished the government issues such abominable stuff, for it is certainly the source of immense amount of sickness and death to our soldiers. Our cook gets up things in a real darky style. Everything is as greasy as Bets Wolfs Beans! Well I won't say how his pots look. I told the boys the other day that I supposed Jack would wash the coffee pot when it was blacker than he is an he is very black. The soldiers make their coffee more than twice as strong as Margaret Sowers, for I weaken it down half and it is very strong then. Our tea is black tea. The peas are crushed so that the hull or skin comes off. I like them real well. They are cooked to mash. This is the second letter to you since I have been here. I wrote one the other day to the children and a few lines in it to Joseph. I want you to keep all my letters carefully that it would be prudent of me to turn out.

The meeting house is a pole concern, no floor in it, about 200 steps from our quarters. Tell Alfred that I want him to send me 50 cents worth of postage stamps--we pay 5 cents apiece for them here. I should like if you get any letters sent me from the army that you remail them to me here. But I must close. I never shall forget my feelings the day I left home. The future was dark and uncertain. Should we ever meet again? What heart anguish I felt. I struggled severely against my feelings. God be with you. I hope he will sustain us both. The Lord is our Shepard, we shall not want, David says in that beautiful Psalm the 23rd. Read it; it will strengthen you. It is my favorite. Farewell, Atlas Cox

Ps. Have the children get it by heart.



“Bad Jack” Thomas Again

Fountain County Product in Danville Jail – The Danville Commercial News Sunday had the following about **Jack Thomas**, who resides near Kingman.

“Charged with intoxication and carrying concealed weapons, **Jack Thomas**, a miner who lives in Parke County, Indiana, and is employed in the mines of northan Parke County in the Hoosier State was brought before **Magistrate Phillips** Saturday morning and pleaded guilty to the charges. The judge promptly fined him \$3 and costs on the first charge and assessed \$25 and costs on the second, making a total of \$30.20.

“Thomas tried to explain and said that he came to this city Friday to buy a suit of clothes for his boy. He said that he had about \$20 when he started and admitted that he had gotten on the out side of a few drinks. He said that he had been unjustly accused of different infractions of the law and that while in the Fountain County jail he had received such considerant treatment at the hands of **Sherriff Hardesty** that he had resolved to get him a present and accordingly bought a 38-calibre revolver, which was found on him. The judge could not see it that way and imposed the fine. Thomas had about \$17 on him when searched at the station. The revolver was a new Iver Johnson, which he had evidently purchased in this city.

“Thomas is a well known character. He was arrested a few months ago on the charge of blowing the Kingman, Indiana post office safe, but was recently in the Fountain circuit court. He is also better known in Nimrod where he is better known as “Bad Jack” where he is alledged to have attempted to kill Mrs. **Mary Chromis** and it is said he fired five shots at her. He was also acquitted of the accusation. In his pockets were clippings from newspapers concerning his escapades.

“Thomas was arrested Friday night about 9 o’clock by the police and he was taken in the huray up wagon from a stairway on the south side of the public square where he was found in a drunken stupor, to the station, where, besides the gun and money, two bottles of whiskey were found on him.” – *The Covington Republican, Covington, Indiana, November 30, 1906*



Old Mail Carrier Dies

Jacob Songer, eighty-eighty years old, and familiarly known as the “Old Mail Carrier”, did of exhaustion incident to old age, at his home in Attica, Monday. He was a native of Tennessee in 1818, and he came to this county when but five years old. For a number of years he carried the mail between Attica and Cramer. He served one year in the war of the rebellion, and was discharged because of physical disability. He was married three times and was the father of eighteen children. – *The Covington Republican, Covington, Indiana, December 7, 1906*



Jacob Songer was born August 6, 1818 in Nashville, Tennessee to Virginia Jane Morgan and George Songer. He married Mary Crowder on August 22, 1847 in Fountain County, Indiana. He married Cynthia Ann Smalley on September 10, 1850 in Fountain County, Indiana. He married Susan Thompson on August 16, 1903 in Fountain County, Indiana. He died December 1, 1906 in Attica, Indiana.



Tips & Tidbits

Genealogy Tips

Will Date vs. Probate Dates – The entry for below in the screen of Chapman J. Tinsley in Virginia US, Wills & Probate Records, 1652-1900 on Ancestry.com indicates that the will was dated on the same date it was admitted to probate.

Chapman J Tinsley	
in the Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1	
Detail	Source
Name:	Chapman J Tinsley
Will Date:	25 Jun 1895
Probate Date:	25 Jun 1895
Probate Place:	Amherst, Virginia, USA
Inferred Death Year:	1895
Inferred Death Place:	Virginia, USA
Item Description:	Will Books, Vol A1-B2, 1810-1897

That's not how it works. The will date is the date the will was signed by the testator. The probate date is the date it is admitted to probate by the judge of the court that handles probate matters in the relevant jurisdiction. – *Genealogy Tip of the Day.com*

A testator is the person who has made a will or died and left a will.

Saying



"Dressed to the nines" - Dressed to the nines meant that you were rich enough to literally purchase the entire nine yards it took to make a tailor-fit outfit (including a vest, jacket, etc.). It's still in use today to mean that someone is dressed in their best.

Interesting History

Early Gopher Hill: (*Gopher Hill is located in Warren County, Indiana in Kent Township.*) There are many places near our homes that probably at one time formed a very interesting part in the history of our county. One I have in mind lies about two and one half miles south and east of State Line and was once known as the old **Samuel Clem** estate, but is now divided among the heirs, Henry Clem, Kate Gahan and Melvina Adams.

In the early days of Indiana, the Indians made frequent trips from Vincennes on the lower Wabash northward to Tippecanoe. On Journeying forth between these places they used a certain path known as the old Tippecanoe Indian Trail, the same one which William Henry Harrison followed when he defeated the Indians at Tippecanoe 1811. This trail cross the Clem estate cutting through the door yard which now belongs to Henry Clem and across the adjoining land belonging to Kate Gahan where Harrison camped. At this camp, two soldiers died and were buried near the spot. Also on the place belonging to Henry Clem lies a gentle slope facing the east, which is known as **Gopher Hill**. It was on this hill that the **Butterfields** settled in about 1840 or later, although little is known of their life at this place, except that they were seized by cholera in 1845 and nearly all the family died, and to this day, five graves with their broken and weather beaten stones still mark the place. About one half mile north of this place where the Masonic Cemetery now stands once stood the house of a man by the name of **John R. Johnson**. This house burned down and when his daughter **Lizzie Johnson** died, her remains were laid beneath the ashes of the old fireplace. From this grave a cemetery was laid out and purchased by the Masons and John R. Johnson furnished the trees, which to this day adorn the place. On the north side of this cemetery used to lie a road that joined the State Line Road on the west and on the east to the one running north and south past where the old Gopher Hill Church once stood. This church was not built near the place from which it derived its name, but about one mile and a half east, and has been torn down but a few years. – *West Lebanon Gazette, January 23, 1908*



Fountain County Genealogy Society, Inc.

405 N. Mill Street

P.O. Box 273

Veedersburg, Indiana 47987-0273

We appreciate your support and hope you will continue by renewing your membership. The renewal year starts March 1, 2023. So this is the first newsletter of the renewal year. **If your address label on this newsletter is RED and you did not send in your renewal, this will be your last newsletter.**

Please don't leave us ...