

The Crawford Countian



Spring 2023

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Crawford Countian! This past winter I decided to start a church history project and I am wanting to acquire histories of all the active churches in Crawford. Since I work a weekend shift, I am having a hard time reaching most of these churches. And the churches that have an online footprint, most of them have not responded back, which has been disappointing to say the least. If any of you attend a church in the county and would like to participate, please reach out to me. I will be posting the histories on the CCHGS website but I have also created a secondary site at:

www.churchesofcrawfordcountyindiana.com

That particular site has outside photos of all the functioning churches in the county along with Google map directions.

Also, May is typically our annual spring yard sale. However, unless a large amount of donations come in, I do not think we will have enough items to put on a sale. Follow our facebook page and/or website for information on that.

William Piper, President of CCHGS / Newsletter editor

Email: billgpiper@hotmail.com

Cover photo: English school band photo, see page 9 for full photo



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History of the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church

By Sharon Morris

History of the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church located in Ohio Township, Crawford County, Indiana, is fragmentary, due to lack of records of the early church, but it is known that on May 1, 1858, a small group met in the old log school house on the James East farm for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. As a bond of Christian fellowship, they united together and agreed on articles of faith, church covenant and rules of decorum.

When the question of a new church arose, it is said that Justus Gleason suggested "Pleasant Ridge" saying that he and his wife came from a church in Ohio bearing that name. The name found favor with the group and it was accepted.

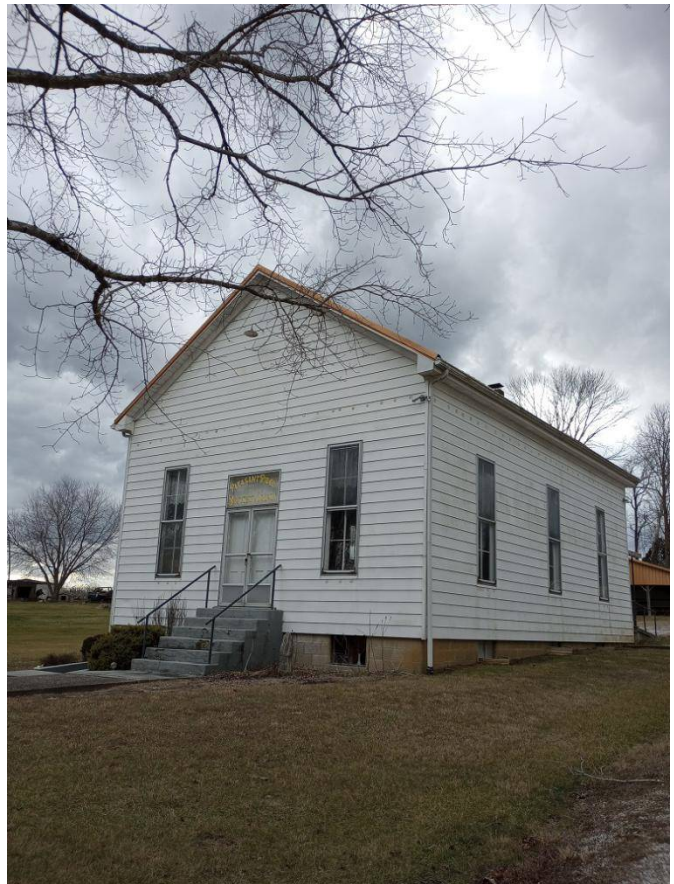
It is believed that Rev. Loren Hazen was the first pastor of the church but it is not known how long he served.

The old log school house, known as the Sheckell school, that furnished the church's first home stood on the East farm one-eighth mile northeast of the present church building. The Baptists worshipped for some time in the building, with its seats made of split logs. Light was furnished by tallow candles.

Sometime later, a new school building of frame construction was built. This building was large enough to have an enrollment of one hundred, and was apparently planned for both school and church use. A pair of large double doors in the front, and a raised platform across the front of the room made it useful for community gathers. This building burned about 1890.

Soon after the erection of the school building, members of the United Brethren church that stood almost across the road from the school invited the Baptist to use their building. This most gracious invitation was accepted, and for perhaps twenty years the two congregations shared the building.

The building of the new church became a community project, and all worked with a will. Rev. John Winchell was the general supervisor of the work. Builders were used for a strong foundation and Nicholas Coleman contributed much to this work.



An untoward incident occurred during preparation for the erection of the church. As the popular logs were being rolled over the river bank to be floated to the Peckinpaugh and Harrison mill at Alton, one went out of control and crashed into Uncle Jack East. Only the soft sand of the bank saved his life but he carried the effects of the accident all the rest of his days.

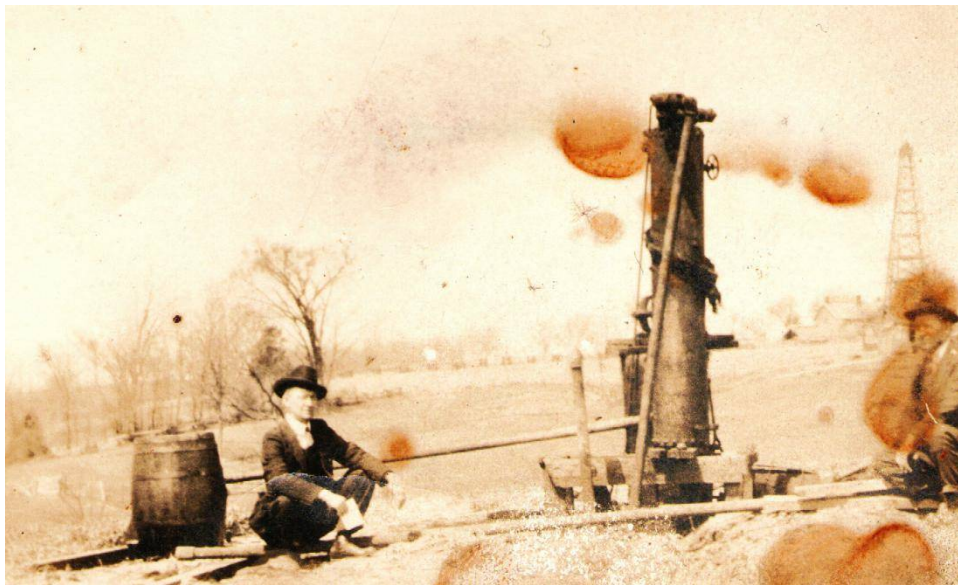
The building went up steadily. Mr. Bullock did the finish work. The plasterer, Norman Whitehead of Rockport, put on several layers of plaster, then put on a top coat of plaster-of-paris that gave a gleaming white finish. The flooring went in, and it was said that the floor was made from planks from a single ash tree.

Installation of the bell in the belfry produced another incident that avoided tragedy only by the quick action and strong fingers of Mr. James Cummings. The bell was contributed by the Alton Baptist Church. The Bible stand now in use was hand-wrought by Mr. Brashers of Alton. Rev. Allen Hill of Kokomo preached the dedicatory sermon. It was in 1892 or 93 that the first musical instrument was purchased which was purchased of Charles Conrad agent of Idlewild Harrison of Evansville, grandfather to the present Conrad's of Corydon. The cost of the organ was \$65.

It was evident that a basement was greatly needed and work began in 1956. The cost was \$1,364.70.

On May 21, 2023, the church will celebrate it's 165th year.

Photo submission:



Bob Roberts let me scan this photo. On back it says "Alson Roberts (left side)" as well as "Flanigan" mentioned. No first name was mentioned.

BETHANY UNION CHURCH ~ Crawford County, Indiana

(sent in by Carole V. Beringer)

The first known burial in this Cemetery was recorded as follows:

William F. M. BROWN, Infant son of Elisha and E. BROWN, born December 1, 1853, died September 10, 1854.

This was near the meeting of the three roads at the top of the hill, one of which went south-west toward the Cross Roads School, one to the north-west toward Boston (now Eckerty) and the third which later became known as the Benham Mill Road past Mifflin.

In order to perpetuate these grounds, Elisha and wife deeded three quarter acres for burial purposes and three quarter acres for church purposes to the CHRISTIAN CHURCH for-ever-and-ever.



On the grounds for church purposes was constructed a log building that was used for a number of years, having been used until it became too dilapidated for such purposes in about 1895.

At one of the last meetings at that place, Rev John BAGGERLY was conducting an all day meeting. It had rained and a young man, Elijah Peter "Pete" BROWN, decided that a log seat would be better if turned over, which he did with the result that a swarm of termites was stirred up, filling the room. People began to flee and Rev. BAGGERLY being surrounded by the flying creatures and they were flying into his mouth said: "There will be (blowing the ant out) church (blowing the ants out again) this afternoon (blowing more ants out) at two o'clock" and made his way out without dismissing the congregation that was mostly out of the house.

It became necessary to build a new church so a meeting was held at the Cross Roads School where a building committee composed in part DR. G. W. L. BROWN as Treasurer, George W. NEWTON as secretary and one other known member, Allen B. TUCKER. Trustees for the ground were George BLUNK, Silas LEONARD, and James A. "Jim" TUCKER. They leased the ground to a united group for a period of ninety-nine years.

While the following is not a complete list of those who contributed and built the new building yet these are yet known after fifty-six years:

Elijah PETER "Pete" BROWN furnished the poplar trees for which the siding was sawed. The trees were cut by John W. DENBO and Richard Absolum "Dick" KNIGHT.

Transcribed from Mack Tucker's, History Of Crawford County, IN.

From the County Historian:

Stephen Saalman (stephensaalman@yahoo.com) sent in these stories for publishing in the newsletter:

Below this story are other historical articles that might interest you.

Mary Jane Underhill Tucker wrote a letter to the Cannelton Telephone about a trip her family made when she was a young child. Here is the letter:

On or about September 14, 1877, my father Amos Underhill, wife Martha and nine children, in company with a neighbor family by the name of Leeds composed to Mr. & Mrs. Leeds and four children loaded two covered wagons and started from the Sulphur Wells in Crawford County, Indiana to Wichita, Kansas.

We drove to Vincennes, Indiana and there one of the Leeds boys fell ill of chills and died, taking sick at nightfall and passed away before daylight. There we laid over another day for the funeral, after which we proceeded on our way, after ferrying across the Wabash River. At night we would camp by the roadside where water was available. The women sleeping in the wagons and the men would make their beds under the wagons, buying our horse feed and farm products for our eats from the farmers along the way, also part of the time we had to purchase drinking water. Our laundry equipment consisted of a kettle, a tub and a wash board, we would camp by a stream and do our laundry, hanging it out on bushes. We would rest and let our laundry dry while our horses got a rest and some grass.

Somewhere and western Illinois one of our horses became ill, near a village, so we called a horse doctor and after laying over day, the horse got well, and we got we started on. We crossed the Great muddy Mississippi River at St. Louis, we traveled nearly straight across Missouri to Kansas and on to Wichita, taking about 6 weeks to make the journey arriving October 28th, the day the writer was 14 years old. We remained at Wichita until March of the following year when we again journeyed forth in our covered wagon for Elsworth, Kansas while our friends journeyed to the Nebraska we entered a homestead some 15 miles from Elsworth, Kansas, consisting of 160 acres of farmland and 160 acres of timber and grazing land.

We rented a small tract of land 6 miles from Elsworth with a house and remained there 1 and 1/2 years, farming and watching for hostile Indians who often went on the warpath and murdered teachers and school children, farmers and soldiers, always taking their scalps. Fort Harker was near Elsworth but there seemed to be too few soldiers for us to rest easy. We had fertile land and raised to find crop of corn, potatoes, cabbage, etc. We cropped this land two summers. Severe storms, prairie fires, wild animals, mainly wolves, hostile Indians; yes, and rattlesnakes caused us to become tired and homesick, looking back Eastward towards our dear old peaceful and sacred Indiana home. We decided to again take our covered wagons we started Eastward stopping near Nevada, Missouri, and tried again to establish a home that would be as happy and peaceful as old Indiana. But after nearly two years more and burying a little sister, Elizabeth, we all had chills and typhoid fever. Health

was very bad and a crop failure, so we again took our covered wagon determined to stop no more until we were back home again in Indiana. We arrived in October ,1881, gone four years. On arriving home we found the Leeds family had beaten us back to the Old Hoosier Homes. Mary Jane Underhill Tucker. A letter to the Cannelton Telephone. (August 25th 1941 Cannelton Telephone)

On Saturday, May 19, 1906, a very destructive fire occurred in English about 10 miles from here. It was first discovered about 12:30 A. M. at the rear of Boyd's store. The people responded to the fire alarm and fought bravely, but the fire had gained such a start that it was not controlled till the following business houses were burned out: Boyd store, valued at \$10,000; Temple's store, valued at \$7,000; Crawford County Bank, valued at \$3,000; M. W. of A. paraphernalia, \$300; Stewart's post office, valued at \$150; L. V. Starr's tin shop, \$800; Mrs. Mather's household goods, \$50; J. R. Leonard's property, \$800; Roberts' drug store, valued at \$300. The insurance covered part of the above losses. (May 22, 1906 Tell City News)

Neighboring county seat town of English, Crawford County, suffered a disastrous fire on last Sunday morning which caused damages estimated at \$60,000 and raged for 2 hours, threatening the entire business and a section of the residence district. The fire started in the James E. Turley hardware store. Residents of the neighborhood had smelled smoke for quite a while before the alarm was sounded. A strong wind carried the flames to neighboring buildings before the English firefighters could check them and calls were sent for help to Paoli, French Lick and Tell City. Each sent a truck but the Paoli outfit had the fire controlled when the others arrived. The Turley building had long been considered a fire menace it was said after the fire. The large residence of Dr. G.B. & F.G. Hammond, directly opposite the Turley building on Main St., was destroyed and but few of its contents were saved. A residence immediately adjoining on the north, occupied by their uncles, John and Cal Smith also burned. Two other residences, one north of the Turley building occupied by Harve Enlow and another to the south on 4th Street occupied by Clyde Roberts, burned. The residence of Oscar H. Longest on Main St. was badly damaged. A large private garage belonging to Sam Benz on Main St. was burned, and the large barn adjoining it on the south, used by Sam's Motor Company as a repair building had ignited when the first of three fire trucks summoned from neighboring towns, that from Paoli, arrived and shortly brought the fire under control. The residents of Mrs. Mary Hammond, a widow, occupied by her daughter and granddaughter Mrs. Loretta McClain and Miss Lovelle McClain, immediately west of the Turley building was practically destroyed. The building occupied by the Conn Produce Company where Mrs. Clara Conn has an apartment was threatened and contents were removed. Furnishings were also taken from the residence of Mrs. Mary A. Jones and other houses. One of the fire hose's owned by the town of English burned at a fire hydrant when the blaze was at the height. Exact losses and amounts of insurance could not be obtained but each person suffering a loss had some insurance. The total amounts will fall far short of covering the damage. Mrs. Harve Enlow, who is ill, was removed from her burning home and carried to the home of relatives, and Mrs. John J. Tucker also ill, whose home was threatened, was also carried to the home of relatives. Preparations were being made to remove Miss Jane Mathers, who is ill, and whose home was in the path of the flames when they were checked. (Jan. 3, 1932 Cannelton Enquirer)

Lawrence H. Rainforth, 45 years old, postmaster and merchant of Beechwood, Crawford County, died last Friday at 4:30 o'clock, 10 minutes after he was shot twice by James Anderson, 20, who gave his address as 246 East Market Street in Louisville, in the store and post office where Rainforth had been sleeping because of numerous robberies in the vicinity. Anderson was caught three miles north of Sulphur as he attempted to escape in the woods and 30 minutes later was lodged in the Crawford county jail at English. He told Sheriff Alva Armstrong he left Louisville Thursday to hitchhike to Evansville and entered Rainforth's store through a widow just at daybreak to get something to eat and some money. He was surprised by Rainforth and in a scuffle secured the merchants revolver which he used in the shooting, the prisoner said. The gun was not found at the store and Anderson did not have a gun when arrested. Sheriff Armstrong when notified of the shooting left immediately for Beechwood accompanied by Deputy Clyde Roberts and Marshal Volley Smith of English.

At Sulphur, 3 miles west of Beechwood, the officers learned that a man hatless and in shirt sleeves had come running along State Road 62 from the direction of Beechwood and turned toward English on State Road 37. The officers turned back and about 3 miles north sited a man running ahead of them in the fog. He turned toward a creek along a road leading to Camp Jerry, summer home of Guy Longest of English, with the officers in pursuit. They left their car and spread out to surround him. Anderson doubling back through high weeds on the creek bank, ran into Marshal Smith, who covered him with a gun. Anderson surrendered. Sheriff Armstrong said he admitted to shooting and seemed unperturbed. He told jail employees he desired to write to his foster father in Louisville. Rainforth's store is at a crossroads of State Road 62 and a country road, facing east. Diagonally across is the residence of Mrs. Kitty Riddle, who, from an upstairs window saw a man behind the store after she heard shots. He ran along State Road 62 towards Sulphur she said. Because of the dim light she was not able to give a description. A short time later the Sulphur telephone operator reported a man hurrying by in short sleeves. The shots were all so heard at the Beechwood telephone exchange next door to Mrs. Riddle. When neighbors ran into the store Rainforth was grasping and never regained consciousness. He was shot on both sides of his neck. Three doctors were called but none reached Beechwood before he died. Rainforth is survived by his wife Mrs. Adah Rainforth; four children ranging in age from 10 years to 10 months; William Lawrence, Virginia, Alma Lee and Willa Mae; a sister Mrs. Joe Hedden, Leavenworth; and a brother Ivan Rainforth. (May 20, 1934 Tell City News)

Queries:

I'm researching a Franklin family who moved into Crawford County in the 1850's. There were 3 brothers:

Harry who died there in 1875 and is buried in Fredonia Cemetery

David who came and went between Crawford County and Ohio

Alvah who died in Dec. 1863 during the Civil War and was buried in Louisiana

Their parents also came -- David and Hannah. In the 1860 census they were living in Ohio Township with David, Alvah and his young family. They disappear from records at that point and I assume they died in Ohio Township during the early 1860's. They are the people who I'm searching for burial or death records.

Any suggestions you have will be helpful.

Thanks, Mary Huey, (maryhueyquilts47@gmail.com) Willoughby, Ohio



Another photo submission from Bob Roberts!

This band photo from the late 1930s (7 or 8) has the following information written on back. I apologize if I make any mistakes in transferring the names over.

Front row, L to R: Lily Lee Standiford, Betty Brown, Emma Jean Benz, Hazel Asher, James Bennet, Jiggs Landers, Betty Lou Patton, Edna Mae Eastridge, Ruth Simcox.

Second row: Georgia Walton, Janita (?) Crews, Samuel Lee Tucker, Junion Crews, Melburn Cox, William Mathers, Donald Sloan, Auson (?) Roberts Jr.

Offset: Ralph Starr, Mary Martha Batman.

Behind S. Tucker: Earl Barnett, Gustav Tucker, Clifton Turley, Samuel McDonald

Back Row: Howard Mock, Doris Jones, Joyce Landrus (?), Margret Duggins, ? , Robert Austin

The names are written on the back of the photo and I am not sure if I am copying them right, and if the names are accurately in corresponding with each individual. -bP

Previous Meeting Minutes:

No meeting in January or February.

March 14, 2023 meeting:

Meeting started at 6:30pm with a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

Program: Roberta brought some donations from Ruth Terry's daughter. Bob Roberts brought in stuff to be used for the newsletter. Bill Piper spoke about his project relating to church histories. Lance Stroud brought in a bunch of pictures and spoke about them.

Minutes: none were read since the last meeting was in November.

President's report: Bill spoke of his church project a bit more and is working on the newsletter.

VP report: none

Membership / financial report: Sharon was not present and no report was forwarded.

Historian / Archives / Veteran's Memorial report: Roberta brought in \$40 (\$20 donation, \$20 membership renewal). She also mentioned the upcoming Vietnam veteran's program on March 29 at 11am.

Proctor House: aluminum sign is being made and will be done by next meeting. Yard sale may need to be pushed back a little bit due to lack of donated items. Bill mentioned he planted 25 trees on the property, provided free from the Crawford County Water and Soil department.

Other: The library donated a school desk from the old Marengo school.

Time ended: 7:50pm

Attending: Bill & Robin Piper, Lance Stroud, Louie & Diane Mitchell, Bob Roberts, Roberta Toby, Andy & Glenda Laswell, Cheryl Allen, Judy Faith, Jason Froman and Tyler Gallien.

Allison Roberts' Marriage records

The following pages contain scans of marriages performed by Alson Roberts. I even recognized an ancestor of mine in his records!

A HUGE thanks to Bob Roberts letting me scan these for all to see.

JULY, 1910.

SUN. 24 Lloyd Spence 1.00
 Alice P. Dyck 1.00
 MON. 25 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. O. Miller 1.00
 TUE. 26 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 WED. 27 Mrs. M. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 THUR. 28 Mrs. M. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 FRI. 29 Mrs. M. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 SAT. 30 Mrs. M. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00

MEMORANDA

Blossom Weaver 1.00
 Blanche Weaver 1.00
 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. M. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. M. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. M. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00

JULY, 1910.

SUN. 31 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 MON. 1 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 TUE. 2 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 WED. 3 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 THUR. 4 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 FRI. 5 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 SAT. 6 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00

MEMORANDA

Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00

AUGUST, 1910.

SUN. 1 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 MON. 2 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 TUE. 3 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 WED. 4 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 THUR. 5 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 FRI. 6 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00
 SAT. 7 Mrs. M. O. Spence 1.00
 Mrs. B. Cook 1.00

MEMORANDA

Clifford Paul
 4-24-17 to
 Gladys Price 1.00

Edward Francis
 5-1-17 to
 Mary E. Westcott 1.00

Edward E. Keiser
 5-9-17 to

Edla B. Thompson .50

Walter Williams
 7-12-17 to
 Arville Taylor 1.00

Frank D. Muesel
 5-21-17 to
 Lucy A. Thompson 1.00

Samuel Quincy
 5-23-17 to
 East Bank 1.00

SEPTEMBER, 1910

SUN. Edie & Eaton
 25-9-17 to
 Anna Zimmerman 1.00

MON. Mary King
 28-9-17 to
 Rufina Roll 1.00

TUES. John D. Jordan
 27-10-17 to
 Minnie Jordan 0

WED. R. M. Knight
 28-10-17 to
 Elizabeth Robinson 1.00

THUR. R. M. Knight
 29-10-17 to
 Elizabeth Robinson 1.00

FRID. R. M. Knight
 30-10-17 to
 Elizabeth Robinson 1.00

SAT. R. M. Knight
 31-10-17 to
 Elizabeth Robinson 1.00

MEMORANDA

George Redden
 12-20-17 to
 Sara Williams 1.00

Edward M. Davis
 12-20-17 to
 Clara Stenmark 1.00

1918

OCTOBER 1910

SUN. Albert King
 2-2-18 to
 Maude King 1.00

MON. Clarence Saxon
 8-7-18 to
 Anne Austin 1.00

TUES. Lawrence S. Haley
 4-12-18 to
 Eddie Crawford 1.00

WED. Dan Q. Conant
 5-2-18 to
 Eddie S. Watts .50

THUR. Albert Saxon
 6-5-18 to
 Maude Austin 1.00

FRI. Lawrence Saxon
 7-3-18 to
 Maude Austin 1.00

SAT. 8

MEMORANDA

Samuel D. Steel
 11-15-18 to
 Elizabeth Ramsey 1.00

Steel Ramsey - 1.00

Membership Dues

Dues for the Crawford County Genealogical and Historical Society are \$15 per year for single memberships, \$20 for family or \$25 for corporation/businesses. The fee is due each June as the new year starts in July. A renewal form is available on the website, www.cchgs.org.

Send your check to:
Sharon Morris
CCHGS Treasurer
P.O. Box 162
Leavenworth, IN 47137

Meetings

The Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm, at the CCHGS Headquarters (310 Oak Circle, English IN). You can call 812-338-2579 to confirm.

Website:

www.cchgs.org

Social Media:

Search for "Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society" on FACEBOOK!



Books for sale

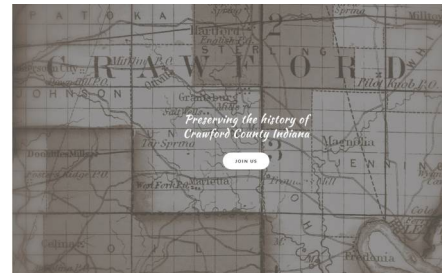
Our book list has been REVISED!! Some out of print titles have now returned and we are also offering DIGITAL versions of most of our books. The digital versions will be sold on CD-R in PDF format. Check our website, <http://www.cchgs.org> for more information!

The Crawford Countian is the official newsletter of the CCHGS.

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