

A landscape photograph of a river or lake. The water is calm and reflects the overcast sky. The far bank is lined with a dense forest of bare trees. In the foreground, there is a rocky and grassy bank with some dry, brown vegetation. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds.

The Crawford Countian

Spring 2014

Spring 2014 issue

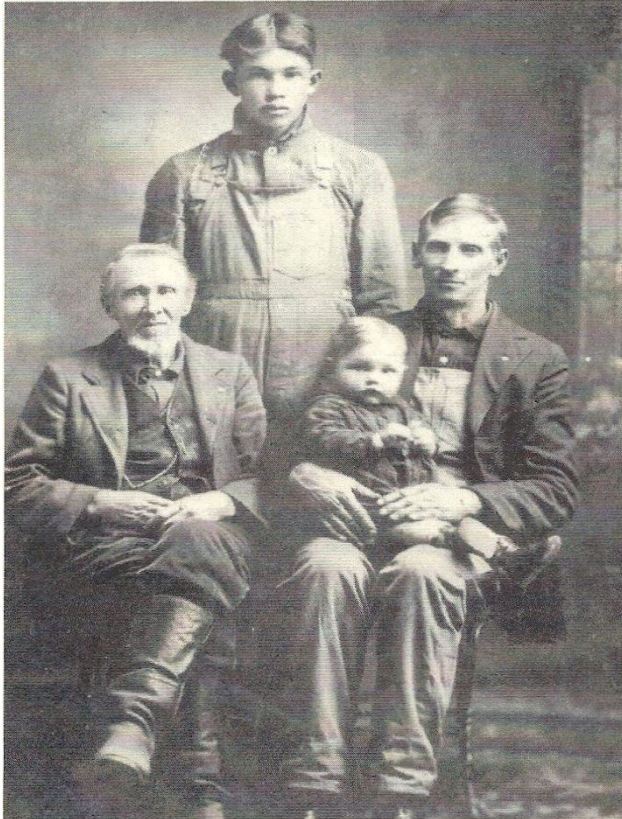
Cover picture taken at Patoka Lake, on one of many gloomy cold days we've had in CC this year!



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Survivor of Andersonville Prison - Abraham Bates Tower



**Abraham Bates Tower with
William Warren Tower, Troy Tower
and Charles Tower (standing)**

Abraham Bates Tower was born on Oct. 16, 1837 at Leavenworth, Indiana. He was the fourth child of Sarah V. (Munro/Monroe) and Jonathan Tower. His mother Sarah was born on July 10, 1811 and died Sept. 4, 1884 at Alton, Indiana. His father Jonathan Warren Tower Sr. was born Dec. 8, 1809. His parents were married on Feb. 21, 1831 in Crawford County, Indiana.

Abraham married Nancy Angeline Long on Oct. 28, 1858 in Crawford County, Indiana. Nancy was born May 2, 1840 in Harrison County, Indiana. Her parents were Thomas and Nancy Ana/Anna (Daggs) Long.

Abraham and Nancy had a daughter, Laura Ann, born Sept. 29, 1859 and a son, Erastus Laban born August 7, 1861. Soon after the children were born the Civil War came about and Abraham went to New Albany, Indiana to enlist on August 28, 1862 as a Private in Co. G. of the 93rd Indiana Inf. of the U. S. Army for

three years.

His company was with General Grant in the battle of Vicksburg in 1863.

In July of 1864, his wife received a message that he was “missing in action” during the battle at Brice’s Crossroad in Mississippi. The family never received any more information and Nancy presumed he was dead. He had been captured on June 12, 1864 and sent to the Confederate Prison at Andersonville, Georgia. The prison was under the command of Capt. Henry Wirtz and recorded 13,000 deaths from February 1864 to April 1865. 600 of the dead were from Indiana.

Many of Abraham’s friends and neighbors were also captured at Brice’s Crossroads.

The conditions of the prison were horrific. It was too small for the amount of men there. No sanitation, water was contaminated. The cornmeal was full of worms. There was very little to eat. Most of the men died from starvation, disease or punishment. The dead bodies were stacked like cordwood along the fence until they were hauled away by the wagonload to a common grave. They were not removed until at least a wagonload or so were dead. The prisoners had to endure the smell of the decomposing bodies.

Abraham was a small man, 5’ 6” and around 135 pounds. While in Andersonville, he became very sick and after four months he was still very ill when he was released on

parole, Dec. 6, 1864. His pension papers described him as a living skeleton of 73 pounds, with a serious cough, severe pain in his left side and chest and weak from scurvy.

Abraham was taken to a Union hospital after his release from Andersonville and after he was well enough to travel he returned to Crawford County, Indiana, only to find his wife and children gone. He found the graves of his wife's parents, but none of his own family. This convinced him that they had moved. After some time he finally located them.

After Nancy had received the "missing in action" message and no further word on Abraham. She presumed he was dead and since her parents had died she took the two children and went to live with her sister Mary Jane and her family near LaClede in Linn County, in either Kansas or Missouri.

It took him several years to regain his health after he found his family. He and Nancy had four more children; Mary Louise, born September 31, 1866 and Sarah Alice on March 9, 1868; a son, William Warren born August 31, 1870 and another daughter, Viola Matilda born February 2, 1873,

Viola's daughter, Gail Lee Martin wrote a book titled; "My Flint Hill Childhood". I obtained a copy of her book through writing to her daughter, Virginia Allain.

If anyone would like to order a copy of this book go to www.gailmartin.wordpress.com

The family has placed a large amount of information on Abraham Bates Tower, his family and the 93rd Regiment on the internet.

I was given permission to tell their story by Gail and her daughter Virginia.

It will be 150 years ago this year that Abraham Bates Tower had to endure the terrible ordeal of the war and the torture of Andersonville Prison, plus the fact that he had to leave his young wife and two children and march so far away from home to endure all the terrible events of war and then to return home to Crawford County and not be able to have his family there to meet him and not know of their whereabouts.

Roberta Toby - Crawford County Historian

Queries:

I'm still looking for any information on Joseph Ross who married Sarah "Sally" Summers. He was born April 1, 1810 and they married April 6, 1837. He died on Dec. 29, 1892 and she on Aug. 7, 1893. They died in Crawford Co, married in Floyd Co. I am trying to follow the Ross line back out of Indiana and can find nothing that helps me do that. He had 2 brothers, John, Shelby and possibly a sister, Nancy. He may have come from Augusta, VA. - Nancy DeLullo; velvetango@yahoo.com

From the County Historian's Desk:

Good research sites:

For genealogy trees:

www.ancestry.com

www.rootsweb.com -free

www.familysearch.org -free

www.mocavo.com -some info free

www.usgenweb.com -all states and all counties in U. S. -free

For Old Photo's:

www.deadfred.com - free

www.ancientfaces.com - free

For Death Info:

www.findagrave.com - free

Kentucky Vitals

Missouri death records online - free

Illinois Secretary of State website - marriages, deaths

Browning Funeral genealogy - Evansville - free

For Land Records:

BLM-GLO - Bureau of land management, Government land office - free deeds signed by Presidents of the United States. - free

Kentucky Secretary of State - Free land records.

Other good sites of interest:

www.castlegarden.com - free

www.ellisland.com - free

www.libraryofvirginia.com - free

www.chroniclingamerica.com - newspapers-free



Crawford County Veteran Spotlight

Smith, Ernest

Served in the U.S. Army from Nov. 1950-1952. He was stationed in Louisiana and Germany. Drafted Nov. 22, 1950 at Indianapolis, IN. Basic training at Camp Breckenridge. Then sent to Camp Rucker in Alabama. Then to Camp Polk, Louisiana. Served 1 year there then boarded a ship in January in New Orleans to Germany. Arrived in Germany in January, docked at Bremerhaven, Germany. He was stationed about 30 miles from Stuttgart. Spent about 8 months in Germany. Left

Germany for U. S. and docked at Staten Island in Sept. From there by plane to Ft. Custer, Michigan. Arrived home on Nov. 14, 1952. His pay was \$33.00 per month. On the way to Germany his ship made a stop in Puerto Rico.

Jan 2014 CCHGS Meeting

The Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society met January 8, 2014, at the Archives building in English. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 by Bill Piper, the Vice-President. The Pledge of Allegiance was given after a moment of silence.

The program was a video presentation of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with a reunion of both Union and Confederate soldiers. Some of the veterans were interviewed who shared their memories of the battle. One segment featured Confederate soldiers re-creating the Rebel Yell. Bill Piper shared his collection of old Confederate money consisting of one, five, and ten dollar notes from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and the Confederacy government.

MINUTES – The minutes concerning the construction of the Capitol dome were amended to clarify the meaning that the dome was not marble but cast iron colored to look like marble. Rita Eddleman made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, and Roberta Toby seconded it. The motion was carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Sharon Morris reported a beginning balance of \$10,059.95 as of December 12, 2013. A disbursement of \$27.10 to Roberta Toby left an ending balance of \$10,032.85.

THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT was presented by Bill Piper. Our president, Becky Stetter, congratulated Jim Kaiser for the Sagamore of Wabash award, and noted that we owe him much gratitude. She reminded all chairmen of committees to gather suggestions, discuss them, and then take the recommendation to the Society for final approval. A current list of chairmen and committees has been made available. She asked that Bill add Remembrance of Members to tonight’s agenda for discussion under new business. She noted the need for a person to be in charge of future remembrances for Society members. See attached report.

COUNTY HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Roberta reported that Richard Fields is doing a book and is sending her CD’s to proofread and edit. Roberta proposed as possible future activities that our Society members go as a group to visit the museum in Jasper, visit other area society meetings, and that we exchange newsletters with those of other historical societies. It was noted that Roberta has been appointed by the State Historical Society to serve as the County Historian. Roberta sold books at the Holiday Gift Show held at the Fairgrounds. She deposited \$228.00 on December 19, 2013 in the English First Savings Bank.

VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION – They had no meeting this month. The next meeting will be in February.

MEMBERSHIP – We now have 83 members.

PROCTOR HOUSE COMMITTEE – No report was given, but the checking and savings accounts were discussed. Marie Greathouse made a motion to close the old checking account and establish an account with new signatories. Don Standiford seconded the motion, and it was passed. Marie Greathouse then made a motion to include Rita Eddleman on the new savings account to be called “Proctor House Restoration Matching Funds”. Robin Piper seconded it, and the motion was carried. The new signatories on the Proctor House checking account will be Sharon Morris, Treasurer and Carol Tomlinson, Secretary. Sharon, Carol and Rita Eddleman, Board Member, will be signatories on the Proctor House Restoration Matching Funds savings account.

NEWSLETTER REPORT – Many favorable comments have been received for the latest issue covering the first quarter of 2014. The next issue will include a space on the back cover for the mailing label for those who receive it by mail.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Dorothy Rice will present a program called “A Walk Down Memory Lane” at our next meeting on February 12 here at the Archives. We will celebrate Valentine’s Day by having party-type food, so everyone is encouraged to bring a snack.

DONATIONS, ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE – Gloria Belcher of Greensburg, Kansas, donated several newspaper articles including an announcement of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of her parents, Mr & Mrs. Winnifred Beals. A telegram from Birch Bayh was also included. Edith Key also gave some things.

FUND RAISING REPORT – Rita Eddleman sold notecards that she created called “Scenes From Crawford County” at the Holiday Gift Show on December 14. She made \$195.50 which will be matched by a donor. These monies will go into the new Proctor House Restoration Matching Funds savings account.

ORNAMENT SALES – Roberta Toby sold ornaments at the Holiday Gift Show and deposited \$130.00 in the Marengo Main Source Bank on December 19, 2013.

SCRAPBOOK – Robin Piper needs more scrapbook paper and cut-out designs, or some paper with different designs on it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The lawnmower issue (whether to buy Hugh’s mower or hire a person to mow) was discussed. One quote of \$200 for mowing every two weeks was given. No conclusions were reached.

NEW BUSINESS - Bill Piper led the discussion concerning the Remembrance For Members that was mentioned in the President’s Report. Our president, Becky Stetter, has appointed Janet Eastridge as the chairman and Rita Eddleman as the back-up if the need arises. In the past, the Society donated \$50 to the Crawford County Community Foundation in remembrance, and the Foundation sent a single red rose to the funeral home with an acknowledgement of the donation. After much discussion, Don Standiford made a motion to make a \$50 donation to the Community Foundation in remembrance of Opal Kaiser, and Rita Eddleman seconded it. The motion was carried. It was generally agreed by all that we need more information about the Community Foundation Fund and how it works. Rita made a motion to discontinue the \$50 donation in the future and send a sympathy card with the Society’s logo/wording on it Don Standiford seconded it, and the motion was carried.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS - Roberta submitted a bill for \$86.23 for postage, and a bill of \$40.00 for Glen for mowing. A discussion about the appropriateness of putting the Newsletter on the Website ensued, but no definite conclusions were reached.

Bill Piper adjourned the meeting.

Those attending were Henry Laswell, Sharon Morris, Rita Eddleman, Don Standiford, Roberta Toby, Marie Pond Greathouse, Casey Blair, William Piper, Robin Piper, Mike Witt, Clayton Blair, and Carol Tomlinson.

Feb 2014 CCHGS Meeting

Meeting started at 6:40pm. A moment of silence took place, along with the pledge of allegiance. Afterwards, Bobby Wiseman said a prayer and everyone then proceeded to eat. Everyone brought a dish to contribute to the dinner.

At 7:00pm, Marie Greathouse introduced her guest, Dorothy Rice. Dorothy is from Jennings County and was a former President of the Scott County Genealogical Society. She spoke of past memories, including ways she entertained herself. With each story, she gave away a gift to a person in the audience. Such gifts included checkers, a puzzle, card game, a journal, etc... Her presentation lasted 30 minutes.

The business meeting started at 7:30pm. Minutes were read silently by members. No corrections were made. Roberta Toby made a motion to accept them, with Robin Piper seconding. The motion passed. Sharon Morris gave the Treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$10,032.85. 3 memberships, 5 cook books, 9 books and xerox copies added to the total, which added up to \$10,305.85. Disbursements: check #598 to Roberta Toby for \$126.34 and #599 to Community Foundation in memory of Opal Kaiser for \$50, a grand total of \$176.34. Ending balance as of Feb 12, 2014: \$10,129.51.

President's Report. Becky sent an email talking about the outstanding balance owed to Indiana Landmarks. Also mentioned the by-laws committee to make notes on what changes are needed for the upcoming annual meeting.

There was no VP report.

County Historian report. Roberta received a letter from the Indiana Historical Society letting her know that she has been appointed to serve another term as County Historian for Crawford County. Tracy Underhill and Anne Hager asked Roberta to meet with them at the library to discuss a scanner they are trying to get a grant for, to scan photo's that the citizens of Crawford County bring in for them to scan into a program called "Indiana Memory". Mr. Richard Fields sent Roberta a CD of part of his book 'My Family Quest'~ to edit for him. -Roberta Toby

Archives report. Things have been slow this winter at the Archives, probably due to bad weather and sickness. Roberta is indexing the Tract Book 1 to make it easier for researchers. The locks have been changed again on the building and I now must enter through the front door. The Johnson Twp. Trustees came and picked up the items they had given us, after they found out they were not allowed to do so. Books sold: one Cemetery Book for \$30.00 and 1 History of Patoka Twp. for \$40.00 plus \$6.00 in copy money for a total of \$76.00 that was deposited on Feb. 11, 2014. -Roberta Toby

Veterans Memorial report. No meetings have taken place over the winter, but the first meeting of the year will be on Feb 24, 7pm @ the VFW in English, IN.

Membership now at 83 members.

Proctor House committee. A new checking account has been established since the last meeting.

Newsletter. A "special edition" newsletter is now available on the website. This edition will not be mailed out and only be available online. It features the entire Nov 20, 1890 "Crawford County Democrat" newspaper.

Program committee and publications had nothing new to report.

Donations. 3 maps of the Hoosier National Forest from the 1970s were donated. Roberta also received some items from Priscilla Eastridge that Richard had.

Website. Newsletter section added, with links to download newsletters from 2014 and onward.

Fundraising, Ornament sales and scrapbook. Nothing to report.

Unfinished business. Discussion regarding the Indiana Landmarks bill was brought up. Roberta will look back at the minutes to see who is responsible. Bobby Wiseman brought up discussion about getting a historical plaque for the Proctor House. Prices will need to be gathered up to obtain such a sign.

New business. Discussions were brought up about moving the meetings back to Mondays rather than Saturdays. It was also determined that no dinner will be held for Establishment Day this year due to lack of planning and interest.

Presentation of bills. Roberta Toby presented a bill for \$34.98 for ink.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Those attending: William Piper, Robin Piper, Casey Blair, Clayton Blair, Michael Witt, Roberta Toby, Sharon Morris, Mark Kemp, Henry Laswell, Marie Greathouse, Bobby Wiseman, Mary Wiseman, Carla Cartwright, Dorothy Rice

March 2014 CCHGS Meeting

The Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society met at 1 p.m. on March 8 at the Crawford County Library. After a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The program was presented by David Vanlaningham, Technical Director of the Library. David has reformatted the Library's web site by making it accessible to Smart Phone users. It has a Google calendar of events, maps, research site, etc. Face Book, Twitter, and e-books can be checked. It's faster and easier to use as the icons are still on the right side, making it easy to switch back and forth.

The minutes were approved after correcting the name of Mike Kemp to Mark Kemp.

TREASURER'S REPORT was given by Sharon Morris. A beginning balance of \$10,129.51 with book and copies sales bringing the total to \$10,205.51. A disbursement of \$34.98 to Roberta Toby leaves an ending balance of \$10,170.53. The Proctor House had a beginning balance of \$4,748.59 with one disbursement of \$106.36 for the electric bill which leaves an ending balance of \$4,642.23.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT was given by Becky Hammond Stetter. She proposed that the March celebration of the county's birthday be observed in May since that is Historic Preservation month and the weather will be better. She thinks we should try to introduce historical activities into the schools again by having a poster contest for 4th graders studying Indiana history and award prizes to the winners at the May celebration. She reported that the past due bill for the interim survey books is being investigated.

There was no vice-president's report.

COUNTY HISTORIAN REPORT was given by Roberta Toby. She is still editing the book for Mr. Fields who plans to be in the county around March 25th as he needs more information. She would like to get carloads of Society members to go to the Dubois County Museum to see what they have accomplished with the help of donations and volunteers. Anne and Tracy from the Crawford County Public Library would like for the Society to work with them in getting a grant for digitization equipment for the library, and a vote is needed today. Then it was put to an oral vote and was approved by the members present.

VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION REPORT was given by Roberta. She reported that two carloads of Association members went to Dubois County to meet with Mr. David Schwartz to obtain more info about the bricks for the Memorial. The Association is now taking orders for bricks. The 4 by 8 bricks will sell for \$65 and the 8 by 8 bricks will be \$115. The military logo and 2-4 lines of print can be placed

on each brick. She notes that a spring yard sale is being planned, but no date has been set yet. Hugh and Evelyn Jackson donated scrap metal for that drive which was picked up by Jim Frazee and Glen Toby.

ARCHIVES REPORT was given by Roberta. Several visitors came in spite of the bad weather. She was informed that the voting booths at the Courthouse would be placed in the back of the building for storage. The front floor has been cleaned and the walls painted. There were some complaints about the cost of printing, but the state law requires \$1 for legal documents.

MEMBERSHIP now stands at 86.

PROCTOR HOUSE COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORT- Rita Eddleman reported on the new Proctor House Restoration Matching Funds account. The beginning balance was \$5,396.08 with deposits of \$40.12 which gives an ending balance of \$5,436.20.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT – No program is planned for next month’s meeting on April 12. Roberta made a motion that we take a field trip to the Dubois County Museum instead, and Rita seconded it. The motion carried. We are to meet at the Archives at 9a.m. There was some discussion about dates for future meetings, but nothing was decided.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - A letter received by Sharon Morris was shared. Previously, Gary Cronister had brought a picture book of old buildings, bridges, etc. in Indiana to show the Society. Becky is going to contact Ed Williams of the Donning Co. Publishers for info about reprints and costs for our printing such a book on Crawford County. Becky would like for this book to be ready along with the First Families Book for the Bicentennial celebration.

DONATIONS, ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE - There was a discussion on updating the inventory lists, and the need to keep everything in one location. Rita Eddleman would like to take a photograph of everything and label it as to the date and the donor. Henry Laswell inquired about a waterproof storage box to store the acquisitions in. Rita quoted some prices for storage units. This will be discussed at future meetings. Becky added Rita and Carol to this committee.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE REPORT - Upgrading the web site with tabs to make it easier to use was discussed. Marie Greathouse made a motion to upgrade the web site to include a queries tab on it. Janice and Rita seconded it and the motion carried. The question of whether or not to make the newsletter accessible to everyone or just to members only was revisited, but no decision was reached. Bill Piper and Roberta Toby are the co-chairs, and Becky appointed Jim, Henry, Marie, and Carol to serve on it. This committee can advise but still needs to get approval from the Society.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE REPORT - Rita showed samples of note cards she is still selling. She displayed 5 different sunset scenes and 3 or 4 messages and asked us to vote to select one of each to use for Remembrances of deceased members. Janice is to be notified when a member passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Some ideas for celebrating next year’s March celebration were discussed as there’s not enough time for it this year. We could have a coloring, essay, or poem contest limited to 4th graders the first year and add on other grades later. Roberta mentioned that for the Bicentennial celebration, we will have a photo book and the First Families of Crawford County book, She encouraged everyone to work on obtaining that certificate

NEW BUSINESS - Dan Crecelius wants to rent the shelter house for his daughter’s graduation celebration. Marie made a motion to let him use it for a donation. Don and Rita seconded it, and it was approved. The Proctor House Board will make recommendations about future use of the shelter house. Since high school alumni banquets are not far off, the idea of making a donation to each school was discussed. It was felt this could increase the awareness of and interest in the Society. Janice made a motion that we donate \$100 for the 4 high schools alumni banquets in the form of a cookbook and a free one year membership to each. These may be used as door prizes. Rita seconded it, and the motion carried.

The Donations Committee needs to work on a policy for donations to the yard sale concerning receipts certificates.

May 10th meeting and celebration of the March birthday – Rita made a motion to have a pitch-in/cookout at the shelter house. Roberta seconded it, and the motion carried. Bring chairs.

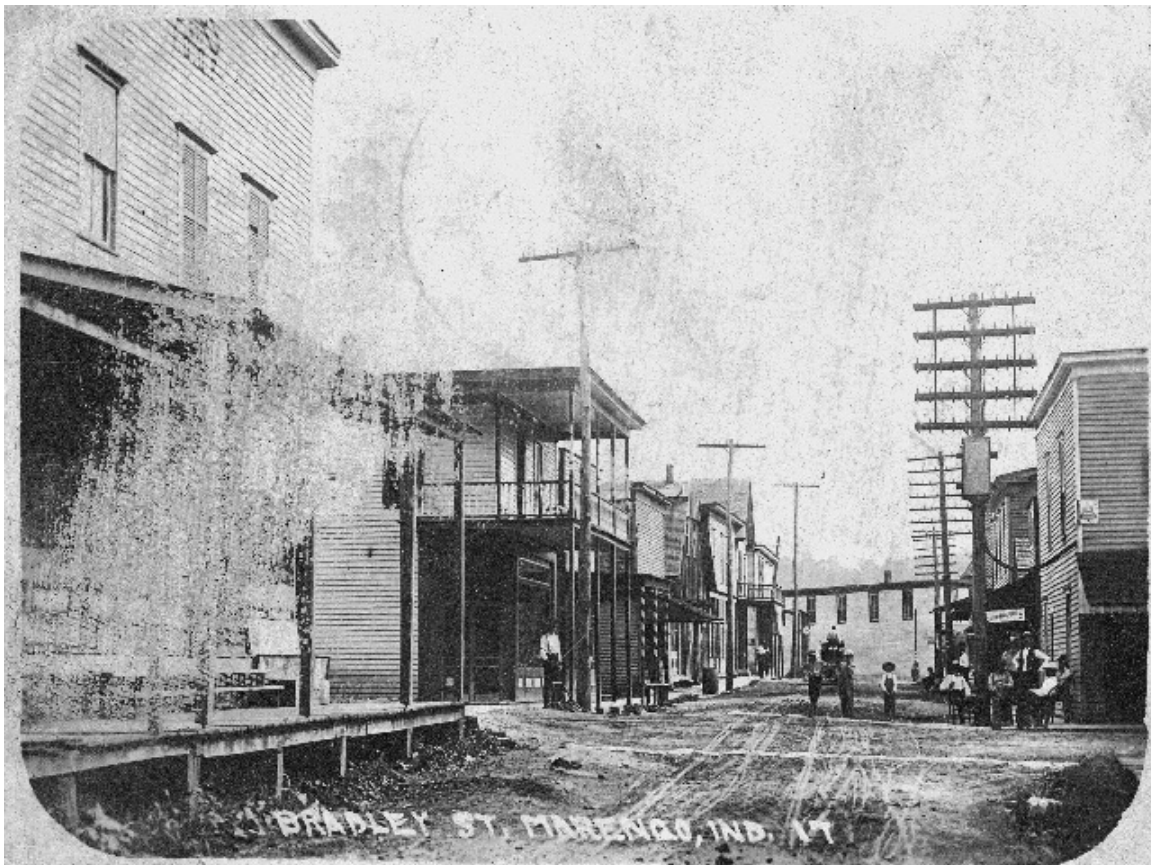
For the June meeting, it was suggested that Duke Roggenkamp be invited to come and share his memories of the car dealership at Milltown. Or he could come to the pitch-in in May.

The Proctor House Board needs to meet in March. And we need to have a Regions 15 person here to talk about grants. Becky will arrange it and will send e-mails with date, time, and place.

Sharon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rita. The meeting was adjourned.

Those attending were Becky Hammond Stetter, David Vanlaningham, Donald Standiford, Carol Schulz Standiford, Glenn Simons, Beverly Longest Simons, Rita Eddleman, Sharon Morris, Janice Eastridge, Henry Laswell, Roberta Toby, and Nancy DeLullo.

PHOTO FROM THE PAST:



Sent in by Ron Yates (ron@yatesville.net)

Membership Dues

Dues for the Crawford County Genealogical and Historical Society are \$15 per year. 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 133
Leavenworth, IN 47137

Meetings

The Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society typically meets on the second Saturday of each month on 1:00 pm at the Crawford County Public Library (203 Indiana Avenue) in English, IN. Dates may be changed due to circumstances and weather conditions. You may call 812-821-4124 or 812-365-9067 to confirm.

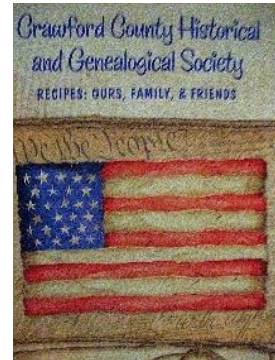
Website:
www.cchgs.org

Social Media:

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



Books for sale



Here is an abbreviated list of books we offer for sale:

- Patent Holders of Crawford County, Indiana- 1858-1945 \$15
 - Crawford Co. Historical & Genealogical Society 2013 Cookbook \$10
 - Will Record A \$20
 - Divorces in Crawford County from 1818-1920 \$15
 - Tract Book One 1804-1863 \$30
 - Tract Book Two 1869-1874 \$25
 - Tract Book Three 1884-1890 \$25
 - John Yates-His Civil War Experience-Letters Home-His Descendants \$20
 - Order Book A-1818-1834 \$40
 - Death Records- From the Department of Health, Crawford County \$30
- To order a book, visit our website!
- The Crawford Countian is the official newsletter of the CCHGS. Permission is needed for any re-productions.



From:
CCHGS
C/O 4308 E. Temple Rd.
Marengo, IN 47140

To: