



The Crawford Countian

Q2 - 2017

Welcome to the Spring edition of "The Crawford Countian", the official newsletter of the CCHGS! Our open house for the new building was going to be towards the end of April but due to various issues, that is not happening. It is looking like in May that this will take place. Stay tuned to the website and Facebook page for details. Also we plan on doing various activities at the new building this year. Schedule is not yet set, but several members have events in mind. Once again, that schedule will be on the website and facebook. One of my ideas is to have a summer movie screening each week during June and July. I am a HUGE cinema fan, from silent films to modern day movies, so I plan on showing quite a variety of flicks. This event will be free for all to enjoy.



- William Piper, CCHGS President
 email: billgpiper@hotmail.com
 snail mail: PO Box 472, English IN 47118

Picture on the cover is of the Little Blue River in Sycamore Springs.

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Wilson Alexander Scott,
former Crawford Countian, who donated land
and helped build the Iowa Statehouse.



*Birth: Nov. 20, 1818
Crawford County
Indiana, USA
Death: Jun. 23, 1859
Buffalo County
Nebraska, USA*

Wilson Alexander Scott was born November 20, 1818, in Crawford County, Indiana, to Andrew and Anna Longest Scott.

In about 1843 he went to Iowa with his cousin, John B. Scott. He was given the use of a section of land to cultivate in order to supply farm products for a garrison of soldiers. They also established a trading post. Sometime thereafter he went to Kansas as an Indian trader, where he stayed for a few years.

When the area along the Des Moines River was opened for

*land entries, Alexander (or "Alec" as he came to be known) Scott returned to Iowa and purchased 500 acres along the river on the East Side. He built a large double log house, which consisted of "two houses with an open space between equal to the length of each house, and covered with a roof for the shelter of wagons, plows, harness, etc." One house was used for a dwelling and the other for a stable. (Andrews, Lorenzo F., *Pioneers of Polk County, Iowa and Reminiscences of Early Days*, Baker-Trisler Co. (1908), digitized by Google Books Jan. 24, 2008.)*

From an Iowa State publication regarding the location of the State Capitol:

Location of the Capitol on its commanding site resulted from a series of decisions that began almost with statehood. The new state quickly recognized that the Capitol should be farther west than Iowa City, and the 1st General Assembly, in 1846, authorized a commission to select a location. Amidst rivalries, a Jasper County selection was made, and then rejected. In 1854, the 5th General Assembly decreed a location "within two miles of the Raccoon fork of the Des Moines River." The exact spot was chosen when Wilson Alexander Scott gave the state 9 ½ acres where the Capitol now stands.



Family links:

Parents:

Andrew Scott (1786 - 1854)

Anna Longest Scott (1789 - 1853)

Siblings:

*Elizabeth A. Scott Maxwell (1815 - 1886)**

Wilson Alexander Scott (1818 - 1859)

*Caleb Longest Scott (1821 - 1892)**

*Dorinda Scott Hughes (1828 - 1894)**



**Calculated relationship*

Inscription:

Sacred to the memory of Willson Alexander Scott who gave to the State of Iowa the Greater Part of the land where stands the capitol.

Note: His first name is shown in various places as Willson or Wilson. He went by Alec.

Burial: Scott Gravesite, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, USA

GPS (lat/lon): 41.58771, -93.60087

Created by: Sally Jarvis

Record added: Mar 29, 2012

Find A Grave Memorial# 87526961 (info from find-a-grave.com)

There is quite a bit of info on Mr. Scott on the internet. He died on the way to the gold fields. He died at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, (one source says Kansas), and had requested that his body be returned to his home place. His request was honored, but it was several years before the State of Iowa placed a fitting memorial for him on the Statehouse grounds.

Some stories say that he helped build the original Statehouse there as well as donating the land where it stands.

http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/POLK_COUNTY_HISTORICAL_STUDIES_---_DES_MOINES_IOWA/pages/386975

1843 - In May, Capt. James Allen with his company of First Dragoons arrived by the steamer "Ione" from Ft. Sanford (currently Ottumwa), and builds Ft. Des Moines No. 2 at the Raccoon Forks to keep the peace between the settlers and Indians. General Winfield Scott of the War Dept. directs the name Ft. DM be used, although Capt. Allen suggested the name Ft. Raccoon. The fort is active until 1846.

Robert A. Kinzie was made a post trader and opened a General Store. Among the fur traders and early explorers and settlers who preceded the soldiers' occupation was Wilson Alexander Scott who was probably the first white settler to make Ft. DM his home.

He arrived several months before the military post was established, later obtaining a permit to settle nearby, and purchased 500 acres of land on the east side of the DM River, a portion of which he donated to the State of Iowa for the Capitol grounds. He also donated \$6,000 in cash to apply to the cost of the old capitol building then erected, and later died in poverty. His grave is in the southeast corner of the Capitol grounds.

Not long after achieving statehood, Iowa recognized that the Capitol should be moved farther west than Iowa City, and the 1st General Assembly, in 1846, authorized a commission to select a location. In 1847, the town of Monroe City, in Jasper County was selected as the new location of the capitol and platted out, but the 1848 Legislature decided not to move the capitol from Iowa City.[3] In 1854, the General Assembly decreed a location "within two miles of the Raccoon fork of the Des Moines River." The exact spot was chosen when Wilson Alexander Scott gave the state nine and one-half acres where the Capitol now stands. Final legislative approval for the construction of a permanent statehouse was given on April 8, 1870.



Old Capitol in Des Moines -->

A three-story brick building served as a temporary Capitol and was in use for 30 years, until destroyed by fires. But in the meantime, the permanent Capitol was being planned and built.

In 1870, the General Assembly established a Capitol commission to employ an architect, choose a plan for a building (not to cost more than \$1,500,000), and proceed with the work, but only by using funds available without increasing the tax rate.

John C. Cochrane and Alfred H. Piquenard were designated as architects, and a cornerstone was laid on November 23, 1871. However, much of the original stone deteriorated through waterlogging and severe weather and had to be replaced. The cornerstone was relaid on September 29, 1873.

Although the building could not be constructed for \$1,500,000 as planned, the Cochrane and Piquenard design was retained and modifications were undertaken. Cochrane resigned in 1872, but Piquenard continued until his death in 1876. He was succeeded by two of his assistants, Mifflin E. Bell and W.F. Hackney.

The building commission made its final report on June 29, 1886, with a total cost of \$2,873,294.59. The audit showed that only \$3.77 was unaccounted for in the 15 years of construction.

I hope you enjoy reading about this former resident of Crawford County, Indiana.

Roberta Toby

Crawford County Historian

Queries:

Walts, Robert B. Searching for info on Robert B. Walts, buried in Springtown Cemetery, Marengo, Indiana. I need to know who his parents were. Also, information on Kathleen Poe.

Jane Lamar lamarj2353@gmail.com

Evans, Ezra, I need info on Ezra Evans who married Elizabeth Miller in 1841. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Tom Austin starcityengineer@gmail.com

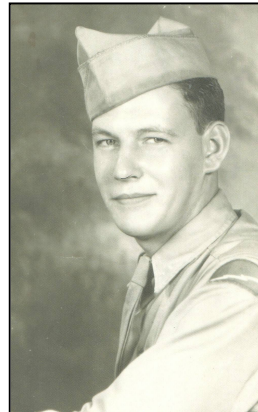
Thompson, John Looking for information on John Thompson whose parents were Thomas and Molly Allen Thompson. Also, info on Orville Thompson, Harriston and Charles Thompson.

Nita Wilson 803-686-0855

Harrington, Phineaus, possible spelling variations. If you can help with info on this individual, please contact me. Roberta Toby dign4kin@gmail.com

Thank you very much.

Crawford County Veteran Spotlight



Everett - Lee - Shirley - Virgil Adkins

Four brothers of Milltown, sons of Mrmrs. Edd Adkins and brothers of Mrs. Carl Bullington of English, are all overseas, two with the Army and two with the Navy. S1ic Virgil Adkins has been in the Navy two years and is now in the Pacific. His ship burned once during a battle. Everett Adkins, S 2|c, also is with the Navy in the Pacific. Lee Adkins is with the Army Medical Corps in England. Pfc. Shirley Adkins, youngest of the four, is with the Army in the South Pacific.
Courtesy The Louisville Times

Previous meeting minutes:

Jan 2017 - no meeting was held

Minutes from February 14, 2017

The CCHGS met in English at 6:30 p.m. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

In observance of Black History month, the program was a video presentation on the involvement of colored troops during the Civil War. On July 30, 1864, colored troops from Indiana led the assault at the Battle of Crater which was a part of the Siege of St. Petersburg in Virginia. The Confederate Army was under the command of General Lee and the Union forces under the command of Major General George Mead (who was under the direction of General Grant). The Union Army were the attackers and unit after unit descended into the crater canyon which was created by an exploded mine. They became confused and were easy targets. The division of black soldiers were badly mauled. There were huge casualties. Instead of ending the Siege, General Mead settled his troops in for another 8 months of trench warfare.

Bill Piper passed around for all to see an old \$5 note from the Bank at Corydon.

Business Meeting

No minutes as this was the first meeting since November.

President's Report - The floors in the bathroom and the utility room were fixed and came in under budget. A ramp in the front has been built to allow easier access to the front door. The small commodes in the other two bathrooms have been removed to accommodate more storage for materials. These will be sold.

A new roof for our building was discussed and was decided that it should be metal as it will last longer and cost less than shingles. Roberta made a motion for Bill to contact Mr. Schwartz about installing the roof which was seconded by Roscoe. The motion passed. A sump pump was also discussed. Some thought Dan Crecelius could get one for us at cost. Stan made a motion to give Bill the authority to purchase one and then Sharon would reimburse him. As Bill expressed reluctance the motion was not seconded. Marie will get in touch with Dan.

Bill read a letter appointing Roberta as County Historian again. The members were pleased as Roberta does a great job for our county and for us as well. He also mentioned a Flying Scarecrow letter that he had received to design a stamp for the Post Office. See attachment.

Financial Report - The beginning balance as of Dec. 13, 2016, was \$8,818.32. A deposit that totaled \$11,894.75 brought the balance to \$20,713.07. This deposit consisted of several generous donations - \$435 from Glen and Roberta Toby, \$1,142 from Stan and Judy Faith, and \$10,000 from an anonymous donor. The rest was from memberships, books, and miscellaneous items. Disbursements to Ricky O'Keefe for the floors and the ramp, to Jeff Roll, and to utilities totaled \$1,461.37 leaves an ending balance of \$19,251.70.

Membership is 83.

Marie gave the Proctor House financial reports. The beginning balance was \$5,860.10 with one donation from Richard Parks which brought the balance to \$5,960.10. Disbursements for utilities and O'Bannon publishing totaled \$65.78 leaving an ending balance of \$5,760.87. Our Proctor House Restoration Matching Funds account has a balance of \$30,408.90. There will be a site visit this Thursday, the 19th, with representatives from the Dept. of Natural Resources, Lisa and Cheri from Indiana Regions 15, Larry

Timperman our architect for the restoration, Marie, and Carol. The restoration of the Proctor House has been approved as a legacy project for the county.

Roberta gave the following reports:

County Historian – INDOT people will keep us updated on further events concerning Bridge 42 near Alton. She received info from Fulton County about a Potawatomi Trail of Death documentary they have produced. See attachment. She has received info from Satolli Glassmeyer, President of History in Your Own Backyard. They do short videos of important or interesting things in counties all over the United States. There is a cost involved, but CFCC may help by giving us a grant for this purpose. Mr. Glassmeyer said a list of 10 to 15 places to document in the county would be needed. This project needs to be discussed further at the next meeting. Roberta found a map showing postal routes in Southern Indiana. It shows Proctorville with mail routes coming and going to and from several destinations. She is also seeking information about a By-Waters Cemetery once located near Sulphur, possibly along the Interstate 64.

Archives Report – Roberta filled an order for 25 books from the St. Louis Library and is awaiting payment. She also sold a Pleasant's History Book and another one called History of Milltown. She received the anonymous donation of \$10,000, so altogether she deposited \$10,595.00 in the general fund.

Veterans Memorial Association – There will be a meeting on Feb. 27th. The rest of the tablets have not been set yet.

Fund-Raising Com. – There will be a meeting March 7th at 1 p.m. in English to brainstorm and set a calendar of events for the year. All ideas are welcome.

Stan Faith led a concluding activity in solving a murder case involving a love triangle. He would give a clue and ask what should the police/investigators do next. Everyone participated and had a great time.

A bill of \$110 was approved to be paid.

Our guest was Dennis Adkins whose mother was raised by Dr. Dean in Old Town Leavenworth. He joined the society.

Those present were: Casey Blair, Robin Piper, Bill Piper, Jim Kaiser, Marie Greathouse, Stan and Judy Faith, Roberta Toby, Ruth terry, Sharon Morris, Roscoe Hooten, Don Standiford, Carol Tomlinson, Clayton Blair, Michael Witt and Dennis Adkins.

Meeting March 14, 2017

The CCHGS met at 6:30 p.m. in English. After a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Program - Bill Stroud presented an interesting slide show program on the railroads in Southern Indiana with an emphasis on those in Crawford County. The first tracks were built in 1837 – 1857, starting from west to east in Mt. Carmel to end in New Albany. The terrain was expected to be flat, but it proved to be challenging. So many trestles were needed that the train was more up than down. At least 4 tunnels were needed which were very difficult and dangerous to dig. The Duncan tunnel near Edwardsville took ten years to complete. At first wooden beams were used but didn't hold up very well so they switched to clay tiles. The trains delivered mail, passengers and goods. Several depots were in the county – Eckerty, Taswell, Riceville, English, maybe Temple, Marengo, and Milltown. The railroads became the Southern Railway in 1901. When the mails came off the trains, passenger service ended. The last train for passengers was June 14, 1953, with 12 passengers. Soon after the depots were taken down. Only five remain today. One can still ride on the Heritage Railway located at Jasper, French Lick, and Tell City.

Business Meeting

Minutes – The minutes were read silently. Marie Greathouse made a motion to approve and Roscoe Hooten seconded. The motion passed.

President's Report – Bill Piper reported on the new roof and the newsletter to come out next month.

Financial Report – Sharon Morris reported a beginning balance of \$19,251.70 as of Feb. 14. A deposit of \$470.97 from one membership and books was made bringing the total to \$19,722.67. Disbursements for utilities, house payment, ink/supplies (to Roberta), and \$6,431.00 for the roof totaled \$6,803.60. This leaves an ending balance of \$12,919.07.

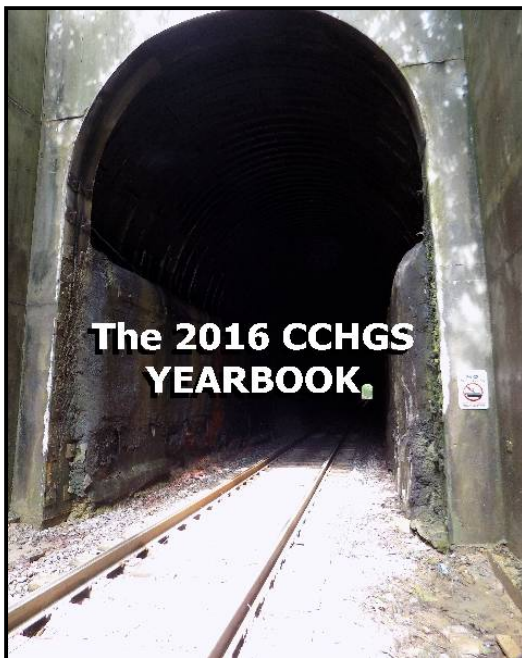
Membership is 83.

Proctorville Report – Marie gave the financial report for the Proctor House. The beginning balance was \$5,827.10. No deposits. Disbursements for utilities of \$63.08 were made leaving a balance of \$5,764.24. A donation of \$5600 to the Matching Funds gives an ending balance of \$36,009.65. A site meeting was held Monday at the Proctor House to go over the grant application. Representatives from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, Cheri and Nathan from Regions 15, Marie, and Carol were present. It was a very productive meeting.

Fund Raising Report – A calendar of possible fund raising events for the year was handed out. Members generated other good ideas. It should be a good year with many fun and profitable things to do.

The President adjourned the meeting. There were no bills to be paid.

Those attending were Sharon Morris, Marie Greathouse, Roscoe Hooten, Jim Kaiser, Dennis Adkins, Elaine Stephenson. Bill and Robin Piper, Casey Blair, Clayton Blair, Michael Witt, Carol Tomlinson, and Bill Stroud, guest.



Get all 4 issues of "The Crawford Countian" in one collection for \$15 (+\$5 shipping). You can contact me at billpiper@hotmail.com or mail payment to:
Bill Piper / CCHGS yearbook
PO Box 472
English, IN 47118

Don't forget, we still have yearbook collections for 2014 and 2015, as well as the Wyandotte Cave book all in this type of format.

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!



Find us 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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2017-2018 memberships are due by the end of June!