

A photograph of a rocky waterfall in winter. Large, clear icicles hang from the rocks and trees. The water is partially frozen, and the surrounding area is covered in fallen leaves. The text "The Crawford Countian" is overlaid in blue, underlined font at the top.

The Crawford Countian

Q1 - 2018

Greetings and welcome to the winter 2018 edition of the CCHGS Crawford Countian newsletter. The bitter cold weather has kept activities down to a minimum. We plan on having an art show for the late Earl Denbo towards the end of March and will also use the event as our "grand opening" for the building. I am thinking March 27, at 6pm, for the event. This is only a tentative date and time, but it is what we're going to shoot for. Be sure to follow us on facebook or on the website for more information of the event when we get closer to that date.



A final note, we are thinking about going all digital for the newsletter starting with the summer edition. Costs associated with printing and mailing out newsletters are very high. It can cost up to \$100 with each issue to do this and we have tried to cut corners but the fact of the matter is, it's quite an expensive endeavor and most people are online these days anyway. Our plan is to provide printed copies to those who live locally (i.e. you would be able to pick them up at the headquarters and/or at the monthly meeting), otherwise the newsletter will be sent out digitally. I am wanting to have a website for members only that will allow you to download the newsletter, as well as past issues. I will begin work on that shortly and if everything works out, I think this would be more beneficial for all.

Cover picture taken at Devil's Hollow Road outside Milltown.

-William Piper
 President of CCHGS
 email: billgpiper@hotmail.com

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Professor John Magill Johnson

I found these articles on Professor Johnson and wanted to share them with our readers. I believe his academy helped many students from our county. I didn't realize until I found these articles that it was only a boys school. The girls who were there must have been cooks and housekeepers. I believe that Blanche Heistand, who discovered Marengo Cave with her brother was a cook at the Academy at that time.

The Academy no longer stands, but the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society erected a historical marker near the site on April 29, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. I attended this dedication. Several of his descendants were present.

Professor Johnson opened a private school in Marengo in 1869 with 60 students. He designed a curriculum to provide students to move beyond common or elementary school education. In 1874 he renamed the school Marengo Academy. This was in a new building. One article I found stated that the school was open to both male and female students regardless of their ability to pay. This may have been in the latter years.

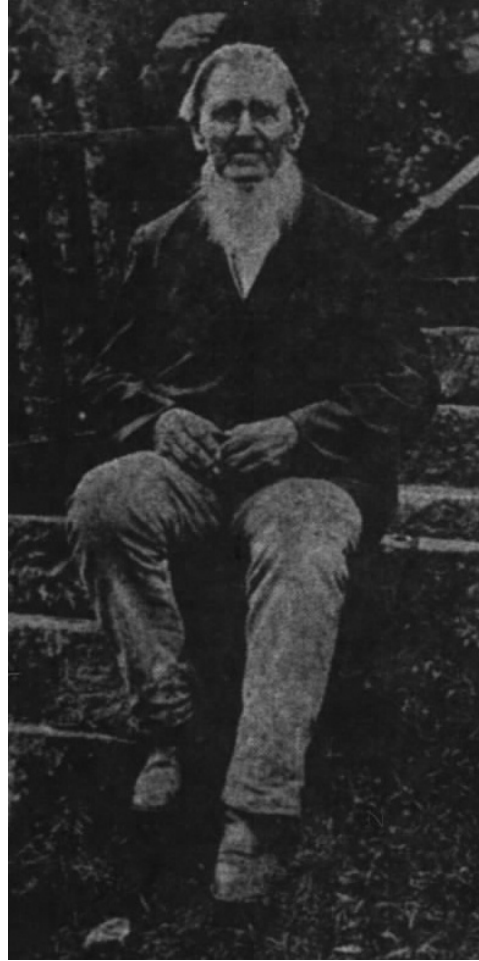
Professor Johnson retired from teaching in 1902. By 1910 the Academy building had been torn down. He died in 1918 and is buried in Marengo Cemetery.

I have been trying to locate a list of students that attended the Academy, but so far have had no luck.

Reprint of article in Sept 3, 1909 Indianapolis News

J. M. Johnson Attends Own Monument Dedication

ENGLISH, Ind., September 3.--Professor John M. Johnson, who taught in the old Marengo academy most of the young people of years ago who have gone out into the world from here, has just had the unusual distinction of being present at the dedication of his own monument. It has been erected in the Marengo cemetery by his old students, who are now scattered all over the country, and late in August they began to gather in for a grand reunion, the principal feature of which was the unveiling of the monument. Johnson, who is now more than eighty-three years old, was not only present, but the monument was unveiled by his little twelve-year-old granddaughter, Hazel Johnson, who lives at Ireland, Ind. The names of the memorializing pupils of the old academy are placed on the monument and on its side is a place left for the date of Johnson's death.



Johnson founded the old Marengo academy in 1869 and for more than thirty-three years it was conducted by him. Now it stands deserted, having passed, as practically all others of the old academies in this state. Johnson was born in the hills of Crawford county-in Whiskey Run township. And he lives today within a half mile of his birthplace. His father was a school teacher and the son took up the work when he was twenty-one years of age. In 1851 he was graduated from Indiana university and in 1869 he founded the old academy. Several thousand students passed through his hands and its doors and some of them, being very poor, were "credit" students, whose failure to afterward pay board and tuition, failed to make them creditable ones. A number of the graduates of the institution are prominent now and they led in the movement to raise the \$1,000 which was invested in the memorial. Among the speakers at the dedication were Judge John H. Weathers, of New Albany; Charles W. Thomas, of Corydon, and W. S. Hunter, of Jasper.



Besides being well known as the head of the old academy, Professor Johnson was well known over southern Indiana as a United Brethren minister. He was licensed by that denomination as a preacher in 1851 and carried on the work with his education duties. He has devoted most of his time to the pulpit since 1902, and it is said that he has



conducted more than one thousand funeral services. He has always done his ministerial work without any financial consideration, and he has been most effective.

Sources:

Indiana Historical Bureau
 The Indianapolis Star May 10, 1908
 (Newspapers.com)
 The Indianapolis News, Sept. 3, 1909
 (Newspapers.com)

- Roberta Toby

From the County Historian:

Here is a list of family histories that are located at the CCHGS headquarters building:

Agan, Descendants of William and Mary Agan
Allen Family Genealogy
Ash
Austin, 15 Generations in America
Osborn-Old Fairfield, Conn.
Guire Family
Hollis-of Weymouth, Mass.
Lanning-Anccestor Records of Pat Lanning
Allgood-Files on Allgood family of Meade Co. KY; Vol's. 1 & 2.
Ballard/Dillman Families
Bird-The History of Charlotte Bird
Belcher
Blackford/Bobbitt
Burmeister-The World Book Of
Condra-Vol's 1 & 2
Carroll, John H.
Dillman
Dillard, Fred (His History of Patoka Lake).
Dick Genealogy
Reflections, a book by Deanna Shoemaker Frye, Names-Eaton-Hedden-Powell-Ellis.
Enloe/Enlow
Funkhouser-In Memoriam of Albert Craig and Paul Taylor Funkhouser
Fields-My Family quest by Richard W. Fields
Gibson-Jenkins-Bradley Ancestry
Harper-Article in the book, The Women of Azusa Street about Rachel Harper Sizemore
Huff
Hays
Hughes by Fern Scoudan
Hardin, William and Family
Jones
Key
Laven
Longest, Descendants of Richard Longest
Leavenworth Family
Mathers
Mitchell
Mason
Nelson
Nelson- of Milford, Mass.
Osborn-Old Fairfield, Conn.
Prater/Prather
Payton, Ancestors of Ethel Claire Payton
Pope
Purcell
Pipes/Harriman
Qualters
Redden
Rhoades
Stevenson, Thomas
Stone, John

Scott, Arthur Martin
Scott, Moses & wife Elizabeth Shindler
Harper/Sizemore
Tower
Trusty
Taylor
Smith-The James Earl Smith Story
First Families of New Albany, Floyd Co.
The Tree That Grew, names of Sliger, Sleicher, Engle, Humphrey, Hoskins etc.
Fairchild
Wood/Fullenwider
Weathers
Walls
Wiseman/Goldman
Yates, John
Yates, Ruth Yates Collier

As always, if you have family histories to donate, contact us! dign4kin@gmail.com

Crawford County turns 200!!

Crawford County was formed from parts of Harrison, Orange and Perry counties on January 29, 1818. Formation by statute, effective March 1, 1818.

Governor Jonathan Jennings appointed Commissioners and our first Sheriff, Daniel Weathers.

Commissioners appointed in the act forming the county met in April, 1818, to select a county seat. They chose the site of Mount Sterling. The plat of the town was recorded on November 11, 1818. An act of December 24, 1821 provided for relocation to Fredonia. In our 200 years we have had six courthouses.

The people living in the area which is now Crawford County had so far to go to do official business, depending on which part of the area they lived in, they either had to go to Paoli, Corydon or Troy, which was the county seat of Perry prior to 1818. In 1818 the Perry county seat was moved from Troy to a place then called Washington, later named Franklin and then Rome. In those days traveling so far was a hardship, thus the people petitioned for a new county to be formed.

Some say the county is named after William H. Crawford, who was U. S. Treasury Secretary in 1818. Others say the name is in honor of Colonel William Crawford who fought in the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. He was scalped and burned by Indians in 1782 in what is now Wyandot County, Ohio. There are several states that have a County of Crawford named after this Col. William Crawford. This still remains a mystery, but my favorite is Col. Crawford.

Source:

Indiana Boundaries - Territory, State and County by Pence and Armstrong.

History of Crawford County by Hazen Hayes Pleasant.

Roberta Toby, County Historian



Veteran's Memorial Dedication Ceremony

At long last, the dedication ceremony for the Veterans Memorial took place on Saturday, November 11, 2017 (Veteran's Day). A special program honoring World War 2 veterans was held. While there was no final total of those in attendance, it is speculated there were several hundred. A great turn out for a memorial that is long over due in the county.



Previous meeting minutes:

October 10, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. HCI Survey Report - The results were presented by Carol.

The Hometown Collaborative Initiative was developed by the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs, Ball State University, and Purdue University. Its purpose is to help communities in Indiana identify needs and assets in order to make them a better place to live. All residents of our county and those who work here were encouraged to fill out a survey addressing three major areas of concern – place-making, leadership, and economy. These are the building blocks to plan and implement positive changes to improve our county. Only one will be selected as it's about a two-year process. There were 611 responses to the survey. Several priorities were identified in each building block. The 1st priority under place-making was to improve the downtown areas, under economy was to retain existing businesses, and under leadership was to improve interpersonal leadership skills. The results of the survey created a thoughtful discussion as we are very interested in positive outcomes for our communities.

Minutes - were reviewed. One correction noted – the date of the Faiths' cook-out changed from Oct. 21 to Nov. 4. Roberta made a motion to accept the minutes, 2nd by Stan, and the motion passed.

President's Report - Newsletter for the 4th quarter is out. An interesting program will be presented on Oct. 18 at the Dubois Public Library entitled " Grave Interest" by Jay Neighbors. Bill has created magnets for us to sell at the Sorghum Festival.

Vice-President's Report - Stan will talk on the history of dirt (where Crawford County came from) at the next meeting.

Financial Report - Sharon reported a beginning balance of \$11,907.21 as of Sept. 12. Deposits of \$101 for memberships and digital books brought the balance to \$12,008.21. Disbursements for utilities, booth rental at the 4-H building, and house payment totaled \$213.32. This leaves an ending balance of \$11,794.89. Total membership is 59.

Archives and Veterans Memorial Reports - given by Roberta. She deposited \$51 on Sept. 30th for the sale of a C C Camp book and \$25 on Oct. 10th for copies. Out of town visitors were from Elberfeld and from Charleston, So. Carolina. Dale Roll is no longer the maintenance man for the Archives. The dedication for the Memorial will be Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Lots of information on the veterans of the county for all the major wars or conflicts will be placed for the public to view. The Memorial has been over 6 years in the making but we can be proud that the Historical Society first gave life to it.

Proctorville Report - One more office has to sign off on the grant approving the specs for the materials that will be used in the restoration process. Then the bids for contractors will go out. The Proctor House account had a beginning balance of \$5,856.83. No deposits. Disbursements for utilities, insurance and mowing totaled \$1,458.40 leaving an ending balance of \$4,398.43.

Fund-Raising Report - Corydon Instant Print has given us quotes for printing Bi-Centennial calendars, pencils, and banners for our county's 200th birthday next year. Will also get quotes from a place in New Albany before making a decision.

Donations - WWII army uniforms from Donna Schultz. English memorabilia and a drawing of the old Beechwood store from Steve Eastridge.

Old Business - discussed the Bi-Centennial book we hope to print containing 200 interesting facts about the county – people, places, events, etc. An Open House for our new building was also discussed. Virginia Watson would like to display her father's (Earl Denbo) paintings at the event. He painted our county's seal and was a well-known artist here in the county.

Bills - Roberta presented a bill of \$217.12 for the new display cabinet and for postage.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is Nov. 14.

Those present were Roberta Toby, Bill Piper, Clayton Blair, Casey Blair, Mike Witt, Jim Kaiser, Louie Mitchell, Stan and Judy Faith, Sharon Morris, Don Standiford, and Carol Tomlinson.

November 14, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Program - Barbara Baker shared her memories of her Indian grandfather and grandmother. One was a Cherokee and the other was a Blackfoot. Her Indian name is Red Feather and she is very proud of her heritage. Her Cherokee grandfather taught her the language on the condition that she stick to it which she did. She also sings gospel music in the Cherokee language and she sang Amazing Grace beautifully for us. Her Cherokee grandfather would just come for a visit without letting them know and would stay for a long time. He told many stories about the past. Her great grandfather walked the Trail of Tears which was long and difficult. Many died of starvation and illnesses, and those that could not keep up were shot. Her grandfather's favorite time of year was Christmas and had beads and feathers woven into his hair for the occasion. She stated that treaties made by the Indians and the U.S. government were never kept, not a one. Many Indian tribes gather at Sycamore Springs in the spring and encouraged us to go the next time.

Minutes - Oct. 10th minutes were reviewed. Roberta made a motion to accept them, 2nd by Louie and the motion passed.

President's Report - Bill showed a huge stone that had been the cornerstone of a cabin built by Jane Sprinkle's ancestor on her land. The stone is impressive with a distinctive design, 16 rays around a center, carved or chiseled into it. He had contacted the State Historical Society and the Indiana Museum about the design, but they didn't know what it was. Bill has been taking pictures to the library for Anne to scan for the Indiana website. We will also have the digital pictures. He went to Vincennes for the program celebrating the release of the new George Rogers Clark quarter. Music, schoolkids and people in costumes, etc. Orange County Historical Society has an interesting program they put on like Murder Mysteries. They have remodeled their museum on the square in Paoli.

Financial Report - Beginning balance as of October 11 was \$11,794.53. Deposits from the Sorghum Festival, books and copies totaled \$201.81 bringing the balance to \$11,996.34. Disbursements to Roberta, real estate tax, house payment, and postmaster totaled \$2,587.20 leaving a balance of \$9,409.14. Membership is 59.

County Historian, Archives, and Veterans Memorial Association Reports - Franklin County, KY made a map of downtown areas for each of their towns. No Archives news. The dedication of the new Memorial drew a crowd of 300-500. Many government officials were there. It was wonderful. Next meeting will be Nov. 28th. The POW flag is up so there are 8 flags. A gazebo may be added.

Proctorville Report - A meeting with Cheri (Indiana Regions 15), Angie Kleer and Tomas her assistant will be this Thursday at 1:30 p.m. to go over all of the work that's to be done for the restoration. The notices for bids from contractors will be published soon. The account for the matching funds has been closed at Main Source Bank and a new one at First Savings established. The other Proctor House account will be closed as soon as a couple of bills have cleared. The beginning balance was \$4,398.43. Disbursements for utilities were \$88.69. Ending balance is \$4,309.74.

Fund Raising Report - A discussion about the Holiday Gift Show in Dec. Roberta made a motion to not participate this year, 2nd by Louie, and the motion passed.

The Open House for our building is scheduled for March when we celebrate Founder's Day and our Bi-Centennial. Bill wants to have several days to showcase Jenny Watson's artwork of her father, Earl Denbo.

Next meeting is the Christmas meeting/party to be held at Stan and Judy's house on Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. A motion by Roberta to not do a gift exchange, 2nd by Bill, and the motion passed. Everyone to bring a side dish and a dessert.

Meeting adjourned. Those present were Carol Tomlinson, Don Standiford, Louie Mitchell, Trudy Dunkle, Roberta Toby, Bill Piper, Clayton Blair, Mike Witt, Casey Blair, Ruth Terry, Judy Faith, Sharon Morris, and Rosco Hooten.

No meeting for December took place but a Christmas dinner was held at Stan and Judy Faith's house.

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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