



The Crawford Countian

Winter 2021

Welcome to the winter 2021 edition of The Crawford Countian. Once again I must bring sad news, this time with the passing of our Vice President Roscoe Hooten. I only knew Roscoe through the historical society and enjoyed his stories. Others who knew him longer always had something nice to say of him. Due to the current C19 pandemic, he hasn't been present at our meetings this year (what few we had). He will be missed. An obituary has been included in the newsletter. As of putting this together, I learned of the deaths of Evelyn Jackson and Mark Megenity. Evelyn was one of the members who spearheaded the Proctor House restoration in its early days and because of her work, the house would eventually get restored. Unfortunately due to health issues, she was never able to visit the house after its completion. I have included her obituary as well. While not a member of the CCHGS, Mark was a fixture in the county. I met him several times over the years at various events we held. He's participated in a few of the videos up on the "Crawford County IN History" youtube channel. It has been a tough year and I really hope it gets better from here!



- William Piper, President of CCHGS (billgpiper@hotmail.com)

Cover photo from Yellow Birch Ravine in Taswell

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LAND FOR SALE!!

For the main article of the newsletter, I decided to cite some old land-for-sale ads that CCHGS member Jason Froman found during his newspaper research. I find these ads pretty interesting especially considering how old they are.

From the Leavenworth Arena, Leavenworth IN - July 19, 1838 issue

SALE OF LOTS IN THE TOWN OF ALTON

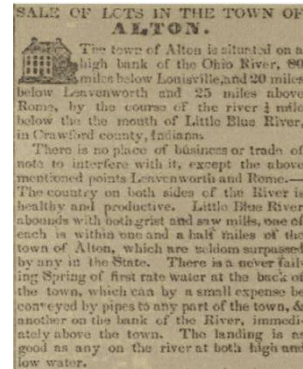
The town of Alton is situated on a high bank of the Ohio River, 80 miles below Louisville, and 20 miles below Leavenworth and 25 miles above Rome, by the course of the river 1/2 mile below the mouth of the Little Blue River, in Crawford County, Indiana.

There is no place of business or trade of note to interfere with it, except the above mentioned points Leavenworth and Rome. The country on both sides of the River is healthy and productive. Little Blue River inbounds with both grist and saw mills, one of each is within one and a half miles of the town of Alton, which are seldom surpassed by any in the State. There is a never failing spring of first rate water at the back of the town, which can by a small expense be conveyed by pipes to any part of the town, & another on the bank of the River, immediately above the town. The landing is as good as any on the river at both high and low water. The site for a ship yard is good, and timber of the best quality can be had more convenient and for less expense than any place in my knowledge.

The above named lots in the town of Alton will be sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 15th day of August next, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

TERMS OF SALE - One third in hand, one third in six months, and the balance in 12 months; or if cash all paid in hand a discount of 10 percent will be given to the purchases.

JAMES W. GAITHER, Proprietor. Alton, IN., July 5, 1838



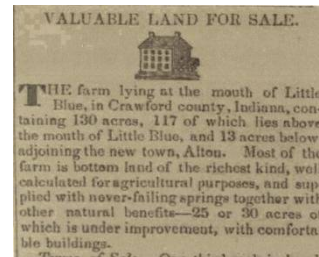
From the Leavenworth Arena, Leavenworth IN - June 25, 1840 issue

VALUABLE LAND FOR SALE

The farm lying at the mouth of Little Blue, in Crawford county, Indiana, containing 130 acres, 117 of which lies above the mouth of Little Blue, and 13 acres below, adjoining the new town, Alton. Most of the farm is bottom land of the richest kind, well calculated for agricultural purposes, and supplied with never-failing springs together with other natural benefits--25 or 30 acres of which is under improvement, with comfortable buildings.

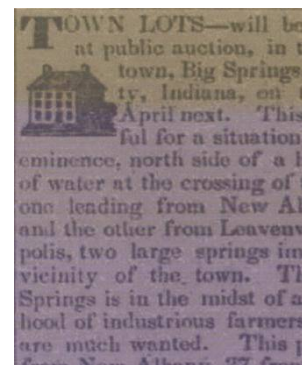
Terms of Sale - One third cash in hand, one third in one year, and the balance in two years.

Application to be made to J. N. Phelps, Leavenworth, IN, William Riddle, Merchant, Louisville, KY, or P. Doran, Vincennes, IN. May 14, 1840



From the Leavenworth Arena, Leavenworth IN - March 7, 1839 issue

TOWN LOTS - will be offered for sale at public auction, in the new laid out town, Big Springs, Crawford County, Indiana, on the 18th day of April next. This town is beautiful for a situation, the site is on an eminence, north side of a handsome stream of water at the crossing of the State Roads, one



leading from New Albany to Jasper, and the other from Leavenworth to Indianapolis, two large springs immediately in the vicinity of the town. The town of Big Springs is in the midst of a dense neighborhood of industrious farmers, and mechanics are much wanted. This place is 32 miles from New Albany, 37 from Jasper, 13 from Leavenworth, and 15 from Paoli.

TERMS: - Nine months credit given to purchasers. DAVID STEWART, Proprietor. Big Springs, Feb. 28, 1839.

"A Good Mother Gone"

This newspaper article is from the English News from English, IN, October 27, 1911 issue. What is of interest of this article is of who died. The article states "old homestead", could this be the Proctor House? -bp

"To die, is landing on some silent shore where billows never beat nor tempests roar."

Deep sorrow came to the home of the family of Mrs. David M. Stewart at Marengo, last Monday morning, Sunday, all day enjoying excellent health for one of her age, with children and grandchildren. Monday morning, cold in death. And such is life.

Monday morning, about five o'clock while coming down the stair steps at the old homestead, slipped and fell, fracturing her skull. Neighbors and physician were immediately called by phone and soon arrived, and though everything possible was done, mother died without regaining consciousness at nine o'clock of the same day.

Were it not for the beautiful and consoling doctrine of immortality handed down to us by patriarchs and prophets sages of all ages, the wise, the good and the true fathers and mothers, who have preceded us into the life beyond, this would be a time of deepest despair, for there has gone from us a most lovable and truly angel mother. Her life was filled with sunshine for all, in the church and in the home. Her earthly life has ended. It was filled with good deeds and noble actions, which built for her a beautiful home in the celestial kingdom. We shall ever remember her as one of the "angels" to beckon us "Nearer, My God to Thee."

Mary Proctor Stewart was born at Proctorville, about one mile east of Marengo, January 4, 1838 and departed this life October 23, 1911 at 9 o'clock, aged 73 years, 9 months and nineteen days. Her parents came to this county from Pennsylvania in the early part of the nineteenth century. January 7, 1855, she was united in marriage to David M. Stewart. To this union were born seven children. Her husband and three children preceded mother to the happy home. The remaining children are Florence Stewart and Minola Sloan, of Marengo; Clark Enoch Stewart, of Vincennes, and James E. Stewart, of English.

There was a large attendance of friends and relatives at the funeral which took place at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the old Christian church, of which church she had been a member for over fifty years. The religious services were conducted by Elder Sampson Cox and Prof J. M. Johnson and were very tender in sentiment and expression. The interment was in the family lot at Marengo Cemetery.

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ROSCOE JACOB HOOTEN II

August 23, 1947 ~ November 29, 2020 (age 73)

Roscoe Jacob Hooten II, died at home on Sunday, November 29, 2020 at the age of 73 after a long illness.

Hooten was born in Paoli, Indiana on August 23, 1947 to Constance (Soika) and Roscoe Jacob Hooten. Hooten grew up in Hendricks County. He was a 1965 graduate of North Salem High School and a 1969 graduate of Ball State University. Hooten married Patricia (Pat) Carol Cooper of North Salem on May 25, 1968.

Hooten began his working life as a teacher in Randolph County, but spent most of his career working in the grocery and convenience store business. Hooten retired from the Ackerman Oil Company in 2013.

Hooten and his family moved to Marengo in 1973. He was a man of deep faith and a member of the Marengo Christian Church where he served as a member of the board of trustees and as a deacon. He was an elder of the church at the time of his death. He also served on the board of the Scenic Hills Christian Youth Camp outside of Mitchell for many years.



Hooten was heavily involved in the community life of Marengo and Crawford County. He was a life member of the Marengo-Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department, and a long time precinct committeeman of the Republican Party in Crawford County. At the time of his death, Hooten was serving as a member of the board of directors of the Blue River Regional Water District and as vice president of the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Hooten was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Andrew and Robin Hooten.

Hooten is survived by Pat Hooten, his wife of 53 years; his son, Roscoe Jacob Hooten III (Jill) of Bloomington, Indiana; daughter, Krista Marie Finklea (Josh) of Conway, South Carolina; six grandchildren: Clay, Mackenzie, Abbey, and Tate Finklea, and Madeline and Jacob Hooten; his sisters: Suzanne McClanahan, Mary Ann Hooten-Bivens, and Elizabeth Clark; his brother Dwight Hooten, and numerous nephews and nieces.

From The County Historian:

This is a list of “squatters” that I found in one of Mack Tucker’s records.
(I have typed the list as it was in the book).

It might be of interest to list those who were “squatters,” some are definitely from Harrison and some from Crawford. These people signed a petition to Congress not to drive them off the land they had cleared and developed:

Gregory, William (C)

Barker, James (C)

Yates, John (C)

Gillenland, John (C)

Kendall, William (C)

Crezelous, Jacob (C)

Pittman, Laurence

Snider, John

Snider, Jacob

Bogard, Benjamin (C)

Goodson, John (C)

Stevens, Benjamin

Stevens, Jacob

_____ Fill

Hoover, Jonathan

Ash, Isaac (C)

McIntosh, William

Conrad, Philip

Heath, R, M,

Spencer, Geo C. (C)

Spencer, Thomas (C)

Smith, James G,

Black, Samuel

McBean, Gillis (H)

Brenham, Wm, M,

Bell, Daniel (H)

McGaughey, Arthur (H)

Wilson, Thomas

Crabbe, Benjamin

Kendall, ??

Kendall, William

Pittman, John

Maurer, Jacob

Brown, James

Scott, Abm. (C)

Smith, John

McCurry, Edward

Stevens, James

Long, Lem

Strother, William (C)

Houser, Samuel

Velen, Jonathan

French, Richard

Wright, Jonathan

Harys, James

Courtney, Michaga

Floyd, Davis (Judge)

Beeman, L. L. (H)

_____ J. G. W. W.

Pennington, Dennis

(C) Crawford (H) Harrison, NO date listed on the page.

Roberta Toby
County Historian

Evelyn Jackson

Evelyn Gayle Jackson, age 88, passed away Sunday, January 17, 2021. Evelyn was born September 18, 1932 at Marengo, IN to the late William and Masel F. Poe Harper. She was a member of War of 1812 Jonathan Jennings Chapter, former Regent of Hoosier Elm Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society, Milltown American Legion Post No 332 Auxiliary and New Salisbury Church of Christ.



Also, preceding her in death were her husband, Hugh E. Jackson and a son, Warren Jackson.

Surviving are

Daughter: Judith E. Jackson Hopper of Marengo, IN

Sisters: Edith Key and Anita Larimore (Morris) of Marengo, IN

Grandchildren: Hannah Harbeson (Travis)

Leslie Mathes

Evan Jackson

Great Grandchildren: Emma Jackson, Kaden and Zander Mathes



LINOTYPE STORY....

The following story was read at a recent CCHGS meeting by Carol Tomlinson-Standiford. This article was sent to her via John Flanigan. This article is from:

<https://www.moabtimes.com/articles/castle-valley-commentsapril-24-2014/>

April 24, 2014

Pat and I just returned from a trip that took us to some of the mid-western states to visit historic Mormon sites as well as other tourist locations. It was a trip that we have taken many years before with our son Bobby and his wife Lisa, when they were first married but this time we had their four children with us. We also took in the sights of St. Louis, Mo., including the famous Gateway Arch and a paddle wheel boat ride down the mighty Mississippi River.

Bobby and Lisa had to leave on Thursday for other commitments at home so Pat and I stayed and toured other places on our list of things to do. One of those places for me was English, Ind., admittedly not your typical tourist destination spot, but a place that I have wanted to visit again for a long time.

Years ago, when I decided to follow a career in printing and the graphic arts industry, I decided that I needed to learn how to operate the Linotype machine. Linotype operators during those days were high paid and actively sought after by newspapers and magazines to set the type for their publications.

The Linotype machine was a line-casting machine used in printing along with letterpress printing. It was the industry standard for newspapers and magazines from the late 19th century to the 1960s and 70s, when it was replaced by offset lithography printing and computer typesetting. The name of the machine comes from the fact that it produces an entire line of metal type at once, hence a "line-o-type," a significant improvement over the previous industry standard, which was the composing stick and drawers of letters.

The Linotype machine operator enters text on a 90-character keyboard. The machine assembles matrices, which are molds for the letter forms, in a line. The assembled line is then cast as a single piece, called a slug, of type metal in a process known as "hot metal" typesetting. The matrices are then returned to the type magazine from which they came, to be used later. This allowed much faster typesetting and composition than the original hand composition in which operators placed down one pre-cast metal letter, punctuation mark or space at a time.

The machine revolutionized typesetting and with it publishing, making it possible for a relatively small number of operators to set type for many pages on a daily basis. Before Mergenthaler's invention of the Linotype in 1884, no daily newspaper had more than eight pages.

As a high school student working after school at a daily newspaper, I was mesmerized by the 2,000 moving parts of the machines as they worked in complete harmony with each other, producing columns of type from molten lead. After school, I used to clean the space bands

and pour the liquefied lead into molds for the machines, but was not allowed near the machines otherwise.

While researching Linotype schools I settled on the Milo Bennett Linotype School in English, Ind., because of their reputation as being a premier institution. It was operated by Mrs. Flanigan, the widowed wife of Maurice Flanigan of the English Publishing Company. She arranged my boarding and that of a fellow student with Mrs. Brown, another widowed lady of that small town.

I boarded a Greyhound Bus in Escondido, Calif., in July, 1961 and traveled Route 66 to St Louis, where I spent the night in a sleazy hotel in order to catch my connecting bus the next morning. The connecting bus only came within about 25 miles of English so when the bus driver pulled over to the side of the highway and told me that was where I was to get off, it seemed like I was out in the middle of nowhere standing there alone with my suitcase. As the bus pulled away and continued on down the road I noticed a little road that intersected with the highway and I figured that must be where I needed to go. Several miles down the road, an old gentleman driving a rickety Model A pickup stopped and gave me a ride to English, Ind., where I spent the next six months learning the keyboard and mechanics of the Linotype machine. When I went to work for The Times-Independent in 1980, Sam Taylor still had an old Linotype sitting idle in the backroom of the shop.

So after 50 years I was excited to visit the old town, which I remember as a bustling little place, especially on a Saturday night when the local farmers and their families came to town to buy groceries and supplies. There was a weekly newspaper office across the street from the school, several restaurants nearby, a hardware store, a grain mill, a gas station and garage, and several other businesses that could be found in a typical mid-western town. There was usually a Saturday night square dance in a pavilion not far from the center of town and a softball game during the evenings. It was a neat little town located at the confluence of Bird Dog Creek and Brownville Creek that connected with the Blue River, and I was looking forward to the visit.

But when I drove into the town last week, there was nothing there. The town was gone except for an old gas station and small convenience store and a few houses at the higher elevations. Come to find out after doing some research, the town of English suffered five major floods after I left there in 1961 and the town council decided that the only solution to the flooding problem was to move the town. The town purchased 160 acres of high ground and a partnership was formed with Lincoln Hill Development Corporation, and the entire town was relocated. This was the second-largest relocation of an entire town in U.S. history and it is located high and dry several miles away next to the old U.S. 64.

So, similar to the old Linotype machine, the old town of English is gone and replaced by a new sterile version that lacks the charm and uniqueness of the original. One of the local residents said that it is not the bustling little town that it used to be because farming is no longer a viable profession there.

So it is with some sadness that I can scratch that experience off of my bucket list.

By Ron Drake

Mark Megenity

Mark Megenity, 67, of English, IN passed away on Thursday January 14, 2021 following a tragic accident on his small farm near English, IN.

He was born on October 7, 1953 in Salem, IN to George "Hester" and Helen (Gilliatt) Megenity.

Mark retired from teaching at Marengo and English Elementary Schools where he taught for over 30 years. He was a noted environmentalist, lover of nature, history, and geology. Mark enjoyed carpentry, playing pool, and sport fishing. He lived a full life and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Central America, South America, and Africa. Mark was a good friend to everyone he met and will be sorely missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Hester and Helen Megenity, his sister Sherry, and his brothers; Robert and Douglas.

Mark is survived by his longtime companion Anita Carner, his brother Victor Megenity, and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and hundreds of friends.



Attention!

As some of you may know, efforts to save/restore the Big Springs Church in Marengo have been ongoing for quite some time now. Recently CCHGS member Pamela Poe has taken the lead with this project. To spread awareness of the project, please "LIKE" the facebook page of the project at: <https://www.facebook.com/MarengoBigSpringsOldTownChurch> Until an official site for the project is up, this will be the page for updates regarding the project.

Past meeting minutes:

October 13, 2020:

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Piper at 6:30 P.M. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

No program.

President's report - A large collection of old films have been donated by William and Rea Kersey, a professor at Indiana University. His wife's grandfather, Lester Merrick, made them in the 30s and 40s. He liked traveling to places of interest and filming them. They show Patoka, Indiana and surrounding areas. Many of the areas are in Southern Indiana, such as Spring Mill State Park, and even Camp Taylor in Louisville. They are interesting because they show people, cars, places, etc. as they were then. Bill is digitizing them and putting them on youtube under the Crawford County Indiana History channel.

The newsletter will be out next week, and will contain Don Standiford's [a former CCHGS President] obituary.

Jason has been researching the dispute that happened many years ago that involved three Crawford County banks of which a write-up had appeared in a Chicago newspaper. This will be included in the newsletter as well.

Minutes - were reviewed. No corrections noted. Jim Kaiser made a motion to accept. Louie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Financial report - Presented by Bill. Beginning balance as of September 8, 2020, was \$7,366.79. Deposits from memberships, donations, books, and yard sale totaled \$1,510.00. Disbursements for utilities and other expenses totaled \$829.90. Ending balance as of October 13 is \$8,046.89.

Archives report - Henry Laswell renewed his membership. Carol Baker donated many old books, such as census and county history. Roberta will send her a thank-you letter.

Veterans Memorial Association report - The trees for landscaping have all been planted and look wonderful. Cannon has been relocated for sand blasting and painting, so no longer in the old park downtown. When ready, it will be moved to its new home at the Memorial.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Present: Bill Piper, Jason Froman, Jim Kaiser, Louie & Diane Mitchell, Robert Toby, Ruth Terry and Carol Tomlinson

November 10, 2020:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Program - Louie Mitchell gave a very nice presentation on the natural wonders of Crawford County. This included four nature preserves:

1. One by Wyandotte
2. Yellow Birch Ravine at Taswell

3. Carnes Dam near Grantsburg
4. Patoka Lake Nature Preserve by Patoka Reservoir

The first three are hard to find, little or no parking and difficult terrain, but are worth the effort - interesting rock formations and other glories of nature. Hemlock Cliffs is better known as it attracts many visitors who enjoy hiking the trails. Potts Creek, just past West Fork on IN-62, is an archaeological site. In the winter, you can see it from the highway.

Carol Tomlinson read an account by Ron Drake who had been a student of the Milo Bennett Linotype School in English. That school was begun by Paul Flanigan and operated by his wife, Mary, after his death. It was regarded as one of the best in the country, and lasted nearly 50 years. Ron recounted how he had been fascinated with the Linotype machine and wanted to learn the technique. So he boarded a Greyhound Bus in Escondido, California, in July, 1961. Traveled Route 66 to St. Louis where he spent the night. He caught the connecting bus the next morning, but it didn't go all the way to English, instead dropped him off about 20 miles from the town. He started walking with his suitcase and several miles later was picked up by an old gentleman in a Model A pickup truck. He had fond memories of English as it was a bustling little place especially on Saturday night when people came to town to buy groceries, supplies, and maybe see a movie. There was even a dance. Fifty years later he returned to English only to find that little town no longer existed. It had been relocated on higher ground because of a devastating flood.

President's report - Newsletter is out. He's done some more landscaping by removing the bushes on the side of the HQ building. Plastic will be put underneath the building as a vapor barrier. The sump pump is working well as it's nice and dry under the building.

Minutes - were reviewed. Roberta made a motion to approve, Carol seconded, and the motion passed.

Financial report - Beginning balance as of Oct. 14 was \$8,046.89. Deposits of \$180 brought it to \$8,226.89. Disbursements for insurance, utilities and house payment totaled \$1,044.39. Ending balance is \$7,185.50. Membership is 76.

Nothing to report from County Historian, Archives, or Veterans Memorial Association.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Those present - Roberta Toby - Louie & Diane Mitchell, William Piper, Jason Froman, Carol Tomlinson, and Debbie Oxley, who became a new member.

There was no meeting in December. Typically we have an annual Christmas dinner but due to the covid19 pandemic, we decided against it this year.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS WANTED!

If you have an idea to help raise funds, we would love to hear them. With the current pandemic restrictions still in place and funds diminishing, we need to earn money to keep the lights on. Any suggestions are welcomed. You can email them to me at billgpiper@hotmail.com or stop by HQ when we are open on Tuesday and Thursday, from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. and talk to either myself (Bill) or Jason. Any idea is welcomed as you never know what it may lead to.

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.

Permission is needed for any re-productions.



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<https://indianahumanities.org/INCares>



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Funding has been provided to the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society from The Community Foundation of Crawford County through their COVID-19 Emergency Funding Grant.

<https://www.cf-cc.org/covid-19.html>

