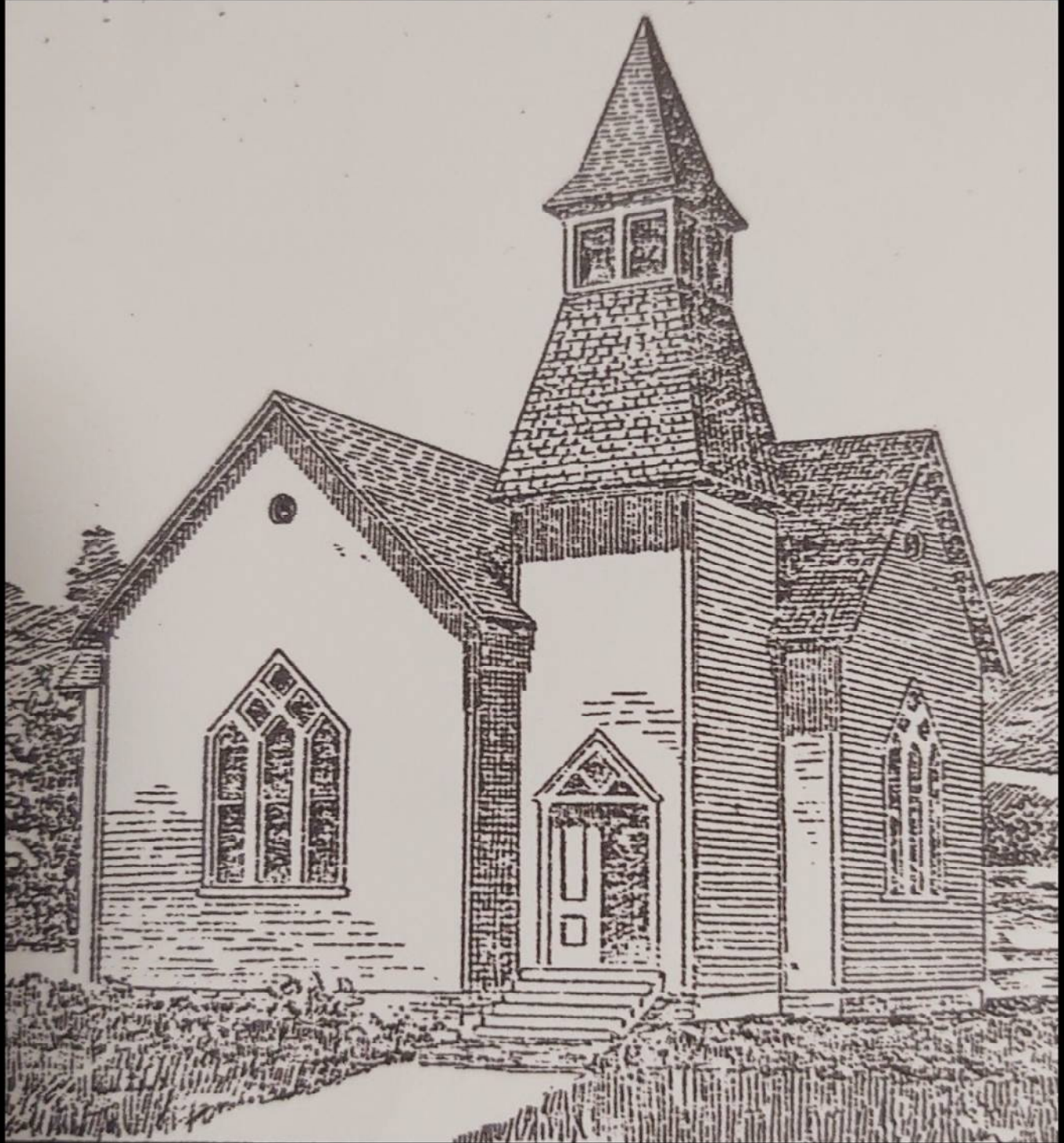


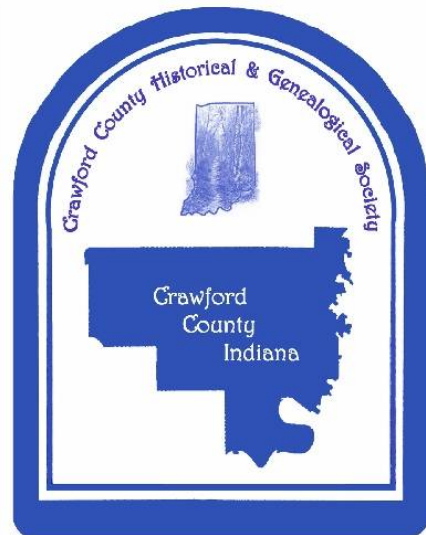
The Crawford Countian



Spring 2022

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Crawford Countian, the official newsletter of the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society. It's been slow during the winter months, as usual. Our upcoming Spring fundraiser for the Proctor House is scheduled for May 20 (Fri) and 21 (Sat). Any donations are appreciated! Any help is even more appreciated!!! Also if you wish to renew your membership for the 2022-2023 year, you can go ahead and do that rather than wait until June.

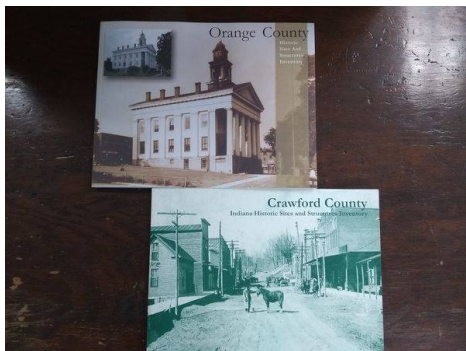
- William Piper, President of CCHGS
 Email: billgpiper@hotmail.com



Cover pic: English Christian Church engraving

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The CCHGS has copies of the Crawford County and Orange County Inventory Structure books for sale, \$15 each. If you need them shipped to you, \$5 will cover postage. Email me at billgpiper@hotmail.com if you are interested. We have these for sale at our building in English, so swing by if you are local.

History of the English Christian Church

This information packet was given to me by Bob Roberts. I am not sure who originally put it together, but I thought it was interesting.

History of the English Christian Church

The English Christian Church was organized in October, 1819. Our earliest record of our church organization and doctrine read as follows:

English, Ind.

February 8, 1905

We, the disciples of the Church of Christ, worshipping at English, Crawford County, Ind., do hereby agree and constitute ourselves together as one body, for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Christ, denouncing all human creeds and taking the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice.

We further retain the old organization that was organized October, the first Lord's Day 1819.

A check on perpetual calendar shows this date to be October 3, 1819.

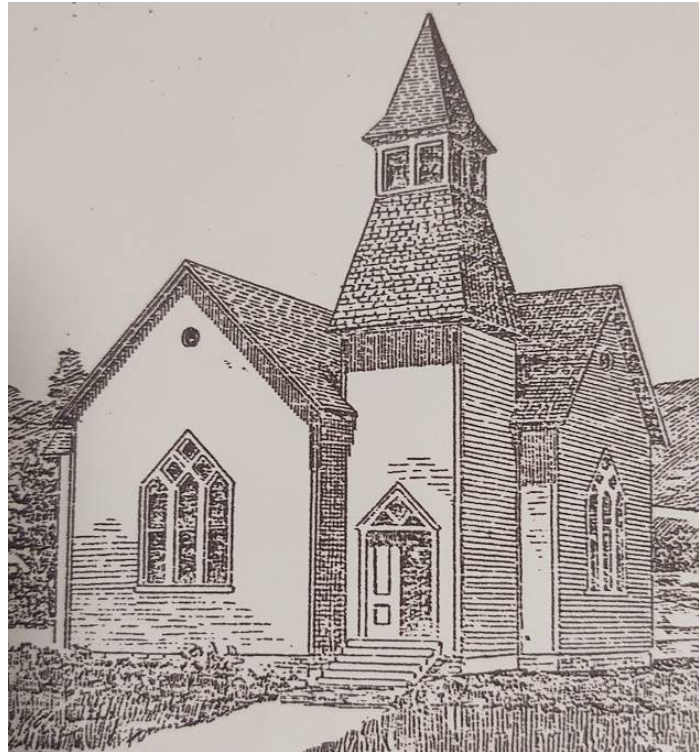
We assume that the foregoing statement of doctrine was a copy or a reproduction of the original in October, 1819.

It is interesting to note that our church today holds exactly to the same creed and doctrine.

Some more information on this early church is found in a paragraph on page 151 in Prof. H.H. Pleasant's "Crawford County History." It reads as follows:

"The Blue River meeting house was built not far from the main part of town. At first there were only thirteen members. Kincaid and D.M. Stewart were working hard for the success of the church. Later more members came and at the beginning of the Civil War the Christian Church was firmly established."

More information on the church, both early and later, is found in the following newspaper clipping:



Church at English to Mark 126th Anniversary Thursday

English, Ind., Sept. 29 - Indiana was but three years old, Crawford County had been formed the preceding year and the United States was in it's 30th year when the English Christian Church was established October 4, 1819. It will mark it's 126th anniversary Thursday.

Its birthplace was was the log cabin home of its founder, the Rev. Joseph Kincaid. Its 13 charter members were mostly members of his family, including a son who already was a minister. Into this crude home, another son, John Kincaid, was born and his children and grandchildren, retelling the stories he taught them, have furnished the only available history of that early congregation. One of these stories relates how, during a revival when the weather turned bitterly cold, he was surprised to see the men of the congregation break the stern rule of no Sunday labor by going out into the forests to cut fuel to keep the roaring fire going in the wide open fireplace--the only means of heating and cooking in the one-room house.

The congregation continued to worship many years in this typical pioneer home with its puncheon floors at the time when sawed boards, even for the doors were a luxury. Seven generations have continued the steady history of the English Christian Church which claims the distinction of being the third oldest Christian church in Indiana.

Its founder, Elder Joseph Kincaid, had brought his family here from Barren County, Ky., only a few months before starting the church in the wilderness. It is believed that in Kentucky he had been associated with the Stones and other early leaders who moved to restore the church to the early followers of Christ.

Since 1897, the congregation has used the present building but it has been remodeled, modernized and re-dedicated in 1933. The present building is the third the congregation has used since its meeting in the Kincaid cabin.

The above clipping was furnished by Mrs. Birdie Jane Hooten, of Paoli. She is a great-granddaughter of the Rev. Joseph Kincaid.

To the historical perspective, included in the first paragraph of the newspaper clipping just mentioned, may be added the following. In 1819, at the time this church was organized, James Monroe was serving his first term as president of the U.S. Napoleon Bonaparte was spending the last years of his life as a prisoner on the island of St. Helena. It was more than forty years before the Civil War.

On Sunday, October 5, 1919, the church celebrated its 100th anniversary. The Rev. C. W. Parks, of Huntingburg, was the pastor. This anniversary celebration was held in a building located a short distance south of the railroad.

In 1933, as mentioned in the newspaper clipping, the church house was remodeled, modernized, and rededicated. It was enlarged by the removal of some of the corners. It's seating capacity was further increased by the addition of a balcony. The Rev. C.W. Parks presided at the dedication.

Many interesting and productive revivals have been held in the English Christian Church. Only a few will be mentioned here. Two interesting revivals were held by Evangelist John W. Marshall in or about 1909 and 1910. One interesting feature of his revivals was the extensive use of charts. One of his never to-be-forgotten sermons or lectures was the "Miff Tree."

Probably the most famous or publicized revival of all was a four weeks' revival held by the Crabb Evangelistic Company. The evangelist was A.W. Crabb, of Brazil, Ind. This revival took place mainly in March of 1912. The first week of this revival was held at the church. But the church house proved inadequate for the crowds, and the revival was transferred to a local opera house, located upstairs in the stone building. An idea of the crowds can be gained from the following statement taken from the Democrat of April 12, 1912. "The opera house was filled at every service, and on Saturday and Sunday nights would scarcely hold the people."

The total of baptisms and transfers coming into the church was 109. It was a record for the evangelist and undoubtedly a record for the church.

Another statement from the Democrat issue of April 12, 1912 reads as follows. "It may truly be said that this meeting was the best ever held in English, and the results will never be forgotten, and seeds sown will spring up in the hearts of the hearers and be harvested in the years to come."

Unquestionably, one of the greatest orators to hold a revival here was Evangelist Olan G. Mozena, of Parkersburg, West Va. He was here almost 5 weeks in February and March, 1921. He was an artist at painting word pictures. In another never-to-be forgotten sermon, "The Seven Windows of Life," he held a Sunday morning audience spellbound long after the noon hour. According to one witness, the time of the sermon was 2 hours and 15 minutes. But so thrilling, so interesting, so challenging was this sermon that apparently nobody got restless or tired. So popular was this sermon that he gave it again on one of the evenings of the revival but this time it was definitely shortened.

At the present, the church under the capable and energetic ministry of Mason Seevers is probably most noted for its "Faith Promise" program. The "Faith Promise" era was introduced by a former minister, Wayne Unger. It was enthusiastically sponsored by the next minister, Wayne Jocelyn, the immediate predecessor of the present minister. The church, considering its size, has achieved some spectacular goals in its "Faith Promise" work. The "Faith Promise" program was started in September, 1965. On September 1, 1969, four years later, \$20,327.06 had been given toward missionary work. The bulk of this money has been given to the following five missionaries: Wayne Unger, Charles Bell, Tom Thurman, Al Zimmerman & Anne D. Welt.

Most of the money has been spent in Africa. The first four of the above missionaries are either working now or have worked at some time in Africa. The last named missionary, Anne D. Welt, has worked in Mexico.

An interesting local project is the use of a small part of this missionary money for a scholarship fund. This fund is used to help the young people of our congregation who are attending Bible colleges.

Incidentally, 10% of the general or free will offering goes to missionary work. Of this 10%, Charles Bell receives 7.5%, and the Southern Indiana Christian Mission Youth Camp the remaining 2.5%.

In conclusion, the church is proud of many of its achievements but it knows that it can not rest on its laurels but needs to look forward to still greater achievements.

Mack Tucker-A Former Historian of Crawford County

Mack Tucker, was born on the 22nd day of October, 1890, at Eckerty, Indiana. He died on the 17th day of February, 1982, at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Jasper, IN. He was the son of Allen B. and Mary Elizabeth Allen Tucker. He attended several colleges and became a teacher and principal. He served in WWI as Private in the Three Hundred Seventy Seventh AERO Squadron and also the 140th AERO Squadron. He was aboard these two ships that I found a record of; the Corsica, and the Empress of Britain, this was in March and December of 1918.

In an article dated Monday, April 18, 2022 in the Vevay, Indiana newspaper, it states: 80 years ago, Mack Tucker, Principal of Vevay High School, and Miss Jessie Gill of Eckerty, IN were married on Christmas Eve. Jessie Alfretta (Gill) Tucker, died at the age of 54, in 1950, and she and Mack are buried in the Mentone Cemetery, Mentone, Kosciusko Co; Indiana. I could find no record of them having children, and it appears they were married in their middle age years. In 1921 and 1922 he was a teacher at Princeton, Indiana. He served as principal at Bremen, Indiana, and news articles I have included will show several other places he taught.

He did extensive genealogical and historical research. Several volumes of his work are at the Crawford County Library in English, Indiana. In an article that is included, it mentions that he gave his work to Mrs. Ervin Jesch of the DAR. I believe these are the same records that are at the library.

The following newspaper articles will show how devoted he was to teaching and the preservation of history.

Roberta Toby, County Historian



Mack Tucker of Good Samaritan Home presented his volumes of genealogical records to Mrs. Ervin Jesch of English at a meeting of Ouiska Run Daughters of the American Revolution of Crawford County. Mr. Tucker was the honored guest Wednesday at a luncheon at the Heritage Inn in Jasper.

(Staff photo)

Presents records to DAR

Mack Tucker of Good Samaritan Center in Jasper presented his volumes of genealogical records to Mrs. Ervin Jesch of English at a meeting of the Ouiska Run Daughters of the American Revolution of Crawford County. Tucker was the honored guest Wednesday at a luncheon at the Heritage Inn in Jasper.

A retired school teacher who has done extensive genealogy research, Tucker turned his volumes of work over to Mrs. Jesch, who will have charge of them for genealogy purposes.

Tucker taught school last at Angola and a short while in Marengo before retiring. He previously had taught in Illinois, Bremen and in the Birdseye schools. He did his historical

research after retirement.

The several volumes include census records from 1820-1880 plus some of the later years, marriage records from 1818 to 1906 and general records of old families.

Hostess for the noon luncheon on Wednesday was Mrs. Ted Bayer, with Mrs. Ervin Jesch and daughter, Sandy, serving as cohostesses.

Other guests attending were southern director Mrs. Hubert Bruce of Tell City; Mrs. Charles Jamison, state historian, Lynnville; Mrs. Zella Davidson, state membership commission chairman, Boonville; Mrs. Walter Mason, Indiana DAR news editor, Huntingburg; Mrs. Dorothy Hall, New Albany; and members of the host chapter.

Hangman's Noose Keeps Legend Alive



A LEGEND — Mack Tucker, inset, had this legend says, was an innocent victim of mob violence. monument erected in honor of John J. Davidson, who, (Staff Photo by Carolyn Cook)

By CAROLYN COOK
Herald Staff Writer

Legend says his age was 27, his gallows was a tree in Shady Grove, and he was innocent.

On Aug. 12, 1887, John J. Davidson went about his day's activities with no idea of the fate he faced. He and his wife had a new baby. They were happy. All was well when he went to bed that night.

John had a mischievous brother, Clay, who wanted to court the daughter of an area family, but the girl's parents objected because of Clay's prankish nature and religious differences of the young people.

Unknown to John, Clay had gone to see the girl after he learned that her parents were gone for the day. They had left her and a brother at home. Clay devised a way to get to see her: he let the cows out. She sent her brother to get them back, and while he was busy she ran out into the woods to meet her suitor.

When the parents came home that afternoon the girl had not returned. The father became angry and upset. He began to search for her.

First, he searched the wooded area. Then, he began going from house to house asking if anyone had seen his daughter. In each home he rehearsed what had happened that day. Men from different households joined him in his search.

Unable to find the girl, the group of men gathered in a home and shared some drinks. As they were discussing what could have happened to the girl, the father mentioned Clay's interest in her.

Emotions rose as the group surmised that Clay had forced the girl from her home. They were going to get Clay.

The group decided that John would know where Clay was. They were determined that he would know

They awakened John and demanded that he tell them Clay's whereabouts. When he insisted that he knew nothing, they took him from his home and roughed him up to get the information they wanted.

They took John with them as they searched for Clay, but were unable to find him.

In their frustration of not finding the girl nor Clay, and getting no answers from John, the group decided that something must be done. They found a rope and a tree, they hanged John.

According to the legend there was no need to hang John; he was already dead from the group's brutal treatment.

John J. Davidson was buried quickly. His grave was not marked.

Mack Tucker, a retired teacher from Tri-State College in Angola, purchased a monument and had it erected on the plot believed to be Davidson's grave.

Upon his retirement, Tucker returned to West Fork. There, he tended a small farm and sold monuments for Schum Monument Company of Dale.

During this time he used his earnings from monument sales to put up monuments on unmarked graves.



Tucker recalled the story he had heard about Davidson. He gathered information from the people of the area and had a tombstone made with the following inscription: John J. Davidson, "John Davis," Jan. 12, 1860, Aug. 13, 1887, Vengeance is mine sayeth the Lord.

In the center is a hangman's noose.

Tucker placed the monument in the Kellems family cemetery which is just across the southeast Dubois County line in Perry County.

The cemetery is small and obscure. With one exception, the monument is like many others. The inscription and the hangman's noose evokes curiosity of those who see it and keeps the legend of John J. Davidson alive.

BEEF
CHUCK ROAST . . . lb. **85c**
CIN. OF 8 — 16 OZ.
DOUBLE-COLA . . . 99c
REUBER'S
FOOD MARKET

Thank You . . .

to the voters of the Sixth Ward
for their expression of confidence
given me on November 4.

Dr. E. J. Ploetner
Councilman — Jasper

A resident since July 22, 1969, Mack Tucker is a native of rural Eckerty. He is credited with 30 years of teaching which included being the principal in Breman School for 11 years. He taught in both Perry and Crawford counties.

Tucker was graduated from Danville Normal College and earned his master's degree from Indiana University. Having majored in mathematical physics, Tucker covered extensive studies toward a doctorate in physics. His thesis, "Reflection of One Meter in Waves" is on record in the general library at Indiana University. He recalls that his boarding meals were 12½ cents or \$33 for the year with no charge for the bed.

Mack Tucker, English

Mack Tucker, 91, who had been a resident at Northwood Good Samaritan Nursing Center in Jasper since 1969, died at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at the center.

Surviving are nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Denbo Funeral Home in English, with burial at Mentone Cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home today.

Herald Jasper, IN 19 Feb. 1982

Clip

Gobbel House photo

Thanks to Becky Stetter for sharing this photo. She found it in her mom's files.



Gobbel house burns

Photo by Carol Benham

A landmark in English, known as the Gobbel place was heavily damaged Thursday, Nov. 6. Blaze was discovered in the two-story frame home owned by the Joe Stewart family at about 9:53 p.m. English firefighters arrived at 9:55 p.m. and remained on the scene until about 1 a.m. The fire, which started on the

first floor, spread upstairs. Damage was estimated at about \$10,000. Cause of the fire was determined to be a defective chimney, a spokesman for the department said. John Kennybrook of Marengo, Louisville fireman, assisted the local department in extinguishing the blaze.

In memory of Elaine Stephenson

For those who did not know, long time Crawford County (Leavenworth) resident, Elaine Stephenson passed away. Due to the COVID pandemic, she had not been to any of the meetings in the past two years, but would appear at most of our meetings prior. She always wanted to talk about her beloved town of Leavenworth! She was such a cheerleader for the town! Below is her obituary:

Elaine Davis Stephenson, 93, passed away at home on March 4, 2022. She was born in 1928 in Ames, Iowa, the daughter of Melvin Grant and Sylvia Mae Sharp Davis. She served for many years as media specialist-librarian at Crawford County Jr.-Sr. High School (introduced computers to the library) and taught school in Harrison and Crawford Counties. Elaine owned-operated Stephenson and Co., Inc. General Store. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Old Capital Saddle Club, Crawford County Historical Society, and served as a 4H Horse and Pony leader. Elaine raised and exhibited Morgan Horses, co-founded three regional Morgan Horse Associations, and wrote for the National Horseman magazine. Elaine held degrees from Stevens College, University of Illinois, and Spalding University(Masters). She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Jack R. Stephenson, and her sisters, Melvina Ralsten and Beryl Kibbe. Elaine is survived by her children, John Davis Stephenson (Christina) of Cincinnati, OH, Scott Rainforth Stephenson of Louisville, KY, and Polly S. Mohr (William) of Leavenworth; grandchildren, Rachael Stephenson, Eric Stephenson (Kayla), Morgan Mohr (Christopher McIntyre), Max Mohr, Trent Stephenson, and Ben Stephenson.



Photo from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day event, hosted on March 29 at the Veterans Memorial / Count Annex building, before heading to the VFW building. Thank you veterans!!!!!!



A Bizarre Tale. . .

Here is a different type of story regarding Crawford County. This old newspaper describes quite the incident at Pilot Knob. The article states this specimen was preserved. Makes one wonder if it's still out there somewhere...

From the Fort Wayne Sentinel, Feb 3, 1872

Lusus Naturae

Quite a remarkable freak of nature has been brought to light in the practice of Dr. Daily, of Grantsburg, Crawford County, Indiana. A few weeks ago a woman living near Pilot Knob gave birth to a child with limbs and body perfect, but with the face and head of a calf. It has two hard, bony horns, half an inch long, on it's head, encircled with hair, two eyes like the eyes of a calf, and another eye on the back of the head. It lived but a few moments after it was born, and has been preserved by the doctor as a strange and unusual lusus naturae. *New Albany Tribune.*

Previous meeting minutes:

March 8, 2022

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

Program: Bill Piper shared with the group the various items that had been donated to the society over the winter. Larry Archibald donated quite a few items from his father's collection relating to English. Bette Hunt donated various English yearbooks from the 1960s. The Roggenkamp family also donated various items.

No previous meeting minutes were read due to last meeting was from November.

President/Newsletter/Website report: Been pretty slow over the winter.

Vice President report: mentioned items donated, as well as still wanting to get a Genealogy class with Anne at the Library.

Financial/Membership report: Beginning balance as of January 12, 2022: \$8060.46. After deposits and disbursements over the past two months, ending balance as of February 28: \$7351.44. Membership: 63, Corporation: 2, Library: 1, total: 66.

County Historian / Archives / Veteran's Memorial Report: There is a flag disposal box at the Annex building. Nothing on archives. The cannon has been placed at the Veteran's Memorial. A meeting is planned in the near future for the Veteran's group.

Proctorville report: Bill and Robin will start cleaning up the house for our upcoming open season.

Fundraising: Proctor House spring yard sale set for May 20 & 21.

Other business: Roberta asked about putting newsletters up on the site for non-members to view. After some discussion, it was agreed to place past newsletters on the site, but to leave a 2 year exclusivity of recent newsletters for members only.

Meeting ended: 7:30pm

Attending: William Piper, Jason Froman, Jim Kaiser, Cheryl Allen, Louie Mitchell, Diane Mitchell, Liam Stroud, Lance Stroud, Andy Laswell, Glenda Laswell, Ruth Terry, Roberta Toby, Angela Thompson.

Membership Dues

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

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

Meetings

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

Website:

www.cchgs.org

Social Media:

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



Books for sale

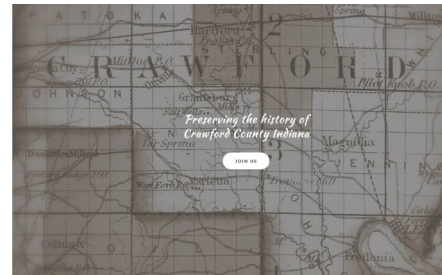
Our book list has been REVISED!! Some out of print titles have now returned and we are also offering DIGITAL versions of most of our books. The digital versions will be sold on CD-R in PDF format. Check our website, <http://www.cchgs.org> for more information!

The Crawford Countian is the official newsletter of the CCHGS.

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Be sure to visit our website to keep up to date on various events, our hours of operations, books for sale and other misc items. If you have a suggestion, you can send it to me via the site or send queries as well for the newsletter.