

THE CRAWFORD COUNTIAN

SPRING 2024



Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of The Crawford Countian. It has been quite slow this winter but hopefully the warmer weather will bring in some visitors. Over the past few months I have uploaded some veteran audio interviews to the youtube channel as well as other interesting video clips including a sit down interview with Phillip Woolems regarding the English mill and other tidbits of his life. Check out our channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@Crawfordcountyindianahistory>

If anyone has any information on the hatcheries in the county, please contact me. I got a suggestion for doing an article on them, but I am uninformed on those aspects of our county's history. As always, if anyone would like to contribute a story to the newsletter, that would be great. I would love to get a variety of viewpoints included in the newsletter! Finally, the 2024-25 membership dues are coming up (by June). A new membership form has been attached.



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

Cover photo: Yellow Birch Ravine arch outside Taswell, IN

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John Crawford and Tami Redding interviewing Phillip Woolems.

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Crawford Schools from 1903 to 1917

The following paper I am sharing came to me from Carol Groves. There is no author assigned to the paper but it is such a fascinating look at the school system during the early 1900s I had to share it with you all. I will be reprinting the paper in full. I have no idea if this was pulled from a much longer section of another article (page numbers at the bottom of the papers would indicate as such). Regardless, I hope you enjoy! -bP

From June, 1903 to August 16, 1917.

The fourteen years from June 24, 1903 to August 17, 1917 were the most useful years of my life. All the work I have engaged in has been useful but the work of the fourteen years involved more people and was therefore more fruitful of results. Modesty does not forbid my saying that there was more educational advancement made during those years than during any other like period in the history of the county. Because I had not had any training outside of county normals and the Marengo Academy these in the county who were interested in education had serious misgivings about the then future of our schools, and many dire predictions were made. I had a well-defined plan for the improvement of both the elementary and secondary schools and the professional standing of teachers. To accomplish this end I set for myself the following tasks:

1. To abolish the use of slates in the schools of the county.
2. To improve the discipline in the county's schools.
3. To raise the standard of educational achievement in the elementary and secondary schools and in the teaching personnel.
4. To win public support for the erection of new, more modern buildings at English, Marengo and Milltown.
5. To place the high schools of the county on a commission basis.
6. To bring about a closer relationship between the people and the schools.
7. To create a better professional spirit among the teachers.

Accordingly, at my first meeting with the County Board of Education I offered a resolution to abolish the use of slates because; first, they caused too much noise and second, because they were unsanitary. In an industrious school when all pupils were busy the noise was annoying to say the least. Pupils, tubercular and all, spat on the slates and wiped them off with hands or sleeves. Some had sponges which were immersed in water which was some better from the sanitary standpoint but water was scarce so they soon reverted to spitting on their slates and the sponges soon stank. The members of the board were surprised, shocked, at first by the proposition to do away suddenly with such a time-honored institution as the slate but they approved the resolution and the next term of school, thanks to the cooperation of the teachers, saw very few slates in use in the county. The editor of a paper in an adjoining county editorially criticized our action to which I replied in the SCHOOL NEWS, a little paper which I published monthly, (An innovation), that since the matter did not concern his county it would be more appropriate for him to imitate the silence of the mole than the braying of an ass.

The second task was more difficult. It was my duty to visit each school in the county at least once during each term. There were 79 rural schools and five town schools. Since there was but one improved road in the county, (Leavenworth to Marengo), this was quite a task. During my visits I insisted that teachers improve their discipline by kind appeals if possible; by harsher means if necessary. In one school a large boy rammed his knife through his Geography. In another a large boy held a piece of glass in such manner as to throw reflected light on the blackboard just in front of the teacher's writing. I could not resist making the boy put the glass as well as some more that he had in his desk into the stove. In many schools pupils spent most of their time writing notes and tossing them to each other. As a result of my instructions there was some corporal punishment followed by three prosecutions but all except one were dismissed before coming to trial and in the exception I defended the teacher, as an attorney, and secured an acquittal.

The third task was easier. There was a teachers' examination to be held on the last Saturday of each month. This was later changed by the General Assembly and the examinations were held on only the first eight months. This was designed to give the county superintendents of the state more time for visitation of schools. I graded manuscripts closely and teachers found it more difficult to earn licenses. The questions were prepared by the State Board of Education and sent to the county Superintendents in sealed envelopes. They were to be opened on the morning of the examinations in the presence of the teachers and three teachers were to sign a certificate to that effect. This rule was scrupulously adhered to. Close grading improved the standard of scholarship among teachers. Some went to school and all took greater care in preparation of manuscripts. It had been charged in the past that the county Superintendents of both parties had favored certain teachers in grading in return for political help. I studiously avoided favoritism and was severely criticized by some Democratic politicians for not granting licenses for political aid in the county and state elections. One such, after I had refused his request that I grant a license to a prominent party worker said, "You are the damnedest iceberg I ever ran up against, You aren't worth a damn to the Democrat party." Of course I was accused of every kind of political trick for some time but I know that the public and the teachers and the Trustees with whom I served during those fourteen years learned that I did not prostitute the office for party advantage. As an individual I always helped the party but I did not use the office for that purpose. And when I retired from office, some of the best friends I had in the county were Republican teachers and Trustees and some of the bitterest enemies were Democrats whom I had refused to help for political gain.

The standard for graduation from the elementary schools was a general average of 75 not falling below 60 in any one subject. I raised this to 85 and 75, and this was the only county in the state that raised the average. This made some enemies but being wholly within my statutory rights in doing so I paid no attention to protests.

Since we had no commissioned schools in the county I also graded the high school manuscripts of the five schools. In doing this I followed the same plan of grading closely and as a result improved the standard of scholarship in the high schools.

To accomplish the fourth task I had a confidential talk with Fassett A. Cotton, State Superintendent of Public instruction and the best friend of southern Indiana schools I have known. He promised me that if I would bring about certain conditions in the high schools, he would see that they were commissioned. Accordingly I called the school boards of the towns together at different times and laid the matter before them. The English Board agreed to comply with the conditions at once and the school was first certified for one year then commissioned in 1910. The others followed. Teaching personnel was increased to 10-11.

The first task was more difficult. To convince the public that new buildings were needed was difficult. The resistance was that the then buildings were far superior to those in which they had attended school and that what was good enough for them was good enough for their children. To enumerate all the details of the struggle for new buildings would be boresome now. Suffice to say that the fight was bitter especially in English and as a result, I lost the county superintendency in 1917. I did all the legal work in creating four joint schools, bonding eleven school corporations to the constitutional limit of town per cent of their assessed valuations to raise the necessary funds. And in two of the cases this was not sufficient. In these two, Marengo and English, I organized what was in effect holding companies that borrowed the needed money from the banks, giving their notes, upon which the respective school boards paid the interest which was regarded as rent until such time as the boards could liquidate the indebtedness. When the bonds were sold of course the buyers demanded a transcript of the proceedings in each case. The English transcript consisted of 75 pages of single-spaced matter. From 1945 to 1949 I was superintendent at Marengo in a building proceedings to obtain which I had pounded out on my typewriter 32 years before. None of the towns had reserve bonding power sufficient to pay for the buildings needed, even the minimum that the state would accept. This made it necessary to unite Marengo with Liberty, Whiskey Run with Milltown, Jennings with Leavenworth and Sterling with English. This made the task more difficult because the townships could not be bonded without the consent of the Township Advisory Boards and they being afraid of higher taxes were hard to convince that by establishing joint schools they would in the long run save money. Later the civil Town Board of Leavenworth abolished the town school board and transferred the school to Jennings Township. The English school building was comparatively new having been built after the county seat was removed to English. But it was poorly arranged, provided with no plumbing and situated near the confluence of Brownstown creek and Camp Fork. Heavy rains flooded the west end of town and made it impossible to get to the building without wading or swimming. Sometimes when a rise threatened to inundate the west end the teachers would dismiss school. That happened on the first day my daughter, Garnet, enrolled. I suspected it might happen and went to investigate. I was too late. The water had already surrounded the building and I could not have reached it without wading or swimming. It was not necessary, however, because a large boy, Clovie Longest, had carried Garnet out and she was safe. On that occasion the water reached a dept of 16 inches in the school building and when the water receded, it left a lot of filth and mud which was hard to remove. Soon after, the State Board of Health condemned the building and the State

Board of Education announced that it would not commission the school any longer in that location. The buildings at Marengo and Milltown were two-story frame buildings without plumbing or lights, inadequate in space and lighting, and were not equipped with fire escapes although they were fire traps, all heated by stoves and all having outdoor toilets that were a disgrace to their respective communities. The State Board of Education demanded the new buildings meet the standard fixed by the Board or that would approach that standard as nearly as our funds would allow. The contract to erect the English school building was let to Dr. C. D. Lockett for \$9,200 and the old school building. The present school ground was purchased from J. B. Enlow for \$500. Later the frontage extending from the state road south to a line tangent with the south side of the building was purchased for \$300 and the long walk was built by George W. Byrd. The walk cost more than the land if the grading be included. William Gilliland donated about one-half acre on the north east corner for which the board paid one dollar. He also donated one fourth of an acre about one fourth of a mile from the building, in which was a spring. We built a reservoir 10x10x6 and laid a two-inch main to the school building at a cost of \$400. Alfred T. Turley did the work under contract and the spring furnished enough water until the school population grew too large when the board made an agreement with John H. Lockett, the owner of the English water works by the terms of which the school spring was to be tied to the English system and he was to be paid a flat rate of \$100 per year.

More should be said about the holding company heretofore mentioned. It was not a corporation but only a group of 56 of us who signed a note for \$1000 with interest at 6%. The money was borrowed from the Crawford County State Bank. The signers of the note elected officers and I wrote a contract between the group and the Board by the terms of which we were given authority to enter the building and to complete the installation of the plumbing in which we were to own a half interest. The board was stated before, to pay the annual interest \$60 which was to be considered as rent on our one-half of the plumbing for which the contract price was \$2000. These payments were continued until such time as the board could begin liquidation of the principal. Marengo board ran out of money too, before the plumbing was completed and the same procedure was followed there. The plan antedated the laws enacted later by the General Assembly providing for the erection of school buildings where the bonding power was not sufficient to enable Trustees to erect buildings, such as at Paoli. The holding company laws were designed to by-pass the state constitution which prohibits any municipal corporation from creating and indebtedness in excess of 2 per cent of its assessed valuation - a very safe margin of solvency. One of the arguments I used for the creation of the joint school was that it would save the people of the townships the payment of transfer fees and that an imaginary boundary line should not be allowed to work such hardship on the township people. During eight years Jennings township paid Leavenworth more than \$3000 in transfer fees and the money was raised by a tax on the township until 1921 when the general assembly amended the state aid law to include the special school fund. Leavenworth offered to sell the township a half interest in the building, grounds and equipment for \$2000 and in spite of such an amazingly low offer I had a hard time convincing the advisory board that it was a bargain and that they should accept the offer. Later, after serving as Superintendent of the English school for 26 years I served in the same capacity at Marengo during the

four years from 1944-45 to 1948-49 in the building I tried so hard to get and for the establishment of which I had pounded out all the proceedings 34 years before.

All the legal work I did in making English, Marengo and Leavenworth joint schools and in building new buildings at the two former towns was done free of charge. Marengo paid me \$15 for expenses in going back and forth and Jennings Township paid me \$10. Later when I did the work for Milltown and Whiskey Run Township I was paid \$125. This was after I was out of office. The first building burned. I had nothing to do with the legal proceedings under which the present (1949) building was erected. Mr. V. Ed Funk of Milltown, who was, or had been Deputy Attorney General of Indiana, did the legal work for the corporations.

My sixth task was to bring about a closer relationship between the people of the county and the schools and teachers. Since the county is and was almost wholly agricultural the word "people" as used here meant farmers. In cooperation with the Chairman and other officials of the county farm organization that had been holding Farmers' Institutes we organized the Farmers' and Teachers' Association which held two days, Thursday and Friday of the last week in November. The teachers had been holding a Teachers' Association on Thanksgiving and Friday the last of November. We just combined the two and put both teachers and farmers on the program. We just combined the two and put both teachers and farmers on the program. Not many teachers or farmers would take part as talent and after using the same and the only ones who would accept program assignments had been used a few times the teachers and farmers both grew cold to the movement and it was abandoned but not, however, until we had employed outside talent until all of our funds were exhausted. The effect of the meetings was to "sell" the schools to the people. Much was accomplished and I always regretted that more teachers did not participate.

Our county institutes were usually held in August and lasted five days. Teachers boarded in homes and at the hotels. Until the latter part of my term there were few cars and few roads over which cars could travel. Some of my fondest recollections are of evenings spent at the office over the English State Bank talking with teachers of that day. Only a few of them are left. Leonard Cummins, Wallace Myler, W. W. Jones, James R. Lyons and George W. Newton are about the only ones alive.

For the county institute I always had three instructors, one whose subject was of a professional nature, one who dealt with some specific branch of school work and one who had charge of the music. The music was vocal and there were two periods per day. Many songs were taught to the teachers so that they could use them in their respective schools. The most successful one I ever had was J. Y. Yoder, a member of the Mennonite colony of Pennsylvania. While he had been born and brought up in the Mennonite community he did not observe any of the eccentric habits of dress or social customs. He was so full of music it oozed out through the pores of his skin. He had teachers singing who never had opened their mouths before. I tried to get him the next year but could not pay the price out of the funds at my command. In addition to the day's work I had entertainments at night. On one occasion I had Noah Beilharz, a reader and an impersonator who had entertained 7,000 people at the

Tri-city Chautauqua at Glenwood Park. There was a train wreck near Temple and he did not get here on time and only gave a rendition of the Hoosier Schoolmaster. He walked from the wreck to English and was tired and nervous and not at all at his best.

To accomplish the seventh task we had township institutes in each township every month. The state board of education through a committee selected two reading circle books each year and each teacher was supposed to buy them. These were discussed chapter by chapter at these institutes. Always one dealt with education generally and one with some specific subject such as geography, history, etc. There was an assignment made at the county institute for the first of these meetings in the townships. The county superintendent appointed some teacher chairman for the township for the term. The teachers selected a secretary who made regular monthly reports of the meetings to the county superintendent. I held these institutes as long as I was in office. Afterward the reading circle was abandoned as well as the township institutes and the association in November. I regretted their passing because the meetings did much to maintain a sort of professional spirit and a camaraderie among the members of the profession. Now the county institute lasts a part of one day and is useful only for the county superintendent in making announcements for the coming term.

There was another activity connected with the schools that I regretted to see abandoned. The state board of education through a committee adopted about twenty books each year for reading in the schools and teachers were requested but not compelled to buy them. The books were graded so that each grade from the primer to the eighth year could have one or two good wholesome books to read. I pushed the sale of these books with such persistence that in two years of the fourteen, Crawford County led the state of Indiana in the number of books purchased per 100 pupils. I insisted that the teachers, directors and Trustees care for the books during the summer vacation. As a result, many rural schools had in 1917, a library of 200 books. To encourage pupils to read, a Reading Circle Diploma was awarded to pupils who read one or more books annually for four years. I issued hundreds of those Reading Circle Diplomas. Today it would be impossible to induce pupils to read books of that character. It is unfortunate that the custom was abandoned. Now the pupils read the comics and the filth found on the news stands. High school pupils turn up their noses at the mention of classics. During the 1947-48 term of school, I taught senior English. During the second semester we read orally in class, a few of the shorter classics. One day I asked for the hands of those who read Loggfellow's Evangeline. None had read it and there was such a show of hostility to it I decided not to use it in class but made it a positive requirement for graduation that each member write a prose summary of the story in not less than 200 words.

Besides my work directly connected with the schools, I engaged in some other activities which I think it not improper to mention.

A few of us, Dr. C. D. Lockett, John H. Lockett, D. W. Flanigan and a few others organized the Anti-tuberculosis Society in John Lockett's office and I sent out the first seals to the teachers of the county in 1908.

When World War I began, the Red Cross was organized in the county for the first time. Henry W. Mock was the first chairman but he soon relinquished it and I filled the position until 1921. I put over both drives by 20 percent and when I gave the chairmanship over to S. A. Adams, I had \$3000 on time deposit in the four banks of the county and quite a substantial checking account in the English bank.

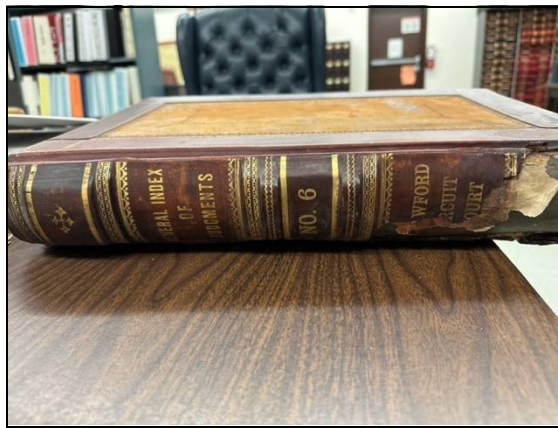
The General Assembly of Indiana had enacted a law by the terms of which any county could have a county agricultural agent provided the people would show enough interest in the matter to make a donation of \$500. A Presbyterian minister by the name of Stamm, located in English at that time, came to my home and proposed that we try to get the donation for a county agent. He asked me to name the community centers at which we could have meetings to solicit funds. I selected Leavenworth, Towers' Chapel and Dillman's school house in Jennings Township; Riddle in Ohio Township; Grantsburg and West Fork in Union; Wickliffe in Patoka; Eckerty in Johnson and English in Sterling. I personally attended the meetings in Jennings and Ohio; Stamm in Union and John Luckett attended the others. Working together we raised the \$500, succeeded in getting the cooperation of the County Commissioners and the County Council and a County Agent, the first for the county, Horace J. Copeland, the one-armed man, who was the most industrious person I ever knew. I have known him to peck away on his typewriter with his one hand until long past midnight getting out letters to the farmers. He endeared himself to our people by his zeal, his unostentatious manners, his industry, his willingness to go anywhere at any time under any conditions where he was wanted and by his sincere friendliness.

One day Carleton Ball, land agent for the Southern Railway, came to my office and asked what the chances would be to organize a class in the English High School to test milk for butter fat. I told him we could put it over if we had the outfit for testing. He said he would go out in the highways and byways and get the money by donation if I would write a request and head the list of donors. This I did immediately and he just as promptly took it out on the streets of English and in two hours came back with enough money to buy a testing outfit. I headed the list with \$2.50. I then took him down to the English High School and introduced him to Monroe Melton, the Superintendent, and explained the purpose of the visit. Supt. Melton immediately fell in with the idea and by the time the outfit came, he had a class ready to try what was then an experiment. Milt Bennett and John Denton were the first two farmers to bring the milk to the school to have it tested for its content for butter fat. I remember the remark that Milt Bennett made when asked for a contribution to buy the testing outfit. He said, "Of course I'll give \$5 because it's worth that much to me to know whether any of my cows are boarding on me." This was the start of the cream buying business in Crawford County, a business that grew until each one of the towns had three or four stations purchasing cream from the farmers, besides those who shipped cream to the city. I have seen as many as twenty-five 5-gallon cans of milk at the English depot for shipment. Mr. Ball started a similar business at Marengo, Milltown and at most of the towns along the Southern Railway. His especial interest was of course in increasing the business of the railway, but he was additionally interested in the development of the territory served by the railway.

And that concludes the portion of the story that I have. Hope you enjoyed this insight of the school system in the early 1900s!
-bP

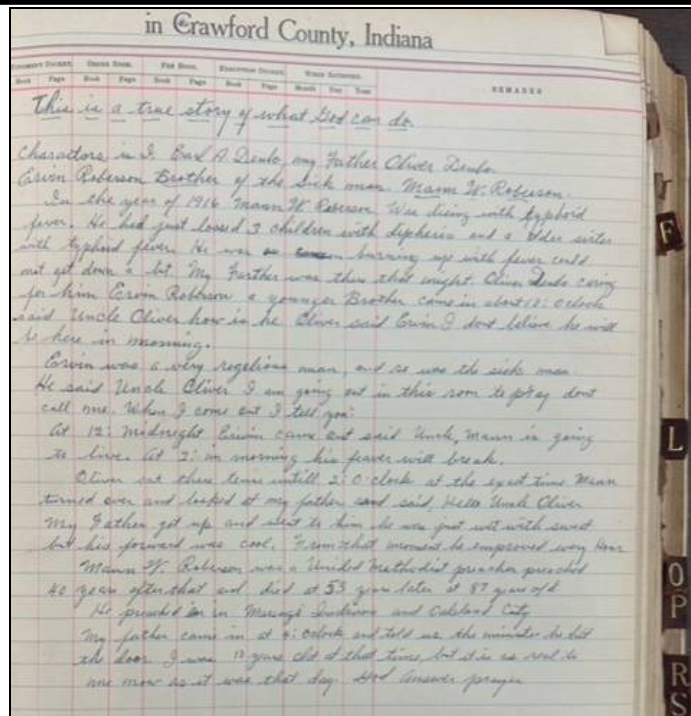
“A True Story of What God Can Do”

Roberta Toby, County Historian, along with Sherry and John Crawford have been busy inventorying old Crawford County records in the county Archives in English, IN. This is in preparation for FamilySearch digitizing hundreds of these old county records. Digitizing will allow people anywhere to go online and find information about their family members that lived in Crawford County. It will also help protect these old fragile records. On the inventory list we’re creating we put the book title, date range and number of pages. Let me tell you about a very interesting and unexpected find we made on Monday, February 19, 2024.



General Index of Judgments, No. 6 in the Crawford County Archive.

I opened up the “General Index of Judgments, No. 6” to see the date range it covers and how many pages were in it. It’s a huge, heavy old book that documents county court judgments and rulings. Inside the front cover I noticed a very unusual message. It said, “A true story of what God can do, between sections B and C”. I was curious and had to see what this was about. It seemed so unlike what you’d normally see in a set of county court records. In this old court book I found the following nugget of gold. Two of the people in the story were Mann W. Roberson and Earl Denbo. Gary Roberson made a presentation on local caves last fall to the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society. Mann Roberson is his grandfather’s brother. Many of us remember Earl Denbo and his paintings. Earl Denbo wrote this story into the county court record book. The story takes place in Crawford County in 1906. Mann Roberson was dying of typhoid fever. His friend, Oliver Denbo, was in Mann’s home caring for him. It was an especially sad situation because Mann had just lost three children to diphtheria and an older sister to typhoid fever. Medical care was sparse in those days and limited in what could be done. The only choice families and neighbors often had was just to do the best they could and have faith. Here is the story as written by Earl Denbo.



The story, handwritten by Earl Denbo between sections B and C in the "General Index of Judgments, No. 6"

Transcript of Story (corrected for grammar):

This is a True Story of What God Can Do

"(The) characters (are) I, Earl A. Denbo, my father, Oliver Denbo, (and) Erwin Roberson, brother of (the) sick man, Mann W. Roberson.

In the year 1916 Mann W. Roberson was dying with typhoid fever. He had just lost three children with diphtheria and an older sister with typhoid fever. He was burning up with fever (and) could not get down a bit (of anything). My father was there that night. Oliver Denbo (was) caring for him. Erwin Roberson, a younger brother, came in about 10 o'clock (and) said, "Uncle Oliver, how is he?" Oliver said, "Erwin I don't believe he will be here in morning".

Erwin was a very religious man and so was the sick man. He said, "Uncle Oliver, I am going out in this (other) room to pray. Don't call me. When I come out I (will) tell you".

At 12 midnight Erwin came out and said, "Uncle Mann is going to live. At 2 in the morning his fever will break".

Oliver sat there tense until 2 o'clock. At that exact time Mann turned over and looked at my father and said, "Hello Uncle Oliver". My father got up and went to him. He was just wet with sweat but his forehead was cool. From that moment he improved every hour.

Mann W. Roberson was a United Methodist preacher (and) preached 40 years after that and died 53 years later at 87 years old.

He preached in Marengo Indiana and Oakland City. My father came in (home) at 10 o'clock and told us the minute he hit the door. I was 10 years old at that time but it is as real to me now as it was that day. God answers prayer!"

- As written by Earl Denbo

This is an inspiring story. It shows how much God loves every one of us. He sees our hearts and knows our desires. We are His children and He wants to help us. We just need to ask with real intent. See James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.". Erwin Roberson relied on that scripture in Mann's time of need.

This is a story that should encourage us. Good people trying to do good things can make all the difference in this world. We can also reflect on the fact that this faith promoting story was hidden away

in, of all places, an old county court book to be found by us over a hundred years later. Chance? I think not. Divine encouragement? Yes. May we always be grateful for every way that Heavenly Father encourages and helps us in our lives. Sometimes we recognize His influence in our lives. Usually, we probably don't. How many of the times Heavenly Father has intervned in your life do you think you recognize? I hope your spirit is lifted by this treasure of a story found in, of all places, and old court book in the Crawford County Archives.

Additional Information:

Earl A. Denbo was a well-known and respected citizen of Crawford County. The story he wrote (above) in a county record book was discovered only recently but people of the area remember him as a painter and the designer of the Crawford County Indiana official seal.



Earl A. Denbo (at the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society)



An Earl Denbo painting (at the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society)



The Crawford County seal designed and painted by Earl Denbo, June 1966
(at the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society)

- John Crawford

Previous meeting minutes:

No January meeting

No February meeting

March 12, 2024 Meeting: *(minutes taken by Bill Piper)*

Meeting started at 6:30pm with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Program: Karen Schwartz did a 50+ minute program on her upcoming book regarding the Blue River. A full video recording can be found at our youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@Crawfordcountyindianahistory>

President's Report: Working on the newsletter and hope to have it out before next meeting.

Vice President's Report: Nothing

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$10,592.66. Total deposits \$310. Total bills \$405.99.
Ending Balance: \$10,496.67 Membership: 61, 1 (Library), 3 (Corporations), 2 (Lifetime members)

County Historian's Report: County council approved adding shelves to the annex building. Vietnam Veteran memorial program will be March 29, 11am at the CC Veteran's Memorial.

Proctor House Report: Yard sale is tentatively set for June. Asking for donations (and if possible, price them before hand, as it would help on pricing them later). Donations can be dropped off at the building in English and will be taken down to the shelter house later.

Other News: Tami Redding mentioned the Civil Club's program for the upcoming Eclipse event. It will be a Sat / Sun / Mon event.

Meeting ended at 7:47pm.

Attending: Bill & Robin Piper, Karen & Bobby Schwartz, Sherry & John Crawford, Louie & Diane Mitchell, Annette Gilliland, Cheryl Allen, Tyler Gallien, Janet Johnson, Jason Froman, Tami Redding and Roberta Toby.

Cousinhood chart:

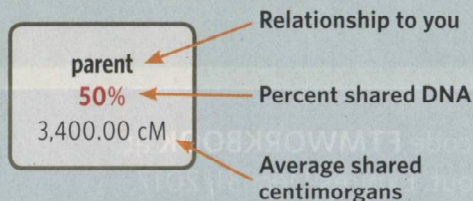
The chart on the following page was brought in by Louie Mitchell. I thought it was interesting and wanted to share it with everyone. This comes from Family Tree magazine and shows how distant relatives are related to you.



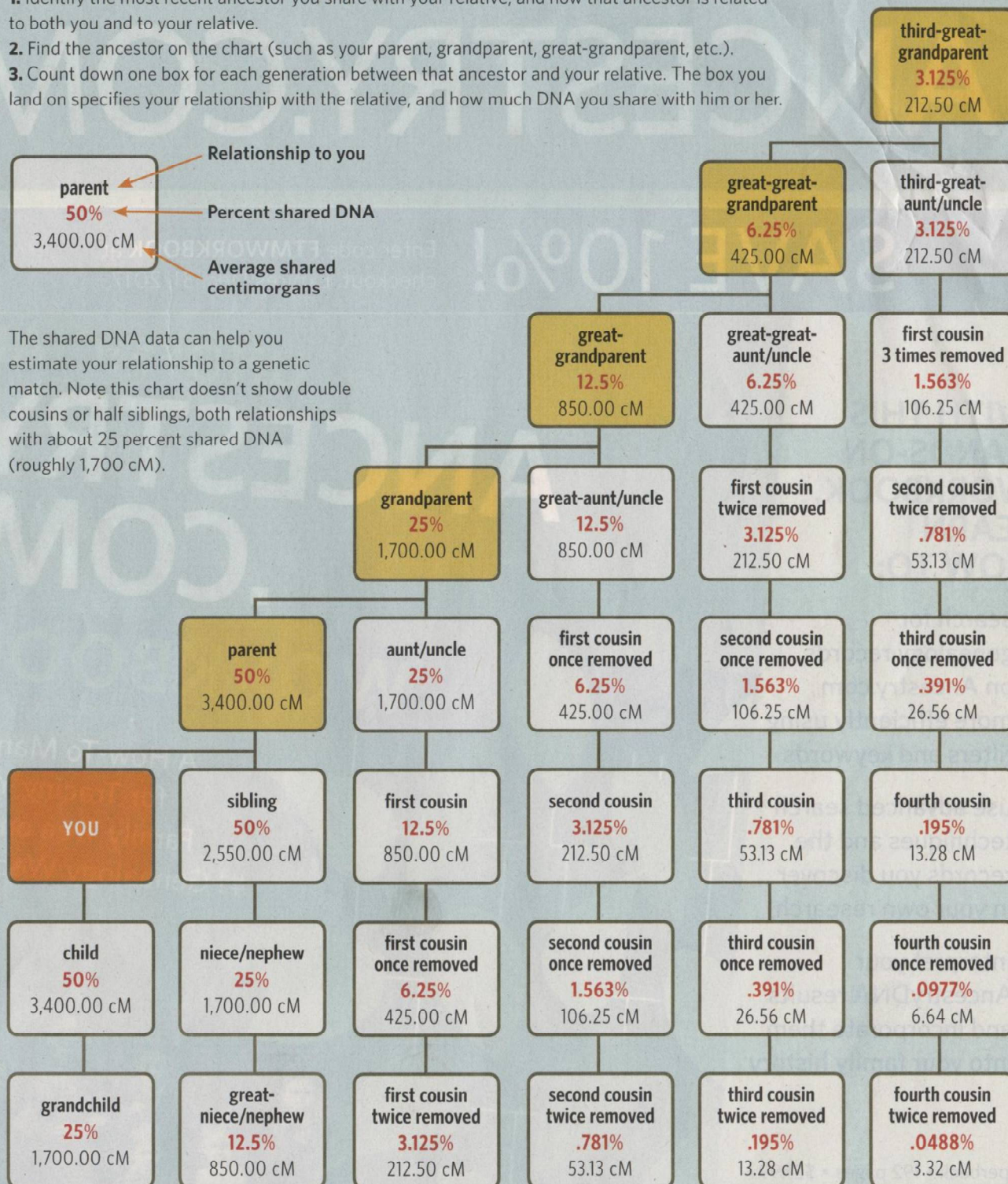
How to Calculate Cousinhood

Follow these steps to figure out what kind of cousins you are with a relative:

1. Identify the most recent ancestor you share with your relative, and how that ancestor is related to both you and to your relative.
2. Find the ancestor on the chart (such as your parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc.).
3. Count down one box for each generation between that ancestor and your relative. The box you land on specifies your relationship with the relative, and how much DNA you share with him or her.



The shared DNA data can help you estimate your relationship to a genetic match. Note this chart doesn't show double cousins or half siblings, both relationships with about 25 percent shared DNA (roughly 1,700 cM).



Who was Michael Mulkerns?

I used to "cemetery hop" quite a bit some years ago. I was always on the look out for very old markers or anything unusual. I recall thinking to myself how neat it would be to pick someone at random and see how much information I could find on the person. Years later, I have finally decided to try this out. About a month or so ago, I was at the old St. Joseph Catholic cemetery south of Marengo/Milltown area and spotted what I believe is the oldest marker in the cemetery (at least one of the oldest). This marker had no other family members near it. The name on the stone was a Michael Mulkerns, born date of August 8, 1808 and a death date of May 2, 1892. This early birth date really caught my attention so I decided to see what we had on this guy. Unsurprisingly, we did not have much. I found a single person file on him at our CCHGS building that had a genealogy chart started for him but only one child listed and nothing else. There was a death record mention of him dying in Illinois due to falling off a train! I asked our county historian, Roberta Toby, to see if she could find anything on him with her resources. Unfortunately not much else was found. There



was a 1880 census record of him. It states that his birthplace was the country of Ireland. He was living in the Jennings township of Crawford at the time. His occupation was farmer. Catherine Mulkarns (notice the slight misspelling of the last name, an issue I had come across for this research) is listed as his wife, with her being 50 years of age. The census record states her family is from Pennsylvania. It has the following children listed: Cynthia E. (18 years), Annie (22 years) and Michael (21 years). The children have Ohio listed as their birth places. So taking this information, it seems Michael came from Ireland (either himself or with family), met his wife in the Pennsylvania area, moved west into Ohio where they had (at least) three children before heading into Crawford County Indiana. Then based on how Michael died, it looks like they were heading out west into Illinois before his tragic end.

If anyone else has any information on this individual, let me know. I will be sure to include it in our records. I did have fun doing research like this and will probably do this again in the future. If you have some spare time, I invite others to do the same! -bP



News reached this place yesterday that Michael Mulkarnes well known in this vicinity was killed by a train in Illinois one day last week. He was riding on a freight train and fell off and was run over.

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

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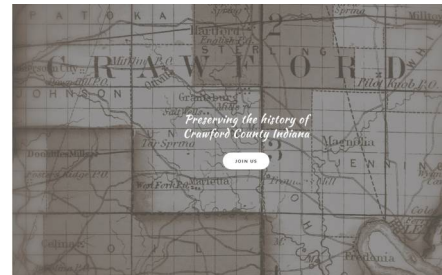
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