



The Crawford Countian

Official Newsletter of The Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc.

Volume XX Issue IV

March 2008

March 1, 1818 Crawford County Establishment Day Dinner Set

CRAWFORD County Establishment Day will be celebrated on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the English Senior Citizens Building at 6:30 P.M. The event is a covered dish dinner sponsored by the Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society and is the fourth annual celebration of this "special day" for Crawford County. All members and friends of the society are cordially invited. The society will provide the meat entree for the dinner with attendees furnishing side dishes and desserts (preferably those found on the table around 1818).

A program will be provided with Dixon Romney being the guest speaker. He will speak on the subject of Abraham Lincoln. President Densil Wilson will open the program at 6:30 p.m. Jim Kaiser, our ex-president, will give the Invocation before the meal. After the

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A Civil War Hero



George Washington Riddle
Born: Dec. 7, 1832
Died: June 2, 1897
Buried: Riddle Cemetery

Served as a Lieutenant in the 49th IN Regiment from Oct. 1861 to Nov. 1864 was discharged and Formed and Served as a Captain in the 144th IN Regiment Feb 1865 to Aug. 1865 Injured at Winchester, VA in May 1865.

1860 Crawford Co. Census: Ohio Twp.:

Age Name Other

27 RIDDLE, George W., Farmer
25 RIDDLE, Louisiana, wife
4 RIDDLE, William W.W., son
2 RIDDLE, Catharine, daughter
6 RIDDLE, Nancy Jane

From Our County Historian

Richard Eastridge



"Because we no longer write letters, as our ancestors did, we are losing much we could learn about our history and our

family relations or genealogy," said Crawford County Historian, Richard Eastridge at the January 2008 meeting of the Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society.

He produced a couple of letters from his files and read them. One of the letters is re-

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Welcome New Members:

Bord & Joyce Byrn
Roy N. Byrn



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Our County Historian: Continued —

produced below:-

July 24, 1859

Dear Uncle, [George Lester]

Once more I take my pen to write a few lines to you in answer to your last, which I received last Friday week. I was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well as this leaves all of us. It is raining today and has been all day . . . Well I am glad to see it for we needed rain as it has been very bad — hot and dry — if it had not rained soon a good many things would have been lost, but the rain came in time!

Collingwood is here today. He came over last night and him and I went over to meeting last night and intended to go today but for the rain. There is singing school over there this afternoon and if it quits raining we are going.

George, we have got done all of our harvesting. We finished a week ago yesterday. We had all of our corn laid-by two or three weeks ago. Our corn looks fine and our wheat and grass was tolerably good. We have not got our wheat thrashed yet, we are going to thrash next week.

George, you said you and Ed was down to Colters the other night. I don't think Erma would make a very good wife. You must make it

pay if you go there to see her. I know you must write how you get along, you said you would like for some nice young fellow go to see that little girl of yours, but you said you expected that one of mine was a good deal better in my eyes. Well, I admit that BW is a fine girl and so is another certain little blackheaded, if it don't rain to hard I must go and see mine tonight for I have not for some time. You said you believed you would have been better off if you had never run with the girls. Anyway George what is the use of living if a fellow does not have some fun, for my part, I would die of the blues for there is no places of amusement here like there is there.

I would like to have been up there to them picnics — you said that Lucy looks bad as she caught cold the day you went to Spring Grove. You did not take good care of her.

Well, George, I must draw to a close. You must take good care of yourself and do the best you can with the girls. Father says he will write to you soon. He was going to write today, but I wrote and he said he would wait. George, you must write soon and tell me all the news. I liked to forgot Tip Myers and Liz Shekells was married last Sunday; I believe this all at present, give my love to all enquiring friends, good bye from your affectionate nephew,
Joseph Coleman

Letter postmarked

Fredonia, see Richard if you want to see the original.

English High School Alumni Banquet Set

The English High School Alumni Banquet will be held April 19, 2008 at the old gym (current English Elementary School). \$15 per person includes catered dinner.

Reservation forms available at the Crawford County Public Library, or contact Judy Wade at 812-338-2425 for information.

Baggerly Marriages in Crawford County Records

Emma marr. Harman S. Miller, Oct. 20, 1884, E-309.

Evan D. marr. Lothia Miller, Jan. 15, 1900, G-234.

Hannah M. marr. David Cosby, April 4, 1891, F-176.

Ida E. marr. David A. Wright, Aug. 14, 1904, H-6.

John M. marr. Maud M. Highfill, March 26, 1900, G-255.

Mary F. marr. Lewis S. Wright, Nov. 6, 1903, G-534.

Vardimon marr. Henrietta F. Sanders, Feb. 22, 1868, C-371.

Continued—Establishment Day

meal, Richard Eastridge, our County Historian, will say a few words on why we celebrate this day and then our guest speaker, Dixon Romney will be introduced. Before closing remarks from Densil Wilson, cooks preparing special foods will be allowed to discuss their special dishes and why they prepared them.

COME AND JOIN US!

Minutes of December Meeting

The Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society met on December 10, 2007 at the Crawford County Jr.-Sr. High School with President Densil Wilson presiding.

Laura Renwick was present to give an update on the Proctor House nomination to the National Registry. She stated that the description needs to be updated with the recent work that was done to the stairs and the carport being removed. The Statement of Significance also needs more research such as how did the Proctor House fit into other things that were going on in the area at the same time, the stagecoach, and how things were after the death of Wm. Proctor. She hopes to have everything completed and to the state by April and no later than July.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and the following corrections were made: The \$21.00 in raffle tickets at the Sorghum Festival was from the donated lap quilts, not the transportation quilt, and the correct e-mail address for William Piper's site is: www.lostgraveyards.com. Hugh Jackson made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Donald Standiford seconded and the motion carried.

No Financial Report due to absence of the Treasurer.

The Proctor House Report was given by the Wiseman's and Jackson's. The brick work has not been done yet on the site where the carport was located. Grass seed has been sowed, and the plumbing in the house has been winterized. Evelyn Jackson gave the Proctor House financial report. The beginning balance on Oct. 24, 2007 was \$8,244.41 with an ending balance of \$8,595.75 on Nov. 26, 2007.

Fund Raising: Betty Gunn passed out forms for the cookbook, and Betsy Young reported \$245 in ornament sales.

Membership: Priscilla Eastridge sold 12 books and one membership with \$380.00 to turn in to Sharon Morris, the Treasurer. There are 105 paid members at this time. There are no new books in publication at this time, but Donald

Standiford suggested a children's book on local history and Evelyn Jackson a booklet on the History of the Proctor House. Donald Standiford also thought someone should interview Kathleen Roggenkamp to get some Milltown history.

Web-site: Roberta Toby reported that David Vanlaningham is now adding queries which he will censor and then put on the site.



Laura Renwick speaks at our December meeting.

Archives Report: Larry Burmeister reported he had one visitor looking for information on Moses Goldman. He also said the newsletter should be out next month. A booklet with directions and photo's of the stones at the Stewart Cemetery was passed around. It was put together by Larry Burmeister and he said he would like to do a book on all of the small cemeteries that are in out-of-the-way places. Bobby Wiseman is to take him to the Wiseman Cemetery when the weather warms up.

Bills were presented by Priscilla Eastridge for \$25.59 for postage and envelopes. Larry Burmeister made the motion to pay the bills with Roberta Toby seconding the motion, motion carried.

Communications: A letter was received from The Historic Landmarks Foundation wanting a donation. Mary Wiseman made the motion to make the same donation as last year of \$25.00. Sandra Wilson seconded, and the motion carried.

A Christmas Dinner will be held on Dec. 14 at the Senior Citizens Building in English at 6:30 p.m. Priscilla Eastridge volunteered to bring a meat and cheese

tray with everyone else bringing a covered dish. Roberta Toby asked Priscilla if she would send an e-mail to members inviting them to the party.

New Business: Everyone was asked to keep Betty Gunn and Doris Kaiser in their prayers, as both are soon having surgery. Don Standiford is going to have an Abraham Lincoln impersonator give a speech at the annual Establishment Day Dinner on March 1, 2008 at the English Senior Citizens Building.

Those attending were: Densil Wilson, Betty Gunn, Bob Gunn, Richard Eastridge, Priscilla Eastridge, Evelyn Cochran, Mary Wiseman, Bob Wiseman, Sandra Wilson, Betsy Young, Evelyn Jackson, Hugh E. Jackson, Ruth Terry, Janice Eastridge, Roberta Toby, Harry Wood, Jim Kaiser, Larry Young, Don Standiford, Helena Burmeister and Larry Burmeister.

Minutes of January Meeting

The Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society met on January 14, 2007 at the Crawford County Jr.-Sr. High School with President Densil Wilson presiding. Richard Eastridge spoke on the lost art of letter writing and the history that can be found in them. He also read several letters dating from 1858 to the early 1900's.

The minutes were read with one correction made, there will not be an Abraham Lincoln impersonator at the Establishment Day dinner, and the minutes were then accepted.

No financial report was given.

The Proctor House report was given by Hugh and Evelyn Jackson. A player piano has been donated by Joann Poe. Volunteers are needed to get it in the Proctor House. A new supplier for the blank ornaments is needed, and it was decided to let the Proctor House Committee make the decision. The Proctor House financial report was given by Evelyn Jackson. The beginning balance on November 28, 2007 was \$8,595.75 with an ending balance of

From *Crawford County Folk Lore*
Compiled in 1961 by Home
Demonstration Clubs

Marengo

by Olive Poe

The earliest settlement in this community was about one mile east of Marengo. It was called Proctorville but it never grew and soon returned to farm land. The present town of Marengo was built in what is now called "Old Town" or North Marengo by Daniel David Stewart, father of Samuel and Dr. Louis Stewart, mentioned later in other sections of this story.

David Stewart is probably the first person from this community to attend Indiana University. When he went to and from the university, he walked the 67 miles between Marengo and Bloomington. After graduation, Mr. Stewart became a preacher and also a legislator, serving several years as state representative. He rode a horse from Marengo to attend sessions of the legislature in Indianapolis. Mr. Stewart named the town Springtown but the name was changed to Marengo.

The "New Town" of Marengo was built by James Walts. Mr. Walts foresaw that the town would grow toward the new railroad and laid out a subdivision on land that he owned along the right of way of the Airline (now Southern) Railroad. This part of Marengo is still known as Walts addition. It was quickly named "Jimtown" after Mr. Walts and for many years the two sections of Marengo were known as Springtown and Jimtown.

Pioneers in Education

In addition to Daniel David Stewart — other early graduates of Indiana University were the sons of D. M. Stewart (grandfather of Thelma Sloan) and J. M. Johnson, who later established the Marengo Academy.

In Johnson's early life there was no such thing as compulsory education.

Free schools were provided by law and they were few and far between. Pupils often had to walk as far as five miles to the nearest school. A few people with a "smattering" of education, occasionally started "subscription schools," or qualified as teachers in the public schools. One of these teachers was J. M. Johnson, who, later, graduated from Indiana University and established the Marengo Academy. This was the only secondary school in the county and students from the surrounding country and towns attended the academy because there were no high schools.

Most of the early businesses and professional people of Crawford County were educated at the academy. Educational standards were not very high but thorough drilling in the 3 R's was required in the elementary schools, so students who went on to the academy were usually qualified to do work of a high standard. Very few of them went on to college after graduating from the academy, but most of them were successful in the business or profession in which they later engaged.

Many of the students walked several miles each day to attend classes at the academy. Others, who lived too far away, boarded in Marengo. Professor Johnson lived near the academy and many students lived in his home. They frequently paid their board and tuition by bringing farm produce or by working for the Johnsons. Elijah Poe, who established the Poe Lumber Co., now operated by William and Robert Poe, said he paid by bringing to the "Professor" a horse and several smoked hams as well as jars of apple butter and blackberry jam which his mother preserved with sorghum molasses.

It was the former students of the academy who were responsible for establishing the first public high school in Marengo. Mr. Emmett Taylor, uncle of Howard Batman, and one other man were employed to teach all eight grades in the elementary school. Then, in addition to this, and without extra pay, they taught a few high school subjects: Latin, Algebra, English and History, to

the few students who cared to go on with their education. At the end of the third year they had graduation exercises for the one student who had finished the course; Miss Gertrude Jenner, Class of 1901, was the first graduate. By this time the school board believed in the high school enough to start talking about one. But it was not until 1910 that a 4-year high school was established.

Pioneers In Business

Among our early businessmen (those who were in business before the Civil War) were: Columbus Taylor, who had a general store about where McIntosh's Motel now stands; Samuel Stewart had a flour mill across the street where his great-great-grandson, Cleo Key, now operates the Old Town Store. The Marengo Cave, which has brought many tourists to Marengo, was later discovered on his land and was operated by his descendents until it was purchased a few years ago by Floyd Denton.

After the Civil War a new crop of businessmen sprang up in Marengo. Several of them were sons or sons-in-law of former businessmen and some were returned soldiers.

Mr. George Balthis, a war veteran, opened a general store where Charles Taylor's store is now located. Mr. Balthis and his son continued to operate this store for more than fifty years.

Mr. V. A. Stewart, a son of Dr. Louis Stewart, opened a furniture store in Old Town. He was a cabinet maker and made a lot of the furniture he sold. He also made caskets (or coffins) for most of the funerals in the community. Later he moved his store to the new town and was succeeded by his son, J. Roscoe Stewart. The store is now operated by V. A. Stewart's granddaughter, Mrs. Lyman Taylor, and her husband.

W. E. Jenner, grandfather of Donald and Senator W. E. Jenner, was a sheet metal worker and made

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most of the stoves used in the community. He was a very versatile and enterprising gentleman, as he also made and sold patent medicines. He was a very good dentist also. He would take a patient into his tin shop, set him down on a kitchen chair and extract 20 to 30 teeth without an anesthetic. Then, when his gums got well, if he had any gums left, he made him a nice set of false teeth which looked good, fitted well, and lasted as long as he lived.

"Uncle Billy" as he was known, later established the W. E. Jenner & Sons Hardware and Farm Implement store. As soon as automobiles came along, Jenners got into the automobile business. The business is now operated by Donald Jenner, who can sell you anything from a carpet tack to a cabin cruiser.

The next generation of businessmen in Marengo were chiefly former students of the Marengo Academy. Although most of the students went on to successful careers in other cities, a few stayed here. Among these were Mr. E. Poe; mentioned earlier; and Mr. C. D. Summers, who was one of the leading businessmen of Marengo for many years. He was a druggist, an undertaker, and an officer of the Marengo State Bank.

Mr. C. W. Miller of the Marengo State Bank is the only one of that group of businessmen who is still engaged in business.

No story of Marengo businessmen would be complete without the mention of one business woman, whom everyone remembers, Mrs. Ella Murphy. Operating a Ladies Apparel and Notions Store, she was in business in Marengo for more than 55 years. She probably gave as much of her time and money for the improvement of her home town as any business man ever gave — and no one worked harder to get things done. One time she pushed through a measure to have the dusty streets oiled — she, herself, donated quite a lot of

money. When she saw the men on the oil truck were not spreading the oil properly and wasting a lot of it, she climbed on the truck and rode it till the job was done.

Pioneers In Medicine

In early days doctors frequently practiced medicine without ever attending medical college. The young candidate would simply go into the office of an older doctor and assist him in any way that he could — often taking care of his horses or cleaning out his office. When he had spare time he was busy reading the doctor's medical books or going with him on calls to the sick. As soon as he thought he was qualified he would set up an office and start out on his own.

Among our earliest doctors were Dr. Stroud Van Meter and Dr. Louis Stewart. I do not know how or where they received their training. Then, soon after the Civil War, two new doctors came to Marengo, Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Byrn. They were veterans and both were graduates of the old Chicago Medical College. Both practiced medicine here for the rest of their lives. Dr. Byrn had been a surgeon in the army during the war and when asked about his experiences, would answer: "Yes, I went clear through the whole campaign with a saw and a hatchet."

Before coming to Marengo, Dr. Byrn had practiced medicine in Washington County and often told of an encounter there with robbers. The Old West had its Reno Brothers but Southern Indiana had its Rego Brothers who lived in Washington County and confined their activities chiefly to that region. Farmers frequently took their wagon load of produce along the Paoli Turnpike (now known as highway No. 150) to the Louisville and New Albany markets. On the return trip they often carried rather large sums of money and the Rego Brothers sometimes collected a high toll. One night, as Dr. Byrn was returning from a sick call, two men suddenly stepped from the darkness at the side of the road and stopped his horse. The doctor attempting to convince them that he wasn't frightened,

said: "What will you have gentlemen?" Recognizing his voice or his horse or probably knowing he had very little money or flattered at being addressed as "gentlemen" — one of the bandits said: "Oh! It's you Doc. That's all right and if we should ever stop you again, just say — "What will you have gentlemen?"

Since that time, most Marengo doctors have been graduates of the Louisville Medical College — now a department of the University of Louisville.

Our next doctors were Dr. Fetzer and Dr. Davis who were here for several years, but both left to go to larger places. Dr. Davis went to New Albany and practiced there for many years. His son Dr. Parvin Davis was later associated with him and is still there. Then came the Grants, Dr. Lee and Dr. Peter. They came from the East to the Louisville Medical College and after graduating landed in Marengo to get a little experience and a start before moving on to more lucrative and more successful practices in larger cities.

About this time Dr. Luckett came here. He remained and practiced medicine till his death several years later.

After World War I came Dr. Benz and the Land Brothers — Dr. George, who stayed a few years and Dr. Ed who remained until his death some 20 years later.

Dr. Benz, who is still practicing here [1961], has traveled the country roads by day and by night — many times by horse back when the roads were too bad to get through in a car. All through the years Mrs. Benz has helped him in every way she could. She frequently drove along roads, often at night, to find the doctor at some home that could not be reached by phone or to intercept him on the road, and send him to some one else who needed him in a hurry. At one time, in one day, by dint of Mrs. Benz

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relaying messages to him, the doctor delivered five babies in widely scattered sections of the community. They have also helped without pay in all county health and immunization programs.

The last doctor to arrive in Marengo was Dr. Lynch. His energy seems boundless. He carries a full program here in Marengo by working nights and week ends after he has already done a full week's work at a Louisville hospital. Mrs. Lynch helps her husband and like Mrs. Benz — she is active in civic affairs, a great help in church work, club work and in the schools.

Marengo people frequently criticize their pastors and their school teachers, vociferously, and at length, but they have always loved and respected their doctors — unless they owed them money. They didn't always pay them well! The poor doctors, frequently, took their pay — if any at all — in rhubarb and apple butter or turnips and hogjowl. They have deserved all the confidence and respect that Marengo has!

This story is not an authentic historical record, but a collection of stories which have been told to me by older people and which I have found interesting. Most of them are probably true, though some of the facts may have been distorted by repeated telling through the years.

Minutes of February Meeting

The Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society meeting scheduled for February 11, 2007 was cancelled due to the weather.

Cookbook Project Completed

Mrs. Betty Gunn, project leader, has informed me that the recipe book has been completed and should be at the printer by now. They will be available soon.

Correspondence

From Edith Key, January 29, 2008

Larry, This information was given to me by Miss Ida Harned. She had been a member of this church for most of her life. She is deceased—in 1990's I think.

The picture is one that I found in a book. I have no idea who it is. I bought the book at a Goodwill Store. I will say that he or she is a doll. Who knows if it is a boy? It looks as if it could have been taken when boys wore dresses. I do not want it. So, dispose of it or keep it. P.S. Notice the "ARTHUR" around the area when the stamp would go. I wonder what that means. Also, when the picture is tilted under a light, the black looks silver and a lot of fingerprints show up too!

FORMATION OF THE MARENGO CHRISTIAN/CHURCH OF CHRIST

Marengo, IN, March 21, 1888 at the M.E. Church House (Methodist Episcopal) two o'clock P.M.

After a short sermon by James Bobbitt of English, Ind., a minister and evangelist of the Church of Christ, a portion of the members of the congregation of the Church of Christ at Big Springs and Goodman Ridge with a few from other congregations, numbering thirty-two, formed a new congregation of the Church of Christ. The said congregation selected Bro. Joseph Weathers temporary Clerk to record and to keep the necessary minutes of the transactions of this congregation until the organization is fully completed by the selection and ordination of such officers as the New Testament Scripture require.

Vincent Weathers, acting chairman,
James M. Weathers, acting secretary.

The Marengo Congregation of the Church of Christ which was organized March 21, 1888, being assembled at the M.E. Church House of Marengo, Ind. elected the following men as trustees for said congregation:

S. W. Miller, D. H. Conrad, James M.

Weathers Jr., Trustees; James Bobbitt, acting chairman, and Joseph Weathers, clerk.

In 2008 and for many years this church has been known as The Marengo Christian Church. The plaque on the building reads: The Church of Christ.



Above: The postcard photo Edith Key enclosed and mentioned in her letter.

Minutes of January Meeting Continued:

\$8,708.90 on December 26, 2007.

Report of **Publication Committee:** Tract Book Three has been transcribed by Larry Burmeister and is now for sale.

Membership: There are currently 108 paid members.

Scrapbook Committee: Edith Key reported she had one full book and is starting a second.

Newsletter Report: Larry Burmeister reported that 89 newsletters were mailed out and 14 were send via e-mail. A total cost of \$76.01 was submitted for the cost of printing and mailing.

Fund Raising: Betty Gunn and Priscilla Eastridge want suggestions for the name of the cookbook to be published. Recipes are still needed.

The Archives report was given by Larry Burmeister. Two copies were made and a book was sold for \$42. A deposit of \$220 was made. No Vice President report was given.

County Historian Report by Richard Eastridge. We are out of Johnson Township and Milltown History books and there are no plans to order more at this time.

Bills were presented by Priscilla Eastridge: \$25.00 for a meat tray, \$14.80 for postage and \$14.92 for the printing of three County Poor Farm books. The motion was made by Larry Burmeister and seconded by Betsy Young to accept the bills. The motion carried.

Betsy Young gave the **Ornament Report**. There was \$69.70 in sales, minus \$6.70 for postage for a total of \$63.00.

Evelyn Jackson will form a committee to appoint items needed for the various dinners and other celebrations that the Society has throughout the year.

Jim Kaiser will be the guest speaker for February, and Roger Gleitz will be the speaker in March.

Roger Gleitz also announced that the Harrison County Genealogical Society will meet January 22, 2008. Cem-

etary restoration and Historical Markers in Harrison County will be discussed. Officers will also be elected that night.

Everyone please remember Doris Kaiser, who will be having surgery on January 15th.

Those attending were: Edith Key, Ruth Terry, Becky Hammond Stetter, Betsy & Larry Young, Harry Wood, Betty Gunn, Richard & Priscilla Eastridge, Densil & Sandra Wilson, Lisa & Mike Webb, Helena Burmeister, Roberta Toby, William Piper, Robin Witt, Henry Laswell, Bob Gunn, Don Standiford, Evelyn & Hugh Jackson, Larry Burmeister, Roger Gleitz, and Janice Eastridge.

Letters from Geo. B. Miller During the Civil War

"I was vaccinated today as it is said there is smallpox in the camps near us. The tent is so crowded I can't write. . . . I close by saying write soon and often. Fare well, my dear wife, for awhile. George B. Miller."

So ends a letter from George to his wife, Ruth. The letter was written about 1862 from a Union Army camp. Geo. Miller was the grandfather of Tinsel Miller, of Florida, formerly of English, the great-grandfather of Lowell Miller and the great, great grandfather of Mrs. Terry "Susie" Smith.

Tinsel preserved several of the letters exchanged between his grandparents during the bloody Civil War. Information was submitted by Goldia Miller of Grantsburg, whose late husband was a brother to Tinsel and was taken in part from the March 1939 edition of "The Gas Flame."

Although the paper is fragile and yellowed with age, the letters reveal the hardship and heartache that always accompany war.

Geo. Miller was the proprietor of a general store north of English, Indiana. His father was Colonel Houston Miller, one of the first Senators in the Indiana

Legislature. Geo. was only 22 when he entered the Union Army.

The discomforts of war to the soldier were plentiful. The soldier's frustration at not knowing how the war was going is also apparent from his letters:

"A great deal of rain fell last night. This morning we ate breakfast in the rain. I was glad to think I was well enough to eat anyway. . . . when I go to bed of a night I spread my oil cloth down, then my overcoat, then I take my knapsack for a pillow. Sometimes we have straw to lay on and sometimes not . . . I have not sat on a chair or lay on a bed only the first night . . . Give Jackson Buchanan my good wishes. Tell him to write to me and tell me how our Union is getting along."

Geo. and Ruth Miller had three sons, Lowery, Sam and Georgie. Their letters are filled with references to the children. In a letter to Geo. Ruth wrote: "I got salt to salt the meat and I have to send to Leavenworth and get salt to pay it back. They wouldn't sell it to me . . . I will send you paper enough to write me one letter . . . I have not got the lot fenced in yet. I can't get the nails made . . . I am going to have some wood sent in Saturday if it is not too bad."

Ruth was carrying on the business of the store while her husband was away and much of the content of their letters has to do with her questions and his replies about their business. But the hope that the war would be over soon recurred most often. While answering one of Ruth's questions, George said this:

"Do whatever you think is right for I can't expect I will be there to manage for you for a long time and maybe never. A man's life is uncertain at home or abroad." And Ruth replies in one of her letters.

"It may not be long till you will get to come home. There is some talk of peace in the papers more than there ever has been. I know I have prayed for peace to be made and then I would have some hopes of you coming home.

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Letters: Continued

If there ever was anybody wanted anything in this world, I know I want to see you coming home."

But it was not to be. George Miller was attached to General Sherman's army and on the long march to the sea he fell victim to one of the many diseases running through both armies. He was buried by his friends. His body

was exhumed later and brought back to English for re-burial. His knapsack was brought back and the letters in it have been passed down the Miller family. They are a heritage of our American past as well as a reminder of the waste of war.

George B. Miller is buried in the Sloan Cemetery at English. . .

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for the Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society are \$15.00 per year. These dues are due in June. The new year starts on July 1st. A renewal form is available on the website at www.chgs.org.

MEETINGS

The Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Media Center of the Crawford County High School, located South of Marengo on Highway 66.

WEBSITE

www.cchgs.org



Leavenworth, Ind M. E. Church and Parsonage after the 1937 Flood.

Above photo: Leavenworth M. E. Church after the 1937 flood. You can see where the water came to on the sides of the church and the front of the parsonage. Photo from Richard Eastridge.

Submissions for Publication

Send or E-mail to:
Larry M. Burmeister
411 South Redbud Court
English, IN 47118
Phone: 812-338-2725
E-mail:
burmeisterlarry@Yahoo.com

Have any Old Photos To Share?

Especially interested in old churches no longer standing! Thanks to Lance Stroud for some old photos recently!

Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society Membership Form

New Member **\$15.00 Per Year Per Family** Renewal

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____ Prefer E-mail delivery:

Yes No

Mail to: Priscilla Eastridge, Membership Chairman
866 N. Sycamore Rd.
Taswell, IN 47175

We Thank You For Your Support!