

# The Crawford Countian



Winter 2023

Welcome to the 2023 winter edition of The Crawford Countian. For those who have not heard, life long Crawford Countian, Jim Kaiser, has passed away. The man did it all. In the past I have highlighted his achievements in several different issues. He has been a long time member of the CCHGS and helped with the Veteran’s memorial. I have included his obituary in this newsletter.

I am also looking for people to contribute to the newsletter, either as an one time contributor or on-going. I have been putting the newsletter together for 9 years now. While I like doing it, I would like to get other voices involved. If interested, you can email me and we’ll talk. If it can be fully researched stories or even a story about some interesting family history. I’m open to different types of articles.

Our next meeting will be in March. We take a hiatus during the winter months and there is typically not much going on. We will be having our annual spring yard sale in May, so if you’re wanting to do some de-cluttering in the next few months, keep us in mind! As always, any monetary help is extremely welcomed. 2022 netted our lowest donation contributions (a few society members have stepped up to help pay some finances). So any help is great.

Thank you all and have a great winter!

- Bill Piper, President of CCHGS

Email: [billgpiper@hotmail.com](mailto:billgpiper@hotmail.com)

*Cover photo: Abell cemetery in Sulphur Springs*




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# Alleged Counterfeiter

*(reprint of an article from the New Albany Ledger, New Albany, IN - March 3, 1883)*

## **Arrest of a Crawford County Man in Whose Possession Dies for Making Spurious Coin are Found.**

For sometime it has been suspected that a gang of manufacturers of bogus United States coin had their headquarters in Crawford county. The suspicion was based upon the fact that considerable of this spurious coin has been circulated in Crawford county and throughout Southern Indiana, and traced back to that county. For several months detectives have been on the alert for the operators in this gang, but their industry and shrewdness has remained unrewarded until a few weeks ago, when Chief Schindler, of this city, succeeded in getting a club, which has been traced up, and yesterday he arrested William Smith, who resides at Taswell, Crawford county, for having in his possession dies for manufacturing spurious nickels. Smith was brought to this city last night via the Air Line road, by officer Shindler and constable Heath, of Corydon, and placed in jail. This morning he was arraigned before United States Commissioner J. G. Harrison, plead not guilty and was held in \$1,000 bond for his appearance next Friday at ten o'clock. In default of bond he was sent to jail. Smith claims that he found the dies secreted in the house he lately occupied and maintains they were left there by the former occupant of the house.

This forenoon Smith was visited at the county jail by a Ledger reporter, and made the following statement:

"My name is William N. Smith. I am 25 years old and have been married five years. All this time I have lived at Taswell. About two years ago, while I was removing bureau down stairs in a building that had been previously occupied as a drug store, I discovered the molds for making bogus nickels which led to my arrest. The building was ceiled instead of plastered, and at the bottom one of the ceiling boards was loose from one end nearly to the other. In getting the bureau down stairs one of its feet caught upon this loose board and tore it off altogether. Looking down I discovered the mold or die plate lying between the ceiling and the weather boarding and when I got the bureau out I picked up the die and examined it, and carried it away with me. The same day I told several persons that I had found the die and where I had found it, and showed it to them. I showed the die to a number of persons and asked several what I ought to do with it. They told me not to secrets it but lay it away where anyone could see it. This I did. I placed it on a crosspiece on the unceiled side of my house, where any one could see it that desired to. I never made any secret of having found it and of having it in possession, and did not suppose any one could blame me for having it."

Reporter -- What are your habits, Mr. Smith? Do you drink? Are you steady and industrious?

Smith -- No living man ever saw me drunk. I work when I can get it and have always tried to be an honest man, and to support my wife the best I could. I left her sick, and my brother-in-law at the point of death. I have never done anything dishonest that I know of, and I don't think any one who knows me will accuse me of being dishonest. I never had any counterfeit money as I know of -- indeed I never had much money for I am a poor man and have to work hard for all I get. All my neighbors know this, and they all know that I had the die for I never made any secret of it. These are the facts and I am sure all my neighbors will testify to what I have told you.

There is nothing in the appearance or actions of Smith to indicate a bad man. He has not had much experience in the world and is a simple-minded, unsophisticated ruralist. A resident, of Taswell, who is in the city today, says that all or most of the people of that town, particularly the neighbors of Smith, knew of his having found the die, and not one of them would ever suspect him of using it or having it in his possession for a bad purpose. It is his opinion that the die was placed where Smith found it by parties who had been manufacturing bogus nickels from it.

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*Editor's note:*

*Speaking of counterfeiting money, fake notes with a Leavenworth bank name circulated in the 1850s. Below is a photo of an actual note that had the fake Leavenworth name. Now this note most likely did not circulate in the area (it would have been easily debunked as no such bank existed). However, it is an interesting piece of history.*



## *Jim Kaiser Obituary*

Jim Kaiser, 92, Eckerty, died on Friday, December 16, 2022 at Memorial Hospital of Jasper.

Jim was born May 28, 1930 at home on the family farm near Eckerty. He married his high school sweetheart, Doris June Snider on February 9, 1951. They were married for 60 years.

He graduated from French Lick High School in 1948 and attended Purdue University, Indiana University and University of Missouri. He started his career teaching at Milltown High School. Then his career led him to work for Southern Indiana Forge Farm-Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Kentucky and University of Illinois. He retired in 1993 to come back to the family farm.



He started his military career with ROTC and served in Korea. After leaving active duty, he was in the U.S. Army Reserves and the Indiana National Guard, being promoted to Colonel and having over 40 years of military service.

He was an active member of the Wickliffe United Methodist Church and served on numerous boards and committees in Crawford County.

Visitation is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21 at Denbo Funeral Home in English from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 22 at Denbo Funeral Home. Grave side service will follow at Wickliffe Cemetery. Pastor Jim Bennett will be officiating.

Surviving are three daughters, Jackie (Dave) Heisterberg, Cole Camp, MO; Kathy (Bill) Stroube, Evansville, IN; and Milly Kaiser, Murphysboro, IL; two brothers, Phillip (Jo) Kaiser, Lake St. Louis, MO and Sam (Tracy) Kaiser, Belton, TX; one step-sister, Beverly (Tim) Spears, Mequon, WI; four grandchildren, Bryan Stroube (Deanna), Sam Stroube (Eda), John Heisterberg, and Clara Acra (Paul); and 5 great-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence Edward Kaiser and Selma June (Esarey), step-mother Opal, his wife Doris June (Snider), and his son, James Edward Kaiser.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Community Foundation of Crawford County designated for the Kaiser Scholarship Fund or Wickliffe United Methodist Church.

# Shot in his Store

*(reprint of an article from the Jeffersonville Daily Evening News, Jeffersonville, IN Sept 28, 1835)*

At 2 o'clock Friday morning Mr. Seigler, a storekeeper, at Riceville, on the L.E. & St. L. road, in Crawford county, was discovered in his business house, shot in the head and robbed of \$1,30...

As soon as the shooting and robbery was discovered the town was alarmed, and during the morning two men were arrested on suspicion. On Saturday however, they establish their innocence and were discharged. The real robber and would-be-murderer made good his escape. On Sunday evening Mr. Seigler, the wounded man, was still alive, but in a very precarious condition.

This crime is only one of a series of daring burglaries and highway robberies committed in Harrison, Crawford, Dubois, and Spencer counties in the past four or five months.

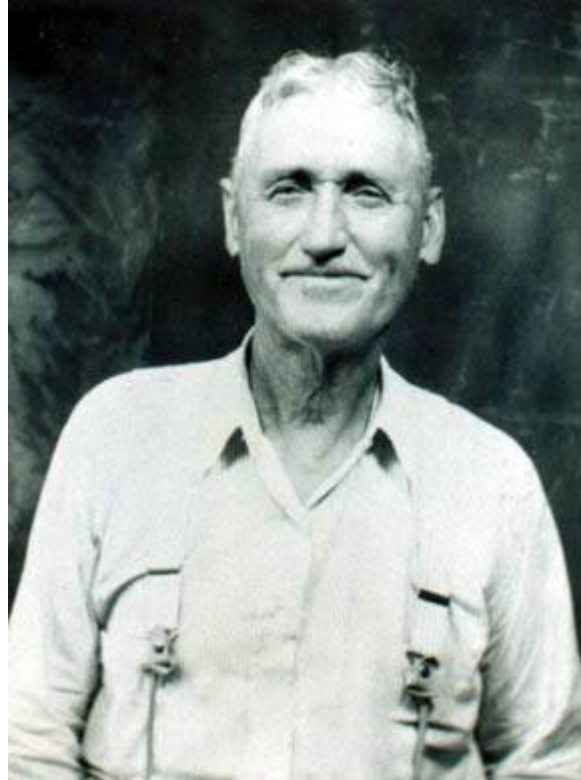
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## *From the Countian Historian...*

### List of Spanish American War Veterans With Connections To Crawford County

1. Agan, John Newton
2. Balding, Henry
3. Benz, Samuel
4. Bledsoe, Clark
5. Braschler, Henry Ernst
6. Byrd, Garrison
7. Bunch, Ira
8. Burkman, Arthur
9. Burrell, George Clarence
10. Carver, Ishmael Emerson
11. Clark, Perry F.
12. Conrad, Alvin Samuel
13. Cox, Fred Filmore
14. Crecelius, Emery
15. Crecelius, Robert Thomas
16. Crews, David Henry
17. Conklin, Joseph P.

18. Criswell, John R.
19. Culver, Daniel W.
20. Cummings, Alpha Jackson
21. Cuzzort, Edward J.
22. Goldman, Felix
23. Hall, James E.
24. Hawkins, James
25. Hobbs, Leroy I
26. Hooten, George Washington
27. House, Claude M,
28. House, Joseph P.
29. Ingle, Richard
30. Jenkins, Curtis Basil
31. Johnson, Charles E.
32. Johnson, James E.
33. Jones, Frank
34. Kemp, John
35. King, Daniel
36. Key, Rev. Perry
37. Knight, Voley W.
38. Lane, Charles E.
39. Leatherland, Wyatt Sampson
40. Leavenworth, Warner Bates
41. Leonard, Bailey J.
42. McClellan, Alfred
43. McDonald, David Isaiah
44. McWilliams, James Albert
45. Megenity, George
46. Megenity, Robert Wilford
47. Miller, William Houston
48. Mills, Charles H.
49. Nutler, William H,
50. Purcell, Ulysses Sheridan
51. Rowland, Basil C.
52. Rowland, Simon L.
53. Rowland, William Tell
54. Schoonover, Clyde Forest
55. Scott, Jesse Gibson
56. Sanders, Sabern C.
57. Stewart, Harry R.
58. Stroud, Jay Frank
59. Taylor, Nicholas N,
60. Taylor, Sherman
61. Thickstun, Lovell Cole
62. Trusty, Simon Peter



William H. Miller



Jesse G. Scott

63. Trusty, Allen
64. Tucker, Charles W.
65. Tucker, William
66. Unsel, Louie Albert
67. Vance, Andrew E.
68. Vance, James E.
69. Vance, Jerry W.
70. Vance, William T.
71. Williams, William T.
72. Williams, Otto C. Henry
73. Wilson, Samuel E.
74. Wiseman, Henry N,
75. Wright, Garrison M.

This is probably not a complete list: If you know of any other men from Crawford County who served in the Spanish American War, please let me know. I would like to make sure we have them all documented.

Roberta Toby  
Crawford County Historian

### Spanish Vets of CC

D	N	A	L	R	E	H	T	A	E	L	A
S	M	A	I	L	L	I	W	R	C	R	M
R	E	L	T	U	N	I	U	E	R	O	T
E	O	S	D	E	L	B	N	V	E	T	M
L	H	A	W	W	V	M	S	O	C	U	S
N	A	N	C	I	A	I	E	N	E	C	N
A	W	D	U	S	N	L	L	O	L	K	I
L	K	E	Z	E	C	L	T	O	I	E	K
L	I	R	Z	M	E	E	M	H	U	R	N
E	N	S	O	A	H	R	N	C	S	W	E
L	S	A	R	N	Z	E	L	S	N	A	J
C	O	R	T	R	O	W	L	A	N	D	E
C	A	T	H	I	C	K	S	T	U	N	L
M	S	H	S	I	C	Z	P	M	E	K	O

WISEMAN  
WILLIAMS  
VANCE  
UNSELT  
TUCKER  
THICKSTUN  
SANDERS  
SCHOONOVER  
ROWLAND  
NUTLER  
MILLER  
MCCLELLAN  
LEATHERLAND  
KEMP  
JENKINS  
HAWKINS  
CUZZORT  
CRECELIUS  
BLEDSOE

Previous Minutes:

**October 11, 2022:**

Meeting opened at 6:30pm with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Program - Tami Redding is working on projects to improve English - connectivity for old and new English, beautification, and pride of community. She presented a power point visual program on the connectivity project - a multi-use trail to connect old English with new English. It begins at Sycamore Springs, comes down Church St. Partway, then crosses to Courthouse St. And down to the old grain mill, continues along the golf course, crosses to East Fifth Street, follows along the creek behind the old school building, and crosses over to a low traffic street on up the hill to Highway 64 and new English. The old grain mill would serve as a hub. She presented a history of the old mill which was impressive as it had many uses over the years. Some were the English Light Co., the Telephone Col, a teen center, a laundromat, as well as the grain mill. She hopes that it can be restored (it seems to be in good shape) and used in a variety of ways. She was open to questions and a lively discussion followed with many favorably and encouraging comments.

Minutes were read. No corrections, except Judy Faith was added to list of those attending. Jason made a motion to approve, seconded by Cheryl, and the motion passed.

President's report - Newsletter is out. Shelter house was broken into, and Bill's lawn mower and some items for a yard sale were taken. The locks have been changed. Vanesa Wyrick donated her mother's handmade quilt which was a wedding gift made by church ladies in English. Her parents received it in 1935 and that is the date on the quilt. A book was donated by Dr. Joseph Dean who lives in Louisville. His ancestors are from the county around Milltown.

No financial report.

Roberta is recovering from surgery, so no Archives or County historian reports. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Proctor House report - Will be a Trunk or Treat event on October 22 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Those attending were Judy Faith, Cheryl Allen, Georgianna Wiseman, Tami Redding, Frank Redding, Angela Thompson, Ben Wishart, Nidral Dial, Mary Ann Merriberon, Geni Wagner, Louie Mitchell, Diane Mitchell, Jason Froman, Bill Piper, Carol Tomlinson and Tyler Gallien.

**November 8, 2022:**

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Program - Open floor: Roberta Toby spoke of the accomplishments of the organization. County markers, books, Proctor house & cemetery, shelter house, Riceville depot, helping the county get the current archives building, getting the Proctor house on the National Registry and the Veteran's Memorial. She also mentioned some of the people who helped over the years including Doris Leistner, Carol Tomlinson, Bill Piper, Glen Toby, Larry Burmeister, Sharon Morris, Greg Qualters and Jason Froman. Debbie Oxley then introduced Loren Brown, who spoke of his veterans' trip to Washington DC where he visited the White House, the Pentagon and Arlington cemetery. A video on youtube from Eyewitness news highlights the story and it can be viewed at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaEEGZ3uquE>



Previous meeting minutes read and Louie Mitchell made the motion to approve, with Roberta Toby seconded it. The motion passed.

President's report - Several items were donated to the society including furniture from Melissa Benningfield, which belonged to her mother Paula, whose grandfather was A.H. Flanigan. Bonnie Tinchler donated a community quilt, as did Ronald Stephenson. (Both quilts mentioned in this newsletter).

VP report - none

Financial / Membership report - Beginning balance of October 1, 2022: \$13,939.00 After deductions and deposits, total is \$11,860.05. \$3,000 of this is earmarked for a grant project, with real ending balance being \$8,860.05. Membership 49, Corporations 3, Library 1

County Historian report - Nothing much but did express her displeasure of the dead trees at the Veteran's memorial not being replaced.

Proctor House report - Trunk or Treat event did not get a lot of attendance. This would be the last event for the Proctor House this year.

Other - Christmas dinner was decided for December 13 at 2pm at the CCHGS building in English.

Meeting adjourned around 7:30pm (actual time not recorded).

Those attending: William Piper, Robin Piper, Roberta Toby, Debbie Oxley, Loren Brown, Louie Mitchell, Diane Mitchell, Jason Froman, Tyler Gallien, Bob Roberts, Angela Thompson.

**December 13, 2022:**

No meeting was held, as this was the Christmas dinner. We had numerous attendees!



# Donated Items!

In the past few months, we received some “community quilts” from two different people.

Here is the first from **Bonnie Tinch**. Here is info she provided: “The quilt belonged to my parents, Wm Clayton May and Dorothy Edith Wellman May. It was a wedding gift made by church ladies in English. They gave the quilt to Bertha Crawford Wellman to take to my



parents. Bertha Crawford had several sisters and brothers, some of which have made blocks for the quilt. Theresa Camp also found a block made by her aunt - their family name was Hammons (SP). Theresa is a good friend of mine here in Terre Haute. My parents were married Mar. 31, 1934. The date they received the quilt was 1935, that is also the date on the quilt.”

The second quilt was donated by **Ron Stephenson**. The info he provided is it's a friendship quilt from his grandmother, Roma Pascal Vernon. Ron also donated a Civil War discharge for Daniel Pascal.



### 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](http://www.cchgs.org).

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

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### 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.

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### Website:

[www.cchgs.org](http://www.cchgs.org)

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### Social Media:

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



### Books for sale

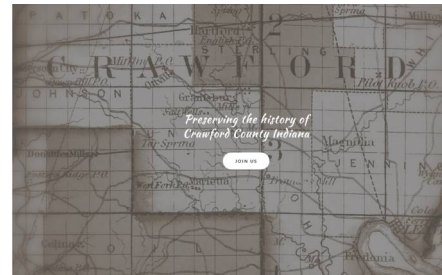
Our book list has been REVISED!! Some out of print titles have now returned and we are also offering DIGITAL versions of most of our books. The digital versions will be sold on CD-R in PDF format. Check our website, <http://www.cchgs.org> for more information!

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