

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Museum -- Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVIII

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OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be held October 10th, at 2:00 P.M., in the RCHS building on the court house square.

The program for the October will be presented by Robert Taylor, from Sunman. Mr. Taylor will be showing us how to weave wreaths and pictures from human hair.

The July meeting was held the 11th of July. The minutes were not read but the treasurer's report was made by Bea Boyd.

The RCHS was host to a group of young folks this past summer. Mr. Keith Alexander, teacher from Madison Consolidated High School brought an English Class from the Southeastern Career Center for genealogy research. The fourteen members learned techniques of research, note taking, bibliography writing and oral presentation. Some were able to work on family history. Others chose a court case that took place a hundred years before their birth. The volunteers from the Society found it interesting working with the young people. On Friday, July 30 the class presented their oral presentation to several members from the Historical Society.

Thanks to Mr. Alexander and his class for coming to the RCHS. We hope in the future we will have more young people interested in their genealogy.

TALES OF VERSAILLES

The History of Versailles Indiana, Brought To Life by Alan F Smith

A hard bound book with 189 pages containing 129 old pictures, including the history of The Ripley County Seat from it's inception in 1818 to the present day. Details of the first land transations, early plats, additions, names of business & professionals, crimes, fires, incorporation, church & lodge histories, and stories and comments. The book is indexed to aid genealogists, and sells for \$16.00 locally, \$20.00 if mailed. Contact Alan at: afsmith@seidata.com

The Versailles Pumpkin Festival was the 24-26th of this month. RCHS had quite a few visitors during those days.

The July meeting was held at the RCHS Library, July 11th at 2:00 P.M., with 25 members present.

A motion was made by Carolyn Hahn and seconded by Lori Hoffman to accept minutes as printed in the bulletin.

Treasurers report was read by Bea Boyd. Motion made and seconded to be accepted as read.

It was reported that the fire extinguishers were charged but only two were found. Need to locate the third and make sure the locations are well marked.

The millennium committee was paid \$200.00 and a report was made on the preparations being made.

Wilbur Meyers brought back three chairs that he had repaired. Was missing two brackets for one of them.

Norris Krall made a report on the electrical problem and reported that \$250.00 had been received from the Insurance Company. He also gave report on the Building fund. It was reported that the heat and air conditioner were both on for some time. Problem solved by turning off heat.

Truly Draut reported that Susan Schmidt is ill with cancer. A card was passed and signed by all present to be sent to her.

E-mail was received from Jean Purney who has researched the Knapp family. She has a book out which can be purchased for \$39.60.

Discussion on putting Violet Toph papers on CD Rom, was referred to the Directors meeting. Sign up paper for museum workers was passed. See Kathleen Lane if you can work.

Looking for a Respository for the Woods Family Journal. Two Respositories are needed. Would it be possible for RCHS to be one. Everyone thought it a good idea.

It was reported that Mr. Leonard Manship was taken to the hospital. Also Sandra Meisberger has a broken ankle. Virginia Herbst, a member from Milan, passed away. Bea Boyd and Alice McCoy attended the District Historians meeting at Madison. Ten different counties from southern Indiana were represented.

Report was made on work at the museum and house. Lots of cleaning, picture hanging, other work to do. More shelf space needs to be put in. There is money available for most of this.

Wilbur Myers brought a copy of new Cemetery Preservation laws. Copies were made and left with the Society.

The program for today was a tour of the Museum, House and grounds.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Lane, and second by Betty Roepke.

Meeting adjourned.

Refreshments were served by Washington Township.

Alice McCoy, Pres.

Henry Walker, Sect.

MEMBERSHIP DUES are due as of the first of January. New membership fees are \$10.00, renewal fees are \$5.00. Check your mailing label. Please send dues to:
Mrs. Don Boyd PO Box 83 Holton, IN 47023

Mildred B. Dreyer, the widow of Dr. Ralph W. Dreyer, and mother of RCHS Life member David S. Dreyer, passed away September 14, 1999 at her residence. Burial was in the Earlham Cemetery.

Thank you to the Tyson Fund Committee

A birthday party for "Uncle" Jim Tyson, on September 14th, was attended by a record breaking crowd.

Jim Tyson was a philanthropist, and according to Alice McCoy who remembered Uncle Jim, was "a simple man who never lost his love for his home town". Mrs. McCoy says that Jim Tyson never learned to drive, so he didn't own a car, but that he loved to travel and was a Good Samaritan. And "It was an honor to have known him". Versailles is very fortunate to be remembered by this fine gentleman. The Historical Society certainly appreciates his largesse throughout the years we have been in operation.

The Ripley County Historical Society received a \$3,000.00 check from the Tyson Fund towards the purchase of a new copier. This is a great boon to RCHS since the ones we have here are so well used daily, they are wearing out quickly.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Ripley County History Vol I	\$65.00
Ripley County History Vol II	\$55.00
Johnson Township Cemeteries	\$10.00
Brown Township Cemeteries	\$10.00

Please send your order and a check to:
RCHS PO Box 525 Versailles IN 47042

Naturalization is the process by which an alien becomes an American citizen. It is a voluntary act; naturalization is not required. Of the foreign-born persons listed on the 1890 through 1930 censuses, 25 percent had not become naturalized or filed their "first papers."

The Courts

From the first naturalization law passed by Congress in 1790 through much of the 20th century, an alien could become naturalized in any court of record. Thus, most people went to the court most convenient to them, usually a county court. The names and types of courts vary from State to State. The names and types of courts have also varied during different periods of history--but may include the county supreme, circuit, district, equity, chancery, probate, or common pleas court. Most researchers will find that their ancestors became naturalized in one of these courts. A few State supreme courts also naturalized aliens, such as the supreme courts of Indiana, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, New Jersey, and South Dakota. Aliens who lived in large cities sometimes became naturalized in a Federal court, such as a U.S. district court or U.S. circuit court.

General Rule: The Two-Step Process

Congress passed the first law regulating naturalization in 1790 (1 Stat. 103). As a general rule, naturalization was a two-step process that took a minimum of 5 years.

After residing in the United States for 2 years, an alien could file a "declaration of intent" (so-called "first papers") to become a citizen. After 3 additional years, the alien could "petition for naturalization."

After the petition was granted, a certificate of citizenship was issued to the alien. These two steps did not have to take place in the same court. As a general rule, the "declaration of intent" generally contains more genealogically useful information than the "petition." The "declaration" may include the alien's month and year (or possibly the exact date) of immigration into the United States.

Exceptions to the General Rule

Having stated this "two-step, 5-year" general rule, it is necessary to note several exceptions.

The first major exception was that "derivative" citizenship was granted to wives and minor children of naturalized men. From 1790 to 1922, wives of naturalized men automatically became citizens. This also meant that an alien woman who married a U.S. citizen automatically became a citizen. (Conversely, an American woman who married an alien lost her U.S. citizenship, even if she never left the United States.) From 1790 to 1940, children

under the age of 21 automatically became naturalized citizens upon the naturalization of their father. Unfortunately, however, names and biographical information about wives and children are rarely included in declarations or petitions filed before September 1906. For more information about women in naturalization records, see Marian L. Smith, "Women and Naturalization, ca. 1802-1940," Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Summer 1998): 146-153.

The second major exception to the general rule was that, from 1824 to 1906, minor aliens who had lived in the United States 5 years before their 23rd birthday could file both their declarations and petitions at the same time.

The third major exception to the general rule was the special consideration given to veterans. An 1862 law allowed honorably discharged Army veterans of any war to petition for naturalization--without previously having filed a declaration of intent--after only 1 year of residence in the United States. An 1894 law extended the same no-previous-declaration privilege to honorably discharged 5-year veterans of the Navy or Marine Corps. Over 192,000 aliens were naturalized between May 9, 1918, and June 30, 1919, under an act of May 9, 1918, that allowed aliens serving in the U.S. armed forces during "the present war" to file a petition for naturalization without making a declaration of intent or proving 5 years' residence. Laws enacted in 1919, 1926, 1940, and 1952 continued various preferential treatment provisions for veterans.

The Records

It is impossible to provide hard-and-fast rules about the content or even the existence of naturalization records. The 1905 Report to the President of the Commission on Naturalization remarked:

The methods of making and keeping the naturalization records in both the Federal and State courts are as various as the procedure in such cases. Thus the declaration of intention in some courts consists merely of the bare statement of the intention and the name and allegiance of the alien, while in other courts it also includes a history of the alien.... In a majority of courts alien applicants are not required to make the declaration of intention required by law ... and in other courts he is. Previous to 1903 a majority of courts did not require petitions or affidavits; other courts did. Some courts keep a naturalization record separate from the other records; other courts include the naturalization record in the regular minutes of the court. Some records contain full histories of the aliens, but a majority of the records show only the

name, nationality, oath of allegiance, and date of admission.

In 1903 a Justice Department investigator made even more condemnatory comments:

I find the naturalization records in many cases in a chaotic condition, many lost and destroyed, and some sold for old paper. Most the records consist of merely the name and nativity of the alien with no means of identifying aliens of the same name....In numerous cases I find aliens naturalized under initials instead of Christian names, surnames misspelled or changed entirely, and names of witnesses inserted in place of the alien naturalized....The examination of the records discloses the remarkable fact that never, since the first enactment of the naturalization laws, has any record been made in any court of the names of minor children who, under the operation of the statutes, were made citizens by the naturalization of their parents.

The Location of these Records

County Court Records

Naturalization records from county courts may still be at the county court, in a county or State archives, or at a regional archives serving several counties within a State. Some of these records or indexes have been published, such as the Index of Naturalizations, Ashtabula County, Ohio, 1875-1906, published by the Ashtabula County Genealogical Society.

Do not be surprised if county court employees tell you that their naturalization records are at "the National Archives" or that their court never conducted naturalizations. Most current court employees are probably not genealogists and may not be familiar with the court's older records. It is up to the researcher to determine the location of older court records.

County Court Records in the National Archives

As a general rule, the National Archives does not have naturalization records created in State or local courts. However, some county court naturalization records have been donated to the National Archives and are available as National Archives microfilm publications:

California:

M1526. Naturalization Index Cards from the Supreme Court of San Diego County, California, 1929-1956 (5 rolls).

M1608. Naturalization Index of the Superior Court

for Los Angeles County, California, 1852-1915 (1 roll).

M1609. Index to Citizens Naturalized in the Superior Court of San Diego, California, 1853-1956 (1 roll).

M1612. Index to Declarations of Intention in the Superior Court of San Diego County, California, 1853-1956 (1 roll).

M1613. Naturalization Records in the Superior Court of San Diego County, California, 1883-1958 (19 rolls).

M1614. Naturalization Records of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, California, 1876-1915 (28 rolls).

Washington State:

M1233. Indexes to Naturalization Records of the King County Territorial and Superior Courts, 1864-1889 and 1906-1928 (1 roll).

M1234. Indexes to Naturalization Records of the Thurston County Territorial and Superior Courts, 1850-1974 (2 rolls).

M1235. Indexes to Naturalization Records of the Snohomish County Territorial and Superior Courts, 1876-1974 (3 rolls).

M1238. Indexes to Naturalization Records of the Pierce County Territorial and Superior Courts, 1853-1923 (2 rolls).

M1543. Naturalization Records of the Superior Courts for King, Pierce, Thurston, and Snohomish Counties, Washington, 1850-1974 (103 rolls).

In addition, there are three National Archives microfilm publications that serve as indexes to some State and local court naturalizations in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

M1285. Soundex Index to Naturalization Petitions for the United States District and Circuit Courts, Northern District of Illinois, and Immigration and Naturalization Service District 9, 1840-1950 (179 rolls). This serves both as an index to naturalization petitions from the two Federal courts mentioned in its title and as an index to naturalization petitions filed in county courts in eastern Iowa, northwestern Indiana, eastern Wisconsin, and northern Illinois. Specifically, the following counties are included: Illinois counties: Boone, Bureau, Carroll,

Champaign, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Ford, Fulton, Grundy, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Marshall, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Ogle, Peoria, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Vermilion, Warren, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago, and Woodford.

Indiana counties: Benton, Fulton, Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, and Starke.

Iowa counties: Allamakee, Appanoose, Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clayton, Clinton, Davis, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Grundy, Hardin, Henry, Howard, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Mahaska, Mitchell, Monroe, Muscatine, Scott, Tama, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, and Winneshiek.

Wisconsin counties: Adams, Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Lafayette, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, and Wood.

M1674. Index (Soundex) to Naturalization Petitions Filed in Federal, State, and Local Courts in New York, New York, including New York, Kings, Queens, and Richmond Counties, 1792-1906 (294 rolls). This serves as a finding aid for New York City naturalization petitions.

M1299. Index to New England Naturalization Records, 1791-1906 (117 rolls). This serves a similar function for naturalizations occurring in various courts in the six New England States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Federal Court Records

If the naturalization took place in a Federal court, naturalization indexes, declarations of intent, and petitions will usually be in the National Archives regional records services facility serving the State in which the Federal court is located. Some of these indexes and records have been microfilmed.

The Microfilm Reading Room (Room 400) in the National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, has some microfilmed Federal court naturalization indexes,

declarations, and petitions, but they do not form a complete collection of these records. For listings of naturalization indexes and records available as National Archives microfilm publications in Room 400, see listings for Record Group 21, Records of U.S. District Courts; Record Group 85, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and Donated Materials in the National Archives in Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1996).

For more information

For more detailed information about naturalization laws and procedures, consult:

John J. Newman, *American Naturalization Processes and Procedures, 1790-1985* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1985).

For general information about the regulation of immigration into the United States, consult:

U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, *An Immigrant Nation: United States Regulation of Immigration, 1798-1991* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991).

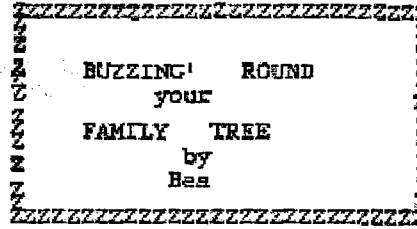
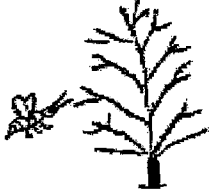
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For detailed information about the location of Federal, State, and local naturalization records and their availability on microfilm, consult:

Christine Schaefer, *Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1997).

This essay is adapted from "The Location of Naturalization Records," *The Record*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 21-22 (Nov. 1996)



Q-10-1999 From Joanna Bader, #304, 110 E. Meridian Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46227
Information on children of Eugene GORDON and Nannie McKay. Willard b. 5-22-1892
d. 7-4-1943 with wife Ruth and 2-3 ch. At one time lived in Evansville, IN. Nevada
b. 6-13-1889, m. Max Fuehrer 1-18-1922 Max b. 5-7-1889. Any Info on ch. Would be
helpful.

Q-10-1999 Donna Needels will welcome contact with anyone who belongs to David HESS Family line.
Bowman Hess and Alfleeta ? Were parents of two boys, Edward and George Washington with
latter b. Osgood, IN in 1862. However, I can find no record of their marriage, but have found
records of two other marriages (1851 and 1865) for Bowman. Alfleeta d. cir. 1864 and father
took boys to Clinton County, IN and left them there to be raised as orphans. Would like
Alfleeta's maiden name. Elizabeth Purcell Hess is my G-great-mother. Are there any
decendants of either William, or Milton, bros. Of Bowman in the Versailles area?
Donna's address 188 Dawns Edge, Montgomery TX 77356

I came across 3 family reunions in the paper (county). Each article listed all in attendance.
69 attended the Samuel T. and Nellie Chapman Maxwell reunion at the Ohio Rod picnic area in Versailles.
The descendants of George and Dora Gigerich gathered at the home of Jerry and Mary Jane Hunter,
Versailles. (Ed. Note: The Hunter family live south of Rexville) While the family of Vasrdemon A. and
Laura (Lilley) Webster met at Indian Lakes Campgrounds near Batesville. It has been several years since I
attended a Reunion unless you can call Englishes Ripley Flywheelers, which is next to a family reunion.
This was the 19th anniversary on the 3rd of August. This takes place in a parklike area adjoining the
Jefferson Proving Ground, sw of Holton. For 19 years the program has started with a flag raising in
memory of deceased veterans. After that you are on your own, and if you don't have a good time, that is
your tough luck.

Watson C. Shaw, a native of Ripley County, left Indiana for the west in March of 1869. In 1895-6 we
find him back home for a four month visit with friends and relatives. With the arrival of spring he was to
start home. He sent a letter to the Editor of the Versailles newspaper with a farewell greeting before he
started to his home in Grovesprong, Wright County, Missouri. While in Versailles, he was at Ziba King's
gallery having pictures taken with John U. Shaw, age 75, Tolliver Shaw, age 70, and himself, age 65.
Their combined ages were 210 years. Watson C. Shaw did at times communicate with his friends by his
letters to the Editor. There are Shaw descendants in Ripley County; I wonder if ther are any left in his
county in Missouri?

I've been enjoying Tales of Versailles by Alan F. Smith. It is not only Versailles, but other events. If
you are thinking of Christmas, this would make an excellent gift. (Purchase info on first page)

Please send all queries to the Society Treasurer Mrs. Don Boyd, PO Box 83 Holton, IN 47023



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