

GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

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

PERIODICALS RECEIVED

DEC 21 1989

Allen County Public Library

VOLUME XIV

JANUARY 1990

NUMBER 1

WINTER MEETING

The winter meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society will be held at Mrs. Mildred Cizek's home at 433 S. Buckeye St., Osgood; across the street from the new bank, January 14 at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Kathryn Manship will give a program about the early days of the Women's Temperance movement in Osgood.

REPORT ON THE AUTUMN MEETING

The fall meeting of the R.C.H.S. was at the Christian Church in Holton, October 8. Pres. Chester Henderson opened the meeting with introductions from each person. 28 members and friends were present.

Mr. Norris Krall reported that about 800 Ripley County History Books were mailed out. He said most of the Libraries contacted bought our book. Beside the book itself it contained an excellent index which means a great deal in a book being used as reference. Mr Krall noted that some other history books that Taylor has published were turned down by many institutions and libraries because of no index.

Mr. Krall has a mailing list which he offered us for a membership drive if we wished to use it and offered his help with the letter and mailing. [NOTE: The letter is on page 5 of the bulletin. Please read it to refresh your memory about membership dues, meetings, etc.]

There were recollections of the forming of the R.E.M.C.; of the times before and the changes it brought about.

The Hendersons showed slides and told of their trip to the South Pacific, New Zealand and Australia; a very interesting, informative and entertaining presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INDIANAPOLIS UNION STATION TAKES A WALK THROUGH HISTORY: visitors to America's oldest Union Railway Depot can learn all about Indianapolis Union Station's historic past and exciting revitalization through a recently installed self guided historic walking tour.

Fourteen self-standing markers, located throughout Union Station, tell the story of Union Station from the first depot in 1853 and the 1913 expansion, to the thriving war time activity, Union Station's eventual decline and its exciting renovation.

The tour was compiled with help from the Indiana Historical Society Visual Archives staff and is part of Union Station's ongoing program.

IHS PUBLISHES BIOGRAPHY OF ELI LILLY. The life and times of one of America's leading businessmen and philanthropists, Eli Lilly, is explored in the biography, "Eli Lilly: A Life, 1885-1977", recently published by the Indiana Historical Society and written by Indiana University Professor of History James H. Madison. It is available for \$29.95 from the IHS Offices, 315 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN 46202 or call (317) 232 - 1882.

IHS DISPLAYS HOLIDAY PHOTOGRAPHS AT INB NATIONAL BANK of past Indiana holiday season celebrations will be highlighted in the Indiana Historical Society display, "Happy Holidays", on exhibit from Friday, Dec. 1 through Dec. 29 at the INB Tower, Downtown Indianapolis.

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

As a service to readers interested in genealogy we publish queries in each issue. Please make them as concise as practical. Type-written copy is preferred. If handwritten, make sure it is very legible. The charge is 50¢ per query to society members and \$1.00 per query to nonmembers; payable in advance by check or stamps. Please send queries to: Mrs. Don Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Query: Would like to exchange information on John WINSOR/WINDSOR b. circa 1800, Delaware, d. March, 1854, Dearborn Co., IN; m. Charlotte Burroughs February 25, 1823 in Worchester Co. MD She born June 3, 1804-09 in Worchester, d. June 4, 1882 Vernon, IN Parents of Sarah, Mariah, Mary Ann Hall, William, Marthe Jane Bruce, Thomas, Elizabeth Wilson, Rebecca Barings, Phillip, Benjamin, Charlotte McBride, Elvina Vinson and John.
Elsie Menan, 4909 Colonel Addison Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Query: Would like to correspond with anyone about family lines who married into, or descended from YATER and RELATED FAMILY LINES.
NOTE: Many of those who married into the line include, but are limited to: ALLEY, BECK, BIRK, CASS, COLLINS, CREW, FAULKNER, GANTT, GROW, HARDING, (HAMMON?), HENRY, HOLMAN, HUNTER, JUDAH, JULIAN, KING, LAMME, LEEDOM, McMANNES, McMANNUS, McNEAL, PALMER, REA, RHEA, ROBBINS, ROBERTS, ROW, SHEPHERD, SHOOK, SUTTON, TOWE, WAGGONER, WHITE, WHEATLEY, WHITLEY (?), WRAY, YATER, YEATER.
Moss W. Yater, 2325 Yorkcrest Dr., Knoxville, TN 37912
Telephone: (615) 689 - 3380 or 2642

Query: I would like information regarding Joseph SPEARS b. 1839, d. 1906, and wife Sara C. (Kate) GILBERT d. 1928 m. Ripley Co. 26 May 1860. Dwain Crum, 4716 N. LaPresa Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Directory of St. John's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Sept. '89
by Hazel Steuri

"The Cruzan Story" by Mary Anne Cruzan Oct. '89
by Mary Anne Cruzan, 321 S. Washington, Webb City, MO. 64870

Beach Family, 7 pgs. by Bea Boyd & Myers Family copied by Bee Boyd
from Crawford Co. Historical Bulletin. Nov. '89

Lutz, 1 pg.; Hargrove, 4 pgs.; House, 9 pgs. genealogy charts Dec. '89
from M. & M. Robert L. Downen, 4009 Terrace Dr., Annandale, VA 22003

8 pgs. Wm. Holman, 7 pgs. Geo. Wash. Holman, 6 pgs. Isaac Grishaw II
from Ann Smelsec, R. 4, Box 242, Tipton, IN 46072 Dec. '89

Harrell, 1 pg. Dec. '89 by Arriest Udey

"Our McCullough History" compiled by Patty Carson Dec. '89
from Roman Candelaria, 3858 E. Cherokee, Phoenix, AZ 85044

Original Warranty deeds on Property in Otter Creek Twp. 1849-1911.
Estate Paper of Samuel Steinmetz, Adam Steinmetz Mortgage to Trustees
of Jennings Co. Library 1854, Valentine Laubec assessment by Charles
Vanosdol 1911, Mortgage from Eleazic Jenkins to James & Ben Myer 1857.
These contain signatures of many persons, Roswell Johnson and wife
for one. Dec. '89 (In Steinmetz File)

INTERVIEW OF PERCY BURTON, Osgood, IN. November 8, 1986 Saturday
by Beatrice Boyd. County Historian
RE: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD LOCATED ON HOPEWELL ROAD, OTTERCREEK TWP.
What do you want to know?

b. Tell me about the Underground Railroad.
You're talking about the one right west of Osgood.

b. Yes
Alright. Now when I was a boy going to school from Holton that house was still standing. It was badly in need of repair but it was there and it was what they would call a "Hillside House". (#1) Now the house was built up here, down here was a big like a porch only was no floor, just columns set up and the porch was up above and right through here ran a spring right through that thing. (Motions to show how it was) Now my grandfather and grandmother told me before the war, of course. My grandpa was in the war, they (negroes) would stay there all night at that place and next day they would take them over to Flat Rock to that one. (Underground RR) and that thing stands -- get just about down the hill, where George Smith lived, we called it the George Smith Hill, (#2) I don't know what they call it now. Down the hill, right there on the left and that was it. I drank out of the spring many a time. I been there many a time, Me and Willard Steele, went to school. That's about all I can tell you cause it's all gone now.

b. Yes it is.
But you -- a man could take a backhoe or a hoe and run on to a spring coming down through there. At one time it was a good house. Now that's just about down the big hill, at the foot of the hill.

b. Who lived there?
Nobody lived there in my time. If Grandma and Grandpa told me who lived there I've forgotten.

b. Who is Grandpa?
James McNew, he went to war, his wife was Elizabeth Conover, sister to Tom Conover. That's it. That's where it was. I know they tell you that you imagine it but that is where it was. Now that house, you see -- you didn't go in where the spring went, you went in around to the door.

b. Which way did the door face?
Let's see, the door to the house -- faced east -- but like I tell you this big thing down length of the house they built it out and had a porch in there. My grandfather and grandmother told me whenever time come -- why, you'd see a wagon going, big hoops on it. "It was always raining" because they had side curtains on it. They went whether it was raining or not, but they always had the side curtains on, and they would move them at night.

My Grandpa was a young man when he went into the war and he told me all about that. Course I was interested and listened to it, Me and Willard Steele, Willard's mother was a McNew. Bertha McNew and me and Willard were 2nd cousins. We went back and forth to school for 4 years. We'd go up and go into the house. Yeah! I can tell you.

b. You went to Conover School?
I was going to Holton High School.

b. What year?
I graduated in 1919, Oh 15-16-17-18. The house was in bad shape, about like the Old Hopewell Church. Pretty well gone. We'd go in and look around, I don't know why, but we did. And that's the story -- It's there and lets see -- I bet you -- I don't know about Golden Hull if he knew about it, but my Dad, course, he wasn't around here at that time. His dad was killed in the war. We'd go past there and he'd say well -- do you reckon there are any black ones in there? Yeah?

b. Dewitt Bowers knew about it.
Dewitt Bowers - Lorey Bowers. Bowers owned right back of the place. Walter Bowers, that's who we are talking about -- owned right back of it. I know where it is.

ABOUT THE NIP AND TUCK SCHOOL

Directions from Virgils Carroll go East $\frac{1}{2}$ mile South $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and there is the Nip and Tuck School. Conover School a mile north to Bethel School. That's the Nip and Tuck School. You've never been in it but I've been, I was in there at a protacted meeting. Phillip Smith had a holiness church in there and carried on and they got so loud the boys just ran them out, but anyhow, I could sit up to grandpa's and hear them preaching and I wanted to go. My Dad took me one night and all at once! Bang and down the aisle came a whiskey jug. (Laugh) I'm getting up there, not got too much time -- doesn't make any difference. I would like sometime to just go out there and show you just where them things are, Them people out there don't know where those things are, they're too young. Velma and Golden Hull, of course. They are probably the only ones. Maybe Asa (Conover). They never heard of the Underground Railroad. There is a little of Bethel School standing.

b. Not much.

You talked about when you went in that basement. Now that's where they kept them when they weren't wanting to see them. There was a little door there, it was still there when we were down there. They'd come out that little door. The door as I remember was on the west end (that's what they told me it was for, I only remember what people tell me).

b. Was the spring in the cellar part?

No, it wasn't in the basement, there was nothing around it. It ran down this way. I can see it yet, we'd kneel down, run the snakes out and get us a drink. Willard Steele would tell you, I don't know if he is still living or not. They talked about the RR west of Flatrock church. I told them there was one closer than that. Jeff (Percy's Grandson) went to see it when he was in High School. (I told him about it) I suppose that's all gone -- grewed up. My grandfather told me course I never saw my grandfather and grandmother told me they saw it many times with curtains over the sides going over to Flat Rock.

b. It was a beautiful day. Time was around 4:00 PM, so I suggested why not go now. So we went, Percy and Alice Burton and myself to the Hopewell neighborhood. I'm sorry the tape was not going for we went Fairground Road out of Osgood and he would mention things of interest. At the corner where Carl Grubbs lives, he pointed out the Taylor School House and who had gone to school there. The Old Ruby Homestead close to Otter Village. The McNew Section, The Lauber Section, Bowers and Smiths. We stopped where the old Nip and Tuck School once stood and over to the Hopewell road and left down the hill before reaching Otter Creek. Here we stopped for we had spotted where the Underground RR. had been. The Sycamore Sapling had grown up into a large tree, part of the rocks from the basement are still there. Percy pointed out where the spring was and probably if it was dug into there would be plenty of water. We crossed Ottercreek and by the old Hopewell Cemetery and coming to Dabney and back to Osgood. It was a very interesting interview and pleasant trip. I enjoyed the Burtons very much. We would like to see a plaque put there so people will know where the Underground Railroad was.

#1. Abner Cady bought the place from Renos and built the house on the hillside.

#2. A K A the Reno Hill

Where you see b. that is a question I asked or statement.

Interview submitted by Beatrice Boyd

R.C.H.S. SERVICES AVAILABLE

If you wish name and address of others working on your family line please send a self addressed, stamped envelope; no fee. There will be a \$2.00 research fee for each surname or question dealing with specific points concerning Ripley County. We cannot do a complete family history. Charge for xerox copies: 25¢ for 8" x 11" and 50¢ for 11" x 17". We are not a paid staff. Family History Committee members do this voluntarily.