

MONTGOMERY MEMORIES



Wonderous Working Women

December 2021

A publication of

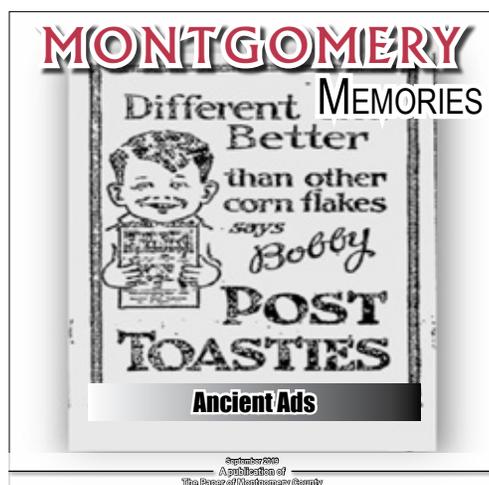
The Paper of Montgomery County

Page Listing

Contributors & Such	2
Dec. Feature - Karen Zach.....	3
Odds & Ends - Karen Zach.....	4
Nifty - Joy Willett.....	5
Hunt & Son Funeral Home	5
Oh My Word - Chuck Clore.....	6
Poetry and Puzzles - Joy Willett	7
Burkhart Funeral Home	7
Karen's Kitchen	8
County Connection - Karen Zach	9
Museums	10
Grandcestors - Karen Zach	11
Nucor	12

You can view past issues of
Montgomery Memories anytime
online at

<https://thepaper24-7.com/>
Just click on "Montgomery
Memories" under E-Editions.



Contributing Writers



KAREN BAZZANI ZACH has been a contributor of local historical articles for 40 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and received her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children's Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: Athens of Indiana*. After teaching English at Turkey Run HS for 21 years, she retired and is now enjoying visiting with her two children (Jay and Suzie), writing, reading, doing genealogy, and grandkidding!



CHUCK CLORE After a lifelong career in visual communications, Eureka! Chuck discovered that noodling the nuances of the written word can be just as much fun as tweaking a font into an iconic logo. Montgomery Memories is the perfect venue to explore his treasured C-ville's east-end recollections. An Athenian boomer from the class of 65, he delights in graphic design, cartooning, and story telling. Chuck's articles reveal how a CHS senior corduroy artist eventually evolved into an award winning designer and aspiring writer.



JOY WILLETT was born in Crawfordsville and spent much of her childhood in southern Montgomery County. She has lived her adult life in Indiana, Arizona, and California. She currently lives with her husband, David, in Monterey County California. As an amateur genealogist, she has done extensive research and has written her paternal and maternal family histories. In addition to genealogy, Joy enjoys writing poetry, painting, and traveling.



ALYSSA BLEDSOE is the Creative Services Department Manager for the Paper of Montgomery County, and she edits and helps complete the daily news as well as the Montgomery Memories and Sports Report every month for viewers to enjoy. She was born in Indianapolis before moving to Crawfordsville in her early childhood. She enjoys writing, painting and editing in her free time. Alyssa got her associate's degree in graphic design after graduating from our local Southmont Jr.-Sr. High School.





December Feature:

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Born, raised and died in Crawfordsville, this little lady (smallest in this CDPL picture) was aided along to her unusual job but she was also amazing at it and was often lured to other areas in order to ply her wares.

Mary K. Keeney was born to Jere and Sarah (Stanfield) Keeney, their oldest of five daughters and two sons, on August 5th in 1852 (one source saying 1845 but this is incorrect, since she was born ten months after her parents were married in October 1851). She passed away the month after her 51st birthday on the 17th from peritonitis probably from a ruptured appendix.

When I was wrapping-up my research on this gal, I found her name as Mary K, but nowhere else did I see her referred to in any way but Matie, in census records, articles, on her tombstone, sisters and parents and even her own obituary, it was always ... well, meet Matie Keeney!

The Keeney children (Matie, Jere, Ida, Sallie, Stanfield, Bessie and Annie) grew-up in "a suburban home," on South Elm Street that was surrounded with a beautiful and yummy garden – many varieties of flowers and fruit were in abundance. The family later moved to 508 W. Main where Matie would pass away Sept. 17, 1903.

As with all the Keeneys, Matie was highly intelligent. A brother was a doctor, her father and other brother were newspaper men, her maternal uncle a judge at South Bend and the list goes on.

Matie was always cheerful and well-loved by all. When she'd visit her relatives in South Bend for long periods and it was time to return home, often someone would give her a goodbye party with many attending. Once while in that city, she even attended the Bachelor Club's annual banquet, the only single female in attendance, although two wives of past Bachelor Club members were there, I suppose for chaperoning purposes.

Matie was involved in local clubs, her favorite the Current Events one where she loved to hear papers presented and in like matter, enjoyed pre-



sending them on various subjects. This group was mainly made up of wives of the intellectuals (doctors, lawyers, ministers) but a few single women too.

Early in life, Matie became favorably known as a stenographer, likely urged on by her father. She worked for a couple of years for the Wabash Valley Protection Union but when they moved their headquarters from Crawfordsville to Indianapolis she opted not to follow, even though the company was devastated in her decision. She had several options offered to her so she stayed on in our city. Mainly, she worked in the court system as a transcriber of trial minutes, never hurt by owning that last name of Keeney.

In fact, Rita Metcalf from Anderson and Matie were chosen as the stenographers in one of Montgomery County's most famous trials, that of the death of Hattie Pettit. The Pettit trial was lengthy, expensive and sad. Hattie's husband was William Fred Pettit both from New York, he being the minister of Shawnee Mound where a rich young widow also attended. Pettit was somewhat wishy-washy, having had many jobs, and when he got it into his head that he wanted to marry widow Elma Meharry Whitehead, he didn't let anything stop him (he had helped David Meharry draw up his will and learned that Elma would inherit a fortune, literally), including putting strychnine in the tea he fixed for his wife. Although Matie had done some work before the point of Pettit's trial, this one was what made her a famous stenographer of the area. The trial was lengthy, she was paid well and the work was certainly pretty thrilling. By the way, Pettit went off to jail where he died still a young man, Elma led a quieter life, her

father taking care of her until his own death, she passing six years thereafter at the young age of 45 well-loved in the community. She had five brothers and sisters but only one outlived her passing at age 55! So, this whole affair kept Matie not only entertained but in good money, as well.

Only guessing, but since her father, Jere's middle name was Madison I wonder if her nickname, or adopted name was in his honor?

Matie became the actual court reporter when Judge J.F. Harney informed Will White that at the end of the 1892 year, beginning January 1st of '93, that he would be terminated and his replacement would be Miss Matie Keeney. Guessing the tongues were wagging on that one, a female replacing a long-time male in a coveted position. In one jury in 1897, Jere West was allowed the sum of \$50 as special judge and Matie earned \$160 for stenographic services. She did extremely well salary-wise for the times for a single woman. Matie was somewhat in the newspaper business as well, also something fairly unique for those times as a woman's occupation. Her father retired and she and her brother Jere managed the Sunday Star one of my favorites of the old newspapers. They sold it in November of 1901, Jere going to Gilman, Illinois where he went into the real estate and livestock insurance business, thus ending a 75-year reign in the newspaper business for the Keeney family in Montgomery County.

The downfall of sickness started in 1900 when she began a siege of malarial fever. Semi-recovering from that, she continued working but in September 1903, she was attacked with appendicitis. Her brother, Dr. Stanfield H. Keeney was called from Indianapolis and he pronounced her case too far gone for an operation. She passed away shortly thereafter with much to remember (travelling so many places, having many friends, a close-knit family, exciting life) and for a great deal to be proud and thankful!

Odds & Ends – Collected & Commented on by Karen Bazzani Zach

Well, let's just say that this article will reflect its name. Today you will read some unusual happenings women planned and carried out, had the idea for, or just simply did, all Odds and Ends!

For instance in August of 1889, Julie Wilson Irwin (wife of Volney) gave her niece (Laura Marsh from Okahumpka, Florida) a party with a great number of friends. It was rather appropriate thinking of Florida as a fruit center. It was a lemon party and prizes were given to the lady finding the largest number of seeds in her lemon and another prize for the one with the least number. Sounds like fun and it was tagged as quite a unique idea for the time!

I had never heard of this group of gals but unique I'd say so. The Mud Turtle Club was a group of "pretty and bashful girls," according to the Crawfordsville Review 10 August 1889. They loved to go camping and sludging around at the Shades and other places of nature. Jim Hanna, a Review reporter had gone down to the Shades to check them out. He found a group of Greencastle girls enjoying the Shades as well. The Review thought that Jim had "broken an even dozen hearts." John Robinson and wife were chaperones for the gals and they had four Indianapolis girls join them, including Julia Walk whose handsome brother came down to visit them. He "is climbing the hills like a regular ruralite, though his whiskers will have to grow a few weeks before he can pass for one!" The gals set-off a wonderful display of fire works that was enjoyed by other campers as well. They had been camping there for quite some time and were still remaining for a week or so, inviting any Crawfordsville folks who would be assured with a hearty welcome. Someone interesting did indeed visit the group, Rev. and Mrs. W.F. Pettit and Mrs. Whitehead who signed the camp autograph book, one of the Turtles' traditions. The Rev. and Mrs. Whitehead were later said to have killed his wife, and although she was cleared, he went through a lengthy trial, and was found guilty. He passed away in prison, so the Mud Turtles were quite proud to own that autograph! At that time, the MTs were over ten years old but not sure how much longer they lasted. Sure love the idea of a bunch of young gals enjoying camping, though!

About 100 years later, an amazing local gal who was honored as Indiana's Trail Blazing Woman, along with dubbed Wabash Coach of the year – 7 times – in Wabash's Athletic Hall of Fame and hired as Wabash's first-ever female coach which position she held for 18 years as head swimming coach, tallying an impressive 87% win rate and never once did she hear a swear word from "her boys!" I'd say that was because of the great respect the Wabash men (or anyone who knows her) have for Gail Peabworth!

In the same time frame, we had another gal who adopted Montgomery County as her home place and was impressive – she began her career as a nurse, but decided she liked to write. That she did! Coming to Crawfordsville in 1971 as Civic Affairs editor, the next year she took one big leap as a correspondent to the Viet Nam war zone and stopping in seven various countries.



In 1976, she co-founded a unique look at MoCo history in the Montgomery Magazine. The wonderful book, Montgomery County Legend and Lore was compiled and edited by Pat and her amazing work, 100 years of Public Power was exceptional. I especially love her Pictorial History book but the list goes on. Pat was beneficial in boosting several writers in our area, including me and our own Tim Timmons. She passed away July 24, 1996, leaving one son, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Blessings upon her – one amazing lady!

Since I have more room, I'll wind this down with a couple of interesting and ahead of their time sisters. Much has been written about them already, but here is just an overview as they certainly go in our unexpected profession category. Mary Hannah Krout (see photo from Crawfordsville District Public Library Image database) first taught for eleven years in area schools, but it was the newspaper business she desired to crack. Her first writing job, other than at age 15 when she wrote "Little Brown Hands," which was published in a children's magazine, began in 1879 with the Journal. She also began to contribute to Indianapolis and Cincinnati papers. Actually, she wrote a gossip column under the pseudonym of Henrich Karl. Often funny, her columns might get her in major trouble today. Basically, she wore herself out more than once. Susan Elston Wallace, an impressive writer herself sometimes sent Krout money while she would recuperate from overwork. (CDPL "Writers"). This may have been for partial thank you for helping Susan finish Lew's (auto)biography. Her job on the Chicago Inter-Ocean boosted her career as a writer and her first book, Hawaii and a Revolution, and later in 1900, Alice's Visit to the Hawaiian Islands. Women's suffrage was a main topic both in writing and lecturing for her.

Her sister, Caroline Krout took over the care of her four younger siblings when their mother passed when Caroline was 16. Three years later, their sister Jane took over as the mother figure and Caroline began to teach school. It wasn't long before that occupation went by the wayside and she remained home recuperating from nerves. She began to write as well, having articles published in the Ocean, Chicago Daily News and such. A bit later, she did some court reporting in Crawfordsville. Susan Elston Wallace encouraged this sister as well and prompted her to complete Knights in Fustian (pen name, Caroline Brown). The novel, quite popular even prompted then NY governor, Teddy Roosevelt to write her, "You have given me far and away the best and most vivid idea I ever had of the Indiana Copperheads." (CDPL Writers). In 1911, she retired from writing and spent the rest of her life until death in 1931 as a happy home body!

A plethora of gals could be mentioned, (Janet Lambert, writer; Eleanor Lambert, designer; Theodora Larsh, artist; Lucille Hutton, actress and writer; Beatrice Schenck DeReigners, writer; Althea Luse, playwright) but let's suffice to say that Montgomery County was not lax in having women go out into the world making their marks in various professions, many long before their time and several right now in our own era!

This is our county!

Why not help preserve its history by contributing to Montgomery Memories?

Email Karen Zach: karen.zach@sbcglobal.net Subject: Montgomery Memories



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

For this edition of Nifty at Ninety... we meet Bess "Maxine" Best. Maxine was born on June 19, 1924 in Indianapolis. Her parents were Charles (b. 1899) and Mary Theresa (Gipe) Best. The Gipe name is German in origin. Mary Theresa, the daughter of Samuel and Mamie (Snead) Gipe, was born on January 1, 1902.

Charles' father, Peter, was born and raised in Hancock County, Kentucky. At the time of Charles' birth, Peter Jr. was the proprietor of a sawmill in Lewisport, a town situated along the southern bank of the Ohio River. Charles' paternal grandfather, also named Peter, was born in Darmstadt, Germany. Peter Sr. arrived in the U.S. in 1843 at the age of 11. Charles' paternal grandmother, Mary Balzer, was also German but was born in France. Her family immigrated in 1835 and settled in New Albany, Indiana. Mary and Peter Sr. married in Ohio in 1851. They lived for a time in Indiana, where Peter Sr. was in the lumber business and he owned a chair factory in Tell City, Indiana. The couple finally settled in Lewisport where they raised their family.

Charles' mother, Lucy Prentis, was born in Indiana. Her father, William, was from Virginia. He was a physician and practiced in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. William's family lived most of their lives in Hancock County, Kentucky. Lucy's ancestor, James Prentis, founded the town of Lewisport. Lucy died in 1908, four days after giving birth to her seventh child, who was stillborn. Peter Jr. married again. His second wife was named Etta Lamb, whose occupation was a nurse.

In 1910, Peter Jr. and Etta, his six children, and Peter Sr., were living in Owensboro, Kentucky. Not only was Peter Jr. the manager of a sawmill, he was a Legislative Representative for Hancock County. Peter Sr. died in 1911. Peter Jr. passed three years later, on March 31, 1914 from injuries sustained when he was scalded by boiler water during an inspection of his factory (The Twice-a-Week Messenger, Owensboro, Kentucky, January 14, 1914). Mary, the wife of Peter Sr. died in 1915. In 1920, Etta was living with five of her stepchildren and two borders. Charles was a woodworker in a carriage factory.

Before her marriage to Charles, Mary Theresa worked in a cigar factory. Her father, Samuel, had died in 1916 of Bright's disease, leaving Mary Theresa to help support her mother and siblings. Samuel served during the Spanish American War, and attained the rank of Captain. He continued his life-long service with the National Guard until his death at the age of 39 years (Twice-a-Week Messenger, October 28, 1916).

Charles and Mary Theresa wed on April 23, 1921. Soon after, the newlyweds moved to Indianapolis. He worked as a woodworker in an automobile factory. The 1940 census lists



that he was a "body builder" in a "highway garage." Maxine, their only child, attended Arsenal Technical High School, where she was a yearbook typist for the Arsenal Cannon (Indianapolis News, September 22, 1941) and was on the honor roll. An accomplished organist, she played during programs presented at the Edwin Ray Methodist Church (Indianapolis News, December 24, 1941), as well as for many wedding services. After high school, Maxine attended Indiana University, where she studied music and the organ (Crawfordsville Journal Review 6 Oct 2016 p 2A).

The Society page of the July 19, 1947 Indianapolis News announced the marriage of Maxine (see photo) to Gerald Dreyer on July 14, 1947. Born in Ripley County on August 12, 1922, "Gerry" moved with his family to Indianapolis in the 1930s. Maxine and he attended high school together. He was a 1944 Wabash graduate and served in the Navy during WWII. After the war, he attended Indiana University for graduate studies in journalism. Beginning in 1947, he worked as a staff reporter for the Indianapolis News. He was promoted to Business Editor of the paper in 1951. For four years, beginning in 1956, Maxine and Gerry lived in Ft. Wayne,

where he worked for a public relations firm (U.S. Directories 1822-1995). Five children joined the family – Jerry, Tom, Richard, Mary Beth, and Carol Ann. The family returned to Indianapolis, and in 1960 they were nominated as the "All-American Family" (The Indianapolis News, April 27, 1960).

The family moved to Crawfordsville in the 1960s. After the children were grown, Maxine worked for the president of Wabash College as secretary. She was a member of the Kiwanis Club and served as their secretary and resident piano player for many years. She was the organist for the First United Methodist Church for 47 years. She taught piano and organ, and continued to play for weddings, even at the age of 78. Gerry and she were very involved in volunteer work, including Habitat for Humanity (which Gerry started in Montgomery County), and Methodist mission work.

On April 5, 1997, at the age of 98, Charles died in Crawfordsville. Mary Theresa and he came here to be closer to Maxine. Mary Theresa died in Crawfordsville on August 1, 1997 at the age of 95. The couple was interred at the Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis. When Gerry passed away May 26, 2011, he was buried there too. After his death, Maxine lived at a nursing facility in Carmel. Like her parents, she was long-lived. She passed October 3, 2016 at the age of 92. She was laid to rest next to Gerry. May this talented, accomplished, and caring woman rest in peace.



THREE GENERATIONS AT
HUNT & SON FUNERAL HOME,
THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT SPECIALISTS,
HAVE BEEN MAKING SPECIAL
REMEMBRANCES FOR FAMILIES
IN THIS AREA FOR OVER 100 YEARS.

107 N GRANT AVE., CRAWFORDSVILLE • 362-0440

Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories

Warriors in Lace

Joy Willett

Strong in battle
valiant and brave
Deborah the prophet
the Israelites led.
Their victory assured
by the woman Jael
who drove a stake
through Sisera's head.

An astronomer, teacher,
philosopher, and mathematician
Hypatia was respected
by Christian and pagan.
Until that fateful day,
C.E. March 415,
when she was martyred
for her religion.

She claimed to hear voices
from above
that led her to fight
for the French cause.
Burned at the stake
for her claims
Joan was a hero
regardless her fate.

1

an enemy to others,
she led 70 north
toward shining Polaris.
During the war
a soldier, nurse, and spy,
Harriet was a hero
and faithful ally.

Although she never
took up arms to fight,
Anne wrote words
that brought us light.
Taken from the world
for her beliefs,
Miss Frank's precious life
was all too brief.

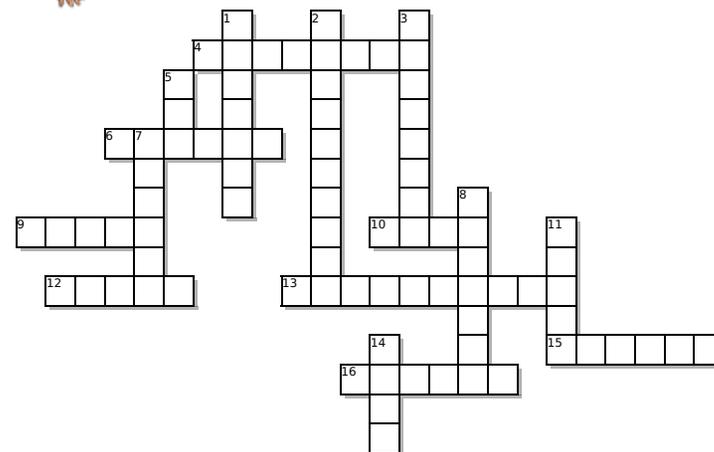
There were many women
whose names are unknown.
Some lived quiet lives
and made a home,
others were renowned
in their day,
yet time has erased any trace.
Heroes all – warriors in lace.

2



Wonder Women

December 2021



ACROSS

- 4 Wabash swim coach
- 6 Fruit in Karen's pie
- 9 MoCo sister writers
- 10 ___ Travis, volunteer
- 12 Pat ____, local writer
- 13 Smells fishy (2 wds)
- 15 MoCo newspaper family
- 16 Underground conductor

DOWN

- 1 Old Testament judge
- 2 Karen's g-grandma
- 3 ___ Larsh, potratist
- 5 First woman
- 7 1920s actress, Lucille ___
- 8 4th century AD philosopher
- 11 WWII diarist Anne ___
- 14 Althea ____, playwright

Check out page 10 for the solution

Burkhart Funeral Home

Charles, Carl & Craig Burkhart

201 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville

765-362-5510

www.BurkhartFH.com





Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories



Photo credit: Lombroso

Below is one of the dishes I never enjoyed at my Italian Grandmother's (Nona's) home but both my brothers and dad of course loved it. Italians serve it as an appetizer and it will stink up your house when ya' make it. Nona made it for most holidays, definitely Christmas, or she would also fix it upon special request (several of my brother Garry's friends would go down and she'd make it for all the boys). Basically, you love it or hate it. I'd not put it in my hate the dish category but let's just say I could do without.

Bagna cauda

Put ½ cup oil in bottom of a skillet. Brown 3-6 pieces of garlic (cut fine or leave whole, then take out after browning in flavor). Add 3 small cans of anchovies (packed in oil – boneless). Add 1 small can sardines (packed in oil – skinless). Cook on low heat – stir often until pasty. Add 1 stick of butter.

Dip Chinese cabbage, celery or pickled mushrooms into bagna cauda, and love it (or hate it – your choice)! We have also used bread, cauliflower and other things for dipping – be creative!!!

**

Bonnie's Cherry Pizza

Joan Oppy was one of the bestest-ever ladies so I'm giving you a great recipe she had in our long-ago (1987ish) Genealogy society cookbook! This is similar to Cherry Delight but somewhat diff.

2 Cups graham cracker crumbs

2/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup melted margarine (butter)

Mix together and press into a 9x13 pan.

3 eggs

1 tsp vanilla

8 oz. pkg cream cheese

2/3 Cup sugar

Beat with mixer and pour over cracker mixture. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool, then top with cherry pie filling.



County Connections

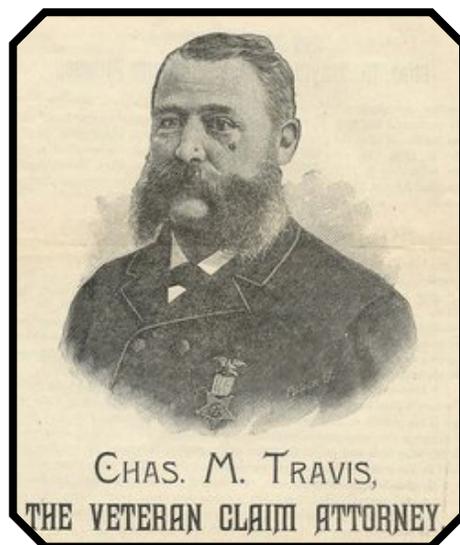
Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Mary DeEtta Salisbury was born in Cazenovia, Madison County, New York June 16th in 1847 to Barnet and Minerva Coons Salisbury, long time Easterners, one of her great grandfathers killed while fighting for our early country at the Battle of Trenton. There, she glided through girlhood and on October 7th in 1872, she married Charles Monroe Travis (see photo from findagrave via M.H. Barksdale and her tombstone photo taken by the great Fines – so appreciated) who was a Civil War veteran and the son of John Welch and Margaret Trimble Travis, having been born in Grandview (Edgar County), Illinois on October 30th in 1845. Almost immediately, they were off to South America where he served as the US Consul at Para, Brazil.

While in South America, their only child, Charles “Claude” was born so appropriately on the 4th of July in 1873. Claude later had a slight connection to my hometown, upon Claude’s graduation from Wabash College (after growing-up in Crawfordsville and preaching while a college student), he became minister at the Methodist Church in Waveland. He was a minister for 50 years and after a sermon titled “Life to the Fullest,” he had a coronary, passing away a few days later. He was twice married, losing his first wife and mother of his two children and his second wife survived him.

Upon the family’s return from Brazil, they lived in Crawfordsville several decades and although moving to Chicago where he was in the insurance business until shortly before his death and she later to Fort Wayne to be with Claude, they were returned to their long-time home and are buried in Oak Hill.

Mary was involved in so many things: church, politics, clubs and more. She and Charles were deeply



associated with the Grand Army of the Republic, he being past state president of GAR. He had served in two different units in his military career, Co E, 13th Illinois in the Civil War for three years, and during the Spanish-American War, he served as Major in the 8th Indiana. Much of his work as a lawyer (he studied law with Lew Wallace and was his partner as well as M.D. White) was centered around obtaining pensions for deserving U.S. veterans but had a mad dislike for those abusing the pension by drinking, gambling or not taking care of the family. His obituary in the Review (12-19-1913 p 7) notes that he was a big man, “physically and mentally, he made himself felt in any of the walks of life.” In Crawfordsville since he had been gone for ten years and had not been heard from by anyone for several months, his death was quite a shock and put a damper on Christmas festivities for many who had known him.

Mary before and after her greatest accomplishment was completely involved in the drive for our first major hospital (Culver), planning huge rummage sales, managing a large group of volunteers and serving as the treasurer



of the funds for several years.

As mentioned, her real love was likely the Woman’s Relief Corps and as president, the newspapers noted: “Mrs. Travis has ever taken a keen and zealous interest in the affairs of the organization and has been constant in season and out of season working for its success. She is a woman of more than ordinary executive ability,” from the Weekly Journal 21 May 1897 when she had just captured the state presidency. She had held that position three times on the local level and at the time of her state election, she had the impressive job of National Press Correspondent.

During her year, she visited the state Soldier’s Home and Orphan’s Home more than once, complimented the overseer and noted they were both necessary places to give aid. At the end of her term, the state convention was quite unique, whether her idea, a mutual agreement or what, but the Woman’s Relief Corps had their 15th annual meeting, GAR their 19th; Sons of Veterans their 7th and the Ladies’ Aid Society their 5th all in Columbus, Indiana on the same day. It was estimated there were about 8,000 there. The “fluttering of flags and nodding of plumes” were enhanced

by drums, fifes, and bands. “Two great arches in emulation of Indiana stone were built at each end of Washington Street, one representing the battleship, Indiana and the other General John Logan, leading a charge. On each side of those arches were the names of battles fought and won by Union Troops and the ones won by the Navy in the

present war (Spanish-American – Indianapolis News 18 May 1898).” In Mary’s report she noted there were 186 corps in good standing with 6,398 members, a gain of 322. They gave a total of \$7,325 plus dollars as relief for women and children who needed aid and noted that the need was increasing as the soldiers passed away, leaving their widows alone or still raising offspring. She thanked her officers throughout the state and gave her heart-felt wishes that the camps would aide those in the current war. Throughout her speech, she was given great applause to the smiling, energetic, loveable lady. At that same convention, Charles made resolutions asking each GAR group to make sure that their men did not spend their pensions unwisely (carousing, drinking).

Mary continued being involved in various drives and organizations to aide the community, then in about 1903, they moved to Chicago, and after Charles’ death, she moved to Ft. Wayne to be near and with Claude. It was there she passed away ten days shy of two years after Charles, having been married slightly over four decades, and it seemed quite happily so. Rest In Peace, Charles, Mary and you, too Claude!

2021 Montgomery County Museum Scene



MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Closed for Season – Reopens in March. Little Trivia – Lane served as the very first president of the first Republican Part convention and delivered the first keynote address. Cool, huh?



ROTARY JAIL MUSEUM OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

Close until March. Keep in mind next year that it isn't just seeing the jail and hearing the great stories, there is also the Tannenbaum Center you can rent-out for an event and the great classes the Museum has (painting, other cultural events).



CARNEGIE MUSEUM

The Transformation of Teaching will be the theme for 2022 – from Slate to Tablet. All ages will enjoy the exhibit showing from one-room school houses to consolidated schools to virtual learning, even. See the transformation! Winter Take-home kits until Dec 23 – free from the Carnegie.



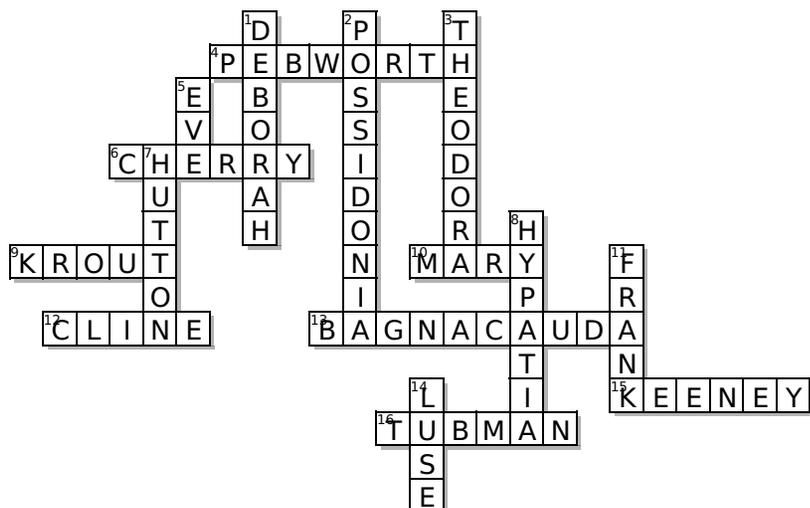
GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY

Closed for the rest of the year! Feb 1 – 2022 Museum Reopens . Trivia: Lew Wallace served on the military commission for the trials of the conspirators of President Lincoln and also presided over the trial of Confederate Commandant, Henry Wirz who was in charge of the Andersonville prison where so many died because of poor conditions.



Wonder Women

December 2021



LINDEN DEPOT MUSEUM, LINDEN, IN

(The) Linden Depot Museum's mission: is to preserve and protect the historic 1909-built Linden Depot and its railroad memorabilia as well as to promote its related railroad history. The mission includes the acquisition, restoration, preservation and display of railroad equipment, artifacts and momentos related to railways past and present.

Closed until April – Note their impressive Mission Statement -- The mission of the Linden Depot Museum is to preserve and protect the historic 1909-built Linden Depot and its railroad memorabilia as well as to promote its related railroad history. The mission includes the acquisition, restoration, preservation and display of railroad equipment, artifacts and momentos related to railways past and present.



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

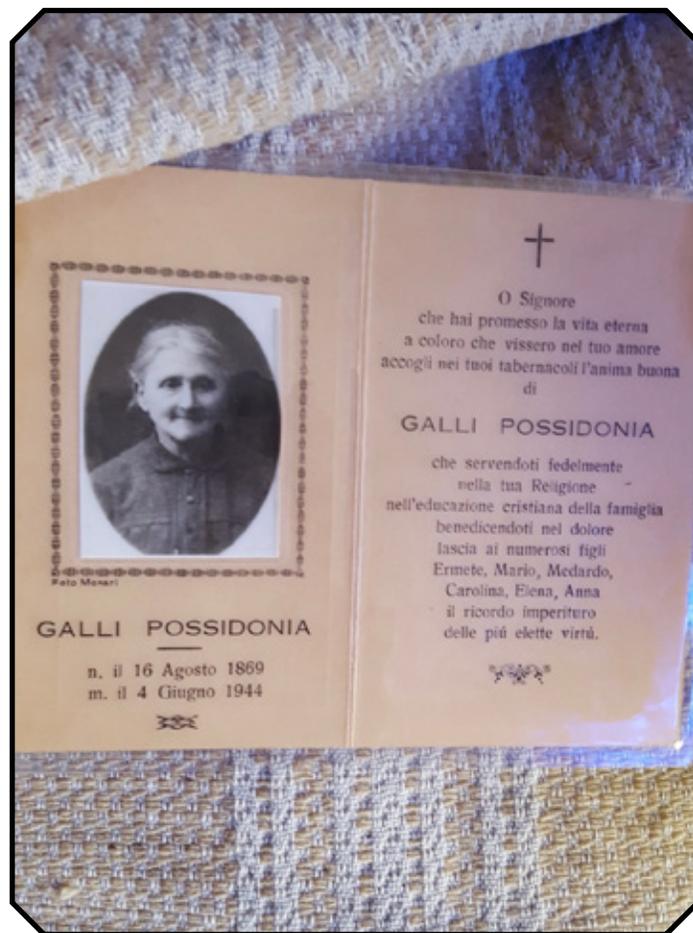
I was thinking I had no one (or at least that I'd not written about before) that would fit the bill of a gal who did a job or was ahead of her time (or both). Then, I saw something that oh so jogged my memory and put the thought that Possidonia was my perfect bet for Grandcestors this month.

Born Maria Assuntia Possidonia Galli to Achille Giovanni Baptista and Carolina (Pigati) Galli, in Lotta, Italy on August 16, 1869, she passed away at a nice age 4 June 1944 also in Fanano, having been a widow for eleven years and having lived through two World Wars in one of the areas that was highly fought through.

My cousin, Frank and I laughed so hard when I was asking my grandmother about her genealogy. I said, "What was your mom's maiden name?" Galli (pronounced Golly). We giggled but not too badly then when I asked her first name and my Nonna answered, Possidonia we just lost it. I mean, Possidonia Galli – bet you don't have one of those!

Nonna had been perfectly willing to help with the genealogy (actually knowing all of it by heart – she was sooo smart) but told us we'd hush or she would, too. That straightened us right up but still to this day I get a big grin on my face when I see that name. When researching the old Italian records, I actually found Possidonia several times over but only in that area. Maybe some day I'll find out why!

We even asked my Nonna where her mother had gotten a name like that but she didn't know really and only told me that name, whereas I found on her marriage record that was technically her third name (may be baptismal and confirmation names as there are many in my Italian grandparents' families with three names). So I won't giggle throughout writing this whole article, I'm calling her Maria. Maria came from a family of ten children and when she fell in love with my great grandfather, Rinaldo Marco



Angelo Berti (both falling hard) her mother Carolina (for whom my grandmother was named) wouldn't let them get married because they'd have too many kids. The young ones weren't sure what to do as they were so in love but they decided that he could go to America, work, and make some money to build their home or whatever else they needed and they'd not what do I say – be tempted, I guess. He did just that when he was 26 and she was but the tender age of 15. He stayed six years, writing and sending her money to put away. He loved America with a passion and begged her to come to him but she would not. He even went back in 1900 at age 40 and worked some more to save money to raise their children. One of the places he lived for quite a time was Universal,

Indiana which ironically was where his grandson, my father was born 20 years later. He also lived in Zigler, Illinois but as most miners and immigrant workers of the time, he loved good 'ol Indiana by far the best.

Returning to Fanano after making enough to build a house (he and his father also had a saw mill so this helped a great deal), they were married at the Catholic church (there were two, and it is interesting that my grandmother and this family went to the nice one and my grandfather's family (Bazzanis) went to the not so nice, tiny one that

was actually destroyed in WWII – the one the Bertis went to was still standing in perfect harmony and when I walked in and saw on the back row – my Nonna always sat in the back row – her name on it I about flipped. It was how they memorialized someone (by war, moving ...).

So, Sept. 19, 1892 was the big day, he at age 32 and she just turning 23. Didn't wait long for their first-born 16 July 1893. Sadly he was blown up on the Piave Bridge 24 Oct 1917 with 1,000 other soldiers. My grandfather having been inducted into the service when he was visiting back in Italy (having only put in his first papers to be naturalized here) had just been with Tomaso or my grandmother would have lost a new husband and brother. A child was lost next,

then my grandmother, her sister Elena; and four sons up next (Ermette who moved to Nice, France raising a family of three boys; Mario who was my grandmother's favorite; then Medardo who by age nine played the organ at church and as the priest said, "Better than any adult I've ever had behind the instrument". Settimo the last son only lived a year then Anna youngest of the NINE children the Berti's still had even though they waited for a long time to marry.

One item that made Maria so amazing was in WWI during the bad fighting quite near their home, Rinaldo raised sheep so they would have something to eat – eating they did fine but they needed money for other staples and such (my grandmother made all their clothes, much from the wool of the sheep) so Maria decided she knew how to make some money for them and continued to do so for many years afterward. She literally saved them, her parents and some friends and church folks, as well during the devastating war time.

In the summertime if there was no fighting near their home, rich tourists from Balogna and Florence areas would come and stay in the cooler mountain region of Lotta. She began weaving beautiful and warm blankets and selling them to these rich people. Taking orders, she would send them in the mail when finished unless she happened to complete them while the people were there but as her fame spread, her orders piled up. However, she was some worker, as was my grandmother and father before me. Rinaldo was a good worker but he liked to play along with that task as did my grandmother, my father and me. Don't think there was much play in Maria Assuntia Possidonia Galli Berti, however. But, I sure loved hearing those stories while my Nonna and I rocked on her front porch swing, cuddled up, laughing, oohing and aahing while I learned about her mother and other family members!



**TOGETHER,
WE'RE BUILDING
A FOUNDATION.**

Nucor is proud to be an American manufacturer. Our steel goes into the infrastructure and products that form the foundation of our modern economy. Not only that, good paying manufacturing jobs are a solid foundation for families and communities.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS. POWERFUL RESULTS.

NUCOR®

www.nucor.com

