

MONTGOMERY MEMORIES



July 2022

Photo courtesy of Chris Oppy

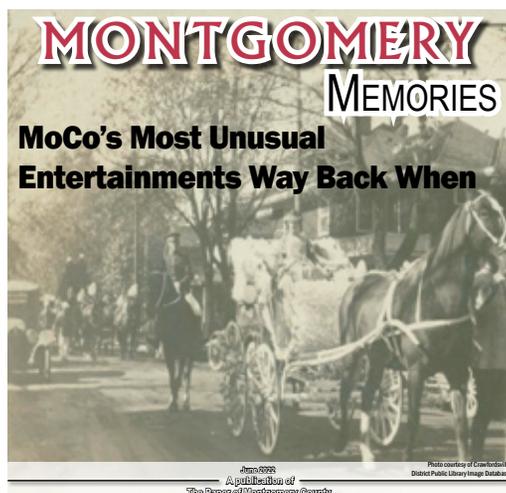
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Contributing Writers



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.



KELSEY CURRAN is one of the paginators for the Paper of Montgomery County. 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 a small town in Illinois and moved to Crawfordsville in 2016. She has three children. She enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, reading and baking.





July Feature: Around Town – New Richmond That Is!

Karen Barzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Big news in regards to a happening in New Richmond (well, sort of) occurred in an article in the Feb 15, 1900 New Richmond Record. It was announced that John T. Detchon had bested the best in the county – he had purchased the very first automobile, securing it from an Eastern Manufacturer through the Dovetail Buggy Company in Crawfordsville. In fact, the new, unique, sharp-looking horseless carriage was at the Dovetail where all could view it. “The new rig is a latest style, Stanhope stick back, black and red body with red running gears. The wheels, pneumatic of course, about 30” in height with tires four inches in diameter.” It cost Detchon \$1,000. So, not only John T. but all of New Richmond were waiting patiently for the weather to improve and spring to appear so that those on the NR streets could say, “Here it comes!” or “There it goes!” Oh, and watch out as it could top 40 mph.

Thirteen years later the automobile “numbered into the thousands in Montgomery County and practically shoved the horse and buggy off the road!” and each new purchase was proudly announced by each of the town newspapers. Another article went on to say that the autos had come into use to fill every need, “being able to take additional people, with people riding at a breakneck speed leaving the buggy at a snail’s pace;” plus, it was good for toting.

Away from the autos, here is what was happening in New Richmond around the 8th of May 1913. The Crystal Theater’s first movie picture was shown in the opera house (only the article didn’t give a title - shucks). Of course, advertisements tell what businesses are available in the place at that time and sadly, there were few from New Richmond, advertising with the paper but several stores from Crawfordsville and Lafayette. Did learn from the NR paper that FW Graves was the veterinarian and it was rather cute that in small paragraphs throughout the four pages, the New Richmond Lumber & Coal Company would announce little tidbits (119 years making high grade paints – record of Harrison Bros Company Town and Country Paints are the result of that experience) and guess where you could buy it.

There was a strong business men’s association about the turn into 1900 but seemed to fizzle after awhile. A.D. Snyder was an active hardware merchant, implement and live stock dealer and built a total brick business block in 1901.

JW Hollin the druggist was touting his Chamberlain’s Stomach and Liver pills and if your disorder wasn’t



cured he’d give you the 25 cents back (plus samples were free). Wouldn’t be surprised that the above mentioned John T. Detchon was likely involved in the businessmen’s group as at his death in July 1951, (age 77) he was the president and general manager of Union Telephone and had been in that business 55 years with offices in Attica and Greenfield at that time a company that operated over 50 exchanges in Indiana and Illinois. That is major impressive and would say that Detchon may have been THE businessman of New Richmond as he had always lived there, never moving from the home he was born in. A Wabash graduate (and a Phi Gamma Delt) a couple of years before he passed away, he left the college \$25,000. He was never married but had an adopted daughter, Barbara.

About this time and beyond, there were several interesting businesses there, including the Oppy Hardware. Thomas John Oppy was born in New Richmond, of course on Sept 22, 1917, his mother recording his name as Thomas John in the family bible; however (FindA-Grave and Birth Record) Dr. C.M. Wray recorded it as Thomas J – thus they just called him Tom, his father, Edward, a farmer, age 42 and mother, Ruby Foster age 24. Tom graduated from NRHS and worked at Alcoa for quite some time, but his last 13 years, he owned the Oppy Hardware Store that several have said, “HAD EVERYTHING and we mean everything!” This of course included the local group leaning against the cement ledge gossiping. Think every town had a place for this. Tom was active in the Alumni Association, Eastern Star, Masons and Volunteer Fire Department. Having married Helen Lane in 1939, they were parents of four daughters (whose names all began with an S) and son Tom. Sadly, he passed away at the very young age of 41.

There were two groceries, a restaurant and train station there as well, a phone exchange, and people flocked into town (thanks Jim H) to watch the outside (free) movies. One unique piece of New Richmond was the flashing light (only one) in the center of town that to save \$ was shut off every night at 10 p.m. or so. I saw that once in Al and Phyllis Boone’s amazing local museum and enjoyed Al giving the whole stint on the light. Thanks to Bill Boone for the photo that shows NR in the early time frame!

The big claim to fame for New Richmond as we all know is that much of Hoosiers was filmed in town and the movie represents a good look at what New Richmond was “back in this time frame.” It was awesome that there were so many local folks in the movie, one of my favorite all-time sports movies – ever! I knew several of the locals and the actual actors and used the movie in two different classes I taught (doing various things in each class with it and even had two of them come talk to my class and wanted the various lessons we did - one played the player who didn’t play until the last game as well as the good looking star who was my yearbook rep and my assistant principal at Turkey Run was on the opposite team they played when he played at DePauw – he had some good shots and the kids loved seeing him).

Speaking of sports, Byron Alexander was one of my fav sports fellows. He owned a furniture store in the county for almost 70 years, and he was also a barber, township trustee and the list goes on. He even threw (Laf Journal-Courier 9 May 1980 p 6) Leo Durocher out of a baseball game once, something not heard of until that time, and the Brooklyn players thought it was hilarious. Byron couldn’t play baseball but he loved the game and after graduating from NRHS, he began refereeing basketball and umping baseball (Wabash, DePauw) and then decided he might do better if he went to Umpire school. Only 12 of the 60 who attended were hired by pro leagues. He barbered in off times. Later, he coached at a local level and enjoyed the many times the boys would later come see the old man!

Of course, New Richmond like most of the county towns had much of their customer base as the local farmers, and some of the farmers in the area for years were: again, the Oppy family – and naming just a few – Allman, Bible, Biddle, Coon, Davidson, Dazey, Epperson, Foster, Fouts, Fowler, Haxton, Humphrey, Hymer, Kirkpatrick, Livingston, Murphy, Patton, Pearson, Rafferty, Reynolds, Sayler, Swank, Switzer, Tribby, Utterback and Westfall (plus a bunch more)!

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

In the July 9, 1881 C'ville Weekly Review, there was an article called, "Gray-Haired Pioneers of Coal Creek" and the article was quite fun being enhanced with a bit of political humor. For instance IH Alexander was 54 years old living near New Richmond and a brother of GW Alexander. IH was an enthusiastic Democrat, outspoken and generous to the extreme. James Ames, 55 was a blacksmith by trade but farmer by occupation. Formerly a Democrat he was lately voting partially independent. John Gahean, 60, was from Ireland and came with his wife in 1844 to make his fortune. However, she got tired of America and went back home with the little ones. He stayed here and regularly sent earnings to the wife and little ones across the "dape, dape seas." John had no equal in the art of sheep shearing but during the winter fell down the stairs at Dr. DM Washburn's and broke his collar bone plus dislocated his shoulder. Sadly, at the time of the article John could not do anything! Aaron H. Gilkey, 57, adopted the democratic persuasion when Whigdom ceased to exist. A tanner by trade, he "left off the business of tanning cow's hides and devoted his energies to tanning Republicans."

The article included more fun folks with businesses and various jobs in Montgomery County's Northeastern area, including Azariah Julian who was 60 and had for many years been a wool carder; however, had taken up farming instead. Michael Miller, 57 was from Germany and a shoemaker by trade, occupation a farmer and a pure Democrat. J.K. Myers, "an old bachelor with marriageable proivities, but faint heart," was 58 and a remarkable fellow but still single. He was tall and thin, a Jacksonian and "by the Eternal, he has the grit." Andrew Swank, 57 was born in Butler County, Ohio, came here with his folks in 1833 and "is a Democrat of the pure blood," whereas Thomas Taylor, 60, came ten years earlier, was of the opposite political factor and a rich farmer.

This one really got me – telling it all, I guess. "Vesse Tracy, 50, a Kentuckian and Democrat, Vesse is a first-class farmer and at one time a most inveterate drunkard, but for a number of years, a teetotaler, thus proving where there is a will, there is a way!" Good for him.

Then, Clint Wilkinson, 51, who first went to Madison Twp in the winter of 1851 but soon ventured across the line to Coal Creek and penniless, but working hard, saving his money, he "is today worth in realty \$15,000 plus 3-4,000 in personal property." Nice totals for 1881.

Shortly before this in the 1880 census in Wayne township, we discover some nifty



finds. For one, I was wowed at the number of carpenters in the town, tallying 16 with a couple of plasterers and five painters on top of that. Seven teamsters weren't really a shock but would be interesting to study further to see just what were their wares.

Something that sure surprised me unless I missed some was there was but one preacher, Reuben Claypool. There were several women working which in 1880 could be explained because they may have lost a husband in the Civil War. Four washed and ironed; three were milliners, whether in a shop or in their home, ten did dress work which is on that same line and one brave gal had the only hotel I saw, Mary Steele, and she'd be fun to check out farther, as well. Here is a picture of the Wayne Hotel many years later (thanks to Bill Boone) but she would have had some type of building, obviously in town for those travelers or the Wayne Hotel here was very much a place where single men lived. Some of the ten teachers were females, others male and three of these taught music.

Five doctors seemed a bit much for a small town but I've never compared them to others either. Top of my head thought, it seems there were four in Waveland and four-five in Darlington at the time, so probably is perfect. They were William Hurt, John Berry, Hiram Powell, Alexander Fitch and Albert Hamilton. I've written about Berry and Fitch, especially enjoying Fitch.

A couple of odd occupations included a peddler, a boot black, a sewing machine agent, one editor, Riley Runyan and one printer, Charles Holden. There were two saloon keepers, a tailor and three engineers (I assume on the railroad but could be in a mill) plus four railroad workers.

Others included a ditcher, two brick masons, six sawmill workers with one sawmill owner, couple were harness makers; two cabinet makers, a tinner, five farm laborers, nine blacksmiths.

In the food line, Robert Cochran and Jacob Hoover had the groceries, but there were three dry goods stores, and two butchers.

Nathaniel Miller and Walter Britton had drug stores and there was a retired druggist living in Waynetown, as well. I only saw one attorney, Alexander Richardson whom I don't think I have encountered as yet. Post Master was Joseph Henny; Town Marshall, William Barton and the constable Joe Calhoun.

Pretty typical but interesting towns with lots of businesses and such a variety of jobs. So, here ya' have some of the interesting pre 20th century folks who made a difference in the Northwestern part of the county, many still with descendants there today. Gee, wouldn't it be fun to go visit back in the 1880 era?



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

For this edition of Nifty at Ninety... we meet Ruthanna Cox. Ruthanna was born on New Years Eve in 1919. She was the oldest of Orville McKee and Elfleda Lucille (Emery) Cox's eight children. The family lived in Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana at the time of Ruth's birth, and moved to Coal Creek, Montgomery County, Indiana in 1933.

The Cox family was Quaker, and record of them is found in Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy (Vol. 1. North Carolina Yearly Meeting – Holly Springs Meeting). The Encyclopedia listed Stephen's birthday as October 13, 1851. He was one of eleven children born to David and Aseneth. The Encyclopedia lists the parents of David as Jesse (1787-1865) and Mary Mackie (1784-1853) Cox. Jesse's parents were Charles (1762-1840) and Amy Barker (1764-1839). The Cox family left Delaware for North Carolina in ca. 1760. During their 100 years in North Carolina they farmed, a tradition carried on when they migrated to Indiana. Ruth's paternal grandfather, Stephen M. Cox, was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina. He was the son of David (1819-1907) and Aseneth Hinshaw (1824-1900) Cox. Ruth's paternal grandmother, Janet Caruthers Cox, was a native of Scotland. She was born on January 15, 1871. Stephen and she married on December 22, 1891. Orville was born on August 31, 1892. One day shy of her 23rd birthday, Janet died on January 14, 1894. Stephen's second marriage was to Mollie Cravens, a woman 20 years his junior. Mollie was the only mother Orville ever knew. Sadly, she died in 1921 - before Ruthanna had the opportunity to know her step-grandmother.

Orville served during World War I. He was inducted into the army on July 22, 1918 and sent overseas. Four months after his return, on March 26, 1919, he married Elfleda. Elfleda's Emery ancestors migrated from Pennsylvania to Highland County, Ohio in ca.



Photo courtesy of Jim Hammer via findagrave.com

Ruthanna Cox, New Richmond High School Graduation Photo

1840. Her grandfather James married Eliza Fornshell on September 8, 1842. The couple had six children. Before 1860, they divorced. On March 4, 1866, James remarried. His new wife, Louisa Vance, was younger than his two oldest children. The 1870 census tells us that the four children from James' first marriage were living with Louisa and James. In addition, they had a son whom they named Newton "Georgie" Emery (b. November 10, 1868). The Emery family, including James, Louisa, Newton, his younger sisters Ida and Orvilla, and his half twin brothers, Washburn and John, moved to Hamilton County, Indiana. In 1880, James and John worked as carpenters, while Washburn worked as a farm hand. On November 24, 1892, Newton married Ida Jane Allen (1871-1923). Ida was the daughter of John M. and Nancy (Brower) Allen. Newton and Ida's only child, Elfleda, was born on December 20, 1897.

Orville and Elfleda made their home in Hamilton County. In addition to Ruthanna, they had Howard, Paul, Betty, James, Alice, and Margaret. Their daughter Mary died in infancy. Newton joined the household sometime after his wife Ida's death in 1923. The 1930 census provides a glimpse of the busy Cox household, filled with three adults and six children. In 1933, the family moved to New Ross, Indiana. This is where Newton passed away in 1934. His remains were interred next to Ida in the Hamilton County. The family moved again in 1937, to Coal Creek Township.

Ruthanna graduated from New Richmond High School and Indiana Business College. On August 15, 1941, she married Garland Oppy (b. May 27, 1920). Garland, a 1938 graduate of New Richmond High School was the son of Edward and Ruby May (Foster) Oppy. Garland's great grandfather, David Oppy, came to Coal Creek Township from Virginia in 1828 (indianagenweb). David owned 480 acres, quite an accomplishment. Even more impressive were the 1,612 acres owned by Garland's grandfather Christopher. Garland's father, Edward, was the youngest of Christopher's 12 children.

Garland and Ruthanna lived on a farm west of New Richmond (see photo from FindAGrave donated by Jim Hammer). They raised two children, John and Diana. While Garland farmed, Ruthanna had a banking career. She worked first as a secretary at the New Richmond Savings and Loan, and in time she became manager of the New Richmond branch of the Linden State Bank (Journal and Courier, Lafayette, Indiana, May 19, 2001). Their children graduated from Coal Creek Central High School.

In 1982, Garland retired from farming after suffering a stroke. He passed on May 17, 2001. Ruthanna died on January 24, 2015. The couple was interred in the New Richmond Cemetery. Of note are the ages of Ruthanna and her siblings. She died at the age of 95, her brother Howard died at 99, her brother Paul died at 95, and her sister Betty died at 92. They may have gotten their longevity from their father. Orville lived to the age of 91. May Ruthanna and her loved ones rest in peace.



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Photo courtesy of Chuck Clore



The epicenter of round-ball history is right here in Montgomery County. The intersection of Highways 136 and 231 forms the crosshairs to target basketball heritage. Danville, Illinois native Gene Hackman, must have known this when he hung a left on 231 at Linden driving to New Richmond (Hickory) to film the movie *Hoosiers*. He did a great job of capturing Central Indiana culture in the 1950s. Coaches not only constructed teams, but they also built character.

The basketball competition was fierce. Before consolidation, the reputation of every town in Montgomery County rested on the skills of five young men gripping the pebble-textured orange sphere. Pride rose with the tip-off at center court. The Linden Bulldogs fought off the Waveland Hornets to win the cherished Montgomery County Keg Trophy in 1971. Hear



the Bulldogs howl, "We are Number One!" Left in the wake were New Ross, Coal Creek, Darlington, Ladoga, New Market, and Waynetown. That year's consolidation marked the end of the Montgomery County Tourney.

Turn up your hearing aids and listen closely. If you strain hard, you can hear a hundred-year-old roar coming out of the little town of Wingate. The genesis of David-and-Goliath basketball happened long before the 1954 setting of the *Hoosier* movie. The Wingate Spartans came out of nowhere to seize the Indiana State Basketball Championships two years in a row, 1913 and 1914. Wingate School was so small that they had no gymnasium of their own. Coach Jesse Wood and the Spartans had to use the nearby New Richmond gym

Highway 136

Story & Graphics by Chuck Clore

for their home games. With a student body of 67 and a pool of only 22 boys, Coach Wood met the challenge assembling the team of Leland Olin, Jesse Graves, Homer Stonebraker, Lee Sinclair, Lawrence Sheaffer, John Blacker, Forest Crane, and McKinley Murdock.

Among the recruits was a lanky 6'4" center named Homer Stonebraker. I haven't traced the family tree to verify the lineage, but I am claiming Homer as my distant cousin. My Grandma, Delta, was a Stonebraker before she married into the Clore family. My middle name is Homer. I've never cared for the moniker. I always wondered who in my family was first plagued with it. That early Homer wore the name well. He was quite the Hoosier hoopster becoming a basketball legend for his high scoring and aggressive play.

In the final game for the 1914 Championship at the Indiana University Gym, Stonebraker suffered two broken fingers and three broken ribs. High School basketball was serious business. Homer went on to play for Wabash College and later professional ball.

Check out the rest of Homer's story at the Indiana Historical Bureau on Indiana History Blog May 30, 2017, author S. Chandler Lighty.

<https://blog.history.in.gov/tag/homer-stonebraker/>
"GO ATHENIANS!"

Cheerleaders Paula Branstetter, Salli Pinkstaff, Jody Schloot, and Jill Miller rallied us to a thunderous frenzy in the Crawfordsville High School Gymnasium in 1965. Hoosier Hysteria energized the team to victory. As enthusiastic as the Class of 65 was, I doubt many of us were aware of the incredible Crawfordsville Athenians history.

Living in the moment, we were oblivious to CHS history as first Indiana State Basketball Champi-

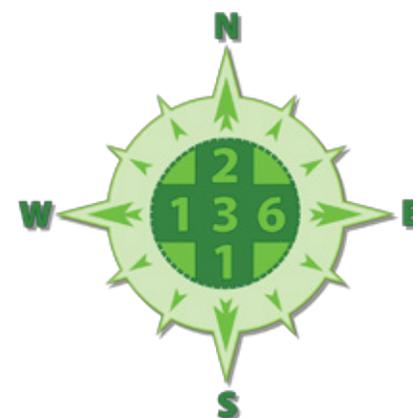


ons. History records Coach Dave Glascock led the Crawfordsville Athenians to the 1911 Indiana State Championship. The Athenians' 12-2-record was accomplished with forwards Carroll Stevenson and Orville Taylor, center Ben Myers, and guards Clio Shaw and Newt Hill. Forward Hugh "Buddy" Miller and guard Grady Chadwick were the substitutes.

Check out author S. Chandler Light and the Indiana History Blog on March 10, 2016, for the details.

<https://blog.history.in.gov/the-first-state-basketball-champs-crawfordsville-high-school-1911/>

Yes, if you are standing at the intersection of Highways 231 and 136, you have located ground-zero for the cradle of basketball. Best not stand there long. Traffic is crosswalk crazy at C-Ville's busy Market Street and Washington.



Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories

Celebrate!

Granddad

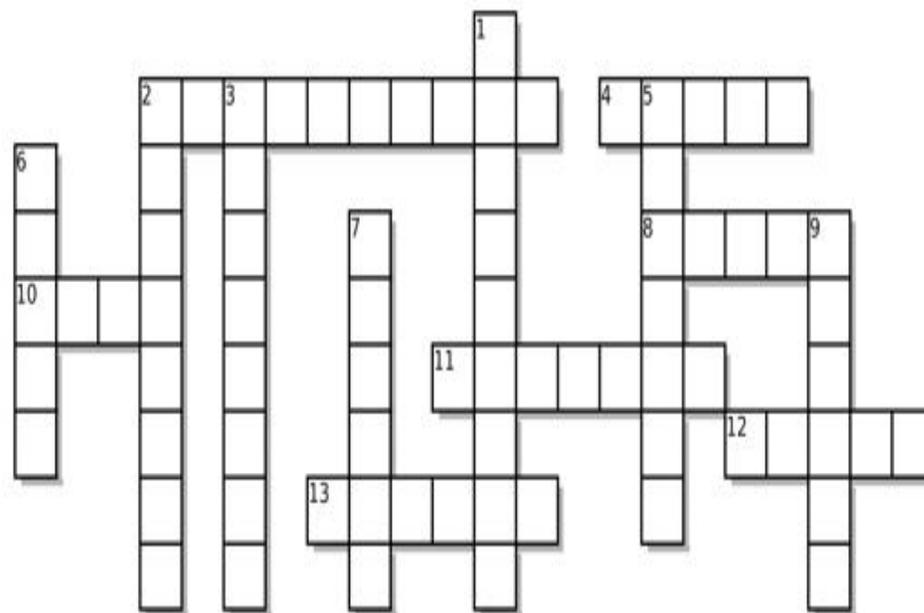
By Joy Willett

My granddad Levi
died in 1936
when dark clouds rolled
in from the west.
Pneumonia was listed
as the cause
of his demise
brought on by dust
that filled the skies.
He was taken
much too young
at the age of 45
on a day hot and hu-
mid,
a record setting 105.
Coal Creek had
always been his home;

1

his great granddad
came
when the township
was just begun.
He farmed and
he traded in horses
meant to run
on tracks in Chicago,
Little Rock, and
Lexington.
Loved by parents,
who outlived their
son,
and had a path
paved
from his grave
to New Richmond.

2



ACROSS

- 2 In '80 Waynetown had 16 4 Proved when there is a will... 8 J.K. -- was faint of heart
- 10 Early Coal Creek Twnshp family
- 11 KBZ's 1st Smith colonial kin
- 12 Fran's _____ Apple Pie
- 13 Date of independence

DOWN

- 1 Miller & Britton were this
- 2 1880 Waynetown preacher
- 3 Oppy who managed a bank
- 5 Town S-SW of New Richmond
- 6 Ira -- owned The Black Bear
- 7 Irene's _____ Oatmeal Cookies
- 9 Mary -- owned Wayne Hotel

Check out page 10 for the solution

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Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Many years ago (probably close to 50 now) the Montgomery County Genealogy Club put together a family cookbook. The point was to gather some great recipes probably no one else had that had been in the family. One of our members was Joan Oppy and I'd like to first share what an amazing gal Joan was. She would take one or two of the large books of old newspapers home, index the vitals (births, deaths, marriages and often other things: for instance, she knew I was working on immigrants and she would give me notes on them - but those three were the goal) and then return them to the Crawfordsville library in order to have an index of all of the vital information from the old newspapers. She did it for years until they were pretty well done. One amazing gal and worker and she'd laugh every time I'd see her and say, "Well, I slept on this group of old people!" as she'd leave the big booklets under her bed for safe keeping and away from view if someone came to visit. She was so cute and funny - loved her dearly. So, since Joan was born and raised and lived her life in New Richmond, decided I wanted to use this interesting recipe from her (have to admit not made them but they sound delicious and I make one almost identical but it has no coconut).

Irene's Icebox Oatmeal Cookies

1 Cup Shortening
 1 Cup Brown Sugar
 1 Cup White Sugar
 2 Eggs
 1 tsp. Vanilla
 2 Cups Oats
 1 Cup Coconut
 2 Cups Flour
 1 tsp. Soda
 1 tsp Salt

Cream shortening and sugars together, add eggs and vanilla and mix. Slowly add flour, soda and salt that were sifted together. Add rolled oats and coconut. Roll onto waxed paper and leave in refrigerator over night. Slice and bake 10-12 minutes at 350 degrees.

Think Joan must have had a sweet tooth (lol) as most of the recipes she had in the little cookbook were in that section and this one sounds fab as well, so adding it to the list today. Miss you Joan!

~~~~~

### Fran's Cream Apple Pie

1 Cup Sugar  
 3 Cups Apples  
 1 tsp. Cinnamon  
 ½ tsp. Nutmeg  
 2 heaping Tablespoons Flour  
 1 Cup Milk

Mix all ingredients and pour into an 8" - 9" pie shell. Bake 15 minutes at 425 degrees then 30 more minutes at 375.

Note: I'm a cinnamon freak and with 3 C of apples I'd add at least one and maybe two more tsp. of cinnamon - lol!





## County Connections: Mr. Entertainment – Ira Stout

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

There were several Ira Stouts in our area, but only one like today's County Connection. Ira was born in Oxford, Ohio 18 July 1842. As much as he loved, loved, loved to talk, he rarely ever did about his childhood and young life. From what research I could find it seems he had one younger brother and his mother was widowed when the boys were young. He did go back a few times and visit someone in Oxford, once particularly noting he wanted to drink from the old family well using their ironbound bucket (so perhaps his brother lived on the old property) but mainly once he joined the service, he there afterward remained a Montgomery Countian!

Prior to his joining Co B, 69th Ohio Infantry he studied law and practiced a bit before going. To my knowledge, he never went back to that profession, but dug into many others. Ira joined the 69th on the 18th of February in 1864 and stayed until released at the end of the fight on 30 June 1865. They were at one of the bloodiest battles, Resaca, GA 14 May 1864 following with close to a week of fighting at Pumpkin Vine Creek in GA. Kennesaw, Atlanta, Lexington, Pikeville, NC are also those tallied under his belt, some fierce battles.

Upon the completion of his service, he decided he should see the world, and that he just about did. He and a friend, Tom Ward (not sure their connection but am assuming an Army buddy), went to Europe and travelled in almost every country on that continent, seeing every site they could tally. Now, why he did not go back to Oxford, and to his former law practice, I don't know, but upon his return to the US, he came to Montgomery County.

For a short period, he first went to Elmdale, where he was in the saloon business, and afterwards, owned and ran a sawmill. Next it was to New Richmond, where he built one fine hotel. The technical name of it was The Black Bear (and he had a saloon part of this time near it named The Zoo) although just as often named The New Richmond Hotel. His cook became quite famous, and basically really made the hotel what it was. They were very close, he even living his last couple of years with her daughter and her family. "Aunt Hope K(irpatrick)" made the hotel into such a fine establishment that hundreds came from miles around in order to stay there and as much as staying although it was a very nice place with impressive rooms, kept up well, always improvements being added, the food is why she and the Black Bear were so well loved. Aunt Hope K was born in Canada of Scottish parents, so perhaps she was making some amazing Shepherd's Pie, Scones or puddings to savor the tastebuds. By 1889 the hotel was going strong as was the town. He built a whole block (as seen on the photo from Chris Oppy), renting part of the places, having businesses in some, including a bowling alley and billiards hall. Building homes, as well, he would sell those, too. Definitely,



he had a lot to do with the growth of New Richmond and certainly was an entrepreneur.

For sure, he could hold the attention of a crowd of 1 or 1000 in suspense, waiting for his next tale of somewhere he had seen, places he had been. A fun, entertaining story had everyone on the edge of their seat, wondering what was up next. He also purchased a phonograph and took it to various affairs (graduations, birthday parties) and entertained as it was certainly a great deal of unique fun for the times.

Practically every year he would go somewhere, particularly enjoying and spellbinding anyone listening

about his trip to General Jackson and George Washington's homes, telling of every relic in each place. "He says he read more scriptures than he's ever read when he got to hold George Washington's Bible!"

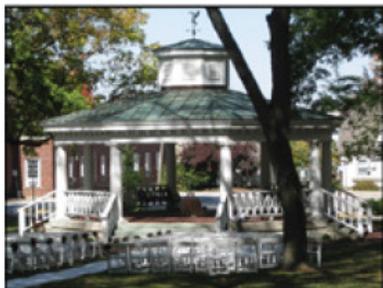
Might head to Michigan to fish and relax; back down to visit the old battlefields of the Civil War (in 1902, with Jabez Wilson), or just about anywhere, bringing back tales that would entertain anyone wanting to listen and he never lacked for that!

Certainly, this man was a well-loved one, but he had one bad habit that didn't suit many, and that was he cursed a lot and loudly when he drank. Luckily, this didn't last long as when he moved to Darlington he was fined by a tough JP at \$10.40 each time. Although Ira complained, and insisted he didn't mean a thing by it, he knew that it was a good way to stop that habit! However, he did note that he did not like detectives as just anyone could cut out a tin star from an oyster can and any of them could beat a Pinkerton! He was so full of "sayings." Enjoyed jokes, even when they were on him. Once in 1889, he saw the freight train assuming the passenger train was side tracking town so he hopped on it for a ride and went to Whitlock. Then there was a wreck near Mellott so no trains went back east for 36 hours and Ira had the "pleasure walking back to New Richmond the distance of six miles!" Everyone in town got a laugh as did Ira himself.

In 1900, Aunt Hope K decided running the hotel was a bit much for her (as Ira had moved to Darlington and was running a couple of businesses there) and decided to go work at the Crawford Hotel as they had been wooing her. Ira was asked if he was going to sell or lease the Black Bear – "Nope, not if Aunt Hope K isn't running it." She went back! Sadly, the Black Bear burned down later on, never to be the same again.

The last two years of Ira's life he spent with Aunt Hope's daughter, husband and children. Hope and her husband, William Kirkpatrick (either very far away relation to the many early Kirkpatricks here or I would guess none) and Mr. Entertainment himself (with a stone that was not put up until 1965 by local veterans) are all buried in their adopted hometown of New Richmond!

# 2022 Montgomery County Museum Scene



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

As with the Lew Wallace Museum, the best way to visit is to schedule a tour with tour hours beginning Wed-Fri 1-4 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and the last tour begins at 3:15.



**ROTARY JAIL MUSEUM OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN**

The Tannenbaum Center is a wonderful place to have a wedding reception, a graduation party, any open-house type get-together – Use the e-mail below to reserve it. Covid seems to be winding down so hopefully the museum will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wed-Sat \$5 for adults \$3 for children 6-11 and under, free. Neat to learn so much about one of the only 3 rotating jails out of 18 built still intact and ours is I believe the only one that works.



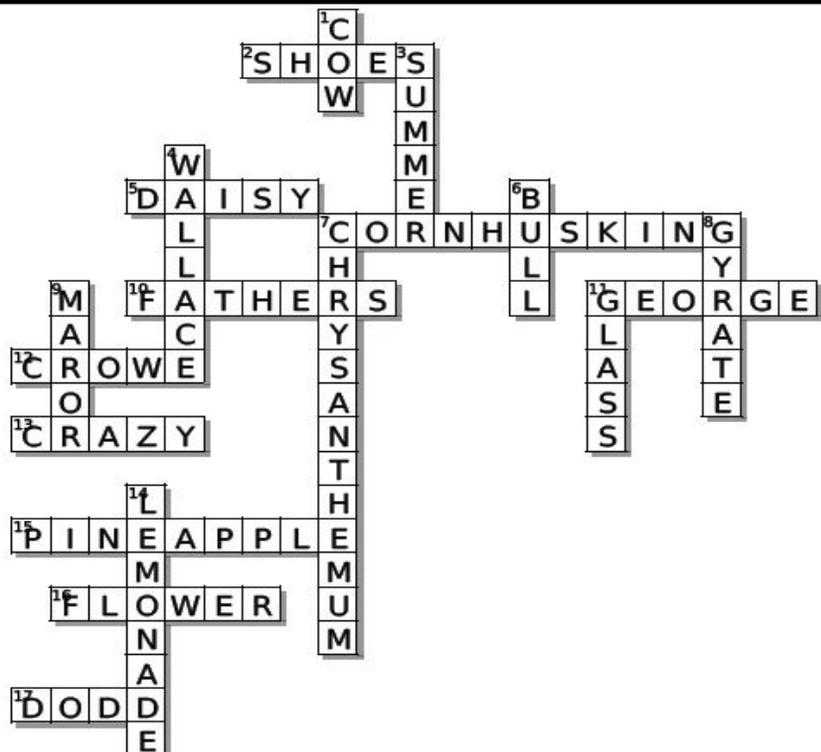
**CARNEGIE MUSEUM**

Open: Wed-Sat 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dates: July 29th – 7-8 World of Wonders Community Read Book Discussion (facilitated by Dr. Marc Hudson). Saturday Aug 6 at 5 p.m. – Railroads of Montgomery County exhibit closes and the Summer at the Museum program ends. Wed Aug 17 10 a.m. Shades State Park art exhibit opens – wow, that's an exciting one. Janna Bennett with 12 years of experience at The Children's Museum at Indy and other nifty job tallies, joins the staff as Museum Curator. And Happy Birthday Carnegie – 15 years old!



**GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY**

You can book tours online Home - General Lew Wallace Study & Museum ([ben-hur.com](http://ben-hur.com)) When you tour, you will have a staff member take you on a guided tour, wearing a mask and hand sanitizer provided if you need it. Appreciate masks and sanitized hands from the visitors. Book on line or call to book a time. The obvious items are expected (please don't come if you have a fever, cough, cold, headache, shortness of breath ... or exposed to Covid within the last 14 days). The tour takes about 40 minutes and the staff "knows the general!"



## 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 mementos related to railways past and present.

A wonderful place to tour – go see a unique piece of our county's railroad history - \$6 adults - \$1 children 12 and under. Fri, Sat & Sunday through October from noon to 5 p.m.



## Grandcestors

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

Although this article won't be reflecting the upper portion of our county's businesses, I just realized that I've never written about my own family's businesses. So, I'll start with my dad. Bet there are folks still out there that remember dad going to their house and laying their carpet or linoleum. He was amazing at it and loved to tease the gals (and often it worked on the guys too) saying something like, "Oh, darn, I think I cut that carpet wrong," and went on and on until he had someone all hyper then he'd just start laughing and tell 'em he was joking. He was quite the jokester in anything he was involved in.

Others owning businesses were of course, Jim's folks and then later we purchased the A&W/Zach's Family Restaurant and it was nifty having our kids and nieces and nephews working for us. Lots of fun and some amazing food there plus life-time friends from the workers and those who came in to eat. Wonderful folks!

On mom's Smith side, Reuben Smith owned a well digging business in the Rockville area and his father, Simeon was a builder (my gpa' was good at that too but had really bad legs shot up in WWI so his years as a builder, surveyor, prison guard were so hard on him) and did a chunk of the first courthouse at Rockville. Simeon's great grandfather, Wait Smith literally worked with weights, weighing the wares of the ships coming into Jamaica, Long Island, NY as did his father Wait Sr. I've never seen or read anything with Sr's name anything other than Wait but think Wait Jr may have been Benjamin. My oldest Smith to come to America was William (b 25 Sept 1598 in Devon, England) a magistrate at Weymouth, MS.

Farmers and teachers were on the other side, my grandmother being a Morgan and her mother a Barker. Can't think of any particular businesses. Farmers of various types are likely my big jobs of my ancestors, some plantation owners, large stock holders, that type thing.

On my Italian side, here in America my gpa' and his brothers were miners and it wasn't their business, they were down under. However, my grandmother's father in Italy and his father had a huge saw mill in the lower part of the Alps. Also, he raised beautiful sheep. My great grandmother had her



own business as well which was very unusual for the times in the WWI era – she made beautiful blankets from the sheep's wool and sold them to the rich vacationers in their beautiful area.

Jim's family were more business-men oriented. His grandfather (James William Kritz whom Jim was named for) had a pattern shop in Michigan City and made all types of things on government contracts during WWI and WWII. His father actually had two businesses, he made furniture (beautiful we are lucky to have a couple of pieces) and also had a lumber yard with his son which worked out nicely for his hobby-business. He was also a foreman on the railroad and a foreman in a wood mill, so quite a talented fella'.

One of Jim's ancestors was the head cook for a King then we also both have Kings and Queens (my pride and joy is St. Margaret of Scotland) but I can't get my head around being the ruler of a country for your job – lol.

We both had schooner owners and captains in the upper NY area as well. My John Brockett who was supposed to have been in line to inherit Brockett Hall (in Yorkshire) built by his ancestor in 1435 after Sir Thomas Brockett was knighted by King Henry VI. When John Brockett came to America he gave up rights to that to throw his lot into the Puritan band (came with Rev. John Davenport and others). He created a fine reputation in the Hartford, Connecticut area as a Civil Engineer.

Had a few doctors (Charles and his father, Sabret Scott; Thomas and his father, Comfort Starr); lawyers or others in the court system such as my Robert Ashman who was a magistrate and Director General of Council in the New Amsterdam, Long Island area. Obviously, he too was a farmer as well as in his March 1682 inventory of his estate, he had 4 ox, 3 cows, a steer, four other cattle, a mare, cart, gun, sword and farm tools.

Seems like such a short list for so many ancestors I've accumulated but unless I find more before I send in this MM, you get the picture – yes, I have some scattered occupations/jobs/businesses, but mainly it all centers around the land. Must be why I always thought I'd marry a farmer. Jim says I just married someone on the other end. Hmmm!



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