



MONTGOMERY MEMORIES

December 2022

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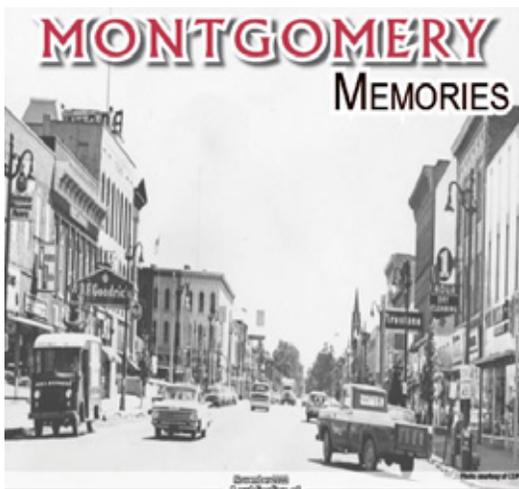
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Page Listing

Contributors & Such	2
December Feature - Karen Zach.....	3
Odds & Ends - Karen Zach.....	4
Nifty - Joy Willett.....	5
Hunt & Son Funeral Home	5
Backstage Stars - 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

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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.





December Feature: "We're 200!"

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Our county's Bicentennial is wrapping up! We're 200 years old! Well, isn't it amazing all the thousands of people who settled here? Lived their lives in this, our Montgomery County? Perhaps stayed briefly and moved on? Were born here but went to a big city to live and work? Were immigrants but raised their families here? Born, lived and remained here? Many possibilities, but the point is each and every one of these folks made an impact on our community whether large or small.

Hard to fathom so many country and world happenings reflecting our county ones. For instance, so many wars! Although the Revolutionary War was long wrapped-up, we nonetheless, have at least 35 soldiers buried here. The War of 1812 was fresher in the memories of the early settlers and 63 dear soldiers rest here. Carrying on, Lew Wallace was amazing at recruiting the young men to fight in the Civil War; however, along with the glory of the win, many lost their lives, close to 300 from Montgomery County alone. Fred Hurt, son of a doctor, a sophomore studying to become one volunteered for service in the Spanish-American War but died of typhoid fever in Virginia on 9 Aug '98. Perhaps it was because our own Montgomery County governor (James A. Mount) promised President McKinley four Infantry and two Artillery units (within 24 hours) but have to give him credit that he specifically noted "do this of YOUR own free will," not because you feel forced to. (Indiana Historian Sept 1998 "Our Gallant Volunteers in the Spanish American War. 5,000 Americans died in that short war but only 379 battle related, rest as with our own Fred Hurt by disease.

Next appeared World War I where I have found 39 of our citizens died and several are buried on foreign soil. I'm guessing my estimation is low, though. Fewer remained buried overseas after losing their lives in WWII. I have a tally of 82 but could be more. The Korean War was one of much hand-to-hand combat and Montgomery County tallied a dozen lost. The Vietnam War was one of the most controversial, still discussed and compared to other more combative wars today. Nineteen Montgomery County citizens died in this war, but many are walking around today with bullets in their head, agent orange deteriorating their bodies...!

Since that time, we have aided in the Gulf War, Iraq and others. A more recent, devastating death was Brian Bowman, 1st Battallion, 12th Infantry 4th Brigade 4th Infantry Division died Jan 3, 2010 in Ashoque, Afghanistan. There were also a few who died in

other capacities, such as Sgt. Charles Burks who was on duty in Germany in 1960 when he passed away and more than one WWI pilot. Several had horrible experiences (example: James Tribby spent three years as a Japanese POW, weight 220# & 6'4" when he was captured and coming out at 90# - (he was from Ladoga, a wonderful fellow) and let's don't forget Guards men, our nurses, and anyone who served our county and country!

Of course, wars weren't the only happenings during our 200 years of existence. So many people, places and things occurred.

A wonderful college appeared in our midst early on, founded just ten years after the county came to be. WABASH began with about a dozen students learning 3-4 subjects and today there are around 900 students with options of 39 majors. The one-room all-grade schools were replaced by township schools and now today to three sections of the county with three excellent high schools (North Montgomery, Crawfordsville, Southmont), Middle Schools for all three and I believe ten grade ones. So many wonderful teachers and Wabash professors have blessed their students for years over, John Beard and Caleb Mills being the utmost in my mind.

Religion spread into our county with the early settlers and early circuit riders - Dorman Winger - did a representation of the early minister circuit rider for many years. Several batches of neighbors came here and brought their religions with them (example: The McCormick family in Brown Township from Shelby County, Kentucky began the Methodists in the Waveland area in the log cabin of Jane McCormick on the farm I believe is still in the family).

Although we have had many artists and authors, several of those studied abroad, thus the influences of the greats spread here as well (example: T.C. Steele grew up in Waveland and studied in Paris, France relishing in the Impressionistic style, returning here, teaching, lecturing, writing) and those born and bred here took ideas away to other areas of the country as well as abroad.

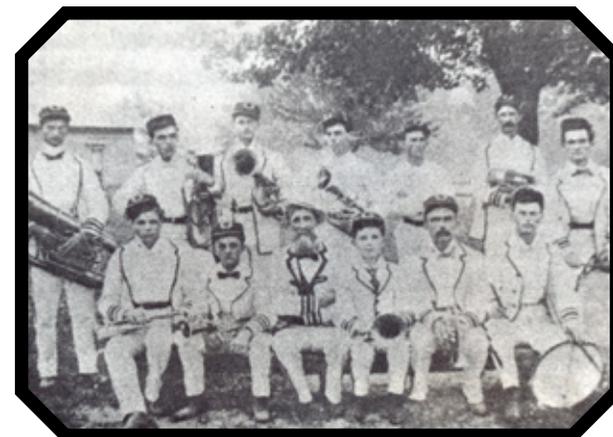
Actually, we have had a plethora of inventors of various items (example: Frank Raredon with his automatic locking nut and bolt or his self-winding clock) throughout our county history and even a man who walked on the moon (Joseph "Joe" Percival Allen) - now, that's something! Authors galore with one of the biggest ever of course being Lew Wallace. Magazine editors, cartoonists, the list goes on, several women (Melta Tay-

lor, fluent in 22 languages, holding her own in several others, author of Spanish-English textbooks, speaker on literary, social, politics); Mary Hannah Krout (NY Tribune; and her sister Caroline who wrote two books and their grandfather, Ryland T. Brown who wrote textbooks and was a Campbellite minister) as well as the more well-known men (Dr. Joe Russell who wrote magazine articles, lengthy informative poems often about his patients' courage; Maurice Thompson writer of Hoosier Mosaics; James B. Elmore; Freddie Bales; Pat Cline, Gaildene Hamilton, Bob Wernle, John Bowerman; Tim Timmons and many more folks!)

Sports - in a nice article by local sports historian, Bill Boone, he mentions several baseball players who went out into pros such as Dick Shull (White Sox, 1959); Steve Templeton (Twins, 1974); Brandon Moore (Mets, 2008); Rob Bowers (Ranger, 2000); Cam Hobson (Mariners, 2001); Matt McCarty (Dodgers, 1994); B.J. Schlicher (Phillies, 1996). Earlier on, Bill "Doc" Cedars and Dale Perkins were Alamo teammates, Doc pitching and Dale catching. Both graduated in 1941, went to service and signed with the Janesville (Wisconsin) Saints, an affiliate of the Cubs. Cedars played somewhat longer than Dale but neither went on. Shull was also an amazing basketball player, tallying 1317 points in his high school career likely before 3-pointers. "One day after going 2-4 with a single and double, he told the coach he was going home." He was homesick, came home, farmed some but went into law enforcement for 33 years. "Of all the outstanding players to come from this county, only two made it to the major leagues - Eddie "Kickapoo Ed" Summers who graduated from Ladoga HS, went to Wabash and coached there as well. He pitched for the Detroit Tigers, 1908-1912, and was 24-12 his rookie season. He pitched in the 1908 World Series against the Cubs. Eddie was a switch pitcher and once pitched 18 shutout innings in a 0-0 tie with the Washington Senators in 1909. Dick Dietz played for three major league teams in his 8-year-career. Giants, Atlanta Braves and LA Dodgers. Career totals - 66 home runs, 301 RBIs and a batting ave of .261. Tennis players, basketball players, football boys, runners, and many more impressive athletes could make Bill a wonderful book!

Just a dribble of the river of our times here in Montgomery County, Indiana. There is so much more - the immigrants, the politicians, the beauty of our area, but suffice to say, this is a wonderful place to live, raise a family and carry on life - for 200 years thus far!!

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



Photos courtesy of CDPL Image database

Left, New Richmond band; middle, Alamo band; right, New Ross band

Well, here we are 200 years old, so what did we have going in the county to celebrate besides this Montgomery Memories? This year, a committee presented each of the towns a 200-year certificate. There was a fun travelling photo booth that was in the towns, at the 4-H fair and all over; there was a Harvest Party, Art Walk, Facebook Page and internet page; 200 trees planted (not positive that occurred but it was in the plans); a Mo Co Government Center ribbon cutting; recognition of those who were in the service; those 100 years old; articles written by yours truly (well half of what I sent were used anyway – lol) on a Bicentennial Facebook page; 200 free Bicentennial coins, coasters and very nice t-shirts; golf tourney and so much more, celebrating this wonderful community of 200 years.

The community has actually always been festive. Bet most of you reading this article will remember the huge Christmas parades where each of the high schools would have their band marching; there were all kinds of floats; people loved the Shriners on the little motor cycles; clowns; many businesses had floats or banners and it was well over an hour long. It was very cold for a twirler, I can vouch for that!

Must get the strawberry fests in here and that actually dated back to Joanna Elston Lane giving the very first in 1878 to compliment an outside tea get-together. Having the strawberry festival right on the Montgomery County Historical Society's property, the Lane Place, is a wonderful tradition; however, Covid put a damper on it last summer. Hopefully we're back to the amazing money making, fun time it always has been. Thanks so much to all those who work (I know I put in my share between sorority; DAR and the historical society but health-wise I can't anymore so hopefully there'll be some youngsters step in here) at the fest to continue this fabulous tradition and fun time!

Music has always been a major part of any festivals or entertainments and most of the smaller towns had bands to entertain, such as in late August 1890, the Garfield band gave a wonderful festival. Almost all the small towns had wonderful bands as well as many in C'ville (love to look at the photos on the CDPL imagine site – photo from there). The Firemen had various types of moneymakers even way back in June of 1869 when the highlight of the week of the 17th was the Firemen's Fest which included strawberries and ice cream along with the Magic Ship, Niagra – this money was to go to incidental expenses for the department so they begged for a rousing crowd. Actually, Ice Cream festivals were given by just about every group such as the strawberries and ice cream festival given by the Good Templars' that same week. Here I guess is as good as any to thank (soooo very much) the fire and police departments. Have known many personally – good folks who watch over us!

Schools, churches, clubs, all have had their money making project similar to festivals, I guess. I remember the work several of us put into the Spaghetti Suppers at New Market Elementary that went along with the Halloween Festival. Lots of bucks made at the combined money maker. It was also a lot of fun to come up with the ideas of what to put in the haunted house in the lower part under the stage. Working with my own kiddos, deciding

what they were going to be and making their costumes plus decorating the pumpkins. What wonderful memories. Sure most of you all have similar ones.

One such affair I'd never heard of until I researched for this article was that of the "Printers' Festival," that went pre 1857 as it was noted as an annual affair. "The art – preservative of all arts," was one of the notations in the Weekly Journal 29 Jan 1857 p 2 and never thought of it, but oh so true. This article also was pleased that there were so many very classy ladies there – with high order of intelligence. The "Hoosier Vocalists" entertained and speeches were given by Hon. James Wilson; Dr. TW Fry and Prof. BM DeLaSalle who all gave deep interest and admiration to the once poor printer boy – Ben Franklin. The place was decorated with brightly placed lights and suspended large banners with the American Eagle richly colored and bronzed and a large portrait of Ben Franklin for his 151st birthday. The author of the article did think that the highlight of the occasion was the Crawfordsville Brass Band and the good humored toasts.

One of the biggest all-time festivities was the Sugar Creek Saga Sept 28-Oct 2 celebrating Montgomery County's 150th year. A part of our history was presented daily. Hundreds of locals were involved, plus churches and much more. My Favorite section was "Grow Up, Little Town Grow Up," that presented skits on Wabash, the railroads, the Civil War and the writing of Ben Hur.

C'ville had quite a reputation for Halloween festivities. In 1893, as early as the 14th appeared an article noting, "In her unique and delightful observance of this anniversary, Crawfordsville has acquired a reputation which is much more than local. No other town observes the festival as does Crawfordsville." There didn't seem to be bad things happening – spiteful mischief and such – but it was more a "social observance as pleasant in character as it is unique in conception." Strangers came to the Hoosier Athens on that day and were "most pleasurably surprised at the zest with which all classes enter into the celebration and elaborateness of its execution." The decorations were pretty and elaborate – quaint impressive social events occurred all over – "Crawfordsville has acquired an enviable fame through her celebration of a festival which is dreaded and abhorred in most other places." As I read that old article, my thoughts went to West Main Street where the hordes of cute little pumpkins (etc) trick-or-treated now for so many years. Wonder if that's when it all started?

4-H has been a wonderful item for the youth involvement and most come from the farms, some still on land that was original in their family. We have so many amazing farmers. Just recently, one of my favorite farming families (Cains) racked up a great award with Kenny receiving a lifetime achievement from the Hoosier Environmental Council for continuing to observe conservation in his farming. Montgomery has well over 125 Hoosier Homestead awards (farm has to be in the family for over 100 years); some 150 and with the Bicentennial, soon there may be some for 200 years – now, that'd be cool. Thus, we wrap-up festivities, farming, folks and stuff!



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

For this issue of Nifty, we meet someone who I hoped, on learning her surname, was a distant cousin through my Willett line - Lydia Zenor. The Zenor's are very much a part of my family tree. My great grandmother was Sarah Zenor, and my grandfather was given the middle name Zenor - Holman Zenor Willett. As one is wont to do, I went down the rabbit hole of determining how we are related. We may be, but it would be so very distantly that it is hardly worth mentioning. I did enjoy the moments of imagining a closer relationship with Lydia.

Lydia's grandfather Mathias was a Hessian conscript, hired to fight for the British during the Revolutionary War. After the war ended, instead of returning to Germany, he settled in Frederick County, Maryland among other German-speaking people. This is likely where he married Elizabeth Geringer in ca. 1790. The family migrated first to West Virginia, then to Kentucky, and finally to southern Indiana. Of the 12 children born to Mathias and Elizabeth, five died in childhood and three lived to be older than 90. Their son David (Lydia's father) was born on May 16, 1797 in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Mathias died in 1815 in Clark County, Indiana.

David married Phoebe Baker in 1818. Lydia, born on October 2, 1823, was one of their 11 children. David farmed in Jefferson County, Indiana. In 1850, his real estate value was reported as \$3,750, which is \$143K in modern day value. The opportunity Mathias hoped for by staying in the colonies was certainly realized in the life of David. The 1850 census also tells us that ten of the children, ranging in age from 27 to 8 years, were still living at home. Also living with them was Phoebe's mother Magdalena.

On September 25, 1854, Lydia married Robert S. Bain. Robert was a widower and twenty years older than Lydia. The couple met and married in Jefferson County, but



Photo courtesy of "us51946060" via ancestry.com

soon relocated to Wayne Township, Montgomery County where we find them in the 1860 census. The couple had three children David (b. 1856), William (b. 1857), and Sarah (b. 1861). George Bain, from Robert's first marriage, was raised by Lydia. Robert worked as a wagon maker. He died on March 6, 1868, leaving Lydia to raise their three young children.

Lydia married again on October 15, 1873. Her second husband, John McJimsey, was a widower whose wife died in January of 1873. John was 24 years older than Lydia. Lydia raised John's youngest daughter. In the 1880 census, Lydia's children David and Sarah were living in the McJimsey household. John's occupation was a hotel keeper and David worked as a blacksmith in Coal Creek Township. John died on June 29, 1891. He was a veteran of the Civil War and Lydia was listed as his widow in his pension file. (U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934 for John F McJimsey)

Phoebe died on August 3, 1894 at the age of 93. Given her longevity, and the longevity in the Zenor family, it isn't surprising that Lydia, too, lived a long life. We find her in the 1900 census living alone in her home in Wingate. This was also the case in 1910. Not until 1920, when Lydia was 96 years old, was she living (still in Coal Creek Township) with her daughter Sarah's family, which included Sarah's husband Leonard Linville and her two adult children John and Paul. On October 7, 1923, a celebration was held in honor of Lydia's 100th birthday (Journal and Courier, 24 Mar 1924). According to the Crawfordsville Daily Journal, hundreds of citizens attended the event (14 Mar 1924). We learn this about Lydia from the Wingate News (March 22, 1924) - "Aunt Lydia was a very remarkable woman in many ways. She kept up with the times, read good literature and took an interest in everything of importance...she, accompanied by her daughter, was taken to Crawfordsville by J. F. Meharry in his automobile where she registered before the county board and became qualified to vote. She firmly believed in the women's right to vote...[she] was a firm believer in the Bible and when she was able made it a practice to read it through once every year."

A few months short of her 101st birthday Lydia, a devout Methodist, passed away on March 14, 1924. In her obituary, the Crawfordsville Daily Journal noted that Lydia was "highly respected and loved" by the community. Also included in the obituary was this message from her children, "Dear old mother we miss you but our loss is your gain." Lydia was buried next to Robert, her first husband, in the Meharry Cemetery near Wingate. May "Aunt Lydia," who lived in Montgomery County during much of its first 100 years, rest in peace.



Four generations at Hunt & Son Funeral Home,
the pre-arrangement specialists,
have been making special remembrances
for families in this area for over 100 years



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Photo courtesy of Chuck Clore

Indigo blue to black, the evening sky teased our eyes upward. The first pinhole of light appeared low on the horizon to the west. It was Venus, not a star but a planet. Darkness enveloped the night as more and more stars revealed themselves. The time was perfect. I helped Tom move his cumbersome homemade telescope to the middle of his backyard on east Elmore Street. Far away from the glare of the streetlight, the stellar contrast was brilliant.

Great time for young-star-struck scientists, the 1960s' ignited the space race.

"Gentlemen, start the countdown!" After graduating from CHS in 1965, Tom

Jordan went on to carve out a career as an astrophysicist. With a doctorate in the field, Tom has led many eager young students at Ball State University to appreciate the heavens. Following the stars served Tom well.

Way before Tom, another group of fellows was purported to be star followers. I suspect none of them had doctorates in the field. Nonetheless, they were smart enough to invest a great deal of time and money to follow a star to Bethlehem.

Following that star, has served all of us very well.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus with the wise men at that first gathering must have been glorious. The clarity of that momentous happening may be obscured a tad by traditions over the years. But we still set aside time to celebrate. The following is an accounting of one of those Christmas memories for the Clore family.

I can't claim this memory as my own. The photo was taken in 1943, four years before I appeared on the scene. I



borrowed this Christmas star memory from my sister Delta. She is the tall-good-looking young lady in the center. Can you believe she was only eleven years old in this picture taken at Moody Studio on Green Street in downtown Crawfordsville?

World War II was raging on two fronts. Dad, Austin Clore, was about to ship out to Germany. He had lost his deferment from service when he quit working for Presto-Lite an essential industry in Indianapolis. He quit just long enough for him and Uncle Clint to build their mom a cute little bungalow at the foot of the hill in Alamo, Indiana.

By the time the brothers nailed the last shingle on Granny's new roof the draft board selected Dad's number. Bad timing. Right after they had sworn Dad into service, the officer held up a paper announcing his group would be the last bunch of fellows over 30 years of age they would draft. That's enough to make a

Hoosier swear.

To say life was challenging at Danville Avenue is a bit of an understatement.

Mom, Georgia Clore, had to stretch a check of only \$120 a month to feed and clothe Delta, Beverly, Jim, and herself.

Christmas Star

Story & Graphics by Chuck Clore

The family of five had weathered the hardships of the great depression. But they did it together. Nothing could prepare them for the loneliness of Dad being gone for years and the dread that he might never return.

They revived a practice that started during World War I. Millions of U.S. families displayed blue-star flags in the front windows of their homes. The blue-star banner proclaimed that Dad was in military service. The star symbolizes our family's love, pride, worry, and hope. Their prayer was that the blue star would remain in the window until he came marching home. A gold star replacing the blue one meant a family had made the ultimate sacrifice and lost a loved one.

That blue-star flag hung in the front window of our home. After serving three years, eleven months, and 25 days, Austin Clore was honorably discharged from the Armored Engineers Battalion. It was December 25, 1945.

Snow covered the ground. Anticipation swelled as a taxi stopped right in front of 1114 Danville Avenue. A uniformed soldier steps out then reaches back to retrieve his duffle bag.

Before the fellow could turn to face the family, he was tackled by exuberant little Jimmy. Whoa, shock and dismay! The soldier was not Daddy. The tears flew as Mom and Sis tried to console Jim. Even the soldier had tears in his eye as he apoloized. He

was coming to visit a friend across the street at 1113 Danville.

The bad timing didn't stop there. Back in Indianapolis, Dad was processed out of the service just a few minutes too late. He rushed to the depot only to catch a glimpse of the tail light on the last bus back to Crawfordsville. He spent his first night as a civilian sleeping on an army cot in Indy while the family pined away on Christmas day.

When it was obvious that Dad would not be on the last bus to C-Ville, Mom, knowing what the answer would be, asked the kids, "Do you want to open presents today or wait until Daddy gets home tomorrow?" Delta, Bev, and Jim unanimously opted to delay the celebration. What a celebration that must have been when Mom ceremoniously pulled the blue-star flag out of the front window.

Daddy had returned! That is the most joyous Christmas Star memory that Delta, my older sister shares.



Another Happy Christmas Memory
Years later, on Christmas day, Delta Mae Clore married Junior Owens whose birthday also falls on Christmas day. Junior had no excuse for missing anniversaries.

Montgomery County

By Joy Willett

*When the Offfield's
arrived in 1821
a forest of trees
crowded the sun.*

*A year later
the County was named
for General Montgomery
a man of some fame.*

*Not long after,
in 1823,
a courthouse was built
on C'ville's Main Street.*

*More towns came
beyond the county seat,
Waynetown in 1830
and in '32 Wingate.*

*Smaller but still
of consequence
Beckville, Deer's Mill
and Balhinch.*

1

*By the year 1837,
Alamo, Ladoga,
Darlington, New Richmond,
Waveland.*

*In the 1850s
more were to come -
New Ross and Linden.
But they were just some.*

*There were others,
much too many to name,
Bowers, Deer's Mill,
Hibernia, and Mace!*

*And New Market,
started in 1872,
built along
the S. C. L. & W. rail route.*

*In fields that stretched
beyond the paved paths
farmers plowed
and tended their stock,*

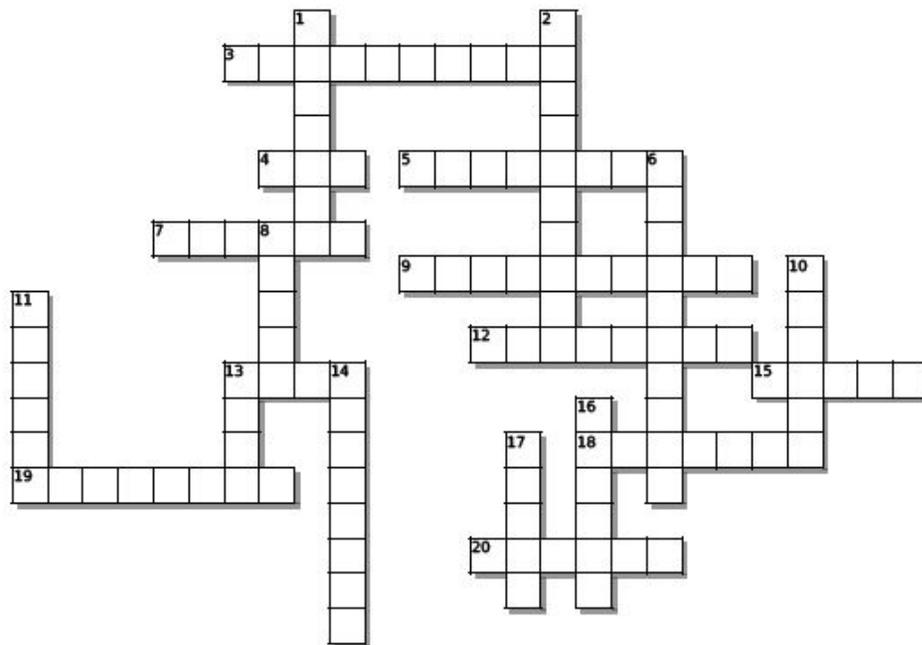
*What would the Offfield's
think of the changes,
of all that grew
and all that faded?*

2

Fa Lala

Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories



ACROSS

- 3 Built in C'ville in 1823
- 4 Color of "Stuff" in KBZ recipe
- 5 First white settlers in MoCo
- 7 Site of Yandes Hall
- 9 Was originally Ft. Washington
- 12 Romney was originally called
- 13 The deeper it gets, the slower we go
- 15 Maiden name of L. McJimsey
- 18 Invented self-winding clock
- 19 Laid out Romney with Ristine
- 20 Bought Lafayette in 1825 for \$240

DOWN

- 1 Pitched 1908 World Series
- 2 MoCo celebrating 2 of these
- 6 Fruit festival 1st held in 1878
- 8 MoCo native walked on the moon
- 10 12 MoCo men lost to this war
- 11 Its bells ring
- 13 1972's Sugar Creek _____
- 14 Devout member of St. John's
- 16 Snowman and a Wendy's drink
- 17 White Sox player, 1959

Check out page 10 for the solution

Burkhart Funeral Home

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Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Well, since it's the Bicentennial Montgomery Magazine, I thought today's KK should include my very oldest recipe that I have consistently used (sorry it's not 200 years old – lol).

I looked through all my bunches of cookbooks including my hand-made go-to one and I'd have to say the oldest recipe would be "Red Stuff" and with Christmas approaching (or depending when this comes out just past – then you can fix it for Valentine's Day or actually anytime) this would be perfect.

We don't have any idea what the original recipe is called but for tens of Christmases it was my aunts appointed task to bring Red Stuff for one of the salads (or it could easily be used as a dessert) and after her death, it was my turn to make it. So, here ya' go!

"RED STUFF"

- 2 pkg. strawberry jello
- 2 small pkg. frozen strawberries
- 1 can crushed pineapple
- 1 large mashed banana
- 1 pint sour cream

Dissolve jello in 2 cups boiling water. Add Strawberries, pineapple (juice and all) and banana. Pour ½ of mixture in a 7" x 11" pan. Let set. Spread with sour cream, add rest of jello. Let set. Add whipped cream and a fresh strawberry to each piece if so desired but we just dig in! Enjoy! And think of me when you're enjoying it, too!!



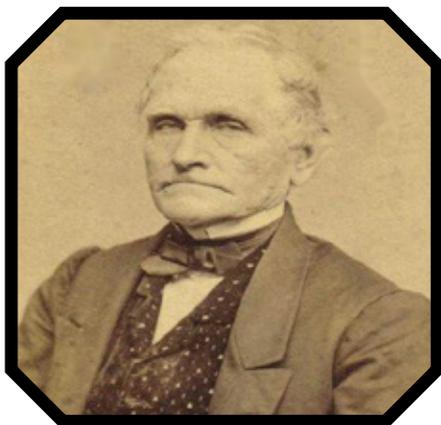


County Connections:

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Obviously, people are a big part of the Bicentennial Celebration, only how in the world do you pick and choose which are the most important. Seriously, I don't know but here are a few I believe should go in this category, any of which could have whole books (some do) written about their lives. No particular order or importance but some I think helped make our county what it is today.

I'd have to tag Isaac C(ompton) Elston as one of the major all-time men of Montgomery County. He was born 8 Oct 1794 in New Jersey and passed away here 24 Oct 1867. Eight years earlier, he served in the Democratic National Convention from Indiana. Such an amazing man, a merchant, banker, big land developer not only here but all over especially in northern Indiana (he purchased Lafayette in 1825



for \$240 and developed it and Michigan City for \$1.25/acre in 1831), president of the C'ville and Wabash Railroad, our very first postmaster. He was involved in a coal company, and what we all mainly knew him for – establishing the Elston Bank. Several of his children were also important in the county and city of Crawfordsville. He is similar to Lew Wallace in the fact that there were and still are many things named for this man (schools, churches, streets ...). Thanks to the CDPL Image database for this photo.

Henry Ristine was not only important to the very early Crawfordsville, but he

and Josiah Halstead also laid out Romney (originally called Columbia) in August 1832 as he saw the necessity to trade with Lafayette in Tippecanoe County. His son, Benjamin Taylor Ristine practiced law from 1840 in Crawfordsville for 56 years and several of his descendants were lawyers, businessmen and politicians. Henry was born in NY, married Nancy Gray in Gallatin County, Kentucky and was an officer in the range service during the War of 1812. He viewed our area at that time and hiked it here as soon as he could (May 14, 1823) where he and Ben worked with a few hired men to build a very large home that would be theirs but also used as the first inn (hotel) as Henry knew the newly okayed land office would bring many into the city who would need not only a place to sleep but one to relax and talk. Likely the Ristine we all knew as the prominent one was Richard Osborne Ristine who graduated summa cum laude from Wabash in 1941 and Columbia Law School after. He became Captain during WWII US Army Air Corps in the Philippines and Japan. He married May Durrett and they had three sons. Practicing for awhile in Indianapolis, he moved back to Crawfordsville where his great grandfather, grandfather and father (Harley – mother Helen Osborne) were lawyers and in reflection with his great great grandfather who served in the Indiana General Assembly, Dick beginning in 1950 as a State Senator. He was elected Lt. Governor in 1960 having an unsuccessful run for Governor in 1964. After 1964, he became president of Crawfordsville's Elston Bank & Trust Company, then he served as VP of LS Ayres and became Executive VP of the Lilly Endowment. He served as chairman of the Indiana Historical Society and was active in Historic Landmarks plus held many alumni positions with Wabash. A Sagamore of the Wabash, he owned many honorary degrees from various Indiana colleges. He passed away 20 June 2009 at 89 in Leland, Michigan

but was brought back home again to C'ville Indiana where he is buried at Oak Hill.

Although Ambrose Whitlock lived to age 96 (June 26, 1873) it would have been such a blessing to have him around for many more, as he seemed to have an iron constitution (he never drank and exercised every day). His home and yard were beautiful with many shade trees he had planted. Born in Virginia in May 1767, he joined the Army as a private in 1788. He aided in the erection of Ft. Washington that became the city of Cincinnati (Beckwith p 162). He assisted in the building of Ft. Wayne where he was stationed for quite some time, at that time a Capt. Via President Jefferson, he became paymaster of the Army with the rank of Major. He carried great amounts of funds in keel-boats to various military stations on the Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash Rivers. Not a cent was ever deterred in any way. Whitlock was present when General Harrison and Tecumseh met at Vincennes in 1811 and about 1817 retired from the Army. In 1822, he was appointed receiver of public moneys here in our land office under the direction of Hon. William H. Crawford, the sec of the treasury. It is this Crawford I feel Crawfordsville was honoring although others believe it received its name for Gen. Richard Montgomery of Revolutionary War fame who was killed in the assault of Quebec Dec 31, 1775. Either could be true but Whitlock naming it for his dear, trusted friend makes more sense



to me. No one seems to have a person who named it with the General, whereas with Whitlock, it all makes sense! Whitlock gave a great deal of support to have St. John's Church built where he was a devout member and donated the property for the church. He and his wife, Elizabeth Jones were not blessed with children of their own, but several of their nieces and nephews received their love and financial assistance. Bless this man and his good wife! (thanks to the CDPL Image database for this photo)

Williamson Dunn is the last fellow I'll be using here in this article. He, too, was a very early Crawfordsvillian arriving with his wife, plus nine of their eleven children in tow in early 1823. Like Whitlock, giving property for something he loved, Dunn did as well, being quite a strict Presbyterian he gave the property for the area of where the original Wabash College stood. Later, the college sold the gift acreage and purchased where the college is now. He was also instrumental in founding Hanover College and a theological seminary there. Sadly, his wife, Miriam Wilson (daughter of James Wilson and Nancy Agnes McKee) died 20 Oct 1827 just a few short years after their arrival, passing with their 11th child, Sarah Amanda. He was said to be "strong and vigorous in body, courageous in action and fearing only God. He was also in a company of Rangers created by President Madison and served as a Captain. In the first three legislatures of Indiana he served as speaker in his last two terms. He first served as receiver in the Terre Haute Land Office then in March 1823 moved to Crawfordsville to do the same. (Indiana Magazine of History June 1941). Sadly, because of political pulls, Dunn was removed from his office in September 1829 and took his family back to the Hanover area. Definitely, our county owes this man a great deal as the others above and many, many more!

2022 Montgomery County Museum Scene



MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Colonial Williamsburg tour. 5 days, 4 nights, May 7-11, 2023. \$689 per person double occupancy and \$888 per person single occupancy includes 4 nights lodging; 4 breakfasts; 2 dinners; full day pass to Colonial Williamsburg; self-guided tour of Jamestown Settlement; self-guided tour of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown; Yorktown's Riverwalk Landing; souvenir gift; luggage handling; taxes and meal gratuities; motorcoach transportation. Contact: Montgomery County Historical Society 765-376-1712. Closed beginning Dec 1 through February but scheduled tours will be available through March and regular hours starting in April.



ROTARY JAIL MUSEUM OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

Closed for year until March



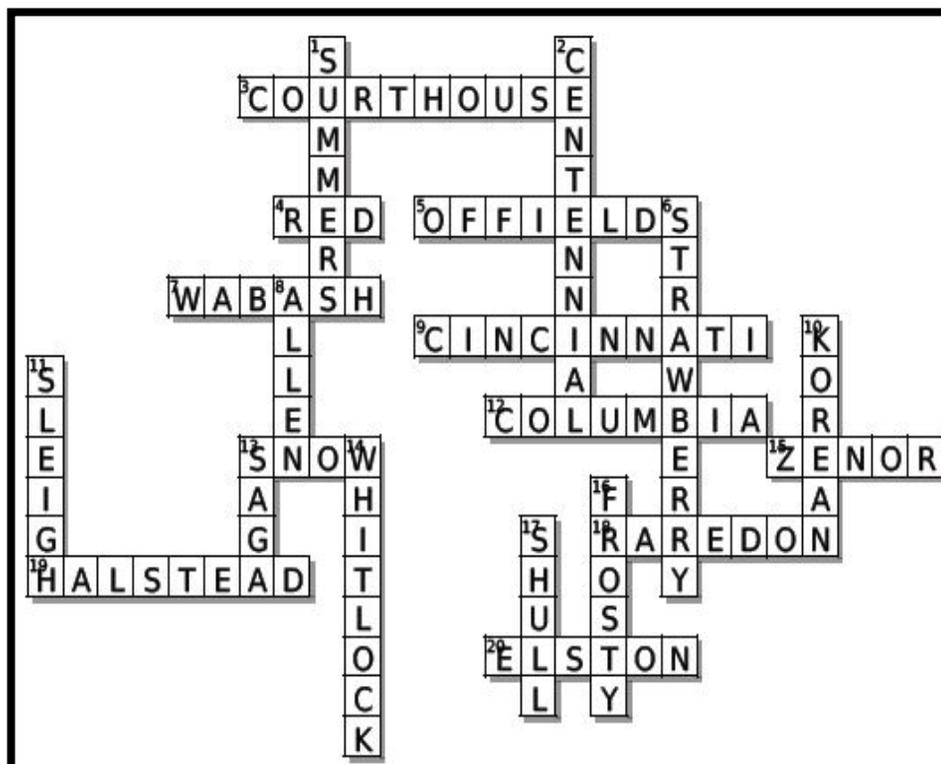
CARNEGIE MUSEUM

Look forward to "The Amazing Castle" exhibit in late January 2023. It's going to be one great display (1500 square feet featuring costumes, hands on activities, puzzles, a tailor shop, carpenter shop and much more) !



GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY

Closed for Year



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.



Old Fashioned Christmas noon – 5 through Jan 3 – closed Christmas Day



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Sometimes it feels like I've done genealogy for 200 years or at least 100 but I am over half of that. Think I was actually born with the desire and as I sat and listened to my Italian grandmother's stories of the old country I loved it. Always enjoyed history which I'm a firm believer goes hand in hand with genealogy. When I'd give a workshop I'd state that genealogy equals, People, Places and Things – yes the people are the key but where did they live, work, go, what was going on in the country and what things were they involved in – all goes together!

When I really began was when I was pregnant with our son (who just turned 53). Our early vacations were almost always centered around genealogy (we went to Langsville, Ohio a little place about the size of Brownsvalley that looked great going through one way and the pits the other but it gave my heart a double jump to see where my direct ancestor's property was, where he began his town and was the first postmaster). We would go to cemeteries (our daughter actually learned to read in cemeteries, taking her little piece of paper with a name on it – she'd spell the letters as she'd look for the stone – she did get pretty irate one day looking for Zach and found Zachary and couldn't figure out why she didn't get the usual pat on the back – lol). Next we might (if a hot day or a rainy or snowy one) go to the library where we had gone to research someone – they were always amazing – then again they knew the next day we'd do whatever they wanted to do (even jump in the mud holes) if they were good.

Not long after I had started actively diving in to genealogy I took my sheets and went to my grandmother's in Clinton and asked her about her family and my grandfather's. She knew hers as well as I now do but said she only knew his parents and that I'd probably never find anything farther back. Obviously, I have because it was my first of five goals I made and the first one I accomplished (via the old LDS microfiche films). Other goals were to get the families all out of America. Think I have two of about 40 families yet to do that for, but overall the main ones have been done for years. Third goal was to find where Jim and I are cousins. That was a fun night when we connect-



ed that – he loves to tease me about sleeping with his cousin (23rd that is once removed and we are cousins more than once – lol). Fourth was to find a Revolutionary Soldier – have several the first being a bit hard but Jim persevered going page by page in an old book in Ohio somewhere and after two hours (as I whizzed through about 40 books) he opened it in front of me and there sat my first – have several for him too (James Kelly his first who I patterned my clown outfit after – a top of the morning to ya')

James is buried in the middle of the street – photo from findagrave.com by Patti Chapman– we were both active in DAR, SAR and with our kids in CAR (son the state president even) and the fifth goal was to find a king or queen. Not sure how many I have but after the first night that I found about 30 and then another 25 or so by the end of the week, there have been more off and on in much smaller numbers, two or three at a time. One fun thing is that one of the first was an Italian King and it was not on my Italian father's side but on my mother's Smiths.

I have had many side hobbies relating to genealogy. One was to collect a signature from each of the ancestors. Have many of course, but not all. Collect something that belonged to each – ditto above. Do scrapbooks for each of the family which really never panned out as I did the seven grands current scrapbooks each year instead. Visit Italy where my grandparents grew up – that was a trip from he.. double hockey-sticks on one side (got strip-searched from Swiss guards on the train because they thought I was a serial killer.) Afterwards they showed me that gal's pic – doppelganger I was and that's just one of the crazy things that happened to me but on the other hand was oh how wonderful. Lots of fun with my cousins, got to see the home my great grandfather came to America twice to save up money to build for their large family and see my grandmother's name on the back of their church pew (how they honored them when they went to America or Australia or away). Have had lots of other hobbies too (knitting, macrame, writing of course that has held true, and several others) but genealogy has remained with me as I said I think day one and still going strong !! I'll keep going – who knows, maybe I'll make 100 years of what I so love to do!

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



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