

MONTGOMERY MEMORIES



July 2023

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Contributing Writers



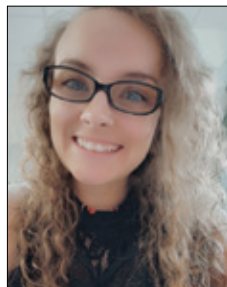
KAREN BAZZANI ZACH has been a contributor of local historical articles for almost 50 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and received her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children's Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: 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 most of her childhood in southern Montgomery County. She graduated from South Montgomery High School. Her undergrad was from Indiana State University and she earned her MBA at the University of Phoenix. Joy and her husband David have lived in Indiana, Arizona, California, and Illinois. As an amateur genealogist, she enjoys research and has written three family history books. She also writes poetry and fiction.



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: MDM: a man of camaraderie

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

One of my all-time favorite Montgomery heroes is Mahlon Dickerson Manson. Thanks to his descendent, Scott, for sending us this wonderful pic (and others) for the GenWeb page. Anytime I find even the smallest piece of history about Mahlon Manson, I send it his way and I'm so trying to talk him into writing a book about the good general. Certainly, MM made his mark in both the Mexican and Civil War, being one of Mo Co's five (six in my record but that's another story) generals and he was one of the first and longest druggists here, having medical school background, but keeping in the druggist field. He was also in politics, serving in 1851 as Representative from Montgomery. When war broke out again, he aided Lew Wallace in tallying recruits for the first group out and two days later in five hours alone, he raised a company and marched to Indianapolis with them. He served as an officer in Co G 10th Indiana as a Capt., commissioned Major and within a bit over a week promoted to Colonel. Some battles under his belt were Rich Mountain; Mill Spring; Resaca where the General awed his soldiers when he sprang upon the works and was hurt in the right shoulder by a shell. The boys just wanted to forge ahead in his honor. He received the promotion to Brigadier General from President Lincoln which was not requested but "given without solicitation." (PBR)

His career is impressive and upon his return, he was immersed into politics, defeated in a couple of races but his wow win was in 1870 when he was elected over General Lew, Manson serving in the 42nd Congress. As a member of the Invalid Pensions Committee, he made it possible for many of the CW soldiers to get at least a bit of aide. In 1876, he was elected State auditor and in '84 Lt. Governor. Let's just say this career was also impressive, but the point in this Montgomery Memories is to tell you about his organization skills!

The early Benevolent Orders had many of our leading citizens (Example: F&AM with Isaac

C. Elston; Isaac Naylor; Jacob Winn; Lew Wallace) involved and Mahlon D. Manson was found on the roles of almost all of the early groups, such as the F&AM and when the 1881 Beckwith History was written, MM was the only one left living. He and some above helped begin other lodges in the county, as well. He petitioned with Jacob Winn, William Vance, Naylor and others to begin the R.A.M. which I think is an offspring of the Masons and he was one of the first officers. Still greatly involved, in April 1869, he was with a bit of a different group (AJ Royalty, Calvin Walker, HH Crist and LA Foote) when the R and SM (#34) Montgomery County Lodge was organized. Not only active in the Mason scene (32nd degree) here in the county, he was involved in the Grand Lodge of the State, having been Deputy Grand Master for a couple of years. Also, he was very active in the Grand Army of the Republic where he was revered for not only his military glory and politics but because he was a "public-spirited citizen, a faithful friend honest in business, and a true man in all relations of his life." Certainly, he was a man who loved his camaraderie with his soldiers and his friends!

Found it quite interesting that the General owned great faith but he did not join a church (Methodist) until about a year or so before he passed away.

Mahlon Manson was born in Piqua, Miami County, Ohio February 18 (also found as the 20th) in 1818 and he was named for NJ governor Mahlon Dickerson who was Secretary of War under General Jackson. Parents were: David Nelson and Sarah



(Cornwall) Manson, David sadly passing when Mahlon was just three years old. He supported his mother thereafter until her death.

The good general's death came about in an unusual way. On the way home from Monticello with Col. W.F. Bush, the General noted that he felt so drowsy. Two seats were made into a bed for him. He made a pillow using his overcoat, lay down and fell asleep. At Frankfort, it was impossible to wake the General up so they carried him to the Coulter Hotel where he died in just a few hours (in the arms of his wife of 40 plus years, Caroline Mitchell and in the presence of his son) in the sleep of peace, proper to one who had fought so hard for our republic and our flag!

Kick back and relax!

Read the Montgomery Memories and enjoy our wonderful county history!

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

Wow, in 1896 (CWJ 20 Nov p15) alone there were all types of Music clubs. One was the Musical Amateurs (they were big on giving concerts and the profits to various societies). Miss Josie Stilwell was the president that year. From this group, the Baldwin Quartette derived which was one of the best and biggest of all the singing organizations. Loved to have heard the Mandolin Club that was originated the year before by ten young ladies and everyone enjoyed their entertainment. The “Merry Musicians” were made up of “bright little girls” Sara Yount was president; Elsie Russell, sec and treasurer was Ethel Thornberry.

On the same page/paper, Julia Waugh (an excellent writer) noted that “Our conservative little city has been recently seized with a violent attack of club spirit and each week chronicles the advent of a new organization.” She also told that although The Athenian club had been around 13 years, this year marked new groups of Art, Lit, Music, Drama and they filled each day and night with a program. Julia wanted each reader to know that the club woman was not the aggressive, strong-minded woman but the modest (as a violet) and regal (as the rose) instead and went on to pinpoint that “every need of humanity beckons for her aid.” More on the Athenian tallied 40 active members and that it was enrolled in the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs. Advocates of higher education for women believed, “When you educate a woman you educate a whole family.”

Glee clubs have been around for well over a hundred years – usually by name – Waveland Glee Club for example, but in 1900, Wingate’s club was named Durbin and Landis Ladies’ Glee Club, originating four years earlier as the Mount and Landis Club. All the ladies lived in the Wingate area “and could make delightful music.” The ladies stayed a couple of days at the Crawford and visited with General Wallace. Nicholson took many pictures – sure wish we had one. At an evening feast at the Crawford none of the ladies were named but several times Mr. Landis, General Wallace, Governor and Mrs. Mount, Mrs. Jennie Blair, Mr. and Mrs. Wingate were mentioned (CWJ 30 Nov 1900 p1).

Never heard of the Bay View Reading Club and admire the concept. They met every Monday afternoon and discussed an appointed reading. After four years of reading, you were able to graduate from the Reading Circle. Following along this idea the Tuesday Morning Club also was reading the Bay View course. The 20th Century club was also a study group and in 1896 were confining their study to America history and literature. Sometimes certain authors were read such as the Browning Club and impressive folks were in it: Ben Crane, Pres (1891); Prof. Alexander Smith; Prof. Mason B. Thomas; Prof. RA King and wife; AB Anderson and wife and young ladies, Mary Campbell plus Mary and Evangeline Binford.

Wonder if the Current Events Club is still going? It was when I was a big club member. Well, it was in 1896 and was “to cultivate the art of conversation” as a main goal. A couple of their topics that year were: “Aesthetics in the life of a community,” and “Influence of Clubs Upon Civic Life.”

The long-standing Commercial Club began four years later. The articles of incorporation were printed but overall, the object of the organization basically covered it – “the object of this organization shall be the promotion of the commercial and manufacturing interests and the general welfare of the city of Crawfordsville ...” (CWJ 31 Aug 1900 p7)



Photo courtesy of Crawfordsville District Public Library's Image Database

Allegro Violin Club, one of the many music related groups of our area

Of course, political clubs have always been big in our community. Did get a kick out of the Republicans who had a group from as soon as the party was organized but in March 1898 they began “A New Republican Club.” Along that line were clubs for various politicians (Harrison, Morton ...).

Clubs can be found easily by searching parades as they all wanted to have a float in it for advertising purposes. For instance (Oct 1896) the McKinley club had a float with a large grind stone and men “grinding their axes,” who were plasterers. Of course, other places had McKinley Club floats as well.

Interests such as sports had clubs. For instance, the Crawfordsville Gun Club leased 7 acres from George Butcher and were setting up a club house, a small grand stand and the shooting would be “north across Sugar Creek so no one can be hurt.” (CWJ 5 March 1897 p9). Plans were to hold monthly tournaments beginning in April and continuing until cold weather. This group was reorganized five years later, had purchased their own property and had added a new clubhouse. Total: 97 members. With the dedication of the new clubhouse, a two-day tourney (clay pigeons only) was up and prizes ranged from \$1.50 to \$2.50. Fishing and Hunting was a bit ahead as they had clubs right after the Civil War. The Shades had clubs that were actual camping clubs visit year after year – some Cliff Dwellers; Kingfishers; Cincinnati; and many more! I was rather surprised to learn that many gals went. The men in the clubs would usually fix a semi-circle of tents around the cabin of the gals for protection.

Darlington had a farmer’s club back in 1896 but imagine these merged with the Farm Bureau idea later on – could be wrong, though! And, way back in 1869, there was a call for such a club.

During the Cycling craze in the late 1800s and early 1900s, of course we had the C’ville Cycling Club. Much was expected from this group (Omer Cox, Pres; Maurice Kelley, VP; EF Wilhite, Secretary and Darrell Blair officers in 96) the group looking for a club house but not sure that happened.

Whoa is me – have barely touched the clubs and haven’t even mentioned any organizations yet but I’ll catch that elsewhere – hope you enjoyed perusing a few perhaps new ones to you. So, you add all the clubs you have been in to this list and we can definitely say that Montgomery County has always been a joining community!



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

In the Nifty column, I especially enjoy writing about relatives, even those who are distant cousins! For this edition we learn about Belle Sidener. My sixth great-grandfather, Martin Leibnitz Sidener, was Belle's second great grandfather. Known for her organizational involvement and leadership, Belle was a respected member of the Crawfordsville community.

The daughter of Charles and Americus Myers Sidener, Belle was born on November 7, 1868. During her childhood, the family lived in Crawfordsville where Charles worked as a "Dry Foods Clerk" (1870 Census). Americus took care of the home. In 1876, Charles and Americus' son Howard was born. Howard went on to be the Prosecuting Attorney for St. Louis, Missouri (U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925).

It is worthy to make note of the life of Americus. According to her obituary (Indianapolis News 02 September 2, 1938) she was "...the oldest member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church [in Crawfordsville]. She was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and the Women's Relief Corps. She was a charter member of Simonides Court No 1, Ben Hur Life Association... and had been active in the work of obtaining the first hospital for Crawfordsville. Many years ago she was made "mother of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Wabash College..." Americus died on September 1, 1938, three days shy of her 92nd birthday.

After graduation from Crawfordsville High School, Belle attended St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute (The Indianapolis Journal, 20 Sep 1885). Belle had quite the social life and her excursions, which were reported in the newspaper, included a trip to Chicago in August 1885 (ibid), a "sleighting party" in January 1887 (ibid), and attending a party in Lafayette on January 18, 1889 (ibid). On January 5, she hosted "an enjoyable party," that included, "Newmarket [a card game], progressive euchre and dancing..." (ibid). Belle graduated from St. Mary's in 1888, the same year that her father Charles died.

On April 22, 1890, Belle married Joseph Ralph "Joe" Collins. Joe was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1866. His family came to Montgomery County in 1873. We find Belle and Joe living in Kankakee, Illinois in 1890. Joe worked as a compositor, also known as a typesetter. The couple had two children Charles Thomas (born 1893) and John Benjamin (born 1897). The couple divorced by 1903. Joe lived the rest of his life in Chicago and died in 1927 at the age of 61.

After her divorce, Belle returned to Crawfordsville and began her career with the Ben Hur Life Insurance Company. She and her children made their home with Americus and her second husband John Ryan. They lived as neighbors of the clothing merchant Solomon Tannenbaum, I found it interesting that Mr. Ryan worked as a traveling salesman selling tobacco. Belle lived in the family home at 500 W. Main Street for 60 years. During her long career at Ben Hur, she was employed first as a bookkeeper, then as a stenographer, and finally became editor of the company's newspaper The Chariot.

In addition to her work-life Belle was a member of the Women's Relief Corp (WRC)



Photo courtesy of CDPL image database

Active in the local Centennial celebration Belle we believe is in back row 2nd from right facing photo

and served as its state president. The November 10, 1931 edition of the Indianapolis Star reported that the "Ninth District of the Woman's Relief Corp held their annual convention [in Crawfordsville]...the convention was presided over by Belle S. Collins." In 1935, Belle was reelected as president of the Ninth District Women's Relief Corp (The Indianapolis Star, 03 Oct). On October 29, 1942, The Bedford, Indiana Daily Times reported "Belle S. Collins, department president" attended a district WRC meeting in Bedford and she was quoted as saying "The torch was placed in the hands of the Women's Relief Corp members and we have carried it on."

Belle was a member of the Crawfordsville Chapter of the Delphians (The Indianapolis Star, 03 Jun 1923). She was also a member of the Crawfordsville First Methodist Church, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Athens Chapter of the Order of the Easter Star (Indianapolis Star, 4 Jun 1963). She was a member of the May Wright Sewall Indiana Council of Women, and was involved with their mental health committee (The Indianapolis News, 12 Nov 1953). Belle was also an artist. Her son Charles had a career as a salesman in the oil industry. Her son John graduated from Wabash College and was a veteran of World War I. John worked as an insurance salesman and later was employed in the advertising department of the Indianapolis Star before starting his own agency (Arizona Republic, 23 May 1965). John's daughter Becky swam in the 1959 Pan-American games where she was a gold medal winner (Indianapolis Star 4 June 1963).

At the end of her life, Belle lived at the Ben Hur Nursing Home. She died on June 2, 1963 and was interred in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Her monument was erected by the WRC. May Belle, a remarkable and accomplished woman, 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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“Beware, Barbie: NO PINK ALLOWED!” read the sign above the clubhouse door. To reinforce the gender curse a twisted Barbie doll spray-painted blue hangs by her heels dangling in front of a skull and crossbones.

“Tap, Rap, Deedle-Bot!” With a whispered “Worb-Dittle.”

These cryptic words usher me past the sinister vale of doom for the uninitiated. The chamber door swung open to welcome me, the newly elected Grand Pooh-Bah of the Secret Order of the Atomic Knights. I was a shoo-in for the Grand Pooh-Bah election. The clubhouse was the new workshop Dad built just before he left for the summer to work at Melody Hills Farm in Brown County, Indiana. “Quid pro quo,” you know.

I would tell you about the undisclosed handshake and fist bump, but you really don’t want to experience

Barbie-fication retaliation.

Forget about the Knights Templar. They are ancient history. The Atomic Knights are the gladiators of the next millennium! In the late 50s, the atom was our friend. Technology was our redemption. Space was our new frontier. Boys began trading in coonskin caps and buckskins for space helmets and pressure suits.

Crooning Cowboys and the Lone Ranger became yesterday’s news. Real-life heroes like Chuck Yeager and John Glen captured our imagination. The vapor trails of the X-15 rocket blew away Zarkov’s rocket of Flash Gordon science-fiction fame. Real science was fast replacing the fiction of space travel. Sputnik launched the space race, and we were ready to challenge those Russian dogs. “USSR, kiss our after-burners!”

Astronauts want-to-be reaching for the moon and beyond certainly did

Story & Graphics by Chuck Clore

not want any dumb ole girls aboard our ship to the stars. We were an exclusively male club.

Secret societies are bound to spawn a certain amount of curiosity. The Elks Club, the Shiners with their funny little fezzes, and the Freemasons, with their secret rituals, have all conjured up speculations. Speculation can eventually give way to conspiracy theories.

It turns out that, all the young ladies living on Delaware Street made a quantum leap from secrecy to conspiracy in a single bound. Their curiosity did not kill the cat, but their interest did ravage the Atomic Knights’ clubhouse. The east-end neighborhood girls took exception to our boys-only edict.

Our bikes skidded to a stop under the old oak tree, which stood in front of the clubhouse. We were returning from a wasp-swatting contest at Tom Jordan’s old barn on Elmore Street. Little Jimmy Carter was still whimpering about the flying menace he failed to outrun. It nailed him three times. He puffed up like the Pillsbury Dough Boy.

“Somebody has been here!” shouted Don, our Sergeant-at-Arms.

The front door was ajar. The sign was askew.

Then we noticed. The mangled Blue Barbie was missing. There instead was a Ken doll swinging from a chalk-line hangman’s noose. What in the world? He was wearing a hot pink tutu! Wait, there is more. Under the tutu, where his privates ought to be, there was a Black Cat firecracker with a short fuse.

Holy Moley! The Delaware girls sure know how to hurt a guy. Who knew, they knew voodoo?!

Don deputized Mike and Bobby as guards to ward off any pyrotechnic females. The Atomic Knights spent the last two weeks of summer straightening up the clubhouse mess they left. It was spick-n-span before Dad would be home to find his “workshop” in disarray.

Eventually, our gender defender attitudes were adjusted but not by fear of the fireworks the east-end girls might ignite. We joined a new club and found a fresh appreciation of gender differences, The Mickey Mouse Club.

“M-I-C-K-E-Y...”

Whoa, Mouseketeers, forget about Mickey and the cartoons.

“Hello, Annette Funicello!”

Karen would love ideas for the topics you would enjoy reading about in local history!

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

Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories

Join In

By Joy Willett

Clubs and organizations,
so many kinds
for people
to meet
with those
of like minds.

League of Women Voters,
and Relief Corp,
The Grand Army of the Republic,
Veterans of Foreign Wars.
For the patriot
and those with valor.

There are the Freemasons,
Odd Fellows,
Knights of Pythias
and Columbus.
Order of the Elks,
Moose and Eagles,
International Kiwanis.

For the kids
there is 4-H, the Scouts

1

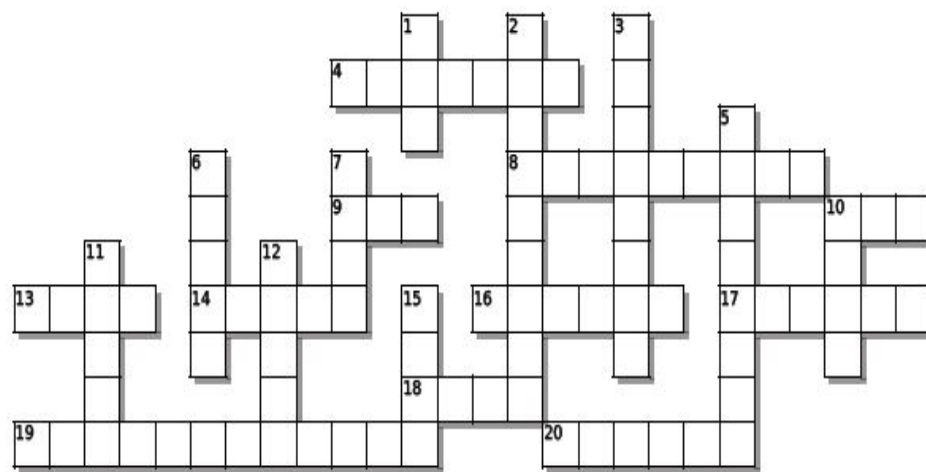
and Camp Fire too.
Setting a path
that teaches
and dutifully
inspires you.

The women
of yesteryear
had Home Economics
Women's Suffrage,
the Temperance Movement.
All intended
to bring improvement.

Today there are
several options,
garden club,
writing group,
sewing circle,
even shopping.

Find your
like mind,
Join right in!
There's much
much to share,
there's much
to learn.

2



ACROSS

- 4 Knights of ---
- 8 Society that studies ancestors
- 9 AKA "unusual" Fellows
- 10 --- Hur Tribe, it's supreme
- 13 Club: those who play w/ a deck
- 14 Club with a roar
- 16 Needle and thread club
- 17 Sometimes they're "free"
- 18 Not "Moose" but ---
- 19 Celebrated on 7/4
- 20 League of Women ---

DOWN

- 1 Initials for school group
- 2 --- of the American Revolution
- 3 --- of Foreign Wars
- 5 Catholic Knights of ---
- 6 Club for patching things together
- 7 --- of the American Revolution
- 10 Club for those who like to read
- 11 --- Army of the Republic
- 12 Shape of KBZ's cookies
- 15 A club that likes to sing

Check out page 8 for the solution

Burkhart Funeral Home

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Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

I gave a couple of talks to the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society and received their wonderful Favorite Recipes cookbook so since the theme is Lodges & Clubs this month thought I'd use one of my best bud's recipes for you.

OATMEAL RAISIN ROUNDS

2 ½ C. Flour 1 tsp. Soda ¼ tsp. Salt
 1 C. Real butter 2 C. Sugar 2 tsp. vanilla
 2 unbeaten Eggs

Sift flour, soda and salt into a bowl. In a larger bowl, cream the butter (real – no substitutes), sugar and Vanilla together. Add eggs to the creamed mixture then slowly add the dry ingredients and mix well.

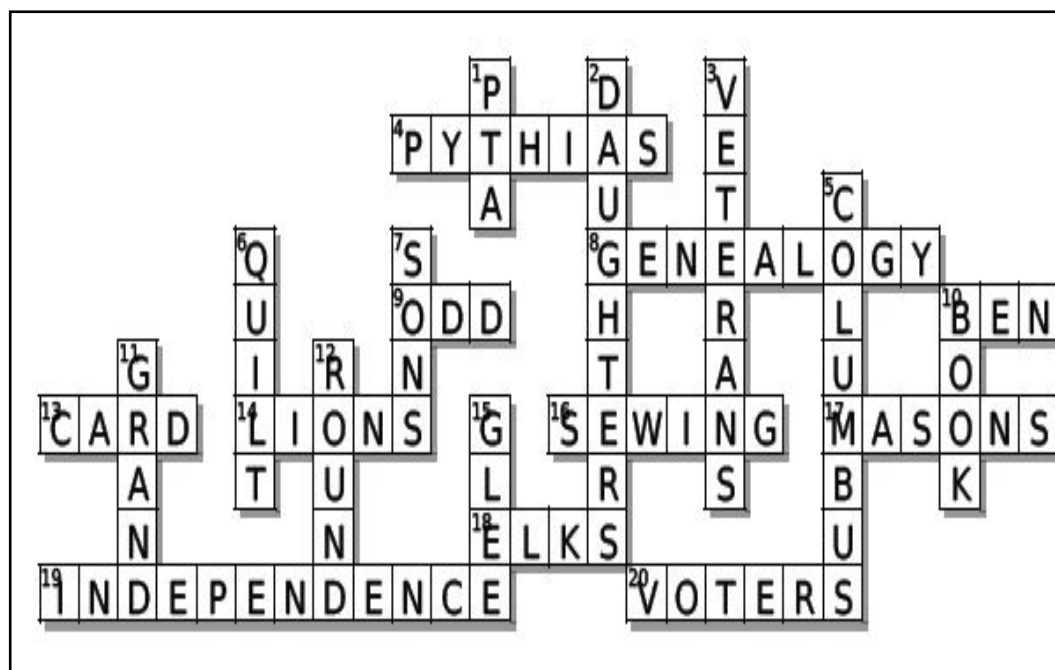
Then add:

2 C. Ground oats
 1 ½ C. Seedless raisins
 ½ - 1 C. Nuts (her mother always used a variety of kinds and said it was the best)
 1 ½ C. Coconut
 1 tsp. Orange peel
 1 tsp Lemon Peel

Note: if too dry, add a bit of Pet (Evaporated milk)

Mix well then drop by T. onto ungreased cookie sheet. 375 for 12-15 minutes. Makes about 5 dozen.

Note from Dea Lobbia Guerri – “My mother, Elfrieda Kramer Lobbia made these oatmeal “good-all-year-round” cookies that were always a favorite with everyone. The real butter and the orange and lemon peel make the difference. Sometimes we added dates or snipped apricots, too. Couldn't go wrong!



We all have rich, interesting family histories!
Why not get yours published in an issue of Montgomery Memories?
Email: karen.zach@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Montgomery Memories



County Connections:

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Since the theme this month centers around clubs and organizations not people, I wanted to use this article for the organizations since I had way too much fun with the clubs in the Odds section.

Recently, Dellie Craig put together a wonderful display at the Crawfordsville District Public Library of Organizations in the county. She and Michelle Ogden (Library Assistant in Ref and Local History – see photo thanks to Dellie) wrote a wonderful blog for the library telling that the organization display was the last of their four Bicentennial exhibits. There were postcards showing the Crawfordsville, Waynetown, Darlington and New Market lodge buildings; record books and books about the history of the Knights of Pythias. Other groups featured included the Patriotic Order Sons of America; Free Masons; Independent Order of Od Fellows, Red Men; and of course, the Supreme Tribe of Ben Hur. Doing good community works and socializing prompted these type of organizations.

Of course, we know that many organizations center around wars – the Daughters (and Sons) of the American Revolution of course honoring a direct ancestor who fought (or gave other aide) in the Revolution; the General Society of the War of 1812; Grand Army of the Republic; Veterans of Foreign Wars and on and on, most of which C’ville and several of the other towns have had.

I was surprised at the number of medical organizations we have had - Doctors and Nurses groups as well as these - American Red Cross; Montgomery County Medical Society; County Tuberculosis Association, the latter I had not heard of in my 55 years of searching in this county until this article.

One item touching almost all of the organizations is that they all had resolutions that were often in the old newspapers, especially at a death such as in the CWJ 19 June 1896 p 9 – “At a meeting of the Montgomery County Medical Society held June 17, 1896, the following resolutions were adopted: Whereas a distinguished member of our society, Dr. JA Berryman has been removed by death. Resolved – deeply deplore the loss to the MCMS and to the profession at large ... sympathies given and that the resolutions be sent to the family and published in the daily papers!”

As with medical folks, teachers, workers, etc. belonged to side-related groups, such as if a doctor graduated from a specific medical college (we see this a great deal at Wabash) they would be in the societies belonging to the university. Many of you reading this might belong to your college’s – I do! Plus, it does my heart good to see a group fighting for the right causes such as way back in April 1893, our local medical society fought against illegal prescribing. The group was quite up in arms about the “Yarb” doctors, corn doctors, kill or cure, cowboy and all other kinds of “doctors” peddling pills, administering hypodermic injections, sawing off legs and went on to maintain most had no training at all. “Not only have these wild beasts cured, killed and maimed without licenses with big red and gilt seals on



the bottom but in open warfare on the ancient code of ethics of our medical profession.” Sure glad I was around 100 years later!

Sometimes it is hard to figure if an organization is work related, hobby-related or a combination such as several horse-related ones. The Horse Breeder’s Association and 4-H has so many wonderful clubs, including the Horse & Pony Club, one for sheep, and about any subject. The Athens Saddle Club (South Blvd) when we lived on Center Drive was so active with shows, officers and everything. There were shows at the Ben Hur States off of 27 North and a couple towns had active ones as well – Wave-land Renegades Saddle Club but the only one very active at this point is the Bainbridge Saddle Club in Putnam. (thanks SLY).

Another area of clubs, groups, organizations relate to religion. The Sunday School organization seemed to begin in October 1895 (CWJ 11th) but I would imagine much work came prior. “It has developed the fact that more than 20,000 people in our county never go to Sunday School and that 216 families have no Bible.” My first thought was we probably didn’t have 20,000 in 1900 but alas we did (add 9,388). Thus, the group planned to make sure each had a bible, have a township convention (first one beginning that week at Alamo; 17th at Otterbein Church (Union); next day at Waynetown, New Ross following, then Franklin, Madison, CC already planned and SC, Brown, Scott and Clark yet to be organized). Plus several other great ideas. Knights of Columbus in the Catholic Church and many other groups relating to religion.

Seems like people aren’t quite as involved with such organizations as even 50 years ago, but then again, I’ve not made a grand tally, either!

In Mo Co, it was a very good year in 1954 . . .

C'ville won their first football game 14-6 over Noblesville. Go Athenians!!

There were 30 gas stations in C'ville alone this year, Jones' Conoco at 114 W. Wabash and Harold Beck's at 816 E. College the longest in business.

Merle Remley was in his third year as County Sheriff and would continue until 1962.

37 Groceries - Kroger, (then at 601 W. Market is sadly the only one left that I know of).

The very first of the year, 11 went to Indianapolis for induction into the service with another 25 going for physical exams. Eight of the 11 were volunteers (Robert Jones; Paul Price; Robert Harding and Howard Birdsong (All C'ville); James Harris (Wingate); Harvey D. Parks (Laf RR7); Robert L. Harbison (Russellville) and Jackie French (New Ross). The other three were Frank C. Allen (Waveland) Seth Shields IV (Darlington) and Richard D. Jorgensen (C'ville). Hope ALL returned

Furniture? Purchase at James Abbott's; Danforth's Kostanser's; R Bee; Schloot or Vandebark's. Used could be purchased from Jessie Esra or Eston Zachary.

Wow that was in the days when there were three super nice department stores (Goodmans; Wards and Penney's).

Eight Frats were going strong at Wabash: (Beta Theta; Delta Tau; Kappa Sigma; Lambda Chi; Phi Delta Theta; Phi Gamma Delta; Phi Kappa and Sigma Chi), which are the same today.

Hunt & Sons Funeral Home did some smart advertising as they were the only ones listed as Morticians as well as Undertakers, and "Funeral Chapels" but under Funeral Directors there was also Brights, and Moffett's.

12 Dentists surprised KBZ - some you'd know the names (Peacock, Tapia, Beeson, Bushong, Cantrell, McCord) but a couple I had not heard of before (Toth; Fraser).

Two motorcycle dealers (Harley Davidson at 505 E. College and a Motorcycle Service 201 E. South Blvd).

For many years, C'ville had 3, maybe 4 jewelers but there were five listed this year (Kaitson; Marter; Resoner; DW Williams and loved this guy, Leonard Winchell).

Since our theme this month is Lodges and Organizations, let's just say we had a tally of at least 28 in the city alone

Some of the bigger ads in the Polk City Directory were: Fishero & Fishero's National Homes; Elston Bank; C'ville Ready Mix; Lyon's Machine Shop; Midstates; Day's Wallpaper and Kitt's Gravel and as I have said a few times before in the "Very Good Year" listings, the list goes on!

16 Insurance Companies and 21 Realtors existed in the city. Wow!



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Well, I'm 99% sure neither I nor any of my parents or Jim's were in a lodge but all of us were in Clubs galore. Years ago there was a nifty article called "Let's Meet the President," in the local paper and it featured someone each week and told about the president, the club, family, etc. It was so cool. My dad happened to be the president of the Rural Mail Carriers group so he was featured in a super article except they used my middle name (that's a no-no). Dad was in VFW; Legion; school parent president; coach and more. Mom not quite as active in things but was in the women's group with the Mail Carriers and the ladies' group with Legion as well as at St. Bernard's. She was involved in whatever we were in – cooked for the ball games – that type thing! Probably more but all I can think of.

Grandparents – not a lot except my Nono (Italian gpa') was in a euchre club – Nona would give him \$5 each Friday night and they'd go to various club members homes and play until they dropped or ran out of money. We always knew if Nono wasn't there for Sunday dinner then he was still playing and winning but if he was there with us, it wasn't such a good card weekend for him. He also belonged to a miner's group. Nona was the one who loved clubs. I even got to sub a few times in her bunco club. She was in a couple of church-oriented groups and was involved often with working (she helped begin the first one) on the Little Italy Festival dealings. Other things too but not sure what. My Gma' Smith, I don't think was in anything. She had four brothers who had probably 25 or so total kids and two of her own and was with them all the time. She did have a little stationery business that kept her busy. Gpa' Smith (Pap) read all the time after retiring and a lot before retiring. He loved to just go up and sit at the local grocery store in a little center area Moore's had for "talk sessions" (and they say women gossip – lol) and he had 3-4 different folks who would sit on his nifty full front porch with him and visit every day weather permitting. Also, he was involved in one group I know – he was a Mason very active in the Waveland lodge.

Jim's dad was super active in Lions' Club and they were in a doubles bridge club, JoAn in at least one maybe two others. She was also in Tri-Kappa, Catholic Women's Club, DAR, Antique Study Club, Art League and I could probably fill the rest of the page. Both were very active in the church. He enjoyed his hunting and fishing buddies and loved to go on trips with them plus coached basketball, winning the city league at least one year. Oh, and we certainly didn't call it a club, but my dad he love to play and beat (but didn't often) me and one of the kids (JoAn his partner but sometimes we'd take men



against the women) in Bid Euchre while Jim was holding down the fort at the restaurant.

So, we're down to just us two. Jim & I were like our folks, involved in mostly what the kids were in, so we both went to the Children of the American Revolution conferences several times, Jay (state president) and Suzie both serving as state officers. We were both in the ARs as well, he as an SAR member and me as one of the few who served as our local Dorothy Q Chapter DAR regent twice and it was so neat to be in a club with daughter and my adorable mother-in-law (see pic). I was in soooo many other genealogy-oriented groups I seriously couldn't name them all. Also, I was in many groups relating to my jobs – Library Associations, English Teachers, etc. and I dearly loved the Delta Theta Tau sorority group but a few years ago, because of my health and finances, decided I just needed to back out of all of 'em.

In conclusion, are clubs a good or bad thing? Well if you have the time, money, effort and health, yes, I do believe they are good as I have so many wonderful friends I met through all the ones I have been in, but there are of course minuses too. However, overall, I'd say our experiences were super-dee-duper! Love to hear about yours!

**Kick back and relax!
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