

MONTGOMERY MEMORIES



September 2023

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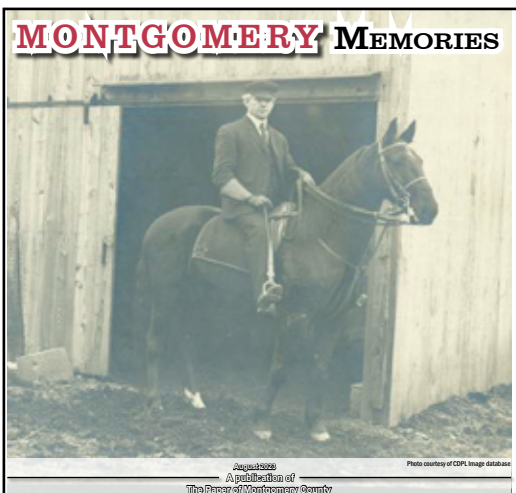
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The Paper of Montgomery County

Page Listing

Contributors & Such	2
September Feature - Karen Zach	3
Odds & Ends - Karen Zach.....	4
Nifty - Joy Willett.....	5
Hunt & Son Funeral Home	5
Boomer Groomers - Chuck Clore	6
Poetry and Puzzles - Joy Willett	7
Burkhart Funeral Home	7
Karen's Kitchen	8
County Connection - Karen Zach	9
It Was A Very Good Year	10
Grandcestors - Karen Zach	11
Nucor	12

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Contributing Writers



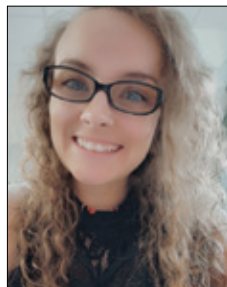
KAREN BAZZANI ZACH has been a contributor of local historical articles for almost 50 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and received her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children's Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: 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.



September Feature: Herron, an early treasurer of MoCo

Karen Bazzani Zach



Throughout my 50 plus years of studying and writing about Montgomery County's rich history, I've found many men who were leaders reflecting the same in civilian life. One such man was William Parke Herron, an early treasurer of Montgomery County.

A Montgomery Countian by birth, he was born 17 June 1843 to James Douglas and Rebecca (Young) Herron, his father having entered government land in 1825 to establish the family name in Montgomery County. Will was their 9th of 10 children, all but two sisters and a brother who passed away young lead long, healthy lives!

Pre-Revolution (Bowen History) the Herrons entered our country, the grandfather (Scottish) having fought in the war and was captured by the English, spending two whole years as a Prisoner of War.

Perhaps reflecting his Revolutionary war ancestor, Will, as a 19-year-old Junior at Wabash, opted to pass on his senior year and join the Union Army Co B 72nd Indiana Volunteers (see photo from the Crawfordsville District Public Library's image database – it's great). After the Battle of Stones River

(Tenn) he was transferred to the mounted Wilder's Brigade and served as their Captain, plus was for a time a temporary major, then a provost marshal; his division captured Jefferson Davis, the Confederate President. He was three times wounded, the last at Chickamauga being quite severe. Receiving an honorable discharge at the end of the Civil War, Capt. Herron returned to Crawfordsville but his health was poor. Thus, he spent three years in the northwest to recuperate. In 1870, he spent three years as a local bookkeeper for McClure, Fry and Company then in 1873 he was twice elected County Treasurer. 1875 launched him into a local business career, his first leadership role being president for the Gas Company, then president and treasurer of the Wire Company, director of the Coffin Company, and then his ultimate job as a leader at the First National Bank of Crawfordsville.

Herron was known throughout Midwest Indiana as a progressive who had a great command of the money world. Besides his career, he was very active in the local GAR, Board of Trustees, State School for the Deaf and a member of the Military Park Commission.

On the 20th day of January 1875 William Parke Herron married Cyrilla "Ada" Patton, a cultured young miss from an excellent Lafayette family. An exceptional musician, she played the organ at the Methodist Church for many years. These two became parents of six children.

Charles Douglas received his Master of Arts and Doctorate of Law. He went to Wabash and attended the Army Staff College with General George Marshall. During WWI he served as an instructor at West Point where he taught George Patton and his relief instructor was Douglas MacArthur. For several years, he lived in Washington and served on the General Staff. Dwight Eisenhower was one of his aides and this is just a touch of his great life as he worked up to his final rank of Lt. General. He married Louise Milligan, they having at least two children, William and Louise. Charles passed away at 100 years 1 month and 10 days old (FindAGrave).

Jessie was born 11 Feb 1879. At age 31, she married James Flynn Stutesman (age 50) on 30 June 1910 right here in Montgomery County in one of the largest ever performed (over 300 guests, 200 at the reception at the beautiful Herron home), one of the ushers being Will Hays, Sr – keep reading! She was a nurse in Chicago and James had just

returned after serving three years as a minister to Bolivia (also been twice in the House the latter as Speaker) but sadly died just seven years later right before Christmas; buried in his home town of Peru, Indiana. Afterwards, she joined (and served with them 50 years) the Red Cross working as a dietitian during the war. Remember Will Hays, Sr. in her first wedding? In 1930, they married and were so for almost 25 years when he passed away in 1954, she six years thereafter; both buried Center Ridge Cemetery in Sullivan, Indiana.

Florence was born 26 Jan 1881 and passed away at age 93 at Culver. She married a banker like her dad, John Harmon Binford who lived to be 90. Although married many years, they got a late start, he 46 and she 42 with a nice, but nonelaborate luncheon after the smaller wedding. They lived at 406 W. Wabash with her mother. She, Jessie (both widows) and their brother, Frederick, spent their final years in the old homestead.

Many of the Herrons were long-livers and Frederick Lewis was no exception. Born the 1st of February in C'ville in 1886 he passed at age 94 here. "Ted" was a US consul in Panama, served in two World Wars, reaching the rank of Colonel and was treasurer for the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors (under Will Hays) of America (Blakeslee, Ruth). Quite a career.

William Parke lived most of his years in River Forest, Illinois where he was a college graduate, of course and a Civil Engineer. As with his brothers, on the WWI Draft card he is listed at 6', dark red hair and brown eyes. He and wife, Grace Randolph had a son, John.

Austin Reynolds Herron the youngest was born 23 September 1889 and passed away at age 78 in Feb 1968, buried in Oak Hill as are most of the above. He, too served twice rejoining the service in WWII from his Attica First National Bank presidency.

These children were all raised in the beautiful family home the good captain provided, it being one of the largest, most beautiful and certainly unique homes in our city at 406 S. Wabash Avenue.

In his personality, William Parke Herron was charitable and courteous. Regarding his service during the Civil War, certainly, he was fearless and always faithful to his country and in his career, intellectual, trustworthy and helpful. Makes for one amazing fellow and family, for sure!

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

Two years as Deputy Clerk and six as clerk were tallied by Civil War soldier (Co I, 11th Ind), local dentist Theodore McMechan.

A.P. Reynolds died not long after taking over in 1897 with a quick case of pneumonia. William Hulett was educated at the Ladoga Academy, had ran a general store and served two terms as Twp. Assessor. He had ran against A.P. Reynolds and yes, lost, but being close, the County Commissioners appointed him to finish out the term. Having done an amazing job, he was elected the next time.

Another death while serving their term was when Edward William Shaw passed away in early December 1964. He had just been reelected for another 4-year term and would have begun that on New Year's Day. Active in local Boy Scouts, Little Baseball, First Methodist Church, Elks, Masons and many other groups, many will remember him as aiding his father (Edward Pressley Shaw) in the meat business and operating a frozen food locker plant later.

The day after Mr. Shaw's death, Carl A. Hankins (Waynetown Democrat) was appointed by Gov. Matt Welsh as MoCo Clerk to serve out Shaw's term. Sadly, after serving 14 months of that longer term, Carl Hankins suffered a heart attack in his office and passed away 23 Feb 1966.

One of my all-time favorite county clerk's was Becky Neideffer as she was interested in local history. She spent her own time to tally some of the early records. A lot of fun, she helped in making a Genealogy cookbook and was extremely conscientious in not only her job but clubs as well. I was sad when she moved out west.

Another I remember was J. Estel Bell who served two terms as Clerk. For eight years, he served as the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. A veteran of WWII, he served in the Army's 4th Infantry and received a Purple Heart. In many local groups, several related to his service (American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Vets) but he was also in the Masons and a member of the Methodist Church and C'ville Country Club. He was buried in Oak Hill with full military rites (at age 90).

In the Bowen History, Edgar A. Rice was noted as a "popular incumbent in the office of county clerk." Born in Union Township, 24 Feb 1877 (to William A. and Martha Hipes Rice) was educated at Central Normal (Danville, Illinois) and Indiana State Normal (Terre Haute) then taught for a bit later serving as Deputy Clerk. Having mastered each and every task in the clerk's office under Dumont Kennedy, in 1908, the people elected him to the office.

As per the County Treasurer, it too must have been a tough job, as Wallace O. Everson died during his term. He had the flu and developed pneumonia afterwards. Just beginning his next term he was very popular and well known in the county. During his illness, hundreds of telephone calls and inquiries concerning his condition were received at his home, office and the hospital.

One of C'ville's basketball players (one of the main guards) in their IHSAA tournament in 1911 was H. Grady Chadwick who later served four years as our County Treasurer back to back with eight years in the county auditor's department. Always loving his Athenians, he was at Indianapolis at the Claypool Ho-



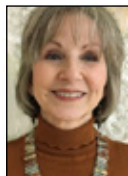
tel in the lobby going to some of the sessions of the county official associations group when he had a heart attack and dropped dead at the mere age of 61. He was at least with two friends who took care of him in his last few minutes, John W. Ward (Superintendent) and Earl Bonwell (Commissioner).

Fountain North Johnson was born in Warsaw, KY in October 1842 and the family moved when he was 12 to Waveland. He worked two summers for Billy Moore in the famous stop, Moore's Tavern (Inn), on the Terre Haute Road. A bit older, he blacksmithed for several years in the wagon and carriage firms at Waveland (Sisco; Foley; Roads; Belton; Philebaum) and after finishing school at Waveland and the Waveland Collegiate Institute he worked with his father carpentering, plastering, brick laying and whatever he could do. In 1864 he headed to California but came back the next year and the next his father passed away so he stayed in Waveland and taught. Clerking in a local firm was next along with marriage (Julia Durham). In 1878, his partner, Tyre Hanna received the nomination of County Commissioner and Fountain received one for the county treasurer. Henry Franklin and John Amos were born but their mother died a few years later. Fountain remarried Mary Wiley and two sons were born to them, Theodore North and Thomas Brown. Certainly, he knew his finances as he served as president of the Waveland bank for many years as did others in his family.

Of course, we have a gal (well more than one but here's Ms. Hildred Haas Smith). Hildred Smith was Deputy Treasurer from 1959-71 and then served as the Treasurer from 71-79. (see her emery board campaign hand-out). Quite versatile, Hildred served as a union steward at the old Wilson Shirt Factory, was an accountant for Montgomery Ward and a contributing writer for the Journal-Review. She was also an officer in the Indiana County Treasurers, active in Eastern Star; president of Waynetown PTA; and was "Woman of the Year." Married to DL Smith in 1933, I only remember her as a widow. They had one son, Larry who produced three granddaughters and six great grandchildren for her to enjoy! She passed away at age 90 and is buried in Waynetown Masonic Cemetery.

Yes so many had one or the other of these county jobs – Clerk or Treasurer – and I've tried to give ya' a variety here; however, I'll have to say (getting to be one of my favorite catch-phrases as I am realizing at age 73 there is definitely going to be lots of our history I'm just gonna' have to pass up) ... but the list goes on!

Thank you for reading Montgomery Memories!



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

This edition of Nifty at Ninety features a father and son. Both prominent men, the father lived to be 90, while the son, who died on December 19, 1841, only lived to the age of 53.

The father in our story is James Gavin McMechan. James was born on July 24, 1808 in Hamilton County, Ohio. According to the McMechan Family History (W. McMechan, 1844, via ancestry.com) his father John (b. 1768) came to the U.S. from County Down, Ireland in 1798. His mother, Sarah Gavin, was born in Virginia on April 6, 1785. John and Sarah, who made their home in Ohio, had at least six children. James was the oldest. He attended the Oxford Academy in Oxford, Ohio and came to Montgomery County, Indiana to study medicine with Dr. William R. Winton, a local physician. In 1833, James married Eliza Winton, the doctor's sister (Indianapolis Journal, 9 June 1899). James began practicing medicine in 1840, and in 1852 he graduated from the Medical College at Chicago (Crawfordsville New Review, Saturday, May 24, 1899). Possibly to help out with the busy and growing family, Eliza's sister Rebecca lived with the family during the 1850s.

James and Eliza had ten children. Five lived to full adulthood. While Eliza took care of the home and family, James practiced medicine in Darlington. For a short time, the family lived in Dayton, in Tippecanoe County. This is where their son Theodore was born. During the Civil War, James was an army surgeon and was in the battles of Shiloh, Fort Donelson, and Fort Henry. After the war, he returned to Montgomery County and continued to his work as a physician. In his private life, he was a long-term member of the Masonic Lodge, and for over 50 years was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was one of the first members of the city council in Darlington. James continued his practice into the 1870s. When James retired, Eliza and he moved to Crawfordsville (Lafayette Directory, 1887). They lived in a two-story house at 611 S. Green Street.

Theodore, also known as Theodorus, served in the Civil War, as well. His stint in Company 1 of the 11th Indiana Volunteers was brief, only lasting for three months. After his enlistment, he studied dentistry. He attended Wabash College in 1864 and 1865 (Wabash College U.S., School Catalogues 1765-1936). He also clerked in a dry goods store in Leavenworth, Kansas. He returned to Crawfordsville, where he completed his dentistry studies. For two years, he practiced dentistry in Muncie. Returning to Crawfordsville, he continued his practice here.

On June 2, 1870, Theodore married Helen Eaton. The couple had one child, Maud, born in 1873. Theodore's practice, which he shared with Emory Totten, was located on the second floor of 207 E. Main in Crawfordsville. Theirs was one of three dentist offices in the city. (Lafayette, Indiana Directories, 1885-1891). The family lived at 601 E. Wabash.

In 1876, Theodore took a break from dentistry. For the coming four years he held the position of City Clerk. He was acknowledged for his services through a resolution passed by the City Council, which noted, "...we tender to him our utmost thanks for the manner in which he has conducted the business of the office, and gladly award him the praise justly due to an



Photo courtesy of findagrave.com

efficient officer..." (Crawfordsville Weekly Journal, 20 Dec, 1895). After his retirement, he returned to his dental practice.

Like his father, Theodore was active in civic affairs. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and served as a lieutenant colonel in that organization (Logansport Reporter, 30 Jun 1891). He was State Secretary for the Order of the National Union, a Republican organization, and was appointed as a delegate to the order's national meeting in 1890 (The Indianapolis Journal, 28 May 1890). In addition, Theodore was a member of the GAR, Royal Arcanum, A.O.U.W., the Good Fellows.

On February 18, 1894, Eliza died after falling and breaking her hip. The day before she fell, James took a similar fall which left him bed ridden (ibid, 20 Feb, 1894). She was interred in the Oak Hill Cemetery. On December 17, 1895, The Indianapolis News reported Theodore's death. According to the News, he was "found dead in his bed this morning...he had been at his practice as usual yesterday." The cause of death was heart disease. Theodore, too, was interred at Oak Hill Cemetery (thanks to Kim Hancock for the great photo from FindAGrave).

James, who outlived his wife and oldest living son, passed in June of 1899. He was buried next to Eliza. May he, and the other members of his accomplished family, 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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Gardening

Novelty or Necessity?

Novelty or Necessity?

How does your garden grow? Many of the hobbies we tinker at today were the necessities of yesteryears. Pumpkin patches were not just nurseries for jack-o-lanterns. Flashback Jack, they were the nourishing source of flavor that added spice to the long cold winters. Town kids and country cousins alike worked their families' plots of sustenance. Rich black topsoil runs two feet deep in Hoosier-land.

Ask an expert. Mary, Mary, quite contrary, knows a garden doesn't just spring up overnight. You must stake your claim, turn the dirt, bust the clods, and fling a few stones. You break a sweat before you are even ready to plant. Brace yourself for a long summer. You battle the element, spray the bugs, and hoe the weeds. Stand your ground! The critters are coming! Ravenous rabbits by day and rascally raccoons by night lay siege to your bounty right before harvest.

Late summer, early fall, all is well. The crop is in. Kick back and relax. Job well done.

Not so fast, you have veggie out the wahzzu. Ripened all at once, now you have a ginormous problem. There is more produce than you can eat or give

away. Oh no! Will it all Spoil!?

It is the Ball Brothers and pressure cookers to the rescue.

Did you know Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, drew its name from a mason jar? Well, sort of, the philanthropy of the Ball Brothers and the Ball Corporation helped establish Ball Teachers College in 1922. The school became Ball State Teachers College in 1929 and was renamed Ball State University in 1965. Higher education became well preserved in Eastern Indiana because of the generous manufacturers of the little quart glass jars.

Well, back home in Crawfordsville, the Ball jars saved the day by preserving all the bounty from the Clore family gardens. We are talking bushels from my sister Beverly's garden in Mellott, and tons from Granny's two acres in Alamo. Decky and Junior's garden in Romney and our backyard on Delaware Street seemed to out-produce the Jolly Green Giant. We snapped enough green beans to fill a silo.

By autumn, we fill all our pantries and cellar with quarts-beyond-delicious quarts. So much so that we skipped the canned food aisles at

Story & Graphics by Chuck Clore



the A&P all winter long. Canning can save your can through a harsh winter.

Mom had a secret recipe for canning each berry, veggie, jelly, and jam, especially the green beans. I can taste the memories. She would fry a little bacon, sauté a bit of onion, splash a tad of vinegar, and add a dash of this and that. Mmmm, mmm.

One year, something went awry with her blackberry preserves. The whole batch became fermented. Pappy really enjoyed the recipe that year.

Here is a fruit and vegetable stand the folks had on East Delaware Street circa 1950. Mom, Georgia Clore, is to the far left. Dad, Austin Clore, is to the far right. Standing next to Mom, is her sister, Abby Williams, and her son Kenny.

Mom came by her gardening skills quite naturally. As a child, she helped out around her father's truck farm on Lafayette Pike. George Cole, her dad, supplied Montgomery County with fresh vegetables. I believe she was a vegetarian until she married into the meat and potatoes Clore family.

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

Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories

A Leader

By Joy Willett

Knowledgeable,
patient, and forth-
right,
a leader keeps things
running tight.

One who inspires
others to succeed
both in word
and in deed.

Knowing when to
push
and hold back,
doing all things
with utmost tact.

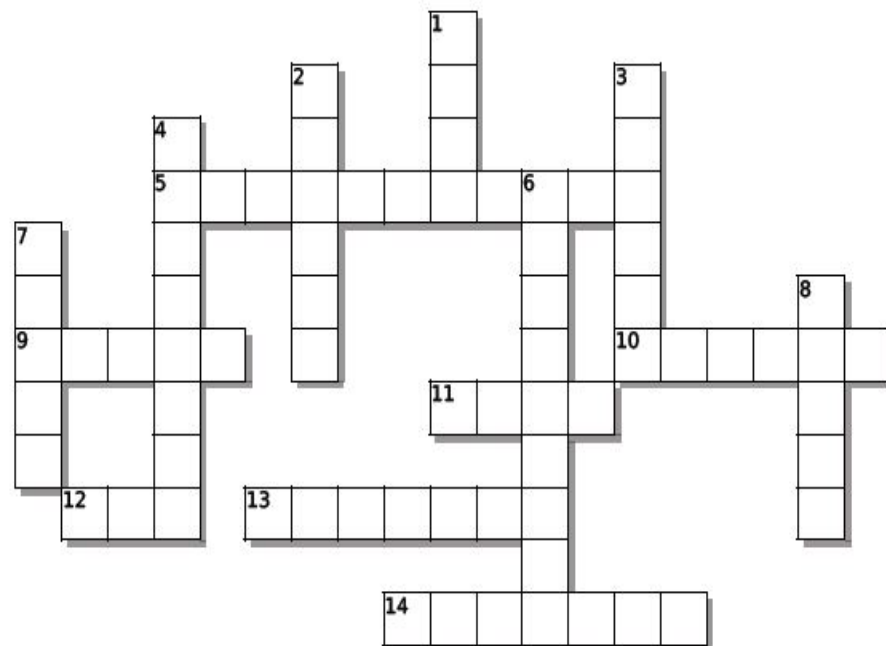
1

Committed to
seeing things
to the end,
one on whom
you can depend.

Characteristics
well ingrained.
Some innate,
others trained.

'Tis regardless
of condition.
Ambition comes
from any position.

2



ACROSS

- 5 Colonial army
- 9 Grandcestor family
- 10 1st Mo Co Clerk
- 11 Rock Singer and Manager
- 12 Self-made ____
- 13 Examines the \$\$
- 14 Deputy ____

DOWN

- 1 Sour Creme Cocoa ____
- 2 It "falls" on 9/23/23 ____
- 3 Opposite of lead
- 4 Nifty family
- 6 Minds the \$\$
- 7 War between the states
- 8 Military school, West ____

Check out page 8 for the solution

Burkhart Funeral Home

Charles, Carl & Craig Burkhart
201 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville
765-362-5510

www.BurkhartFH.com





Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

County Clerk in the mid 1970s, Becky Neideffer and I worked on the Genealogy Cookbook (she was a good cook) – we had such a fun time and her recipes were super (oldies like corn pone) but I'm going to give you my fav of hers – let me know if you make/enjoy it !! It's good

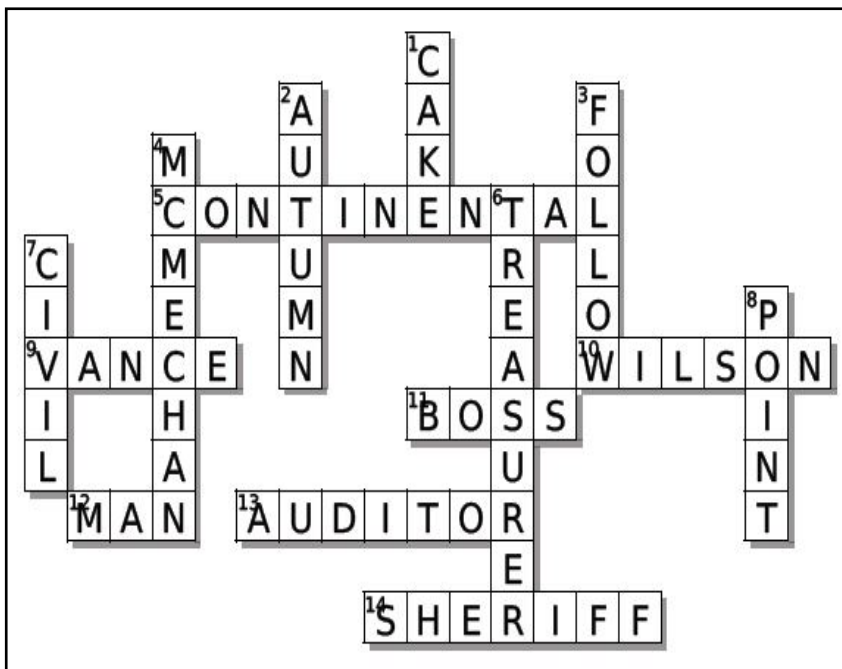
SOUR CREAM COCOA CAKE

by Becky Neideffer in the Montgomery County Genealogy Cookbook – about 1975)

- 1 ½ C. Flour
- 1 C. Sugar
- 1 C. Sour Cream
- 5 tsp. Cocoa
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 C. Sour Milk
- 1 egg
- 1 ½ tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix well – bake at 375 – “this recipe came from the kitchen of my grandmother, Mrs. Josie Obenchain Stewart”

Note from KBZ: Pretty sure I topped this with a chocolate sauce I made. But, bet it'd be good with homemade chocolate icing, as well although it's good just plain!



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: "Our First"

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

The very first County Clerk was Judge John Wilson, born 29 November 1796 in Lancaster, Kentucky, son of James, a Presbyterian minister and his wife, Agnes McKee. The Wilsons came early on to Staunton, Augusta Co, VA. They were mainly of Scotch-Irish background owning a superb "intelligence and having high ideals." They served the church and the country (House of Delegates, fought in the Revolution). Col. James Wilson was the Colonel of a VA Regiment at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Now, let's look at the very interesting other side of his family. His grandfather, William McKee was an officer in the British Army; however, at the very beginning of the war, he resigned his British commission and accepted a Colonel's position in the Continental Army. Later, he was elected to the Constitutional Convention of Virginia and had a hard row to hoe as the group argued about ratifying the Constitution to its present form. Frustrated that most of the others protested, he thus took his bounty land of 4,000 acres and headed to Kentucky where he lived the rest of his life. Uncles, cousins and other relatives were prominent lawyers, in Congress and the like.

Sadly, John lost his father young and because of John's hate for slavery he moved to Illinois in 1821 but the next year headed to Indiana, to the new village being erected bearing the name of Crawfordsville. There, he worked in the land office with his brother-in-law, Judge Williamson Dunn. The next year (March 7, 1823) John married Margaret Cochran an early pioneer in Fountain County. A go-getter, John was well liked and was the first postmaster in the little city, having his office in a log cabin. At this time, there were only 60 men in the county who could vote and he was elected the first clerk of Montgomery's Circuit Court, the position which he held for the next 14 years, making \$57.76 a year in the first few. He sure had a great deal to do as most of that time everything north of MoCo as far as Lake Michigan was entwined with Montgomery for judicial purposes.

He along with Isaac Elston and Jonathan Powers induced a man named William Digby to lay-out Lafayette on a small tract of his land on the bank of Wabash River in May of 1825. He was actually more interested in getting rid of that land and sold it to the Crawfordsville trio, who, wisely gave half of it for government purposes. The next January the Legislature passed an act to ensure the new county of Tippecanoe. Wilson, Elston and Powers were appointed to establish the county seat and of course, they designated Lafayette.

In 1840, John became a member of the Indiana Legislature and served but the one term. Thereafter, John became a dry goods merchant and had a hardware business. In 1857 he bought a tract of land in Tippecanoe which he designated as Pilot Grove Farm. Self-educated, he had a well-selected very large library in his home. In 1863, he returned to Crawfordsville and died the next year.

A self-made man, he was an "honest, conscientious, Christian and well-honored." He is buried in the family plot at Oak Hill, his wife joining him 20 years after. They were parents of a fairly large family, most of the boys having graduated from Wabash College and in a war, including James (Mexican, Civil War where he became a colonel). Believe James was the first male born in Montgomery County. As the US minister to Venezuela, South America, (also served as a Congressman) he had sent his wife and children home but passed away suddenly at just 42 in 1867 while there alone.

One son, Edgar passed as a young child and is listed on their nice stone at Oak Hill (thanks Kim H for the great photo).

Son, William C. Wilson, had a keen mind and rarely lost a case as a criminal lawyer. Two days after Lincoln called for troops, he joined up as a private but soon rose in rank to the same rank (Colonel) as his brother. He was wounded in the Battle of Rich Mountain but went back again after he healed (more than

once), mustering out at the end of the war. He lived and lawyered in Lafayette, passing in 1891.

Civil War soldier, Samuel McKee Wilson, volunteered immediately and commissioned Capt. of Co D 10th Indiana. He too was at Rich Mountain and captured a sword that remained in the family for years and may still be. Through many battles and other hardships, Sam McKee endured, but at the Battle of Antietam, he received injuries that caused his death.

John Ward Wilson was first Lt. in the 40th, resigned and became the same in the 11th, honorably mustered out at the end of the war. His family were all very involved in joining patriotic causes.

In 1867, Miriam Elizabeth married Samuel Moore who was in a wholesale dry goods business but sadly, she passed away just two years later, well-loved by all.

Margaret Cochran Wilson (Maggie) never married and passed at age 91. She lived in Lafayette and lived on rents (including the telegraph office) from a fine business house. As most of her brothers, she too was very involved with patriotic groups.

Austin P. was a merchant in Lafayette and think helped Maggie some.

Lastly, we have George W. who graduated from Wabash in 1873. He moved to Nebraska where he was a lawyer but later to North Dakota and was a land broker. He dittoed Maggie and the others – quite proud of his ancestors (I like this group!).

What a family! So patriotic, smart, well-liked, and mainly close-knit, I enjoyed reading and writing about the amazing Wilson's!



In Mo Co, it was a very good year in 1892 . . .

Early in the year, there was a large surge (and finally a city law) to close businesses on Sunday. The barbers were first on the bandwagon, followed by several agreeable shops including the eight druggists followed by eight butchers. Fairly sure all the clothiers (13) agreed; 5 shoe merchants; 27 grocers and 9 dry good stores. Just a start but the list was expected to carry on.

Mary Mitchell Wilhite was the first female college (Penn Medical College) graduate to become a doctor in this state. She passed away in February making a large hole in the community.

Lant Long was County Poor Farm superintendent this and next year.

In April, Central School burned, the dome falling in from the destructive blaze followed by the slate roof with its heavy timbers. At that point, it became apparent all was lost; however, it was rebuilt at a cost of \$35,750.

The Crawfordsville school board this year consisted of JC Barnhill, President; Howard Cowen, treasurer and MW Bruner, Sec. For several years, these three switched jobs around.

At least nine deaths in a Monon railroad wreck (many injured) when a Louisville train in route to Chicago missed a curve at about 25 MPH and went over a 60' embankment just north of C'ville. Anyone with any medical training was called; many residents pitched in all night to work at saving lives and limbs.

John P. Bible replaced Charles E. Davis as county sheriff this year.

17 Native Americans' bones were exhumed on George Britton's farm, one over 7'. They were estimated to have been a couple of centuries old.

The Waynetown State Bank was established in 1892.

The Bethel AME Church was built this year (and was of one-story gable fronted building on a brick foundation). It is still well-kept today.

Sources used: Montgomery County INGenWeb page

Read the Montgomery Memories and enjoy our wonderful county history!



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Isaac M. Vance spent 40 years in the Montgomery County courthouse in various capacities, first as the deputy sheriff, then deputy treasure, both of these under his father, David Vance, thus since I have no one in my own family who were in to the political scene, thought I'd borrow the Vance family for the Grandcestors today and although I've seen their names written on many local documents, I've not learned much about them, thus it's time! And love to share with all of you.

David Vance was born in Butler County, Ohio on July 26th, 1795 and of course passed away in Montgomery County on the 7th day of January in 1856. He and his wife Eliza (Miller) are buried in the old IOOF Cemetery. They had an early marriage in Montgomery on 21 June 1827. She was eight years older in the census record, but in reality was eleven years younger than David. They were parents of four sons (William, Isaac, Samuel, James) and a daughter, Mary. In the 1850 census he is listed as the County treasurer and the only other one in the household with a job is William who was a teacher. An Emily Wilhite, age 25, is living with them. She is likely a servant. Eliza's mother, age 85, born in Maryland also lived with them and had for quite a number of years. Find it interesting that they lived right next to John Austin, County Auditor.

Dave was Sheriff when they built a new courthouse in November 1832. He is listed as one of the early settlers and he was referred to as "Colonel David Vance." His father-in-law, William Miller was listed as well. A David Vance received a land grant much later (10 May 1848) a couple miles southeast of Linden but not sure if this is him or someone else. Probably him and they retired there as at his death, he had wheat in the ground, corn put up, cattle, a buggy, kitchen and other household items to be sold. He is not listed as a War of 1812 soldier as far as I can find but would have been a perfect age for that! It would be about the only war he could have racked-up a Colonelship in. When Eliza passed away in 1854 it noted she was the wife of Col. David Vance and that she died while on a short visit at Dr. Herndon's, having been sick for quite some time but always bright and cheerful, looking forward to "a blessed immortality beyond the grave."

In a list of taxes in the Review 25 Nov 1854, at the end it said David Vance, TMC (1st I had ever seen that) – took me a second but yep, Treasurer of Montgomery County. Early on Dave Vance was put on tickets to run for Senator but don't believe he ever made it. Definitely, a fascinating man but yet so much to learn about him.

Now, it wasn't just Isaac and his father who were active in local government as David's oldest son, William C. Vance was county clerk serving in that position for eight years. Loved that he signed Isaac's marriage record. (photo CDPL). Sadly, he passed at age 42 of typhoid fever 21 September 1869. He and wife Arminta Watson were parents of three sons themselves, David, William Watson and Edward Joseph.

Dave and Eliza's son Samuel after receiving his education in the local schools lived at the Crawford Hotel for quite some time and was listed as a Clerk. Don't believe he was ever married. Sadly, he passed away as a young man, age 31 (10 April 1836-8 Dec 1867) and is buried in the IOOF Cemetery

with his parents.

Son James L. was nicknamed Tode, also passed fairly young at age 50 and is buried in IOOF. He was sick for quite a time before passing. He too was not married.

Isaac was born in Crawfordsville December 2, 1832, second oldest of the four sons. Suspicion his middle name is Miller. As with the other Vance men, he passed reasonably young close to his 60th birthday (2 Dec 1832-22 Nov 1892). He too is buried at IOOF and also was sick a very long time, beginning with an attack of the flu which left an abscess on a lung. Too, about a year before his death while assisting son Nathaniel, he fell into a hole they were digging and received some head injuries. Isaac's obituary states, "He was strikingly handsome, with a genial disposition, has undoubtedly written out more of the official records of the county than any other two men, was a familiar figure at the courthouse and has been a part of the official life of the county."

Isaac and his wife, Martha Morgan were parents of six children. Nathaniel Morgan; George Miller; Mary Alice (married three times and don't believe any children); Harry M; Amelia (married Hugh Kelsey and mothered at least two daughters, Ruth and Elizabeth, she living to be quite old and Eliza Jane (married Robert Irwin and died of consumption at age 22).

Nathaniel stayed in our area, was an interior decorator as well, married Mary Griest and had at least two sons, Wallace Griest and Paul Lockwood (died at age 16 but Wallace was close to 80). George Miller is my favorite, having had a book store for 25 years, but when his son, Fred Nelson wanted help to do the decorating at the US Grant Hotel in Los Angeles, he went and it was said that both men were artists to their fingertips and the hotel was beyond grand! Fred, who spent 15 months in WWI as a French translator, went on to be a professional artist, both men as the Vances seemed to do, passing young. Above Harry M. used his artistic skills in another way and owned his own barber shop in Crawfordsville for many years. He married Nora Frier and don't believe they had children.

Interesting family for sure! So many served our county in various capacities with such interesting side lines.



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