

MONTGOMERY MEMORIES



February 2024

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Contributing Writers



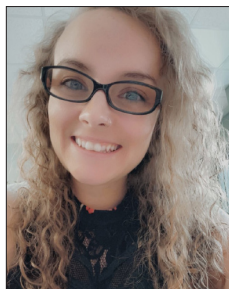
KAREN BAZZANI ZACH has been a contributor of local historical articles for almost 50 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and received her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children’s Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: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



February Feature: Karen's Valentine - Perry Keys

Karen Bazzani Zach



So fascinated with this amazing fellow, Perry Valentine Keys born in New Market on Valentine's Day (thus his middle name) in 1884 to Charles and Jennie (Swearingen) Keys. Perry was born not being able to hear and along with that, not being able to speak. His parents saw the need and bless them for such to send him to the Deaf and Dumb school in Indianapolis. He was there for several years and very active. He especially loved playing baseball. Prof. Utten E. Read is on back left and was their interpreter; Prof. Albert Berg their coach and Earl Gilbert did the scoring. Perry is the one on the middle row far left and he was their pitcher, an amazing one, too and played a little 1st base. In 1904 (photo from Indianapolis Journal 24 April p 8) the school had six games by this time and had four huge wins. The Silent Hoosiers only lost to Noblesville HS and Shortridge, but later in a second game won over Shortridge. On their upcoming games their last one on June 4th was to be with CHS. Wonder who won?

Not sure how long Perry was at the school but know he was from 1899-1904 at least and graduated from there. He was in the Deaf Fraternity and may have worked on the school newspaper as most did. It was said to be a typographically error-free paper

and the paper was done from beginning to end by the students. There were usually about 300 at school there at all times and in 1899, there had been 2,156 educated there since 1844 (C'Ville Review 6 May 1899) and that year there were 308, including Perry from New Market and Lee Dazey of Crawfordsville. Although Perry Valentine's wife, Dessie Myers (born in Plymouth) attended the school, too, she was eight years younger than Perry so not sure they were there at the same time or in any classes together but imagine the school was somehow entwined in their meeting. They married September 12th in 1915. Perry had piercing blue eyes, light brown hair, with a ruddy complexion and was about 5'9" and weighed around 140-150. He was a farmer near New Market as had been his parents.

As far as I found, Perry had one brother, James Paul who was five years younger than Perry. He farmed in the area but in about 1928, he went to Klamath Falls, Oregon where he had a large dairy farm. He passed away there in 1942 and was buried in Oregon. He and wife, Maybelle had one son, James.

The first-born child to Perry and Dessie was Richard. Took his athleticism from his father, evidently

and was quite a basketball star at New Market HS. Sadly, he and his father were in an accident and were being sued for \$20,000. Richard worried so much about it that he took his own life by hanging. He was but 19 and had such a wonderful future ahead of him. Second child born to this great couple was Katherine (July 15, 1929) who graduated from New Market HS where she was active in several activities, including plays. She attended and graduated from the Minnesota Bible College (while doing so was a waitress to help with the money) where she met her minister husband, John P. Rowe whom she married at New Market in the Christian Church in August 1953. Because of their profession, they lived several places in the US but for quite a time in Fullerton, California. In 2020, she was good friends with Jane Gardner Ekstrom who lived in LaJolla, California and was a friend in New Market at her church and school. They enjoyed each other, driving along the "California freeways, swimming, golfing and the neatest thing is that she still owned the family farm near New Market at the time of that Journal-Review (18 Aug 2020) article." I don't see where she has passed since that time.

Perry's father, Charles D. Keys was born near Yountsville Nov. 10, 1860 son of James and Martha Keys and married Jennie Swearingen May 11, 1882. Charles was a well-known hog raiser, state-known for his exceptional Poland China swine (obit). He joined the New Market Christian Church at age six and remained active with it until his death in March 1930. Jennie passed eight years after. They are buried in the Masonic Cemetery (Oak Hill Grant Avenue). Perry had one sister and one brother.

This fellow seemed to be quite social as he, wife and children (as well as going with his parents when younger) were always visiting someone. Kind of a forgotten tradition, sadly! They went to Indianapolis, Greencastle, all over MoCo and enjoyed seeing people.

At age 81, Perry Valentine Keys, passed away at his home June 23 shortly after the midnight hour in 1965. His beloved wife and his daughter and son-in-law (who at that time lived in Bel Air, MD) were his only survivors. He is buried in the same cemetery as his parents and his son-in-law John Rowe presided over his funeral. If I had to rank all the thousands of people I've written about and would like to meet, do believe Perry would be at the top of my list. Rest In Peace, my dear Valentine!

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



It was a lot of fun but a great deal of work doing comparisons of those born here in Montgomery County on Feb 14th. Sometimes the little ones were born – exciting to have a Valentine baby – but they also sometimes died the same day (such as little Tommy Norris Zachary in 1927) and that's the total opposite reaction, of course. I know I had one Feb 15th just 7 hours after Valentine's and was flat out told, "Your baby's going to die!" She showed 'em though. Some died a few months later (Clayton Ingersol born on Valentine's Day and passed same year in July 1913). Of course, in the majority of the cases, these little sweethearts lived long lives into their 50s-90s.

Sometimes Valentine's Day brought double entries such as the Milligan boys born OTD in 1913; the Donham Girls 1941 and Monroe Girls in 1977. May have been more, but only twins I caught out of the over 375 I found who were born on Valentine's Day proper in MoCo.

Popular years where the doctors were busy on Valentine's Day was in 1912 when these families had a little one: Nevin, Newlin, Williams, Wilson. 1921 (Goble, Shell, Truax, Wilson). 1936 (Busenbark, Calder, Hastaday and Williams).

Several babies as is the norm were not named. Some hadn't thought of a name yet, others passed and were sadly, just not given a name. Only a few had Valentine as a first or middle name. Here is a sampling. Marie Valentine Dodge born 1902. Helen Valentine Fischer born 1892. Effie Valentine White born 1907. John Valentine Jackman (see County Connection) born 1837.

Many, many were not given a name at birth (Girl Hallet; Boy Gray for examples) so they may have in a day or two been named with the Valentine included. Perfect name for the date, for sure!

Our year is 1917 this month and had I looked beforehand, I'd have chosen another as there seemed to be only ONE baby born on Valentine's Day in 1917 which was Dorothy Lorene Dodd, born to Allison L. and Mary E. Quillin Dodd. She lived to 16 March 1999. She married Harry Lawrence Pritchett and they are buried in Floral Park Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Everett Valentine Everson was born here in 1903 and was one who carried the Valentine along in life. He was the son of William George Everson and Rosella Nichols. He married Erlene Elliott and know they had at least one daughter, Marilyn born 11-11-1935 in Crawfordsville. He worked at RR Donnelly's and they lived at 1414 W. Main. He passed away four days after his

73rd birthday! RIP EVE!

Others (sure there are likely more) carrying Valentine were last named Allen; Armentrout; Berryman; Bruner; Frisz; Gill; Hein; Kiefer; Livengood; Martin; Miller; Norman; Scribner; Solomon; Stone; Stout; Weber; Wright ...

In 1902, the Weekly on Valentine's Day had the Circuit Court cases listed – a couple were that Joseph Ludlow and others petitioned the commissioners for a ditch and \$140.50 was allowed to do so. Samuel Cole vs. Maude D. Cole on divorce – defendant was granted the divorce. Maude had her maiden name restored (Chase). New suits were George Russell vs. Lydia Jane for divorce. Edna Humprey vs. Franklin V. Oliver for foreclosure and another divorce, James A. vs. Lydia Long. In regards to this one, a longer article noted that he accused Lydia of cruel treatment. They were married Oct 3, 1897 and separated Aug 3, 1901, both having been married before and having children by those marriage. He noted that she accused him of all types of things including being unfaithful and she had hit him with a stick of wood and her fists. You think of Valentine's Day as a love one, but another divorce was discussed, that of Effie Morrison from Taylor – she was given \$500 alimony and her maiden name of Wilkinson restored. The complaint was abandonment and adultery. There was one marriage announced that of Fannie Crawford to Will Vernon Stevenson to be the 26th. On the front page, there were also obituaries for William Redenbaugh and Joseph H. Brown, CW soldier. The officers (Capt. Will H. Johnson; 1st Lt, Joe Prewitt; 2nd Lt WC Carr; Recorder Charles H. Marshall; Treas George W. Johnson) of the K of P. met at their Castle Hall. James Chadwick was secured a pension of \$12 per month by SA Stilwell. McClamroch & Son were doing an extensive remodeling to their shoe store. And Parkersburg was into Oyster suppers – the Masons had given one the previous Saturday night to their members and families that was well attended and enjoyed. The GAR post was going to give one the next Saturday night. Another interesting Parkersburg post was that the parents rebelled bitterly against the vaccination order and for a week not a child was in school. It was being rethought and many of the pupils were then at the school vaccinated. The home of Mrs. Albert Lutz on Fremont Street had a severe fire with no insurance. There's more of course but let's complete this with a sleighing carnival held on the streets Tuesday evening during the snow storm. Everyone who could find a sleigh was out to enjoy the sport! Sounds like fun!



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Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

For February's Nifty, we meet Dwight Dorman Valentine. Dwight was born on September 6, 1906 in Catlin, Vermilion County, Illinois.

Ancestors of the Valentine's emigrated from Germany in 1758 (Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s). They settled in Frederick County, Maryland, a popular place for German immigrants, where they lived for over 50 years. Dwight's third great grandparents, George Valentine and Elizabeth Knouff, migrated to Ohio in 1810. The family was in Ohio for almost 80 years. Dwight's grandparents, Curtis Valentine and Catherine Martins, migrated to Vermilion County, Illinois in 1889. The family was in Illinois for over 25 years. Dwight's parents, Russel John Valentine and Dottie Belle Cook, left Illinois for Montgomery County, Indiana in 1913.

The 1920 Census tells us that Russel, at 39 years old, was farming and that he owned the family home in Union Township. Dottie, at the age of 36, was keeping house.

Dwight attended Crawfordsville High School. His extracurricular activities included being a co-editor of the Athenian, singing with the chorus, and participating in the athletic association. After graduating in 1924, he attended Purdue University.

Russel passed on December 2, 1929 (much too young). On December 3, 1929, the Journal and Courier reported that "He had been working all day and was taken ill when he returned home." His body was interred in the Oakridge Cemetery in Catlin, Illinois.

After Russel's death, Dwight took responsibility for the farm. The census for 1930 confirms that he and his mother Dottie were living together, with Dottie as head of the household. Dottie remarried on March 24, 1931, to Fred Makin. The marriage didn't last long. In 1934, Dottie and Dwight were again living together on the family farm (U.S., City Directory, 1822-1995).

Dwight married Dorothy Esther Christiansen on August 15, 1936 (Journal and Courier, 17 August, 1936). Dorothy was "first-generation" on her paternal side. Her father, James, immigrated from Denmark as a child. Her maternal side, the Warbritton's, had been in Montgomery County since 1828.

The newlyweds made their home in Waynetown. As he had done while living with his mother, Dwight farmed. Dwight and Dorothy's only child, Marilyn, was born on July 4, 1937. According to Dwight's draft registration card, dated October 16, 1940, he was 5'4" tall and weighed 132 lbs. He had a ruddy complexion, brown eyes, and brown hair.

Possibly to give the young family some space, in 1940 Dottie lived with her twin sister Della in Ripley Township. By 1942, she was again living near Waynetown.

As indicated by the 1950 census, Dwight continued to farm in Franklin Township. In addition to his work life, Dwight served as trustee of the Darlington Church (Journal and Courier, 27 January 1949). Dorothy was involved with the community too. She was a member of the Darlington Garden Club (ibid, 01 April 1968), and the Naomi Fellowship, a Christian service group that raised funds for the Christian Indian School in Sedona, Arizona (Ibid, 05 December 1968). She



served as vice president for the Darlington 4-H Club (ibid 16 September, 1943). Additionally,

she was a member of the Darlington Home Economics Club (ibid 17 September 1942).

Marilyn was very involved in Darlington High School activities. She was a member of the Honor Society, Glee Club, and Sunshine Society (ibid, 28 October 1954). In addition, she was elected to represent Darlington High School at the 1954 DAR Good Citizen contest. She attended DePauw University after graduating. On July 3, 1958, she married Robert Rollins. During her career she was a food marketing executive in Louisville (The Courier Journal, 02 March, 2003).

Dottie passed on November 3, 1957. Her remains were laid to rest next to Russel in the Catlin, Illinois Oakridge Cemetery. By 1959, Dwight was no longer a farmer. He was working for the State Highway Department. Dorothy and he continued to live in their home near Darlington.

In the coming decades, Dwayne and Dorothy continued to be involved with the church and with community activities. Dorothy died on January 21, 1998. She was buried at Darlington's Odd Fellow's Cemetery. Due to failing health, Dwight moved to the Ben Hur Nursing Home. He passed, at the age of 95, on January 31, 2022 and was interred next to Dorothy. Marilyn passed a year later, at only 65 years old. Her body was returned to Indiana and she was buried next to her parents (The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky, 02 March 2003).

May the Valentine family, who loved one another so dearly, rest in peace.



Photo courtesy of Jeanie Walden, via findagrave.com



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



107 N GRANT AVENUE • CRAWFORDSVILLE • 362-0440



Photo courtesy of Kenneth Williams

Story & Graphics by Chuck Clore

mate list and one of her more enjoyable homework assignments: Take a shoe box, cut a slit in the lid, and decorate it with a Valentine theme.

Mom acted as my Art Director. She kept me from going totally Calvin & Hobbs with my cooties and cupid idea. My efforts earned me a smile from Mrs. Burns, the equivalent of an honorable mention. She was a stern square-faced lady who rationed praise like they rationed aluminum during WWII. Even more valuable than the teacher's smile—we traveled home with a box full of “LIKES!”

Just between you and me, I eventually took a shining to the idea of dumb old girls chasing me around the playground.

Funny, isn't it, how we seek accolades and validation? My real honorable mention happened the very next year in the East Union Gymnasium. Our 6th-grade class had a safety poster contest. During Parent-Teachers Night, the finished posters were displayed for all to see. My poster, with an aerial view of an

intersection and a depiction of an auto accident, won an honorable mention. Who knew that two decades later, my poster-making skills would be earning a living as a graphic designer?

Today, I can get 215 “LIKES” on a FaceBook posting. But it does not feel as great as the 33 East Union classmate “LIKES” of 1957. Out of my 559 FaceBook friends, there are maybe 10% that I know well. And the number is dwindling. The personal touch is discarded in the name of efficiency and technological progress. Replacing it is superficial communication and shallow relationships. Thank you, Steve Jobs, and your iPhone.

I can't bring back 1957 nor do I want to. Thank goodness, Brylcreem, A-Little-Dab-Will-Do-Ya!” and Butch Wax are gone forever. But we all can encourage one-on-one, face-to-face interactions.

It's not too late to bless our next generation with the ability to actually socialize. I would LIKE that a lot.

Thirty-two likes, Oh, Yikes! Maybe, one impending doom.

Beware of the Ides of February! The 14th, Valentine's Day is tricky for a 5th-grade boy. Let's face it. You want everyone to like you, but not too much. Select just the right card for each of your classmates. Heaven forbid that you pick one that is too mushy. There is a fine line between like and love. Choosing the wrong card could result in a dumb old cootie-infested girl chasing you around the playground. Or worse yet, give the wrong card to a boy. You could end up with a

bloody nose and a knuckle sandwich. This holiday custom and peer pressure demanded careful consideration.

The upside to the East Union Elementary classroom celebration? It usually ended with lots of heart-shaped candy and sugar cookies covered with mounds of red and white icing. By the end of the day, we all had a sugar buzz that drove the bus drivers crazy.

The shoe-box challenge was a fun perk. About a week before the big-V-day party, Mrs. Burns, our teacher, sent us home with a class-

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Poetry and Puzzles

Montgomery Memories

The Saint

By Joy Willett

Born in ca. 226 A.D.,
he was a priest and bishop
in the town of Terni.

Put to the test
by Judge Asterius,
he gave sight to someone
who could not see.
He ministered the faithful
and the persecuted,
to Christians in the coliseum
awaiting execution.

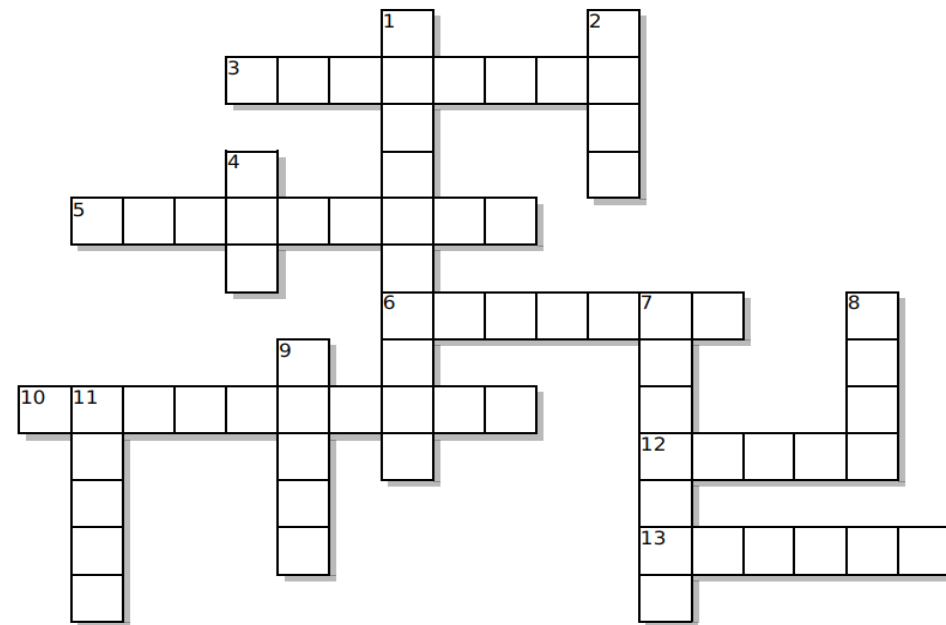
Claudius the Second
heard of his feats,
had him arrested
and brought to his knee.
The emperor, committed
to his pagan beliefs,
would not listen

1

to the bishop's brief.
Beaten and beheaded
on February 14,
Valentine is the patron
of those who keep bees.
Known too as the saint
of people engaged,
those who feel faint,
or are afflicted by plague.

There is no greater love,
than what is given,
to the "least of these"
on this side of heaven.

2



ACROSS

- 3 Life long commitment
- 5 St. venerated on 2/14
- 6 Promised to marry
- 10 Box of -----
- 12 Exchanged at the altar
- 13 Cupid shoots these

DOWN

- 1 Honored on 2/19/24
- 2 Year that Feb has 28 days
- 4 Shortest mo of the yr
- 7 Love is -----
- 8 Said at the altar
- 9 ----- History Month
- 11 Given to your true love

Check out page 8 for the solution

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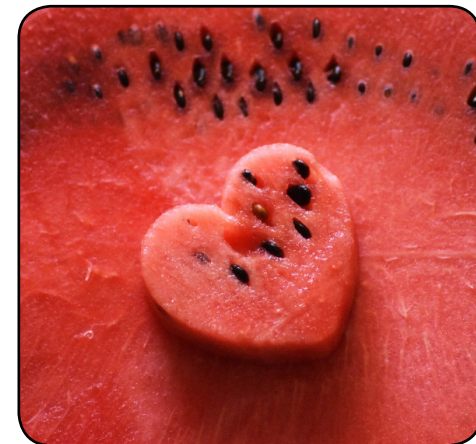
www.BurkhartFH.com





Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories



I actually had a lot of fun getting this Kitchen column ready. I have a couple of just wow recipes based with red jello, some strawberry bar cookies and a cake one too but I've given you those at least once and maybe twice, so I thought I should just check the net for something fun for Valentine's Day and I sure had that fun!

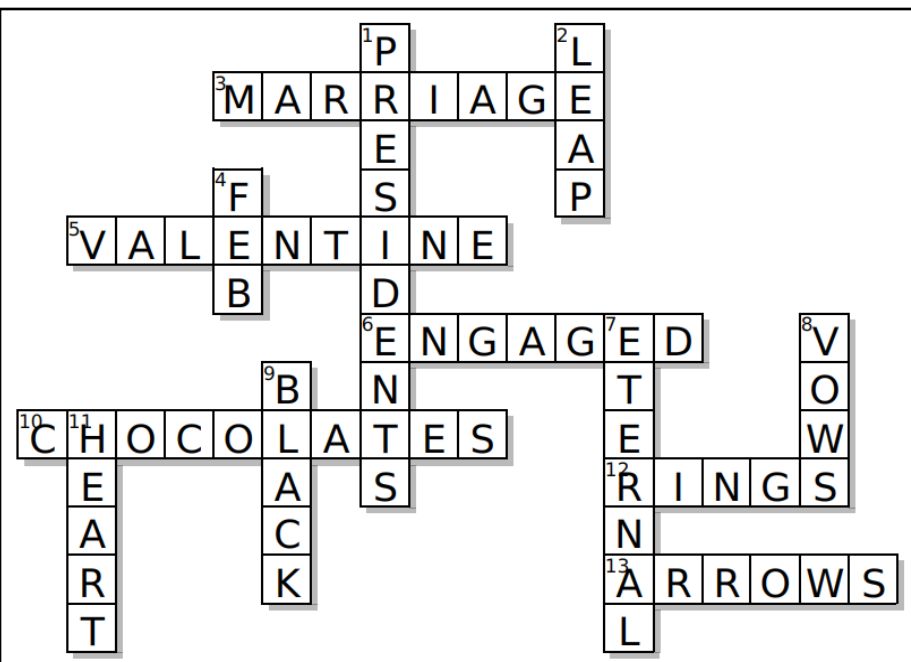
Here are some ideas for what you could serve and not all bad for ya' – lol. Just check out the store and find some red and white food – here are some suggestions: strawberries, red raspberries, red grapes, white cheese, white crackers for some examples. You could cut the cheese in heart shapes as well as the strawberries. Put the goodies on a red or white plate – throw some nuts on there too. Just be creative!

Make (or maybe you could order one) a heart-shaped pizza – pepperoni gives that beautiful red color and plop it on a white or pink plate.

How about some strawberry cupcakes and top them with pink or white icing with red hots sprinkled on top? Mouth's watering!

Food Network Kitchen had a couple of cute ideas to send your kids in their lunch boxes. We'd be Grape Together! Hey, I'm Bananas for you! You are Plum Perfect and We Make a Great Pair! Too cute! And just think, you'll probably save on the dental bills because fruit is definitely a plus over all the candy you COULD send!

We actually don't have to work as hard to make Valentine's Day as special as we used to as now you can find heart-shape candies (I used to make 'em); heart shaped pasta and really just on and on so you all have a super happy Valentine's Day and be creative!!!



**We all have rich,
interesting family
histories!**

*Why not get yours published in an issue of
Montgomery Memories?*

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Subject: Montgomery Memories**



County Connections:

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Although I didn't find lengthy information on my choice for the County Connection article, I found some "fun" info on him that I just couldn't resist – so meet one of our Valentine babies, John Valentine Jackman born on Valentine's Day here in 1837 at the old Jackman Homestead, that home being on what would become known as Jackman Road. He died 6 March 1912 in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. Granted only a bit of "county connection," due to just the county next door, yet his ancestors came here and, well, I'm picky about my writing and I'm good with using him as a county connection, so here ya' go and enjoy!

His mother (father James A, 1794-1878) has one of the neatest first names in the 50 plus years of writing local history articles that I believe I've ever heard – Demisa Hannah (Reed) Jackman. James A. was born in Washington County PA whose father Robert came here from Cavan County (Northwestern) Ireland and fought in the Revolution serving as Captain in the Washington County militia. James A. fought in the War of 1812 and came to MoCo about 1830 where he was a millwright and built "all the woolen mills on Sugar Creek," (Beckwith History) having learned that trade while still in PA. Believe JV had nine brothers and sisters, who mainly grew-up in the Darlington area.

Following the Jackman family tradition of military service, JV joined up, too (on what would become my birthday and month - 15 December) in 1863 in the newly-formed Co B of the 120th. He would likely have taken part in the Atlanta Campaign May - Sept in 1864, including Resaca May 14-15th; Kennesaw Mountain most of June; been in pursuit of Hood toward the end of the war and other campaigns, his group crucial in the wrapping-up of the war. Note: this is following his Company and not specific knowledge of what he went through! He mustered out on the 8th day of January in 1866. For sure, we know that he was an early recipient of a Civil War pension beginning the last day of April in 1874 and received raises in 1878 and 1898.

Before going to war, he married Nancy Ann Cope (daughter of Christian and Mary Goudy Cope which is what I found in several sources, but some others insist on Lake) who was born in Butler County, Ohio 7 March 1839 and passed in Darlington (they are buried there in the IOOF Cemetery – thanks to Velma Dalton for the great FAGrave picture) 27 Feb 1908 John

passing 6 March, four years thereafter.

Their oldest, John Oliver (28 June 1866-20 March 1952) and his wife, Victoria made John and Nancy grandparents several times (Frances; Hubert; Lynne; James Eugene; Helen Louise; Donald Harold and Joseph Wilbur – they married into the local Endicott; Hiatt; Shanklin and other families).

Second son, William "Sherman" married Clara Stout and they were parents of at least two children Harry and Eva. They lived in Carroll County then Kokomo where he was a teamster and a truck driver.

John and "Nan" as she was called had at least one child who died at an early age (Charlie born late 1862 died May 1863 at 7 months). Buried Youngs Chapel near Cherry Grove.

Daughter Froncy married George Ellis. No children. He passed in 1923 and she died almost 30 years later.

Not 100% sure but think their daughter, Martha married George Miller (at least Earl and Hannah her children) – she passed of a couple of bad diseases at age 62 in 1925 and washed clothes for a living. Please don't quote me on this one, though!

Mary Edith Jackman married Michael Lenhart and later a Russell – no children with either. She kept a rooming house in a couple different cities and seemed to kind of be the one who kept the family together.

Zachary "Taylor" Jackman was not quite 37 when he was killed while working in the Wabash train yards. A switching engine backed up right on top of him breaking his neck. Imagine his description when he registered for WWI is similar to most of the male Jackmans, being of medium height and build with brown hair and blue eyes. Sadly, his wife, Pearl (Chambers) and their three children (Melba, 14 at Taylor's passing; Letha, 11 and little Robert just one) would never peer into his beautiful eyes. It was thought that Taylor had a heavy cap pulled down over his ears and he just didn't hear the train.

Hope that's all their children! John enjoyed his horses and was found purchasing some in the old newspapers and I am assuming the things I found were him, if not likely a nephew. Interesting little bleeps in the papers noted that he had his lap robe stolen in April 1893 while at Darlington on a Saturday night. The bleep noted "Two or three years work on the stone pile wouldn't be any too good for such vagabonds that haven't anything else to do but steal whips and laprobes."

John sure must have enjoyed pinochle as he was often noted as being the "champion player." Of course, as an excellent farmer, he was seen as renting acres from someone or marketing oats, corn or the like. In Nov 1892, the Crawfordsville Review (via the Darlington Echo) noted that two of the area citizens were planning to drill for gas on John Jackman's property or near there. "The lead is a good one and if the established signs do not fail gas will be found. The vein has been traced by experts from Kempton and trends west to northwest of Crawfordsville 3 to 4 ½ miles." Hmmm wonder what happened with that!

The whole Valentine Montgomery Memories has been fun to do and hope you enjoyed JVJ as one of our entries!



Thanks for reading Montgomery Memories!

In Mo Co, it was a very good year in 1917 . . .

Waveland had a Chautauqua with benefits going to the Ft. Harrison Library for the boys. Admission was 25 cents adults, 15 cents children and it was held at the ME Church. Many locals entertained.

2167 men were registered here for WWI in 1917 – aged 21-30; the first to register was Philetus S. Gould of 1104 W. Main, Crawfordsville. His selection gave him 258 so lowest to register and fairly low to be called. Opposite could be true as #1 in selection was Ora Miles, Rt 6 and #845 to register. Go figure!

Harry Miles; Jesse Omer Rusk; Lester Himes; Sam Priebe and Ray Short were the first called for their examination for WWI from Brown Township.

City mayor was WC Murphy. Clerk – Charles Harland; Treasurer Milton McKee; Attorney John Murphy; Engineer JW Cragwall; Street Commissioner JS Donahue; Electric Light supt – Fred Miller; Chief of Police A Edgar Hill and Fire Chief John W. Hurley.

C'ville had three railroads (NY Central; Vandalia and CI&L plus two interurban lines leaving for Indianapolis and Lafayette on an hourly basis.

Many local school academies transformed into regular public schools this year, including Alamo, Waveland and likely others.

The Crawfordsville Business College was quite popular.

Some unusual businesses were George Fosdick's ice cream manufacturing; Forrest Grimes cement blocks; Clark Marble Company; Adams Express Co; Pett Florist which was still in business decades later and many more!

Wingate HS won the Sectional basketball championship with H. Irvin; H. Crane; R. Carney; L. Goldsberry; H. Bell; C. Crane; H. Kindel; M. Blacker and coached by Blacker.

21 Churches were listed in the 1917 directory for C'ville, including 11 denominations.

Jere West was Judge of the Circuit Court with Prosecuting attorney, HT Ristine

10 Banking/loan businesses were included in the directory mentioned here.

The Music Hall plus Arc and Joy theaters kept folks entertained.

27 Lodges and societies were also listed in the 1917 C'ville directory

1917 was that year that 26-year-old dental student, Robert Boyland was given a medical exam for his college boards and discovered he had two-hearts! Born in Tenn – grew-up here! Wow!

Sources used: Montgomery County INGenWeb page and 1917 Crawfordsville City directory

Thank you for reading Montgomery Memories!



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Although this is kind of next door in Fountain County, where Valentine Sowers (born 10 Dec 1768 in Rowan County NC son of Philip, my immigrant ancestor from Katzenback Germany, and Christina Faust Sowers) passed away this month on the 4th in 1843, his descendants, many with his first name are here in MoCo, as well as Parke and other nearby counties. Appropriately, on Valentine's Day in 1792 in Rowan, he married Anna Maria Eva Derr (b 10 Aug 1775 daughter of John Henry and Catharine Eddinger Derr). Two daughters (Rebecca and Catherine) and nine sons (Michael, David, Johannes, Andreas, Heinrich, Philip, Matthias, Valentine and their youngest, my ancestor, Lewis) were born to them.

Even though most of his children were grown, some married,

the whole family came from Rowan and Davidson Counties in NC to the Wallace area in December 1838, travelling with the Grimes, Myers and Long families. He sold his 380 acres in Davidson County and headed our way. One son, John went back to NC. Three (Matthias "Tice", Valentine and my ancestor Lewis) went to Kansas (Colby, Thomas County area). One daughter, Catherine is buried in Illinois and the others all are resting in Phaniel Lutheran Church at Wallace with their father. Six of them had a Valentine and there were a total of 113 grandchildren, almost all growing to adulthood.

Families Valentine's children married into were Bowman, Grimes,

Long (multiple); Winslow, Young, Myers and Shoaf. I have never found Anna Maria Eva Derr Sowers' death place or date, but I suspicion she may have passed at or not long after Lewis' birth in NC. She would have been 43 years and he her 11th child in 20 years of marriage. Valentine never remarried and passed in Fountain 25 years later (see his old but interesting gravestone - thanks to R&K Hancock for photo).

The name Valentine filters through this family for several generations – these are some of the family names where they connect to Valentine Sowers with sons named Valentine: Allen; Bowman; Bruner; Clodfelter; Crowder; Day; Hollingsworth; Leonard; Long; Overpeck; Sink; Summers and Yount.

My Lewis Sowers son of Valentine and Anna Maria Eva Derr was born in Rowan Co NC later changed to Davidson 18 May 1818 and passed away in Colby, Kansas 10 Jan 1897. Their oldest child, Annie Elizabeth married John Bryant Barker, one of my direct twins. They were parents of four daughters (my great grandmother, Amanda Catherine their oldest) and three sons, but no Valentine names as far as I know. Some of these people I don't have middle names for so there could be more Valentines along the way. My ancestor, Annie Sowers Barker was the only one of Lewis' children to remain in Indiana. Along the family's way to Kansas, her mother, Susanah Sink passed away in Bradyville, Page County, Iowa where they had stopped for a few years, having a couple of their youngest there and had a very old stone about 40 years ago when we were there. Her stone was unique in that it said that she had lived as his wife for 24 years 7 months 2 days and "left 13 children." We paid to have it fixed but on FindAGrave it's not looking too fabulous at this point. Most of Lewis' children remained in Kansas but a couple went to Nebraska and Oklahoma. Almost all were farmers. A couple fought in the Civil War and down to this day, his descendants are serving in the military (one of our grands a Navy nuke and another in the Air National Guards).

The Sowers family is quite interesting and even though I've spent days upon days researching it, there is always more nifty things to find. Very glad they were my grandcestors!

This is our county!

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