

Montgomery Memories

Established December 2010

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Tarred and Feathered

Robert, the son of George Washington Coons and Julie Ferrell Coons, was born in ca. 1829 in Tennessee (1850 United States Federal Census). The family to Montgomery County, Indiana where they were recorded in 1830 census. Robert's grandparents, John and Catherine Coons, came to Montgomery County too. George farmed in Union Township.

In addition to Robert, the Coons children included John (b. 1820), Sarah (b. 1822), James (b. 1826), William (b. 1834) Harvey (b. 1837), and Francis (b. 1849).

The oldest Coons sibling, John, and his first wife, Nancy Thompson, had four children. Nancy died soon after the birth of their fourth child. John remarried. He and his second wife, Nancy Welch, had four children. John became a township trustee (1870 United States Federal Census), Deputy County Treasurer, and later the mayor of Crawfordsville. He was described as "a man of talent and fine personal traits of character and for a long lapse of years one of the best known and popular educators of the Wabash Valley country, and also an honored public official" (History of Montgomery County, Indiana. Indianapolis: AW Bowen, 1913 p 1266, via The INGenWeb Project, Copyright ©1997-2020 (and beyond), Montgomery CountyGenWebsite, <http://www.ingenweb.org/in/montgomery/>).

Sarah, George and Julia's only daughter, married her first cousin, Jesse Coons, in 1840. They had one child. Jesse died in 1842, at 23 years of age. He was buried in

the Coons Cemetery near Yountsville. Sarah remarried in 1844. She and her second husband, John M. Scott, had five children. Soon after the death of their oldest child, who was eight years old, the family moved to Ottumwa, Iowa. In 1862, they moved to Portland, Oregon where they spent the remainder of their lives. John, a successful farmer, was well known and considered a pioneer of the area (The Sunday Oregonian Sun, Nov 20, 1910, Page 43).

James Coons was a successful farmer in Union Township and raised four children with his wife Sally VanCleave. Later in life, he worked in the insurance field (1910 United States Federal Census). James lived to be 90 years old.

William married Jane Galey, who was born on May 26, 1836 in Kentucky. The couple made their home in Union Township where William farmed. They raised at least two children (listed on findagrave.com). Jane died in 1907 at the age of 70. William lived to be 93 and was buried next to Jane in the Oak Hill Cemetery. (Note that in ancestry.com records, William J. Coons has been conflated with William Scott Coons who lived from 1828 to 1906, and also had a wife named Jane.)

The youngest of the Coons siblings, Harvey, married Clay Lyon. They lived in Crawfordsville. Harvey worked as a carpenter and casket maker (Lafayette, Indiana Directories, 1885-1891). The couple had nine children. Clay died in 1889 at the age of 45. Harvey never remarried but lived with his children through the years. He passed at the age of 74 from cerebral meningitis and chronic alcoholism.

Continued on Page 7.

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Passage

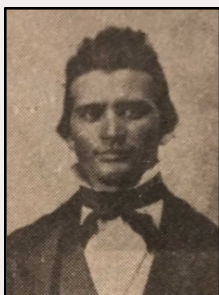
DR. SAMUEL GODFREY

January 18, 1829 to June 29, 1910

Samuel Godfrey was the son of a Danish immigrant, Solomon Godfrey. Solomon settled in Pennsylvania. This is where he met and married Sarah Remer. The couple had nine children. Per the Greencastle Herald (July 2, 1910), the family moved to North Liberty, St. Joseph County, Indiana in 1846 where Solomon farmed.

In 1850, Samuel, still living at home, was working as a school teacher. He had been involved with the Methodist Church since he was a child, and felt called to the ministry. He served as a deacon beginning in 1853 and in 1855 he was ordained as an elder. Samuel completed his undergraduate degree at Asbury College (now DePauw University) in 1865 and went on to complete his doctorate at that institution in 1871 (U.S., School Catalogs, 1765-1935 for Samuel Godfrey).

Samuel married Sarah Alice Beasley on June 6, 1856. Sarah was from Brown County, Ohio and was eleven years his junior. The couple had seven children. Over the years, the family lived where Samuel's ministry took him, including Champaign, Illinois, and Valparaiso, Greencastle, Delphi, Attica, Stockwell, Brookston, and finally Lafayette, Indiana. Sarah died in 1870 at 32 years of age. She was buried in Champaign.



Samuel Godfrey,
courtesy of Jen
via ancestry.com

On September 30, 1873 married his second wife, Julie Devore (Sarah Beasley's cousin). She was 25 years of age at the time while Samuel was 44. Prior to the marriage, Julie lived with her family in Brown County, Ohio and worked as a dressmaker. Samuel and Julie lived in Lafayette, and the youngest of Samuel and Sarah's children lived with them. Samuel and Julie had two daughters

born in 1876 and 1878. Their home was on tree-lined Cincinnati Street. In the 1870s, Samuel was the presiding bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church (U.S. 1870 Census).

Although not common, Julie divorced Samuel. We find reference to this in a Crawfordsville Weekly Journal article dated November 10, 1888: *Mrs. Godfrey, the divorced wife of Rev. Samuel Godfrey, is in Chicago taking a course in a medical college with a view to preparing herself for the practice of medicine.*

After the divorce, Samuel continued to live in Lafayette (U.S. Census for 1880 and 1900). Julie achieved her goal of becoming a physician. According to her obituary in the Zanesville Ohio Times Recorder, Dr. Godfrey, a pioneering physician, was a graduate of Hahneman Institute and Homeopathic College. She practiced medicine for 50 years in Chicago, South Bend, and Delavan, Wisconsin. She passed at the age of 90 on March 1, 1930.

Samuel was featured in the international news on at least two occasions - April 2, 1870 in the Wrexham (Wales) Advertiser and two days later in The Liverpool (England) Daily Post. The latter went so far as to refer to Samuel as "A Rabid Preacher." The controversy was his prayer, issued while preaching at Crawfordsville's Methodist Church - *O Lord! Thou knowest that the leading men of our nation and those occupying the highest public positions are thieves and robbers, plunders and murderers, drunkards, and debauchers...*

In addition to his role as a minister, Samuel belonged to the Masonic Lodge and ran for the legislature on the Republican ticket. He passed at the age of 81. He was interred in Lafayette's Spring Vale Cemetery. (The Indianapolis News, Thu, Jun 30, 1910, Page 5).



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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Montgomery Memories

Notables

August 19, 1909

First race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Source: *history.com*

August 26, 1902

Passage of the 19th Amendment to to the constitution, giving women the right to vote.

Source: *mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war*

Old News

Crawfordsville Review

August 6, 1859

OWEN ACQUITTED.

Jonathan S. Owen, who has been on trial at Crawfordsville upon the charge of poisoning his wife, is acquitted, the jury bringing in that verdict late on Saturday night. The trial excited intense interest in Montgomery county, and thousands were in Crawfordsville awaiting the result. On Sunday morning, we learn, there was a demonstration made to lynch Owen—a large crowd having assembled at the place where he was staying, with that object in view. Threats of violence were also made against his attorneys, Messrs. D. W. Voorhees and J. E. McDonald. Upon the appearance of the crowd, those gentlemen exerted their influence to assuage the excitement, and finally succeeded in persuading those assembled to disperse peaceably. The arguments of Messrs. McDonald and Yoorhees, on behalf of Owen, are reported as being exceedingly eloquent.

Source: *Hoosier State Chronicle*

Weather Report

Reported on August 2, 1901

In the summer of 1884, Indiana experienced its greatest drought in many years. There was so little rain that it was estimated the corn crop was reduced by 75%.

Source: *Crawfordsville Weekly Journal*,
via newspapers.library.in.gov

August 15, 1895

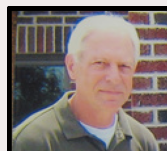
Hiram Pratt reported that, “The blades of corn are rolling considerable. Wells are failing ...The water in our well is to [sic] low to be drawn out by the pump.

Source: *The INGenWeb Project, Copyright ©1997-2020 (and beyond), Montgomery County GenWeb, www.ingenweb.org/inmontgomery*

August 15, 1988

Severe thunderstorms produced hail almost 2 inches in diameter in Montgomery County.

Source: *weather.gov*



Butch Dale's FLASH BACK TRIVIA

Do you recognize this New Market grad?



HINT: She was the 1962 Homecoming Queen

Answer on Page 7.



Montgomery Memories

Memories

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

THOROUGHLY DISINFECTED

Crawfordsville, Ind., July 29. – A tramp came to town to-day so offensively unclean that the police ordered him away. He went to the railroad station and boarded a train, but the passengers at once objected and the conductor put him off. Then the tramp was taken in hand by several men, marched to the woods, his clothes taken off, burned, whitewash prepared and applied freely on the body with a brush, his head shaved, and after that he was scrubbed with soap and water.

The Victoria Daily Times, Victoria, British Columbia,
August 5, 1892
newspapers.com

MR. CARNEGIE SLIGHTED

Mr. Andrew Carnegie last summer purchased a library for the town of Crawfordsville, Indiana, at a cost of £5,000. By the irony of fate, says a "Daily Mail" telegram, the purchasing committee of the library is now reported to have declined to buy Mr. Carnegie's new book, "The Empire of Business," asserting that the library fund is limited, and other books are needed more. Some of the books needed are popular novels and detective stories.

Edinburgh Evening News, Tuesday 02 December 1902
The British Newspaper Archive

At a law suit in Crawfordsville (Ind.) the principal witness got drunk, and the lawyer made a speech of several hours' duration to kill time until the man could get sober enough to testify. He touched on everything, including the Fifteenth amendment, and finally his man came to in time.

The Gazette, London, England, April 15, 1870
newspapers.com

KIPLING CONDEMED

The Sunday school of the Methodist Church at Crawfordsville, Indiana, has passed final judgment on Rudyard Kipling, casting out all his books from its library...a strict member of the church declared...that [his] book [Drums of the Fore and Aft] was fairly reeking of profanity and the most outrageous slang.

Falkirk Herald, Wednesday, August 16, 1899
The British Newspaper Archive

Burkhart Funeral Home

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



Montgomery Memories

Sports Story

CROQUET

The game of croquet was first played in 14th century France. According to oakleywoods.com's History of Croquet, peasants made hoops from bent willow branches and used shepherd's crooks for mallets. The game went to Britain in the 1600s, and by 1870 a croquet governing board was formed in England. Due to issues with gambling, the game fell out of favor as a competitive sport but remained popular among folks who played it at home. Certainly many of us can remember playing the game in our own backyards!

In 1867, Mrs. Emma Wilson was the first to buy a croquet set in Crawfordsville (Crawfordsville Daily Journal, May 17, 1890 p 5). We can see from the poem "Croquet" on page 6 of this month's MM that the game was popular in the community by 1868. Yet it was met with some controversy. In a Crawfordsville Weekly Journal article dated January 7, 1869, the thoughts of the famous minister Henry Ward Beecher were shared. His contention was that croquet, like any endeavor "...may become wicked by association and surroundings." It may be hard for us to imagine how croquet could be wicked, but it did invite unmarried young men and women to spend time together, which the reverend also disdained.

The Weekly Journal showed its disagreement with the minister by snippets it published, including its announcement on July 15, 1869 that it was "Fine weather for baseball and croquet as the young people seem to understand." At a "fancy dress picnic," which was held a week after the July 15 announcement, Mrs. C. S. McDonald, Editor of The Coming Woman section of the Weekly Journal shared that at the picnic, "We looked over the groups, watched the merry couples at croquet, listened to the music, slyly glanced at lovers who could not be induced to come down from their carriages, and our decision was that if anybody failed to have a good time it was not the fault of the picnic. Think of an Indian, a Flowergirl, an aged Quakeress, and a saucy peasant girl engaged in a game of croquet." And on September 23, The Weekly Journal referred to young ladies who played croquet as the "Maids of the Lawn." Reverend Beecher would certainly be appalled!



The Side Stroke.

Maid of the Lawn

Image courtesy of
duncan1890

Recipe

Lemonade

Perfect on a hot August day, during croquet on the lawn or a game of checkers played in the shade of a large oak tree, lemonade has been quenching thirst for 1,000 years. Lemons were brought to the U.S. by European immigrants, and it was served in George Washington's household (mountvernon.org). The first lemonade recipe was published here in 1824 (www.sugar.org/blog/a-brief-history-of-lemonade).

INGREDIENTS

6 large lemons
4 1/2 c. water
2 c. sugar



INSTRUCTIONS

Zest the lemons. Put the zest in a saucepan, and add 2 c. water. Bring to a boil, remove from the heat, and let cool to room temperature. Juice the lemons. Add the lemon juice, sugar, and remaining water to the saucepan, and stir. Strain the mixture and serve with ice.

We find that in 1889, 98c would buy an 8-ball croquet set (ibid, May 18), that the town of Bowers had the finest players in the state (ibid, May 18, 1991), and that the game was played as part of C'ville's 4th of July celebration in 1892 (ibid, June 30). There was some return of controversy when the pastors of Ladoga's Baptist and Methodist churches denied that they had been to the "croquet grounds" (Crawfordsville Review, July 9, 1889 p 6). The Crawfordsville Weekly also reported that Elmdale had a croquet ground that was "kept warm by some of our people," (September 16, 1898 p 11). At a surprise 38th birthday party held for Mrs. Thomas (Lydia) Banta in June of 1915, the afternoon was "spent in playing croquet and music," (New Richmond Record, July 1, 1915). What fun!

A special thanks to Karen Bazzani Zach for her contributions to this month's Sports Story!



Montgomery Memories

POETRY

Croquet

On a smooth and level lawn, scarcely dried from the dew,
 Where green branches the sunlight shook fitfully through,
 A youth with mind careless, unfettered and free,
 And a "little brown maid" as careless as he,
 To while the dull hours of a morning away,
 Lacking better employment, were playing Croquet.

With bantering jest and with mischievous eyes,
 Ridiculing her skill, he excited replies,
 So piquant, so defiant, so charmingly bright.
 That she rather, I think, got the best of the fight.
 So merry her laugh when he made a misplay,
 That he seemed to forget he was playing Croquet.

There was something so fresh in her wrapper of blue,
 So neat was the foot which peeped daintily through,
 So bright was her face with innocent spite,
 As his ball she croqueted with all her impotent might
 So sweet her chagrin to be beaten that day—
 To the youth it was a perilous game of Croquet.

When he left her he walked at so thoughtful a pace,
 And such a serious look came over his face,
 His expression half hopeless, half hopeful inclined,
 With something so evidently "troubling his mind,"
 That even a common observer would say,
 It was not he alone who had won at Croquet.

"Perry Winkle"
 - *The Trifler* -

Source: *Crawfordsville Weekly Journal*, 6 August 1868

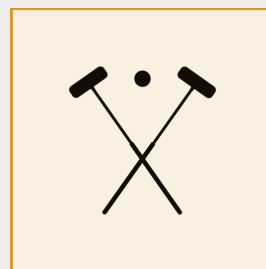


Image: *Iuliia Bogdanova*

WORD SCRAMBLE

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Solutions

The dog days of summer

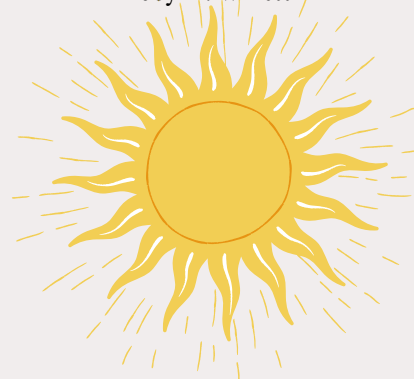
Maids of the lawn play croquet

Dog Days

Those days of summer
 when it's too hot to care,
 humidity stifling
 thickens the air,
 we remember spring days
 when it was fair,
 and dream of the fall,
 "When will it
 get here?!"

Yet in winter when
 temperatures sink so low,
 snow, ever deepening,
 blinds as it blows,
 we pine for mid-August
 before it got cold,
 and dog days drenched
 by a sun
 bright gold.

Joy M. Willett





Montgomery Memories

Extras

Butch Dale's FLASH BACK TRIVIA

Answer:
Gay Frame

Ads from the Past

ITS TOO HOT TO COOK!

When you have that tired feeling
this hot weather, our
Boiled Ham and Ready Cooked Sausages
will help out for lunch.

They Are Always Fresh.

Fresh Creamery Butter.

Dwiggins & Sons

Waynetown Despatch, August 25, 1916

Tarred and Feather, continued from Page 1.

And now we return to Robert. He married Nancy J. VanCleave, sister of James' wife Sally, on October 5, 1848. After their marriage, the couple lived with George and Julia, and Robert helped his father on the farm (1850 United States Federal Census). Robert and Nancy had three children - Francis (b. 1849), Theodore (b. 1852), and Alvord (b. 1855). As reported in the Huddersfield Daily Chronicle (Huddersfield, England) on August 7, 1858, Robert was "married, and respectfully connected."

That's why it was such a surprise, that in the spring of 1858, while still married to Nancy, Robert began a liaison with a married woman. As the Huddersfield article describes, he had been corresponding with the woman for several months and they arranged to meet in Ladoga, where they planned to elope on the train. Well, folks in Crawfordsville found out. A group of around 50 citizens gathered and appointed five men to take the train to Ladoga to capture Robert. They returned with Robert in tow and took him to the courthouse. Even though it was late in the evening, the judge conducted an impromptu hearing. The 18 love letters written by Robert to the young woman were all the evidence needed to convict him. Robert was dragged to the courthouse yard, stripped of his clothes, and tarred and feathered. The vigilantes took him to the depot and put him on the train to California.

Nancy got on with her life - she lived near Browns Valley and raised her children (1870 census). In 1880, she was living with her son Ted's family. Nancy died in 1884 at the age of 57. No record was found of what happened to Robert.



SAVE THE PIECES!

1 1/2 cents per lb. given for old POT METAL, by BURBRIDGE & MILLER.
Crawfordsville, May, 1835.

Crawfordsville Record, August 22, 1835



Montgomery Memories



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A BETTER TEAM.**

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