

ANCESTORS

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- Genealogist: Karen Loy
- Newsletter Editor: Kim Ray



ISSN: 1933-5164
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BCGS Calendar

Saturday, October 22—Phyllis Codling McLaughlin will be returning for the second part of **DNA 101**. This session will be a S.K.I.L.L.S. session, which means it is open to members only. Phyllis will be reviewing DNA results with the members who have already completed testing.

Saturday, November 12—Our final meeting of 2016 will include a presentation by Ron Darrah on **Populating Hoosierland**. Learn how and when our ancestors arrived in the state of Indiana and see what footprints they left behind.

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Congrats and Thanks, Marcus!

Marcus Speer is not only our youngest Charter Member, joining BCGS when he was only 18 years old, but he has now accomplished something no other BCGS President has done in our 26 year history..... He has completed 5 years as BCGS President ! Congratulations, Marcus ! And THANK YOU for your service and dedication to our Society !

Editor's Note: Many thanks to all BCGS Board Members for their time and articles to make Ancestors the "Voice of BCGS" ! As a courtesy, and to insure the personal communication with each of you, their columns are not edited. Hope you enjoy !

Presidential Proclamation

-by Marcus Speer

First, I must thank you the membership for joining and supporting the Bartholomew County Genealogical Society (BCGS). Some have been faithful supporters for all of our 26 years as a Society. Have you renewed your membership for 2016/2017? The time has arrived to make membership renewals. Dues (\$10 Individual & \$15 Couple) can be paid to BCGS Treasurer Toni Whiteside. Our Membership Chair is Bob Hobbs. Have you also considered encouraging someone else to join BCGS in the upcoming year? Or maybe you can encourage another member to renew before the end of the year.

Many have served as BCGS officers and board members, and it's in November that the executive board is elected for the upcoming year. Therefore, the BCGS board is seeking nominations for the 2017 BCGS board. Kim Ray has graciously agreed to chair the nominating committee. Nominations are being received ahead of our November (12) Program when the Annual Meeting is also held. After five years as BCGS President, I will be stepping away from the office of President, but I plan to serve in another capacity on the executive board. Would you be interested in serving on the BCGS board? Please let us know of your willingness to serve. Thanks for your consideration.

I pray that you have a great quarter and enjoy many blessings during the upcoming holidays! It is the most wonderful time of the year!

Highlights

-by Marcus Speer

*History Days
Steps Through Time*

During the third weekend of September, BCGS was able to be a part of the History Days: "Steps Through Time" at the Bartholomew County Library. With the help of Marcus Speer, Heather McDonald, Kim Ray, Thecla Patterson, Judy Alexander, Bob Hobbs, Carolyn Wheeler, Karen Loy, Jane Johnson, Toni Whiteside & Becky Speaker, BCGS was well represented for all the students and adults who passed through the Indiana Room. Many thanks once again to our DAR friends for their collaborative assistance throughout the weekend.

At the BCGS table, our volunteers offered information on our Society and even distributed Family Trees (charts) for individuals to fill-in with their families. BCGS books were also available for those interested. On more than one occasion visitors were encouraged to start working on their stories by learning the stories of their ancestors.

With a great group of volunteers and many great resources, BCGS had another successful participation and representation at History Days at the Library.

Tripping My Roots Over

By Robert Hobbs

DISCOVERIES IN A CEMETERY IN WALES

I know I'm probably preaching to the choir here when I write what a great resource a local library can be. This is especially true when you don't know where to turn as a stranger in a strange land...be that land in a different county, a different state, or as in my case, a different country.

Five years ago when I had the good fortune to land a free round-trip ticket to Manchester, England (a story for another day), I jumped at the chance to use it. I had recently just begun my genealogical journey via Ancestry.Com. I previously knew very little of the paternal side of my family beyond my great-grandparents. They were probably from England was all that anyone knew.

With my amateurish diligence and Ancestry's help, I discovered that my 4x great-grandfather John Hobbs had been born in 1803 in the town of Bridgewater, in southwest England. At some point he and his wife Harriet, born in nearby Wachtett, sailed northwest across the Bristol Channel, landed in Porthcawl, Wales, and moved a few miles inland to Nottage, in the parish of Newton-Nottage, where they were supposedly both buried.

So early one morning I boarded the Manchester train bound for Cardiff, Wales. Several hours of the picturesque English countryside broken up by quaint little towns later, the train pulled into the Cardiff station. My plan was to do some sightseeing in Cardiff, find a hotel to spend the night, and leave for Newton-Nottage the next morning. On the bus from the station to the waterfront area, we passed a theater that had a production of *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* playing. I now knew how I would be spending my evening.

Near the waterfront I visited the home of the children's book author Roland Dahl and struck up a conversation with one of the local residents. In his thick Welsh accent, he told me of the days gone by of when Wales was a major exporter of coal and pointed out where in the bay the ships were loaded and the coal was shipped to other ports in Europe. He went on to mourn that those days were gone and that the area had dealt with high unemployment ever since. He also pointed out the numerous condos that covered the nearby hillside and shook his head.

I found my way back to the bus stop near the theater and walked over to buy my ticket for the evening performance. Having determined that I was an American, the box office lady asked me where I was from. I told her Florida and asked if she could recommend a hotel in the area. She told me of one that she said was actually owned by a fellow American. Intrigued, I inquired as to who that American might be. She said he was an actor, but couldn't recall his name. She called back into the office to a guy sitting at a desk.

"Hey, Sean! What's the name of that actor from the United States...the one who owns the hotel up the street?"

"John Malkovich!," he yelled back.

"John Malkovich?" I exclaimed incredulously, "I went to high school with him in a small town in Illinois!"

The guy in back got up from his desk, came up to the counter to ask me for details. All three of us laughed and marveled at the coincidence and the realization as to just how small a world we lived in.

After getting detailed directions to the hotel, I was amused by all the pictures of John from his films that peppered the lobby. When I told the receptionist of my connection, she even gave me a discount! I must admit, however, that having someone I knew peering at me from the walls of my hotel room felt more than a little strange.

The next morning found me back on a bus on my way to Porthcawl, a twenty-five mile trip along the coastline. It was and remained a beautiful Summer day! I could look out of the bus windows and see the land on the other side of the channel, England, the land where my relatives were born. The bus passed an elaborate Grand Pavilion and the Seabank Hotel, both grand architectural reminders of days past... when miners and other members of the working class would go on holiday at the sandy beach there.

Tripping **Over** My **Roots**

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Cont.

The bus made its scheduled stop in Porthcawl. I asked the driver when all the other passengers were off the bus if by any chance he knew where the library was located. He pointed to a building facing us in the next block. I made my way across the street and up the steps of the contemporary library. I approached the counter and drew the attention of the librarian. After she asked me how she could help, I told her I was looking for information about the cemetery in the area of Newton-Nottage because I was looking for the grave of my ancestor who reporting was buried there. Her face lit up and she told me that a colleague of hers currently at another branch had helped someone find a grave there earlier that very week. As she dialed the phone, she asked me again for the name. As she wrote down the information her colleague was giving her, she had the paper turned allowing me to see what she wrote. My heart stood still when I saw her write down the name Robert Hobbs....my name!

After the helpful librarian hung up the phone, she told me that the librarian she had been speaking with would be soon sending her an email with an attachment of a map of the cemetery and information telling me where the burial plot I was looking for was located. When I inquired about the name Robert Hobbs on her list, she told me that a person by that name was buried there as well. I told her that gave me shivers down my spine because Robert Hobbs was also my name. Once she downloaded the map of the cemetery, printed it, and explained to me how to read the information it contained, I thanked her profusely and was out of the library like a shot, all but running to the bus stop up the street. Within a very short time, a bus pulled up that fortunately was the bus to Newton-Nottage. I was the only one on the bus and asked the driver how close he came to The Church of Saint John the Baptist. He said we would go right by it and not long thereafter, the bus came to a stop. He told me that this was not an official stop, but pointed to where I needed to go to gain entrance. I asked him when he would be coming back by this way and he told me another driver would be there at approximately 2:00 p.m. It was then only 10:00 a.m. so that meant I had four hours to kill. Oh well, I was sure I could find something to do. Before he drove away he also pointed out where I needed to be standing when the bus came back by and to make sure I as was there by 1:45 or I'd be waiting another four hours.



I turned around to find a medieval church built in the 1180s looming above a thick, eight foot stone wall. I entered the gate area that was protected by a small roof. The very sturdy-looking fortress of a church was to my left and the cemetery was to my right. What immediately caught my eye were many two-inch high, contemporary-looking flat markers about three inches apart. Were they buried standing up? This left me perplexed, but I would soon solve the mystery.

*The Church of Saint John The Baptist,
a 12th Century Church in Newton-Nottage, WALES*

Tripping Over My Roots

Cont.

I got out the map the librarian had given me and turned it around to represent the direction I was standing. The path curved among what seemed like thousands of headstones dating back hundreds of years. Many were illegible. Finally I found myself looking in the direction of the front wall and there I was facing two side-by-side monuments, the one on the left about four feet tall and the one on the right approximately five feet. The shorter one had two names on it: William, Died 1908; Harriet, Died 1920. I was then shocked to see that the right one had five names on it! The names were: Robert, Died 1879; John, Died 1890; Anne, Died 1906; Jane, Died 1943; and Annie, Died 1959. They were buried five deep! The first one to die was buried on the bottom and the others stacked on top when their time came. One might reason that the grave on the left had three vacancies since it displayed only two names.

I stood there amazed at what I was witnessing, trying to take it all in. Then it occurred to me that I might very well be their only descendant from the United States to have ever stood in that spot. I was then overcome with emotion. The sense of history and family connection overwhelmed me.

I knew I had to have a photograph. Between the two monuments was a stump covered in dark green holly with red berries. Growing wildly across the stone slab covering the two graves grew a thorny briar. I decided that it had to go thorns or no thorns. I rolled up my sleeves and started pulling. When I finished about fifteen minutes later my palms were punctured and bleeding, but the graves were clean enough



for my photo. Odd as it may seem, I felt the presence of their collective gratitude.

I then walked around the cemetery taking in the atmosphere and looked beyond the walls to experience the rolling green hills of South Wales. Knowing I would likely never return, I went back to the graves of my ancestors and bid them a final farewell before I followed the winding path out of the cemetery and to the bus stop.

Update: The more contemporary flat markers at the entrance of the cemetery had replaced original ones that had disintegrated over the previous 800 plus years. Their closeness was representative of the multiple graves. Of course John was my 4x great-grandfather. He lived to be 87 years of age. William and Robert were his sons. Robert, my 3x great-uncle was the first to die at age 34. The reason remains a mystery that I long to solve. Did he succumb to an illness? Was he killed in a coal mine or in a farm labor incident? William was my 3x great-grandfather who died at the age of 74. Harriet, his daughter apparently named after her mother, was buried above her father when she died at age 79. William's son, also named William, was my great, great-grandfather and left Wales and settled in southern Illinois. His son, my great-grandfather named William Roy, was a Spanish-American War veteran. Anne, Robert's widow, died at the age of 61. Jane and Annie, who died at ages 61 and 84, were buried in the same grave as their grandfather and parents. The whereabouts of the wives of John (Harriet) and William also remain a mystery. Were Jane and Annie ever married? If so, where were their husbands? When my grandparents named my father Robert Hobbs, little did they know there was another one born in Great Britain almost one hundred years before? Answers lead to even more questions.

Kim's Korner

-by Kim Ray

It's ALL About YOU !

Were you inspired by Robert Hobbs in his article about finding his ancestors graves in Wales ? Or remember the article on MaryBeth Glick's genealogy trip in Germany, where she found a wealth of good info, including previously unknown second cousins ? Or perhaps your story is more of a learning experience, like Becky Speaker's trip to Andersonville in search of her Civil War ancestor ? Or perhaps you were like 4 of us BCGS Board Members that took a trip to the National Archives and brought back military records for 43 veterans with ties to Bartholomew County ?

Or maybe your story doesn't involve a trip.... Perhaps your story involves other topics ? Here's some ideas.....

- how you met your spouse
- the story behind your unique name
- how you got started in genealogy
- conquering a brick wall
- a local gem you found
- your connection to a famous person
- that hard to find gravestone
- a hidden secret uncovered
- a blessing discovered
- a photo from the past
- something that makes you smile
- the legacy you want to leave your grandchildren

In 2017, I would LOVE to fill this Newsletter with stories from our members ! It can be anywhere from a short paragraph to a full page with photos.... YOU are the reason we have this newsletter, and YOU are the reason we have a Society !

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US,

please send an email to our address listed on the back page of this Newsletter.... or send it to my email....

kimray3310@gmail.com THANKS FOR SHARING WITH YOUR FELLOW GENEALOGISTS !

New Books

New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library

from Annette Blount, BC Librarian

History for Genealogists: Using Chronological Time Lines to Find and Understand Your Ancestors.

Jacobson, Judy
Genealogy 929.1 Jac

Under Every Tree: A Guide to Finding Your Roots in Virginia.

Silber, Phyllis Brock
Genealogy 929.3755 Sil



NEW RESEARCH CENTER in HOPE

-by Kim Ray

The Yellow Trail Museum in Hope has expanded and is making room for a genealogy Research Center. This project is still in the early stages, no formal name nor a date on opening to the public has been decided at this time. However, materials are

being inventoried, indexed and organized with the public in mind.

The collection includes BOOKS, PAPERS, MAGAZINES, FAMILY FILES, PICTURES, DOCUMENTS, REFERENCE and RESEARCH MATERIALS, FAMILY BIBLES, etc. with a focus on Hope, but also including Bartholomew & other Indiana counties, as well as other states.

If you would like to support this project by donating genealogy material, please contact
Kim Ray (812-546-5990)

Welcome to Our New Member:

L. Gordon "Gordy" Davis Surnames researching: Arp, Rallew, Sumner



Looking ahead to 2017:

-by Marcus Speer

Facebook page – Have you liked us on Facebook?

During History Days at the Library, visitors were encouraged to learn their stories to build their own story. During 2017, we want to build on this theme through our Newsletter. The idea of “Story” has been an important theme for genealogical conferences, church conferences, and TV programs. You have a story ... and we want to hear your story. Would you consider making a contribution for a story? Please feel free to share them by e-mail, at a program, or by snail mail. It may seem like “just another ordinary *story*,” and we would love to hear it! Thanks for your input.

More Links for Bicentennial Happenings !

[IBC: The Empire Strikes Back – A Bicentennial
Celebration of Indiana Fashion](#)

[IBC: Bartholomew County](#)

[Columbus — Indiana Historical Society](#)

CARVED IN STONE

-BY DONNA KUHLMAN

QUERY:

Seeking recorders and a copy of the Peter Troutman (1774-1836) Probate of Estate and other Troutman data for Family Genealogy. Have previous re-search information from Mrs. Murphy. Membership online? JGO

Response:

I did work on the Troutmans, some time ago; did find numerous deed transactions that finally documented all his 17 children. Paper files are in storage, so difficult to retrieve at the moment, but am attaching a Word document file with my accumulated data. Let me know if you have a problem opening this.

[Editor Note: Donna sent a wonderful lengthy and detailed bio, but for the purposes of this Newsletter, I have shortened, listing parents and 17 children]

Descendants of Peter Troutman

PETER TROUTMAN was born 09 Feb 1769 in Frederick Co., MD, and died 12 Apr 1836 in Bartholomew Co., IN. He married (1) MARGARET "PEGGY" DUNCAN 04 Sep 1790 in Nelson Co., KY. She was born 27 Oct 1773 in Kentucky, and died Nov 1796 in Kentucky. He married (2) CATHERINE SPURGEON 15 Jan 1798 in Bourbon Co., KY, daughter of WILLIAM SPURGEON and PRISCILLA ROBINETTE. She was born 04 Mar 1776 in Bedford Co., PA, and died Abt. 1816 in Henry Co. KY. He married (3) MARY ROBINSON 09 Nov 1818 in Shelby Co., KY. She died Aft. 21 Aug 1826 in Bartholomew Co., IN. He married (4) MRS. MARGARET L. LOGAN 29 Mar 1827 in Jefferson Co., IN. He married (5) MRS. MARTHA THOMPSON 30 Oct 1832 in Bartholomew Co., IN.

Children of PETER TROUTMAN and MARGARET DUNCAN are:

- i. MICHAEL A.³ TROUTMAN, b. 06 Dec 1791, Kentucky; d. 24 May 1852, Fulton Co., IN; m. SARAH CAMPBELL, 24 Sep 1813, Henry Co., KY; b. Abt. 1791, Kentucky; d. Aft. 1850.
- ii. REBECCA TROUTMAN, b. Abt. 1793, Kentucky; d. 30 Jul 1826, Clark Co., IN.
- iii. JAMES TROUTMAN, b. 26 Apr 1794, Kentucky; d. 16 Sep 1847, Cass Co., IN; m. NANCY STEPHENSON, 08 May 1815, Henry Co., KY; d. Aft. 1838.
- iv. RACHEL MARGARET TROUTMAN, b. Abt. 1796, Nelson Co., KY; d. 15 Nov 1864, Thurman, Freemont Co., IA; m. WILLIAM PERRY STEPHENSON, 14 Mar 1814, Culpeper Co., VA; b. 08 Mar 1789, Culpeper Co., VA; d. 06 Dec 1841, Holt Co., MO.

Children of PETER TROUTMAN and CATHERINE SPURGEON are:

- v. MELINDA³ TROUTMAN, b. Abt. 1798, Virginia; d. Abt. Aug 1857, Madison, Jefferson Co., IN.
- vi. JOHN TROUTMAN, b. 06 Nov 1799, Henry Co., KY; d. 06 Dec 1855, Cass Co., IN; m. (1) ELIZABETH FINLEY, 05 Sep 1820, Bond Co., IL; m. (2) ELIZABETH WHITE, 18 Apr 1847, Cass Co., IN.
- vii. WILLIAM TROUTMAN, b. 22 Sep 1802, Henry Co., KY; d. 25 Aug 1887, Kewanna, Fulton Co., IN.
- viii. ELI AMBROSE TROUTMAN, b. 08 Apr 1804, Henry Co., KY; d. 08 Oct 1894, Fulton Co., IN.
- ix. CYNTHIA TROUTMAN, b. 1806, Henry Co., KY; d. Bet. 1850 - 1860, Jefferson Co., IN.
- x. HIRAM TROUTMAN, b. 23 Feb 1808, Henry Co., KY; d. 08 May 1878, Bartholomew Co., IN.
- xi. AMANDA C. TROUTMAN, b. 1809, Henry Co., KY; d. 1830, Bartholomew Co., IN.
- xii. GREENUP TROUTMAN, b. 28 May 1811, Henry Co., KY; d. 09 May 1847, Fulton Co., IN.
- xiii. ALVIN MILTON TROUTMAN, b. Abt. 1814, Henry Co., KY; d. 18 Dec 1874, Fulton Co., IN.

Children of PETER TROUTMAN and MARY ROBINSON are:

- xiv. HARRIET³ TROUTMAN, b. 02 Sep 1819, Henry Co., KY; d. 25 Feb 1906, Clay Co., IL.
- xv. ARMENIA TROUTMAN, b. 22 Dec 1824, Jefferson Co., IN; d. 27 Jan 1899, Fulton Co., IN.
- xvi. CATHERINE TROUTMAN, b. 21 Aug 1826, Bartholomew Co., IN; d. 20 Mar 1902, Fulton Co., IN.
- xvii. INFANT TROUTMAN, b. 21 Aug 1826, Bartholomew Co., IN.

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society Membership

*Membership year extends from January – December
and includes 4 issues of ANCESTORS*

1 year Membership: Individual (\$10) Couple (\$15)



Thanks for your Support

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