



ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Jul - Sep Q3 2020

ISSN: 1933-5164

Vol 30 Issue 3

President's Prose -by Becky Speaker

Learn how to

CLEAN and PHOTOGRAPH GRAVESTONES Hope Moravian Cemetery

July 25th, 10am

Join us in the great outdoors to learn how to clean and photograph gravestones! We will meet at 10am at the Moravian Cemetery in Hope. Donna Kuhlman will lead a demonstration on cleaning and photographing, then if you want, you can pitch in and help clean some gravestones. We're also hoping to fulfill some photo requests for Find-A-Grave.

Around 11:30 or noon, we will head to the Hope Town Square for a picnic. Bring your lunch or stop in at Swiss Maid.

I have attached a training document from Donna Kuhlman. You don't have to bring anything, but if you want, you can bring the Basic kit or the Everything-but-the-kitchen-sink kit, or somewhere in between. I have visited cemeteries twice in the last month with only a small bottle of water and regretted not having at least a brush or rag! I am also planning to bring a small stool since I struggle to get off the ground somewhat gracefully after my knee surgery earlier this spring!

Donna shares: "The campfire spade is useful for getting to lines of inscription that have sunk below the sod line. The T-bar prod, of course, is for finding stones that have fallen and been covered with sod. Note it has a brightly colored flag--because otherwise, you will lay it down in the grass, and then never see it again. The 5-gallon bucket with the utility apron is also a great boon to keeping all your stuff organized and handy. The 3-gallon pump sprayer is Chuck Ray's genius. I ran out of water so many times when I just carried a little squirter bottle. Now I take BOTH--the little bottle for quick trips in for a couple of shots, the big jug for afternoon projects."

I'm very excited to learn a little and also to do some community service for the cemetery (or for genealogist looking for photos of these stones.)

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Editor's Note: Many thanks to all BCGS Board Members for their me 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!



CLEAN and PHOTOGRAPH GRAVESTONES Tips

Gravestone Photo Recommendations

Photos for Findagrave need to be:

*JPEG format (.jpg or .jpeg).

*Cropped with no surrounding empty space.

Getting good photos for this purpose requires a little more time and effort than just pointing & shooting. Ideally, you should have these basic tools along:

Pump spray water bottle; plastic or natural bristle brush; old towel; whisk broom



Basic kit



Everything-but-the-kitchen-sink kit

Clippers, pocket knife, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, campfire spade, T-bar prod, 5 gal. bucket with utility apron, 3-gal pump sprayer, mirror (5 ft. mirror also works)

Brush off stray grass clippings, and any other distracting debris. Water is useful for getting better contrast, if needed, and also for cleaning. (It seems disrespectful to commemorate anyone with a big splat in the middle of his or her name—please whisk off any bird droppings.)

If the stone is obscured by heavy moss growth, it can be safely removed with plain water and a little 'elbow grease.' Wet the stone thoroughly, then gently brush to clean it. Repeat as necessary until the surface is revealed—you will be amazed at how much this helps. Rinse thoroughly, and pat dry with an old towel if needed. Do NOT use any sort of wire brushes, harsh abrasives, or chemicals like bleach or acid; likewise, no shaving cream or chalk.

Stones that have fallen may need grass trimmed away to clearly expose all the inscribed area.

Time of day—and bright sunshine—do matter. Get the good photos when you have the opportunity, and leave the others for a better time.



CLEAN and PHOTOGRAPH GRAVESTONES Tips

Photos should be taken close up (or cropped) and square on to the inscribed surface.

Like this:



Or this:



But not this:



Nor this:



Take the time to clean the surface or trim away grass if needed and wait for the right light. Which image would you rather find?



Also, you may want to take a photo from a distance in order to position the gravestone in relationship to a tree or unique gravestone, to help you find the gravestone again!



Highlights -by Marcus Speer

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Program Minutes Saturday January 18, 2020 at 10 am

BCGS kicked off the 2020 year with a program on January 18. Twelve members and two guests attended the program in the Red Room at the Bartholomew County Public Library (BCPL). Our presenter included two of our own: Annette Blount, BCPL Genealogical Librarian & BCGS liaison, and Donna Kuhlman, BCGS Genealogist. The program focus was on Genealogy 101 and Bartholomew County Genealogy 101.

First, Annette “showed off” the new BCPL’s website: <http://www.mybcpl.org/>. She helped us navigate some important features on the new site. She showed how to “book a librarian” for assistance with genealogical research. She also shared information on Digital Underground.

Then, Annette turned to specific links for genealogists. To get to these links, one should click on the “Explore” link toward the top of the webpage, and then, go down the drop-down list to “Genealogy.” Once you have clicked on that, you should be able to see links to Heritage Quest, Newspapers, Family Search, and other in-library resources. On this page, you can also find links to high school yearbooks for Hauser HS, Columbus HS, Columbus North HS, and Columbus East HS.

Here is a list of genealogical resources available through BCPL: Heritage Quest Online, Ancestry Library Edition (in Library use), HistoryGeo.com (in Library use), Newspaper.com Indiana Historical, Sanborn Maps, Findagrave.com, FamilySearch.org, Newspaper.com Local (in Library use), Bartholomew County Genealogical Society, Indiana, Genealogical Society, Cemetery Map of Bartholomew County, Genealogy Print Collection available at BCPL.

Second, Donna shared some important information about researching locally. Her motto is: “start with where you are and work backwards.” So, for most this means you will start at home. She encouraged us to organize one’s research through family group sheets, pedigree charts, etc. “Wherever possible, make digital or at least photocopies, of records that apply to your research.” She pointed out how important both primary and secondary sources are for research.

Primary sources are created at the time an event occurs. They include private records (Bibles, letters, diaries), cemetery markers, newspaper or funeral home obituaries, church records, civil government records, etc. Secondary sources result from the previous research of others, and should be regarded as less reliable than primary source material. They include biographies and family genealogies, biographical sketches in published sources, WPA or other mass indexes of vital and civil records, internet resources (Ancestry.com, familysearch.com, Findagrave.com, etc.)

When looking into local records, Donna shared “the best places to start are.” First, Libraries: Bartholomew Co. Public Library, Edinburgh Public Library, Family History Library (LDS Church on 30th St.), Bartholomew County Historical Society. Second, the Bartholomew County Courthouse which includes the Clerk’s Office and the Archives Room. Third, the Government Office Building, which includes the Public Health Dept. and the Recorder’s Office. Lastly, she shared “favorite internet genealogy resources.” www.ancestry.com, www.familysearch.org, www.findagrave.com, www.usgenweb.org, www.Bartholomew.in.gov/archives.html#search, www.in.gov/library/databases.htm, www.in.gov/iara/, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>, www.facebook.com/BartholomewCountyGenealogicalSociety/.

BCGS had another great program to begin a new year of genealogical research.



Highlights -by Marcus Speer

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SKILLS Minutes Saturday February 22, 2020 at 10 am

BCGS’s first SKILLS (Sharing Knowledge In Light Learning Sessions) was presented by Becky Speaker, BCGS President, and Toni Whiteside, BCGS Treasurer. The skill focus was scanning documents and photos. Becky shared a handout that shared the following information for scanning.

DPI (dots per inch): DPI is a specification used for printed (and scanned) media that determines quality. Scanned images with a higher DPI will look more realistic compared to the original, but scanning at a high DPI can take a long time and use large amounts of disk space.

Resolution (or Pixels): While DPI refers to physical dimensions, the resolution of the image refers to the size of the image relative to your computer screen. A file that is 4000 x 5000 pixels is ideal for archiving but would take a long time to download on the Internet.

Compression - Reducing size of digital files by changing the way the data is coded - can impact the quality of the photo

OCR - Optical Character Recognition - technology that enables you to convert scanned documents into editable and searchable data

Grayscale documents and images are those that do not contain color but use gradients (shades) of black to produce the image. Grayscale images should be scanned at or above 600 DPI in a .PNG format.

JPG (pronounced 'jpeg')	TIF	PNG
Used when small file size is more important than maximum image quality (web pages, email, etc.) Always choose higher resolution and larger file if you want maximum quality with this format Do NOT keep editing and saving – quality is lost every time you save.	Considered highest quality format because it doesn't lose quality when opened and edited. Most versatile use for editing – but most web pages won't show TIF files	Less compression issues with quality loss than JPEG and a little smaller than TIF

Preparing – Photos and Documents

Rather than using cumbersome gloves, wash hands with soap and water and handle photos and negatives on the edges.

Keep your scanner glass clean. Instead of spraying glass cleaner on the glass, spray it on a lint-free towel and wipe the glass.

Use a soft brush or dust blower to remove dust from photos and documents – don't use canned air on old prints.

If photos or documents are in a collection or album, consider how to preserve the order or arrangement of the images or documents. Carefully remove staples, paper clips, or rubber bands if necessary. For documents, all the pages can be scanned into one finished document if time allows (some scanners have a time-out feature.)

If photos are in an album, you may have to take out the photos – but photograph each page to retain the arrangement and help you put the pictures back in the same spots. If you can't remove the photos, try to scan each page carefully. (Better yet, use a Flip-Pal Scanner!)



Highlights (cont) -by Marcus Speer

Plan a naming convention that will keep your scanned images in the correct order. Label the photos and documents to help locate (ex. 'Carter_john_approx1897_portrait'). If your photo management software (see below) allows, tag and caption the photo. Tags can be names, categories, dates, etc. Some programs/cloud storage options have auto-tagging, facial recognition and other tools: ex. Shutterfly, Flickr, Google Photos, Dropbox

Once you have a good original scan, duplicate the image - never work with an original image. Every time a file is opened and re-saved as a JPG, you lose some of the quality - compression just makes it not as good as the original.

Typical settings for documents and photos:

	Documents	Photos
Black & white / Grayscale / Color	Scan in black and white (not color or grayscale) if at all possible. A 10 page document scanned at 300 dpi black and white might be 0.8 MB; that same document in 24-bit color could be 10MB, or 30... or even 60 MB	Always scan in color – even black & white or sepia photos, as this allows more options for editing.
Resolution	Lowest acceptable resolution = 200 dpi (equal to "high" fax quality) Conventional resolution = 300 dpi Highest conventional resolution = 600 dpi (use only if planning to reprint multiples from a printed copy) Color documents should be scanned at 300 DPI.	Color photographs should be scanned at 600 DPI minimum; however, scanning at a DPI of 1200 will ensure archival-quality photographs. Scanning above 1200 DPI is overkill and not necessary. Color photos can be scanned at 300 DPI for email or web use. This is also usually good enough for reprinting a picture at the same size as the original.
File format - The file type you select is dependent on the type and purpose of the scanned document.	When saving text documents it is best to save the files as .PDF (portable document format).	If scanner has the option, save scanned photos in an uncompressed file format, such as TIFF, for optimal image quality. Color photos should be saved as .PNG.

Equipment

Flatbed scanners

Portable scanners (Flip-Pal, etc.) (consider additional software for stitch)

Ipad (Apps like Docscan HD can take original photo or scan in color or black & white)

Other examples: VuPoint Magic Wand Scanners, Doc Scan, etc.

Equipment

Scan 3D artifacts like jewelry and watches (and even toothbrushes and shoes) - Place 3D items face down. Rather than closing the lid, drape a piece of silky or velvet fabric over the items (black works best.)

Scan thin and double-sided memorabilia or newsprint with a black backer sheet to reduce ghosting or bleed through. Place a sheet of non-glossy black paper the size of the flatbed glass on top of the item before closing the scanner lid.

Calculator for best resolution to scan photos for photo restoration - <https://thephoto restorationcenter.com/scanning-calculator-and-guide/>



Highlights -by Marcus Speer

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

E-Program Minutes May 2, 2020



BCGS Zoom Meetin

Although our regularly scheduled in-person trip to the Archives in Indianapolis was cancelled, BCGS held the first e-program with a presentation by our own Annette Blount.

Before the program started at approximately 10:25, BCGS members and friends began signing onto the Zoom meeting at 9:30. (Thanks to Heather McDonald, Past Vice-President for assisting with Zoom.)

There were at least 18 who joined the meeting through Zoom. At the same time, Facebook Live was being used to share the e-program through our Facebook, which yielded over 62 “views.”

As our board liaison, Annette first shared an update about the library’s current closure and policies. She also shared that the Library’s access to Ancestry.com is temporarily available at home. You will need to use the number from your BCPL card.

Then, Annette shared some IGS Conference Highlights. For the first time, IGS held their conference through a Zoom format. Some enjoyed the format because in the past (and present) they were not able to attend in-persons conferences. The e-sessions that she attended were led by Dr. Michael D. Lacopo, D.V.M.

- Session 1 – Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-evaluating the “Evidence”
- Session 2 – Magnificent, Magical, Mesmerizing Manuscript Collections!
- Session 3 – Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving
- Session 4 – Estate Files: Are You Getting the Most Out of Them?

Another great genealogical program provided through a Zoom format. Thanks to all who made it possible and who “attended” the meeting.



Tripping MY ROOTS Over

-by Bob Hobbs

REMAINS TO BE SEEN

Part 1: So Much for R.I.P. !

Kentucky had him first, Indiana had him secondly, but Illinois had him finally. To whom am I referring? If your answer was Abraham Lincoln, you'd be correct.



The Village of New Salem

Growing up in Illinois, aka The Land of Lincoln, you became educated in all things "Honest Abe" from an early age by way of all levels of Illinois public education. One of my earliest memories of experiencing Lincoln as opposed to just learning about him was going on a family tour we named "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" (also the name of a Broadway play and film). Taking everything in chronological order, our first stop was the village of New Salem, in what is now Menard County, named after Pierre Menard, Illinois' first lieutenant governor. The village is 130 miles and a two and a half hour drive from Centralia, where my family of four resided until the middle 1960s.

New Salem is where Lincoln spent about seven years in his 20s from 1831 to 1837. While there he made his living practicing the following trades: boatman, soldier in the Black Hawk War, general store owner, postmaster, surveyor, and rail splitter. It was not until his second attempt at winning a seat in the Illinois General Assembly did he leave the village.



Lincoln's home in Springfield, Illinois

Our second stop took us to the state capital, Springfield, which was located 15 miles southeast. Once in town, we sought out Lincoln's home located on 413 South Eighth Street.

While serving in the assembly, he also started his law career. He met Mary Todd from Kentucky and they were married at her sister's home in Springfield in 1842. Two years later they bought the house on the corner of 8th and Jackson Streets. It was the only house Lincoln ever owned. It is a two story structure made up of twelve rooms. Lincoln's first son, Robert Todd was born before the family moved into the house. The other three sons, Edward Baker better known as "Eddie" was born in the house in 1846 and later died there on 1850. William Wallace known as "Willie" was born there in 1850 and Thomas II, referred to as "Tad" was born in the house in 1853.

After serving in the Illinois General Assembly, Lincoln returned to practicing law. In 1847 Lincoln was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Illinois 7th District, but only served one term. He returned to his law practice and after re-entering politics by becoming the leader of the new Republican Party, he gained national attention debating Stephen A. Douglas on the issue of slavery. He was elected President of the United States on November 6, 1860 and in February of 1861, the family left their tan home with the green shutters and took a train east to the White House.

After we toured his home in downtown Springfield, for the last of our tour we headed to Oak Ridge Cemetery to visit Lincoln's final resting place. It was not only in that his body never left the confines of the cemetery grounds, but it was far from resting. He would be disinterred no fewer than a dozen times.

We first saw the original receiving vault, which was located in an area dug into the side of a hill.

Six months later in December of that year, the remains were moved to a temporary vault, now identified by a stone marker, not far from the proposed memorial site. During the temporary relocation, the coffin was opened identifying the corpse "for the record." In 1871, six years later, he was moved again, re-identified, and then placed in an iron coffin. Then the iron coffin was moved to a temporary resting



The Oak Ridge Cemetery receiving vault



Tripping MY ROOTS Over

-by Bob Hobbs

REMAINS TO BE SEEN Part 1 (cont)

place located inside part of the tomb that was, at the time, only partially completed. Three years later the coffin, which was to be placed inside a stone sarcophagus, was moved once more.



The Monument being constructed

Intended at last to be the sixteenth president's permanent grave, the officials supervising the transfer were stunned to discover that Lincoln's iron coffin would not fit into the sarcophagus. As a result of this blunder, the body had to be removed from the iron casket and placed in a smaller one made of wood. Like before, a formal identification of the remains was part of the process.

On October 15, 1874 President Ulysses S. Grant dedicated the completed National Lincoln Monument and Abraham Lincoln, safely ensconced in stone, was at last resting in peace...or so they thought.

One year later, a master engraver by the name of Benjamin Boyd was sent to the state prison in Joliet, Illinois. His employer, a counterfeiter known as "Big Jim" Kinelly, suffered a major blow to his criminal operations when he lost his access to Boyd's skill in making quality engravings of U.S. currency. Desperate to get Boyd back in his employ, Kinelly concocted a scheme to make that happen. The plan was to steal Lincoln's body and hold it for ransom in exchange for Boyd's release, plus \$200,000 in cash. Word of this dastardly plot leaked out to the U.S. Secret Service. The agent in charge of the service's Chicago branch, Patrick Tyrell, paid one of his informers to infiltrate Kinelly's gang. Lewis Swengles, a small-time crook, was told out how and when the body snatchers planned to make their move. Agent Tyrell desired to catch them in the act.

On the night of November 7, 1876, a group of secret service agents, joined by Pinkerton detectives, waited in the darkness of the Lincoln National monument. Swengles, who accompanied the robbers, was to give the waiting lawman a signal once they were inside the crypt. However he was not able to slip away as planned. By the time he was able to get outside under the pretext of getting a wagon, the thieves had entered the tomb, prayed open the sarcophagus, and started dragging the coffin away. The agents charged into the tomb only to find no sign of the them. Rushing back out into the dark of night, the agents started shooting and the detectives, thinking they were the robbers, started shooting back. Luckily no one was killed, but the thieves, hearing the gunfire, escaped leaving the body behind. They were later captured and sent to prison.

Lincoln's coffin was not returned to the crypt, but hidden in the walls of the tomb to discourage any future attempts of stealing the body. For years people unknowingly paid their respects to an empty sarcophagus. By 1900, the monument had become so dilapidated that it had to be almost entirely torn down and rebuilt. While this rehabilitation project was being completed, Lincoln and his family who had over the years joined him (wife Mary Todd, and sons Edward, William, and Thomas) were buried in what was referred to at the time as "an unmarked temporary hole in the yard." The five bodies rested there for approximately a year in what was really a discreet subterranean vault and were returned in 1901 back to the reconstructed monument.

To foil any future attempts to disturb the body, Robert Todd Lincoln, the oldest son and the only survivor, ordered that his father be buried ten feet deep within the tomb with the coffin surrounded by an iron cage and covered with twenty inches of concrete to forever seal it. He also ordered that the coffin not be reopened again before the reburial. Local officials however ignored this command as they wanted to be reassured that the president was indeed present.



The completed Lincoln Monument

As the workers pried open the lid, those in attendance gathered closer to have a last look at The Great Emancipator, who at that point had been dead for almost forty years. Even after all that time he was easily recognizable. One witness named Fleetword Lindly, the youngest among the group at thirteen-years-old, was later quoted at age seventy-five as saying, "I was allowed to hold one of the leather straps as we lowered the casket for the concrete to be poured. I was not scared at the time, but I slept with Lincoln for the next six months."

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Membership year extends from Jan – Dec (includes 4 issues of ANCESTORS)

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

Contact us ! Like us on facebook !

PO Box 2455 Columbus, Indiana 47202-2455

email: bcgs47202@yahoo.com

website: barthgen.org



Thanks for your Support

Board Members and Directors

President: Becky Speaker

Secretary: Marcus Speer

Treasurer: Toni Whiteside

Membership: Robert Hobbs

Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman

Genealogist: Karen Loy

Newsletter Editor: Kim Ray