

ANCESTORS

B A R T H O L O M E W C O U N T Y G E N E A L O G I C A L S O C I E T Y , I N C

2015 BCGS CALENDAR

BCGS 2015 Board Members

President: Marcus Speer

Vice Pres: Heather McDonald

Secretary: Becky Speaker

Treasurer: Toni Whiteside

Membership: Frances Land

Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman

Genealogist: Karen Loy

Newsletter Editor: Kim Ray



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[CONTACT US](#)

(see back page)

Camp Atterbury Cemeteries

SUNDAY, Jun 7 1pm TBD, Camp Atterbury

Barth Co. Hist. Soc. Gene. Library –by Julie Hughes / Zaharakos

Saturday, Jul 18 1pm Zaharakos at 11am

Topic TBD -by Julie Hughes / BCGS 25yr Celebration

Saturday, Sep 26 1pm Hawcreek Heritage Center

New Technology –by Jason Hatton

Saturday, Oct 24 10am TBD, Barth. Co. Library

S.K.I.L.L.S. for Members Only - TBD

Saturday, Nov 13 10am Red Room, Barth. Co. Library

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BCGS Presidents

1990 – 1992	John W Hamblen
1993 – 1994	Ronald Bulthuis
1995 – 1997	Ruth Thomas
1998 – 1999	Marcella Jones
2000 – 2001	Jane Johnson
2002 – 2003	Judith Scholtz
2004 – 2007	James West
2008 – 2011	Margot Green
2012 – 2015	Marcus Speer

**HAPPY 25th
ANNIVERSARY,
BCGS !**

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 !



YOUR Society at WORK

What did BCGS do
this Quarter ?



A Collaborative Effort -by Marcus Speer

Previously held at the Bartholomew County Clerk's Office, many genealogical files, books, and resources are now available in the Indiana Room at the Bartholomew County Public Library. Through the collaborative effort of the BCPL, Clerk's Office, and your own BCGS, we were able to facilitate this movement of important genealogical materials. First, our overwhelming appreciation to Mary Ellen Sweet Grossman, a BCGS member, who assisted with the collections over the many years they were housed at the Clerk's Office. When space became an issue, Mary Ellen spoke with Karen Loy about where these materials could be housed in the future. This all lead to a conversation with Librarians Annette Blount and Jason Hatton who made a visit to the Clerk's Office (on Thursday, February 12). With approval of the Library Director, Beth Booth Poor, it was decided that all materials could be relocated in the Indiana Room amongst many other important genealogical resources.

Now, to move all those resources including five large filing (5-drawer) cabinets, seven boxes of books, and the Coffman files required great collaboration. Following an e-mail from Annette to the BCGS board, Marcus Speer contacted the Bartholomew County Clerk Jay Phelps. Immediately plans were put together to move the materials in a box truck. So, on the snowy afternoon of President's Day, Monday, February



MaryEllen Grossman with file cabinets from Clerk's Office

16, 2015, a box truck provided by Tim Dillingham was loaded by Tim, a co-worker of Tim's, Jay, and Marcus. After arriving at the Library, staff (Art Douglas, Curtis Hartwell and Tyler Munn) was present along with Jason and Annette to help unload and position the resources inside of the Indiana Room. We are certainly indebted to so many who helped to facilitate this move. We especially are thankful to Mary Ellen who has continued to preserve these records all these years.

YOUR Society at WORK ((cont.))

You might be wondering what is in these files. According to Annette, "The Grossman Files' (as we have referred to them) include folders of family names and also places. The places may consist of counties or towns in Indiana and there are also folders for counties in other states. The majority of the folders are family names. They may include a copy of a marriage record, newspaper clippings, obituaries, etc. It is all information Mary Ellen compiled over many years." Annette also noted: "I have noticed that people are using the information."

Annette went on to share: "Mary Ellen also sent 7 boxes of books. There are some Indiana books that will be added. She had a set of Indiana Marriage Record books from 1958-1965. There are two books for each year. One book for the groom and one book for the bride. She had several family histories that we did not have. Most of the books that will be added are genealogy books from other states: Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and a little bit from Kentucky, North Carolina and maybe a few other states."

Now, "The Coffman Files" are a collection of many bits of genealogical information about Bartholomew County families up through 1985. There are thousands of small index size paper (onion paper) all neatly filed alphabetically by Helen Coffman. These resources are a great starting point for those beginning genealogical research or who might have hit a roadblock with a Bartholomew County ancestor.

It is difficult to contain all the excitement that this collaborative effort and move has caused. So many are excited that these resources are still available for perusal. And in a way they are probably more easily accessible as long as you know that a visit to the Indiana Room at the Bartholomew County Library is a must! A special thank you to each one who assisted with this wonderful genealogical project.

One of our BCGS Genealogist, Karen Loy, has also been busy in the Indiana Room preparing an "Obituary File." Index cards are being prepared to index obituary information from the 1940's and later. This is certainly a work in progress, but these are valuable resources available for all genealogists who have Bartholomew County ties. Please, stop by the Indiana Room to explore all these resources, and you might find Karen working away! She would be glad to assist you in your research in anyway she can. Also, Annette has a desk in the Indiana room, so there are many great resource people available to assist.



Presidential Proclamation



-by Marcus Speer

Throughout this year, we are highlighting the fact that the Bartholomew County Genealogical Society is celebrating her 25th Anniversary. Our Society was first founded in September of 1990 under the leadership of John W. Hamblen, Ph.D. (I plan to devote an article about Dr. Hamblen in an upcoming Ancestors). As you can see from the list published in this quarter's newsletter, we are certainly indebted to the men and women who have served in the role of BCGS President helping to bring our Society to this Silver Anniversary. However, no Society's President(s) can be successful without a great board of officers and directors. BCGS has had many great boards throughout her twenty-five years. I hope you will take the time to thank those who are still serving or have served in past years.

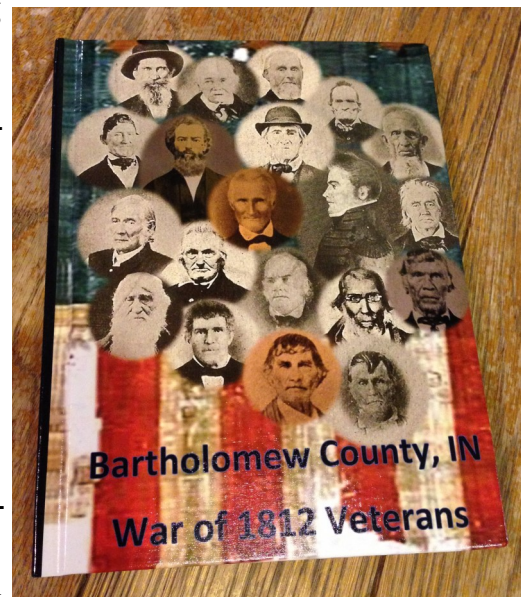
Now, I am aware of two current board members who have served on the BCGS board throughout her 25 years. Donna Kuhlman & Karen Loy have been so dedicated to genealogical research and support that they have offered numerous volunteer hours on our board of directors. Both have served in numerous roles, and over the past many years, both have served as our BCGS Genealogists. This may indeed be the perfect role for both of them. The number of queries that we receive have only continued to increase through our webpage. An attempt is always made to answer each query. Both continue to work on building databases, file cabinets, etc. so that today's generation and future generations will be able to conduct research more easily and more quickly. I've been thinking about how to honor these two humble servants, and I think that one of the best ways might be to let BCGS friends and members know how thankful I (along with the entire BCGS board) am for Donna and Karen. We are looking forward to another 25+ years of genealogical work from you. Thank you so much!

Be sure to read the article about the new collections that are now available in the Indiana Room of the Bartholomew County Library. What a treat to have all of these together in one place! Have a great quarter, and let's plan to meet up at one of our upcoming BCGS programs.

HOT OFF THE PRESS ! WAR OF 1812 BOOK

Less than 30 years after the Revolutionary War, a young American nation again declared war on Great Britain. Soldiers fought for adventure, to protect their land and family or were drafted to protect coastlines or serve garrison duty. From the time Bartholomew County was formed in 1820, many veterans moved here for the promise of new land and opportunity.

Using online research, family records, and primary documents from the National Archives in Washington, DC, BCGS has compiled what we have learned and written the stories of many of these veterans and their families who spent time in Bartholomew County or were buried here. Two hundred years after the last battle in New Orleans in Jan 1815, this 100-page hardback book will be available for sale in February 2015 for \$30. Copies will be available at the next BCGS meeting or for order by contacting a BCGS board member.



New Books

New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library

-from Annette Blount, BC Librarian

German Pioneers of Montgomery County, Ohio Early Pioneer Life in Dayton, Miamisburg, Germantown

Rattermann, H. A.
Ref Gen 929.3771 Rat

Catholic Baptisms in Western Pennsylvania, 1799-1828

Helbron, Father Peter
Ref Gen 929.3748 Hel

Polish Roots

Polskie, Korzenie
Second Edition
Ref Gen 929.1 Cho

Before and After Earl Kenneth Edington 1925 –

Edington, Vada (Elrod)
Ref Ind 929.2 Edington

The WWII Journal of Herbert Theodore Meyer

Meyer, Christopher
Ref Ind 940.5481 Mey

Those Martin Boyz

Martin, Phillip
Ref Ind 929.2 Martin

The Adoption and Donor Conception Factbook

Carangelo, Lori
Ref Gen 362.34 Car

The Cathedral Builder: A Biography of J. Irwin Miller

Rentschler, Charles E. Mitchell
Ind B Miller, J. Irwin

Indiana Freemasons Membership Directory

Ref Ind 366.1 Ind

War of 1812 Veterans Gravesites

Compiled by Rebecca Speaker
Ref Ind 929.3 Reg

Abstracts Lancaster County, Virginia, Wills 1653-1800

Lee, Ida
Ref Gen 929.3755 Lee

Emigrants from England 1773-1776

Fothergill, Gerald
Ref Gen 929.3 Emi

Resolutions, Laws, and Ordinances Relating to the Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution

U.S. House of Representatives
Ref Gen 343.73 Res

Virginia County Records

Vol. III Williamsburg Wills
Crozier, William Armstrong

A List of Emigrants from England to America 1682-1692

Ghirelli, Michael
Ref Gen 929.3 Ghi

BCGS 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK SALE

Family Histories Book (1999)

Several hundred biographical sketches on Bartholomew Co. families, plus several smaller sections on general Bartholomew Co. histories, etc.

Limited number of copies available. Anniversary Special, \$25

Columbus City Cemetery (1993)

Thorough listing of all marked graves at Columbus City Cemetery, by section and lot number, with surname index. Includes section maps, so graves can be located.

Anniversary Special, \$5

Contact Donna Kuhlman

812-372-9274

donnakuhlman@comcast.net

Harrison, Jackson & Ohio Township Cemeteries

Thorough listing of all marked graves in these three townships. Includes driving directions, maps, cemetery histories, and row listings, with surname index.

Anniversary Special \$5

Hawcreek Baptist Church

History, People, Statistics (1827-1920), and Cemetery Listing (old section)
\$20

UPcoming!

-by Heather McDonald

Well, we survived winter! Hopefully everyone is as excited to welcome spring and summer as I am. Thanks to everyone who came out for our programs in January, February, and March. I'm very excited to share our summer plans—these should be great!

Our May meeting is actually in June! Sunday, June 7 to be exact. Yes, I said Sunday! We are going on the road this summer, and this meeting starts us off at Camp Atterbury. In order to be able to fully



participate in the tours around the area, we need to meet on the same day as the Former Landowner's Association, hence the Sunday meeting. We will meet at 1 pm that day in order to join the bus tour, which should begin at 2 pm. We will be able to tour some of remaining cemeteries and much more, so bring your walking shoes!

In July we will be visiting the Bartholomew County Historical Society for a meeting that starts at 1 pm on Saturday, July 18. We will be learning more about the Cline Keller Library, which houses their genealogical records. For those interested, we will be meeting



for lunch at Zaharako's at 11 am that day.

For our September program, we go back to the Historical Society, but this time it will be at the Hawcreek Center in Hope (I told you we would be "on the road" this summer!). Our program will

begin at 1 pm on Saturday, September 26, and we will conclude with refreshments to celebrate our 25th Anniversary.

We are certainly looking forward to seeing all of you at our summer events. Please look for email updates and check out the Facebook page as well—we will release more specific information about each program closer to the event.

We are starting to plan our 2016 program, and we would love input from our members! If you have speakers you would like to hear present or ideas for programs, please email me and let me know. Thanks as always for your support of BCGS!

Highlights



BY BECKY SPEAKER

January 2015 BCGS Program

What an outstanding program! In January, our guest was Tamara Hemmerlein, Director, Local History Services, Indiana Historical Society. She shared how to care for our documents and photographs to help preserve our family history. Addressing the more than forty members and guests, she first echoed Heather's appeal to contact our Indiana representatives to protest the latest budget bill that would eliminate the Genealogy dept. at the Indiana State Library. Then she told a little bit about the Local History Service Dept., which assists local historical societies, museums, libraries, archives, genealogy groups and preservation groups to promote Indiana's history statewide. She shared a personal story about how learning about family through photos, documents and stories helped her learn more about herself. Then she spent over an hour answering the many questions that we fired out her! A few tips...



- **First wash your hands – or use white cotton gloves.**
- **Wash gloves (or sheets) which touch documents with dye free, scent free detergent**
- **Use stable products – acid free, lignin free, ph-neutral.**
- **Layering is good to protect objects. Layer with protective sleeves, archival bond paper between documents, photos and especially against newspaper clippings.**
- **Don't use even archival pens on photos – instead, use #2 pencil.**

Questions from the audience included how to handle mold, adhesives, photos in old picture frames, water and smoke damage, handling old black scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, dusty or rolled photos or documents, silverfish....etc. Tamara told us that more can be salvaged than we think – don't throw items away too quickly. While she cautioned some work needs professionals, she taught us a lot that we can use to preserve our family items today.



Highlights



March 2015 BCGS Program

BY BECKY SPEAKER

Wow! We had an outstanding turnout for our March program, with twenty-seven members and twenty-seven guests. Helen Wildermuth, owner of Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration presented the program. Helen specializes in complete renovation and repair of pioneer cemeteries. While Stonehugger's will repair modern gravestones, her passion is for the older, pioneer cemeteries. Beyond gravestone repair, Helen provides research and documentation on the stones, as well as advice to the cemetery caretakers. Helen started repairing the stones of her ancestors while she was working in a factory, but eventually, she was able to start Stonehugger's and do this rewarding, although sometimes strenuous, work fulltime.

Helen shared three reasons why cemetery restoration is necessary. First, restoration addresses the liability and safety concerns. Restoration also preserves (or sometimes recovers) a valuable historical resource. And lastly – because it's the right thing to do. Every person deserves to be remembered and have their name spoken! Damage or decay can happen to the cemeteries by Mother Nature, by vandals or through mower or chemical damage. Stonehugger's utilizes a standard process for restoration, starting by photographing and documenting everything. This is both to aid in the restoration process and also capture a 'before' picture! Next they will begin work to level the ground or stones. They clean the stones using only water and a plastic brush, then slot the tables and stack the monuments, using the appropriate mortar. Last, Stonehugger's compiles documentation books of the completed restoration.

Helen shared several "what not to do" tips with the audience:

Never use any kind of chemicals, anywhere on or around the grave-stones! Use of weed killers around the stones leaves no sod to hold the stones in place and level, causing damage and potential safety issues. Don't use bleach or household soaps to try to clean the stone. Also, don't use chalk or shaving cream to try to read the stone. Many older gravestones are made of porous stones that can be damaged by any kind of chemicals.

Don't use wire wheels/brushes or pressure wash. Both can damage the soft stones in pioneer cemeteries, where stones can be Italian marble (white) or sandstone (brown.) Rather, use lots of water and a plastic brush.

Don't set a stone in wet concrete – either vertical or horizontal. Concrete is stronger than the softer gravestones and will permanently damage. Never use hardware epoxy, liquid nails or any type of adhesive to repair a stone. No concrete, but cement mortar can be used to stack the pieces of a monument.

Don't use chains or cables for lifting, not metal strips, screws or bolts to repair. Metal rusts and can damage the soft stones. Stonehugger's uses cloth cables.

Don't move headstones to a tree or fence row. If a stone has fallen flat, you can pick up the stone and put it on 2x4's (in line to facilitate mowing). Being up off the ground on wood instead of direct will allow the stone to breathe until it can be properly repaired.

Don't fill in a burial depression where no marker is present. The depression is the only visible record of a burial. If a marker is present, the depression can be filled in for ease of mowing.

Many more tips and resources are available on the Stonehugger website, <http://stonehugger.com/>, as well as many of the 'wow' before & after photos shared at the program. Helen left us with one final thought - together, we can give respect and dignity to our pioneer ancestors.



S.K.I.L.L.S. FOR MEMBERS

sharing knowledge in light learning sessions

Planning a genealogy trip to Fort Wayne

by *Becky Speaker*

What another wonderful SKILLS session! Twenty-two members enjoyed a session led by Heather McDonald on planning a trip to the Allen County Public Library for genealogy research. She led us right to the door, walking us through the map to the parking garage and then inside to the Genealogy Center. Several nearby hotels were listed, some offering a 'genealogy weekend package.' Some of her handouts showed the type of materials available there, including topic specific lists, such as each state, German or Irish heritage, military, etc. Heather shared her research 'go-kit', a small bag with pen, pencil, dollar bills, flash drive, and tiny post-it notes to mark pages for copying. Some other key tips:



Heather McDonald S.K.I.L.L.S. facilitator

- * Buy a copy card to use the copiers – but also bring a flash drive, as all the copiers will copy to your flash drive.
- * Bring your parking ticket inside – you can pay as you leave.
- * Before you go, think about your research goals – try to come up with some specific things to work on, as it's very easy to become distracted!
- * Sign up for the monthly newsletter!
- * You can do a lot of research from home – check out the card catalog and the research tips on their website.



Thanks to Heather for a fabulous
Sharing Knowledge in a Light
Learning Session!



Robert E Hobbs

Retired Language Arts Teacher

Family: 2 daughters, 2 granddaughters, sister, mother

Hobbies: theatre, music, reading, travel

Surnames: Hobbs, Copeland, Lenzini, Davis



Joseph W Whipker

Retired Deputy Sheriff

Family: son, Kris; daughter, Jenny Whipker-Davis

Hobbies: travel, fishing, being with family

Surnames: Pyle, Moore, Whipker



Sharon K Downs

Retired

Family: Husband, Cecil; 2 kids; 7 grandkids

Hobbies: sewing, cooking

Surnames: Downs, Skinner, LeFan, Land



Gail Saul

Retired computer programs

Family: 1 dau, 2 sons

Hobbies: singing, reading

Surnames: Perry, Robinson, Cochran, Bayh



Marjorie Glick Foster Schmeckebier

Retired History & English Teacher

Family: husbands, Robert Foster / Jack Schmeckebier; children, Harold Foster, Dr. Mark Foster, Anita Foster

Hobbies: Big Band music, listening to NPR, reading, watching public TV, travel

Surnames: Glick, McHenry, Cox, Morrison



(Susan) Denise Conner

Attorney (for federal gov't)

Family: Husband, Roger Melton & 1 child

Hobbies: reading, gardening, herbs, making baskets, stamping, scrapbooking, learning knitting, would like to crochet

Surnames: Stillabower, Huff, Conner, Burnes



Linda C Meyer

Retired

Family: children: Angie Chambers, Steven Meyer; grandchildren: Austin & Ashley Chambers; Julia & Logan Meyer

Hobbies: reading

Surnames: Manlief, Dodds, Dilts, Pitts



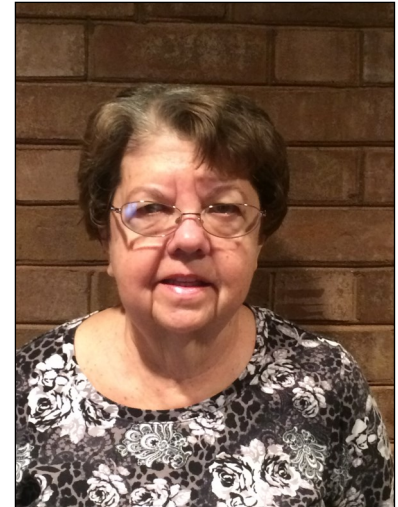
Harry Beeker

Retired from Cummins Marketing

Family: wife, Carol; 2 daughters; 1 granddaughter; 1 grandson

Hobbies: volunteer at church & Love Chapel, wood-working, travel, gardening & landscaping; watching sports; attend grandchild activities

Surnames: Beeker, Schaefer, Robertson, Fox



Carol Beeker

Retired Receptionist & Secretary

Family: daughters Michelle, Melissa; granddaughter; grandson

Hobbies: watching baseball, football, basketball; US & world news junkie; church volunteer; travel

Surnames: Reichow, Helsel, Trocke, Shaffer



Rhonda A Dunn

Retired

Family: Charles White, husband; Robin Dunn, sister

Hobbies: Brown Co history, geology rock collector

Surnames: Brown, Roberts, Pittman, Crouch

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - by Fran Land

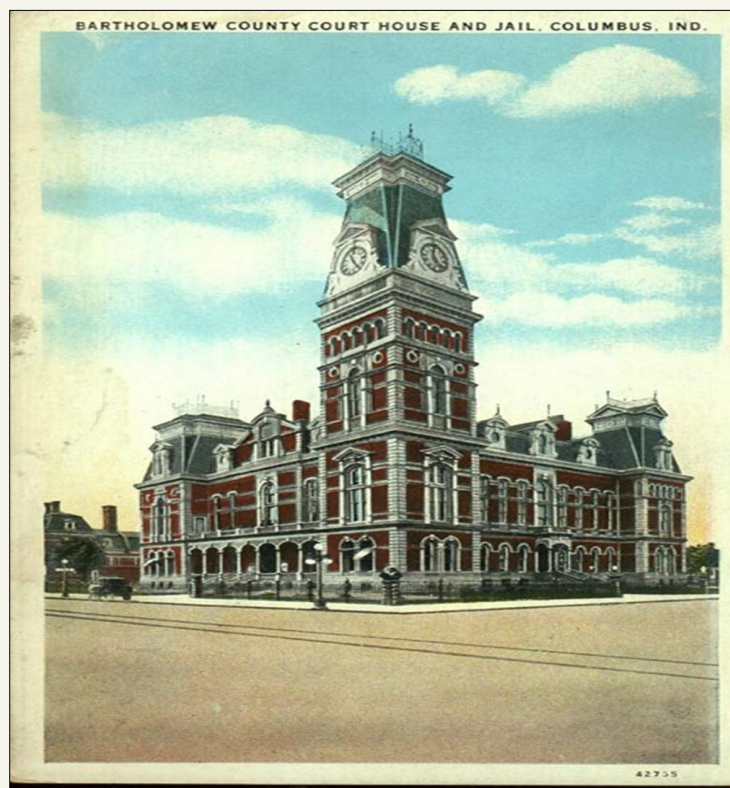
I am happy to announce that we have five brand new Bartholomew County Genealogy members, 2 returning members and 3 that have been members for awhile and just haven't had a chance to get their pictures taken until now. We will continue during 2015 to add new member pictures along with some information about each of them.

We appreciate everyone who has been willing to have their picture taken and give us some background information. Please keep these names and faces handy so you may help us welcome all new members and so we can all get acquainted with each other. It makes for a better organization if we can recognize faces and try to put a name with it.

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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Federation of Genealogical Societies*