

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

BCGS CALENDAR

BCGS 2014 Board Members

President: Marcus Speer

Vice Pres: Heather McDonald

Secretary: Margot Green

Treasurer: Becky Speaker

Membership: Frances Land

Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman

Genealogist: Karen Loy

Newsletter Editor: Kim Ray



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(see back page)

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Decatur County Historical Museum Tour and lunch at Stories Restaurant

Saturday, July 26 10am

If you are interested in car pooling, please meet at 9:15am on the 25th Street side of Fair Oaks Mall in front of the former K-Mart Garden Center.

History Day: Steps Through Time

Sponsored by Bartholomew Co Public Library

Friday, Sep 12 9am - 6pm

Saturday, Sep 13 9am - 4pm

Red Room, Bartholomew Co Public Library

Underground Railroad Connections in Jeffersonville

By Paulette Roberts

Saturday, Sep 20 1pm

Red Room, Bartholomew Co Public Library

S.K.I.L.L.S. Session for Members Only: Scanning Basics

Saturday, Nov 1 10am

TBA, Bartholomew Co Public Library

Bartholomew County participants in Spanish-American War

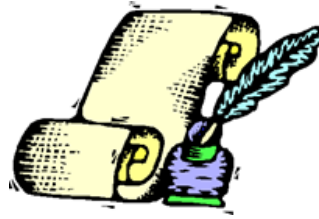
By Donna Kuhlman

Saturday, Nov 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Red Room, Bartholomew Co Public Library

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

Did you know that that you can learn more about Genealogy at one of our local County Fairs and at the Indiana State Fair? From Aug. 1-17, you can visit the State Fair's 4-H Exhibit Hall and 4-H Centennial Hall where you can discover many different projects on display including the Genealogy Project. Please note that you will need to make a request to review the genealogy projects because of privacy concerns.

Did you know that during our local Bartholomew County 4-H Fair, two of our members received a grand champion and reserve grand champion in the Open Class Division? You might want to take a look at these kinds of projects at a Fair and maybe you can encourage a young person to participate in the Genealogy Project or be encouraged yourself to participate in next year's Fair (July 10-18, 2015).

Did you know that one of our Board members has led a genealogy workshop the past two years to encourage young people in their 4-H Genealogy Projects? Not only did Becky, BCSC Treasurer, encourage a young person in her genealogical work, but she was also an encouragement to the adult who accompanied the 4-Her. We hope to see them at a future BCGS Program. It has been decided that we will offer membership to any 4-Her who is enrolled in the 4-H Genealogy Project.

Did you know that BCGS sponsored a trophy at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fair? This year, BCGS sponsored the trophy awarded to the Grand Champion winner in the Indiana Heritage 4-H Project. This is a relatively new project for our 4-H Program, and BCGS is excited to encourage this work among our local 4-Hers.

Did you know that your Society is at work in these many ways? Well, we want to do more, so we are always looking and listening for ideas of how BCGS can continue to make contributions back into our communities within Bartholomew County with an emphasis on genealogy and history. Please let us know of any ideas that you might have. You can contact us by e-mail, Facebook, the BCGS website, or at one of our BCGS programs.

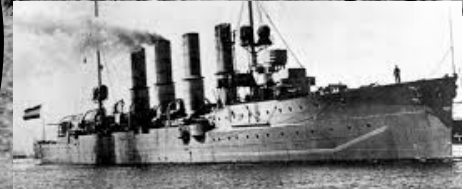
I hope to see you at an upcoming BCGS Program!



this month in
HISTORY
JULY 28 • 1914

WORLD WAR I BEGINS

100th ANNIVERSARY



Highlights



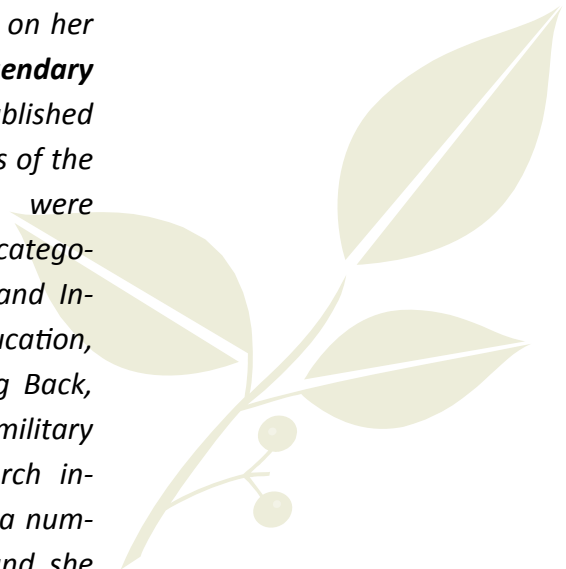
BY MARGOT GREEN

April 26 brought seventeen members and one guest (who immediately became a member) to the Indiana Room at the Bartholomew County Public Library for an informative and interesting SKILLS session hosted by Annette Blount, Reference Librarian and liaison between the BCGS board and the library. Annette brought us up to date with a “map” of the Indiana Room showing the collection as well as equipment recently moved from elsewhere in the library to the Indiana Room. Equipment includes a coin-operated copier, two microfilm readers, and microfilm/microfiche files. Annette also demonstrated a newly purchased PC microfilm/microfiche reader, which yields vastly improved copies that can be printed, saved on a thumb-drive, or e-mailed. In addition, results to date of an obituary index card file compiled by Karen Loy are now stored alphabetically in a wooden file in the room. The file will be expanded as more work is completed. The session closed with Annette’s demon-

stration of a “book scan station,” near the Reference Desk. This machine not only scans but permits printing, saving to a thumb-drive, or emailing the material scanned. Thanks to these new resources, genealogical research is getting easier all the time!

On May 29, twelve members and eleven guests assembled in the Red Room of the Bartholomew County Public Library for an evening program, “Interesting and Influential Columbus People and Techniques Used in Research,” presented by local pediatrician and author, Dr. Tamara Stone Iorio and based largely on her most recent book, **Legendary Locals of Columbus**, published in 2013. Contributions of the distinguished citizens were grouped into several categories such as Business and Industry, the Arts, Education, and Serving and Giving Back, which also included military service. Tami’s research included interviews with a number of local citizens, and she drew heavily on the collected

resources of the library, the Bartholomew County Historical Society, the Indiana Historical Society—especially its Irwin-Sweeney-Miller collection, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Finding original photos and obtaining authorization for their use offered additional challenges that she successfully overcame. Tami’s presentation was crisp and entertaining, and when one of those attending thanked Tami for her efforts in preserving the history of our area, the room erupted in spontaneous applause.





These Old Houses

... and the Families Who Lived in Them ...

-by Margot Green



Early Photo of Lambert-Newsom House

The Lambert-Newsom House

1910 Washington Street

Evoking an aura often associated with mansions in cities like Indianapolis or Chicago, this imposing limestone residence was designed for Lydia Newsom Lambert, daughter of a prominent pioneer family, and her husband, William Weldon (usually known as “W.W” or “Weldon”) Lambert, a state legislator with gubernatorial ambitions. Construction was between 1910 and 1914, and the 1913 Columbus City Directory shows them already in residence. Sadly, the Lambert ambitions were

never fulfilled, but over the next ninety-plus years the three-story dwelling with the red-tiled roof served as a home for three other families headed by men who achieved business success: Fred Whitehouse, president of H.C. Whitmer Co.; industrialist Q. G. Noblitt, founder of what became Arvin Industries; and Robert Darlage, a Cummins manager returning from overseas assignments.

The Home

1910 Washington Street was a prime example of the Beaux-Arts style developed by American architects attending the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in France and prevailing in public buildings constructed from 1880 through 1920. Beaux-Arts rapidly became the architecture of choice for grand mansions of the very wealthy. The Lambert-Newsom home featured exterior limestone walls said to be sixteen inches thick, Ionic columns at the two-story entryway as well as on the side and back porches and the spacious second-floor veranda. One of the stone spindles on each porch and the veranda is inverted, reportedly a traditional mark of first-class construction. In addition to the second floor balcony, there is a small porch atop the entrance portico that provides a dramatic view of the surrounding area.

Intrinsic to the home’s design were the public roles the couple expected to perform. The large paneled hall centering the main floor was a perfect setting for the receptions envisioned by Weldon Lambert. To the south of the hall, burlled walnut columns guarded the entrance to the 19’ by 31’ living room with a beamed ceiling and doors opening onto a side porch with a view of downtown Columbus and its distinctive courthouse. To the north of the hall lay a large formal dining room and another room, presumably an office or study. An impressive wainscoted staircase led from the back of the hall to the second floor, which contained four bedrooms and two baths. A third floor was once rumored to contain a ballroom, but by the turn of the twenty-first century it held more bedrooms and a recreation room. A beautiful

stained glass window, one of several in the home, stood in a prominent place at the first landing.

The Lamberts

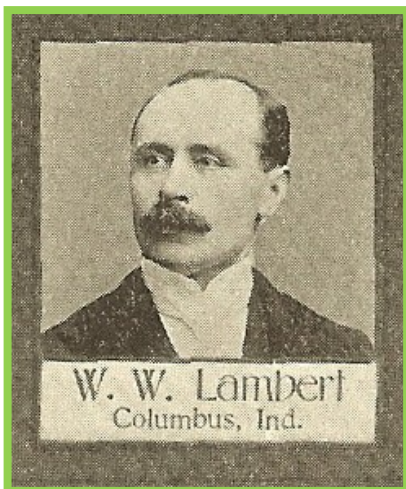
Notes by Ross Crump, long-time president of the Bartholomew County Historical Society, reveal that Lydia Lambert may have developed the idea for the home based on residences she and her sister, Vida Newsom, had seen during a trip to Europe. Lydia also provided the site for the home, which was located on Block A of Lydia Newsom Lambert's Highland Place Addition on land purchased from Joseph I. Irwin in 1908 and platted in 1912. In addition to the Highland Place Addition, Lydia also purchased land known as Lydia Newsom Lambert's Second Addition, lots 17 through 28 extending north on Washington Street to just beyond Sunset Drive.

Born on 26 May 1871, Lydia was the daughter of Mary Cox (1834-1877) and Jesse Ruddick Newsom (1830-1899). Jesse was a prominent landowner and farmer, whose grandfather Willis Newsom (1775-1839) and father Nathan (1807-1878) arrived in Indiana not long after it had become a state. In 1827 Nathan married Lydia Ruddick (1806-1881), whose parents had come from Ross County Ohio and settled in Flat Rock in 1819.

Newsom family origins lay in Lancashire England, from which William Newsom II (1614-1657) emigrated to Virginia in 1635, settling in Surry County and marrying Anne-Sheppard Hart, the granddaughter of William Spencer, one of the very earliest English colonists in the New World, arriving in either 1607 or 1608, according to a rather well-researched Newsom family genealogy on the web (*Descendants of William Newsom: 18 Generations of the Newsom Family*). William's grandson Joel (1717-1752) and his wife Rebecca Dickinson (1714-1750) moved to North Carolina. According to the *1888 History of Bartholomew County Volume I*, Joel's grandson Willis (1775-1839), his brothers and their families came to the new state of Indiana about 1818. They were Quakers, and like many of their co-religionists chose to settle in Sand Creek township.

Unusual in a time when high school graduation was a comparative rarity, especially for young women, Lydia not only completed high school but earned a degree from Indiana University and was listed in the 1914 edition of *Women's Who's Who in America*. According to her obituary in *The Evening Republican*, Lydia had been active in Republican politics when she lived in Bartholomew County and had at one time run for the office of county recorder.

The Lamberts, too, were early settlers in Bartholomew County, with the family having traveled from Pennsylvania to Indiana in the 1830s. Henry Lambert, Weldon's great grandfather, was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in 1779 and died in Bartholomew County in 1837, presumably soon after his arrival since Weldon's father, named Henry Weldon, had been born in Lancaster County in 1836. Henry Weldon married Emma Coblentz (1836-1923) on 10 December 1854.



According to the *1888 History of Bartholomew County Volume I*, Weldon was born in 1857, graduated from Hartsville University in 1879 and was admitted to the Columbus bar that same year. With offices in the First National Bank building, he was evidently a highly successful attorney and active in Republican politics, having served two terms, 1899-1903, as an Indiana state senator before his marriage to Lydia on 28 June 1905. Given his ambitions for higher office, W.W. was delighted to build a home of grandeur – reportedly envisioning himself as governor giving speeches from the second-floor balcony located behind the Ionic-pillared entrance. Sadly, his ambitions went unfulfilled although he did serve two more terms in the Indiana Senate from 1923 through 1926. In 1936, at the age of 79, he ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Congress.

No expense was spared in home construction – a factor that is said to have led to Weldon and Lydia’s eventual bankruptcy and the loss of the home in the late 1920s. The 1929-30 City Directory and 1930 U.S. Census show the family living in far more modest housing in the 1300 block of Lafayette Street. In the early 1930s, after the rest of Lydia’s real estate holdings were also lost, Lydia and her son Weldon moved to Chicago, where the 1940 Census shows her living on “income from other sources” in a \$17-a-month rental apartment. Though estranged, the couple evidently never divorced although in the 1940 U.S. Census Weldon, listed at 509-1/2 Washington, claimed to have been a widower. Separated in life, they were also separated in death. Weldon died on September 2, 1942, “after a long illness,” according to the *Evening Republican*, and was buried in Garland Brook Cemetery along with several other members of the Lambert family. Lydia died in Chicago on February 13, 1943, and was interred near her parents and siblings in Section Cemetery, later known as Harmony Cemetery and Mineral Springs Cemetery in Azalia.



Other Residents

First National Bank acquired the home in 1928 and sold it in 1929 to Fred C. Whitehouse, president of the H. C. Whitmer Company, a manufacturer of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals – including his pride and joy “Black Diamond Liniment.” Mrs. Whitehouse reportedly decorated the home elegantly but was loath to entertain, concentrating on maintaining an immaculate residence. As a 1974 *Republic* article by historian Susanna Jones reported, “So ardent was Mrs. Whitehouse in her pursuit of cleanliness that she periodically removed the coal to scrub the coal bin.” After her death, Fred Whitehouse found an outlet for his gregarious nature, maintaining a riding stable and taking neighborhood children for sleigh rides after the first snowfall.

In 1942, Whitehouse sold the home to Quinton G. Noblitt, president and co-founder of Noblitt-Sparks, the enterprise that later became Arvin Industries, a Fortune 500 company based for many years in Columbus. Born in Brown County 11 October 1882 to John W. (1853-1940) and Hannah Barks (1855-1927) Noblitt, “Q.G.,” was an industrial leader who found time to develop the Noblitt Lagoons, Harrison Lakes and Grandview Lake residential areas as well as the Harrison Lakes Country Club. In addition, Q.G. was a major philanthropic presence in the community, donating land for the Foundation for Youth Camp in Harrison Township and leading soil and water conservation efforts. During the Noblitts’ tenure, the home was the site of many festive gatherings. Following Q.G.’s death in 1954, his widow Grace May Taylor stayed on in the home with a housekeeper until she died in 1973.



The fourth family to live at 1910 Washington was headed by Cummins manager Bob Darlage, whose family roots lay in Jackson County. When Darlage and his wife Wanda returned to Columbus from assignments in Asia and Mexico in 1973, their realtor told them that the Noblitt home had just come on the market, and the couple soon concluded that it would provide a perfect setting for the artwork and antiques they had acquired overseas. Once they had taken possession, Wanda devoted years to stripping layers of paint to reveal glowing hardwood floors throughout, walnut woodwork on the main floor, and white oak woodwork on the second. The home once again hosted family gatherings, including the weddings of both Darlage daughters. A few years after Wanda’s death in 2000, the nearly century-old roof was replaced, and the home was put up for sale. In 2013, approximately one hundred years after the Lamberts first moved into their stately home, the City Directory noted that new owners Jennifer and Joseph Day were in residence.



Dave Wildemann

Occupation: Engineer

Family: wife, Sue, 3 daughters

Hobbies: woodworking

Surnames searching: Wildemann,
Emge, Renner, Brenner



Gene Cavich

Occupation: Retired

Family: wife, 2 children

Hobbies: golf, working out

Surnames searching: Cavich, Horvath



Hedy George

Occupation: Reti. CN Athletic Dir.,
currently Exec. Dir. Bull Dog Alumni Assoc

Family: Husband, Kenneth

Son Kyle, daughter, Lesley Daniele

Hobbies: golf, boating, fun activities
with friends

Surnames searching: George,
Pottorff, Speer, Hudson



Lois D Griffith

Occupation: Retired

Family: Husband, William

Hobbies: Quilting, rug hooking

Surnames Searching: Wickersham,
Dietrich



Mary Ellen Sweet Grossman

Occupation: Deputy in Barth Co Clerk's
Office

Family: Martin, husband

Daughters: Lucy Baker, Teresa Lovins,
Amy Baker, Susan Grossman

Hobbies: Archaeology

Surnames searching: Sweet, Pierce, Fisk,
Becker



Mary Cain Minton

Occupation: Retired librarian

Family: 3 children, 3 grandchildren

Hobbies: Collecting tiles, garden-
ing, travel

Surnames searching: Sherwood,
Cain, Howard, Minton



Wendy M Schryer

Occupation: housewife

Family: Husband, Jackie Dean,
Daughter: Jackie Lee,
Son: Christopher Todd

Hobbies: Sewing, crochet, cross stitch,
gardening, small wood projects

Surnames searching: Dietz, Malson,
Merle, Query



Mike Wilson

Occupation: Mostly retired.

Wife: Cathy, 3 sons, 3 grandchildren

Hobbies: Genealogy - for myself and for
those who ask for my help.

Surnames: Wilson, Dean, Moore, Powell



Marguerette Powell

Occupation: Retired

Family: 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 16
great grandchildren, 6 great, greats

Hobbies: Genealogy, reading, computers

Surnames searching: Powell, Dunn



Lynne Ketner

Occupation: Cummins Drafter

Family: 4 children, 1 granddog, 3
grandkitties

Hobbies: Reading, beating back
poison ivy & shrub honeysuckle

Surnames searching: Ketner,
Sampson, Seward, Taylor, Blades

Jim Pence

Occupation: Co-owner Pence Automotive

Wife: Susan,
Sons: James, Jon, Jeff

Hobbies: being outdoors, riding ATV,
watching auto racing, football & basket-
ball

Surnames searching: Pence, Sawin,
Owens, Steenboyer, Bozell, Smock,
Snepp, Miller, Wishard, Hill, Jones

Ruth Ann Thomas

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Husband: Larry
Son: Patrick

Hobbies: reading and travel

Surnames searching: Schaefer, Bosse,
Percifield, Thomas

Introducing our 2014 Membership

As a way of getting better ac-
quainted with each other, we
will publish pictures and a
short profile of each member in
ANCESTORS throughout the
2014 year. (Board Members
can be found in Q4 2013)

Please be prepared and willing
to have your picture taken at
one of our programs (or please
provide us with one).

We will also have a short form
for you to fill out for the inter-
view. (or email to us)

Thanks for your participation

New Books

New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library

-from Annette Blount, BC Librarian

Fallen Civil War Soldiers of Decatur County

Rutherford, Joshua
Ref Ind 977.216 Rut

The Name IS the Game

Bockstruck, Lloyd de Witt
Ref Gen 929.4 Boc

Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques

Morgan, George
Ref Gen 929.1072 Mor

The Marriage License Bonds of Lancaster County, Virginia from 1701 to 1848

Nottingham, Stratton
Ref Gen 929.3755 Not

Twenty-four Hundred Tennessee Pensioners: Revolution, War of 1812

Armstrong, Zella
Ref Gen 929.3768 Arm



YOUR SOCIETY AT WORK

WHAT DID BCGS DO THIS QUARTER ?



BCGS held a 4-H Genealogy Workshop in June



BCGS donated the 4-H Indiana Heritage Grand Champion Trophy for Barth Co



BCGS set out 12 more War of 1812 Gravestone Markers for Veterans



BCGS started an Obituary Index at Bartholomew County Public Library

Thomas Foster

War of 1812 Veteran

buried in SandHill Cemetery

BCGS has placed 52 markers on Veterans from the War of 1812.

During this process, Donna Kuhlman found this marker on Thomas Foster's grave.



front



back

CARVED IN STONE

-BY DONNA KUHLMAN

QUERY:

My name is J. P. Many of my ancestors lived in Bartholomew Co in the 1800's and 1900's. I'm sure I have many relatives currently in the County but I am not familiar with them. Many of my ancestors came from the Jonesville area. I have had difficulty locating information on my family and was wondering if you can help? I am currently focusing on the Gearhart Family.

My great grandmother was Susan Gearhart born Nov 23, 1873 (Bartholomew Co), died May 6 1939 (Shelbyville). I am trying to figure out how she was related to Sarah Gearhart Orr. They lived 2 houses apart in the 1900 census Sarah Gearhart (married Robert P. Orr on 24 Dec 1885) they had 2 children George William Orr and Naomi (or Oma) Orr. I would also like to know when and where Sarah and Robert died and are buried.

Any help you could give me with this would be greatly appreciated. I grew up in Shelbyville and knew that my grandmother had family in Bartholomew Co. I recently started doing this research and have been shocked at how many family members lived there. Looking at the online White Pages reveals that I probably have many distant relatives living in the area. At one time, Jonesville must have been a busy place because so many of my ancestors married others from that area.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Response:

Sarah Gearhart (born Nov. 1862) was the daughter of William Gearhart and Rebecca Garrett; and a granddaughter of John Daniel Gearhart and Susan Emmons. Sarah and Robert Perry Orr apparently died at Jonesville between 1930 and 1940. They do not have marked graves that I can find, but I think they must surely be buried at Jonesville Cemetery. Sarah's parents and grandparents are there, along with a third child of Robert and Sarah Orr, Carrie Orr, who died at age 11. Carrie is buried in Row 12, right next to William and Rebecca Gearhart.

Naoma "Oma" Orr never married, but did have a son, Meredith Beam. Meredith's father was John Wesley Beam, buried in Columbus at Garland Brook Cemetery. Meredith is buried at Jonesville, in Row 7. Oma and her brother, George William Orr, were both living in Jonesville in 1940, but I also did not find marked graves for them. Expect they are also at Jonesville.

These family members can be found on Findagrave at Jonesville Cemetery with the following Memorials:

William Gearhart -
Memorial #88198787
with links to parents
and wife Rebecca
Garrett.

Carrie Orr -
Memorial #103536251

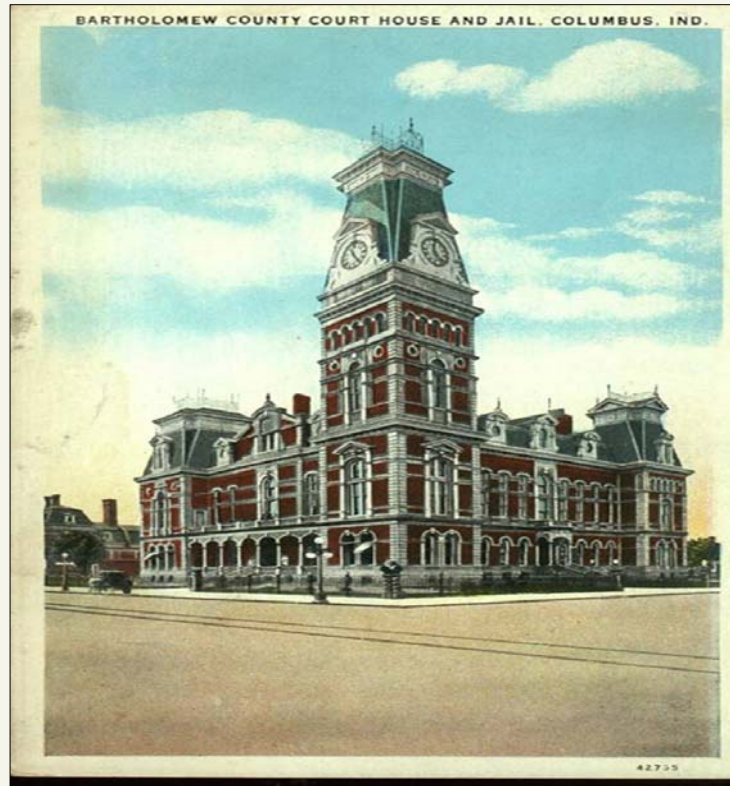
Meredith Beam -
Memorial #28784470



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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