

# ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society, Inc  
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Editor, Kim Ray

## Kim's Korner

-by Kim Ray

I am excited about the new additions to the newsletter this issue, as well as our newest idea - S.K.I.L.L.S. for Members - that is coming up soon!

First, Heather McDonald, our newest Board Member, has a great article for all you techy genealogists! Read her column for great tips and stay tuned as she inspires us to go into that slightly uncomfortable digital world!

Secondly, Margot Green, our Past President, has started her column about Historic Homes with an outstanding article. She will draw you in with the genealogy and history of some very fascinating homes in Bartholomew County!

Thirdly, Frances Land, our Membership Chair, is going to introduce YOU!! Yes, you will be highlighted in one of the 2014 issues of Ancestors. To get the ball rolling, she is starting with your BCGS Board Members in this issue!

And, if that's not enough, we are going to have our first S.K.I.L.L.S. for Members program! What is the program? What would you like it to be? Want to know some tips on Find-A-Grave? A new technique like Timelines?

How to use your new iPhone app, Ancestry.com? How about digital scrapbooking tips for publishing your tree? Maybe how to save that interesting post Heather gave us on facebook? What do you want to learn?

S.K.I.L.L.S. for Members is a special program made just for our members. It is tailored to help each other with tools we use as we work on our Family Trees. Perhaps you have a skill you want to share with us? Be sure to let us know your ideas at any of our programs, or drop us an email. Topics will be chosen by interest level and willingness of those who will share their talents to teach others. Be sure to watch for emails from BCGS on this!

Thanks Heather, Margot and Fran for your new columns! And, many, many thanks for the time & commitment of all our columnists! You are the BEST!

**2 page  
BONUS!**

**AGAIN - As a bonus to all our members reading this newsletter electronically, there are 2 extra pages - pictures of our Bakalar Museum Outing and Hanger Restaurant Luncheon**

### BCGS 2013 Board Members

President: Marcus Speer  
Vice President: Jennie Rauch  
Secretary: Carolyn Wheeler  
Treasurer: Becky Speaker  
Past President: Margot Green  
Membership: Frances Land  
Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman  
Genealogist: Karen Loy  
WebMaster: Heather McDonald  
Newsletter Editor: Kim Ray

### Calendar

Oct 26: 10:00am S.K.I.L.L.S. for BCGS members

Nov 16: 1:00pm Mayflower Society and Officer Election; Materials Swap

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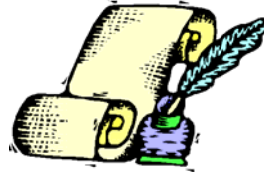
Editor's Note: Many thanks to all BCGS Board Members for their time and articles to make Ancestors the "Voice of BCGS"! As a courtesy, and to insure the personal communication with each of you, their columns are not edited. Hope you enjoy!





# Presidential Proclamation

-by Marcus Speer



First, I want to thank each one of you for joining and supporting the Bartholomew County Genealogical Society (BCGS). We have enjoyed many great programs this year and that is because of all the hard work of our Vice-President, Jennie Rauch. Jennie will be “retiring” from our BCGS board after many years of service as both Vice-President and Secretary. Not only has Jennie planned and scheduled many excellent programs in the past for BCGS, but she has already completed programming for 2014! Jennie, thanks for doing great work for BCGS.

Carolyn Wheeler, our BCGS Secretary, is also “retiring” from our BCGS board. While I have served on other boards with some good secretaries, Carolyn has been one of those great secretaries. Her record keeping and timely submissions have always been above par. Carolyn, thank you for your great work. While we will certainly miss Carolyn and Jennie on the BCGS board, we hope that they will continue to enjoy many years of BCGS membership as they continue their genealogical work.

Therefore, you now realize that we are seeking nominations for the BCGS board. Jennie has graciously agreed to serve as the chair of the nominating committee with Karen Loy serving as a member of the committee. Nominations are now being received ahead of our November Program when the Annual Meeting is also held. I have agreed to serve another year as President, and Becky Speaker has agreed to serve as Treasurer for 2014. Would you be interesting in serving on the BCGS board? Thanks for your consideration.

Lastly, as this year draws to a close, I hope you are preparing to renew your membership for 2014. Have you also considered encouraging someone else to join BCGS in the upcoming year? Or maybe you can encourage someone to renew their membership. A growing membership is a great way to encourage those who serve on your BCGS board. You can always access membership forms and information on our BCGS website: <http://www.barthgen.org>. BCGS members enjoy the privilege of viewing past BCGS newsletters through a password protected web page.

I appreciate all of our members and hope that our Society membership continues to grow. I pray that you have a great quarter and enjoy many blessings during the upcoming holidays!

## New Books

*New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library*  
*-from Annette Blount, BC Librarian*

**Kinship: It's All Relative**  
 Enlarged 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
 Arnold, Jackie Smith  
 Reference Genealogy 929.1072 Arn

**The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program**  
 Updated Edition  
 Clifford, Karen  
 929.1072 Cli



*Congrats to Heather McDonald, Becky Speaker, and Toni Whiteside for their 4-H Fair Genealogy Awards !*

# UPcoming!

*-by Jennie Rauch*

Hello, Fellow Genealogy Searchers!

I hope our 2013 programs have supported your efforts to further your family history research. By this time, I hope you've gotten some questions answered at our September Round Table session, and maybe even shared some breakthrough ideas of your own with the group. Aren't those "lightbulb" moments great?!

On Saturday, November 16, at 1 pm, Jon Wardlow will share his knowledge and enthusiasm as a member of the Mayflower Society. He'll tell us about the group's activities and how to qualify for membership.

Our November meeting also includes the annual election of officers, and a short review and vote on newly revised By-laws. Be sure not to miss this opportunity to see a little of how BCGS functions behind-the-scenes! Also in November, be sure to bring any genealogy-related items to our popular swap table! If you have something to sell, be sure to put your name & price on it, so folks can find & pay you. In the past, folks have brought books, magazines, whatever they no longer need. Perhaps you'll find just the resource you've been meaning to check out at a great price (many free)!

2014 programs are almost finalized! Just a tease. . . Decatur County Historical Museum, Underground Railroad, Spanish American War participants. Stay tuned for the end of year Ancestors for the complete list, and be sure to renew your membership so you don't miss any of the EXTRAS either! Happy hunting!



*-by Heather McDonald*

How many of our BCGS members have ever used the website Cyndi's List ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com))? I hope many of you have. If not, I urge you to check it out immediately!

Cyndi's List is a free (**yes, it's free!**) website that contains over 328,000 different links that are of interest to genealogists. The links are categorized and cross-referenced to make your searching simple. It's a great starting point for any researcher.

Cyndi Howell started her list in 1995 as webmaster of the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society. She posted a one page set of bookmarks on the site to share with her fellow members. It has grown steadily since! She published her own website in 1996 with over 1,000 links listed on one page. The list is now contained on more than 650 individual pages.

Cyndi still maintains her webpage by herself, and adds approximately 1,500 new links, updates or corrects 600 links, and deletes 300 non-working links each month. There are more than 180 categories on the list as well as individual pages for each US state, US county, Canadian province, and UK county. Cyndi supports the website through third-party advertisement, and it is her full-time job.

In order to navigate the site, there are two different indexes to choose from, as well as a site search engine. The links and category headings on the website are listed in alphabetical order. Websites are listed by the title shown on the website. From the category page, you can see the number of links for each topic. For example, "Social Networking for Genealogy" has 139 while "Family Newsletters" has 11,116. Clicking on the category will lead you to the Category Index as well as Related Categories. Then these categories are clickable as well, which will lead you to a list of links.

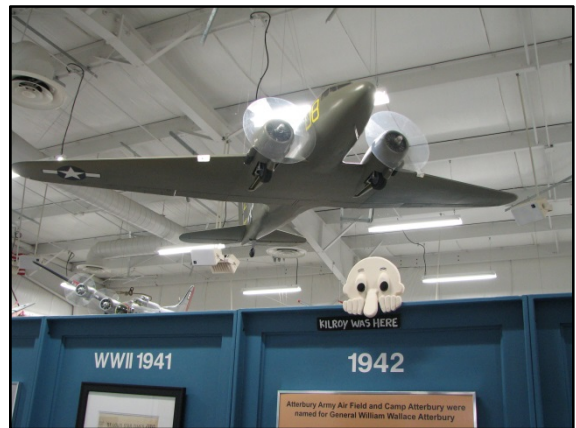
I hope this will encourage you to check out Cyndi's List. Don't be intimidated by the sheer size of the website—it is very well organized. You never know what you may find!

# Highlights

-BY BECKY SPEAKER  
[IN CAROLYN WHEELER'S ABSENCE]

On Saturday, July 27, the BCGS had a great visit to the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum. Thirteen members and two guests gathered in the media room, joined by almost 20 other visitors, to listen to Gordon Lake, Secretary & Past President of the Museum Board. He kept us entertained by sharing the history of the area, such as:

- Airbase construction began in the summer of 1942, with a deadline of five months, and the airfield officially opened early in 1943. There was no negotiation with nearby landowners; the Army simply said, "We're taking your land for the airbase. Here's your check" (and, perhaps, added a little thanks for the contribution to the war effort).
- Originally, the airbase was named after General William Atterbury, an Indiana native who served in World War I and later became president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The airbase was later named for Indiana native Lieutenant John Bakalar, a pilot who was shot down over Europe in 1944.
- A part of the Air Force Reserve, the 434<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, was based at Bakalar and served active duty in the Korean and Vietnam wars. They were mobilized in 1962 for the Cuban Missile Crisis, traveling to Homestead Air Force Base to provide airlift support as a part of the buildup of military forces. The Cuban Missile Crisis was "the closest we've come to nuclear war," Gordon said, and if war had occurred, the assignment of the Bakalar folks would have been ferrying airborne troops to Havana.
- Gordon told us many stories about life on the Bakalar Air Force Base through the 50's and 60's until the base's closure in 1970 when the troops moved to Grissom Air Base.



We also learned that they do have some archival records, although mostly associated with the base. These records will soon be more available in the archives room when the extension is completed in 2014. We then explored the museum's exhibits, looking at the pictures of the base, aircraft and other artifacts. We wrapped up our visit by watching the documentary "Lest We Forget," the story of museum volunteer and former POW Gustav Potthoff's time on the Burma-Thailand "Death Railway" as a WWII slave labor prison camp survivor. After the tour, we walked over to the Hangar Restaurant and enjoyed each other's company during a great lunch.

**MEET YOUR BCGS BOARD MEMBERS**

-by Fran Land

As a way of getting better acquainted and learning who our fellow members are, we have decided to publish pictures and a short profile of each member.

We are starting with the present BCGS Board. Then in January and continuing for the rest of next year, we will publish as many pictures as possible in each Newsletter.

We will be taking pictures at each of our programs. So, please be prepared and willing to have your picture taken. We will also have a short form for you to fill out to go along with your photo.

If you live out of town or do not regularly attend the meetings, we would be happy to include a picture that you could send to us.

We look forward to working with you to create a BCGS Directory. It will be nice to put a name with a face and to learn more about your family, hobbies and what names you are working on in your genealogy search. You might even find that someone else is looking for the same person.



**Marcus Speer**, President  
 School bus driver, Farmer,  
 Minister  
 Wife, Jennifer  
 Daughter, Madelyn  
 Hobbies: Santa helper,  
 Gardening, Coin collector  
 Surnames researching:  
 Murphy, Nigh, Rogers, Gaston



**Jennie Rauch**, Vice-President  
 Retired Occupational Therapist  
 Husband, Jeff  
 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren  
 Hobbies: Reading, Quilting,  
 Travel, Gardening  
 Surnames researching:  
 Leonard, Mattingly,  
 Reardon, Meyer



**Carolyn Wheeler**, Secretary  
 Retired Teacher  
 Husband, Charles  
 Children, Steve & Cheryl  
 Grandchildren: Tyler & Luke  
 Hobbies: Photography, Reading,  
 Visiting historical sites  
 Surnames researching:  
 Bennett, Heaton, Shepherd  
 Hamilton



**Becky Speaker**, Treasurer  
 Supply Chain Director at  
 Cummins  
 Hobbies: Reading, History,  
 Tennis, Scrapbooking  
 Surnames researching:  
 Speaker, Schrader, Wichman,  
 Zumhingst



**Margot K. Green**, Past President  
Retired from Cummins  
Husband, Hal  
Children: Genelle, Jim, Carolyn  
2 Grandchildren  
Hobbies: Historical research, Writing, Reading  
Surnames researching: Keith, Green, McDonald, McNabb



**Fran Land**, Membership Chair  
Retired Secretary  
2 sons, 6 grandchildren,  
4 great-grandchildren  
Hobbies: Making stained glass items, Bicycle riding and Music  
Surnames researching: DeBusk, Calvin, Winchester, Snyder



**Karen Loy**, County Genealogist  
Retired Register Nurse IU  
Husband, Duane, deceased  
Brooke Chowning & David Loy  
Hobbies: Reading, Needlework, And Traveling  
Surnames researching: Loy, Allen, Clark, Gray, Sturgeon



**Donna Kuhlman**, County Genealogist  
Late husband, Terry  
Daughters, Ilze Guilmet and Emilie Hunter (both of San Diego)  
Granddaughter, Mena Hunter  
Hobbies: Antiques, Flea Markets, Ebay  
Surnames researching: Cook, Ward



**Heather McDonald**, WebMaster  
Employment Specialist at DSI  
Wiley J., 7 yr old Yorkiepoo  
Hobbies: Knitting, Reading, Baking, Advisor for Chi Omega Sorority at Hanover College  
Surnames researching: Hughes, McDonald, Gilooly, Whiteside (all Davies Co, IN)



**Kim Ray**, Newsletter Editor  
Cummins Engineering Associate  
Husband, Chuck  
Children, Chasity, Preston, Kaden  
Grandchildren, Cord, Case, Kodi  
Hobbies: Clogging, Hiking  
Surnames researching: Powell, Anthony, Snyder



## *Researcher's Resources*     *-by Jane Johnson*

There are times when large \$\$ websites offer limited free access sampling periods. When a site offers a promotional, they typically also offer a guarantee that if you are not satisfied after 30 days subscription, you can cancel. Genealogybank.com advertises “6,500 Newspaper Titles - All 50 States Find newspaper articles, obituaries, birth and marriage notices, photographs and much more and over 1 Billion Newspaper Articles.” During their February promotional they offered one year access for less than \$5 per month and included a book, *Resource Guide: How To Search Obituaries To Find Ancestors & Trace Your Family Tree* (\$19.95 value). Fold3 regularly offers free trial, too. If you haven't tried mocavo.com, it continues to offer limited free and trial services.

Many websites also used the winter months to roll out new resources. NEHGS Database - Families of Ancient New Haven - Completely Re-indexed “This eight-volume, 2,100-page database has been completely re-indexed, increasing the number of name entries from 65,000 to 92,000. The original index was based on a work which only indexed the names of individuals who did not have the same surnames as the featured families. The new all-name index provides many more search results. Families of Ancient New Haven is an eight-volume work created by Donald Lines Jacobus between 1923 and 1932. These volumes were originally published as *New Haven Genealogical Magazine*, which was the predecessor of “*The American Genealogist*” Go to the home page of NEHGS ([americanancestors.com](http://americanancestors.com)) to find the free account link.

“FamilySearch added 8.5 million new, free indexed records and images this week to its collection.” (2/20/13). The following were the US additions:

U.S., California, San Mateo County Records, 1855-1991 – 0 – 50,823 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Idaho, Butte County Records, 1882-1970 – 0 – 23,226 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Idaho, Twin Falls County Records, 1906-1988 – 0 – 89,528 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Illinois, Probate Records, 1819-1970 – 0 – 78,573 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Louisiana, Orleans Parish Will Books, 1805-1920 – 0 – 5,485 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Maine, County Probate Records, 1760-1979 – 0 – 1,073 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Minnesota, Itasca County Land Records, 1872-1930 – 0 – 7,328 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., New York, Queens County Probate Records, 1899-1924 – 0 – 496,052 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., New York, State Census, 1855 – 2,818,214 – 49,726 – New indexed records and images collection.

U.S., North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979 – 15,959 – 371,253 – Added index records and images to an existing collection.

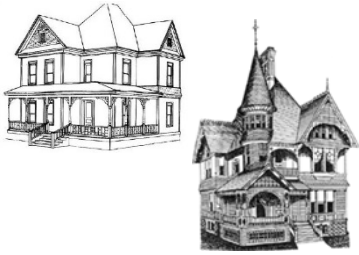
U.S., Oregon, Douglas County Records, 1852-1952 – 0 – 15,698 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Tennessee, Putnam County Records, 1867-1955 – 0 – 22,826 – Added images to an existing collection.

U.S., Texas, Birth Certificates, 1903-1935 – 527,134 – 543,673 – Added index records and images to an existing collection.

U.S., Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1977 – 187,126 – 73,546 – New indexed records and images collection.

U.S., Texas, Eastland County Records, 1868-1949 -0 – 10,629 – Added images to an existing collection.



# These Old Houses

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

-by Margot Green



## The Adam Keller House 703 Lafayette

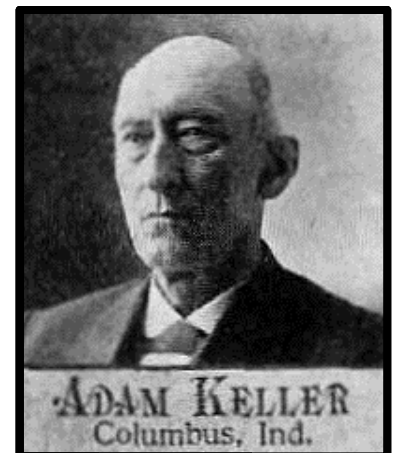
For well over a century (1860 to 1994), the imposing yellow house on the corner of Lafayette (until World War I known as “Mechanic Street”) and Seventh Street was the home of the Keller family. It was originally built by businessman Adam Keller in 1860.

Born in Franklin County Pennsylvania on 14 October 1831 to George H. (1800-1851) and Elizabeth (1802-1879) Keller, Adam was one of six children, five of whom survived until the late

nineteenth century. The Keller family came to America from Rothenfluh, Basel, Switzerland, in 1736, when Hans Jacob Keller (1706-1794) and his wife Elizabeth Imhoff (1708-1787) brought their three young children – including Adam’s great grandfather Hans Jacob Keller (1733-1804) – to Pennsylvania. The couple would have three more children after their settlement in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

The 1850 census shows Adam, age eighteen, living with his parents, and four of his siblings. Four years later Adam came to Columbus but then embarked on a two-year trip visiting a number of western states and territories, before returning to Columbus and beginning the first of several profitable building-related businesses. In 1858 he married Charlotte Martin, who had been born in Cambridge, Pennsylvania on 6 November 1842 to Christian and Barbara [Snyder] Martin. The Martin family moved to Union Township sometime in the 1850s. The Charlotte Building at 641 Washington Street was apparently named in honor of Mrs. Keller, and her descendents had offices there for many years.

The 1860 census lists Adam as a “master carpenter,” and in 1865 Adam became a member of the contracting and building firm of Perkinson, Keller & Brockman, later partnered in a successor firm, Keller & Brockman, and was listed in the 1903 City Directory as president of the Columbus Gas Light and Coke Company and the owner of one of the few residential telephones in town. According to his biography in the **1888 History of Bartholomew County**, he was “industrious and honest, universally respected as one of the leading citizens of Columbus and a man worthy [of] the esteem of the people whose confidence he has for so many years enjoyed.” Adam Keller died on 23 January 1906 and was buried alongside of Charlotte, who had passed away in 1893, in City Cemetery.



Adam and Charlotte had two sons, Christian Martin (born 12 May 1860) and William Parker Keller (24 July 1872 to 20 April 1942). Both sons followed in their father's footsteps as leading businessmen, describing themselves as "capitalists" in various Columbus City Directories and having offices in several Washington Street locations, most notably the Charlotte Building. Adam and Charlotte also had a daughter, Mary, born in on 13 September, 1866.

The 1910 census shows both Christian, by then a widower, and Mary living at the 703 address. In October 1911, Mary married widower James Franklin Cox, a prominent attorney, and the couple shared the home with Christian until Cox's death on 14 August 1920. Thereafter Mary and Christian lived in the home until their deaths. Christian died on 24 September 1927 and Mary passed away a few months later on 25 January 1928. All three of Adam's children are buried in Garland Brook Cemetery.

By 1930, the home had become the property of William P. Keller's son, William M. "Dooley" Keller, listed as a farm owner in the 1930 and 1940 censuses. In the 1947 Columbus City Directory he is shown as heading the William M. Keller Real Estate firm with offices in the Charlotte Building. Upon Dooley's death on 2 February 1959, his widow Lucille, nee Spannagel, had an apartment constructed upstairs and continued living in the downstairs portion until her death on 16 January 1994 at almost 95 years old. According to her obituary in *The Republic*, Lucille was a member of First Christian Church, Magazine Club, and the Bartholomew County Historical Society. The couple had no children. Lucille, a nurse, established the Lucille L. Keller Educational Foundation to help high school students obtain higher education and to provide financial assistance for practical nursing students at Columbus Regional Hospital.

The home's current living area is about 3,000 square feet, with an additional 800 square feet in the attic. As originally constructed, the home was Italianate in style, square, with a simple hipped roof and large brackets under the eaves, all of which are still evident although the home has

been enlarged over the years. A major renovation was undertaken early in the twentieth century, possibly after Mary's marriage. In keeping with the styles of the times, changes included addition of the spacious front porch, creation of a stairway in the front hall, and construction of a carriage house at the back of the property. On the south side of the house, towards the front, windows were bricked in to accommodate the porch and stairway; their outlines can be seen on both the first and second floors. The bay window and dining room, not part of the 1860 home, may have been added then as well. The additions are marked by different rooflines that can be seen from the sidewalk next to the home on Seventh Street.

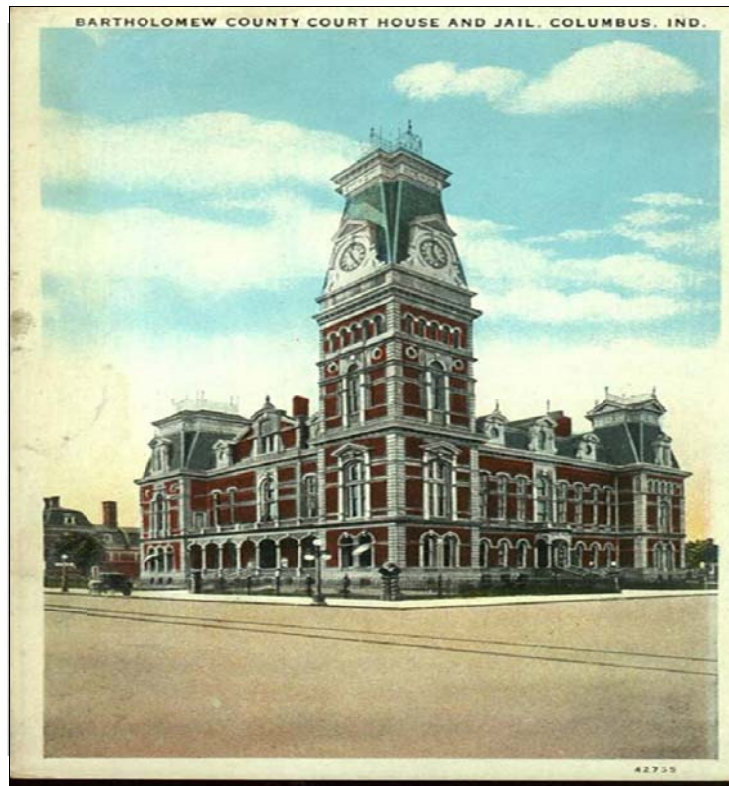


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## *Bartholomew County Genealogical Society Membership*

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

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



## *Thanks for your Support*

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*Member of Indiana Genealogical Society and  
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