



# ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society  
Apr - Jun Q2 2023 ISSN: 1933-5164 Vol 33 Issue 2

## 2023 Calendar

Sat, mar 25: connecting with cousins in germany  
*MaryBeth Glick will discuss her latest genealogy trip to Germany, where she connects with her 3rd and 5th cousins.*

Sat, may 6 - Liberty cemetery mapping  
*GPS, (Amateur) Cemetery Restoration Techniques*

Sat, jul 15: Trip to Jennings co public library  
*Ed Kellar, Jennings Co. Genealogist; and possibly more ! Stay tuned !*

Sat, Sep 16: Genealogy and the plague  
*Erin Doyle - Genealogy and family history influences by the Plagues and Epidemics. Change the course of family history through migration, early death and the exchange of property.*

Sat, oct 28: S.K.I.L.L.S. - Family Tree maker  
*For Members Only ! Join up and Join us !*

*Welcome to Our New Members:*

**Jack Schmeckebier, Columbus**

**David Bird, Columbus**

**Raymond Scroggins, Columbus**

**Max Hotz, Columbus**

### *Inside This Issue*

2023 Calendar	1
New Members	
Highlights	2-
- by Marcus Speer	3
Fletcher Cemetery	4
-by Donna Kuhlman	
Liberty Cemetery Update	5-
- Photos by Becky Speaker	7
The Ancestry of a House	8-
Part 1 - by Bob Hobbs	11

*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 !*

## Highlights - by Marcus Speer

### Program Minutes January 21, 2023

BCGS kicked off 2023 with a program presented by our own Becky Speaker. Twenty (18 members & 2 guests) met together in the Conference room which worked well for the presentation: "Something Old, Something New, Something Blue: Developments in Divorces and Weddings."

Becky first shared a newspaper clipping from the Chicago Tribune (13 Oct 1858) which was headlined with "The Divorce Scandal in Indiana." The article noted: "The Lafayette Courier advises the electors to "vote for no man for representative in either branch of the State Legislature who is not in favor of the immediate repeal of the scandalous divorce laws which have converted Indiana into an asylum for all who wish to ease themselves from their marriage vows."

According to Becky, "Divorce records are held locally so differ by state and country." Some statewide indices start in the 1950's. One way to find records is to go to [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) and search for the location then look at record types to find a link to divorce records.

Indiana has been described as "The Divorce Mill of the Midwest." Lawmakers in the 1850s were accused of having 'practically legalized Free Love and its endless and nameless abominations' through liberal divorce laws." Battles over the right to divorce heated up in the 1890's – Andrews v. Andrews went all the way to the US Supreme Court. Slowly the county's attitude began to shift towards the individuals setting the terms and not courts, clergy, elected officials, etc. and State laws began to change.

Becky also shared information about marriage records. Such records can contain names of bride and groom, date, and place of marriage, residence, birth places, ages, occupations, and in some cases parents' names, residence and occupations. Other relatives may show up as witnesses. Don't forget that marriage records can be found in "vital records of civil registration" or Probate Court and sometimes in surrounding counties differing from where a marriage actually took place. Many states have started adding church records online: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Category:U\\_S\\_States\\_Church\\_records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Category:U_S_States_Church_records)

The last segment of Becky's presentation was "Inventing the American Wedding." She shared many examples of how grooms and brides would have dressed "up" for the wedding ceremony. She shared the changes in dresses from 1900 Brides and Bridesmaids through the 1920s & 30s, during the war, and the 1950s.

A great start for BCGS's excellent programming. To see the presentation online go to: [Jan 21 BCGS Program | By Bartholomew County Genealogical Society | Facebook](#)



# YOUR Society at WORK

What did BCGS  
do this Quarter ?



BCGS donated \$800 to the DAR Liberty Cemetery Project

## Highlights - by Marcus Speer

### Feb SKILLS – Minutes 2023

BCGS SKILLS was focused on Findagrave on Saturday, February 18. The Conference Room at the Library was filled with 19 Members & 2 Guests. Of course, the 2 guests became members at our session Together Marcus and Donna covered an important, useful genealogical tool.

Marcus reminded us all that genealogists are sometimes called: Tombstone tourists, cemetery enthusiasts, cemetery tourists, grave hunters, graver, or taphophile. Yes, we have “a passion for and enjoyment of cemeteries, epitaphs, gravestone rubbing, photography, art, and history of (famous) deaths.

Members learned that “Find a Grave is the best place on the internet to look for burial and other final disposition information for your family, friends and famous people. The site provides tools that let people from all over the world work together, share information and build an online, virtual cemetery experience.”

“Find a Grave got its start in 1995 when founder Jim Tipton built a website to share his hobby of visiting the graves of famous people. He found that many people shared his interest and quickly opened the site for all individuals (famous and non-famous) with a mission for finding, recording and presenting burial and final disposition information worldwide.”

Who is behind Find a Grave? First and foremost, we all are. “Thousands of contributors submit new listings, updates, corrections, photographs and virtual flowers every hour. The site simply wouldn't exist without the million+ contributors. When it comes to administrating, building, maintaining and supporting the site, there are dedicated Find a Grave teams that help out on a daily basis.” - <https://www.findagrave.com/about>

To see this session: <https://www.facebook.com/BartholomewCountyGenealogicalSociety/videos/737481971423774>

Findagrave Support: <https://support.findagrave.com/s/>

Findagrave on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/159616177421763>

Legacy online: <https://www.legacy.com/search>

Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com/>

Billion Graves: <https://billiongraves.com/search>

Family Search: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

AIM Media (The Republic, Brown County Democrat, Daily Journal, The Tribune, Daily Reporter, etc.): <https://aim.newspapers.com/>

Bartholomew County Library: <https://mybcpl.org/genealogy>

Bartholomew County Archives: <https://www.bartholomew.in.gov/archives.html>

IN Gen Web Bartholomew: <http://ingenweb.org/inbartholomew/>

National Archives: 1940 Census: <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940>





## CARVED IN STONE

*-by Donna Kuhlman*

## A Visit (OK, Several Visits) to Fletcher Cemetery



Fletcher Cemetery lies in Haw Creek Township, about four miles northeast of Hope, “as the crow flies,” in Section 2, where Co. Road 1075E intersects with Stafford Road and Co. Road 950N. There are no Fletchers buried within. The name seems to have come from the proximity to the old Fletcher School (Haw Creek Twp. School No. 1) just across the road from the cemetery. The school was also called “Big Foot School,” but that name seems to have remained confined to the school, and did not cross the road to trouble the departed.

Fletcher cemetery is typical of rural graveyards in southern Indiana: small (25 identified burials, with many familial connections), in modest condition, with numerous fallen and/or broken markers, and a few larger, more substantial monuments. Mowing is done on a timely schedule, and the premises are largely free of underbrush and noxious plants like poison ivy—which is NOT typical—so someone is genuinely tending it fairly closely. A crumbling ancient stone wall encloses the perimeter.

My attention was drawn here earlier this winter when I noted a Findagrave entry for a person who supposedly died in 1815. Bartholomew Co. was established in 1821; and had no non-native permanent residents prior to the 1818 Treaty of St. Mary’s, which opened much of central Indiana to European settlement. I knew “1815” couldn’t be correct, so was bound to go do a field inspection.

The grave in question here was that of Mary Spraker Phillippe, whom I came to visit on an uncharacteristically mild January 2023 day. Her actual date of death was Aug. 29, 1845—not 1815. The style of the numerals makes misreading errors common. The lesson here is that, as in so much of genealogy, context is important! Collected data needs to be checked for historical consistency. Is it reasonable? Is it likely? Is it accurate? Mary Spraker married in Virginia in 1816, and had children born 1817-1840, the last one born in Indiana. Her husband, George Phillippe, took a second wife in Shelby Co., Indiana, in 1849, before moving to Clark Co., Illinois. Mary’s death, in 1845, in Indiana, fit exactly with everything else known about this family.

George Phillippe’s Findagrave links were pretty scrambled, but the discovery of Mary at Fletcher Cemetery allowed many pieces to fall into place. Their nine children are all now properly linked to both parents. Remarkably, there are portrait photos of Mary Spraker Phillippe, now posted to her page. See here: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/143650785/mary-phillippe>

Well, of course, I wasn’t satisfied with just verifying the details on this single marker. I made several more trips back to Fletcher, to verify dates and spellings, and begin figuring out who was related to whom. Virtually all the existing markers already had Findagrave entries, but several needed edits and new links. Probably the most valuable thing I was able to add was GPS readings for every marker. This is such a quick and easy thing to do, using a Smart phone and the Findagrave “app.” Find a marker, look up the existing entry, hold the phone over the marker, click “Add GPS” and “Confirm.” No more wandering in the wilderness looking for that grave.

Spring is upon us, and it’s time to get back outside! GPS readings are easy to do, don’t require any tools other than your phone, and are genuinely valuable and useful to those still looking for their loved ones. Go do a few the next time you visit a cemetery!





# DAR Liberty Cemetery Project Update Before and After Photos

-Photos by Becky Speaker

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**Revolutionary War Veteran** Thomas McQueen (b/2 Dec 1761 Baltimore County, MD; d/27 Mar 1838 Bartholomew County, IN)

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



Sarah McQueen, wife of Thomas McQueen (left)

**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



Deborah (McQueen) Brown, daughter of Thomas McQueen (left)

Joshua McQueen, son of Thomas McQueen; and his wife, Betsey (Brown) McQueen (above/right)



# DAR Liberty Cemetery Project Update Before and After Photos

*-Photos by Becky Speaker*

**BEFORE**



Mary Foust Fortner (wife of Jacob)

**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



George D. Hager

**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



Daniel Thayer Norton

**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



John McKinney

**AFTER**





# DAR Liberty Cemetery Project Update Before and After Photos

*-Photos by Becky Speaker*

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**War of 1812 Soldier** David Hager (b/8 Sep 1780 Washington Co, MD; d/2 Mar 1855); and his wife, Keziah (Dunn) Hager

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



William Stoughton

**BEFORE**



Thomas B. McQueen

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**MEXICAN WAR VET** - Edward Stoughton (b/12 Sep 1820 Ohio; d/12 Sep 1859 Bartholomew County, IN)

**AFTER**



# Tripping Over My Roots

-by Bob Hobbs

## THE ANCESTRY OF A HOUSE Part I

I have mentioned in the previous articles that I moved from West Palm Beach, Florida to Columbus on August 1, 2014, to be closer to my two daughters, one living in Bloomington and the other in Greenwood. I also had a mother and sister living in southern Illinois, where I was from originally. Having just retired from teaching and recently becoming a grandfather twice, Columbus was the place I chose to call my home.

Friends I made mostly through Mill Race Center would ask me if I ever planned to buy a house. When I first arrived in town I chose to rent a two bedroom, two bath apartment in the downtown area. It was in a block bordered by 5<sup>th</sup> Street, so I was content to be within walking distance to downtown, the library, Irwin Gardens, and Lincoln Elementary, where I volunteered as a Book Buddy once a week. For six years I was content with where I was.

Then things began to change. It seemed like a mixture of the Covid lock-down, the ever-changing of neighbors below, across the hall, and on the other side of the wall from me, plus three different landlords each raising the rent made me think differently. Coincidentally I started getting Zillow real estate listings in my e-mail. I checked out a mid-century house with a flat roof, did a drive-by, and then immediately dismissed it. I could not see myself living there. Then one that really piqued my interest came along.

### ON THE STREETS WHERE I LIVE

In July 2022 I saw a house on Zillow and other realty sites that I definitely wanted to check out. The listing had multiple photos of both the interior and exterior. It checked many of the boxes. One main one was that it was under \$200,000, but I thought that it might still be a little too high. Very soon afterwards the price was reduced by \$10,000. Another big plus was that it also had been recently remodeled, so I would not have that to do. I drove over to see it and was interested enough to get out of my car and peek in the windows. In the listing the sellers requested cash or conventional loan offers only. I immediately went through the steps of being qualified. With three diverse sources giving me the okay, I contacted a realtor who I did not know. He arranged to show the house to me the next day, a Friday. I liked what I saw and gave him permission to contact the seller, who was Turnkey Home Solutions, Inc. Some might refer to them as “flippers,” but I find that term inappropriate and obviously they do too. They consider themselves more as renovators who make “our area beautiful one home at a time.” They seem to typically spend approximately two months between the time they buy a home and list it for sale. Owned and operated by area real estate agents they, coincidentally, were the current managers of my apartment building.

They only thing the house did not have that I would need to buy was a washer and dryer and all the window coverings. The next day, we offered a lower price than the asking price, giving those two necessary purchases as the reason. They countered with a price somewhere in the middle and the house’s status went from being for sale to sale pending. An open house that was scheduled for the next day, Sunday, was canceled.

I went with a local mortgage company, Hallmark, who told me they saw no issues to slow down the process and I would be able to go to closing in about ten days. An appraisal was arranged, and I engaged an inspector, which was perhaps the best \$400.00 I ever spent.

The inspection was both educational and frightfully revealing. The house, having been built in 1941, did have its issues. The more flaws that were pointed out to me the more I began to have doubts. What was I getting myself into? My realtor Chase Simpson “talked me off the ledge” (so to speak) and I was ultimately glad he did. I must give the sellers credit for correcting the major problems, and I realized the minor ones I could take care of myself.

While pouring over both the inspector’s report and the one the appraiser completed for the mortgage company, I noticed something interesting provided by the latter.

Enclosed in the appraiser’s report was a copy of the plat of the area lots. The neighborhood encompasses an area bordered by Central Avenue on the west, Hawcreek Avenue on the east, 17<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, and 25<sup>th</sup> Street on the north. My house is on the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Street. Most of the houses face the North/South streets, but my house with the enclosed former-breezeway, and an attached one car garage would not have fit facing Pennsylvania. What I discovered



Plat pointing out lot for 2004  
21st St. and Pennsylvania St.,  
formally Janney Ave

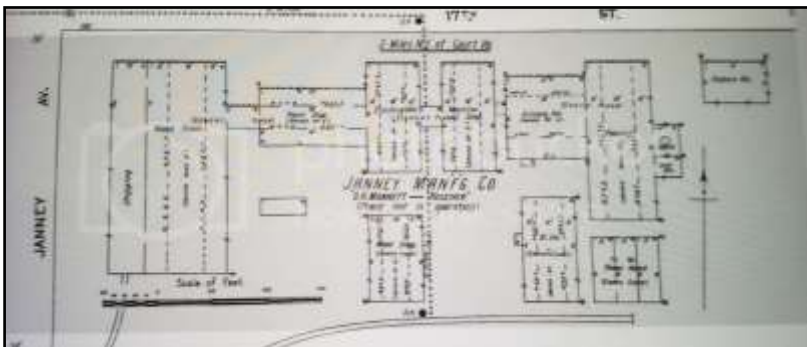
# Tripping Over MY ROOTS

-by Bob Hobbs

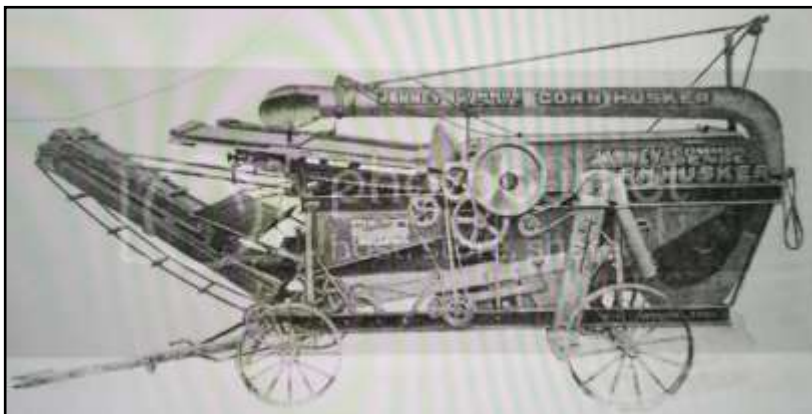
## THE ANCESTRY OF A HOUSE (cont)

on the map, aside from learning that once upon a time railroad tracks bisected at an angle both Central and 25<sup>th</sup> Street, was that Pennsylvania was once named "(blank)ANNEY AVE." The arrow placed to point out my lot covered the first letter(s). My guess was that it was a single missing letter, and that letter was a "J." I did some research and discovered the Historic Columbus Indiana Message Board administered by David Sechrest reaffirming that Pennsylvania Street was once named Janney Avenue. It told how the street got its name and why that was no longer the case.

The year 1905 proved to be a year of change in Columbus. Indiana had passed an Anti-Cigarette Law and it put into practice the prohibition of the sale of cigarettes and rolling papers. Cigarettes and related materials were destroyed and those caught smoking risked being arrested. Starting that same year druggists were no longer allowed to sell cocaine, opium, or morphine to users without a prescription. The city was also campaigning in competition with others to get the new Southeastern Hospital for the Insane to be built here. That never materialized for another location was selected. To aid in bringing jobs and more industry to the city, a movement was launched to have a farm machinery plant to be built here. Nine area investors subscribed to \$37,000 in preferred stock shares to guarantee the \$100,000 needed to finance the plant. To generate further interest, a room in a store was rented at 327 Washington Street (next door to Zaharako's) to house parts to assemble a corn planter that was to be built in the factory. George Caldwell was put in charge of the construction. Once it was assembled, the corn planter was put on display to stimulate public interest. *The Evening Republican* newspaper then stated that it was the greatest fight for a factory ever made in Columbus.



Janney Manufacturing Co. at 17th and Janney Avenue (Pennsylvania)



The Janney Corn Husker

On February 28, 1906, officers were elected and among them were Janney, President and Frances T. Crump, Vice President and Treasurer.

For reasons unclear to me, there was an abrupt change in leadership. According to the March 8, 1906 issue of *Farm Implement News*, Janney was out, and Crump was the new president. Other officers resigned and were replaced. Janney was no longer associated with the company other than the owner, with his wife, of some

By May 18, 1905, financing for the new business was raised, and G. Campbell Janney and his son had arrived in town. The elder Janney also began plans for both the factory and the place he would become his residence. By June, the factory was being built. His intention was to have a home built in the colonial style at 17<sup>th</sup> and Highland Avenue, which had recently been renamed Central Avenue. The street built one block east was named Janney Avenue.

As work progressed on the factory, a new housing section was added to the city. The new Caldwell Addition was in close proximity to the factory and included 32 acres, divided into 162 lots, from 17<sup>th</sup> Street north to 20<sup>th</sup> Street and from Central Avenue to Hawcreek Avenue. These lots went on the market on Wednesday, September 20, 1905. Leading up to the sale for this area that became known as Janneytown, full page ads ran in *The Evening Republican*.



Newspaper ad for the Caldwell Addition Lots, a.k.a. Janneytown

# Tripping Over My Roots

-by Bob Hobbs

## THE ANCESTRY OF A HOUSE (cont)

common stock that was to be placed in the hands of a voting trust for



*Photo taken by appraiser of house on the corner of 21st and Penn.*

as long as ten years.

The bottom line is the Janney Manufacturing Company was not in existence for very long. A map drawn in 1906 that showed the site and plans for the company by 1912 shows the area as The Caldwell Manufacturing Company. The street named Janney Avenue had by then been changed to Pennsylvania Street and the street to the east of Pennsylvania was named, and is still known today, as Caldwell Place. A house on the corner of Caldwell Place and the south side of 21<sup>st</sup> Street was built around this time and is over 100 years old. This contrasts with my house at 21<sup>st</sup> and Pennsylvania where the area was not developed until the early 40s or later.

Now let us further examine the family that first inhabited the Cape Cod-style house (1941-1953) located at 2004 21<sup>st</sup> Street... that I now call home.

### THE FIRST OCCUPANTS: THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

Harry Allison Williams (30 Oct 1898 - 26 Aug 1963) married Cleo Vivian Hartwell Williams (30 Jun 1908 - Sep 1987) on 9 July 1934. Their Children were John Lee Williams (4 Sep 1935 - 17 Dec 1964) and Janet Sue Williams Mendenhall (9 Oct 1942 - 4 Sep 2020). By accessing the free NEWSPAPERS.COM site by way of the Bartholomew County Library, I searched the address of 2004 21<sup>st</sup> Street and found these news items concerning the first occupants.

For one thing, Mr. and Mrs. Williams certainly had their share of being involved in auto accidents! They were all in the same vicinity, that of Mr. Williams' business in which he was first a radio repairman and then the owner of his own appliance store. Here are some that I found, in chronological order.

#### ***The Evening Republican, Columbus, Indiana, Wednesday, March 18th, 1942***

##### **Cars Tangle at Crossing**

Two Chevrolet cars tangled at 5th and Franklin Street yesterday afternoon, then locked themselves around the base of an unused traffic signal at the northwest corner of the intersection. Both cars were damaged and a tire on one went flat. Although shaken considerably, the occupants escaped injury. The accident occurred as Mrs. Harry Williams, 2004 21st St. was going West on 5th Street and Glenn Cook of Edinburg, Route 2 was going North on Franklin St. The Williams car hit the right center of the Cook car swinging it around so that it was headed East. Both cars came to a stop side by side around the traffic signal. The front of the Williams car went over the curbing and the left front tire was damaged. Earl Phelps was a passenger in the Cook car. The accident was investigated by patrolmen Martin Schneider and Webb Miller.

#### ***The Columbus Herald, Columbus, Indiana, Wednesday, December 7th, 1949***

##### **Truck Rammed by Runaway Trailer. Trailer hits car.**

At 5:40 o'clock Saturday afternoon, a small two-wheeler trailer came unhitched from a car and hit a parked truck on the West side of Jackson St., South of the 5th street intersection. The trailer was being towed North behind a car driven by Floyd Williams, Seymour. The parked truck was a 1947 GMC owned by Harry Williams, 2004 21st St. The left rear fender of the truck incurred approximately \$10 in damages.

#### ***The Columbus Herald, Columbus Indiana, Monday, December 19, 1949:***

##### **Four Minor Wrecks Reported in County**

A city bus and a truck were in an accident here over the weekend and there were two traffic accidents in the Hope vicinity and



## THE ANCESTRY OF A HOUSE (cont)

one in east Columbus. At 9:10 o'clock Saturday night a Leppert city bus, driven North on Washington Street by Warren Roberts of McClure Road, hit a vehicle in the 7th St intersection. The GMC half ton truck was driven by Harry Williams of 2004 21st Street. Total damage was estimated at \$150. Mr. Roberts was later fined \$1 and costs for failure to have his vehicle under control.

Then we have a family visit to the hospital. We know now about the day that would "live in infamy" just a week after six-year-old Johnny Williams got out of the hospital.

***The Evening Republican, Columbus, Indiana, Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1941***

### THE HOPPER

John Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williams of 2004 21st Street, who underwent an operation for removal of tonsils Saturday at the County Hospital, was dismissed yesterday.

Harry and Cleo Williams apparently decided with two growing children, a boy and a girl who shared a bedroom, along with the business doing well, that it was time to move to a larger house. The house at 2004 21<sup>st</sup> Street was advertised for sale from late 1952 to early 1953.

***The Evening Republican, Columbus, Indiana, Friday, December 19, 1952***

### JOHN S. MCGINNIS REALTY COMPANY

2004 21st STREET-Five room, one story modern. Hardwood floors, carpeting in living room, dining room, and hall only two years old. Fireplace in living room. House recently redecorated inside and out. Wired for deep freeze, washer, dryer, and stove. Full basement. Oil heat. Insulation. Screens and storm windows. Breezeway and garage. Possession soon.

SIDE NOTE: This was the year I experienced my first Christmas!

Despite making it known that the new owner could take "possession soon," the house obviously did not sell soon. The following revised advertisement apparently did the trick making the house sound more attractive by listing more of its attributes. This apparently got better results. Unlike some houses advertised, none of the ads for the house listed the price.

***The Evening Republican, Columbus, Indiana, Monday, February 1953***

### JOHN S. MCGINNIS REALTY COMPANY

#### LISTINGS RECEIVED THIS WEEK REAL ESTATE IS SELLING RAPIDLY!

2004 21st STREET - An attractive five-room, one-story modern. Hardwood floors. Carpeting in the living room, dining room, and hall. Fireplace in living room. Large rooms. House recently redecorated inside and out. Wired for deepfreeze, washer, dryer, and stove. Full basement. Oil heat. House is insulated. Breezeway and garage. TV antenna. Screens and storm windows. A fine home. Immediate possession.

Now compare those two ads to the one I found on multiple realty sites in the summer of 2022. Same house, 70 years later. As you can see, the description was written all in capital letters:

UPDATED BY TURNKEY HOME SOLUTIONS. INC.. UPDATES INCLUDE: VINYL SIDING, SHINGLES, PAINT, FLOOR COVERINGS, LIGHT AND PLUMBING FIXTURES, WHITE SHAKER CABINETS, STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES, PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE! HOME FEATURES A NICE FAMILY ROOM WITH FIREPLACE, FORMAL DINING ROOM, UPDATED KITCHEN. A FIRST FLOOR LAUNDRY/OFFICE PLUS 2 NICE SIZED BEDROOMS, LARGE BASEMENT HAS BEEN FULLY PAINTED, IDEAL FOR STORAGE OR FUTURE EXPANSION. PRIVATE BRICK PATIO!

In the next issue, I will tell you what the future had in store for the members of the Williams family and who was the 2<sup>nd</sup> family to occupy the house at the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and Pennsylvania. All I will write for now is that there was a connection between the first and second families.

# ***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](mailto:bcgs47202@yahoo.com)**

**website: [barthgen.org](http://barthgen.org)**



## ***Thanks for your Support***

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*Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman*

*Genealogist: Karen Loy*

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