



ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Jul - Sep Q3 2023

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2023 Calendar

Sat, Jul 15: Trip to Jennings Co public library

Annual Fieldtrip and Eat-Out: Jennings Co Public Library with Ed Kellar, Jennings Co. Genealogist and Jennings Co Historical Society Museum visit in Vernon; eat-out afterwards. Watch BCGS facebook page for more details about carpooling.

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.

NOTE: This event will be held at the Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Chapel at Bakalar Airport

Sat, Oct 21: S.K.I.L.L.S. - Family Tree maker

For Members Only! Join up and Join us!

NOTE: This event will be held at the Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Chapel at Bakalar Airport

Sat, Nov 18: tour of bakalar air museum

Annual Meeting and Touring of Bakalar Air Museum, Bakalar Airport

NOTICE

Due to the Library construction, our meetings will be temporarily held at the Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Chapel, located on the corner of Middle Road and Grissom Street at Bakalar Airport in Columbus, IN.

All meetings and events begin at 10am, unless otherwise noted.

Inside This Issue

2023 Calendar	1
Highlights	2-
- by Marcus Speer	4
To Labette and Back	5
-by Mike Wilson, FL	
Jeanne Norbeck Chapel	6
-by Kim Ray	
Indiana Room Change	7-
-by Annette Blount	8
The Ancestry of a House	10-
Part 2 - 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 March 25, 2023

While we had challenges in the location for our March 25th Program, we still had a great presentation from our own Marybeth Glick. BCGS Members (19) and many friends and family members (25) were welcomed by the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum in the William "BRUCE" Dalton Media Center. We were also provided great support from the volunteers who assisted us throughout the morning. Some even took a tour of the museum after the program.

The focus of our March program was "Finding Cousins in Germany." Marybeth Glick shared the story of visiting Germany and meeting cousins! During her time there, she visited a 3rd cousin through her Franke line, a 5th cousin in the Pardieck line and more extended cousins in the Glick family! If you would like to view the excellent presentation, please go to our BCGS Facebook page to find the video.



Here is the link:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=786721732413173

Program Minutes May 6, 2023

A year after visiting Liberty (Hawpatch) Cemetery along with DAR members, BCGS members and friends returned to continue important work at the historical cemetery. At least 15 members and 3 guests attended on a beautiful spring day.

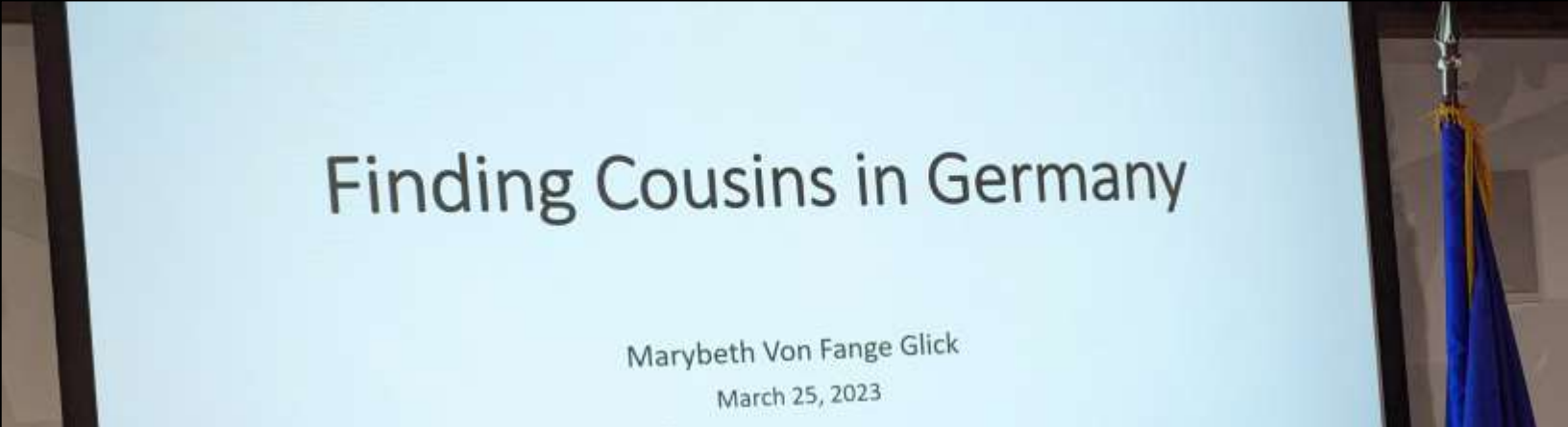


First on the day's agenda was a presentation by our own David Bird in regards to tombstone restoration work. David shared proper restoration techniques that he has learned and used when working on gravestones. David then went to work with fellow BCGS members.

Other Volunteers were invited to assist with three key projects. 1) Finishing a map of gravestones (for township trustee). 2) GPS of gravestones - Volunteers used the Find-A-Grave app to GPS the location of gravestones. According to Donna: "Before I left, the GPS percentage hit 50%!"

Some additional projects included cleanup in the cemetery, raising a new flag on the cemetery flagpole, and the placement of flags on graves of veterans.

BCGS hopes to be able to assist with future cemetery restorations! Thanks to all who assisted at Liberty Cemetery in 2022 and 2023!



Liberty Cemetery - May 2023



To Labette and Back

-by Mike Wilson, Guest Writer from Panama City, FL

In 1870 some of my ancestors moved from near Hope to Chetopa, KS. Those folks were John Justice Carter along with his family and his aunt Mary Jane (Wilson) Young with her husband and son.

Chetopa is located in Richland Township, Labette County in the far southeast corner of Kansas. U.S. 1870 Census Records tell us that Chetopa's population was 960, and the population of Hope was 765. I wondered why anyone would move from middle-of-nowhere Indiana to middle-of-nowhere Kansas. So, I did some research.

What I discovered is detailed in the following excerpt from William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas* published in 1883 by A. T. Andreas, Chicago.

The first meeting of the Chetopa Town Company was held at Humboldt, Kan., January 22, 1868. The charter for the town was obtained from the Secretary of State, March 23, 1868. The town was now laid off and the sale of lots and building began. The growth of the town was comparatively slow until the rumor of railroad building became noised abroad. A meeting of the citizens of the town was held in Spaulding's Hall, February 12, 1870, at which they pledged bonds to the amount of \$50,00.00 to the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, in order that they might secure the line of that road through the town; and at a meeting held February 25, 1870, the contracts were signed by the authorities and all needful arrangement perfected, for the building of the road. The road was completed to the corporate limits of Chetopa in February 1870, and reached the South line of the State June 8, 1870, which event was celebrated by speeches and other ceremonies.



Map of Labette County, KS 1878

Chetopa was to be the pet railroad town. Here was to be the junction of the Neosho Division, and the main line of this road; this was to be the terminus of a division of the road, and the shops were to be located here. The railroad officials owned large interests in the town site and were zealous in its building. The town became widely advertised, and everything looked to its onward march to greatness. Men seized on the prospect and business houses became established contemporaneously, and in immediate succession, large wholesale liquor and grocery houses were established, and the town in a short time had reached a population of about three thousand people, with a goodly number of business houses.

Now I know why they moved to Chetopa, KS – they hoped to take advantage of the prospective opportunity the town offered. However, my ancestors didn't stay in Kansas very long. Mary Jane and her family moved to Joplin, MO. John lived in the Indian Territory for a time, (Today we know Indian Territory as Oklahoma.) then moved to Pierce County, WA. What happened? Why did they leave? Mr. Cutler's *History of Kansas* had those answers too.

Some difficulty arose between some of the domineering railroad magnates and parties interested in the town, and the former finding themselves unable to have all things their own way, withdrew all support from the town, and instead of fulfilling their promises as to certain enterprises which the town was to receive, went to Parsons and founded that place to which all advantages were taken instead of their going to Chetopa.

When this move was made, Chetopa fell like a crash. Hitherto, under the stimulus of the railroad company's promises, everything was at the highest pitch of excitement; business men opened houses on grand scales; costly and extravagant improvements were made upon the town. No sooner had the railroad support been withdrawn, than the news fell like a blight over the town. Nearly all that had been done was now valueless, to a great measure. A majority of the population abandoned the town.

My family, after the great exodus to Chetopa, joined many others in the great exodus out of Chetopa.



placards

Okay. I told you that story to tell you this story. In Hope's Yellow Trail Museum and Visitor Center, there are two quarantine placards. One for whooping cough and one for mumps. Each has the same notation:

**This Placard Must Not be Removed Except by Order of the Health Officer
Public Health Service, Labette County**

I checked. There is only one Labette County in the United States, and that is, of course, where my ancestors went in 1870. Since my family left Kansas for Missouri and Washington, how did those find their way to Bartholomew County? It appears that others went to Kansas about the time my ancestors did, and when things fell apart at Chetopa, they packed up and came back home. It also appears that they brought their quarantine placards with them, probably without the authorization of the Labette County Health Officer.

So, whose ancestors went to Kansas and then came back to Indiana? Were they yours?



Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel

-by Kim Ray

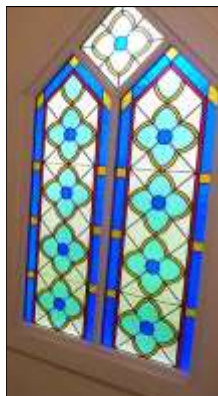


With the Library under construction, we moved our BCGS Board Meetings to the Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel at Bakalar Airport. I have driven past this little chapel several times, but I never knew its history. It was such a unique meeting place, that we opted to hold our membership meetings there as well until the Library construction is complete. So, I thought you might be interested in their story. There are several framed historic displays and photos in the foyer and in the back of the building. I will save some of that history for you to view when you attend our meetings this summer, but, here's a few tidbits to pique your interest.

An Indiana Historical Marker is just outside the building, titled "Atterbury Army Air Field", which gives the history of the military Airbase. Construction began in 1942, it was used during WW2 and the Korean War, renamed in 1954 to honor Lt. John Bakalar, then closed in 1970.



above: original window
right: replica window



Literature explains that this is the only 1942 barracks style building remaining on the former air base. It was converted to the "Building T-48 Base Chapel" during the Korean War. Hanging on the wall inside the foyer of the building, is one of the original stained glass windows, framed with a back-light. Two replica windows are in the front of the building replacing the originals.

In May 1998, the restored chapel was dedicated to the memory of Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck, a local Woman Air Force Service Pilot (WASP) of WW2.

Jeanne was born 14 Nov 1912 in Columbus, IN, daughter of Darcy and Mayme Lewellen. She began taking flying lessons while she was a senior at Columbus High School and earned her pilot's license while she was in college. She graduated with honors from the State College of Washington at Pullman, WA, with a B.A. in English.

Jeanne married Edward Norbeck in Hawaii on 22 Sep 1940. They were home in Honolulu when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, just a few miles from their house. For the next 15 months, they both served in Honolulu as air raid wardens. In Mar 1943, they returned to the US when Edward entered the Army Intelligence Service.

In Apr 1943, Jeanne applied to fly with the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). To gain the experience she needed to qualify she entered the Dallas Aviation School, Dallas, TX, where she completed her preliminary flight training. After graduation in August 1943, she spent two more months in training at the Turner Aviation School in Indianapolis, IN. About that same time, the WAFS became part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). As a result, on 6 Oct 1943, Jeanne entered class 44-W-3 of the 318th Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, TX, the WASP training base.

Jeanne soloed in the Stearman PT-13 Kaydet 220 hp primary trainer, the Vultee BT-13 Valiant 450 hp basic trainer, and the North American AT-6 Texan 600 hp advanced trainer. With the exception of combat training, Jeanne completed the same course of study in ground school, had the same number of hours of flight instruction, and passed the same rigorous check flights as Army Air Force cadets. She was Group Commander of her training class, the highest position a student WASP could hold. She had an outstanding training record, excelling in instrument flying, and passing the requirements for an Army Air Force test pilot.

Jeanne graduated on 15 Apr 1944. One month later she was assigned as an Engineering Test Pilot to Shaw Field, Sumpter, SC, flying Army Air Force trainers to identify problems and make certain they were safe to fly after they were repaired.

On 7 Oct 1944, Jeanne hitched a ride on an Army Air Force plane to Atterbury Army Field to visit her family in Columbus, then returned to Shaw Field the next day. That was the last time her family saw her alive. Eight days later, she was killed instantly in the Vultee BT-13 Valiant she was testing. She was four weeks from her 32nd birthday.

Jeanne's casket was accompanied to Columbus by a military escort of an Army Air Force officer and a WASP from Shaw Field. The funeral service was held at the home of her father. She is buried in Garland Brook Cemetery, Columbus, IN.

Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck, WASP



Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck, WASP



Where Did the Indiana Room Go?

-by Annette Blount, Barth. Co. Genealogy Librarian

In the Summer of 2022 the Bartholomew County Public Library Director, Jason Hatton, held a meeting with my supervisor at the time, Audrey Hood and me. He wanted to know what I thought about moving the genealogy and local history collection to the Mezzanine. I believe he thought I would be upset about the idea. I think I actually took the news better than he thought I would. Actually, I thought telling all of you would be the difficult part and all of you took the news better than I thought you would. My concern was that everything would not fit. The space looked rather small with the huge planter in the center of it. I also had three architectural models on the west side of the space to deal with. Jason enticed me to the space with a promise of brand new file cabinets instead of all the mismatched cabinets that were in the former Indiana Room. There would be new cabinets for all of Mary Ellen Grossman's files, all of the voter registration cards, the sixteen boxes of estate records that had not been unpacked and the other things I had in file cabinets. I told him to keep talking. It was sounding better all the time. I was assured it would all fit and I would have space to grow. Eighteen new black file cabinets were ordered. I asked about removing the architectural models. I like them but felt that I really didn't have the space for those in a genealogy and local history area. Cummins came and got one of the models. The other two were moved downstairs.

I was told the new carpet would not arrive until May 2023 but the teens were to get the former Indiana Room and the teen staff wanted to figure out how they were going to use their new space. All of the materials were moved at the end of February and we finished moving at the beginning of March. Somewhere during that time the elevator broke down and the teens did not get to move to the former Indiana Room because that room became the Main Floor meeting room. I guess it all worked out the way it was supposed to because there would not have been a room for meetings if genealogy and local history had not moved out of the former Indiana Room.

I had March and April and part of May to get acclimated to my new space. It is definitely different for me. The after school crowd was used to hanging out on the Mezzanine. People are used to having food and beverages there. Patrons were confused about whether to go to the "Indiana Room" for a meeting or go upstairs for genealogy/local history. We needed to change the name. The Mezzanine is not really a "room". After several emails back a forth between Jason, Maddie and myself we agreed to call the Mezzanine space "Local and Family History Area" and the former "Indiana Room" is temporarily the "Main Level Meeting Room". It is going to take a while to train even the staff to stop saying "Indiana Room". Eventually the former "Indiana Room" will become a teen space.

Preparations were being made to replace the old carpet with new carpet. I had to move out of the Mezzanine just before Memorial Day weekend. The area was to be closed until June 10th. The workers moved very quickly. The work didn't take quite as long as anticipated. I was able to go back up to my desk and I was told we could open back up when we were ready. Everything was so dusty from all the moving and tile work that had been done. I wanted to dust the cabinets and clean the shelves before we opened the space to the public so I spent one whole day cleaning my area. We opened the area again on June 7th. This week, the week of June 26th, the maps and some artwork was brought up and hung on the walls. It is beginning to look like home. The only visual thing left to do is label the ends of the shelves to make it easier for patrons to find what is on each shelf. I hope to have that done in the next few weeks.



Local and Family History Area, Bartholomew County Library



Where Did the Indiana Room Go? (cont)

If you come for a visit I would be happy to give you a tour of the new space. If you want to find your own way around it might help



Local and Family History Area, Bartholomew County Library

you to know that when you come up the main stairs the microfilm machines are to your left. The cabinets holding the microfilm are left of the machines on the other side of the brick pillar. The fiction collection is beside the microfilm cabinets with the model of the Brownsville Bridge located in Millrace Park sitting on top of the fiction shelf. After the fiction, the circulating nonfiction begins with the biographies and then the rest of the circulating nonfiction. At the end of the nonfiction is the circulating genealogy collection. These used to be on the small shelf in front of the former Indiana Room. Reference Genealogy begins after all of the circulating books. Most of these include reference books from other states and family histories. Next, is the Indiana Code books, Indiana Acts and the Indiana House and Senate Journals followed by Indiana periodicals. After the periodicals is Reference Indiana. The Indiana reference

books are split up by the new file cabinets. All of the Indiana reference books against the wall include Indiana county information and our local city and county directories and telephone books.

So that is the story of where we moved from and where we are today. The space is a bit noisier. It does get more foot traffic though. Sometimes it is difficult to find a table. People like to study there. I am working to keep food and drink out of the area;

although I have been accepting of the insulated cups. I feel like I have had to compromise a little. I am liking the space more now than when I first moved. Everything fits and I seem to have some room to grow. It doesn't look crowded and the carpet is new and looks really nice. I think when all the flooring is finished and the new elevator is installed and we finally get back to the way everything is supposed to be it is going to be a great new space! It is already shaping up that way!

What's In a Name?

-by Mike Wilson Panama City, FL

Census records show that Albert Jack Frost and his wife Mary Alice lived in Jay County, IN. They had two daughters. One, born in 1894, was named Snow. The second, named Icy, was born in 1895. According to Jay County records, Icy was married on April 6, 1918. The groom's name was Donald Bridge. So, this young lady became an Icy Bridge.





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Tripping Over My Roots

-by Bob Hobbs



THE ANCESTRY OF A HOUSE Part II

In the last quarterly edition of ANCESTORS, I wrote that I had purchased a house in Columbus located at the corner of 21st Street and Pennsylvania Street and that Pennsylvania had originally been named Janney Avenue, after a farm equipment company that was persuaded to start doing business in the city in 1905. Approximately seven years later the company was no more, and all traces of the Janney name was removed, including the street that would be from that time on known as Pennsylvania Street.

THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

The Cape Cod-style house that I now occupy was built in 1941 and the first to call it home was the Harry A. Williams family.

Harry Allison Williams was born on October 30, 1898 in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Harry's parents, John I. and Stella Williams relocated to Columbus, Indiana and rented a house at 1004 Franklin Street. Harry's middle name Allison was his mother's maiden name. John worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. When Harry registered for the WWI draft in 1918 at 19 years old, his address was listed as 1490 Washington Street, where he still lived with his parents. There are no records that I could find of him serving in the military. He was described on the draft registration as tall and slender with brown hair and grey eyes and as working as a "production man" at Nordyke Marmon Company in Indianapolis. Here he possibly served on an assembly line manufacturing flour mill machinery that was exported throughout North and South America.

The company also manufactured luxury motor cars and race cars. Their Marmon Wasp model won the Indianapolis 500 in 1911.

HARRY MEETS CLEO

He met Cleo Vivian Hartwell in Columbus. She was born in Columbus on June 30, 1908 in Greenfield, Indiana. The 1910 U.S Census shows at that time she was less than two years old and living with her parents in Madison, Indiana. Her father is recorded as being a railroad fireman.

I found as of this writing no marriage license record for Harry and Cleo. An announcement of their marriage in Greenfield, Indiana on July 9 (with no year given) appeared as part of the society column in the Monday, March 18, 1935 edition of the Columbus *The Evening Republican*. In both *The Daily Reporter* in Greenfield, Indiana on Monday, March 18, 1935 and *The Greenfield Republican* on Thursday, March 21, 1935, there are notices of them acquiring a marriage license there. If they were actually married in Greenfield on July 9, that would infer the year was 1934. Why the delay in any reporting of it? Why were they married in a town in a county different from where they had both spent most of their lives? At any rate, Cleo was ten years younger than her husband. Coincidentally, there was a ten-year age difference between Harry's mother and father also. A birth certificate and later documentation shows that on September 4, 1935, Harry and Cleo's first child was born. This would have been fourteen months later if they were married on July 9, 1934, but only 6 months later if they were married in March of 1935. Was the local reporting of an earlier marriage date an effort to avoid a scandal?

A Nordyke Marmon Advertisement

Tripping Over My Roots

-by Bob Hobbs

THE ANCESTRY OF A HOUSE (cont)

JOHN LEE IS BORN

Their child, John Lee Williams, had given names provided by the first name of his paternal grandfather, John Williams, and that of his maternal grandfather, Lee Hartwell. In 1938 and 1940 Columbus city directories, the family was living at 1490 Washington Street, the house Harry grew up in. In the '38 directory Harry's occupation was listed as a traveling salesman. The '40 directory listed Harry as the proprietor of Williams Radio Services, which is listed as providing "radio supplies, radio service, radio repairers, armature rewinding, and wholesale radio parts." 541 Jackson Street was listed as the address and the phone number given consisted of only four digits. In the 1940 US Census, taken on May 7, 1940, the family was living with Cleo's parents at 1496 Washington Street. It appears Harry and Cleo had been neighbors.

John Lee was now four years old. It is reasonable to assume Harry and his family moved in with his in-laws until they could move into their new house when it was completed in 1941. That year the family moved into the house at 2004 21st Street. It was a six-room home with a fireplace, two bedrooms and one bathroom. Both bedrooms were the same size (12'x12') with the bedroom in the front of the house with two clothes closets...one presumably for each parent. The room located in the back was perfect for little John Lee, who had just one closet. The house also had a one car garage attached by a breezeway that was later enclosed.

In December of that year, the country entered WWII and Harry had to register once again for the draft. Now 43, the married father of one was described as white, with a light complexion, and hazel eyes and gray hair. The boxes asking for height and weight were left blank.

ALONG COMES JANET SUE

The next year, the business owned and operated by H. A. Williams was now located at 334 5th Street, the site where the Irwin Union Bank and Trust Company would later be. His business locations in downtown Columbus might help explain, through no fault of their own, Harry and Cleo's propensity to being involved in fender-benders in their automobiles. The business grew and so did the family. On October 9, 1942, John Lee, now 7, no longer had the back bedroom to himself. His sister, Janet Sue, was born.



The house at 2555 Washington Street as it appears today

Years passed and it is now 1953. Both the family and business, now located at 1003 Washington Street, thrived. H. A. Williams Company by now also had locations in Bloomington and Richmond. It was now time to move on up to the Northside and give John Lee and Janet Sue, now 17 and 10, their own rooms. The house at 2004 21st was sold in March and the family bought a larger, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stone ranch house located at 2555 Washington Street.

THE NEXT DECADE WAS QUITE EVENTFUL FOR THE FAMILY

1953: John Lee graduates from Columbus High School.

1954: John Lee briefly attends Indiana University, then Butler University.

1960: Janet Sue graduates from Columbus High School.

1961: At 19, Janet Sue is engaged and marries Paul Wendell Mendenhall. Their first home is found at 2233 Pennsylvania Street, located in the next block north of the previous Williams family home at 21st and Pennsylvania.

1961: John Lee joins the Indiana National Guard. He leaves the guard three years later.

Then unfortunately, in both 1963 and 1964, the family was met with tragedy.

See the next issue of ANCESTORS to find out what happened to them!

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

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

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

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