

ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

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Vol 28 Issue 1

2018 BCGS Calendar

(See *INSIDE* for more details)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

German Emigration/Immigration
Presenter: Rev. Arthur Schwenk

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

SKILLS: Trip to the Indiana State Library

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Dating and Identifying Historic Photographs
Presenter: Joan Hostetler
Bring along your Indiana photographs !

SATURDAY, MAY 12

TBD - possibly CIDIG Presenter

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Outing to Yellow Trail Museum

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14/15

Steps Through Time @BCPL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

SKILLS: Organizing your Genealogy
Facilitators: Toni Whiteside and Heather McDonald

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Divorce: A 19th Century Epidemic
Presenter: Meredith Thompson

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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 !



President's Prose -by Becky Speaker

It's that time of year to set goals – goals for your genealogy research in 2018! Now don't get crazy and set a goal that you know you won't complete (or can't control), like losing 25 pounds quickly. But setting a goal can give your research some focus and give you a sense of accomplishment. For example in 2016, I set a goal to write a story about my mom's maternal immigrants who came from Germany to Wisconsin, then eventually moved to Seymour, as a way to honor my grandma who died in 2015. I did some online digging and mapping, but still had several holes in the story. But when I discovered that there was an entire library in Marathon County, Wisconsin devoted to immigrants like my ancestors, my mom and I traveled to Wausau, WI for a long fall weekend. We had a wonderful time, learned a lot of about our ancestors and got to see our ancestors' farms, homes and churches. Setting the goal inspired me to push to finish something that I could share (admittedly, it's 'finished', but is still revised occasionally!) Contrast that to 2017 where I set no goals and ended up feeling like I had not accomplished much when I looked back at the year during my Thanksgiving weekend. I'm sure that I updated a lot of records, but I couldn't name any specific accomplishment. So I decided to set a few goals for 2018, and get a head start in December on at least one of them....I've started working on the story of my mom's 3 times paternal grandfather Charles Otto August Schrader, by adding on to the brief story that I wrote for the Q2-17 Ancestor's newsletter.

You can set one or multiple goals (I like to set a several goals – maybe one big one and several that I know I can check-off as done if I just focus for a week or two!) Think about setting some goals that you can control. Some goals might be about finding information or maybe just organizing your information. Your goal could be about teaching others – maybe volunteering to meet with the kids on Friday during the Library's History Days! Or it could be about learning something new - like attending January's BCGS meeting where Rev. Arthur Schwenk will share about German Emigration or March's BCGS program about Dating & Identifying Historic Photographs. Whatever your goal is for 2018, we hope that we will see you at many times in 2018!

a goal without
a plan is just
a wish - Antoine de Saint Exupéry

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Highlights -by Marcus Speer

SKILLS MINUTES October 21, 2017 PROGRAM MINUTES November 18, 2017

BCGS's October SKILLS was attended by 7 members and one visitor. Toni Whiteside led the hands-on training on how to use the scanner and ancillary resources. This scanner kit was obtained through Indiana Genealogical Society (IGS) and is available for scanning and the digitization of materials that will then be submitted to IGS for posting on their website.

Toni began the training, starting with a document on old rural route listings (from the 1960's). It showed postal rural routes on a map and had names categorized under each rural route. Members were led through the printed instructions before the actual hands-on experience. After scanning a few pages to demonstrate the ease of using the scanner, each member also scanned additional pages.

One of the attending members suggested the digitization of early records from the First Baptist church. It is hoped that this future project will be completed soon. Another helpful SKILLS led by our own BCGS members.

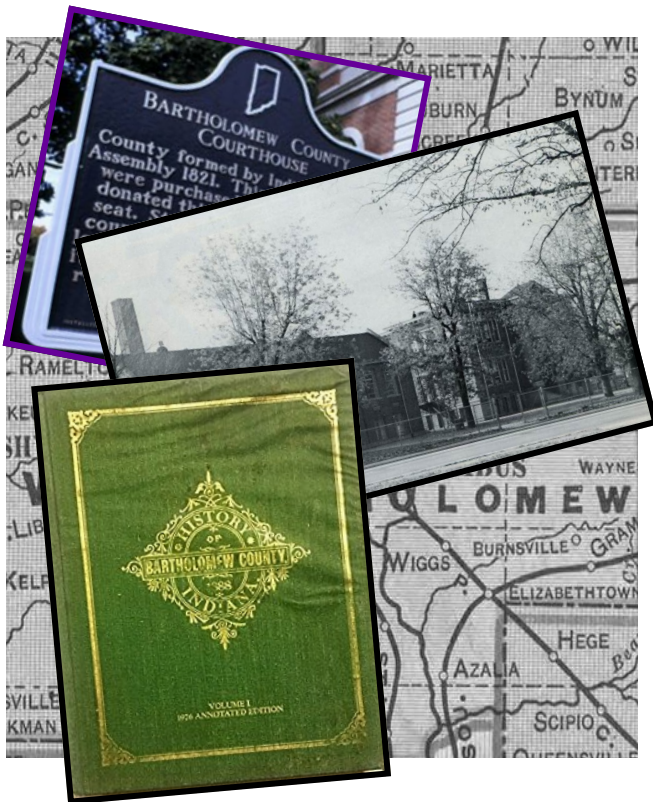
The November (18) Program included BCGS's annual meeting and final 2017 program: "Making the Most of the County Histories". First item of business was the election of officers for 2018. Chair of the nominating committee was Kim Ray. In Kim's absence, the following slate for 2018 was presented: Becky Speaker, President; Marcus Speer, Secretary; Toni Whiteside, Treasurer. There was no candidate and no nominations from the floor for Vice-President. The slate was approved as presented - motion made by Karen Loy and seconded by Judy Alexander. (Special Note: Heather McDonald, 2017 Vice-President has agreed to assist with future BCGS programming)

The presenter for the November Program was Monique Howell. She serves as the Indiana Collection Librarian at the Indiana at the Indiana State Library (ISL). Monique shared that there are various resources available through the Indiana State Library. One such resource is the Indiana Collection of County Newspapers. Researchers can use Inspire to access newspapers that ISL lets newspaper.com digitize.

She shared that the County History Book Collection is being scanned by the Allen County Library. The plan is to make them available for free on the Internet Archives (archive.org). Many of the county history books in the 1880s included biographies of well-to-do pioneers. Those from 1915-1916 were driven by the loss of Civil War veterans and the centennial celebration of Indiana as a state.

Other good resources includes: MUG books (photos of 'prominent' men), Centennial/Bicentennial publications (local advertisements to learn about the community), Pictorial publications (including street scenes), Chamber of Commerce & Tourism publications (snapshot of local economy), Memoirs, remembrances, chronicles (found on ISL online catalog), and also WPA indexes of names, persons & firms, plat maps, city directories, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, Historical atlases, etc. Be sure to check out www.in.gov/library/indiana.htm.

BCGS closed out another great year of programs and SKILLS. Many thanks to all who assisted with these throughout 2017.





2018 BCGS CALENDAR

-by Heather McDonald

*Unless otherwise noted, all sessions begin at 10:00 am in the Red Room
of the Bartholomew County Public Library*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 – GERMAN EMIGRATION/IMMIGRATION

This presentation will address the following: Why did so many Germans emigrate in the 19th Century; where did they come from; and where did they go; and more specifically, it will cover German immigration into Bartholomew County.

Presenter: Rev. Arthur Schwenk Pastor Schwenk, or Herr Schwenk, came to Columbus in 1970. Prior to that he worked as a draftsman in Germany and taught German in Rochester, Indiana. In Columbus he taught German and math until his first retirement in 2002. His undergraduate degree is from Ball State University and his graduate degrees are from Ball State University and Concordia Theological Seminary. He is an ordained Lutheran pastor and taught theology at Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour and served local congregations until his second retirement in 2016. Pastor Schwenk was a Fulbright Scholar at the Goethe Institut in Germany in 1970, and has received numerous awards for his civic activities, including the Federal Republic of Germany's Friendship Award, the Indiana German Heritage Society's German-American Award, a commendation in the U.S. Congressional Record, and the Ehrennadel (Medal of Honor) Award from the city of Löhne. Pastor Schwenk has been to Germany 20 times and has led numerous student and adult trips to the German-speaking countries. He has been actively involved for 30 years in the establishment of the Sister City relationship between Columbus and Löhne, Germany. Pastor Schwenk has done extensive research in conjunction with the Universität Oldenburg on German migration and settlement patterns in the U.S., particularly to Bartholomew County. He has served on several boards, including the Bartholomew County Historical Society. He currently volunteers at Clarity Pregnancy Services as a male counselor and serves on the President's Circle of Concordia Theological Seminary. He continues to be active in the Columbus-Löhne Sister City partnership and is active at St. Paul Lutheran Church. He and his late wife Marcia have three married adult children and eight grandchildren.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10—SKILLS: TRIP TO THE INDIANA STATE LIBRARY

We will be heading to the State Library in Indianapolis for a tour and research visit. Plan on spending most (or all) of your day as the library will be open from 10:00 – 4:00.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24— DATING AND IDENTIFYING HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

From boxes of unidentified photographs to discs of digital images, we all have family photographs that need attention. This program explores dating images, preserving family photographs, and management of digital photos. Presenter Joan Hostetler will discuss how to examine and interpret historic photographs, reviewing processes and formats from the daguerreotype to snapshot. She will also explore internal dating clues, such as clothing, hairstyles, automobiles, props, photographers' backstamps, and even ear shapes.

Presenter: Joan Hostetler Joan Hostetler is a historic photograph specialist who works with archives and individuals across the state. She is the founding director of the Indiana Album, Inc., a non-profit organization that promotes preserving and sharing historic photographs.

Bring along your Indiana photographs for the Indiana Album Project! In connection with the presentation, you are encouraged to bring interesting Indiana-related photographs for an Indiana Album Scan-a-Thon between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This non-profit online archive takes hidden gems from the attic to the web by scanning, cataloging, and sharing historic photographs of all eras (up to the present) that are normally hidden in family photo albums or shoe boxes. Topics desired include photographs of Indiana houses, farms, businesses, schools, churches, bands, clubs, street scenes, transportation, or interesting people (including portraits of prominent or pioneer residents, people participating in activities, or great snapshots of everyday life). Scanning technicians will make high resolution scans while you wait and, later, the scans and catalog record will be uploaded to an online catalog. All photos will be carefully handled and immediately returned to the owners. Visit the Indiana Album web page (www.indianaalbum.com) to see some of the 10,000 images loaned so far. This program is funded by a grant from Indiana Humanities with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



2018 BCGS CALENDAR (CONT)

SATURDAY, MAY 12—TBD

Possibly, Speaker from CIDIG: Central Indiana DNA Interest Group

SATURDAY, JULY 21—OUTING TO YELLOW TRAIL MUSEUM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14/15—STEPS THROUGH TIME @BCPL

Join us for the annual History Days as either a volunteer or visitor. The BCGS table is usually located in the Indiana Room.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20—SKILLS: ORGANIZING YOUR GENEALOGY

Toni Whiteside and Heather McDonald will be sharing their tips, success stories, and struggles in keeping their genealogy materials organized. Bring your best tips to share! This session will be held in the conference room of the library.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17— DIVORCE: A 19TH CENTURY EPIDEMIC

This presentation will give an introduction to American divorce records and some of the resources available for locating a divorce case. It will touch on the history of American divorce laws and identify areas that became known as “divorce mills” because of their willingness to grant quick divorces—including Indianapolis.

Presenter: Meredith Thompson. Meredith Thompson has been involved with the Indiana Genealogical Society for 20 years in a variety of roles. She is currently their website manager and treasurer, contributes databases and creates their monthly e-mail blast. For the past 20 years, she has also maintained a website about Hendricks County, Indiana genealogy for the USGenWeb Project. She works at the Plainfield public library, and in her spare time enjoys inventorying and indexing records.

Welcome to Our New Member:

Dena Bohall Surnames researching: FOLGER, BOHALL, DIETRICH, GILLILAND

NOW OPEN !

The Yellow Trail Museum in Hope has opened their NEW RESEARCH CENTER !

Genealogy Books, Record Books, Scrapbooks, Photos, Documents, Magazines, and more !

We are scanning documents using OCR Technology, so you can search within the document.

You probably have seen the value of this new technology in Newspapers .com

STOP BY AND CHECK IT OUT ! Located on the NW Corner of the Hope Square

YELLOW TRAIL RESEARCH CENTER

MON and WED 10 - 2pm (or by appointment)



I'm An Indian Too! (Or So I Thought)

*Like the Seminole, Navajo, Kickapoo
Like those Indians, I'm An Indian too!
A Sioux, A Sioux!*

So goes the first verse of an Irving Berlin song, sung by Ethel Merman as Annie Oakley, in the original 1946 Broadway production of ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. I was first made aware of this song in 1968 when my high school did the show as a result of a recording of the new production done two years earlier by The Music Theatre of Lincoln Center. Again starring Ethel Merman reprising her original performance, many thought she was too old for the role. Her love interest was played by an actor half her age and therefore the production got the nickname GRANNY GET YOUR GUN. The recording of this production is arguably the best documentation of the classic score and inspired the speech teacher and the chorus teacher at my high school to attempt its first musical in many years. It didn't hurt that there was a senior female student that could belt as well as "The Merm." I was part of that production as a singing and dancing chorus boy who played several non-speaking roles. Don't laugh! We all have to start somewhere!

The "I'm An Indian Too" number in the second act had Annie blasting out this song. At the time it was a song considered quite humorous. When she was finished, the dancing chorus broke out into a frenzied Indian tribal dance.

*Just like Battle Axe, Hatchet Face, Eagle Nose
Like those Indians, I'm An Indian too!
Just like Rising Moon, Falling Pants, Running Nose
Like those Indians, I'm An Indian too!
A Sioux! A Sioux!*

In the last half of the 60s, society was somewhat aware of the inappropriate showbiz practice of blackface, but slathering yourself with reddish body paint to pass as a Native American, perhaps called "red face" had not yet reached a similar level of taboo.

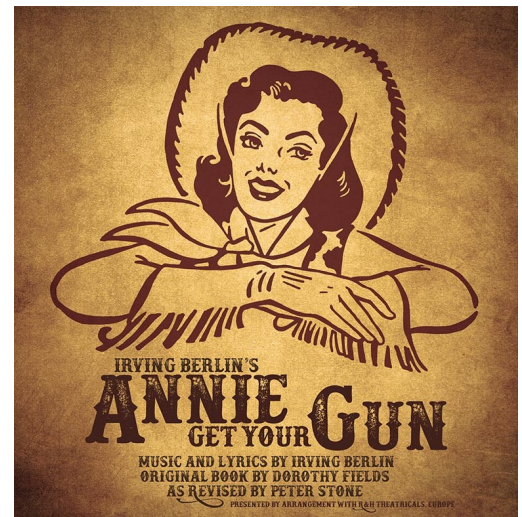
When I saw the revival starring Bernadette Peters on Broadway in November of 1999, the song and the scene leading up to where Annie was made an honorary Indian by Chief Sitting Bull had been completely cut from the show. It had become the victim of what we now know as political correctness.

So had the word "Indian" become inappropriate in reference to those who inhabited the country prior to the Europeans making an appearance. The term American Indian was no better and eventually the term Native American gained favor.

I can remember belonging to an organization called Indian Guides with my dad when I was a young boy. What I remember about it was we sat in a circle, cross-legged and drummed. I believe we wore a leather headband and earned feathers to put in it based on the number of activities we completed. We were also given authentic names, unlike those used in the aforementioned Irving Berlin song. This organization has over the years has been considered racist in nature and the organization is all but history.

About the same time I was performing in my high school version of the show, a sixteen-year-old stripped to the waist with body paint on every visible surface of skin, I asked my paternal grandfather as we sat at the dining room table to tell me what he knew about his relatives. Grandpa Troy (as his grandchildren were taught to call him) was always the kidder. Although it was almost a half century ago, I remember his answer as if it were yesterday.

Without missing a beat, he answered, "They were Indians and horse thieves who were hung!" He then chuckled.



Tripping Over My Roots

Cont.

I joined him with a nervous laugh not really knowing the right way to respond to that revelation of family history. I never knew if he was telling me the truth or not. I studied his face with his black hair combed straight back and his high cheek bones. (More on the high cheekbones trait later.) For a brief moment I even visualized him sitting there at the end of the table in an Indian head-dress! I never got clarification as to whether the Indians and horse thieves were one and the same or not.

Six years ago I wrote my Aunt Wanita, his daughter who is now in her mid 90s and the only surviving family member of that generation. I also sent her photos I had taken of the graves of her ancestors in Wales. She was amazed at my findings and had no knowledge of their existence. In that letter I asked her if she could add any credibility to her father's claims as to his ancestry. She laughed and told me that the horse thieves claim could not be verified by her, but she remembered the following as far as a possible Native American connection:



"My Grandpa Hobbs' name [was] Roy. He married Bertha Burton who was the daughter of Elvira Posten. I think the Indian heritage came from the Posten side of the family. I remember going to her house and she was sitting in her rocking chair on the porch. The stove in the house was putting out a lot of heat with the door wide open. She had long braids hanging down past her shoulders. She had on an apron that had a big pocket where she kept her tobacco. Every once in a while, she would refill her pipe and set the tobacco on fire."

Where my Aunt thought she looked like a Native American, the mental picture I got was that she looked more like Mammy Yokum!

According to my Ancestry.com research, I find no mention of any Posten family connections to Native Americans. My aunt thought she was a Native American only because of what she had heard from other family members and because she thought she looked like one....fitting the stereotype of an old Indian woman.

On my maternal side of the family, I found in my search of county records on my trip to Tennessee that John Copeland, the son of William who had spent the historical, fateful winter with Washington at Valley Forge, had met and married Sarah Short in Grainger County, Tennessee. She reportedly was of the Cherokee Nation. I found a copy of the marriage bond signed by John and a John Smith where they and their "heirs are jointly and severally held and firmly bound unto his Excellence, the Governor or his successors in office, in the penal sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, void on condition, that there be no lawful objection, why John Copeland and Sarah Short may not be joined together as husband and wife, in the holy estate of matrimony. Witness our hands and seals this 25 th day of March A.D., 1798, and the XXII year of our Independence."

So with possibilities from both sides of my family tree of being Indian or American Indian or Native American, why doesn't that show up in my Ancestry DNA test? The answer is both complex and debatable. Based on various sources, the experts in this subject somewhat agree.

Reasons Why Native American DNA Does NOT Show Up On Test Results:

- 1) Your "full blooded" Native American ancestors may have lived so far back that their DNA was "washed out" before it got to your generation.

According to 23 and Me, Native American DNA has been known to "wash out" in five generations. During Random Genetic Recombination, DNA gets randomly remixed as it passes from parent to child. Some of the ethnic components/ DNA sequences from our direct fore- parents gets lost over time. Each child inherits random DNA contributions from his/ her 2 parents (50% each), 4 grandparents (25% each), 8 great-grandparents (12.5% each), 16 great, great grandparents

Tripping Over My Roots

Cont.

(6.25%), 32 great, great, great-grandparents (3.125%) and 64 great, great, great great-grandparents (1.56%) and on and on. To make it even more complicated, the truth is you don't inherit your random DNA contributions in fixed percentages as the distribution previously mentioned suggests. Instead you inherit your DNA sequences in segments of various lengths.

For example starting with your grandparents, you WILL NOT actually get 25% DNA equally from each grandparent. Instead the contributions per grandparent could be more random like this:

15% from Grandparent #1	35% from Grandparent #2
40% from Grandparent #3	10% from Grandparent #4

Therefore should the genes of the Native American ancestor be with your Grandparent #4, the odds of you inheriting anything measurable in the DNA tests now available is greatly reduced.

- 2) It is possible that your ancestors were not Native American by blood. It is possible that the great, great-grandparent you thought was a Native American is so because of adoption, marriage, or by a circumstantial situation where a legal, not genetic, relationship was established. To put it simply, they became "an Indian too" like Annie Oakley who was ceremoniously made an honorary one in name only.
- 3) The DNA test has a problem assigning Native American DNA to your genome. The percentage of the genome utilized for genealogical DNA tests are very small. Most of the personal DNA services available to us through 23andMe, FamilyTreeDNA, and Ancestry DNA analyze anywhere from 400,000 to 700,000 ancestry informative markers out of a potential 15 million. The human genome actually has about 3 billion base pairs!

Currently of the three tests available mentioned, 23andMe is reportedly the most sensitive test for detecting Native American DNA and alleges a 99% Precision Rate and a 99% Recall Rate.

A genealogist working for Ancestry DNA reports that if everyone in the United States who claims to be of Native American ancestry actually was, half the current population would have, at least in part, Native American roots.

Perhaps the most recent high-profile example of someone thinking they had Native American ancestry only to be possibly proven wrong is Massachusetts U. S. Senator Elizabeth Warren. When she ran for senator, her opponent accused her of unjustifiably posing as a Native American in order to get a teaching job at Harvard. This has since been disproved, but due to her opposition to the current POTUS, she has been repeatedly referred to by him as "Pocahontas." She insists that she and her siblings were raised hearing stories of her reported Native American ancestor and even currently has the ancestor's picture on her mantle in her home. She says her relatives were frequently pointing out the "high cheekbones" of her purported Native American ancestor. I can relate because, as mentioned earlier, I used this characteristic as a indicator and it seems many people have.

At closer look, when I delve into my Ancestry DNA report, I can see that in addition to the two main areas of ethnicity estimates located in western Europe and the British Isles, there are also seven low confidence regions and many other lesser ones.

Under Native American, there are small indicators of ethnicity connections in the areas of southern California, New Mexico, South Texas, and northern and central Mexico!

So where does the Cherokee come into the picture? Why doesn't the report show any connections to Tennessee, where my Irish ancestor married my Cherokee one? With so many mysteries yet to solve in order to answer these questions, perhaps other sources should be consulted. Therefore, I have recently sent in my DNA test to 23andMe. It will be interesting to see where that takes me and how it compares to my Ancestry DNA test. In the meanwhile, the quest for answers continues!

CARVED IN STONE

-BY DONNA KUHLMAN

QUERY:

William Wilson born abt. 1813 married a Mahala, maybe Moore, born abt 1814

From: LP

Response:

Hello !

William Wilson and Mahala Moore were married Dec. 20, 1832, in Shelby Co., Indiana. They were last listed on census in 1870, in Bartholomew Co. Mahala Moore Wilson died in 1877, and was buried at Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Shelby Co., Indiana. William Wilson may be buried at Little Sandcreek Cemetery, in Bartholomew Co., with some of their children; or he may be buried at Pleasant Grove with Mahala. He does not seem to have a marker either place, although there is a grave with an unmarked crudely cut stone, next to Joseph Willson at Little Sandcreek. Indiana did not begin keeping civil death records until 1882, and even those did not include burial locations until after 1900; so there is very little documentation available for that time period, except for marked graves. There are no sexton records for Little Sandcreek.

Here is a link to Mahala's grave:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=wilson&GSiman=1&GScid=1975558&GRid=106968554>
This Findagrave entry has links to Mahala's parents.

I don't have any information about William Wilson's parents, or his exact date of death, but most likely 1870-1880, as he does not seem to be listed on the 1880 census.

William and Mahala had a large family, twelve children. I know of burial places for only three:

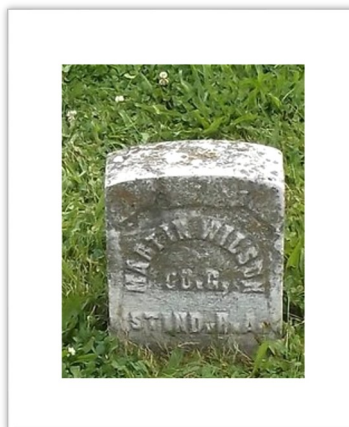
Martin Wilson, 1843-1896: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=wilson&GSiman=1&GScid=1975558&GRid=106910237>&

Joseph Willson, 1842-1861: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=will&GSiman=1&GScid=85717&GRid=42873457>
(This son died at Paducah, KY, in the Civil War.)

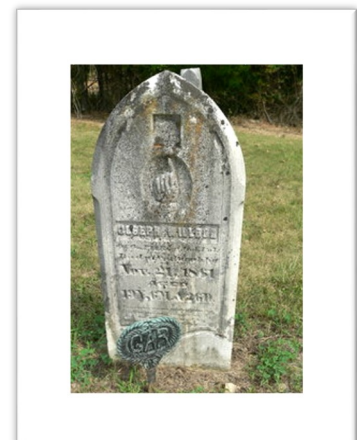
William H. Wilson, 1855-1927: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=122258146>



Mahala (Moore) Wilson



Martin Wilson



Joseph Wilson

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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Thanks for your Support

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