

ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

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2018 BCGS Calendar

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

SATURDAY, MAY 12

ADDING DNA TESTING TO YOUR GENEALOGY TOOLKIT

by CIDIG: Central Indiana DNA Interest Group

Denise Anderson-Decina, moderator; Ann Raymont & Angela Guntz, speakers

Session 1: Overview of DNA Testing, Ethnicity, Tools, etc

Session 2: Building Effective Family Trees for DNA Matches

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Outing to Yellow Trail Museum & Research Center

Lunch at Willow Leaves (noon-1, pay on your own)

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14/15

Library Annual History Days

BCGS table is usually located in the Indiana Room

Volunteer to help at our booth or just come visit !

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

S.K.I.L.L.S.: ORGANIZING YOUR GENEALOGY

Facilitators: Toni Whiteside and Heather McDonald

Sharing tips, success stories, and struggles in keeping genealogy materials organized. Bring your best tips to share! (Library Conference Room)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

DIVORCE: A 19th CENTURY EPIDEMIC

Presenter: Meredith Thompson

Introduction to American divorce records and some of the resources available for locating a divorce case, including the history of American divorce laws and identifying areas that became known as "divorce mills" because of their willingness to grant quick divorces, like Indianapolis.



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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

Any one else ready for Spring? I know I am ready for some warmer weather. But the silver lining is that I've gotten a lot more done on my genealogy research, thanks to the cold weather. I've been using a new technique that has helped me dig into some distant ancestors in the 1600's – 1800's. I have been using the various public trees to locate books with my ancestors in them. Two great examples if you have ancestors in New England are:

* **New England, The Great Migration and the Great Migration Begins, 1620-1635**

* **English Origins of New England Family.**

I have found entire books dedicated to my ancestors! Sure, these are not primary sources, and I've found some conflicts, but these are good leads to follow. And these books sometimes contain fascinating stories, which are my favorite parts of genealogy.

Do you have a new tool or tip that has taken you deeper into your research? How about the use of DNA testing? I know I could certainly use some help figuring out to use my results. Come join BCGS on Sat., May 12, 2018, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm a program led by the Central Indiana DNA Interest Group (CIDIG). This free workshop focuses on an introduction to DNA testing, types of tests available, testing companies, and interpreting results. We'll have an intermission after the first hour, then focus on going deeper in a 2nd hour on Connecting Family Trees to DNA Results, where we'll learn about Creating and uploading DNA data to various testing companies to identify potential matches and expand family lines.

Also, save the date for our summer outing - Saturday, July 21 - when we will visit the Yellow Trail Museum and the Yellow Trail Research Center in Hope! We'll learn about the new Yellow Trail Research Center and spend some together at our lunch outing at Willow Leaves. Looking forward to seeing you soon (and looking forward to Spring!)

Welcome to Our New Members :

ALVIN BALMER FROM EDINBURGH

BECKY BRIDGES FROM GREENWOOD

JULIAN SMITH AND STACY WATKINS FROM HOPE

FRED CLYMER FROM COLUMBUS (who won a free year membership at Annette Blount's Genealogy workshop at the library. Congratulations!)

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)

Highlights -by Marcus Speer

PROGRAM MINUTES January 20, 2018

BCGS'S first program of 2018 was on Saturday, January 20 at 10 a.m. Those who attended included 28 members & 12 guests. Presenter was Rev. (Herr) Arthur Schwenk and his topic was **German Emigration/Immigration**. His excellent presentation addressed the following: Why did so many Germans emigrate in the 19th Century; where did they come from; and where did they go? Toward the end of the presentation, Art covered German immigration into Bartholomew County.

Art shared that there were different types of migrations from Europe to the U.S. One example was the urbanization in Europe in the 19th century. Another example was the Transatlantic Emigration. Much of the latter migration occurred through the following ports: Baltimore, New Orleans, and New York. Two-thirds of immigrants did not stay at the ports after arriving. Art shared that many may think of Ellis Island when hearing of early migration to America, but actually Castle Garden (1855) predated Ellis Island (1892).

Art's final presentation of the morning concerned German Immigration into Bartholomew County. The original immigrants were farmers & peasants. These included itinerant workers (no housing provided in old land), tenant farmers (housing provided), and head farmer (supervisor who did not own the land). German Immigrants also were "not the oldest son." Because younger sons (and daughters) did not have an "inheritance" many of them decided to migrate to America.

Art shared the following pathways to Indiana and Bartholomew County.

- * 1820's - Bremen -> Baltimore -> Cincinnati (North German Church) -> Indiana
- * 1834 Osnabrock Area -> Cincinnati
- * 1839 Cincinnati -> Whitecreek

SKILLS MINUTES Feb 10, 2018

BCGS's February SKILLS was attended by 10 members who journeyed to the Indiana State Library (ISL) in Indianapolis. Two groups carpooled from Taylorsville, leaving at 9 a.m. and arriving at ISL a little before 10 a.m. The group of members were provided a brief introduction and "tour" of the library. Then, members were allowed to do individual research. Many enjoyed browsing through the many genealogical books and records and some took some time to review newspapers on the second floor of the library.

All decided to go over to the Indiana Historical Society and eat at the café in basement of the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center. All enjoyed delicious food and fellowship at the Stardust Terrace Café.

After lunch, some more time was spent researching before the first group of members decided it was time to return to Bartholomew County. The second group departed a short time later. All declared it an enjoyable and productive day of research.

Highlights -by Marcus Speer (cont)

PROGRAM MINUTES MARCH 24, 2018

A wintry day in March still allowed 11 members and 4 guests to attend the BCQS Program entitled: "Family Photographs: From Daguerreotype to Digital." The informative program was presented by Joan Hostetler from The Indiana Album, Inc. Scanning was completed on site by Joan's husband, John.

For a link to the presentation and slides, please go to <http://bit.ly/2vMXUMz> (caps matter). Joan also shared the following information for Heritage Photo and Research Services: 317.771.4129, heritagephoto@indy.rr.com, www.heritagephoto-research.com

Also, provided was a link for finding scanned images at the Indiana Album, *historic photographs from the attic to the web*: <http://indianaalbum.pastperfectonline.com/>

Joan asked: "Why copy Indiana images?" Two reasons are (1) "Inspired by photos that we've seen and preserved" and (2) "Many photos are not available to public because they are hidden in attics and personal albums." She pointed out that many will use these scanned photos including: Preservationists, Historians, Authors, Filmmakers, School alumni groups, students, genealogists, history buffs, newspaper reporters, nostalgic folk, museums, libraries, architectural historians, bloggers, urban planners.

Joan shared that the following are wanted for copying: photographs, negatives, slides, daguerreotypes/Tintypes, postcards, drawings and prints, snapshots. They are interested in images from all eras - past to present.

One important portion of the program was the information shared about photographic processes and formats.

1. Cased Photographs (1839-1860s)
2. Daguerreotype (1839-1860s)
3. Ambrotype (1854-1860s)
4. Tintype (Ferrottype or Melainotype) (1856-1930s)
5. Negatives: Wet Collodion Glass Negative (1851-

1880), Gelatin Dry Plate Glass Negative (1880-1925), Cellulose Nitrate (1889-1951), Cellulose Acetate (1920s-present), Polyester (1955-present).

6. Albumen Prints (1850s-1900)
7. Card Photographs (introduced in late 1850s)
8. Carte de Visite (1860-1900)
9. Cabinet Card (1870-1900)
10. Crayon Enlargement (1860s-1920s)
11. Cyanotype (1880-1920)
12. Snapshots (1888-present)
13. Gelatin Silver Photographs (1890s-2000s)
14. Photographic Postcards (1905-1920)
15. Folder/Easel Photographs (1903-present)
16. Color Photographs (1935-present)
17. Slides (1930s-present)
18. Polaroid (1948-2008)
19. Other Papers: Salted Paper Prints (1840s-1860s), Platinotype (1870-1910s), Glossy Printing Out Paper (1890s), Matte Collodion Printing Out Paper (1890s-1910s), Gelatin Developing Out Paper, 1890s-Present) Resin-Coated (RC) (1970-Present).
20. Photomechanical Prints
21. Photograph Albums (1860-present)

Joan ended the program by sharing techniques for photographic preservation, and she shared tips on archiving family photographs. Here are only a few of them. Handling Guidelines: Clean, uncluttered work/storage space, use both hands to hold photos, no food or drinks near work area, keep pets away from photographs. Environmental Control: Relative humidity 30-50% Temperature 68-70 degrees F, Color stored at 40 degrees F, Low temperature and humidity for film negatives.

Many additional details were shared and be found through the link listed earlier in this article. Another excellent program provided by BCQS.



Genealogy at the Library

with Genealogy Librarian, Annette Blount

I have been answering genealogy letters and emails for several years now. The last couple of years I have been thinking about having a genealogy class. I was hoping to help those who are just beginning to search for their ancestors or those who just have questions about genealogy in general. I am definitely not an expert but I do enjoy a good mystery and I like the search. Sometimes what seems like a simple question is not really all that simple. It may open up a fascinating story. I think many people are under the impression that you can come to the library and just ask for a copy of your family tree. I keep hoping I have some of those people take my class.

I decided to hold my first class in January of this year. That class was full. There were 12 people and there are only 10 computers in the computer lab. We spent two hours in the computer lab in the library basement. During those two hours we looked at programs the library has in its genealogy links on its website. Some are sites we subscribe to and others are links to free sites. We probably spent most of our time on Ancestry.com. We also looked at Find a Grave, FamilySearch, Newspapers.com and of course, I talked about Bartholomew County Genealogical Society (BCGS).

At the second class, which was held in March, I had only three people. I made sure I covered all the sites and this time I saved Ancestry.com for last. I wanted the students to see other sites that they could use from home and not just the most popular one. The BCGS board generously decided to give someone in the class a free membership to the society. Fred Clymer won that drawing. Hopefully, we will see him at some future programs.

I hope to have another class in May. I have heard about interest in an evening class so the May class will probably be from 6-8 in the evening. I have not finalized the details of that class yet but I am learning what I need to add and what I need to leave out. Having the class every other month seems to work well. Even though the class is for those just getting started, I have had people take the class who have been searching for a while. I think they want to get some tips for using the programs. I hope they have found the class helpful. Most of my search tips have come through trial and error. I would say that in my case I definitely learn by doing. I am sure I am not alone in that. Sometimes I learn from the people in the class as well as them learning from me. I am not too proud to admit I do not have all the answers. Sometimes people in the class offer some great suggestions. We have to help each other.



Congrats on your free membership to BCGS,

Fred Clymer

Tripping MY ROVER Over ROOTS

-by Bob Hobbs

The Tri-State Tornado of 1925

INTRODUCTION:

As I write this, I mark the anniversary of one of the worse storms to ever hit the United States. Ninety-three years ago, on March 18, 1925, a Wednesday, the deadliest tornado in U.S. history formed in southeastern Missouri, jumped the Mississippi River, diagonally crossed southern Illinois, skipped across the Wabash River, and mercifully dissipated in southwestern Indiana. Its track was the longest ever recorded in the world. It was later determined by experts that it was a F5 tornado, the maximum damage rating issued on the Fujita scale. It was the most significant of at least twelve tornados that spanned a large portion of the Midwestern and Southern United States that fateful day. By the time it made its mile wide path through the three states, 695 people lost their lives. This was more than twice the number of fatalities of the second deadliest on record, The Great Natchez Tornado of 1840.

THE LONG JOURNEY OF A DEADLY STORM:

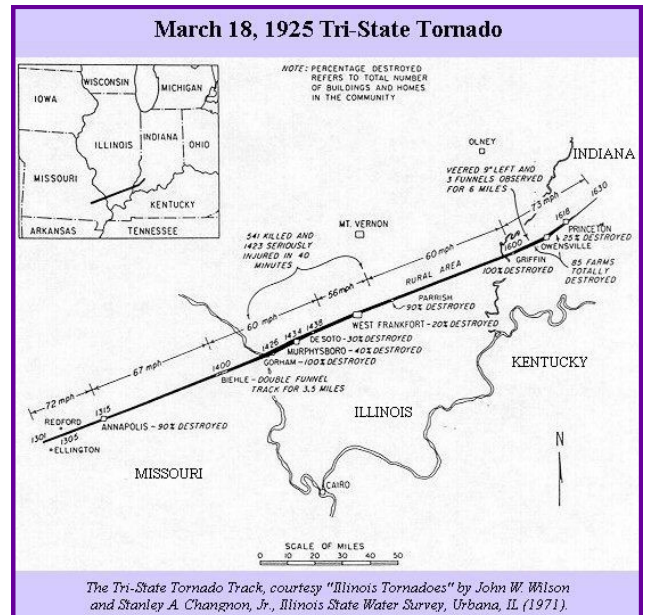
12:40 PM: A relatively small, but highly visible funnel cloud is sighted in the rugged, forested hills of Shannon County in southeast Missouri.

1:01 PM: Having grown larger, the tornado began to claim it's first lives. Northwest of Ellington, several homes and other structures were destroyed. Speeding northeast, \$500,000 worth of property damage was caused in the near annihilation of Annapolis, where two people were killed. In the mining town of Leadanna, mining machinery and several structures were destroyed. Two more were killed. In Bollinger County, thirty-two children were injured when two schools collapsed. Deep land scouring, where vegetation is completely stripped from the ground, was seen in Sedgewickville and sheets of metal were carried 50 miles away. Crossing into Perry County, a double funnel was seen. Before leaving Missouri, at least fifteen others were killed.



2:30 PM: The tornado crossed the Mississippi River into southern Illinois, where it stripped the bark from trees and scoured the ground before striking the town of Gorham. The town was leveled. Railroad tracks were ripped from the ground. Thirty-four were killed, including seven children in school.

Continuing northeast, the storm traveled a speed averaging an average of 62 mph and cut a swath of almost a mile wide. This wide path was attributed to the fact that the tornado had, by all appearances, turned on its side and resembled a huge rolling fog of boiling clouds filled with mud, vegetation, buildings, and other debris picked up along the way. Normally weather-wise farmers were fooled by its appearance and did not sense the danger until the storm was upon them. Most of the town of Murphysboro was destroyed. Seventeen students were killed in one school, nine in another. After the tornado passed, large fires ignited and swept through the rubble, burning many of the trapped survivors alive. A total of 234 were killed, leaving the town with the distinction of the most tornadic deaths in a single city in U.S. history. De Soto saw 69 deaths. In the village of Bush, seven died and pieces of wood speared the water tower. Further east in the mining town of West Frankfort, 152 fatalities occurred. Miners, underground when the tornado hit, emerged from the Orient Mine to find their homes destroyed and members of their family killed. East of town a railroad trestle was ripped from its supports. Small mining villages were obliterated. The small town of Parrish, where twenty-two were killed, was literally wiped off the map and never rebuilt. In this south central area of Illinois, within a period of 40 minutes, 541 lives were lost and 1,423 were seriously injured. The tornado proceeded to destroy Hamilton and White counties, killing sixty-five more before crossing into Indiana. The total death count in Illinois would be estimated at 613, the most killed by a tornado in a single state in the history of the United States.



Tripping Over My Roots

Cont.



4:05 PM: Crossing the Wabash River, the tornado demolished the town of Griffin, Indiana, killing twenty-six. Two more were killed in Owensville, and forty-five in Princeton where the Heinz factory was badly damaged.

4:38 PM: The tornado traveled northeast more than ten miles before dissipating 2.5 miles southeast of Petersburg. At least 71, possibly more, were killed in Indiana.

MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE STORM:

I was raised in two counties in southern Illinois. Up until the time I was in the 7th grade my family lived in Centralia, located in the southeast corner of Marion County, 50 miles (as the crow flies) southeast of St. Louis, Missouri. It was around this time, possibly even earlier, that I first learned of this infamous tornado. It seemed as though each time we were warned that the conditions were right for a possible tornado or, Heaven forbid, we knew one was in the area, the mother of them all was mentioned

in hushed tones as if to offer a prayer that history would not repeat itself. While my parents were not yet born, my grandparents remembered when it occurred and would share stories they had heard about it.

During the summer between the 7th and 8th grade, my parents, sister, and I left our grandparents and other family members in Centralia and moved to a town two counties south. Benton, the county seat of Franklin County, became our new home when my dad got a promotion in management with Prudential Insurance Company. Franklin County had been one of the counties in the direct path of the great storm. There is a story that a man hurriedly left the bank on the Benton Square when word got to him of what had happened in West Frankfort a mere six miles away. In his rush to get home to check on the wellbeing of his family, his speeding car hit and killed a man, a survivor of the storm, walking beside the road.

Years later, when I was teaching in Florida and was the Language Arts Department Chair at the middle school where I taught, I came upon a workbook titled "Six Way Paragraphs." I was constantly on the lookout for materials to help my students and the students of other teachers in my department become better readers. I was impressed by the method taught in this book using high-interest, nonfiction stories. Imagine my surprise when I discovered one of those passages was titled "The World's Worst Tornado." Each of the many subsequent years I used the book, this passage was one of my students' favorites. In the paragraph noting the many fatalities, they were especially intrigued as to why so many school-age children were killed by the storm. I told them that the tornado hit the communities in the early to mid afternoon when children were in school or on their way home from school. Also unlike today, when we prepare in advance and get warnings of approaching tornados, back then there were no such warning systems. Unfortunately, the schools were caught completely unaware of the deadly storm. My students were quite attentive when I told them more vivid details of the death and destruction that I had learned over the years. Each school year, without fail, I would be asked if I was alive in 1925!

Later still, when I became interested in geneology, I discovered a connection that my family never mentioned and probably had no knowledge. After my Copeland ancestors settled on the Ohio River in southern Illinois, many of them later moved further north into what became Johnson County, which was a couple of counties south of Franklin. My great, great grandfather's brother, James Polk Copeland became a newspaper man when it was said that "the editor had to know all about the printer's craft as well as be able to wield a facile pen." In 1859, James began work as a fourteen-year-old in the office of the *Johnson County Inquirer*, the county's first newspaper located in the town of Vienna (pronounced with a long i). He moved a year later to the *Union Democrat* in nearby Anna, Illinois. When troops were called for, he enlisted in the local regiment to fight in The Civil War. After serving gallantly, he returned to his journalistic efforts and eventually became editor and publisher of the *Johnson County Journal*. He soon thereafter launched the *Marion Monitor* in Marion, Illinois, in Williamson County, which was one county north of Johnson County and one county south of Franklin County. He had one son, John Wallace Copeland, born on December 16, 1902. This would have made him my great-grandmother's cousin although he was closer to the age of my grandmother. Nonetheless, he followed in the foot steps of his maternal grandfather, Boston Lilley, a farmer and teacher, and attended nearby Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, which is also my alma mater. John Wallace graduated in June of 1924 and went to work as a reporter at his father's news - paper in Marion.



Tripping Over My Roots

Cont.

On March 18 of the next year, he was assigned to cover the tornado ravaged towns of Murphysboro and West Frankfort in near-by Franklin County. What he learned must have been horrific. Reportedly, women were seen roaming what was left of the towns in a daze with their arms outstretched having had their babies snatched from their arms by the 65-75 miles per hour wind. Some of the lucky ones found their infants still alive in what was left of the branches of nearby trees. The less fortunate ones were told days later that their children's bodies were found in fields miles away. One mother was found dead in a rocking chair clutching her lifeless child. Dead children from the nearby schools were brought to the covered porches of the houses that made it through the storm unscathed while other houses up and down both sides of the same street were mere piles of rubble. Several of the dead children had had their clothes completely blown off them. Survivors whose homes were not destroyed donated their children's clothes in order to dress the victims after they had been bathed by the surviving women in the community.

PERSONAL ANECDOTES OF SURVIORS AND OTHERS:

As I mentioned before in a previous column, I went to Benton Community High School with actor John Malkovich. His family ran the local newspaper, *The Benton Evening News*. While John did not go into the family business, his older brother Danny and sister Becky did. John has survived both siblings. Before their deaths, Danny ran the local family paper while Becky eventually went on to be a writer for a regional paper, *The Southern Illinoisan*. Six years ago, on the 87th anniversary, she wrote this local survivor's account of the terror of the Tri-State Tornado. The following is a condensed version of her article:

Little Mary Crawford was playing outside with her baby brother Clarence as her mother nervously watched the sky over the family's farm near Parrish in eastern Franklin County. Her father was at work at the nearby No. 8 coal mine. Her uncle was visiting from Arkansas.

"Mom was always scared of storms, and she watched the cloud as it moved closer," Mary recalled.

Her mother and uncle gathered the two children up and ran into the wood farmhouse. They got into the living room when it hit. The door flew open and that was the last thing she remembered until they came to on the floor. And the floor was the only thing left of the farmhouse.

"The table was still sitting on the kitchen floor, but the walls and everything else was gone. There was a chicken walking through the yard with its feathers blown off. There was a piece of straw driven into a tree."

The rain was coming down hard and they ran to the barn that was still standing.

"My dad ran home from the mine about a mile away. He was bleeding where things had hit him. He had run past people he knew who had been killed...cousins, neighbors. The town was wiped out."

The family had three horses- Dan, Dolly, and Dixie.

"My dad had raised those horses since they were babies and he loved them. Well, Dan had a board run through him and he was on the ground there moaning. I remember my dad got his gun and shot his horse. It was about the only time I ever saw him cry," she said.

The family stayed with relatives until they found a new place to live.

"When we moved to the new place, the first thing they did was build a storm cellar. My mom would watch the clouds and when it would start to thunder, we went into the storm cellar. I spent half my childhood in that cellar!"

In my research for this column, I found something related, I believe, to the previous references I've made to miners having been protected underground from the tornado only to emerge afterwards to find their homes destroyed and members of their families killed. What I found was what was called a "virtual cemetery" on Find A Grave. Bradley Hutson has grouped together 229 of those killed, mostly in Murphysboro and West Frankfort, Illinois. You can see example after example where wives and children died that March 18, 1925 day and the father obviously survived. To explore for yourself, see under Find A Grave:

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/216293>
[1925 "Tri-State Tornado" Victims: A Virtual Cemetery]



Tripping Over My Roots

Cont.

I also found recent Facebook posting where users shared the stories they had heard from relatives over the years. The following are some of the more interesting:

* *Delbert McGill*: It rained fish and turtles. 2x4s were driven through trees. A woman was found completely entangled in a clothes line having tried to get her laundry off the line before the storm.

* *Kendra Mitchell*: A farmer in Indiana found a picture of my grandmother and her family. She was four at the time. He found out who they were and sent them the photo and some money so they could get back on their feet.

* *Michelle Holmes*: My great grandfather lived on a farm and his neighbor was out in his field when he was caught in it. All he could do was to grab a tree and hang on. He blew out to the side horizontally, but he hung on...and lived!

* *Kelley Shega*: Grandma took my dad and her other son on the bed when it hit. They ended up in a field a mile apart. My grandfather was 7 months old and his only injury was a small cut behind his ear. Grandma had all her clothes blown off except for one sock. Grandpa was killed. My aunt was in school and was buried in bricks.

* *Sherry Goldman*: My husband's cousin's wife lived in Murphysboro. She was seven at the time and was home from school that day. She was found in a big hole left by an uprooted tree. Something had scalped her. She always wore a wig after that.

* *Brent Freeman*: My grandmother was in her first year teaching in a small school south of Murphysboro. The wind hit with explosive force. When she woke up, she was far away in a cornfield. One of her students was nearby. Nothing was left of the school but the foundation rocks. They made their way to a house that took them in. Some of her students were found lying dead scattered on the ground. My grandmother was in bed recovering from her injuries for several months. She was suspicious of any dark cloud after that.

* *Heather P. Austin*: The trauma of that day has been passed down for generations.

New Books

New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library

- from Annette Blount, BC Librarian

History of the Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry,
September, 1861-September, 1865.

Indiana Infantry
Ref Ind 973.74 Ind

Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots With Ties to Ripley
County Indiana.

McDerment, Marlene Jan
Ref Ind 977.214 McD

*“IF YOU CANNOT GET RID OF THE FAMILY
SKELETON, YOU MAY AS WELL MAKE IT DANCE.”*

- George Bernard Shaw

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 !

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Thanks for your Support

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