



# ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

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## *President's Prose -by Becky Speaker*

What an exciting Bicentennial year as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Bartholomew County! We've already had some great speakers recently as we started our programs this year via zoom. If you didn't get a chance to participate live, check out the videos on the BCGS facebook page. Dr. Iorio kicked off the year telling us about the Bicentennial events, I shared information about Revolutionary patriots buried in Bartholomew County and Jason Hatton helped us learn more about Joseph Bartholomew and John Tipton. We are planning a joint event on April 17 at 1pm with the Bartholomew County Library. Journalist Libby Copeland talks about her book, "The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are." According to the library, Libby Copeland's book "explores the culture of genealogy buffs, the science of DNA, and the business of companies like Ancestry and 23andMe. The book traces the story of one woman, her unusual results, and a method-ical drive for answers that become a modern genetic detective story." Come prepared with questions, as I will be hosting the Q&A session! Please register for this event on the library event page:

<https://mybcpl.libnet.info/event/4968718>

We are still working on our summer events, but are hoping to move from Zoom to in-person events! In May, we will be doing a service project while learning about some of our local veterans by helping place flags on veterans graves. In July we hope to set up our annual outing and luncheon – we will be setting a date to visit and learn more about our own Bartholomew County Historical Society. Were you aware of how much research material is at BCHS? Watch facebook or email for dates!

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## *Welcome to Our New Members*

**David Shaffer of Columbus**

**Sabrina Snyder of Columbus**

**Jean and Ethel Sneed of Hope**

## *Returning Members*

**Debra and Bruce Batts**

*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 16, 2021

BCGS kicked off 2021 with a focus on Bartholomew County's Bicentennial: 1821-2021. Our speaker via Zoom was Dr. Tami Iorio, Bartholomew County Historian. Tami reminded our 29 participants (11 members and 18 guests) that there is a bicentennial website: <https://www.columbusarea200.com/> as we observe this important anniversary.

It was on January 9, 1821 when the Indiana state legislature organized Bartholomew County. Then, it was on February 15 that the first County Commissioners meet and chose the location of the county seat.

The County Historian Program was established by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau in 1981. Each county has one county historian. Since the establishment of the program, Bartholomew County has had 4 historians: Ross Crump (1982-1985), Susanna Jones (1985-1993), Harry McCawley (1993-2017), and Tami Stone Iorio (2018-today). County Historians answer questions, collect resources, connect historic groups and organizations, research, assist local historical organizations, nominate historical markers, speak to school and civic groups.



Then, Tami took us on a virtual tour of the Bartholomew County Historical Museum. This included a timeline of the county's history. She also pointed us to the bicentennial website with additional information about "History and Significant Events." To see more go to: <https://www.columbusarea200.com/our-stories>



She also shared about the Bicentennial Videos that are sponsored by the BCPL & BCHS. Produced by Envisionary Media, the five videos cover 200 years of the entire county with narration by John Foster. Tami shared that the inspiration for these Videos was a book entitled: "It Began With Bartholomew" by Susanna Jones (former historian).

***The video series are divided up into these five videos:***

- 1: *Early County Founding*
- 2: *Columbus Township*
- 3: *Northwest part: Nineveh, Union, German, Flatrock townships*
- 4: *Eastern: Hawcreek, Clay, Clifty, Rockcreek townships*
- 5: *The rest of the townships: Sandcreek, Wayne, Jackson, Ohio, Harrison*

Tami shared that the best part of researching bicentennial projects ... learning more about Bartholomew County! Then, she shared fun, interesting facts about Bartholomew County. Of course, Native Americans first lived in what would become Bartholomew County. In the 1970s, an excavation was completed on the Gene Wint Farm which led to the discover of a house pattern for the Native Americans who had lived here.

Then, she shared information about General Joseph Bartholomew (1766-1840) and John Tipton (1786-1839). She also shared the significant contributions of George Pence (1852-1929) in the late 1800s into the early 1900s. George Pence founded the Bartholomew County Historical Society in 1921 (the county's centennial year). Therefore, the Historical Society is celebrating a centennial anniversary in 2021.

Tami reminded us that Bartholomew county's square area changed in 1836. It was in that year that part of Bartholomew County became what is Brown County. Tami also shared various maps of the county. This also included maps that were generated to show the beginnings of the townships in Bartholomew County.

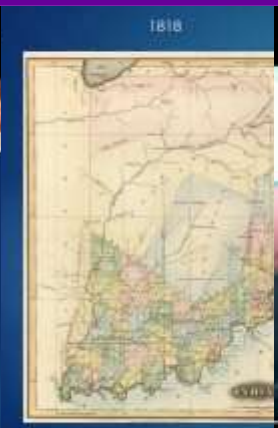
Our current Bartholomew County Courthouse was the fourth one to be built. It was designed by Indiana architect Isaac Hodgson, built in 1871-1874 and dedicated in 1874. Tami had the opportunity to climb to the bell tower in the courthouse. From there she was able to share photos taken from that viewpoint. She also shared photos that others have taken from that same vantage point over the years. Before her Q & A, she shared additional aerial photos via a drone piloted by her husband.

Our January 2021 program was a great way to begin the bicentennial celebrations of Bartholomew County. If you would like to see the entire program (60 minutes), please go to this link: [Video Conferencing, Web Conferencing, Webinars, Screen Sharing](#)

# BCGS Jan Event - Zoom meeting with Dr. Tami Iorio

TAMI STONE IORIO  
BARTHOLOMEW  
COUNTY HISTORIAN  
JANUARY 2021

## Bartholomew County Bicentennial



### Native People in Bartholomew County



## BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### Bicentennial Celebration Part 2 - by Marcus Speer

Bartholomew County continues her bicentennial celebration throughout 2021. BCGS continues to celebrate through programs and SKILLS in January, February, March, May, and November. The BCGS board is also so excited to support a Bicentennial History Book for Bartholomew County by Bartholomew County Historian Dr. Tami Stone Iorio.

In each of the four newsletters during 2021, we want to share a little history of Bartholomew County's beginnings. The full information is provided on [http://genealogytrails.com/ind/bartholomew/hist\\_early\\_days.html](http://genealogytrails.com/ind/bartholomew/hist_early_days.html)

#### EARLY COURT HOUSES

After the use of two courthouse buildings, "... a committee, composed of John B. Abbett, Ephraim Arnold and Moses Joiner, were appointed to consider the question of building a new court house, and at the suggestion of this committee another was appointed to furnish a draft and model. This, when submitted, provided for a brick building with stone trimmings and fire-proof vaults, two stories high, and in February, 1839, John Elder submitted a proposal to construct this building for eight thousand five hundred dollars, which was accepted. This building stood in the center of the present public square, and at the time of its completion was ample for the needs of the county and an ornament to the town. This did service for thirty years, but in 1870 the commissioners decided that it was not only inadequate, but unsafe, and it was sold for three hundred and fifty dollars. It was at that time determined to erect a building that should be sufficient for the needs of the county for many years and one that should reflect honor upon the county. Accordingly the commissioners secured the services of I. Hodgson, of Indianapolis, as architect. There was some opposition to the proposed improvement, but the commissioners, feeling they were justified in the proposed expenditure, were not dissuaded and proceeded to advertise for bids. The bid of McCormack & Sweeney of one hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars was the lowest and they were awarded the contract. Subsequent enlargements upon the original plans increased the cost of the building, so that when completed the total cost, including heating apparatus, was about two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. The building stands on the northeast corner of the public square and is after the Franco-American style of architecture, its exterior being of pressed brick, with stone trimmings. It is three stories in height, with a mansard roof, surmounted by a tower twenty-five feet square and one hundred and fifty-four feet high. The building was dedicated December 29, 1874, the event being a notable one in several respects.

#### CIVIL DIVISIONS

In 1821 the first board of commissioners divided the county into three voting districts, designated as Northern, Middle and Southern. On May 14, the same year, upon the petition of William Hammer and others, a new township to be known as **Sand Creek** township, was laid off out of the Southern district. The boundary lines of the township were several times changed, but as last fixed in 1859. **Wayne** township was organized November 12, 1821. This boundary was also changed several times, and as last fixed, in 1837. **Driftwood** township, organized in May, 1824, but in 1824 its name was changed to German township. **Nineveh** township, organized May 10, 1824. In the formation of Union township twelve sections were taken from the south end of this township. **Flat Rock** township, organized May 11, 1824. The creation of Haw Creek township diminished the territory of Flat Rock; otherwise it remains unchanged. **Clifty** township, organized May 11, 1824. Subsequent slight changes were made in the boundaries of the township, incident to the formation of Clay and Rock Creek townships. **Columbus** township, organized May 11, 1824. Several changes were subsequently made in the boundary lines of the township. **Salt Creek** township, organized on the first Monday in July, 1828. In 1829 the name of this township was changed to Jackson and shortly afterward a part of its territory was attached to Nineveh. This Jackson township is in no way identical with that now bearing the same name. It is true that the old Jackson township included in its territory that now called Jackson, but Ohio township, formed later, at first included the present Jackson township, and the first Jackson or Salt Creek township had gone entirely out of existence before the organization of the present Jackson township. **Haw Creek** township, organized May 2, 1829, included all that part of Bartholomew county lying within township 10 north, of range 7 east, and remains unchanged. **Rock Creek** township, organized March 1, 1830. The territory thus cut out of Rock Creek and Sand Creek townships was attached to Columbus. **Van Buren** township, organized December 7, 1841, was formed out of the west end of Columbus township. The house of Lawson Dowel was named as the first voting place. **Clay** township, organized December 7, 1841. In 1843 the west line of Clifty township was moved one-half mile west; that is, made to divide sections 5, 8, 17, 20 and 29, on the half section line, thus fixing the present line between Clay and Clifty. **Ohio** township, organized June 6, 1843, was formed out of Wayne. This township remains as here described except the southern part now embraced in Jackson township. **Union** township, organized September 3, 1845, was formed out of Nineveh, Harrison and Columbus townships. The first polling place was the house of Peter Snyder. **Jackson** township, organized March 6, 1847, was formed by dividing Ohio township on the lines separating sections 25, 26 and 27 from 34, 35 and 36, in township 8, of range 4 east, and sections 29 and 30 from 31 and 32, in township 8, range 5 east, and giving the new name to the southern portion thus laid out.

For more information about Bartholomew County's history, check out these links:

[https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Bartholomew\\_County,\\_Indiana](https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Bartholomew_County,_Indiana)

<http://mossyfeetbooks.net/index.php/2020/10/10/sample-chapter-indianas-counties-bartholomew-county/>

<https://columbusin.proboards.com/thread/71/1800-1899-columbus-bartholomew-county?page=6>



## IT BEGAN WITH BARTHOLOMEW

*\* showcasing the magnificent bicentennial history of our county\**

This film showcases 200 years of the magnificent history of Bartholomew County that connects us all. Each of the five sections of the film focuses on a different region of the county.

Part 1: Early County Founding

Part 2: Columbus Township

Part 3: NW and Flat Rock and German Townships

Part 4: Haw Creek and eastern county including Rock Creek

Part 5: Sand Creek, SW and western county

**Saturday, April 17th, 10:00 and 10:30am - YES Cinema**

Public premiere of Parts 1 and 2, followed by 20-30 min Q & A

**Saturday, May 1st, 10:00 and 10:30am - YES Cinema**

Public premiere of Parts 3, 4, and 5, followed by 20-30 min Q & A

Presented by..... The Bartholomew County Historical Society  
and The Bartholomew County Public Library

Masks will be required - YES Cinema concessions available for purchase

## Highlights -by Marcus Speer

### Program Minutes February 20, 2021

BCGS continued programming with a focus on Bartholomew County during the county's bicentennial celebration. It was noted that the official date of the county's "birthday" is on February 15.

Our BCGS President, Becky Speaker presented on the topic: "Revolutionary War Patriots - Buried in Bartholomew County or in my Family Tree?" First, she shared histories on the Revolutionary War Veterans who are associated with Bartholomew County. Some of those biographies can be found in BCGS newsletters during 2021.

Then, Becky shared information about doing research for ancestors who are Revolutionary War Patriots. On our Facebook page, Becky shared: "Thanks to everyone for participating in today's BCGS zoom session on Revolutionary War Patriots. Here are some links to good free resources:

\* DAR: <https://www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy>

\* SAR: [sarpatriots.sar.org](http://sarpatriots.sar.org)

\* Florida Society Sons Database - <http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/patriotindex.htm>

\* Report of the Names, Rank, and Line, of Every Person Placed on the Pension List, in Pursuance to the Act of the 18th March 1818 (download PDF) - <https://books.google.com/books?id=g7sqAAAAMAAJ&newbks=0...>

Also, don't forget to check out [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org), local / state histories, or other public trees (for clues).

And for a local field trip, check out the SAR Genealogical Library in Louisville (which was closed until Jan 31, but may be open now?) <https://www.sar.org/library-about-us/>

A total of 27 attended this zoom session, which included 25 members and 2 guests.

# Revolutionary War Patriot Biographies

-by Becky Speaker



## JOSEPH HART

Joseph Hart, Private, 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, enlisted as a substitute for his foster father. Joseph was wounded in the right hip in a battle with the English and Tories and was excused from further service. Because of this disability, he was excused from further military service. However, he would never accept a pension for his service, as he considered it his patriotic duty to serve his country. Joseph was born in Jun 1761 in New Jersey and married Nancy Shanklin in 1788 then after her death, Mary Means in 1809. Joseph Hart's Christian principles led him to regard slavery as wrong. Because of the influx of slaveholders to Washington County, Virginia, he decided in 1770 to move to Tennessee. There, in Blount County, near Marysville, he bought land and built a home. He farmed, taught school, and was very active in church work, assisting the Presbyterian pastor. Although he had lived in Tennessee for 26 years, when it too became a slave state, Mr. Hart decided to come to Indiana. He brought with him his wife and six of his children and settled in Bartholomew County, northeast of Columbus, near Sand Hill Cemetery in 1821 - one of the earliest landholders in the new county. The Hart family came with two wagons, each with two horses, an extra horse with saddle (which the father rode), a large tent, and two cows which furnished milk for the journey and at their new home. They settled about 5 miles east of Columbus and built a log cabin. In 1824, the first Presbyterian Church was organized and Joseph Hart became its first Elder, an office he held for many years. He had organized the first Sunday School and was a teacher there, both summer and winter. Joseph died in June of 1841 and was buried at Sand Hill Cemetery; about 100 yrs later, when the state straightened a bend in SR46, his gravesite was moved to Garland Brook Cemetery.

## Richard Hazelwood Crittenden

Richard Hazelwood Crittenden was born 6 March 1761 in Charles City County, Virginia. While living in Amherst County, Virginia, Richard entered service at the age of 17 yrs old as a substitute for his father and served three months as a private under Capt. James Dillard and Colonel Patrick Rose. He later enlisted for 18 months and served as private under Capt. Isaac Parker and Col. Nicholas Cabell in the Virginia troops and was in the Battle of Guilford Court House. He enlisted for a third time and served three months as a private in Captain Christian's company and participated in the siege of Yorktown, the last major battle. (Service information from his Revolutionary War Pension file \*SR2491.) Richard married Sally Tanner 01 Jan 1794 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina at her father's home. After the Revolutionary War, his pension file indicates that Richard lived five years in Betotourt County, Virginia, one year in Salem, North Carolina, then nine years in Union County, South Carolina, then twenty years in Kentucky, then moved to Indiana. He purchased 40 acres in 1834 in Johnson County, IN. Richard died 22 Jun 1841 in Bartholomew County, IN and is buried at New Hope Cemetery.



## FAKE NEWS

-by Kim Ray

Yellow Trail Research Center Hope, IN

We hear a lot about Fake News these days. No matter your politics, the term Fake News has become part of today's culture. However, as I found out shortly after I started working in the Research Center, Fake News is not new.

One of the early items Barb Johnson brought me from the museum collection was a framed New York Herald newspaper, with articles about Lincoln being shot. I gasped! We have a newspaper about Lincoln being shot? Holy Cow! My reaction, or more accurately - my over reaction - was one of fear and anxiety. Is this a national artifact in Hope, Indiana?

Luckily, I had previously setup a Collections Care Training session with the Indiana Historical Society to help us understand how to get started creating a new Research Center. The training was designed to answer our specific questions about our specific artifacts, and believe me, I had a lot of questions! When I showed this newspaper to the instructor, Alan Rowe, he immediately knew something was wrong. Although it was dated 1865, the paper itself was not the white linen paper that would have been used in 1865. He was puzzled and suggested I google it.



What I found was fascinating! "*The Most Common Fake Historic Newspaper*" was one of thousands reproduced in the late 1800's to early 1900's with more than twenty reprint variations. During that time, people knew these were made as advertising flyers and souvenirs. There was no confusion. It is only with the passage of time, as their origin has been lost, that these newspapers have created a lot of misunderstanding for Collectors, Museums, Antique Dealers, Librarians, etc.

Well, that settled my anxiety. And it made me feel better to know Barb and I weren't the only ones fooled by the Fake News. Even though Alan didn't fall for it, he was interested enough in what I found that he wrote an article about it in the Indiana Historical Society's newsletter. Ok, so we don't have an original 1865 New York Herald newspaper, but we do have an original Fake News newspaper!



The **YELLOW TRAIL MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER** in Hope, IN will re-open to the public the first full week in May 2021, starting with the first "Sunday Social" on May 2nd, from 2pm -4pm. Sunday Socials are held the first Sunday of the month with a different topic each month.

The Research Center will remain closed as it prepares for the move into the new expanded area in the adjacent building. Stay tuned for an opening late summer or early fall.

For more information and hours, follow the facebook page, "Yellow Trail Museum/Hope Visitors Center", or call the Yellow Trail Museum 812.546.8020.

# Tripping MY ROOTS Over

-by Bob Hobbs

## FOXFIRE & ME - Part 1

In the last edition of this newsletter, I wrote that 2021 marked the bicentennial of both Bartholomew County, its county seat the city of Columbus, and highlighted the contributions of both Joseph Bartholomew and John Tipton. I also explained the reasons why I chose Columbus as the place to call home. Other than being closer to my family, I wrote that I was impressed by Columbus' architecture and that I that my interest in architecture had me once considering becoming an architect.

As it would turn out, architecture was not to be my vocation, but ultimately became an avocation. A love of theatre that blossomed during my sophomore year in high school ultimately led to becoming a director and set designer.

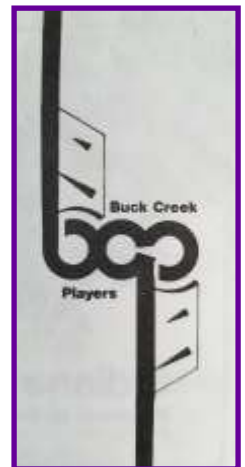
### EARLY SET DESIGN EXPERIENCE

During my last three years of high school and four years of college, I performed in three plays, ten musicals, and two American operas. It was during this period that I decided to be a teacher of English/Speech/Theatre in a secondary school. To further prepare for this, I worked on the set construction crew of several productions, was one of three student directors for a college play and directed several oral interpretation/readers theatre shows. During my student teaching in a high school about 30 minutes from home, I was given the assignment to assistant direct the 2<sup>nd</sup> and most challenging act of the all-school play and to solely direct a children's play of my choosing. The children's play I chose, a delightful one act musical about a circus lion questioning his future life performing the same act repeatedly, also gave me my first opportunity to design a set, consisting of multicolored panels of a circus tent and various-sized, multi-colored trunks. The set had to be designed to be easily transported to area elementary schools for performances. The tent's center pole was a CVP pipe allowing the panels to be stored in it.

After I graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1974, I decided to move to Indianapolis. Southern Illinois, where I was raised and educated, did not hold much of a future for me. Upon arriving in Indianapolis, I found myself the set designer for the newly incorporated community theatre group serving Marion County's southeastern Franklin Township. I was also selected to direct their first musical and asked to design the theatre's logo, that I am proud to say is still used almost 50 years later.

### THE SELECTION OF FOXFIRE, THE PLAY

Buck Creek Players had a procedure for selecting plays for the season. At that time, the season consisted of three productions usually in this order: a comedy, a drama, and a musical. Ideally, a person with some directing experience would approach the board of directors and express interest in a production they wanted to direct. If the board agreed that production would become a part of the next season. Sometimes a member of the group would suggest a play or musical that they felt was a good fit for the group and yet not necessarily have interest in directing it. That is how the play *Foxfire* became part of the 1985-1986 season.



While I was to learn later that the series of *Foxfire* books were quite popular, it was the play inspired by the books that initially caught my attention. I was immediately captivated and brought it to the attention of the BCP board. After my presentation to the members of the board, many of whom were fans of the books, gave it an almost immediate green light to be produced in the drama slot running February 28-March 22. I was disappointed that due to work demands, I could not commit to direct it even though I really loved the play and had a lot of ideas as to how to present it. As it would turn out, one of the groups founding members and an experienced director also loved the play, but as a mother of five children, she did not feel she could devote the time the production would require. A solution was reached when it was suggested that we both direct it as co-directors. Sandy Gootee and I immediately agreed to the collaboration. Sandy and I had a unique relationship. She was one of the first people I met when I relocated in Indianapolis in 1974 and we had become good friends off stage. While she was nine years my senior, we had a common love of old movies, classic theatre, and could often complete each other's sentences. On stage we also shared a

# Tripping MY ROOTS Over

-by Bob Hobbs

## FOXFIRE & ME - Part 1 (cont)

unique working relationship. In addition to directing each other in both plays and musicals, we also had varied onstage relationships as stepmother/stepson in *The Miracle Worker*, love interests in *Butterflies are Free*, and husband/wife in the musical *Company*. We had also directed each other in previous productions. In addition to co-directing the play, we agreed that I would design the set and she would design the costumes.



My sketch of the floorplan and the cabin details

Sandy Gootee's costume designs for Hector, Annie, Dillard, and Holly

### THE HISTORY OF FOXFIRE

Many of you reading this are possibly familiar with and fans of the *Foxfire* book series that were first published in the early 70s and based on the student-published magazine. In our director's notes for the program, Sandy and I wrote:

"Foxfire glows in the dark in the forests of southern Appalachia; it's a lichen which lives on dead fallen trees. It is also the name of a magazine and eight books in which for more than a decade the young people of Appalachia have recorded the beliefs and personalities of their grandparents' generation; the last of the indomitable pioneers who carved out of the young welcoming mountain soil not only a living but a tough, joyous way of life which has almost vanished now.

Many years have passed since we first became familiar with the *Foxfire* books. They told of family history, which is quite a bit different from studying the history of governments. The daily chores and special crafts that in time have become art forms were revealed in warm, human stories.

The mountain folk are not like the southern characters we see in the works of Williams, Inge, and Faulkner. They are too involved in the business of living to be frustrated, angry, or plotting. Their dialect is different. Their goals are direct and simple.

Susan Cooper and Hume Cronyn have given to the theater a gift that is truly American. Their writing is musical prose, capturing the rhythms of life. It is a pleasure for all involved to bring the Indianapolis premiere of Cooper and Cronyn's play *Foxfire* to the Buck Creek stage. Many of us have roots in Appalachia and can remember a grandparent or a great aunt or uncle relating similar stories. The characters in *Foxfire* are compilation of many of the personalities we met in the books. The story is fiction, but the theme is common to real life--survival."

To be continued.....

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



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

### *Board Members and Directors*

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