



# ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Jan - Mar Q1 2022

ISSN: 1933-5164

Vol 32 Issue 1

## 2022 Calendar

Due to yet another round of Covid, the 2022 calendar has not been confirmed. Be sure to watch for more information on our facebook page as programs become available !



Inside this Issue:

TBD Calendar	1
New Members	
Highlights	2-
-by Marcus Speer	3
33rd Veteran Markers	4
-by Kim Ray	
Carved in Stone	5
- by Donna Kuhlman	
Research Center Opening	6
-by Kim Ray	
Tripping Over My Roots	7-
- by Bob Hobbs	9

*Welcome to Our New Members*

**John and Candy Carr - Columbus, IN**

**Carolyn Siler - Franksville, WI**

*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 Nov. 20, 2021

Because of the remodel of the Red Room at the Bartholomew County Library, our annual BCGS meeting was held at the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum (Media Center). Since BCGS started celebrating Bartholomew County's bicentennial anniversary on January 16, 2021 with a presentation by Dr. Tami Iorio, we decided to conclude our bicentennial festivities with Dr. Iorio presenting in November. Her program was entitled: *"Bartholomew County Bicentennial: New Discoveries, Lessons Learned, & Questions Raised."*

Bartholomew County Historian Dr. Tamara Iorio shared some of the most interesting things discovered throughout the year, including photos, maps, and documents and some favorites from the book. The 2nd printing of the Bicentennial Book was completed and the books were available for sale at the meeting. BCGS received two copies in recognition of the financial support for the publication.

A total of 12 members and 2 guests attended the program. Eight of the attendees journeyed over to Blackerby's Hangar 5 for lunch. Another great program for all.

To view the entire November program, go to our BCGS's Facebook page:

*Bartholomew County Genealogical Society  
on Facebook Watch*



Thank you to the  
Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum!





# 33rd Reg't Civil War Markers for Veterans

-by Kim Ray

Dr. Chris Walker has been working on gravestones for the veterans of the 33rd Reg't for several years now. He has researched military records and replaced stones that were badly damaged all over our county. But, now he has a new project - to place markers on unmarked stones. He states there are 63 soldiers in the 33rd buried in Bartholomew County. Most of them have a regimental designation on their stone, or have military markers. His project will get markers with flag holders for those veterans with no military designation on their stone, or a designation that is so badly eroded that it is difficult to see. BCGS is proud to donate \$400 towards his project, which gives recognition to the following seventeen veterans. He plans to place the markers on the stones in the spring. Thank you Dr. Walker for all the work you do for our veterans of the 33rd !



**Charles Bittrich – Hope Moravian (not God's Acre)**  
**Joseph Carter – Hope Moravian (not God's Acre)**  
**Jesse Miller – Hope Moravian (not God's Acre)**  
**Henry Holder – Hope Moravian (not God's Acre)**  
**William Norris – Haw Creek**  
**John Newton – Liberty/Haw Patch**  
**Thomas Brown – Garland Brook**  
**Addison Wayt – Garland Brook**  
**Robert Harrow – Daugherty**  
**William Rowand – Daugherty**  
**Benjamin Sayre – Donaldson**  
**Elisha Burket - Hope Moravian God's Acre**  
**Charles Michael - Hope Moravian God's Acre**  
**John Miller - Hope Moravian God's Acre**  
**Charles Thurston - Hope Moravian God's Acre**  
**William Vogler - Hope Moravian God's Acre**  
**William Woehler - Hope Moravian God's Acre**

## CARVED IN STONE

### QUERY:

My great grand father was Adolphus Frank Covert he was born in Jonesville, Bartholomew, Indiana. On 01 Jan 1859 we think his mother died on 18 mar 1859. his father was Alexander Covert born in Clark county Indiana in 1835 he married Emily Lux born 1839 in Illinios died 18 mar 1859 Bartholomew, Indiana probably Jonesville. They were married in Jonesville, Bartholomew, Indiana 8 march 1856. I have a copy of their marriage License. He enlisted in Company H, Indiana 6th Infantry Regiment on 24 Apr 1861. Mustered out on 02 Aug 1861 at Indianapolis, IN, and then he enlisted in Company E, Indiana 6th Infantry Regiment on 26 Mar 1862 for 3 years. He was married twice more, both in Bartholomew county to Nancy Pond (maiden name Johnson) in 1865 and Carrie Stirring in 1881. My question is about Nancy Pond and Alexander Covert. I think they had two children- James 1866 and George 1869- both were Coverts, but I can find no records and have no other info on them. Nancy Johnson (Pond) was born in Shelby County Indiana on 26 Mar 1834, died in Jonesville, Bartholomew, Indiana on 29 Nov 1881, buried in Jonesville Cemetery (find a grave) can you help me any? Thank you, KC



### Response:

I do have those two boys, James and George Covert, in my database. They were both listed with their parents in Decatur Co. in 1870; and George was still with his mother in Jonesville in 1880. I never found anything about James after 1870, so it seems likely he died before 1880. A thorough inventory of Jonesville Cemetery has not divulged a marker for him there, although of course there are many unmarked graves. He might also be buried in Decatur Co.

George E. Covert does have a trail, although there is a large void in his record, between 1881 and 1899, when he enlisted in the Army. He must have been in New York state during some of that period, because he afterward reported he was "born at Watertown, New York." After his military service, he married Edna Lambert, Jan. 17, 1903 in Bartholomew Co. and had a son, Lee Covert, born April 9, 1904. He and Edna divorced in 1909, but reconciled and continued to live together for the remainder of their lives. George died in Indianapolis in 1952.

There are also two other birth records in Bartholomew Co., for children of George Covert and Cora Carr, female July 9, 1889, and male Dec. 22 or 25th, 1889.

No further info on these either-- not sure if any or all are the same people.

I THINK this is 'your' Alexander Covert, buried with his father in Scott Co. although the Civil War headstone record suggests he did have a military marker, sent to Marysville in Clark Co.

Alexander Covert Find A Grave Memorial:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31252053/alexander-covert>



# Yellow Trail Research Center Opening

-by Kim Ray



Our newly remodeled, expanded Yellow Trail Research Center will open in April ! The new building, adjacent to the Museum, is designed to accommodate our three main functions – public research, staff work, and storage – each getting one third of the new building. The public space, with two beautiful oak tables in the center, book shelves on one side of the room and file cabinets on the other side, offers a lot of material for researchers to browse. The staff work area also has beautiful oak furniture and space to accession the many artifacts of the Museum. The storage area will be used by both the Research Center and the Museum, to protect and preserve artifacts as they are rotated off display.

Digitizing has always been the Research Center’s priority, as that is the best way to preserve our treasures for future generations. When photographs and documents are scanned, the digital file becomes available for public use, while the original can be preserved. As this work continues, we are also entering data into a museum software package, Past Perfect, which collects identifying information about each artifact in a database, then offers powerful search tools that use keywords, names, local places and so much more.

The Yellow Trail Research Center will open 4 April 2022, Mon and Wed from 10-2, or by appointment. We hope to see you this spring !



## YOUR Society at WORK

What did BCGS  
do this Quarter ?



BCGS donated approx. \$300 for the “Driftwood River Anthology” in recognition of the Bicentennials of both Bartholomew County and the City of Columbus.



BCGS donated \$400 towards Prof. Chris Walker’s GAR markers for the 33rd Reg’t Civil War Vets with gravestones in Bartholomew County.



## FOXFIRE & ME - Part III

# Tripping MY ROOTS Over

-by Bob Hobbs

In Part II, I wrote how I got the opportunity to design the set and co-direct the stage version of the highly popular *Foxfire* book series. As produced by the community theatre group Buck Creek Players located in Franklin Township in southeastern Marion County, the collaboration was a labor of love with my friend and fellow actor Sandra

Gootee. What follows is the last section of my three part article addressing final stages of the set design's execution, the casting process, our sources of inspiration while directing, the success of our production, and my take of the made-for-TV film version using the wonderful leads of the original Broadway cast.

Sandy and I worked hard to "dress the set" and add to its realism by adding small touches here and there, many of them possibly going undetected by the audience. To name only a few, in the downstage left area was the stump of a tree complete with real mushrooms growing at its base. In the center right area was an old plow appearing to be partially buried in the soil. Fir trees had been newly chopped down and had been placed in large buckets hidden from view of the audience and filled with water to keep them fresh and fragrant. Live plants growing in tin cans lined the railings of the porch and the edges of the steps. There were so many living things on the stage that regular maintenance was required. Water buckets had to be refilled, plants watered, and the dirt on stage needed to be periodically sprayed down with a hose to keep down the dust. A continuous recording of nature sounds playing in the background added to the realism. It was truly environmental theatre.



*Me with the six-member cast at our first rehearsal and the ceremonial first read-thru of the script. It is an exciting time when the cast meets one another.*

### CASTING THE PLAY

In casting a play or musical, I usually had the "if you build it, they will come" philosophy meaning that if you spread the word that you were casting a show, you will get the cast you needed. In this case, we were helped by a small article in "The Indianapolis Star" announcing that we were casting a new play based on the *Foxfire* books. The roles of Annie, Hector, Dillard and Holly were especially challenging in that with no more help than a change in lighting, they were required in flashbacks to play younger versions of themselves.

With the two leads assigned to two talented and familiar faces, the four supporting roles were filled by those making their BCP debuts. The actress cast to play the part of Holly (Kim Crowley), the local girl who years before had interviewed Annie and Hector with her tape



*Seen here in an early publicity photo, as Annie and Hector we cast BCP veterans Sue Leavell (*Arsenic and Old Lace*) and David Harold, direct from his award-winning role as Norman Thayer in Civic Theatre's *On Golden Pond*.*

# Tripping Over My Roots

-by Bob Hobbs

## FOXFIRE & ME - Part III (cont)

recorder for a class assignment, we were fortunate to find an actress originally from northern Georgia. Her accent was genuine and she graciously agreed to coach the other members of the cast to sound authentic as well. The actors cast in the roles of the real estate developer Prince Carpenter (Chuck Marion) and the country doctor (George Baker) were qualified, well-renowned local actors. *Foxfire* is billed as “a play with songs” and the role that caused me the most concern was going to be the one Sandy and I thought would be hardest to cast... the role of Dillard, Annie and Hector’s son.

Prior to the auditions, I attended a performance of a show produced by The Repertory Theatre of Christian Theological Seminary titled *A Spark in the Valley*. Based only on what I was able to learn about the theme of the show, I hoped to “discover” a performer I thought would be suited for the Dillard role, one in which the character was a good enough musician to make a career singing and playing the banjo and guitar. One talented performer, (Richard Reasoner) was a stand-out and I said to myself, “That’s our Dillard!” After the performance I went backstage, introduced myself, gave him my sales pitch, and asked him to audition. I also gave him copies of the music he would be required to perform in the play. That night he did not commit to auditioning for us, but he did seem quite intrigued. I left not knowing if he would even show up for the auditions. Thankfully he did, and he wowed us all by expertly performing the songs from our show. It was that serendipitous moment when the right actor meets the right role. He got the part!

### PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO THE CHARACTERS

One of the appeals of *Foxfire* for those of us who worked on it, was that one or more of the characters reminded us of our family members. For Sandy, my co-director, Annie Nations reminded her of her grandmother. For me, Annie reminded me of my great-grandmother, my Granny, Gertrude (Copeland) Mosley. Her people were originally from northern Virginia and came west by way of Tennessee to a small Illinois town near the Ohio River where she was born. She married Henry Rite Mosley, a carpenter from Charleston, Missouri and moved to western Kentucky where he helped construct locks up and down the Ohio River. Like Hector, Big Grandpa had a gruff exterior but was a softie on the inside. Like Annie and Hector, they had both lost a young child.

Granny was a tall, thin woman who my grandmother, her daughter and only surviving child, wrote was “gracious, kind, and a very loving person to everyone.” She never really had a lot to call her own, but she was the type of person who if someone admired what she had, she gave it to them. Their house, while not visibly made of logs, was originally only three rooms and had been added on to over the years. My mother had memories of seeing her wringing the neck of a chicken and later wrote that she “had a very sweet and loving grandmother” and “that if anyone has made it to heaven, it’s her.” Granny died in May of 1969 at the age of 83 while I was a junior in high school. I had always felt a special connection to her, and she seemed to have a special one with me. As her first great-grandchild, I was also the first boy born in her family since her son, McAllister Albert, known as “Little Mac,” died at the age of two in 1916 of bronchial pneumonia as a complication of cerebral meningitis.



*My Granny and my Annie inspiration on her 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday at my grand-parent’s home in 1968*

### OUR PERFORMANCES AND BEYOND

As scheduled, the Buck Creek Players production of *Foxfire* opened on February 28, 1986, for a nine-performance run. Word-of-mouth of the show and its unique theatrical experience resulted in brisk ticket sales. After opening night and an absolutely glowing review in “The Indianapolis Star,” where critic Charles Staff advised readers to “immediately phone the box office,” a ticket was not to be had. Fire codes prohibited “standing room only” requests. There was serious talk of extending the run a week, but previous commitments by several of the cast members prevented that from taking place. The show received multiple Encore Award nominations including Best Production of a Play, Best Set, and Best Direction of a

# Tripping Over My Roots

-by Bob Hobbs

## FOXFIRE & ME - Part III (cont)

Play, among others. The Encore Association, which is an organization consisting then of eleven Indianapolis area community theatres, recognized excellence in an awards ceremony each year.

Unbeknownst to me and others at the time, a board member of the Indiana Community Theatre Association submitted a photo of the completed set and it was selected the best community theatre set design in the state for the 1985/1986 season. While I am in possession of multiple photographs of the set in the building stage, unfortunately I was unable to locate one of the completed set to show you here.

On Sunday evening, December 13, 1987, Hallmark Hall of Fame presented a two-hour filmed version of *Foxfire*. The teleplay was written by the co-writer of the play Susan Cooper. Recreating their Broadway roles were stars Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy as Hector and Annie Nations. As their country singer son Dillard, this production co-starred John Denver.

The filmed production was visually stunning, shot on location in The Blue Ridge Mountains. It retained the feel of the play in most sections. However, often what makes a play seen so unique does not always translate to the film version. Stage magic is often sacrificed for realism. Events briefly mentioned in the play get filmed and expanded while characters and scenes from the play get cut, as in the one with the doctor during which he delivers Dillard while Annie lies on a table on the porch. Allowing Susan Cooper, the playwright, to pen the teleplay avoided excessive changes and allowed her respect for the original material, the books, to shine through.



*A publicity photo from the Hallmark Hall of Fame production*

One aspect I loved about the structure of the play was how it kept from the audience the current status of the character of Hector. While not revealed in the theater for the first ten to fifteen minutes of the play, a viewer of the film is deprived of a memorable “ah ha” moment when Hector’s true whereabouts is revealed as early as the opening credits. Under any other circumstances I would not reveal this spoiler, but unfortunately the play is now seldom produced, and you are unlikely to get the live experience. As far as I know, our Buck Creek Players premiere in 1986 was also the last production of the play in the Indianapolis area. The surprise is that Hector has been dead for five years and is only seen and heard in Annie’s mind and not by any other characters in the play. The gasp of the audience when they add up the clues and realize this is what the magic of live theatre is all about.

Regardless of any differences, the Hallmark Hall of Fame version is well worth viewing and captures on film for posterity the play’s beauty and the wonderful performances of Hume Cronyn, Jessica Tandy, and John Denver. Jessica Tandy passed away in 1994. A year later, her widower, Hume Cronyn married Susan Cooper, his writing collaborator for the play and other projects. He died in 2003. Some of you will probably recall when John Denver was killed while flying his own plane off the coast of California in 1997.

On a happier note, Keith Carradine, who created the role of Dillard in the Broadway production is alive and well at age seventy-two. After his live performances in *Foxfire*, he went on to win the TONY Award as Best Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Will Rogers in the Broadway hit *The Will Rogers Follies* and became both a Golden Globe and Academy Award-winning songwriter in several films.

Those of us involved with the production of *Foxfire* I cited here will fondly remember it as a labor of love. In fact, the play proved to be so labor intensive that Sandy and I could not have possibly made it the success that it was by directing it alone. Much of the credit for that success also belongs to the dedication of the cast and technical crew. Aside from the dozen or so photographs like the ones I have shared here, most live stage performances like the Buck Creek Players production of *Foxfire* are best preserved by the memories of the ones who experienced it. If you should like to experience the next best thing and view the filmed version of *Foxfire*, it is available on YouTube. The recording with the best quality can be found by searching the YouTube website for “John Denver Foxfire (1987).” If you can’t experience a live production, this film is the next best thing. I truly hope you enjoy it!

# ***Bartholomew County Genealogical Society***

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

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

**Contact us ! Like us on facebook !**

**PO Box 2455 Columbus, Indiana 47202-2455**

**email: [bcgs47202@yahoo.com](mailto:bcgs47202@yahoo.com)**

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



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

### *Board Members and Directors*

*President: Becky Speaker*

*Secretary: Marcus Speer*

*Treasurer: Toni Whiteside*

*Membership: Robert Hobbs*

*Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman*

*Genealogist: Karen Loy*

*Newsletter Editor: Kim Ray*

*Library Liaison: Annette Blount*