



ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Oct - Dec Q4 2022

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Vol 32 Issue 4

2022 Calendar

Sat, Oct 15 - civil war - **33RD REG'T**

Columbus Library Red Room from 10am - 11:30am

Speaker: Dr. Chris Walker to talk about the Civil War markers, funded by BCGS, that were placed on Veterans graves in Bartholomew County.

Sat, Nov 12 - Moravian Mission station on white river

Columbus Library Red Room from 10am - 11:30am

Speaker: Dr. Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

Also, BCGS Annual Meeting

Upcoming 2023 Calendar

Sat, Jan 21 - **BECKY SPEAKER'S PROGRAM**

Details TBD

Sat, Feb 18 - s.k.i.l.l.s. - Find a grave and family tree Maker

Details TBD

S.K.I.L.L.S. (Sharing Knowledge in Light Learning Sessions) is for Members Only - So, please join BCGS for this upcoming event !

Mar 11 or 25: cummins engine corporate museum

Details TBD

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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 !



The BCGS board wishes to thank all of the members who have joined and supported the Society throughout the the last two years and some throughout the last 32 years! Now, is the time to re-new your membership for 2023. Dues (\$10 Individual & \$15 Couple) can be paid to BCGS Treasurer Toni Whiteside and BCGS Membership Chair Bob Hobbs. Some have remarked this is the best deal in the county ... it is great to be a BCGS member!

Many have served as BCGS officers and board members, and new officers are always needed. In November, the executive board is elected for the upcoming year including President, Vice-President, Secretary, & Treasurer.

Therefore, the BCGS board is seeking nominations for the 2023 BCGS board. If you are interested in serving on the BCGS board, please let us know of your willingness to serve. Nominations can be shared with any of our current board members ahead of our November meeting. Thanks for your consideration.

Have you liked us on Facebook? Check us out: <https://www.facebook.com/BartholomewCountyGenealogicalSociety>

Looking forward to a great 4th quarter for BCGS ... many blessings during the upcoming holidays!

BCGS Board

Highlights -by Marcus Speer

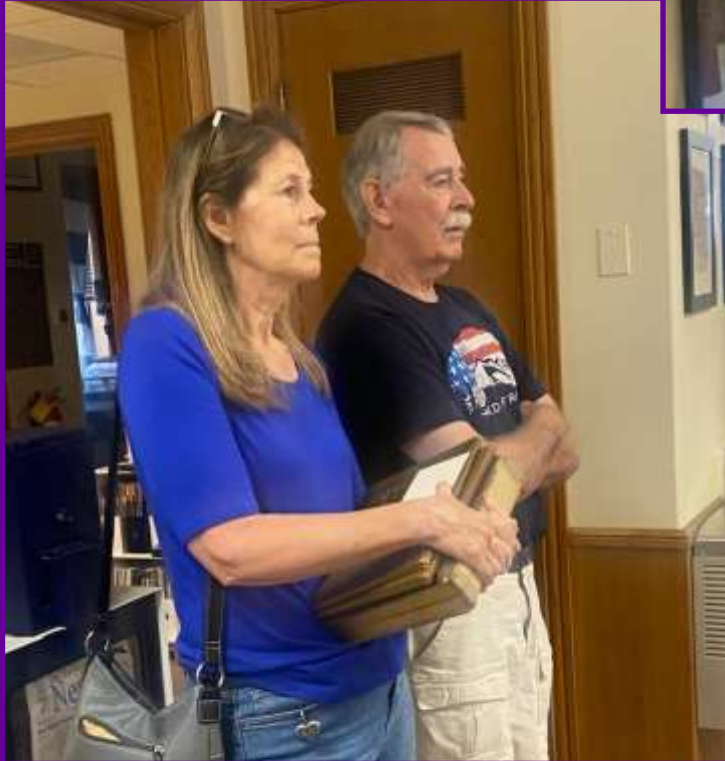
Program Minutes July 30, 2022

After many attempts over the last 2 years, BCGS members and friends were finally able to travel out of county to the Grover Center Museum and Historical Society in nearby Shelbyville. Alex Krach, Museum Director, provided historical information for nine of our members and two guests. We first meet in the main hallway where we learned about the newspaper exhibit called: Pushing Ink. "This exhibit begins by breaking down the various eras of American print journalism and how the changing trends were eventually found in Shelby County newspapers."

Alex also directed us to the Warble Gallery where one can learn from an excellent exhibit about how the Square became what it is today. Honoring the history of Shelbyville's Public Square and its role in Shelby County's history, eValuating Public Square, included many unique resources and photos.

The Grover Center also has permanent displays which includes "The Streets of Old Shelby" and "The Railroad in Shelby County" exhibits. What a unique experience to walk the streets of old Shelby County including the blacksmith shop, the post office, the school room, and many more streetscapes! Other ventured downstairs for the viewing of other historical resources and exhibits (some still in progress).

Before leaving Shelbyville, we walked over to enjoy lunch at Pudder's on the public square. The food and company capped off a great annual outing for BCGS members and friends. For additional information and photos, please check out the Facebook page for the Grover Center: <https://www.facebook.com/grovercenter/> and the center's website: [Grover Museum](http://www.grovermuseum.com)



**Grovet
Museum
and Lunch**







Highlights -by Toni Whiteside

S.K.I.L.L.S. Program Minutes Sep 17, 2022

BCGS Members Toni Whiteside & Donna Kuhlman shared with 7 Members about "Organizing and Backing-up genealogical records."

Toni started the discussion by showing how she organizes her digital files on her computer. She has a master genealogy file with each sir name in her family tree with its own individual folder. Any picture, reference, document, etc. that relates to someone in her tree with that sir name goes in that folder. The question was asked "how does she file her female tree members?" We discussed that there is no right or wrong way to file information. What matters most is that it is a system that makes sense to the user and that they follow thru in organizing.

Toni files her female members under their birth name folder. For marriage certificates she tries to put them in both her maiden and married name folder.

The filing discussion led to a discussion on backing up your data. Donna and Toni are both proponents of backing up your data to your own computer and not relying on Family Tree Maker or Family Search or whatever online program you use. This ensures that you always have access to your information even if the platform you are using gets bought out or becomes unavailable. You do not want to lose all your important information.

This led to a discussion on Family Tree Maker as Donna and Toni both use that platform and how you could synchronize your online tree with the computer version of Family Tree Maker and keep it on your own personal computer. It is currently \$80 for the download version of the program. If your computer crashes or your online tree becomes corrupted or unavailable the \$80 is an excellent value to prevent you from losing all your information.

These sessions are good opportunity to get your specific genealogy questions or technology questions answered depending on the topic for the month. So, make plans to join us for our next SKILLS session.

Another great SKILLS: Sharing Knowledge In Light Learning Sessions.





The Yellow Trail Museum presents The Indiana Rural Letter Carriers Museum Grand Opening 16 Oct 2022

-by Kim Ray

The Yellow Trail Museum was proud to open the Indiana Rural Letter Carriers Museum for viewing during the 2022 Hope Heritage Days. The original museum, located on the Hope Town Square for 40 years, had fallen into disarray with no climate control and had to be torn down. The artifacts, given to the Yellow Trail Museum, were placed in storage until a new home could be found. That home became a reality in 2018, when the Yellow Trail Museum was able to purchase the two adjacent buildings - one for the Indiana Rural Carriers Museum and the other for the Research Center, which opened April 2022.

The Indiana Rural Carriers Museum will have a grand opening 16 Oct 2022 by welcoming members of the Indiana Rural Letter Carrier's Association from across the state to join locals in celebration of the beginning of Rural Free Delivery. Hope and Hartsville were the first to have Rural Carriers in the state of Indiana, which began 15 Oct 1896.



Tripping MY ROOTS Over

-by Bob Hobbs

THE TENEMENT MUSEUM OF NEW YORK CITY'S LOWER EAST SIDE

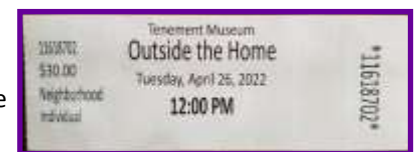
A *Paradise Square* Update:

In my last article I wrote about seeing the new musical *Paradise Square* on Broadway on April 26. It was based on the New York City Draft Riots in 1863. It had opened on April 13 after several setbacks because of Covid, including 13 days soon after opening night when it was forced to shut down due to actors being unable to perform due to testing positive for Covid. Despite this bad luck it soon after was nominated for 10 TONY Awards, including best musical, and winning one for its star Joaquina Kalukango as Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical. After the Sunday, July 10 matinee, the show celebrated the milestone of running for 100 performances since its official opening. Unfortunately, it never really found the audience it deserved and closed one week later on July 17, after playing 23 previews and 108 performances.

It seems that the musical's Canadian producer, Garth Drabinsky, has been at his old shenanigans again. After the pre-mature closing of one of my favorite musicals *Ragtime*, based on the epic E.L Doctorow novel, he was convicted of fraud in Canada in 2009 for misstating finances in this and other productions in Canada and the U.S. He eventually served 17 months in prison and in 2014 received full pardon under the condition he is not in charge of any finances for any other productions. With the title of lead producer, he oversaw the *Paradise Square* designers, stagehands and actors being paid. Prior to the show's closing, he knew they were not being paid per their contracts. Actors Equity and other related unions have brought lawsuits against him and his organization. Due to this and alleged abusive behavior, unions have placed him on their "Do Not Work" lists.

Prior to these money woes adding up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in back salaries, the show, despite its Broadway closing, was to have had a national tour and future international productions. The cast and orchestra made an original Broadway cast recording soon after opening and it was to have been released for sale sometime this September. I have yet to see it.

In past trips to New York City, I have traditionally on the Mondays I was there visited the World Trade Center site. On Tuesdays I visit one of the city's museums. In the past I have visited the Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, just to name a few. I was at a loss as to where to go this year and then I remembered about reading about the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side. It was a perfect choice as it is in the same area as the neighborhood as the Draft Riots took place and the setting for *Paradise Square* that I was to see that evening. I jumped online and bought tickets to two tours, grabbed a quick lunch in the hotel, and with the help of the doorman, hailed a cab for a wild, scary ride to get to my first tour starting at 12:00 noon!



Walking Tour Ticket

Public and neighborhood spaces have always been part of New Yorkers' daily lives offering a community beyond the walls of a home that was often shared by many inhabitants. The Walking Tour looked at how lower East Siders shaped and were shaped by their neighborhood over the 19th and early 20th centuries. From stores to a park to a bank and a locally run newspaper, I learned how these spaces became important centers for navigating American identity, advocacy, and cultural exchange. The tour discussed the people and stories behind public spaces and landmarks on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

As we walked southeast of the museum, several smaller businesses that were in the lower level of the tenements were pointed out. The first main attraction was the Jarmulowsky Bank Building, where many immigrants had trusted their savings. This 12-story building with Beau-Arts style architecture was built in 1912. It is faced with limestone in its lower section and terra-cotta higher up the building.

Sender Jarmulowsky established the bank in 1873. When World War I broke out within a few years after the building was completed, there was a run on the bank when numerous Germans in the neighborhood withdrew funds to send to relatives living in the old country. This sudden demand for cash caused the bank to fail as banks were not then regulated by the state. The building as a bank was open only two years after the massive building was completed. The building was left largely unused until after it was renovated in 1990. It became a New York Designated Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Tripping MY Over ROOTS

-by Bob Hobbs

THE TENEMENT MUSEUM (cont)

I was struck by how pristine the building was. In the afternoon sun it seemed to glow as compared to other buildings in the area. It



Bank Building

looked like a new building built in an older style. When I commented about this, the tour guide said that it had over several years been converted into a boutique, luxury hotel with office/retail space and had yet to open. It was purchased in 2011 for \$33 million and the developers went beyond the restoration requirements by rebuilding a 60-foot spire that had been removed in an earlier remodel. At nighttime, the spire will be bathed in white lights and a staircase will wind up to the dome allowing people to go to the tip of the building. Since I was there it has fully opened for business after a Covid-related delay. With bookings made available July 1, it is known as the Nine Orchard Street Hotel due to its location on the corner of Orchard and Canal Streets.

Down the same street was the Daily Forward Building, where Jewish socialists championed for workers' rights in the early 1900s. The building was home to the newspaper the *Jewish Daily Forward* from 1912 to 1974. Founded in 1897, it helped shape the political and social lives of thousands of Jewish immigrants for the first half of the 20th century. The building became home to the offices of many Jewish Labor Unions.



Newspaper Building

The paper, while not the only Yiddish newspaper available, became the most popular one in the United States and the world. It not only supported the labor and socialist movements but also criticized corrupt politicians and printed stories exposing the unsafe and unhealthy conditions of the workplaces and homes of the working-class New Yorkers. The building is now home to luxury condominiums.



Seward Park Playground

Directly across the street is Seward Park, which is a public park and playground on slightly more than three acres. Opening on October 17, 1903, it was the first municipally built playground in the United States.

In addition to playground equipment, the Seward Park branch of the New York Public Library was built in the park's southeast corner on November 11, 1909.



Seward Park Library

The park was named after William Henry Seward, who was a U.S. Senator from New York and was Secretary of State in the Lincoln Administration. You may remember him as being part of the plot to kill Lincoln. As Seward recovered at home for injuries incurred in an accident days before, a would-be assassin broke into his house. He was stabbed repeatedly but survived.

Standing with the tour guide and other members of the group in Seward Park directly across the street from the *Daily Forward* Building, I commented that I could just see and hear Emma Goldman standing on her soapbox preaching to a moderate-sized



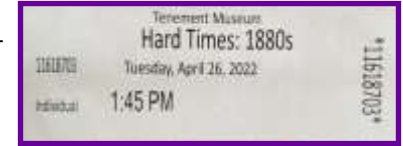
Tripping My Roots Over

-by Bob Hobbs

THE TENEMENT MUSEUM (cont)

crowd regarding the actions of the “Capitalist pigs”... just like she was known to do in Union Square several blocks west of there.

On my next tour, I visited the 97 Orchard



Tenement Tour Ticket



97 Orchard Street

Street tenement apartment of Natalie Gumpertz and her three daughters, and the downstairs apartment and saloon run by John and Caroline Schneider. Unlike the Gumpertz and Schneider families, my ancestors who entered the United States through Ellis Island seemed to pass through New York City merely as a way to get somewhere else.

Natalia “Natalie” Gumpertz immigrated to New York City from a part of Germany called Prussia in 1858 when she was 22 years old. People were leaving Germany because there were not enough jobs, and many citizens did not agree with the government. Natalie came to New York before Ellis Island was open and before there were any laws that restricted immigrants from moving to the United States. After she sailed across the ocean for about six weeks she entered New York through the lower part of Manhattan and made her way to the Lower East Side of as soon as she could.

The Lower East Side of Manhattan at this time was called Kleindeutschland, which means “Little Germany.” Walking through in this neighborhood Natalie would have heard people speaking German and saw German words on store signs. She likely strolled through the market areas and saw ingredients she recognized from home.

From the shops and saloons she might have smelled pretzels, sausages, sauerkraut, and other German foods. Natalie was Jewish and there were synagogues there to practice her religion. Natalie had two cousins that had already immigrated to the neighborhood and helped her find somewhere to live and introduced her to people to build friendships. Not long after Natalie arrived, she met the man she would marry, Julius Gumpertz. Natalie and Julius built a family together at 97 Orchard Street in Kleindeutschland.

In the 1870s, Natalie and Julius made a home for themselves and their three daughters, Rosa, Nanny (named after Natalie), and Olga. The three girls were all under the age of ten and would not be starting school until the age of eight. The girls likely spent some time playing at home and some time helping Natalie take care of their home.

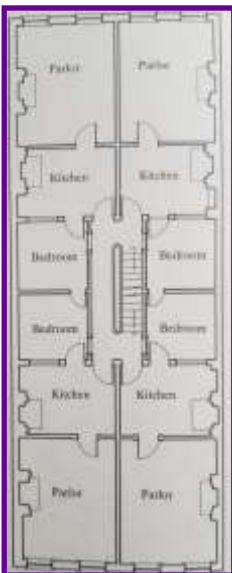
Parties of the 1870 U.S. Census									
Household	Head	Wife	Children	Other	Total	Occupation	Place of Birth	Year of Immigration	Year of Arrival
1	Julius Gumpertz	22	10	3	35	Prussia	Prussia	1858	1858
2	Natalie Gumpertz	22	10	3	35	Prussia	Prussia	1858	1858
3	Rosa Gumpertz	7	0	0	7	Prussia	Prussia	1858	1858
4	Nanny Gumpertz	7	0	0	7	Prussia	Prussia	1858	1858
5	Olga Gumpertz	7	0	0	7	Prussia	Prussia	1858	1858

1870 Census

Originally in the Gumpertz family kitchen there was no sink, no refrigerator, and no stove that turned on automatically. Years later when plumbing was added to the building, apartments got kitchen sinks and each floor got two water closets.



The Kitchen



Floorplan of Apartments

Perhaps on a summer day Natalie and the girls went to the market in the morning to buy the ingredients for “heaven and earth,” a dish of apples and potatoes. In German she would tell 7-year-old Rosa to take her baby sister Olga with her to the rear yard where she could rinse the apples and potatoes. Upstairs in the apartment Natalie began to sweat as she started the fire with coal in the stove. Maybe she heated up her iron to iron some of the girls’ clothes before Rosa bought ingredients back to start cooking. At the same time Natalie was trying to

Tripping Over My Roots

-by Bob Hobbs

THE TENEMENT MUSEUM (cont)

make sure 5-year-old Nanny stayed out of the way of the hot stove. While Natalie and the girls were working hard at home, Julius earned money to make sure they had enough to buy food and pay their rent. Unfortunately, Julius was having a tough time getting work that paid enough. Many people in the United States were losing their jobs at this time because the economy was not doing well. The Gumpertz family needed to ask for help and they went to a charity called the United Hebrew Charities to ask for a little bit of money. They were given \$5 which at the time was enough to help them pay their rent and buy food.

In 1874 when Rosa was 7, Nanny was 5, and Olga was 3, Julius disappeared. Natalie and her neighbors, including her landlord, searched all over for Julius but they were unable to find him. Julius deserted the family and was never seen again. Natalie needed to figure out how to run the house and make enough money to live. Other than the charity that had helped them out previously, where was Natalie to turn for help? Perhaps she knocked on the doors of her neighbors at 97 Orchard Street and asked them to look after her children while she cared for the home. Or maybe her neighbors knew of Natalie's situation and offered her home-cooked meals or to take a few pieces of her laundry while they did their own. Natalie's cousins might have helped as well by taking care of the children and at first even loaning her some money. Natalie needed to find a way to make money for the family. Since she had young children the best idea was to do something from home. Maybe Natalie went to the United Hebrew Charities again and asked for a sewing machine because eventually Natalie started making dresses to sell. In between cooking, cleaning, caring for her children, and dressmaking, Natalie probably slept little. Perhaps during this challenging time she watched her daughters play together with dolls she made from fabric scraps and felt inspired to keep working towards a more hopeful future.



1880 Census

In the year 1886 the family decided to move out of Kleinduestchland to another neighborhood in the Upper East Side of NYC called Yorkville. By that time, many Germans had left "Little Germany" and another group of immigrants were moving into the neighborhood. They were coming from Russia and Eastern Europe and just like the German immigrants, were looking for others who spoke their language and shared their culture and religion.

After leaving the Gumpertz apartment, we took a back stairway on the outside of the building. This led the tour to a communal area where Rosa, with the help of her younger sister Nanny, would have washed the fruits and vegetables the family bought at the market. Here was pointed out the outhouse used by the occupants of the whole building. There were accommodations for six at a time. The waste accumulated right below the seats. It did not drop into a deep hole dug in the ground, (like a common outhouse), but remained in a receptacle at ground level. Imagine the poor, unfortunate soul who had the daily job of going from building to building to collect and dispose of the waste!

We then made our way back into the building a took a short flight of stairs down to the Schneider living area and saloon. From the back we walked through the bedroom and kitchen areas and made our way to the larger room in front with access up to the street that contained a bar, tables and chairs, and a medium-sized wooden keg.

Natalie Gumpertz

Americans have been drinking beer as long as there have been Americans. They had it on the Mayflower and when they signed the Declaration of Independence. The beers were probably high in alcohol, and they would drink them from a clay or metal mug. Some

Tripping MY ROOTS Over

-by Bob Hobbs

THE TENEMENT MUSEUM (cont)

of the German saloons catered to “a manly aura of drunkenness,” but a great many, like the saloon run by John and Caroline Schneider on the lower level of 97 Orchard Street, were peaceful, family affairs. No one was there on a Sunday afternoon to get intoxicated. Women were also known to partake, and children were known to nip at a tankard of kinderbeer. Plus when you bought a beer, Caroline prepared free food for you in her nearby kitchen. The saloons served as living rooms for the community.



Schneider Saloon and Kitchen

A saloon was in the business of selling beer, not making it. John likely went to the same brewery a relative had used or chose one that represented their home of Bavaria or Prussia, made an order, and had the keg(s) delivered. They could have picked kinds to appeal to the tastes of their customers. Their landlord, Lucas Glockner was from Baden, so they probably made sure to get a Baden-style pils. There were many breweries to choose from and they were in competition with each other to produce the best possible product at the lowest possible price.

John and Caroline came from diverse backgrounds being he was from Bavaria, and she was from Prussia. They had both been living in New York since their early teens and both had families in the saloon business. The patrons all spoke German, but their customers were a mix from all over.

They would no doubt be talking about their old homes, but they would no doubt be talking about what bar goers talk about today: politics, rent, work, and love.

John and Caroline operated their saloon between 1864 and 1886. By 1870, they were among 153,038 German-speaking immigrants living in Kleindeutschland making the neighborhood the 5th largest German-speaking city in the world.

At the end of our tour of the Schneider saloon, I asked our tour guide if he knew where the Five Points neighborhood was in relation to Orchard Street. He told me it was about 8 blocks away. I could tell he was a ballet dancer by the way he stood and asked him and others in the tour if they knew about *Paradise Square* and that I had a ticket to see it that evening. He said he had heard of it but had not seen it. Others seemed interested and I told them if they liked this tour they would like the show. Some said they would definitely check it out. That night during the show's intermission, I felt a tug at my sleeve and there stood a couple of women from Canada who had taken my recommendation and come to the show!

I highly recommend the Tenement Museum and plan to go back to take some of the other tours they offer. I also highly recommend the musical *Paradise Square* and hope in the future you can experience the tour of a professional production or even that of a community theatre.

Recommended Reading:

Biography of a Tenement House in New York City: An Architectural History of 97 Orchard Street by Andrew S. Dolkart, 2nd Edition.

Up From Orchard Street, a novel by Eleanor Widmer. An “exhilarating novel centered around a memorable immigrant family brings to vibrant life the spirit of New York’s legendary Lower East Side.”

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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