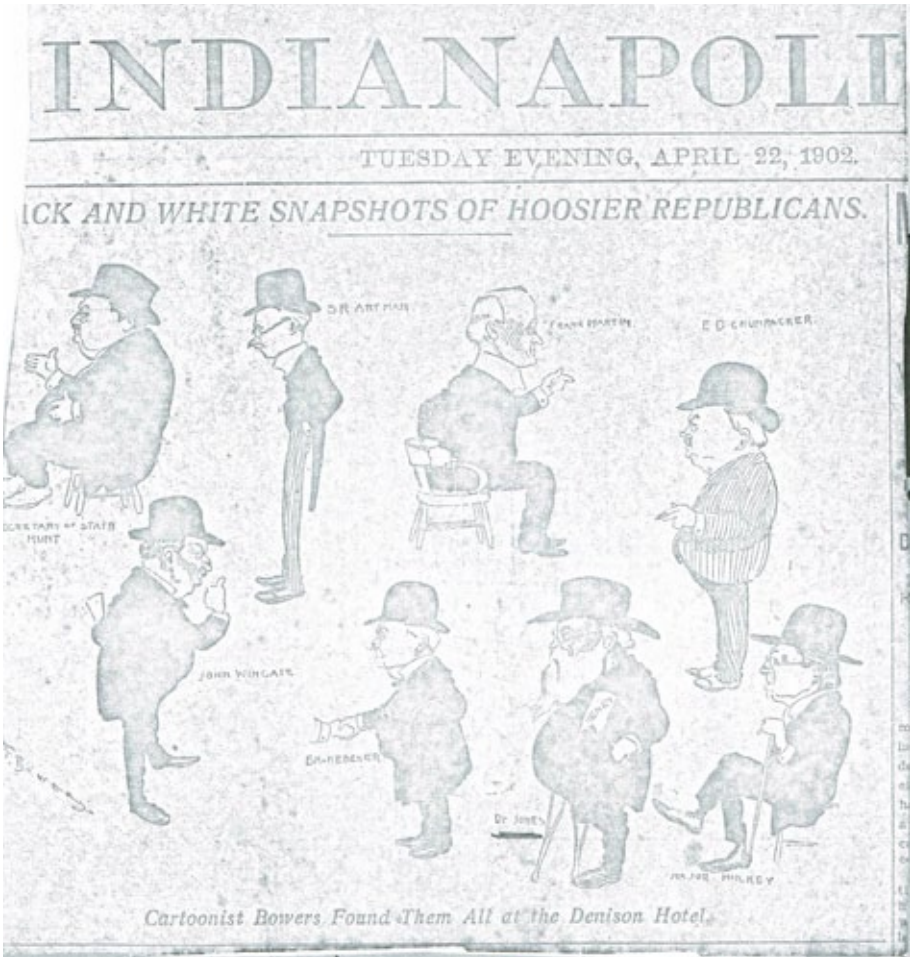
INDIANA GENEALOGIST

Vol. 25 No. 1 ▯ March 2014


INDIANAPOLI

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 22, 1902.

ICK AND WHITE SNAPSHOTS OF HOOSIER REPUBLICANS.

Cartoonist Bowers Found Them All at the Denison Hotel.

Jesse Matthew Jones and the Civil War ▯ Indiana's Absentee Laws ▯ 1847 and 1850 Name Changes Approved by the General Assembly ▯ Jasper County Bar Records ▯ Notices and Briefs from Allen, Blackford, Boone, Dearborn, Knox, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Noble, Owen, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Vigo Counties

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Ft. Wayne, IN 46852-0507
www.indgensoc.org

Indiana Genealogist (ISSN 1558-0458) is published electronically each quarter (March, June, September, and December) and is available exclusively to members of the Indiana Genealogical Society as a benefit of membership.

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SUBMISSIONS
Submissions concerning people who were in Indiana at one time are always welcome. Material from copyright-free publications is preferred. For information on accepted file formats, please contact the editor.

WRITING AWARD
The Indiana Genealogical Society may bestow the Elaine Spires Smith Family History Writing Award (which includes $500) to the writer of an outstanding article that is submitted to either *Indiana Genealogist* or *IGS Newsletter.* Submitters need not be members of IGS. To be eligible for consideration for the award, the article must be at least 1,000 words (or a series of articles on the same topic that totals 1,000 words). Abstracts, transcriptions, indexes, or other forms of genealogy data are not eligible for consideration. Articles must be submitted by 31 December of each year, and the winner will be recognized at the IGS annual conference in April. Multiple submissions are welcome. The IGS Publications committee will judge all eligible entries and make a decision about the winner. IGS reserves the right not to bestow the award in a particular year.

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MEMBERSHIP DISTRICTS

NW = Northwest
NC = North Central
NE = Northeast

WC = West Central
C = Central
EC = East Central

SW = Southwest
SC = South Central
SE = Southeast

EDITOR'S BRANCH

I have been trying valiantly to locate a Hoosier ancestor who might qualify me for IGS's Society of Civil War Families of Indiana, but so far my Hoosiers are too old, too young, or left the state before the war. My paternal great-great-great-grandfather's brother, Abraham Fuller, did serve in Company H of the Forty-Sixth Illinois Infantry, organized in Lee County, Illinois. According to a death notice published in the 19 April 1898 edition of the *Rockford Daily Register-Gazette*, Abraham was one of the first to enlist. The record of his service in the Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls database (http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/datcivil.html) indicates that he enlisted on 1 December 1861. However, he was discharged for disability at St. Louis on 17 July 1862. I don't yet know the details of that disability, but if he were with his regiment through the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862, one of those Confederates he could have met on the battlefield was my maternal great-great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Tarrance, who served with the First Florida.

Abraham never married and died of consumption in 1898. Benjamin, who had married just before the war and fathered two children, was wounded at Chickamauga, was discharged in North Carolina at the close of the war, and then promptly disappeared. (His wife remarried by 1870, so he was permanently gone in one way or another.)

Even considering Benjamin's involvement in some of the fiercest fighting of the war and his mysterious disappearance (which we must admit is probably for a mundane reason), neither he nor Abraham had quite the experience of Hoosier Jesse Matthew Jones, detailed in this issue by Angela Erwin Kenny. Jesse's tale of survival is not only fascinating, but is a good example of how family documents—in this case, a letter to a granddaughter—can be corroborated with additional research to build a more complete story than either could alone.

Meredith Thompson also explores Indiana's absentee laws in this issue, and our usual selection of interesting notices and briefs from around the state is featured. I'm committed to ensuring that all of our membership districts are represented in each issue, but I can't do it alone. Do you have a story to tell, documents to share, or a society project to publicize? Please contact me with your article ideas and submissions at quarterly@indgensoc.org.

Rachel

On the cover: This newspaper clipping illustrating some Hoosier Republicans was found pasted inside the cover of Dr. Jesse Matthew Jones's account book. He has underlined his name next to the cartoonist's rendition of him. Courtesy Angela Erwin Kenny.

"ONE MORE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE": THE CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE OF JESSE MATTHEW JONES

Angela Erwin Kenny

With a blown-out leg and clinging to a cabin door, Jesse Matthew Jones floated down the Mississippi River in the dark by himself. He had survived the battle at Baton Rouge with a shattered thighbone and had been placed on a boat with other wounded being transported to the hospital. When the boat collided with a "sloop of war," he thought his demise would come by means of the river instead of the battlefield.

Jesse Matthew Jones was born in 1835 in Hendricks County, Indiana, to John and Nancy (Pritchett) Jones.[1] His father was a farmer and a Baptist preacher in Liberty Township. Both of his parents died before he turned eighteen.[2] His grandfather, Matthew Jones (born 1758 in Virginia), served in the Revolutionary War in Southampton, Virginia, and died in Hendricks County, Indiana, in 1836.[3] On 7 August 1856, Jesse married Emily Rebecca Baron, daughter of Nathaniel S. and Frances (Perry) Baron.[4] Together they set out to raise a family, first in Hendricks County, Indiana, and later in Owen County.

Jesse Matthew Jones and Emily Rebecca (Baron) Jones.

However, their attempts to start a family met with repeated experiences of agonizing failure. Two children died as infants. Daughters Elzina, Nancy, Emma, and Inese died very young.[5] Carrie, born in 1871, lived to marry Charles T. Agee in 1891 and had two children of her own, both of whom died young. Carrie passed away nine days after the birth of her second child, Virgil, in 1894.[6] She was twenty-three years old. Jesse and Emily's daughter, Eva, born on 20 March 1866, was their only offspring to survive.[7] She married Dell Zell Erwin on New Year's Eve, 1881, and gave birth to nine thriving children: Elma (b. 1883), Trella (b. 1884), Edith Mae (b. 1886), Jesse Matthew (b. 1888), Wallace Elisha (b. 1890), Robert Jones (b. 1894), Barron Brice (b. 1896), Elizabeth White (b. 1900), and Evelyn Maxine (b. 1906).[8] To these grandchildren Jesse and Emily poured forth the full measure of their nurturing well-spring that had been held back by so many years of tragedy. It was to the eldest of these grandchildren, Elma, that Jesse wrote letters describing his experiences throughout the Civil War.

Union Camp Banks, temporary home to the Twenty-First Indiana in Baton Rouge, photographed in late July 1862. (Francis Trevelyan Miller, ed., The Photographic History of the Civil War, in Ten Volumes*, vol. 2 [New York: The Review of Reviews, 1911], 138, via Wikimedia Commons)*

Jesse enlisted on 24 July 1861 in Company K, Twenty-First Indiana Volunteer Infantry.[9] The Twenty-First Indiana's first assignment was to Baltimore, Maryland, under the command of Colonel James McMillan and Lieutenant Colonel John A. Keith. In Jesse's correspondence with Elma, his only statement in regard to service in Baltimore was that they "remained there till was all wore out in the city."[10] From Baltimore, the Twenty-First Indiana was assigned duty at Newport News, Virginia, at the mouth of the James River. Several weeks later they were given orders to transfer to Ship Island, just south of Biloxi, Mississippi. Under command of Major General Benjamin Butler, a brigade of men set sail for the Mississippi River military arena.[11] The Twenty-First Indiana was aboard the *Constitution*. Along the way they were chased by gunboats and battered by a severe storm.

Arrival at Ship Island wasn't the relief the soldiers were hoping for. It was infested with fleas, lice, ticks, and scorpions. Wind-blown sand found its way into everything, including food and bedding. Vegetation was sparse, and meals were reduced to half rations. The sun's glare off the sand produced a form of blindness in numerous men, four hundred from the Twenty-First Indiana alone.[12] Jesse mentioned the lack of wood available for their fires: "We arrived at the Island in good time and had a time there. no timber in 5 miles of us and we had to carie it on our backs that far to cook with."

Ship Island was home for the troops for two months as they waited for assignment. A total of twenty-six men from the regiment died due to the harsh conditions on the island. Relief came on 15 April, when the men boarded ships and set sail to aid in the capture of Forts Jackson and St. Phillips, two forts situated on opposite shores at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The Twenty-First Indiana was instructed to disembark the boat and storm St. Phillips from the rear, marshy

side of the fort, as naval ships plummeted the fort from the river. According to Jesse, they "landed about 2 miles out in the water that is part of the gulf. the water was to shallow to run a boat. and we had to wade waist deep to knee deep."

When the troops at Fort St. Phillips realized they were surrounded, the white flag of surrender was flown. This brought tremendous relief to Butler's brigade of men.[13] Jesse wrote, "…there was about 7000 boys that was the hapiest fellows even if they was in water to the belt."

The regiment was immediately ferried further up the river to New Orleans. Commander David Farragut's men took the city on 29 April 1862, and General Butler's men arrived on 1 May to occupy the city. Jesse was in the first of General Butler's boats to land at the wharf.

Exactly one month later, on 1 June 1862, the regiment was relocated to Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana. There they were placed under the command of Major General Thomas Williams. The two months spent there were occupied with various patrols and preparations for a possible invasion by the Confederates attempting to regain their capital.[14] The men of the Twenty-First Indiana were camped in the city between Magnolia Cemetery and the penitentiary.[15] They took on the task of foraging food for the whole brigade. The reason given for this job assignment was, in Jesse's words, "we was dair devils." The group had even captured an alligator on an earlier expedition along the river.[16]

On the fateful day of 5 August 1862, the Confederates under command of Major General John C. Breckinridge moved in on the city from the east, beginning what became known as the Battle of Baton Rouge. The fighting only lasted one day. The Confederates were unable to take the city back but did inflict damage to the troops there. General Williams was killed. The Confederate ironclad, CSS *Arkansas*, was just a few miles up the Mississippi River on its way to provide support from the river. The Confederates might have achieved success if the *Arkansas* had made it to Baton Rouge. Instead, it sat just four miles up the river with stalled engines.[17] Jesse was one of the soldiers wounded that day:

> I was wounded about noon after fighting from about midnight before. with out water or food and nothing but bullets and bayonets. We had 2 charges before I was wounded. the battle ended in about one hour after I was wounded. but I lay on the battle field or rather I crawled in a little cabin in the edge of the city and lay there til night. when I was taken to the barracks.

Jesse's wound was from a musket ball that shattered the bone at the top of his right thigh.[18] He was placed on a captured steamer called the *Lewis Whiteman*, one of three vessels employed to transport wounded to St. James Hotel/Hospital in New Orleans. En route his boat collided bow to bow with a Union sloop-of-war, the *Oneida*. "[W]e was about as much to her as a goose's egg would be to a millstone. and so our boat was crushed to splinters," Jesse wrote.

At the time, Jesse believed the accident to be a result of "mismanagement" of the boat. Subsequent information proved otherwise. Reports generated by Lieutenant G. H. Preble, of the *Oneida*, claimed the captain of the *Lewis Whiteman* was a Southern sympathizer with four sons serv-

ing in the Confederate Army.[19] Just one hour prior to the disaster, the *Whiteman* narrowly missed colliding with another ship, the *Sciota*.[20] The general consensus was that the collision caused by the *Whiteman* was a deliberate act with deadly intentions.

The boat was carrying 160 wounded soldiers. More than 100 died helplessly in the river that day. Jesse was one of the 48 that miraculously survived:[21]

> I was the most helpless on board. could not get up when down. but when the boat sank til the water came in the cabin hall the water raised the door shutter off the hinges and it fell over on me. and in the excitement I got on my foot, and made a hop in the door while I held to the shutter. by this time the water was up to my arms. and the next hop the boat dropped from under me and I was on the curent holding on to the door shutter in the dark. I floated off while the rest of the wounded was sinking and drowning. but I went my way alone, out of sight of any thing and traveled down the river a lone – in the dark. but lonesum was my name. and I was in that condition from 9 p.m. til day break next morning.

It just so happened that the body of General Williams had been placed on the same boat with Jesse. The general's body, encased in a metallic box, floated down the river just ahead of Jesse. The next morning Jesse was rescued by some men scouting for the general's body.

After being shifted on and off of seven different boats, Jesse finally arrived at St. James Hospital. Upon initial inspection, the surgeons and nurses felt that he would probably not survive his wound: "…the nerses told me that they leit me to die. they said that they never knew a man that was shot that high up in the leg and the ball passed threw the bone to live and they thought they would let me go all to gether."

Jesse was left to die and wasn't seen by the surgeons for another fifteen days. He lay on an oil blanket unable to even turn himself over. A nurse would come in and wash his face and hands and comb his head and beard, which was eighteen inches long by this time. All the while, his leg deteriorated: "some days the nerses would rake a hand full of magets from around and under my leg. for it run severe."

Unable to do many things for themselves, Jesse and the other two in his hospital room decided to hire some help:

> while waiting to die we 3 hired a little negro to stay in the room and wait on us and give us more attention than the nerses could do. and we all had some money and we would send the boy out in the city every day and get what ever we wanted…we paid him $5.00 each and that made him good wages. and some of the time I ate one pound of cheese over and above my rations. and I bought $5.00 worth of cigars…

After a period of time it became apparent that Jesse was going to live despite the extreme wound he had received. The surgeons began therapy to the leg, or what was left of it:

> the old house surgeon with his little niger boy waiter came around to do something for me. and all that he done was to rap a bandge around my foot and put a strap to it and tie it to a box and put in this box 20 pounds of old iron. and hange over the foot of the bed. and put a strap around my shoulders and tie it to the head of the bed stid with the intention to stretch my leg and streatning it. and I laid about 2 months that way but it would not stretch

Various treatments continued for about five months. The broken bones were drawn past each other by five inches and were not healing. The front bullet hole continued to discharge pus. Jesse finally grew impatient with the treatment: "I weried with it til the middle of next april. and then I begin wanting to see home. so I asked them to give me a discharge and send me home. so they did. …my leg got rather crooked but I came home with it that way and tried evry thing to save the leg."

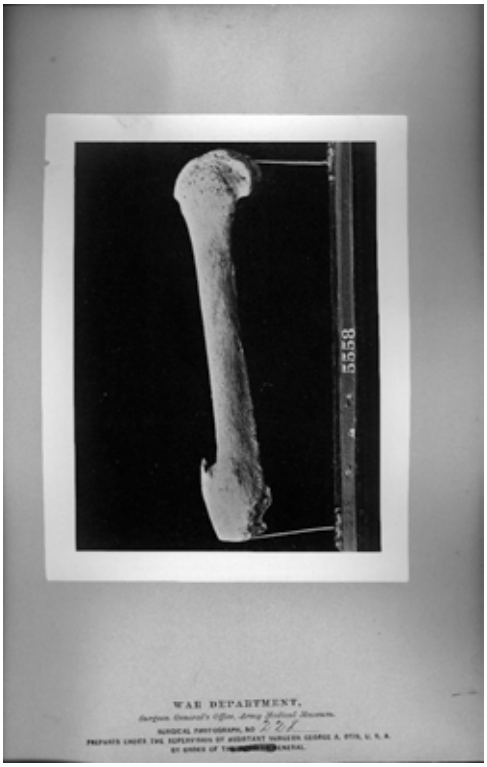
In April 1863, nine months following his injury at the Battle of Baton Rouge, Jesse arrived home at last. He worked hard at leading a functional lifestyle, minus the use of one leg. Even the task of riding a horse required time in training the beast to lie down in order to be mounted "camel style."[22] He lived with pain on a daily basis and continued to try to save his leg. His health began to fail:

> …it finally got so bad that my life was a misery to me. and since I returned home I learned telegraphing and saved up some money. and I had bin suffering with it for months and had to have it lanced in several places. I decided that my life might yet be worth $500 or $600 so I … decided to make one more struggle for life. so I did.

Jesse pictured following surgery in 1869 to amputate his wounded leg above the knee.

Jesse wrote letters to surgeons all across the United States looking for one familiar with amputations of the kind he needed, far above the knee. He discovered a surgeon in Washington, DC, Dr. Doctor Willard Bliss (Doctor was his first name), who specialized in ballistic trauma. This was the same doctor who later attended to President James Garfield as he suffered eleven weeks from an assassin's bullet before passing away in 1881.

In January 1869, seven years after being wounded, Jesse went to see Dr. Bliss. Bliss had performed short amputations previously but not as short as what Jesse's situation required:



Jesse's amputated femur, pictured in The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, published in 1883.*

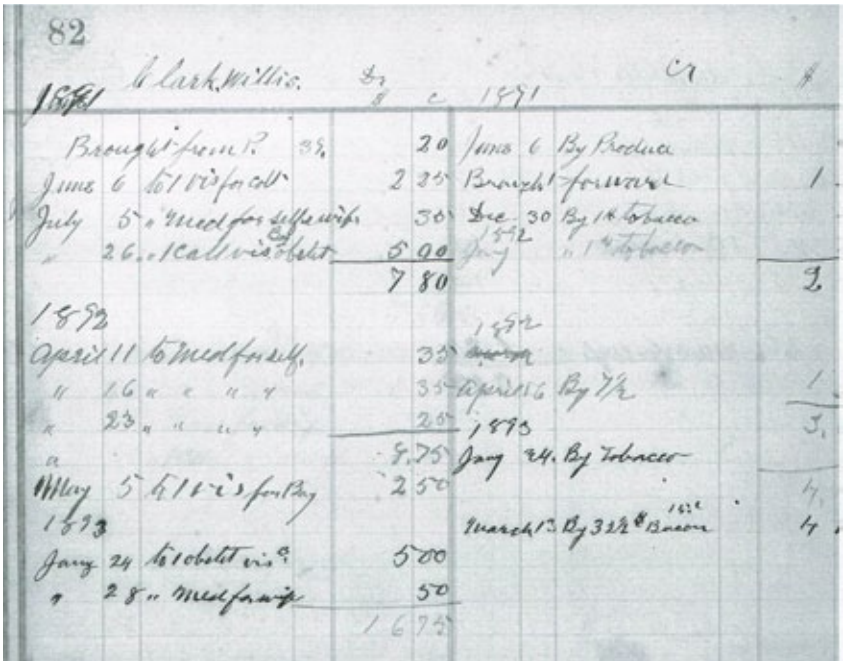
> when he examined my wound he told me that I had 9 chances to die to one to live and I told him that I would take that chance. so he wrote to New York and Philadelphia and brought in all the big heads that could be found. for a job of that sort had never bin heard of. and he took it off. and laped the arteries around wire instead of ligating them. and then sewed it up tight.

Jesse survived the surgery and in ten days was healed enough to move about on crutches.[23] The amputated leg was sent as a specimen (no. 5558) to the Army Medical Museum, where his case (no. 476) was catalogued and his picture taken.[24]

The Army Medical Museum of Washington, DC, was established in 1862 when U.S. Army Surgeon General William A. Hammond ordered all Army medical officers to contribute "specimens of morbid anatomy, surgical or medical, which may be regarded as valuable; together with projectiles and foreign bodies removed, and such other matters as may prove of interest in the study of military medicine or surgery."[25] Today the museum is known as the National Museum of Health and Medicine and has recently relocated to Silver Spring, Maryland. It houses not only military specimens but numerous items of historical interest, such as bone fragments and bullets from the assassinations of Presidents Abraham Lincoln and James Garfield, along with skeletal remains of Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. It also houses a portion of President Ulysses S. Grant's throat tumor and brain tissue of Albert Einstein.

Beginning in 1870, a six-volume collection of the documented cases and reported findings of the museum was published under the name *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*. Jesse Matthew Jones's case was chronicled on page 305 of the third surgical volume (1883) in the section entitled "Secondary Amputations in the Upper Third of the Shaft of the Femur." It was reported that fifty-five amputations were conducted in the upper third of the thigh (forty-five Union, ten Confederate). Of those, twenty-five died from the operation: four perished from pyaemia or blood poisoning, two from gangrene, ten from exhaustion, three from shock, one from reaction to chloroform, and five from unknown causes.[26]

Jesse's surgery took place in Washington, DC, near the time of Grant's inauguration. Jesse decided to make the most of his situation: "I thought after suffering so long I would stay and see



Jesse kept numerous account books for his business, recording patients' names, the services rendered, charges, and in many cases, how payment was made. In 1891 and 1892, Willis Clark turned to Jesse for medicine and obstetrical services. According to the doctor's notes, payment was made mostly in tobacco and bacon.

that. and I was getting my board at $10 a week and out side the hospital they was paying $20 to $50 … so I staid til after the Inauguration."

Jesse returned to his home in Cataract, Owen County, Indiana, where his wife, Emily, and only surviving daughter, three-year-old Eva, anxiously awaited him. He went on to become the town physician after completing his education at Franklin College and serving as intern under Dr. G. W. Burton and later Dr. T. F. Dryden.[27] He served the community in various capacities, including county commissioner, township trustee, U.S. pension examiner, and postmaster.[28] He also was an active member of the Missionary Baptist Church of Cataract.[29]

When Eva married Dell Erwin she settled less than a mile from her parents. This allowed Jesse and Emily to frequently spend time with their grandchildren. Jesse would occasionally take his granddaughter, Elma, on his doctor calls. She would sit on the wagon seat right next to him, occupying the spot left vacant by his amputated leg.[30] When Jesse erected the first telephone line in town, it was no surprise that it ran from his house to his daughter's.[31]

The Erwin family moved to Florida around 1909, all except son Jesse and the eldest daughter, Elma, who settled elsewhere.[32] Jesse Matthew Erwin married Bernice Mae Hale from Owen County and settled in Mutual, Woodward County, Oklahoma.[33] Elma, the granddaughter to whom Jesse Matthew Jones corresponded regarding his Civil War service, remained in Indiana and married Harry Stevenson.[34] The remaining children of Dell and Eva followed their parents to southern Florida in the area now known as Miami.

Jesse died on 30 October 1910 in Cataract and is buried in Cataract Cemetery with his wife, Emily.[35] A memorial obelisk for Jesse, his siblings, and his parents is located in the small Jones family cemetery on land that was formerly the family farm in Liberty Township, Hendricks County.[36] Dell and Eva (Jones) Erwin are buried in Miami Memorial Park Cemetery in Miami, Florida.[37]

Angela Kenny earned a Bachelor of Science in Child Development from California State University, Fullerton, with a minor in psychology. Her quest to preserve family history led her to the Indiana counties of Owen, Marshall, and Hendricks with the focus of her research on the Erwin/Jones/Hale/Westfall lines. She currently resides in southern California, where her favorite pastime is playing with her grandchildren and researching ancestors.

Notes

1. Charles Blanchard, *Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana: Historical and Biographical* (Chicago: F. A. Battey & Co., 1884), 958.
2. William Taylor Stott, *Indiana Baptist History, 1798–1908* (privately printed, 1908; repr. 1923), 192.
3. For military service, see Matthew Jones, no. S32348, pension file, "Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900" database (NARA microfilm publication M804, roll no. 1442), Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15, National Archives, Washington D.C.; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 20 February 2013). For death, see oath of John Jones "and others," 23 November 1836, Hendricks County, Indiana, Probate Order Book 2 (1835–

1839), p. 76; digital image, "Hendricks County Probate and Judicial Archive" database, http://www.co.hendricks.in.us/Archive/ArchiveHome.asp (accessed 12 March 2014).

4. For marriage, see Jesse M. Jones and "Rebecca E. Barnes," license date 4 August 1856, Hendricks County, Indiana, vol. 5a (1855–1857), p. 92; digital image, "Hendricks County Marriage License Archives" database, http://www.co.hendricks.in.us/Archive/ArchiveHome.asp (accessed 12 March 2014). For parentage, see 1850 United States Federal Census, Marion Township, Putnam County, Indiana, dwelling no. 36, family no. 36, p. 454, Nathaniel S. Baron; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 8 March 2014), citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 167.
5. Blanchard, C*ounties of Clay and Owen, Indiana*, 958.
6. For marriage, see Charles Agee and Cara/Carrie Jones, 11 October 1891, Owen County, Indiana, Vol. J (1890–1898), p. 68, in "Indiana, Marriages, 1811–1959" database; digital images, *FamilySearch* (accessed April 2013). For names and dates of birth and death, see Major Abraham Owen Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, *Owen County, Indiana Cemetery Listings* (n.p.: Major Abraham Owen Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1983), 182.
7. Dell Zell Erwin Family Bible, copy of family information in possession of author. Location of the original unknown.
8. Dell Zell Erwin Family Bible and Angela Faye Erwin Kenny, "Erwin Quakers," *Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly* 52, no. 3 (Fall 2012): 132.
9. Indiana Adjutant General, *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*, vol. IV, 1861–1865 (Indianapolis: Samuel M. Douglass, 1866), 475.
10. Jesse Matthew Jones to Elma Erwin, 1 March 1901, in three parts. All quotes throughout this article are taken from the letter. The original is in the possession of Barbara Hawes, a great-great-granddaughter of Jesse and Emily.
11. *The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States 1861–1865*, vol. 3 (Madison, WI: Federal Publishing Co., 1908), 123.
12. Phillip E. Faller, *The Indiana Jackass Regiment in the Civil War, A History of the 21st Infantry/1st Heavy Artillery Regiment, with a Roster* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013), 19–21.
13. Faller, *The Indiana Jackass Regiment in the Civil War*, 24–28.
14. Robert S. Schneller, *Farragut, America's First Admiral* (Washington DC: Brassey's Inc., 2002), 64.
15. "Battle of Baton Rouge fought on the 5th of August 1862," Mss. 4873, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Lousiana State University Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA; digital image, Louisiana Digital Library, http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org (accessed 5 July 2013).
16. Jesse Matthew Jones to Elma Erwin, 1 March 1901, in three parts.
17. Schneller, *Farragut, America's First Admiral*, 64.
18. Jesse Matthew Jones to Elma Erwin, 1 March 1901, in three parts.
19. United States Naval War Records Office, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, series I, vol. 19, West Gulf Blockading Squadron (July 15, 1862–March 14, 1863) (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1905), 138.
20. Faller, *The Indiana Jackass Regiment in the Civil War*, 79.

21. Jesse Matthew Jones to Elma Erwin, 1 March 1901, in three parts. The number of deaths Jesse reports here differs from accounts reported elsewhere.
22. Jay B. Jones, Martha Babcock, and Margaret Brust, "Jesse Jones' Extraordinary Civil War Survival: His Account," *Owen County History & Genealogy* 6, no. 2 (Spring 1997): 36.
23. Jesse Matthew Jones to Elma Erwin, 1 March 1901, in three parts.
24. Joseph K. Barnes, George A. Otis, and D. L. Huntington, *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, part III, vol. 2, Surgical History (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1883), 305; digital images, *Internet Archive*, http://archive.org/details/MSHWRSurgical3 (accessed May 2013).
25. Robert S. Henry, *The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Its First Century, 1862–1962* (Washington, DC: Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1964), v; digital images, *Internet Archive*, http://archive.org/details/TheArmedForcesInstituteOfPathology-ItsFirstCentury (accessed May 2013).
26. Barnes, Otis, and Huntington, *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, part III, vol. 2, p. 305; digital images, *Internet Archive*.
27. Blanchard, *Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana*, 958.
28. *Owen County Indiana: A History* (Owen County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1994), 6; memorial for Jesse M. Jones created by Jon Rice, 16 October 2008 (Memorial #30623616), obituary for Jesse M. Jones posted by Michelle Boyd (contributor #46936086), *Find A Grave*; "Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832–1971" database, Vol. 25a (1857–1873), pp. 248–49; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 1 July 2013), citing NARA microfilm M841, roll 34.
29. Jones, Babcock, and Brust, "Jesse Jones' Extraordinary Civil War Survival: His Account."
30. Memories relayed to the author by Barbara Hawes, the granddaughter of Elma Erwin Stevenson and great-great-granddaughter of Jesse Matthew Jones, 15 February 2013.
31. Corry A. Alcorn, *Oral History Series: Elma Stevenson, An Interview with Mrs. Harry Stevenson* (Monroe County Public Library, 1976).
32. 1910 United States Census, Coconut Grove, Dade County, Florida, dwelling no. 235, family no. 235, pg. 15A, Dell Z. Erwing household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 8 March 2014), citing NARA microfilm T624, roll 158.
33. For marriage, see Jesse and Bernice Erwin Family Bible, original in the possession of Ramona Craighead Moss, great-great-granddaughter of Jesse Matthew Jones. For residence, see 1910 United States Census, Webster Township, Woodward County, Oklahoma, dwelling no. 112, family no. 112, pp. 6A–6B, Jesse M. Erwin; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 8 March 2014), citing NARA microfilm T624, roll 1276.
34. Harry Stevenson and Elma Erwin, license date 13 June 1903, marriage date 14 June 1903, Owen County, Indiana, vol. K (1898–1905), p. 368, in "Indiana, Marriages, 1811–1959" database; index and images, *FamilySearch*, https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XXFV-TJ7: (accessed 6 July 2013).
35. Memorial for Jesse M. Jones and Emily R. Jones, Cataract Cemetery, Owen County, Indiana, *Find a Grave* (http://www.findagrave.com), accessed December 2012.

36. Jones Family Cemetery near Clayton, Hendricks County, Indiana. Gravestones documented by Gayle and Ada Erwin on a visit there in October, 2010. Gayle Erwin is the great-great-grandson of Jesse Matthew Jones. Cemetery is located on land that was once the homestead for the Jones family when they settled in what was Liberty Township, Indiana at the time.
37. Memorial for Dell Z. Erwin and Eva Jones Erwin, Miami Memorial Park Cemetery, Miami, Florida, *Find a Grave* (http://www.findagrave.com), accessed December 2012.

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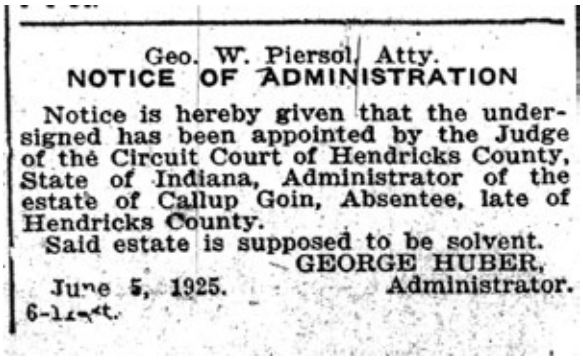
Meredith Thompson

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was not unusual for people to lose touch with their families. For unmarried men, there was the lure of opportunities in the West, from the San Francisco gold rush in 1849 to the Oklahoma land rush of 1889. The Civil War also brought uncertainty for families, with the lack of an organized system to identify soldiers' remains and notify their next of kin. Local governments had to contend with the legal issue of what to do with what the person had left behind—not just their assets, but also their debts, including any IOUs or property taxes owed.

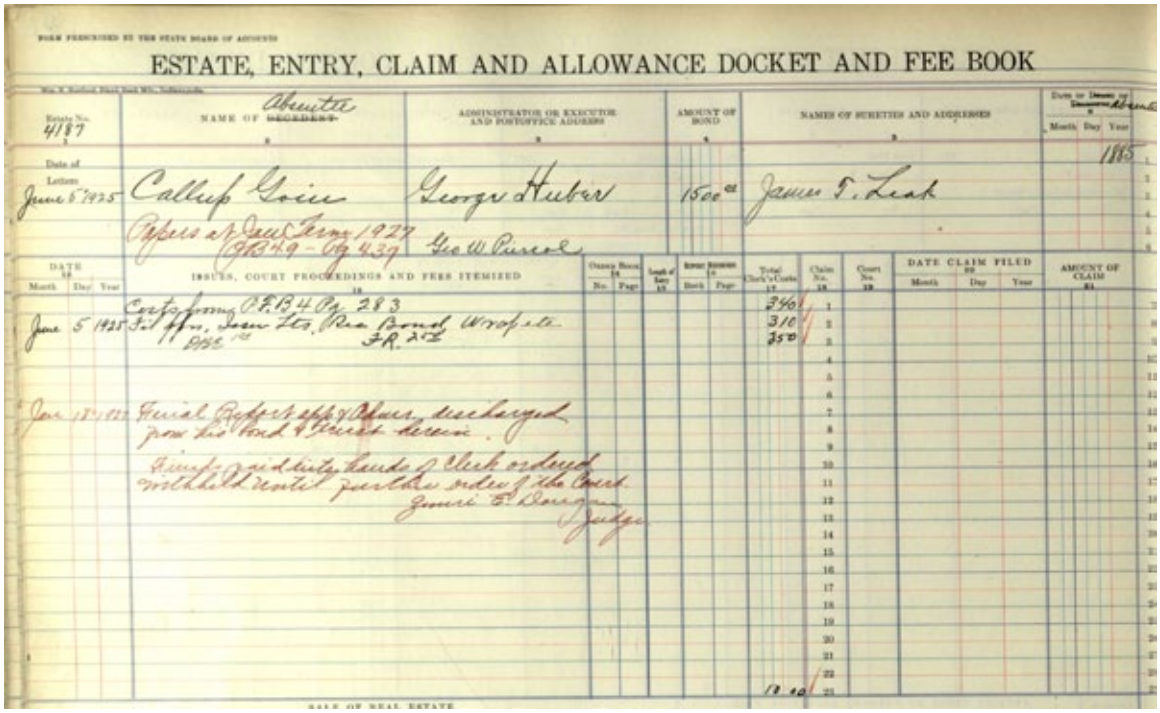
In March 1859 Indiana passed its first absentee law.[1] Persons who had been missing from their usual place of residence for ten years and who had left behind any real estate or personal property could be declared absentee in the probate court in either their county of residence or the county where their property was. The probate court would act as if the person were dead, appointing an administrator for the person's estate and guardians for any minor children. As soon as an administrator was appointed, the wife was treated as a feme sole (unmarried woman) in the eyes of the law, with the right to make contracts and execute deeds by herself.

Under the 1859 law, for a person to be declared absentee, a public notice had to filed in an Indianapolis newspaper, as well as in a newspaper in the absentee's county of residence, giving thirty days' notice. In order to get the absentee designation, the family of the missing had to establish to the probate court that they were either "in need of the use and proceeds of such property" or that the property was suffering "for want of proper care."[2]


Geo. W. Piersol, Atty.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the Judge of the Circuit Court of Hendricks County, State of Indiana, Administrator of the estate of Callup Goin, Absentee, late of Hendricks County.
Said estate is supposed to be solvent.
GEORGE HUBER,
June 5, 1925. Administrator.
6-1zx*t.

Notice of administration for an absentee's estate, published in the Danville Republican *on 11 June 1925.*

Even if the person who had been declared absentee was to subsequently return, all the



ESTATE, ENTRY, CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET AND FEE BOOK

Entry for the Hendricks County estate of "Callup" Goin, absentee. The record notes how long Goin had been absent (since 1885), the date of the letters of administration and name of the appointed administrator, and information regarding court proceedings for the estate. The estate was not discharged until almost two years after it was opened, and the clerk was ordered to hold funds until otherwise ordered by the court.

actions of the administrator and guardian were binding, so if the person's property had been sold, it would not be returned to his ownership. The only thing that would change with the person's return was that his wife would lose her right to act as an unmarried woman.

In March 1861 the absentee law was revised. The ten-year absent requirement was decreased to five years, and the law added as grounds if sale of the property was needed in order to pay the person's debts.[3]

This law remained intact until March 1883, when the legislature passed an addendum without the governor's approval. The addendum said that if the absentee had a life insurance policy, the person's beneficiaries did not have to prove he was dead, only that the person's disappearance had been continuous for the five years.[4] However, the addendum also had a caveat that if the absentee had been involved in any pending lawsuits, those lawsuits would not be affected by the declaration of death.[5] So if those lawsuits resulted in a judgment against the absentee, his estate could then be sued to recover that money.

In March 1913 the legislature made the settlement of the missing person's estate conditional: before receiving any money, the person's heirs had to give a bond as security, recognizing that if the person returned within three years, they would have to return all the money they'd received,

plus interest.[6] If these heirs were unable to give a bond, the court would appoint a trustee, who would give a bond for 150% of the amount to be distributed. The trustee would then invest all of the money that was to be distributed, with the interest generated to be paid annually to the heirs. At the end of the three years, the money from the trust would then be paid in full to the heirs.[7]

Where to Locate Absentee Cases

Absentee cases are found in probate records, and they look very similar to estates. One example is that of a Hendricks County family in which two brothers were declared absentee. The 1870 census for Middle Township, Hendricks County shows the family of Luther and Adeline Goin, including their thirteen-year-old son Thomas and eleven-year-old son Caleb. They do not appear in any census after that. In 1925—some fifty-five years later—George Huber petitioned to have Thomas and "Callup" declared absentee, stating that they had not been heard from since 1885. When their mother Adeline's estate had been settled the year before, the brothers' shares had been turned over to the court because they could not be located. Entries in a docket book of the probate court show that when the brothers' estates were settled in 1927, the court withheld the proceeds from being distributed to anyone.

Meredith Thompson has been involved with the Indiana Genealogical Society since 1999, and since 1997 has maintained a Web site about Hendricks County genealogy for the INGenWeb Project. In her spare time, she indexes a variety of genealogy records.

Notes

1. Indiana General Assembly, Acts of 1859, Chapter 4.
2. Ibid.
3. Indiana General Assembly, Acts of 1861, Chapter 52.
4. Indiana General Assembly, Acts of 1883, Chapter 137.
5. Ibid.
6. Indiana General Assembly, Acts of 1913, Chapter 326.
7. Ibid.

NAME CHANGES OF INDIANA RESIDENTS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1847 AND 1850

Extracted by Meredith Thompson

The following items were extracted from *Local Laws of the State of Indiana, Passed at the Thirty-First Session of the General Assembly, Begun on the First Monday in December, 1846* (Indianapolis: J. P. Chapman, 1847):

No County Listed

Acts of 1847, Chapter 256 [approved 22 January 1847]

Anna James: name changed to Anna Churchman.

Decatur County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 90 [approved 22 January 1847]

Eliza Ann Camden, child of William Camden (deceased) and adopted daughter of Hugh and Eliza Jane Sidwell of Washington Township: name changed to Eliza Ann Sidwell and she becomes Hugh Sidwell's legal heir.

Elkhart County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 193 [approved 26 January 1847]

Ann Amanda Woodward of Goshen: name changed to Anna Woodward Kedzie.

Fountain County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 120 [approved 6 January 1847]

Francis Anthony Fisher and Minerva Ridge of Shawnee Township: names changed to Francis Anthony Greenwood and Minerva Greenwood.

Grant County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 105 [approved 14 January 1847]

Ellen Loudenberger of Marion: name changed to Ellen Lomax.

Hendricks County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 108 [approved 6 January 1847]

James Morris Smith of Guilford Township: name changed to James Morris Vestal.

Lawrence County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 368 [approved 14 January 1847]

Frances Ann Fisher, adopted daughter of Brice Smith: name changed to Frances Ann Smith.

Marion County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 27 [approved 23 January 1847]
William Chill: name changed to William Darnell.

Rush County

Acts of 1847, Chapter 325 [approved 23 January 1847]
Wesley P. Hitchcock: name changed to Wesley P. David.

The following were extracted from *Local Laws of the State of Indiana, Passed at the Thirty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly* (Indianapolis: John D. Defrees, 1850):

No County Listed

Acts of 1850, Chapter 142 [approved 12 January 1850]
Emanuel Pidcock: name changed to Emanuel Pid.

Acts of 1850, Chapter 314 [approved 21 January 1850]
Belsora Barsheba Inglewright, Marcellas Josephus Inglewright, Rebecca Angelina Inglewright and Mary Eliza Inglewright: names changed to Belsora Barsheba Thompson, Marcellas Josephus Thompson, Rebecca Angelina Thompson and Mary Eliza Thompson.

Acts of 1850, Chapter 342 [approved 21 January 1850]
Virginia Young: name changed to Virginia McAfee.

Parke County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 110 [approved 13 December 1849]
Reastine Cox: name changed to Reason Allstott.

Pike County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 312 [approved 21 January 1850]
Losson Brinton: name changed to Losson Rowing Lane. He is hereby given all the rights he would had if he were the natural child of Elijah Lane, and upon Elijah's death, he will be considered an heir of his estate as fully as if he were his son.

Posey County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 155 [approved January 14, 1850]
Mary Belle Niel: name changed to Mary Bell Noble. She is an infant and the adopted daughter of the petitioner, Riley Noble. He desires to make her an heir to his property as though she was his own legal issue.

Putnam County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 111 [approved 22 December 1849]
Nancy Brown of Putnam County: name changed to Nancy O'Neal.

Randolph County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 76 [approved 21 January 1850]
Andrew Jackson Keeth: name changed to Andrew Jackson Wiggins.

Vanderburgh County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 112 [approved 22 December 1850]
Mary Jane Manning and Margaret Ann Manning: names changed to Mary Jane Fergus and Margaret Ann Fergus, respectively.

Acts of 1850, Chapter 261 [approved 19 January 1850]
George Searle Stephens : name changed to James Causon.

Warren County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 111 [approved 22 December 1849]
Eliza Jane Bristo: name changed to Eliza Jane Swisher.

Washington County

Acts of 1850, Chapter 44 [approved 19 January 1850]
Abraham Moore of Salem: name changed to Cyrus Moore Dunham.

HAVE A LAWYER IN YOUR FAMILY TREE?: JASPER COUNTY RECORDS FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Sue Caldwell

Job-related records can be an excellent source of information when you are researching your family tree. Have a Methodist minister in the family? Look for annual conference reports showing obituaries and photos of deceased ministers and reports telling if a minister has been transferred to a new location. Trade magazines are useful if your ancestor worked in a particular industry, such as the medical field or railroads. Union records are another useful research tool. And, if you have a grandparent who happened to be a lawyer, don't miss looking through court records for Admission to the Bar records in the county where the ancestor lived and worked. At a minimum, you will find the date he/she was approved to practice law by the circuit court or state supreme court. If lucky, you can find plenty of additional information about the ancestor either in character recommendations or application letters.

The Jasper County Historical Society has bar admission application records for six people who applied between 1912 and 1931: John Ellis Hopkins, Helen A. Guy, Lura I. Halleck, Charles A. Halleck, Emmett L. Hollingsworth, and Emmet M. LaRue. We'll quote from a few of these, so readers can see why these records provide interesting historical and genealogical information.

Helen A. Guy applied for admission to the bar on 1 October 1912. She reported, "I have served as stenographer in the office of Jasper Guy at Remington, Ind. for five years last past and have been a law student during the said period of time." This information led to a search on Ancestry and a 1910 census record showing that Helen was the wife of Jasper Guy, a man thirty-six years her senior.

In the November 1920 term of the Jasper Circuit Court, Lura I. Halleck, wife of lawyer Abraham Halleck, applied for admission to the Bar. Four years later her son Charles A. Halleck did the same. Residents of the county know Charlie Halleck as the Second District Congressional Representative who served terms as both Majority and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. In his application letter, Charlie provided the following information about himself: "The applicant respectfully represents to the Court that he is a resident of Jasper County, Indiana, having been born and having lived all his life in said county, and being twenty-three years of age. Said applicant further represents to the Court that he was graduated from Indiana University in 1922 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, Department of Economics, and that since that time he has been a student in the Law School of said University from which school he expected to be graduated in June, 1924, with the degree of Bachelor of Law."

Emmet L. Hollingsworth was forty-nine when he applied for admission to the Jasper County Bar. Mr. Hollingsworth's request is interesting in that lawyer Moses Leopold (later Judge Leopold) presented a document to the court stating that Mr. Hollingsworth "has not sufficient legal

learning to practice law and that he has not sufficient legal learning to advise clients relative to their legal rights and to properly safeguard their interest in matters entrusted to his care" and "is not a person of good moral character." Fortunately for Mr. Hollingsworth, Edward P. Honan and George A. Williams, members of the Jasper County Bar who were asked to examine the applicant, took a totally different viewpoint and recommended Hollingsworth's admission.

The most current admission form the JCHS holds is the 8 December 1931 Admission to the Bar order of the Supreme Court of Indiana for John Ellis Hopkins. In this document we learn that Mr. Hopkins was admitted to the Jasper County Bar on 26 April 1928.

Expand your genealogical research horizons beyond the normal birth, marriage, and death records, and you will learn many fantastic details that bring your ancestor to life!

Sue Caldwell is the Jasper County Genealogist.

EXCERPTS FROM THE *PERU EVENING JOURNAL*, 16 SEPTEMBER 1897, PART 2

Submitted by Dawne Slater-Putt, CG

The following notices were transcribed from the *Peru Evening Journal*, 16 September 1897, page 4:

"Porter the Druggist.

Kantzer & Munson for fine tailoring.

Joseph Larimer went to Toledo last evening.

Most of the oil men are eating Nicholson's fine bread and cakes.

Wanted, six ladies, $1.50 day. C. C. Ellsworth, Indianapolis, Ind.

Hiram Gregg went to Decatur today to remain a week or ten days.

Grant Street Mills for all kinds of feed; free delivery. Phone 80.

Forepaugh's advertisers were in the city today hanging banners and posting bills.

Forty-four people went to Indianapolis this morning to attend the state fair.

The finest line of stationery at reduced prices, you can find at Strifling's Fair.

James Corbin, of Findlay, Ohio, is in the city. He is better known as the oil king.

Mrs. Kate Lacey will go to Lake Manitou Friday morning for a short visit.

You will be suited if you patronize Mercer & Neal for your flour, feed, etc. Free delivery.

Cascarets stimulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Never sicken, weaken or gripe. 10 cents.

Speculators are sure to get their moneys worth when they buy Nicholson's fine bread.

The Lake Erie checks arrived to-day. The Wabash pay car will be here on the 20th and 24th.

James Murdock was up from Lafayette last night to see R. H. Bouslog about the gas situation.

The county school superintendent's office is being located in the old council chamber in Zern's block.

Eve spouting and tin roofing quickly done and at moderate prices. C. L. Picard, the leading plumber.

Prof. Wilhelm Schoenert, the celebrated German artist of Munich, will be in the city four days next week.

Oscar Watson has received a $5 prize for correctly solving thirty-nine of forty puzzle pictures established by Judge.

Wanted – Traveling salesman; middle age; sober, and first class canvasser; salary and expenses. Address Manager, care this office.

Dr. and Mrs. Helm intended to spend the winter at Biloxi, Miss., but the yellow fever along the gulf towns has caused them to change their purpose.

Dr. J. Henry Allen, whose office is 67 east Fifth street, will meet his patients every Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Difficult chronic troubles a specialty, both surgical and medical.

The People's Oil company is putting in pumping machinery with power enough to pump fifteen wells.

Frank Bearss has leased 300 acres to Mr. Harris, of Findlay, Ohio, and Omer Bearss has leased 80 acres to the Klondike Co.

The livery stables are being benefited considerably by the oil boom, for many of the speculators who are here own their own rigs and are boarding them.

Welton & Edwards, a new firm in the field, have erected a derrick on Mrs. Hannah Hammil's property, on north Fremont street, in Derrick City, and will soon have their drill going down.

W. P. Black, a man from abroad, is venturing out of Derrick City, and is putting up his outfit on P. M. Crume's farm, near the reservoir. In case he strikes oil South Peru will be in for a big boom.

A carpenter named Wright, of Converse, fell off the derrick being erected for the Mercer-Kier Oil Co. yesterday and suffered a contusion of the left ankle. He was attended by Dr. A. H. Kalbfleish.

A nitro-glycerine warehouse has been built in J. O. Cole's woods, back of his cattle field. It contains 3,200 quarts of the deadly explosive, and is owned by the Empire and American Glycerine Co. of Bluffton. A watchman is not needed at the place, for people are very well satisfied at a considerable distance from the building.

The Hartford City Times says S. M. Karnes is enthusiastic over the Peru oil field. The absence of both water and gas in the Peru oil wells is a big advantage over other oil regions and this peculiar phenomenon is nowhere to be found in the United States. Mr. Karns has drilled for oil in Java, Sumatra and India, and the high compliment he pays the Peru field has more than ordinary significance.

Frank Moeck started out to organize a stock company to drill for oil last night at 7 o'clock and this morning before 8 o'clock he had forty subscriptions – all that he wanted. Each subscriber is to put in $20. Tonight a meeting will be held over 72 south Broadway, and a temporary organization will be effected. The first well will be drilled on Wallick's property, near the old mill, southwest of the city.

The Trenton Rock oil company has sent its articles of incorporation to Indianapolis. Its officers are: A. B. Switzer, president; Frank Neff, secretary and M. P. Deniston, treasurer, with A. B. Switzer, M. P. Deniston, Charles T. Clark, J. M. Hughes and J. B. Sollitt directors. The capital is $4,000, divided into twenty shares, which are now all taken. The company has good territory

along the Lake Erie road, some east of the city and some south of the river. Two wells are to be started simultaneously within a few days.

Advertised Letters. The following is a list of letters remaining in the Peru postoffice, uncalled for, for the week ending Aug. 28, 1897.

Ladies. Johnson, Mrs. Mollie A.; Mehr, Miss Alverta; Seibert, Mrs. F. O.; Johnson, Mrs. Ellen; Pearce, Samantha J.; Ulery, Mrs. Nellie; Wise, Miss Nora.

Gentlemen. Ammons, Mr. Al.; Condon, Mr. Mike; Dtwl'a, Angela; Gregon, Mr. Charles; Merrill, Mr. A.' Moberly, William E.; Payne, Mr. J. L.; Campbell, R. Esq.; Crum, Mr. Walter A.; Eberhart, M.; Hanson, Mr. W. H.; Martin, Mr. Chas.; Metz, Roy; Vincent, P. N.; York, Mr. Geo.

If the above letters are not called for in two weeks they will be sent to the Dead Letter Office. Postoffice open from 9 to 10 a.m. on Sunday. John M. Jackson, P. M.

Oil Meeting Notice. The members of the Moeck Oil & Gas Co. will meet tonight at 8 o'clock over 72 south Broadway. All requested to be presented.

A. C. Rutz is in Rochester.

Millard Scott went to Portland today to visit.

Vic Reed went to Indianapolis this morning.

Miss Cora Wilson went to Kokomo yesterday.

Mrs. Will Daniels came home from Converse today.

Andrew Klentsche returned to Kankakee, Ill., today.

Miss Minnie Miller went to Indianapolis today to remain.

Mrs. Frank Rettig left yesterday afternoon for Kansas City, Mo.

Dennis Shae, of Jolliett, Ill., is here visiting his nephew Flora Shae.

Eugene Fanve went to Indianapolis today to enter a medical college.

Mesdames George Steinmetz and Royal Ray are in Kokomo visiting.

Mrs. Maude Deer, of Indianapolis, is a guest of her sister Mrs. Frank Moeck.

Engineer Hurt. Fred Stutesman Has His Right Foot Mashed. Engineer Fred Stutesman, of the Lake Erie, is an inmate of the railway hospital, having been injured yesterday afternoon at Atlanta. He was off his engine to get orders while some switching of the train was being done, and as the trainmen wanted to make a running switch he volunteered to do the brakeman's work. While pulling a pin he slipped and fell between two cars. His position was a very perilous one, and had he not retained his presence of mind his body would have been cut in two. He managed to pull out all except his right foot and that was caught under the wheel. It was split from the heel to his great toe, and the ankle was broken. He was brought to the hospital at 9:45 last night.

Railroad locals.

Reunion Twenty-ninth Indiana Regiment at Macy, Ind., Sept. 16 and 17, one and one-third fare for the round trip, good going Sept. 15 and 16, returning Sept. 17.

Rev. Bathe, of Wabash, was in the city today.

Charley Fowinkle returned to Knightstown today.

For Rent – Three nice rooms, No. 36 west Third street.

The Sexenniel league will have six initiations tomorrow night.

"For Rent" and "For Sale" cards at the Journal office 10c each.

Look out for the Tornado! Its coming sure next Thursday hight.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. George Elvin, of east Fifth street, a baby girl.

For sale cheap – Fine parlor furniture and piano. 469 west Main street.

Get the purest and best of all ice – that manufactured by J. O. Cole.

Mrs. Henry Reckart and Mrs. Gray were in Logansport yesterday and Tuesday.

For Sale – Two houses and corner lot on west Sixth street. Enquire at this office.

Geo. Landauer went to Macy this morning intending to play in a game of base ball.

Gilt Edge flour manufactured by Mercer & Neal is the best in the country. Try it."

"WEDDING BELLS": PARKER-WILEY MARRIAGE (NOBLE COUNTY, 1914)

The following was transcribed from the *Albion New Era*, 6 January 1915, page 1:

"On Christmas eve at 6:30, Miss Marie Parker and Mr. J. A. Wiley, both of Wolf Lake, were married by the Rev. David W. Gow, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Parker. The bride was beautifully attired in a dress of cream satin, and the groom in a suit of blue cloth. A canopy of Christmas decorations were arranged with a large pretty bell in the center under which the couple stood during the ceremony and congratulations. After congratulations, a four course supper was served. The dining room was attractively decorated in pink. After supper the bride and groom were taken a joy ride through the main street of the city by the young people.

After the reception at the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Wiley, on Christmas day, the happy couple started for Chicago on their wedding tour.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley are well known and highly respected. The public schools, church and community all join in extending congratulations."

"COUNTRY BIRTHDAY REUNION" (ALLEN COUNTY, 1906)

The following was transcribed from the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, 15 August 1906, page 7:

"On Saturday last Mrs. Caroline Pring, of Cedar Creek township, celebrated her eighty first birthday by entertaining her children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren[.] The guests were served a bountiful dinner and the afternoon was spent in a happy manner[.] The children present were Mrs Margaret Cornell, of Missouri, Mr John Pring, of Oklahoma, Mrs Nettie Steward, of Spencerville, Ind, Mr and Mrs Elbridge Pring and Mr and Mrs George Pring of Fort Wayne, Mr and Mrs William Hursh and Mr and Mrs James Pring[.] The grandchildren were the Misses Hursh, Mr and Mrs Arthur Steward and baby Paul of Spencerville Mrs Frank Steward and daughter Magdalene, of Garrett, and Mr and Mrs Merton Kunes[.] Other guests were Mrs Elizabeth Hursh, Mrs G W Henderson and Mrs Matilda H Wheelock[.]"

FIRE STRIKES THE OLD FARM, VINCENNES, 1896

Submitted by Liz Loveland

The following transcribed excerpt is from a typed letter Charles Collins Burnett sent to his son Stephen "Steve" Burnett. The referenced newspaper clipping is no longer with the letter.

"Cleveland, Ohio, October 17th, 1896. [...]

I enclose you herewith a clipping from one of the Vincennes papers, telling of the total destruction of the old farm place by fire. It was a sad blow to us here, but nowhere to be compared with the sorrow it must have occasioned to the friends who live in Vincennes. The old house was built about forty years ago. I remember to have been instrumental in its construction. I drove the team while the dirt was being hauled out of the cellar. Carted more or less of the lumber and brick to the building, and did my share, as a boy, to put it in place. Your grandfather was a man of much more than average aesthetic taste, although one would not have thought so from casual intercourse with him, but if you will look back you will be confirmed in this statement by the evident lines of refinement in everything he did. The house, was you remember, was gothic, beautifully proportioned, artistic and attractive on every side. Around it, he threw a perfect panoply of charming features. Elm trees planted in the most artistic places; evergreen clumps; roadways lined with flowers; and Orchard and vines scattered everywhere. Since his death, this has all been sadly neglected. Little by little, it frittered slowly away; trees were cut down; the evergreens smoothed away; flowers and vines neglected, and the building dropped to decay. And now the house is gone. It seems to me I shall never want to look upon the place again."

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS FROM THE *INDIANAPOLIS STAR*, 10 MARCH 1911

The following notices were transcribed from the *Indianapolis Star*, 10 March 1911.

Births

"Harry and Emma Kenton, 519 East St. Clair, boy.
A[v?]ril and Minnie Richards, 1408 Maple, girl.
Vivian and Nellie Wiley, 822 Eugene, girl.
Albert and Cora Tolen, 2185 North Rural, boy.
August and Wilhelmine Stoeffer, 3135 Indianapolis, girl.
Montechristo and Zadu Fiscus, 2263 North Rural, boy.
George and Carrie Watkins, 1916 Hazel, boy.
Ral[l?]a and Maud Halstead, 929 East Minnesota, girl.
James and Viola Tanner, 939 North Lasalle, girl.
[D?] Otis and Minnie Palmer, 3339 East Tenth, girl.
Aaron and Amelia Mason, 2813 East Michigan, girls (twins).
Russell and Mary Beems, 1230 Eugene, girl.
Albert and Carrie Wood, 5813 Shank, boy
Albert and Louise Jensen, 702 North Sherman, boy.
James and Edith Pruitt, 218 Parker, boy.
Harry and Edna Bowman, 10 East Sixteenth, boy.
Dennis and Harriet McMann, English Hotel, boy.
Forrest and Jennie Blackwell, City Hospital, boy.
William and Laura Davis, City Hospital, girl.
William and Rosa Minkner, 3352 West Michigan, girl."

Marriage Licenses

"John Givens and Marguerite Sennett[s?]
William F. [F?]leen and Frances A. Loy.
John A. Gans and Viola E. McKitrie.
Claude Bell and Edith Seward.
Emery S. Pottorif and Sadie E. Wilbur."

Deaths

"Mayble Butler, 30, 517 Beecher, progressive pernicious anemia.
Lola M. Gillespie, 37, 3634 Kenwood, dilatation of heart.
Winnie Bell Martin, 26, 424 Blake, pulmonary tuberculosis.

Frances Lambert, 76, 1060 West McCarty, chronic nephritis.
Margaret Giezendanner, 65, 2120 Ashland, uremic poisoning.
Otto Fisher, 50, City Hospital, cardiac dilatation.
Alice John, 62, 1430 East Market, odema of brain.
Dora Engelhorn, 65, Dr. Leach's Sanitarium, carcinoma of breast.
Maybury Taggert, 61, City Hospital, pulmonary tuberculosis.
Elizabeth A. Porter, 51, 2356 Station, pulomonary odema.
William E. Archer, 1, 456 West Twelfth, cerebra spinal meningitis.
Sidonia Ross, 10 months, 1924 Yandes, acute gastritis.
Harry Lamb, 29, City Hospital, dilatation of the heart.
John Garret, 60, City Hospital, lobar pneumonia.
Lulu Clemens, 21, City Hospital, general peritonitis."

DEATH OF SAM VAILS (BOONE COUNTY, 1899)

The following notice was transcribed from the *Advance Hustler,* 1 November 1899, page 1:

"Death
Sam Vails, aged 56, living 4 miles west of town died almost suddenly at six oclock in the forenoon of Oct. 21st. Funeral at Providence by Bro. Cornelius Airhart. Burial at Beckville."

"SCHOOL NOTES" (MARION COUNTY, 1917)

The following is excerpted from the *Indianapolis Star*, 12 October 1917, page 10. The high school is located in Indianapolis and is today known as Arsenal Technical High School.

"TECHNICAL—The following former students are now in the service of Uncle Sam: Maurice Lindley, Roy Hosea, Oscar Dickinson, Dwight Good, George Fritsche, John Link, Ralph Guillet, Walter Brydon, Harold Robinson, Carl Moore, Fred Dyer, Trevor Gaddis, Emerson Loomis, Paul Risk, Myron Moore, Kenneth Karnes, Maurice Dickson, Hugo Deacon, Harold Bossingham, Rollo Warren, John Watkins, Paul Singleton, William Hanley, George Olive, Albert Dougherty, Earl Wise, Winters Fehr and Garland Palmer…More than 350 men and women are attending the night school classes at Technical, three times as many as last year. The classes are from 7:30 to 9:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. Some of the teachers are: Messrs. Chapman and Harriman, drafting; Gorman and Gillespie and Miss Brown, commercial; Messrs. Marcus, Ackley and Ritchie, electrical; Molier and Wheeler, machine shop; Mills and Nutt, auto construction; Langham, Spanish; Miss Stitz and Miss Murray, domestic art, and Miss Willy, clerk…The sewing class, in charge of Miss Webb, met yesterday morning in the Arsenal Building."

"FOUGHT FIRE ALONE AND SAVED HARTFORD CITY FROM MINIATURE EARTHQUAKE" (BLACKFORD COUNTY, 1906)

The following was transcribed from the *Muncie Evening Press*, 30 April 1906, page 6:

"Hartford City, Ind., April 30—An explosion which would have resembled a miniature earthquake was averted here by the heroic work of an employe [*sic*] whose timely discovery of a fire at the plant of the Hercules Torpedo company, two miles north of this city, enabled him to fight it until he had conquered the flames. The explosion, had it occurred, would have wrecked half the buildings in this city and might have resulted in a serious loss of life.

The factory is one of the largest and most modern nitroglycerin plants in the business, and thousands of quarts of the powerful explosive are made and kept in the stock-house there to await removal to the company's different magazines throughout the state.

The blaze originated in a trash pile in the rear of the engine room and is believed to have been caused by a spark from a passing train. Its discovery by Homer Tarr, an employee of the company, and his bravery in fighting the flames alone is all that saved the plant from destruction and prevented this city from getting a shaking up similar to that at San Francisco."

"KILLED A HOME INTRUDER" (MADISON COUNTY, 1906)

The following was transcribed from the *Muncie Evening Press*, 30 April 1906, page 6:

"Summitville, Ind., April 30—Ollie Robinson, aged twenty-two, a glassworker, was shot and instantly killed Saturday night by Sherman Sciece at the home of the latter. For some time there has been ill-feeling between the men because of the open attention which young Robinson is said to have been paying to Mrs. Sceice. When Sceice returned home at 11:30 o'clock at night he found Robinson in the house with Mrs. Sceice. Robinson heard Sceice enter and started to escape, but was too late. Sceice pulled a revolver and fired one shot, the bullet piercing Robinson's heart."

NOTES FROM GRIFFIN (POSEY COUNTY, 1887)

The following notices were transcribed from the *Poseyville News*, 12 March 1887, page 1:

"Samuel Griffin and John Millett, visited the county capital, Tuesday.

Wheat is coming out wonderfully, and farmers predict an abundant crop.

Ed. Goad and Jacob Carbaugh went to Poseyville on business Tuesday.

Trustee Cook, of Wabash township, went to Princeton, Tuesday, on township business.

Daniel Williams and family and Ed. and Jennie Goad left, Wednesday, for Seattle, Washington Territory. They have many friends in this neighborhood who are sorry to see them leave and all hope they will be pleased and prosperous in their new home.

Mary Jane, wife of Newton Martin, died at the residence of her father, John H. Overton in Robb township, Sunday morning, March 6th. Mr. Martin had taken his family out of the way of high water during the late rise and while at her father's Mrs. Martin was taken with her last sickness. She was well known for her many good qualities and her demise is regretted by all. She was about 30 years of age and leaves a husband and three children, besides a host of other relatives and friends to mourn her loss."

"DREAMS OF SWEETHEART: WITHDRAWS ENLISTMENT" (VANDERBURGH COUNTY, 1911)

The following was transcribed from the *Indianapolis Star*, 21 March 1911, page 5:

"Evansville, Ind., March 20—Love and patriotism ran a three days' race and love conquered when Humphrey E. Hopper, 23 years old, of Bordley, Ky., succumbed to the appeals of his sweetheart, Miss Harriet E. Lepferd of Bordley and asked to withdaw his application to the United States army recruiting station here. Hopper was accepted last Friday and would have gone to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., today to join a train load of new men for the Mexican frontier this week. He dreamed of his sweetheart two nights in succession, he told Recruiting Officer Williamson, and today she appeared in person to add her protest to the dreams. He was permitted to withdraw his application and return home with the girl."

"SHOOTS HIMSELF IN BRAIN: SPENCER MAN DIES INSTANTLY, FOLLOWING CONVICTION FOR FORGERY" (OWEN COUNTY, 1911)

The following was transcribed from the *Indianapolis Star*, 10 March 1911, p. 4:

"Spencer, Ind., March 9—Benjamin Haman, 20 years old, shot himself through the brain here today and died instantly. Opinion differs as to whether the act was accidental. He was recently convicted on a charge of check forgery and was under a suspended sentence. His accomplice, a man named Gray, living at Paoli, is now in jail at Martinsville, and it is thought by some that Haman feared further implication when Gray's case came up for trial."

"INDIANAPOLIS TEACHER DEMANDS $10,000 HEART BALM AT BEDFORD: MISS EDNA G. NOWLAND, ALLEGING BREACH OF PROMISE, FILES SUIT AGAINST BERNARD F. WILLIAMS" (LAWRENCE COUNTY, 1914)

The following was transcibed from the *Indianapolis Star*, 12 May 1914, page 1:

"A story of sudden ending of the courtship of Miss Edna G. Nowland of Indianapolis by Bernard F. Williams of Bedford was told yesterday in a suit for breach of promise filed in the Lawrence County Circuit Court by Miss Nowland, who asks damages in the sum of $10,000. Until recently Miss Nowland was at the head of the department of English in the Bedford High School, and was popular in the society of that city while teaching there. Williams is a druggist at Bedford and is widely known.

Miss Nowland lives with a sister, Miss Charlotte Nowland, at 2118 North Capitol avenue. It was said at the residence last night that she was out and would not return until late, and that she could not be seen. Miss Nowland is a granddaughter of the late John H. B. Nowland, author of "Early Reminiscences of Indianapolis."

Miss Nowland and the Bedford druggist met socially in Bedford soon after the former began teaching there, and on May 7, 1913, Miss Nowland alleges, they became engaged to be married. In the following July, according to the complaint, both agreed that the marriage should take place in the following September, but a short time afterward the date was changed by mutual agreement to Christmas of 1913.

On Nov. 20, 1913, however, Williams, according to the allegation, notified Miss Nowland that he did not care to marry her and summarily broke off the engagement. No cause was assigned,

the plaintiff alleges, and, through no fault of hers, the plaintiff was made to suffer humiliation, she says.

Miss Nowland alleges in her complaint that she spent $500 for a trousseau and would have been married had not the defendant broken the engagement.

The suit was filed by the law firm of Hanna & Daily of Indianapolis. Miss Nowland is a graduate of Indiana University and is a member of an old Indianapolis family. Her mother, Mrs. C. F. McLean, resides in LaCrosse, Wis."

BAILY-FISK MARRIAGE (DEARBORN COUNTY, 1859)

The following was transcribed from the *Aurora New Commercial*, 23 June 1859, page 2:

"Married

On Sunday evening, the 19th inst., by Rev. Dr. Bond, GEORGE W. BAILY and Miss SUSAN FISK.

Many returns of the season to the bridegroom and his bride. May their happiness be as great as the cake, their posterity as numerous as the bottles of wine, which they sent us."

JONES-MITCHELL MARRIAGE (DEARBORN COUNTY, 1859)

The following was transcribed from the *Aurora New Commerical*, 16 June 1859, page 2:

"Married

On the 5th inst., by Rev. Dr. Bond, JESSE JONES to Miss AURILLA J. MITCHELL, all of this city.

Thanks for the cake, which was so pleasant to the eye and taste, that it brought dreams as light and golden as, we hope and trust, will be the chains that bind together the wedded fates of this most happy pair. "Never too late to do right," says the old saw; and though *he* has tasted the sweets of singled blessedness for fifty years, and *she* has made happy the days of two mortal men and strewn the summer roses upon their places of final rest, the whilom old bach, we prophecy, will find out that marital joys with a widow are, haply, better than the solitude of a bachelor's chambers. Long life to them—and a numerous and virtuous prosperity!"

Help IGS to help you and future generations by submitting submission forms for your ancestors to "Once A Hoosier" or "Always a Hoosier." Publishing ensures that the information will still be available to you should anything ever happen to your own records. Publishing also preserves the information for future generations.

"ONCE A HOOSIER..."

Researchers are urged to submit details of former Hoosiers—people who were born before 1930, who were in Indiana for some portion of their lives, and who died in another state. All entries become the property of IGS and will not be returned. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis and appear in the *Indiana Genealogist*.

Jennifer Cruse is the Once a Hoosier editor. To contribute, just fill out the "Once A Hoosier..." submission form at http://www.indgensoc.org/projects/Once_Hoosier_form.pdf, submit by e-mail at OAH@indgensoc.org, or send a Family Group Sheet with an electronic or other photo and any additional information to:

OAH, c/o Jennifer Cruse
2145 S. Cottrell Ln.
Terre Haute, IN 47802

"...ALWAYS A HOOSIER"

"...Always A Hoosier" is a companion project to "Once A Hoosier…". It is an ongoing project of the Indiana Genealogical Society to record information on ancestors who were born before 1930 and were buried in Indiana (they did not have to be living in Indiana at the time of their death).

If your ancestor meets these criteria, we'd like to hear more about them! Some corroborating evidence of their Indiana burial is required. Examples of such evidence include a photo of the tombstone, an obituary that states place of burial, an interment record, or a published index of the cemetery.

Nikki LaRue is the Always a Hoosier editor. All materials submitted become the property of IGS and will not be returned. To contribute, just fill out the "...Always A Hoosier" submission form at http://www.indgensoc.org/projects/Always_Hoosier_form.pdf, submit by email to AAH@indgensoc.org, or send a Family Group Sheet with a photo of your ancestor (electronic or good photocopy), and any additional information to:

AAH c/o Nikki LaRue
67 Fox Run Way
Arnold, MD 21012

Always a Hoosier: 10077

Rebecca Belew Skinner

b. 5 September 1832 IN to Joseph and Susanna (Pearson) Belew
d. 10 June 1873, Cass Co., IN
bur. Bethel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN

m. 28 December 1848 at Cass Co., IN to Daniel Pickrell Skinner, b. 24 June 1824 at Montgomery Co., OH, son of Thomas and Permelia (Cox) Skinner; d. 22 January 1882 Cass Co., IN; bur. Bethel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN. (Daniel m2. 30 December 1873 at Cass Co., IN to Amanda Bell)

Children with Daniel Pickrell Skinner:

1. Amanda Alica Skinner (15 February 1850–9 March 1873) m. Stephen Melinger
2. Milton Robert Skinner (abt. 1851–?) m. Portia Carr, Dora LaRose, Emma Maiben
3. Johnson Ballou Skinner (28 April 1853–19 April 1906) m. Sarah Lucinda McCoy
4. Marilla Mossilene Skinner (1856–16 January 1929) m. Samuel F. De Moss
5. William Schuyler Skinner (19 January 1869–9 February 1927) m. Matilda V. Powell

Submitted by:
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Ormond Beach, FL 32174
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Always a Hoosier: 10078

Joseph Belew

b. Unknown year in SC to possibly Renney and Keziah Belew
d. 10 December 1864, IN
bur. Skinner Chapel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN

m1. 10 October 1816 at Miami Co., OH to Susanna Pearson, b. ? at SC, daughter of William and Hannah Pearson; d. 21 June 1838 IN; bur. Crooked Creek Christian Cemetery, Cass Co., IN.
m2. 18 November 1847 to Margaret Cox Reed

Children with Susanna Pearson:

1. Keziah Belew (1 October 1818–25 March 1852) m. William Cotner
2. Robert Belew (1824–20 December 1874) m. Sarah Ann Vernon
3. William Renney Belew (?–29 May 1845) m. Lydia Ballinger
4. Jonathan Belew (?–5 December 1844) m. Rebecca Amanda McCoombs
5. Rebecca Belew (5 September 1832–10 June 1873) m. Daniel Pickrell Skinner
6. Hannah Belew (?–29 October 1841) (child)
7. Nancy Belew (?–28 October 1850) (child)
8. Allen Belew (?–June 1847) (child)
9. Joseph Young Belew (February 1835–24 May 1904) m. Caroline Skinner

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Always a Hoosier: 10079

Susanna Pearson Belew

b. ?, SC, daughter of William and Hannah Pearson
d. 21 June 1838, IN
bur. Crooked Creek Christian Cemetery, Cass Co., IN

m. 10 October 1816 at Miami Co., OH to Joseph Belew, b. ? at SC, probably son of Renney and Keziah Belew; d. 10 December 1864, IN; bur. Skinner Chapel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN.

Children with Joseph Belew:

1. Keziah Belew (1 October 1818–25 March 1852) m. William Cotner
2. Robert Belew (1824–20 December 1874) m. Sarah Ann Vernon
3. William Renney Belew (?–29 May 1845) m. Lydia Ballinger
4. Jonathan Belew (?–5 December 1844) m. Rebecca Amanda McCoombs
5. Rebecca Belew (5 September 1832–10 June 1873) m. Daniel Pickrell Skinner
6. Hannah Belew (?–29 October 1841) (child)
7. Nancy Belew (?–28 October 1850) (child)
8. Allen Belew (?–June 1847) (child)
9. Joseph Young Belew (February 1835–24 May 1904) m. Caroline Skinner

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Always a Hoosier: 10080

Johnson Ballou Skinner

b. 28 April 1853 at Cass Co., IN, to Daniel and Rebecca (Belew) Skinner
d. 19 April 1906 at Logansport, IN
bur. Bethel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN

m. 19 April 1877 at Cass Co., IN to Sarah Lucinda McCoy, b. 14 April 1853 at Cass Co., IN, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Robbins) McCoy; d. 3 September 1934 at Cass Co., IN; bur. Bethel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN.

Children with Sarah Lucinda McCoy:

1. Huldah Gay Skinner (23 July 1879–10 October 1886)
2. Lucretia Mable Skinner (14 September 1881–December 1963) m. Henry Whitmyer
3. Bessie Skinner (24 March 1883–16 October 1886)
4. Earl Clayton Skinner (11 February 1886–6 October 1886)
5. Raymond Thomas Skinner (16 January 1889–31 October 1932) m. Ethel A. Dingman

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Always a Hoosier: 10081

Sarah Lucinda McCoy Skinner

b. 14 April 1853 at Cass Co., IN, to Samuel and Sarah (Robbins) McCoy
d. 3 September 1934 at Cass Co., IN
bur. Bethel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN

m. 19 April 1877 at Cass Co., IN to Johnson Ballou Skinner, b. 28 April 1853 at Cass Co., IN, son of Daniel and Rebecca (Belew) Skinner; d. 19 April 1906 at Logansport, IN; bur. Bethel Cemetery, Cass Co., IN.

Children with Johnson Ballou Skinner:

1. Huldah Gay Skinner (23 July 1879–10 October 1886)
2. Lucretia Mable Skinner (14 September 1881–December 1963) m. Henry Whitmyer
3. Bessie Skinner (24 March 1883–16 October 1886)
4. Earl Clayton Skinner (11 February 1886–6 October 1886)
5. Raymond Thomas Skinner (16 January 1889–31 October 1932) m. Ethel A. Dingman

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Always a Hoosier: 10082

Samuel M. McCoy

b. abt. 1826, OH
d. 16 March 1901 at Hoover, Cass Co., IN
bur. Spring Creek Cemetery, Cass Co., IN, in unmarked grave next to second wife

m1. 21 August 1845 at Fulton Co., IN to Nancy Robbins, b. 25 June 1825 at Adams Co., OH, daughter of John and Lydia (Hannah) Robbins; d. 2 August 1848 at Adams Co., OH; bur. Sand Hill Cemetery, Fulton Co., IN.
m2. ? to Sarah Robbins
m3. 25 June 1873 to Mahala Esterday

Children with Nancy Robbins:

1. Mary E. McCoy (abt. 1847–?)
2. Phoebe Ann McCoy (8 June 1848–13 February 1923) m. Theodore Preston Swigart

Children with Sarah Robbins:

1. Sarah Lucinda McCoy (14 April 1853–3 September 1934) m. Johnson Ballou Skinner

Children with Mahala Esterday:

1. Charlie McCoy (abt. 1883–March 1899)

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Work session for Hendricks County Probate Records Project

Over 3,000 probate packets from 1824 to 1900 have been unfolded & organized already!

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2014 - 10 AM TO 4 PM

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY—2ND FLOOR

Help preserve some of Hendricks County's earliest court records! The Indiana Genealogical Society is leading an effort to unfold and organize the papers from Hendricks County probate packets that date back to the county's formation in 1824. Once they have been unfolded and organized, these papers will be digitized, to be put online for free access by the public—there are over 800 packets online already (see www.indgensoc.org).

Probate records include estates (for those that died and left behind some property or debts) and guardianships (for children who inherited some property, or adults who could not take care of themselves). The documents in probate packets contain fascinating details of what life was like and what things were worth in the 1800's.

Come at your convenience, and stay for as little or as long as you like.

Please register with the Plainfield library. Register online via the events calendar on the library's website (www.plainfieldlibrary.net), or contact the library's Indiana Room—phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

E-MAIL: WEBMASTER@INDGENSOC.ORG