

# Rush County Genealogical Society

VOLUME X, ISSUE II

JUNE 2016

2017 RGCS Programs

## Our Officers:

- *President:*  
*Carol Jones*
- *Vice-President:*  
*Bill Baetz*
- *Secretary:*  
*Katrina Cole-Cooper*
- *Treasurer:*  
*Marilyn Yager*
- *Historian:*  
*Kevin Harr*

## HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!

We have received a grant from the Rush County Community Foundation and we will be working with Satolli Glassmeyer to videotape six Rush County cemeteries to start. We will be telling about the history of the cemetery and the area and about some of the people buried there.

Raleigh (Zion) - Don and Shirley Biehl

Shiloh Cemetery—Marilyn Gray Roberts and Katrina Cooper

Center Church Cemetery—Marilyn Gray Roberts, Katrina Cooper, Shirley Biehl

Arlington East Hill Cemetery—Carol Jones, Priscilla Winkler

Lower/Laughlin Cemetery— Carol Jones, Kevin Harr

Richland/Fishers Cemetery—Katrina Cooper, Amy Marlatt, and Marilyn Yager

You can see samples of Satolli's work on [www.HistoryInYourOwnBackyard.com](http://www.HistoryInYourOwnBackyard.com), YouTube and on Facebook. He has done videos for the Rushville Memorial Gymnasium, Booker T. Washington School building, St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Rushville Public Library, Rush County Covered Bridges, the Princess Theater, East Hill Cemetery, Main Street Christian Church and the Rush County Courthouse. **Good news! Raleigh and Center Christian Cemetery videos are now both able to be viewed!**

**August 12, 2017** – Field trip to Cincinnati Library for Family Research. Meet at Elks Parking lot to carpool at 7:30 a.m. Hope you can join us!

**September 9, 2017** – Working meeting. An opportunity to share Tips and Tricks of your Family Research. We are asking you to bring 1 item to share of either something you have learned or a tool you use that really helps in your search.

**October 14, 2017** – Second Historical Homes Tour – Coordinated by Katrina Cooper

**November 11, 2017** – Eleanor Arnold Presentation. Carol Jones will be contact person.

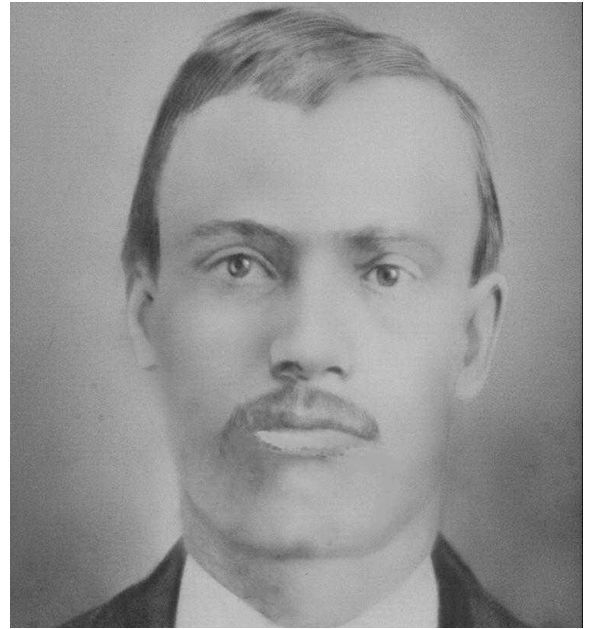
**December, 2017** - No Meeting

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## Rush County People, Buildings and Businesses



### William Sidney Emay – Orphan Train Rider

By Becky Higgins

Will, fearful and excited at the same time, boarded the horse-drawn tram with some thirty other children and a few adults on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 1862. He didn't know what to expect in the days to come but tried to believe Mr. Friedgen, the New York Children's Aid Society (CAS) agent, when he told them they were going to a better place – to new homes, clean air, and happy times.

Will didn't really understand what Mr. Friedgen meant about a new home. At eight years old the boy had few memories before living at the Poor Farm in Goshen, New York.. He knew he had been born on Christmas Day in 1853, at least that's what he had been told, and he vaguely remembered his mother. Mostly, he remembered her hair so long she could sit on it when she let it down. Since at least 1860 he had known nothing about family life, only the grind of a daily institution routine.

Then, on December 26, 1861, Mr. Gillespie from the Poor Farm, brought Will to New York City and turned him over to the CAS. Here he met many other children who, like him, had no family to care for them. Some had even been fending for themselves on the streets of the city; some had been brought from orphanages and other organizations. The CAS spent the next month preparing the children for their next move, teaching manners and other things to make them likely candidates to be chosen.

The time had come. The tram brought them to the ticket office in Manhattan, then another tram brought them to a ferry to cross the North River (now the Hudson) into New Jersey where they boarded the Pennsylvania Railroad's Cincinnati Express at 4:30 p.m. About 24 hours later, Will and Company arrived in Cincinnati only to have a long wait for the next train. By now the original excitement experience by many of the children had dissipated. Most had never been outside of New York City so the open farm land and small villages they traveled through brought hoots and hollers of amazement at first but trying to sleep on the station benches and floor took its toll. Finally, 6:30 a.m. arrived and they boarded an Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lafayette passenger train, arriving in Greensburg, Indiana about 9:45 a.m. For the last leg of the journey, the weary children rode in a wagon for about four hours, arriving at Rushville at about 2:00 p.m. on February 7, 1862.

Mr. Freidgen had made arrangements for the children to overnight at the local hotel. After a welcomed breakfast and changing into their fresh change of clothes, the Company made their way to the Court House where a large group of people had gathered. They were drawn there due to an announcement placed in the Rushville Republican the same day the children had left New York City.

CHILDREN WANTING HOMES!---A company of homeless boys and girls from the Children's Aid Society of New York will be at the Court House in Rushville on Tuesday [Friday], February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11 o'clock.—All interested in this work of charity are invited to meet the agent as above. Those purposing to make application for Children are expected to provide themselves with satisfactory recommendations. – Rushville Republican, 5 Feb 1862

Though the children were presented on Saturday and not Friday, word had gotten around about the change.

Not everyone in the crowd was interested in taking a child home, wanting, rather, to see how the city children looked, acted, and talked. But many were looking to add another person to their table. Having so many young men gone to serve in the War left plenty of room and a great need for help on the farms.

Once everyone reached the courtroom upstairs, the children were placed at the front. Mr. Frieden gave a short talk explaining the Placing-Out Program and what was expected of anyone choosing to take in a child. Then the process began.

Will was picked by J. M. Cook and, though uncertain as to what was to come, he went willingly. Will adjusted well to this strange new environment because Mr. Cook showed him kindness, making him feel welcomed and wanted. Mr. Cook wrote the CAS in July 1862 saying he and William get along totally and again in September that Will was well and doing well. As time went on, Will realized he truly enjoyed the country life.

By the time Will turned fourteen, he was living in the Thomas Duncan household. Thomas and Mary "Polly" Duncan was a young couple only married about four years when Will went to stay with them. Even though he continued to go to school, he was a great help with the farm chores and he remained there until he reached majority age in 1878. He wrote to the CAS that he was to receive his \$100 and a horse per the contract originally signed by Mr. Cook and he thanked them for sending him West.

Just a couple of farms over from the Duncan place, lived the Joseph Leisure family consisting of five sons and one sweet daughter, Mary Frances "Fannie". Will had known her since she was just a little girl, she being eight years younger than he. She belonged to a large and respected family dating back generations in the area and he an outsider from New York. Those small differences wouldn't keep them apart. They married on September 12, 1878 and took up housekeeping on land next to the Duncans.

Will finally had a family of his own and he cherished each day with them. Their daughter Clara Elizabeth, always called "Lizzie", was born in September of 1879, followed by Joseph Blount in June of 1881. Three years later Cleveland Leisure made his appearance. The whole family loved that little boy; his sister and brother played with him for hours at a time. Lizzie acted as his second mother.

Tragedy struck just ten months later. Cleveland died from infant cholera after just two days of sickness on Friday 24, 1885. The whole community felt the loss.

"Died, at Jos. Leisure's, Friday, July 24, 1885, Cleveland, son of William and Fannie Emay aged about 10 months; disease, cholera intantum. Cleveland's sickness was of short duration and so great that no word could express, being sick about two days. He was a smart and sweet child, and all who knew him loved him. He is missed a great deal in the family. His little chair is vacant, and that sweet voice is silent in the grave. How he loved to play with his little sister and brother. As we bowed over the white casket we could hardly realize that our darling had been taken away. He leaves a kind father and mother, one sister and brother to mourn his loss. On Saturday, July 25th, his remains were taken to Hannegan for burial... E. G." [newspaper unknown]

Picking up the pieces and starting again was something Will had learned to accept throughout his life. Recovery from the loss of his son would prove to be the most difficult but this time, he had the rest of his family to console and to be consoled by. Eventually, life found a new normal and joy reentered the household with the birth of their daughter, Ola Blanche.

In 1900, Will and Fannie were settled in Center Township, still in Rush County. The three children are still living at home; Lizzie is a teacher, Joseph is helping his Dad on the farm and Ola in going to school. Life was good for an orphan boy from New York.

Will had a special bond with the horse he had received back in 1878. She signified the beginning of his adult life and she had helped him build up his farm and support his family. The children had never known a day without her presence. Great sadness filled their hearts when the old girl died on September 29, 1901.

Only a month later, Fannie and her children suffered a much greater loss. Will, stricken suddenly with a stomach ailment, died on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Shock and sorrow spread across the entire community.

*The Rushville Weekly Jacksonian* , 7 Nov 1901, page 5, Center:

After a short illness, Wm. S. Emay died at his home near Blue River church Thursday night, Oct. 31. He leaves a wife, son and two daughters and a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn his loss. Mr. Emay will be sadly missed in this community, for he was a loving husband and father and a kind neighbor. The high esteem and respect in which he was held in this neighborhood was shown by the large crowd which attended his funeral, Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Hannegan church. His remains were laid to rest in the cemetery nearby. The sorrowing family have the sympathy of the entire community.

“Lucille”

Fannie lived another fifty years. She never remarried and she always had a large photo of Will hanging in her bedroom. After her death and burial at the Center Church, Will’s remains were moved from Hannegan cemetery to Center Church to be near Fannie.

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- 1860 U.S. Census, New York, Orange, population schedule; NARA Microfilm Publication M653 (Name: National Archive Film # M653, roll 833; digital image by subscription, Ancestry.com), Goshen township, County Poor House, Page 76, Line 12.
- Letter from Victor Remer, NYCAS archivist, to Becky Higgins, 5 Oct 1998, reference William Sidney Emay, includes transcription of journal record and list of Mr. Henry Friedgen’s Company 27, 4 Feb 1862.
- Letter from John Shontz, Project Coordinator, Orphan Train Project Making A Difference, Helena, Montana to Becky Higgins, 12 Jun 2017.
- Letter from Victor Remer, NYCAS archivist, to Becky Higgins, 5 Oct 1998.
- 1900 U.S. Census, Indiana, Rush, population schedule; NARA Microfilm Publication T623 (Name: National Archives T623-400; digital image by subscription, Ancestry.com), Center township, enumeration district 81, page 8B, dwelling 191, family 192, William S Emay household.

## Revolutionary War Soldiers



Jacob Hite

Born: February 14, 1761, Frederick Co, Maryland

Died: October 27, 1839, Rush County, Indiana



Catherine Sheiner Hite

Born 1769, Virginia

Died November 27, 1844, Rush County, Indiana

### HITE FAMILY REUNION

A number from this county, together with relatives from Decatur, Grant, Wabash, Howard and Marion counties were present at the Hite-Gaskey-Glass families reunion held on the fair grounds Friday. A report showed a monument furnished by the government for Jacob Hite, who was a Revolutionary soldier and buried in the Old Richland cemetery. A like monument is to be erected for his wife, furnished by the descendants.

\*\*\*\*Source: Hite Family Reunion, The Daily Republican, Rushville, Indiana, Monday, August 21, 1911, page 8, newspapers.com. Photos: Jacob Hite, Find A Grave Memorial # 36801719 and #36801770, Records added: May 6, 2009 by Greg Howearth.

## **Our Mission:**

*To bring together those interested in the  
history and genealogy  
of Rush County*

### **Revolutionary War Soldiers Buried in Rush County**

**Miscellany**—by Cy McIlwain, Rushville Republican, Rushville, Indiana, Tuesday, November 14, 1950, page 2 and continued on page 2, newspapers.com.

As we said last week in this series of columns on the cemeteries of Rush County, it has been established that thirty-five soldiers of the American Revolution are buried in Rush County soil. The burial places of most of them are known, but, according to the D. A. R. survey compiled by the late Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Amos, the graves of at least eight have never been located, due probably to the fact that no headstones were erected at the time of burial.

Here following are the names of the Revolutionary soldiers and their last resting places in this county:

John Simpson Aldridge, Aldridge Cemetery, Orange Township  
Joel Berry, East Hill Cemetery  
George Brown, burial plot on Charles Fisher Farm, Richland Township  
James Brownlee, Flatrock Cemetery, Rushville Township  
Robert Caldwell, Concord Cemetery, Rushville Township  
John Carson, Alger Graveyard, Union Township  
Thomas Cassady, Kelly Cemetery  
Isaac Cox, Pinhook burial plot  
Robert Groves, Fairview Cemetery  
Jacob Hackleman, John Applegate farm  
Jacob Hite, Sr, Richland Cemetery  
Samuel Iles, Fairview Cemetery  
John Lewis, Flatrock Cemetery  
Patrick Logan, Flatrock Cemetery  
William Mauzy, Alger Cemetery, Union Township  
John Miller, Hurst Cemetery, Walker Township  
Zephaniah Posey, Hopewell Cemetery, Richland Township  
John Reilly, Hopewell Cemetery  
Gilbert Roche, Rader burial plot, Orange Township  
John Robinson, East Hill Cemetery  
Henry Smith, Michael Smith, and William Smith, Pleasant Run Cemetery, Richland Township  
George Tibbetts, Fairview Cemetery  
John Watson, Lower Graveyard, Rushville City  
John Wyatt, buried near Milroy and Henry Thomas, buried in the southern part of the county, both of whose graves have never been definitely located.

Here are the Revolutionary veterans whose graves have never been found: Ebenezer Clark, Henry David, John Finney, Matthew Gregg, Thomas James, James Lane, John LeGore, and Henry Mizner.

From article listing Rush County Revolutionary Soldiers burials by Mrs. D. D. VanOsdol, Daily Republican, Thursday, May 25, 1922, page 8: David Peters – buried in Goddard Cemetery.