

Rush County Genealogical Society

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER, 2018

2019 RCGS Programs

Our Officers:

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

Meeting Topics for 2019

January—Voyage to America- Immigration from Germany—Carol Jones

February—DNA—guest speaker—Drawing for Ancestry DNA test

March-Using Shadow Boxes to Preserve Family History—Marilyn Yager

April-Eleanor Arnold program

May—Steve Mahan, Civil War

June-Get Ready for the booth at Rush County Fair

July— No Meeting- Midwestern Roots Conference, July 19-20, Marriott, Indianapolis, East, 21st Street- Registration postponed til late January, 2019

August—Field Trip to Ft Wayne Library

September-Cemetery Scavenger Hut-East Hill Cemetery-Wilkie Days

October-Ancestry, Fold 3, Newspapers.com—Finding Ghosts in Your Family

November-Restoration Work on Ball and David Cemeteries—Joel David
Election of Officers, Membership Dues

December—No Meeting

Inside this issue:

<i>Meeting Topics</i>	1
<i>Owen Carr Family</i>	2-3
<i>Charles O. Nixon</i>	4
<i>John Spurrier Family</i>	5-6

*****Please note: We are trying something different. Meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a short business meeting and program/presentation will start at 10:30. Refreshments will be served. Please mark your calendars now to attend meetings—the second Saturday of the month!

*****If you have a request for something you would like to see in our newsletters or would like to submit an article, please contact Katrina Cooper

Owen L. Carr Family

Owen L. Carr was born October 14, 1881 on a farm near New Providence, Hardin County, Iowa, the third son of six children of Miles W. and Sarah A. Carr, natives of Henry and Hamilton Counties, Indiana. At the age of ten years, he moved with his parents to Howard County, Indiana. During the panic of 1876, his father met with reverses of business and on account of ill health, he decided to move South. During their time in the South, at the age of seventeen, that Owen Carr began buying and flat-boating corn for market from east Tennessee to the cotton raising sections of Alabama. He received his education at the common schools of Iowa and Indiana with one year of high school at Little Rock, Arkansas.

At the age of twenty, he engaged in the live stock business, buying and driving stock into Arkansas Indian Territory, and Kansas. He supported his parents who were then at the health resort at Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Owen moved to Rush County in 1884, locating in Posey Township where he engaged in a livery business. He married Sarah L. Glass on December 29, 1886, daughter of John W. and Sarah J. Glass of Rush County. His wife had received her education in the Arlington schools. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Owen Carr was a well-known dealer in horses and other livestock and owned a farm in Posey Township. He engaged in several other businesses: merchandising, saw milling, shipping grain, trading in real estate and farming. He was one of the first investors in natural gas in Rush County.

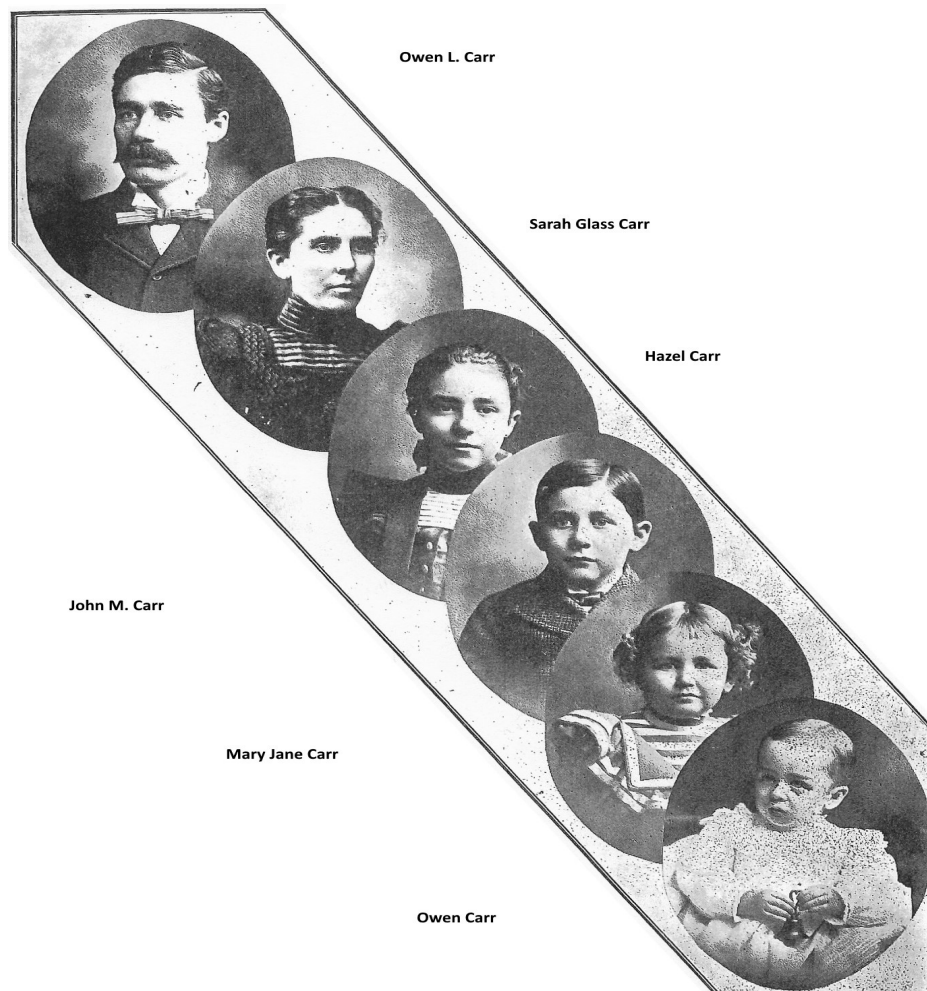
Mr. Carr was active in county politics for many years. He was appointed Trustee of Posey Township by the Honorable John K. Gowdy in 1890 and served in that position about five years. Owen took interest in the building of roads, permanent brick school houses and built the first steel bridges erected in Posey Township. He was an advocate of placing a high school with the grade schools in each Township so that the poor man's children might have the same opportunity for an education as those in better circumstances. He began the use of school hacks in Posey Township while a Trustee there.

Owen was elected County Auditor in June, 1896 and served in that position for eight years which was the longest time any one man had served as Auditor. The family moved to Rushville when after elected County Auditor where they built a home at the corner of Perkins and Fifth Streets. He also served as a member of the Republican State Committee. Owen Carr was member of the Friends Church and whatever he endeavored he did with an energy and determination so great, that he could not fail to accomplish results.

Owen was in the garage business in Rushville until a fire destroyed the building on South Main Street in 1922. The Carr family moved to Indianapolis about 1929 for his business interests there. Owen operated a veneer plant there, had interest in an excelsior factory in Dubuque, Iowa and owned considerable timber lands and a cotton plantation in Mississippi, which Owen, Jr. oversaw.

When on his way to Rushville in April, 1929, Mr. Carr drove his car into a bridge abutment on U. S. 52 and suffered injuries that led to his death about a year later on March 2, 1930. He was buried in the Arlington East Hill Cemetery. His wife moved back to Rushville after her husband's death and died on May 20, 1939 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Horace McClure with whom she made her home. She too was interred at Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

He and his wife had seven children: Hazel Anne, John M., Mary Jane., Owen, Jr., William, Bruce, and James Carr. Hazel Anne married Harold Cantwell from Hartford City on December 30, 1908 at the home of her parents. She was born September 6, 1887 and died November 18, 1983 and is buried with her husband at the Hartford City Cemetery in Blackford County, Indiana. Mary Jane married Horace McClure in 1921 passed away in 1995 in Indianapolis Indiana at the age of 100. She worked as a clerk at the Indiana Unemployment Security Division and was a commissioner for the Girl Scouts. Her husband Horace R. McClure was a vice-president of the Indianapolis Bond and Share Company and later retired in 1958 from Delco Electronics in Kokomo, Indiana after working there fifteen years. Son Bruce Carr was born April 19, 1900 and died at the home of his parents, 501 North Perkins Street on March 28, 1922 from uremic poisoning. Son John M. Carr was born in 1891 and died September, 1975 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, a retired farmer.





Charles O. Nixon

Charles O. Nixon was born on May 25, 1845, the son of Benjamin and Sarah Risk Nixon at Carthage, Rush County, Indiana.

Charles served with the Ninth Indiana Infantry Regiment under Colonel Eli Lilly in the Civil War and was an exchange prisoner on a Mississippi river boat at the time of Lincoln's assassination. He was captured November 1, 1864 at Franklin, Tennessee by Confederate troops and was one of 400 prisoners taken to a prison in Alabama. Conditions there were difficult as the river rose and filled the cells with one foot of water. The prisoners were exchanged and returned to the Union Army in Vicksburg four months later. Mr. Nixon said it was a thrill when the prisoners saw the Stars and Stripes waving across the river. He was then sent to a hospital at St.

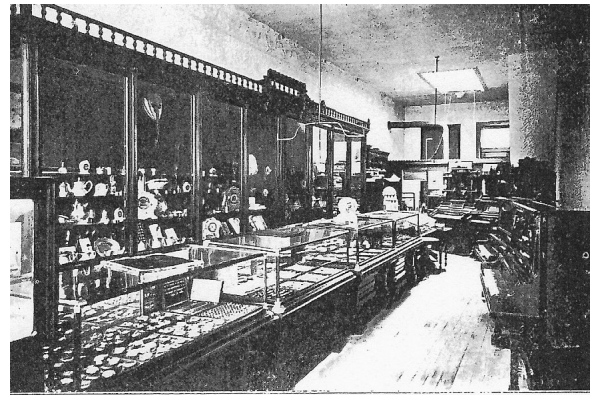
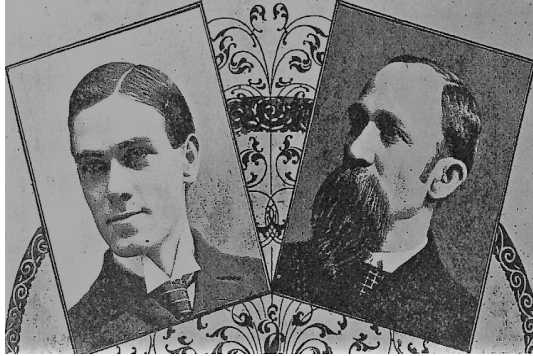
After his release from the Army he returned to Carthage and was married to Mary Jeanette Mullin, the daughter of a Methodist circuit rider. He served two years as Rush County Recorder and later was financial secretary of the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home in the northern part of Rush County.

He was a bookkeeper at the Albert Gall Furniture Company after moving to Indianapolis and retired 20 years ago. He was a member of the George Chapman post of the G. A. R. of Marion County.

Charles was a real baseball fan. He lost his sight several years before his death in an automobile accident, but that did not dim his enthusiasm. He listed to baseball games and the new.

Mr. Nixon died October 24, 1943 at his home at 2136 North New Jersey Street due to bronchitis with additional cause listed as Extreme Senility. Survivors were listed as his daughter, Grace Nixon, with whom he shared his home and was the financial secretary of the Indiana State Library and son, Gurney of Lancaster, Ohio. His brother, Lee Nixon lived in Washington, D.C. and was appointed sergeant at arms for the Republican national convention on April 2, 1928. Lee was city clerk of Indianapolis for about twenty years and later postmaster at San Juan, Puerto Rico during the McKinley administration.

John Addison Spurrier Family



INTERIOR OF F. A. ABERCROMBIE'S JEWELRY STORE, AND MUSIC STORE OF JOHN A. SPURRIER & SON.

John A. Spurrier was born in Morristown, Indiana on February 17, 1849, the son of Joseph and Cynthia Holding Spurrier. He married Mary Agnes Daily on July 7, 1868 in Fayette County, Indiana. He came to Rushville approximately in 1873 and purchased the jewelry store at 233 North Main Street from Frank Landis in 1883. The store which did a thriving jewelry business, however, being interested in music, John Spurrier added musical instruments to his line of business. So rapidly did this branch expand that he found it to his advantage to dispose of the Jewelry business to F. A. Abercrombie who had worked for him for eight years prior. Spurrier began to devote his entire time and energy to the sale of pianos, organs and all kinds of musical instruments. He brought his son, Lowell Spurrier, into partnership in the business in 1889 Both John and his son were expert musicians and the firm did so much business they needed two delivery wagons. It was the oldest and largest music house in this section of the state.

John was the director of the Diapason Singing group that was founded in 1835 and sang together the old Missouri harmonies on the third Sunday of June for many years. There was a group that met the fourth Sunday in Morristown that many from Rush County attended as well.

The wife of John A. Spurrier was born October 1, 1851 in Fayette County and was the daughter of Jesse D. and Miriam Gray Dailey. To this union was born five children: Lowell, Leona May, Ida Mariam, Whitelaw Reid and Hazel Daily Spurrier. They were member of the Main Street Christian Church. She died March 29, 1930 of uremic poisoning at their home on the corner of Morgan and Ninth Streets.

Our Mission:

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

The second child was Leona Spurrier who was born March 29, 1872 in Fayette County, Indiana. She married Joseph McNutt, a minister who was born in Maysville, Kentucky and the lived in Buffalo, Oklahoma. They were the parents of Mariam, Mildred, Ruth and Gary. Their son, Gary McNutt, who was born in Oklahoma on July 23, 1912, died at age 17 at the home of his grandparents in Rushville due to epilepsy on July 8, 1930. He was buried in the East Hill Cemetery, Rushville.

Their next child was Ida Mariam Spurrier, born in September, 1878. She married Marion Ross (M. R.) McDaniel on September 1, 1908 in Rush County, Indiana. He was the superintendent of Oak Park-River Forest Hight School from 1912 until his death in 1937. Ida died at age 80 on June, 1959 at Oak Park, Illinois. They had one daughter Kathryn Ross McDaniel.

The couple's fourth child was Whitelaw Reid Spurrier who was born in 1880 in Rushville. He had a beautiful singing voice and had offers from Rev. Scoville and Re. Billy Sunday to go with them on their evangelistic travels. He was principal for the schools in Kansas, Illinois, Charleston, Illinois, and then Centralia, Illinois. He was superintendent of schools at Princeton, Illinois where he implemented a plan during World War I for the farm boys of the school to attend school six days a week in order to put them out for the summer in May when they were needed to help with Spring planting. This plan was proposed to be used for all Midwest rural schools along with a plan for boy students to help with husking in the month of November. He was later and educator in New York City, New York where he died at age 50 leaving his wife Mary Elizabeth Spurrier who he married October 22, 1910.

Hazel Daily Spurrier was born in Rushville on January 24, 1886 and attended Hiram College in Cleveland, Ohio to be a teacher. She married James W. Swihart on December 21, 1907. To this union was born four children: Jean, Mignon, James, Jr., and Daniel Keller Swihart. She was noted as being a contralto soloist in her church in Cleveland Ohio when she sang special music at the Main Street Christian Church in July, 1914. Her name appears many times as singing in local events. Her husband died at Fort Thomas, Kentucky on October 22, 1918 at age 33. He died of pneumonia following an attack of Spanish influenza. He was an assistant manager of the American Book Company. She married a second time to Homer Daniel Swihart and died December 3, 1965 at St. Helena in Napa County, California.