

# Rush County Genealogical Society

VOLUME XII, ISSUE I

MARCH, 2019

2019 RCGS Programs

## Our Officers:

- *President:*

*Carol Jones*

- *Vice-President:*

*Bill Baetz*

- *Secretary:*

*Katrina Cole-Cooper*

- *Treasurer:*

*Marilyn Yager*

**Meetings—2nd Saturday of the Month, 10:00 a.m., Rushville  
Public Library Basement Meeting Room**

**May**—Steve Mahan, Civil War

**June**-Get Ready for the booth at Rush County Fair

**July**– Plan out details of Scavenger Hunt –meet at East Hill Cemetery

Midwestern Roots Conference, July 19-20, Marriott, Indianapolis, East, 21st Street– For more information:

[www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots](http://www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots).

**August**—Field Trip to Ft Wayne Library

**September**-Cemetery Scavenger Hunt-East Hill Cemetery-Wilkie Days

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

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

**December**—No Meeting

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## Dr. John Moffett and Family

Dr. John Moffett was born in Washington County, Virginia on October 23, 1822. He was the son of William Moffett and Isabel (Reed) Moffett. William was the son of Captain John Moffett, a soldier in the war of 1812 and his father was a Captain under General Greene in the Revolutionary War and was killed at the battle of King's Mountain in North Carolina. Dr. Moffett's father came to Rush County in 1823 and settled northeast of Rushville in Jackson Township. He farmed this land until his death on September 21, 1859.

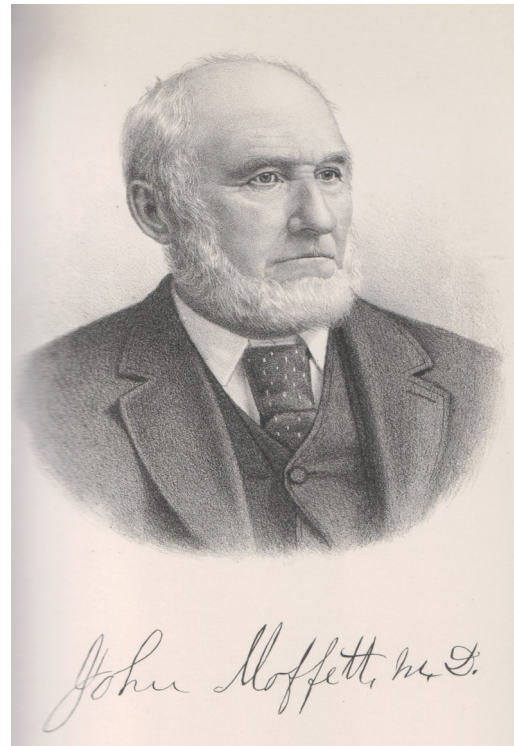
Dr. Moffett was about 1 year old when his parents moved to Rush County. He grew up on this farm, attending

common schools and taught one term of school and then attended the Rushville Seminary for one year.

On May 18, 1844 John Moffett began to study medicine under Dr. William H. Martin, of Rushville and studied with him for two and half years when he went to medical college of Ohio, at Cincinnati and graduated with honors on March 4, 1849. He entered a contest, with six competitors, for a position in the Commercial Hospital of Cincinnati and won. He was made Chief Intern from 1849-1850. After that time, he began his medical practice at Rushville. John married Elizabeth J. Harris on May 8, 1851 in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania who was the daughter of Isaac and Anna (Brierly) Harris. The couple had four children -only two surviving infancy: William H., Anna I., John, and Mary D. The couple also provided a home for Elizabeth's brother Isaac who in 1861 married John's sister, Mary Jane.

Dr. Moffett was a Regular Baptist while his wife was a Methodist. Politically he was a "Jackson" Democrat. In 1845 he was elected a school trustee in Rushville and served in this position for ten years. He served as president of the town board from 1867 to 1877 and chairman of the Rush County Democratic Central Committee for twenty years. John helped organize the first medical society in the county and he served as its secretary. He also belonged to the Indiana State Medical Society and served as its acting president in 1864.

His wife passed away April 12, 1878 at age 57 and was buried in Rushville's East Hill Cemetery. After her death, John accepted a faculty position at the Central College of Physicians at Indianapolis. In April, 1886 he was appointed United States Pension Examiner which probably involved evaluating claims filed by Civil War veterans.



John died on April 30, 1903 in Rushville at the age of 80. He too was buried at East Hill Cemetery. His obituary noted, "There was no one in the community more respected and loved than was this good physician". In August, 1920 Dr. Frank Green bought the Dr. Moffett property, corner of Perkins and Third streets from William H. Moffett, son and only heir of Dr. John Moffett. The consideration was \$5,000.

Daughter Daisy Moffett died March 18, 1907 at the age of 47 years at Easthaven in Richmond, Indiana. She died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with Chronic Dementia listed as Contributory cause of death. She was listed as Single.



William H. Moffett

William H Moffett was born on July 15, 1853. He attended the local public schools and then went into an apprenticeship in plumbing for eight years becoming a journeyman machinist in Indianapolis and other cities. At the age of twenty-eight he and W. H. Gregg started the W. H. Moffett & Company, contracting plumbers and machinists. Each year he added some new feature and the business grew to where it employed 5-8 men to handle his volume of business. In addition to machine work of all kinds, plumbing, steam and gas fittings, Moffett handled a full line of piping and fittings, hose, belting and such. The business was located on Perkins Street between

Third and Fourth streets built by William H. in 1886. He did thousands of dollars of steam and gas fittings and wiring at the Rush County Court House.

On October 6, 1896 Mr. Moffett married Miss Meta Wolf, the daughter of Colonel and Mrs. E. H. Wolfe. They had one son named John Edward who passed away as an infant on July 18, 1898. The couple lived at the corner of Perkins and Third Street, the home of Mr. Moffett's parents. Meta died February 22, 1906 from dilation of the heart. She had been sick for three weeks. She was buried in East Hill Cemetery.

William was affiliated with the Fire Department for 45 years. Up until about a year before his death, was he actively fighting fires in Rushville. He was named secretary. At one time, he was acting chief of the local department.

In August, 1920 Dr. Frank Green bought the Dr. Moffett property, corner of Perkins and Third streets from William H. Moffett, son and only heir of Dr. John Moffett. The consideration was \$5,000. In March of 1921 Green had the home and building that held the plumbing business torn down. Dr. Moffett had purchased the property in 1852 from Dr. W. H. Martin who had built the home in 1846. It was not the oldest piece of property in the downtown district, but was

among the earliest structures erected in the city. It was thought that the building at First and Main, formerly known as the McPike corner then occupied by John Knecht, automobile dealer. It was thought to have been built in 1825.

William Moffett, the father of Dr. John Moffett taught school in addition to farming. He received no pay for teaching. Being weakly, he taught school in a cabin on his property. in exchange for his neighbors clearing his land and assisting with his crops showing how pioneers helped each other. William's brother, Dr. Robert D. Moffett also taught school for a short time

in Rush County and was the first doctor in Center Township. He married Elizabeth Jane Culbertson July 11, 1839 and passed away in March, 1844. His widow later married Dr. Abner Dillon.

As was mentioned previously, Isaac Newton Harris, the brother of Mrs. Elizabeth Harris Moffett lived with them for a time and later married Dr. John Moffett's sister, Mary Jane on December 19, 1861. Isaac went to school in the old Rushville Seminary where Judge Bigger was one of the instructors. He later studied dentistry in Madison, Indiana and began his practice in Rushville over P.W. Rush's drug store in May, 1860 sharing the building with Dr. John Moffett. A fire destroyed the structure on December 4, 1860 taking with it all their supplies and books. A few years after his married, the couple built a new home at 220 Perkins Street. The couple had six children: Larry B., Brierly, Moffett, John, Roberta, and Isabel. Isaac was stricken with paralysis on November 5, 1910 from which he never recovered. The couple moved to Columbus where their two daughters lived. Mary Jane died October 24, 1915 and was buried in East Hill Cemetery, Rushville. Isaac passed away July 11, 1916 and was also buried at East Hill Cemetery. Mary Jane died October 24, 1915 and was buried in East Hill Cemetery, Rushville. Isaac passed away July 11, 1916 and was also buried at East Hill Cemetery.



## Abraham Lincoln Gary



A. L. Gary from Promoter, about 1899



A. L. Gary, older portrait

Abraham Lincoln Gary was born in a log cabin on a farm in Posey Township on March 7, 1868, the son of the Rev. Thomas B. and Phoebe J. Ball Gary. He was the fifth of nine children born to his parents. Linc, as he is called, attended the Frog Pond District School in Posey Township, the school at Carthage and a normal school at Richmond. In the fall of 1886, he started teaching school and continued for several years until he made enough money with teaching and farming to attend DePauw University. He played tackle on their football team for four years during a time when DePauw was beating all their Midwest opponents, even Purdue.

In June, 1897, Gary was elected Superintendent of Schools in Rush County. He served in that capacity until 1902. He then took charge of the Indiana State Reading Circle and attended Indiana Law School in Indianapolis, graduating in 1907. He was a staunch Republican, but had trouble with his party when he hired many teachers even if they were Democrats.

In 1908 he married Jessie E. Spann, the daughter of Jesse J. Spann, a prominent member of the Rush County Bar. They had one daughter Phoebe Ann Gary in 1910 who died in infancy.

During World War I, A. L. Gary served as Government Appeal Agent of the local draft board. He also served without pay as local representative of the American Red Cross – during World War I and for many years afterwards.

In addition to his legal profession, he was active in farming, operating several farms owned by him and for other people as well.

## **Our Mission:**

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

Although never serving in the military, he believed in giving a hand to those who did serve. He took into his office as partner, John N. Hughes when he returned from WW II in 1946. Later the firm of Gary & Hughes gave employment to another WWII veteran, Treon Young. He later became a member of the firm of Gary, Hughes & Young.

Gary was an active supporter of the movement to secure the Rush Memorial Hospital. In addition to giving his time, he also donated part of the land on which the hospital now stands along with considerable financial help.

A. L. Gary was one of the founders and a leading person in the Rush County Historical Society. He was instrumental in obtaining the old Gowdy mansion as the museum site. What we as Genealogists most know him from is that he and with Ernest B. Thomas were editors of the Centennial History of Rush County in 1921. He also co-authored a history of the Ball family published in 1908. He also served as trustee of the East Hill Cemetery Company.

Abraham Lincoln Gary died January 1, 1953 and was buried in the Rushville East Hill Cemetery. When the A. L. Gary estate was probated, the estate was valued at \$60,000. He gave several individual bequests and gave his partners his law library, furniture and fixtures and supplies in his law office. He held a life estate in a Posey Township farm that belonged to Thomas Fletcher Ball which went to Thomas Frederick Ball and Francis Eugene Ball, children of Thomas Fletcher Ball.

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History of Manilla, Indiana—Walker Township from Sesquicentennial History, Manilla, Indiana, 1836-1986

The village of Manilla, Rush County, was laid out on January 4, 1836 by Jacob Mull, Elias and Jonathan Murphy and Jonathan Edwards. The community was first settled in 1824 and was originally named Wilmington because to the many North Carolinians who settled there. There were originally 28 lots, equally divided on either side of Main Street. William Wells and his wife, Martha, are believed to be the first residents. The first house was built of round logs and stood on lot 7. Along the north side of these lots is a small tributary of the Little Blue River, named Pleasant Run which would provide water necessary for their livestock. The first storekeeper was Jacob Mull who kept his store in a log house that stood on Lot 11. The first school was taught in the Methodist Episcopal log meeting by Quaker John W. Macy. The first post office was established as “Walker” and Isaac Hilligoss was appointed postmaster June 22, 1833. The Manilla post office was established March 14, 1840 with Thomas Trew appointed postmaster.

John M. Westerfield who had lived south of Manilla, moved to Manilla in 1838 and practiced medicine in Rush and Shelby counties. James W. Trees came to Manilla in 1841 to practice medicine from Milroy. He married Catherine, the daughter of Jacob Mull. He also had a mercantile business with his father-in-law. The Trees homestead was built in 1843—a red brick two story home that was one of Rush County’s show places. It still stands though is in bad condition.