

Rush County Genealogical Society

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2020 RCGS Programs

Our Officers:

- *President:*
Carol Jones
- *Vice-President:*
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- *Secretary:*
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- *Treasurer:*
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Due to the Coronavirus, our proposed meetings for 2020 will necessarily need to be changed. We are looking into holding programs with Zoom.com. At this point we will not have a meeting on Saturday, April 11th. We are contacting our speakers to see if they would be able to make their presentation via the internet. For the May 9, 2020 meeting Carol Jones will present Tips on using FTM and Ancestry.

Please be patient with us as we work to provide informative programming for the remainder of the year. Here are a few articles about the 1918 Spanish Influenza.

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RED CROSS TREATED NINETY-SIX CASES

Report Reveals Remarkable Work
Done in Rushville During the In-
fluenza Epidemic.

COVERS PERIOD OF 16 DAYS

Between, October 24 and November 9, a period of 16 days the Red Cross treated ninety-six cases of the Spanish influenza. This was when the epidemic was at its height and the Red Cross relieved the situation by supplying nurses at a time when there were not enough nurses available so that each family could have the services of one.

The Red Cross work was directed by Miss Maud Hunt and she had as assistant nurses Mrs. Flodder, Mrs. Riggs and Mrs. Atkins. The following presented their automobiles daily for use in taking the nurses from one home to another and in serving hot soup, which was provided by the Red Cross: Mrs. Jones, Miss Mildred Oneal, Glen Sommer-ville, Miss Leah Oneal, Mrs. Gowdy and Miss Jennie Madden.

The ninety-six cases were confined to forty homes, five of the families having five patients ill with the malady at one time. In five homes were four persons afflicted all at one time and in seven homes there were three patients each. Five of the ninety-six patients died with the influenza or complications arising from it.

SITUATION SERIOUS IN SOME VICINITIES

Milroy and Falmouth Report Large
Number of New Cases of
Spanish Influenza

NONE IN CITY FOR 48 HOURS

Although the influenza epidemic continues to show decided improvement in Rushville, with no cases reported in the city since Tuesday morning, the situation in some communities has become alarming.

The county health officer, Dr. E. I. Wooden, has received reports of thirty-three new cases of the malady in Milroy and vicinity and of thirty-seven new cases in Falmouth and vicinity. In addition, reports of thirteen cases from other points in the county were received. The Milroy and Falmouth communities are sorely afflicted, according to all reports. The schools in both places are closed and other activities have ceased.

These eighty-three new cases bring the total number of patients which have been treated during the epidemic, up to 1,114. The fact that no new cases have been reported as developing during the period of forty-eight hours ending at noon today, was very encouraging to the city health officials.

Rush County People



Rev. Andrew and Catherine Boring Lowden Family, June 22, 1896,
provided by Gretchen Stiers.

Clata Bebout was a bit of a jack of all trades. He was a Postmaster, Sheriff, Mayor, and Business owner. He was born in Rushville Township, Indiana on April 8, 1872, the son of James H. and Mary E. Lowden Bebout. His father, James was born in Rushville Township on June 18, 1849. He lived at Manilla and was a farmer at first and then worked as a carpenter and as a building contractor. He married Mary Elizabeth Lowden on September 28, 1871, the daughter of Rev. Andrew M. and Catherine Lowden. Clata was their only child. He was born April 8, 1871 and was schooled in Walker Township. For three years he served as the Postmaster at Manilla and later worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. In 1900 he served as a census enumerator for Walker Township. He began working in the carpentry business for sixteen years. Then in 1908 Clara Bebout was elected sheriff of Rush County and moved to Rushville. He was re-elected for sheriff and served two terms. In 1913 Bebout was elected mayor of Rushville and was mayor for four years. He campaigned for a "dry city" fighting that the city have no saloons and that he would take a hard line against people who went to Connersville and would come back to Rushville drunk. He won the mayoral race in 1913 with a large number of votes over his opponent. In September, 1913 he began the company of Ball & Bebout, a dry-cleaner and pressing business in Rushville. Later he became engaged in the fire insurance business as well. Clata was a Republican and served as chairman of the county committee.

Clata Bebout Family



James Harvey and Mary Lowden Bebout -
Original Photo from Brenda Stiers Bradley

In 1892 he married Katherine Heifner, who was born in this county, the daughter of John and Alice Chisholm Heifner. John was a retired farmer of Walker Township. Clata and Katherine had two children, Verl A. and Gladys K. Bebout. Clata passed away April 27, 1947 and Katherine died. Both were interred at East Hill Cemetery, Rushville.

Verl was born February 26, 1893 at Manilla and graduated from Indiana Dental College at Indianapolis. He was a World War I Veteran and worked as a machinist at Warner Gear Division in Muncie, was an automobile dealer in Muncie and then operated the Schneider Machine Shop on North Franklin in Muncie. He married Ruth Aldridge and they had a son, Stuart who was born July 18, 1917 who was an exceptional organ player. The Bebout's moved to Florida about 1951. Ruth died January 16, 1970 and Verl died November 13, 1970 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Both are buried at Arlington Memorial Chapel there.

Gladys Katherine was born April 16, 1899 and she graduated from Rushville High School and graduated with a BA degree from DePauw University. Gladys worked several years as the Rush County Welfare Department. She married Edwin Holt Hughes of Boston, Massachusetts and they lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma and later in La Jolla, California. The couple had two sons: Edwin H. Hughes III and Allan Hughes and a daughter, Katherine. Gladys died December 11, 1994 in San Diego.



Walter E. Easley was born in Waynetown on May 23, 1879 and spent his early life in Elwood, coming to Rushville where he worked as a machine operator in the movie theater. Walter was a member of the paid fire department in Elwood, when he moved here. When her moved here, he was appointed Fire Chief, a position he held for several years when the chief's job was not a full-time job.

Walter Easley came to Rushville as the operator of the machine at the old Portola theater, located in what was later the Drake's Variety Store. He was not satisfied until he had opened a show of his own, which he did a year after locating to Rushville, where the Mystic theater was located – near Main and Third. He owned the theatre in partnership with Mrs. Frank West. He bought her interest in 1912.

He quickly won patrons by the high class of the pictures he showed and the service he gave. He was so successful that he had to find a larger space and when plans were made to rebuild the Masonic temple, after the old building burned, he quickly obtained a lease on one of the rooms. The new location opened August 25, 1914. The theater would seat four hundred. The floor was cement and sloped gradually toward the front. Behind the screen, there was a 14 X 16 foot stage. An orchestra pit is located directly in front of the screen.

The film room is fire proof in that it was built out of concrete. Mr. Easley constructed two boxes in the rear of the theater what would seat ten people. It was one of the best equipped theaters in the state.

Easley was a very civic minded man and was on the Park board. He designed the City park. He included a sunken garden, raised flower beds of limestone flagstones, cinder paths, and pillars at the entrances with flower urns on top. Hodges Branch threaded through the park and was grown over with weeds, muddy and varmint infested and he was able to get together the funds to build bridges across it and have limestone slabs, layer on layer, put on the banks and enough limestone in the bed to keep weeds from growing. Many began to use the park for family reunions, besides children playing on the park equipment and people using the tennis courts.

Walter sold his interests in the Princess Theater in 1924 and bought the K-P Theatre in Greensburg which he operated for 35 years. He built the Tree City Theatre in Greensburg in 1939 and was active in the operation until his death. Starting in 1922, the Easleys began the custom of entertaining local children with a free movie the day before Christmas at the Tree Theatre.

Mr. Easley served as president and on the board of directors for the modern picture industry in Indiana, and was regarded as the oldest theatre operator for consecutive years in Indiana and probably the United States.

Like at Rushville, he was active in civic affairs in Greensburg, having served on the city council, the waterworks board, a director of the Chamber of Commerce for 25 years and past president of the Rotary Club, Knights of Pythias Lodge and trustee of the Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Elks Lodge in Elwood in 1905 and became a charter member of the Elks Lodge in Rushville in 1913 transferring his membership to Greensburg when he moved there, serving as exalted ruler.

Walter Easley married Velva Hood, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Hood on August 12, 1905 in Elwood, Indiana. They moved to Rushville in 1910. She was a member of the Greensburg Christian Church and the Garden Club. She died in December 16, 1941 at the Decatur Memorial Hospital and buried as the South Park Cemetery in Greensburg. The Easleys had two children: Wilbur who lived at Indianapolis and Max who lived in Greensburg.

In 1943 Walter was married to Mildred Emmert. She was a lifelong resident of Decatur County and assisted her husband in the operation of the K of P and Tree Theaters. Walter died February 13, 1959 at the Decatur County Hospital and Mildred passed away April 13, 1972 at the same hospital. Both are buried in the South Park Cemetery in Greensburg, Indiana.

**RUSH COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Our Mission:

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

Burial Wednesday Here For Veteran of The Civil War

John R. Henry, Civil War veteran and retired merchant, died at his home at Mays early last night at the age of 92 years. He had been in ill health several months.

Mr. Henry, one of the few remaining Rush county Civil War veterans, was the last surviving member of Company A, Thirty-sixth Indiana Volunteers.

He had resided in Rush county practically his entire life and was well-known throughout the community.

Survivors are: two sons, Lester of near Spiceland, and Will of Center township; one daughter, Mrs. Lola Trowbridge of Center township; and one brother, J. O. Henry, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the residence at Mays. Interment will be in Center cemetery.

****John Henry, Obit, R-ville Republican, Wed, June 15, 1932, p. 1, col.8, newspapers. com.**



CIVIL WAR VETERAN DIES AT ARLINGTON – William C. Edwards, Age 87, is Survived by Widow, a Son and Two Daughters – FUNERAL FRIDAY AFTERNOON

William C. Edwards, a veteran of the Civil War, and a well known resident of Arlington, died Wednesday night about 10:30 o'clock at his home, death resulting from complications arising with advanced age.

The deceased was 87 years of age, and had spent practically all of his life in the vicinity of Arlington. He was in the Civil War for several years.

He is survived by the widow, and three children, Sam Edwards of this city, Margaret Swain and Miss Lillian Edwards of Arlington. The deceased also is survived by three sisters and two brothers.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at two o'clock in Arlington, and burial will be made in the cemetery at Arlington.

**** Wm Edwards, Obit, R-ville Republican, Thurs, Aug 28, 1924, p.1, col 1, Newspapers.com.**