

Rush County Genealogical Society

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2020 RCGS Programs

Our Officers:

- *President:*

Carol Jones

- *Vice-President:*

Bill Baetz

- *Secretary:*

Katrina Cole-Cooper

- *Treasurer:*

Marilyn Yager

We have been quite pleased that so many have joined us for our Zoom Meetings. Carol Jones gave a great talk on Tips and Tricks of Using Ancestry.com and Family Tree for our May meeting. Richard Barr, professional Genealogist from Indianapolis gave an interesting talk on doing research using Land Records at the June meeting.

August 8th - Field Trip to Library for Research ??? - If not enough interest Meeting will be about Genealogy Research Trip Preparation.

September 12th— Palatines to America—German Research—Kent Robinson

October—DNA - Denise Anderson - Decina, Drawing for Ancestry DNA Kit

November 14th—Regular Meeting—Topic with Discussion around it, Help with Brick Walls - Election of Officers

The Beckner-Nelson House was located one mile west of Arlington on US Highway 52. It was one of the state's finest Italianate homes. It was built in 1853 by Jeremiah Beckner, the great-great grandfather John William Nelson who lived there when the home burned down in 1974, the fifth generation to live in it. Jeremiah was born in Kentucky in 1820 and he used all native wood - yellow poplar and some oak - except for the walnut staircase. The doors and window casings were made of cherry and walnut and the nails all wrought nails. The floors were one and one-half inch thick hardwood. The original house consisted of 32 rooms and was 3 stories tall. Since there were no banks when the house was built there was a vault in the basement along with an ice house. Jeremiah was a farmer, but he made his money in trading. He was a commission agent for that area and gathered up turkeys, hogs, cattle and drove them to the markets at Brookville and Cincinnati. At one time, Jerry Beckner had eight hundred hogs driven to Cincinnati for neighbors and brought home the gold from the sale in a satchel which he kept in his vault until he could pay his neighbors. There is a family cemetery that sat west and north of the home and Jeremiah is buried there.

On Saturday, December 1, 1974, daughter Carol Nelson discovered the fire when she opened a second floor door and discovered smoke. It started from an overheated wall furnace, Furniture from the first floor is all that could be saved as the fire quickly traveled up the wall to the top floor, the destroyed the entire home. Efforts to save the belongings were further complicated by water damage and the snow storm that hit at the same time.

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Beckner-Nelson Home

Nelson Family

Christian Nelson was born February 2, 1797 in Copenhagen, Denmark according to the Biographical sketch of his son, Thomas B. Nelson. In a sketch of son William Harrison Nelson, Christian is referred to as Captain. Father Christian was noted to have been a sailor by vocation who settled in Rush County, Indiana at age 21 and engaged in agricultural pursuits in the biographical sketch of his great grandson, Brainard Nelson.

The birthdate of Christian's wife, Felitia Ann Cooper is stated in the sketch of Thomas B Nelson as August 1, 1820 in Rush County, Indiana. She was married to Christian on January 11, 1836 and she died on December 27, 1846. To this union were born five children: Catherine Susan, born January 15, 1837; Thomas B., born March 29, 1839; William Harison, born March 3, 1841; Samuel, born March 10, 18543 who died serving the Union Army at Greenville, Mississippi on June 20, 1864; and James, born March 30, 1845 and who died May 15, 1848.

Christian married his second wife, Mrs. Margaret Brown on June 20, 18483 After Christian's death on April 29, 1866, she then married John Alsmann. Margaret died October 6, 1881. In the last will and testament of Christian Nelson, Margaret was given the house (Lot 46) where they lived in Burlington (now Arlington), Rush County, Indiana. Her husband also gave her a buggy and harness, horse, cow and pigs along with all household and kitchen furniture. He also gave her another property of about ten acres and two US Bond valued about one hundred and fifteen dollars that Christian had received as bounty for his deceased son Samuel. He gave his children Catherine Lee, Thomas Nelson and Harrison Nelson each 80 acres and directed each child to give Margaret One hundred dollars as long as she



Catherine Nelson Lee

Catherine Susan Nelson, the first child of Christian and Felitia Ann Cooper Nelson was born January 15, 1837 per her death certificate with Cerebral Hemorrhage as the cause of death. She died May 8, 1914 and was buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Her future husband Wm "Harlan" joined the Union Army in the fall of 1862 and served in the Twenty-second Indiana Light Artillery till the end of the war. He participated in the siege of Nashville, battles of Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia and Franklin, Tennessee as well as the siege of Atlanta. Catherine married Mr. Lee on August 3, 1865. They first moved to Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana where he was a carpenter and then in March, 1866 to a farm in Tipton County and then in August, 1867, they returned to farming in Posey Township, Rush County and have accumulated 174 acres of land. The couple have seven

children: Adenia, Arthur C., Fannie, Florence, Elzy F., William R., and Thomas R., all living in 1888 except Elzy who died in childhood. Wm "Harlan" joined the Union Army in the fall of William Harlan, born July 8, 1835 died just after his wife on July 7, 1914 and the day before his 79th birthday due to Embolus of the Cerebrum and was buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

William "Rush" Lee, the son of Catherine Nelson and Wm Harlan Lee was born August 24, 1875 in Posey Township, Rush County, Indiana. He was a farmer like his father and grandfather before him. He married Lorena Payne on August 9, 1899 and he was involved in farming. A daughter, Alta May was born to

Nelson Family

couple on June 3, 1901. Rush died February 20, 1918 after just a 24 hour illness. It was discovered that an abscess had formed on his intestines.



THOMAS R. LEE AND FAMILY

Thomas "Royal" Lee was born May 6, 1878 in Posey Township, Rush County, the son of Wm Harlan and Catherine Nelson Lee. Royal was also a farmer. He married Ruth A. Addison on October 2, 1901, the daughter of Jefferson and Elizabeth M. (Cathon) Addison. To this Union was born Mabel on January 6, 1904 and Harlan, born June 26, 1906. "Roy" died a tragic death when his gun discharged when he climbed over a gate when out cutting weeds. He took the gun to shoot groundhogs which had infested the farm. His wife and son, who worked at the Arlington canning factory came home at the end of the day and a search was started at nightfall when he still had not come in for the evening. Both the son Harlan and daughter, Mabel Marshall lived at home at the time of his death. His wife, Ruth Addison Lee was born January 29, 1885 in Hancock County, Indiana. She died at her home northwest of Occident, Rush County, Indiana on March 5, 1952 after an illness of six months. Harlan lived at home with his mother and daughter, Mabel Whiteman lived at Monon.

Adenia Lee, daughter of Wm Harlan and Catherine Nelson Lee was born on January 11, 1867 in Tipton County, Indiana. She became the second wife of Alonzo P. Ellison on September 16, 1903. To this union was born: Floyd, Beulah and Allen. They lived in Walker Township and Alonzo died on January 28, 1933 of complication of diseases. He had three children by his first wife: Frank E., Charles and Sarah Lucille. Adenia passed away on April 29, 1941 and they are both buried in Rushville East Hill Cemetery. Floyd was married to Faith Davis, well known Rush County Music teacher; Allen married Julia Kathryn Haehl and Beulah was married to Clifford Mauzy.



Adenia Ellison with Beulah and Floyd



William Harlan and Catherine Lee Family

Left to Right by Couples: Arthur and Maude Lee, Rush and Lorena Lee, Royal and Ruthie Anna Lee, Fannie and Dr. Allen Benjamin, Florence and Lee Henderleiter, Adenia Lee.

Seated: William Harlan and Catherine Nelson Lee - about 1900

Christian Nelson Family

Arthur C. Lee was born April 13, 1869 and died August 14, 1926 at the age of 57. He was married to Maude B. Conoway on February 28, 1892. They had 3 children: Chester Lee who died in 1927 after surgery for an ulcerated stomach, Mrs. Virgil (Lillian) Junken and Miss Dorothy Lee. Arthur was very active in the Arlington Christian Church. Maude was the daughter of Samuel C. and Phoebe Allender Conoway. She passed away on January 5, 1961 and they were both buried at the Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Thomas Nelson, oldest son of Christian and Felitia volunteered his services to the Union Army in Company F, Sixteenth Indiana Infantry where he served a one year enlistment period. Just four days after his return from service, he married Phebe Ball on June 5, 1862. Phebe was born in Posey Township, Rush County, Indiana on March 11, 1843, the daughter of Henry and Harriet (Smith) Ball, both native of Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Thomas B. Nelson was a farmer who came to own 320 acres with 270 being cultivated. The couple had seven children: Charles W., William C., Catherine S., Thomas C., James O., Harry H., and John O. The Nelsons were members of the Friend's Church. Thomas B. died March 9, 1899 at his home near Carthage, Rush County, Indiana. His obituary cited consumption as the cause; however, the death certificate lists Tuberculosis. Interment was made in Arlington East Hill Cemetery, Arlington, Indiana.

Phebe Ball Nelson lived until February 6, 1932. Cause of death was listed as Arteriosclerosis with Acute Enteritis as contributory reason. She too was buried at Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Five of her children were living at the time: Oscar of Fenton, Michigan, Thomas C. of Charlottesville, Harry of Carthage, William of near Carthage and Mrs. Catherine Bates of Indianapolis.

Thomas C. Nelson, son of Thomas B. and Phebe Ball Nelson, was born December 25, 1871. He was a merchant in Charlottesville, Indiana and was married to Henrietta Winslow January 28, 1898. Henrietta was born September 22, 1872, the daughter of Henry and Sallie Winslow. Thomas and Henrietta were the parents of the following children: Phoebe Hunt of Charlottesville, William Henry of Charlottesville, Robert of Syracuse, New York in 1937 and Baldwinville, NJ in 1952, Charles of Markleville, and Thomas of Charlottesville in 1937 and Rural Route Carthage. Thomas C. died October 19, 1952 and Henrietta died October 11, 1937, both being buried at the Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

John O. Nelson was born in Rush County, Indiana on March 29, 1939, the youngest son of Thomas B. and Phebe Ball Nelson. He was united in marriage to Lulu Unger on February 4, 1900 and they had three children: Walter of Carthage and both Roy and William of South Bend. He died March 9, 1899 after a long illness and was buried in the Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

William Harrison Nelson was born March 3, 1842, the son of Christian and Felitia Ann Cooper Nelson. William not only was a farmer and owner of 1,100 acres of land, 900 in Rush County and 200 in Shelby County. He was also Director of Arlington Bank. On September 29, 1861 he married Elizabeth Adams, the daughter of Jesse and Emilia Allender Adams. To this union were born seven children: Adella, Millie, Margaret, Jesse, John, Myrta and Fannie. William Harrison died September 3, 1914 from Cancer of the Throat and was buried in the East Hill Cemetery in Arlington.

Christian Nelson Family



William Harrison and Elizabeth Adams Nelson

Millie Viola Nelson, daughter of Wm Harrison and Elizabeth Adams Nelson, was born about 1864. She married James O. Draper on February, 1883. James was born February 17, 1862 in Posey Township, Rush County, Indiana and was a farmer and owned 159 acres. He also had an interest in horse raising. The children of this family are: Olive, Cora, Nellie, Waldo, Pearl, Alphonso, Ozro, Millie and Emerson. Viola passed away March 23, 1936 and James on June 10, 1941 and both are interred at Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Daughter of William Harrison and Elizabeth Nelson, Margaret, was born March 5, 1866 and died July, 1901. She was married to Perry Collins who was a Rush County farmer who died on his 85th birthday anniversary. (October 3, 1861-October 3, 1946) Helen Bagwell of Marion, Grant County, Indiana and Claude Collins also of Marion were their children.

Jesse A. Nelson was born December 27, 1867 in Rush County, Indiana, the fourth child of Wm Harrison Nelson and Elizabeth Adams. He married Katie Price on March 27, 1890. She was the daughter of Elihu Price and Mary Reddick. He owned 160 acres of land and was a stock raiser – cattle, horses, and hogs. Their children from this marriage are Bessie (Mrs. Roland Earnest) who was born June 23, 1891, Brainard born May 26, 1893 and Warren born October 28, 1897. Jesse passed away January 5, 1933 and was buried at Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

John A. Nelson was born November 6, 1869 on the same farm as he died, the son of Harrison and Elizabeth Adams Nelson. He married Murley F. Offutt on March 13, 1899, who was born July 28, 1870 and the daughter of George W. and Josephine Beckner Offutt. They had one son, Sabert Denning Nelson. Murley's death was on March 11, 1941 and John on November 29, 1951 with burial for both in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Sabert Denning was born June 25, 1902 and he married Helen E. Mull on June 27, 1925. Denning was a prominent Rush County Farmer and vice-president and director of the Arlington State Bank. To this union was born John William Nelson on October 16, 1929 in Shelby County. John was a four year veteran of the United States Air Force having served in Korea and graduate of Purdue University. He was director and president of the Arlington State Bank and district representative of the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance. John married Marge Eggers on September 19, 1954 and they had the following children: Cynthia, Carol, Claire, Christie, Scott D. and Erik J. Nelson.

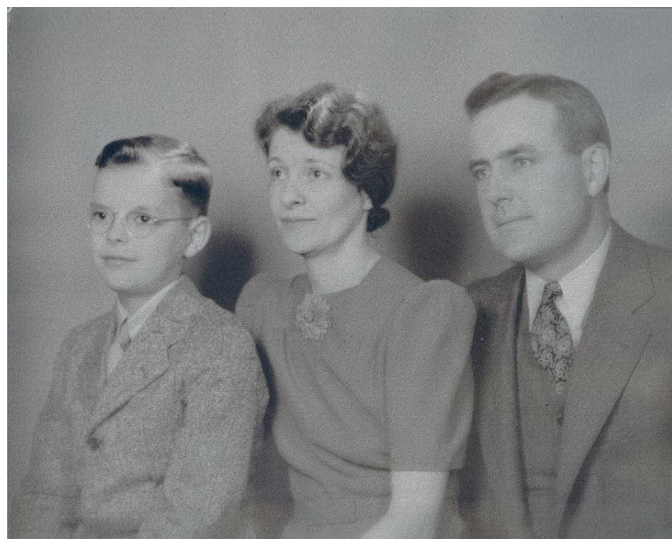
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Our Mission:

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



John William, Helen (Mull) and Sabert Denning Nelson



Denning Nelson Home, 1958, Arlington

Myrta (Mertie) Nelson was born May 22, 1871 to Wm Harrison and Elizabeth Nelson. She married Henry G. Conaway on December 31, 1891 who was the son of John M. and Asenath Ball Conaway, born February 14, 1868. He went to Colorado at one point, but returned to Rush County and started out with buying a farm of forty acres. He made improvements in buildings, equipment and livestock, making his operation a success. The Conaways owned 205 acres of Posey Township land. Myrtie passed away August 23, 1949 and was entombed in the East Hill Shrine Mausoleum and Henry departed this life on March 30, 1954 and was also entombed beside his wife.

Fannie Nelson was born June 10, 1874, daughter of Wm Harrison and Elizabeth Nelson. She married Noah O. Moore on March 9, 1900. Noah was born February 18, 1876 and was the son of John F. and Rachel A. (Leisure) Moore. He was a farmer and they owned 204 acres of land in Posey Township, Rush County, Indiana. Noah died in 1921 of cancer and Fannie passed away from a stroke on March 18, 1933. Two children were born to this marriage: Wildean O. "Bill" and John Leroy. Bill was a well driller and married Wilna Mae Tribby on May 3, 1931. They had four sons and three daughters: William, Larry, Jerry, Richard, Elizabeth, Gwendolyn and Marlene. John Leroy died at age 30 on August 24, 1945 from Hodgkin's Disease. He was married to Ruby Linville and they had two children: John O. and Colleen Moore.