

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

2020 has seen quite a change in how people join with each other. Thanks to Marilyn Yeager and Carol Jones for getting us set up with Zoom Meetings so we can continue our meetings. Thanks goes to Marilyn for making herself available to do practice sessions with our speakers.

We will have just one more meeting this year—November 14th. This will be a regular business meeting. We will have a topic with discussion around it. Very important - Election of 2021 Officers will be held.

James F. Harcourt Family



James F. Harcourt



Harriet Keeler Harcourt

James F. Harcourt, was born January 27, 1831, the son of Richard and Mary Harcourt. Richard was born in 1801 who had come to Anderson Township in 1821 with his brother John and widowed mother Betsy Lee Harcourt and two sisters. Richard married Mary Bryson in 1826 and moved to a farm in Orange township. The couple had nine children, the oldest John Bryson, Nathaniel, Mary Ann, Rebecca, Rachael, Emaline and two children that died young. Besides farming the Flatrock farm, Richard also had a tannery.

James married Harriet Keeler on November 21, 1852, Nathaniel married Lucinda Camerer and John never married. Sister Mary Ann married a McCarty, Rebecca a McVey, Rachael to Will Adler and Emaline married Lewis Dunn.

James has good mechanical ability. He created several wheat drills, improving upon each. In 1866 he receives a United States Patent on his drill which he called "The Young Hoosier". He and Nathaniel became partners and made these drills for sale to the public. Demand became so great that James purchase the old Scull Carding Mill to build drills in a larger scale. He paid \$5,000 for the 42.5 acres which included a dam-race, a 3 story mill structure and a 5 room house.

James was elected Justice of the Peace and sworn in April 29, 1864 and his commission was signed by Governor Oliver P. Morton.

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They advertised in the Rushville Republican that he had purchased the old mill and would be able to turn a saw log into a three or five hoed drill. The mill had an undershot water wheel which powered sash saws and early turning lathes. They employed 12-15 men usually and most of the drills were taken to St. Paul and shipped by rail to other parts of the United States.

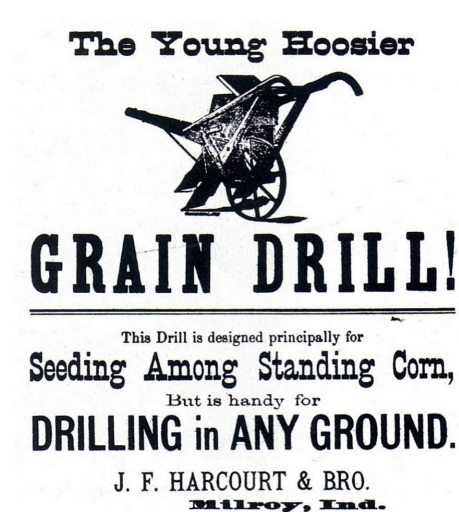
In 1870, business was going well and James many times needed to go to Hamilton or Cincinnati for iron castings or bolts. On one of these trips, he had a glass eye fitted as he had been kicked by a horse in his youth. He had worn a full beard and he got a clean shave and headed home. Arriving home at evening, his wife was reluctant to let him in as she did not recognize him.

James and Harriet had ten children: Melissa was married to John Hungerford, Alonzo to Mary Owens, Elmaza to John Hardwick, Ed to Martha Hodge, Luther to Verna Thresher, Lucy to Bert Orme, Wilbur to Mayme Barlow, Owen to Stella Brown and Ira to Addie Kney. (Mary died at a young age.)

Harriet was a very busy woman and a good manager. In addition to raising their nine children, she furnished the noon meal for the factory workers. In many cases, the workers were relative and neighbors. Emma Kelley was the daughter of Harriet's cousin and was an orphan at age 15. She came and lived with them for nine years. She became the wife of Robert Stewart. Harriet studied Godey's Lady Books and would make dress patterns from pictures for women in the community. She was noted as an artist for her oil paintings.

Washing clothes for that many children was a big job so James made a large washing machine with a large tub with a handle connected to operating the agitator. It did a good job, but required a strong man to operate the handle. He got a patent on it and produced it for sale as well.

As the family grew and finances got better, they bought an acre of ground and built a fine new home on it in 1880-1881. They hired Park Washburn to build the house, one of the best carpenters in the area who had just completed a fine home in Greensburg. The home had 12 rooms, a slate roof and shutters inside and outside. It was ornamented with cast iron grill-work and was considered the finest home in Orange township.



There was not record of how many drills were produced. The Rushville Republican said in 1878 that the Harcourt Drills were "Going in all Directions". In 1879 it was said that he had sold 400 drills and in 1886 he sold 300 of the 3 hoed and many 5 hoed drills. These were going from St. Paul to a distributor in Indianapolis named H. C. Conde. The wholesale price at the factory in 1885 was \$8.96 a drill. On August 19, 1893, he had trouble with an employee who was noted for his use of strong drink. The man lived in a small house south of the factory. In the night the factory and storage building burned to the ground. Evidence indicated an arsonist had done this. James was in failing health and decided not to re-build his factory. James died the next year,

October 12, 1894. He was buried in the McCarty/McCarter graveyard.

Harriet Harcourt passed away on April 17, 1917 at the home of her son Ira Harcourt in Orange Township, four miles west of Milroy from a complication of diseases. She too was buried in the McCarter Cemetery and her obituary indicates that just seven of her children are still living.

James and Harriet's first child was born November 6, 1853 and she was named Mary. She died on May 8, 1856 and was buried in the McCarter Cemetery in Rush County, Indiana.



Melissa Harcourt Hungerford

The couple's second child was Melissa Harcourt and she was born March 3, 1856. She was married to John Hungerford on September 17, 1876 in Rush County. They lived in Orange Township and were members of Flat Rock Christian Church. John was born September 8, 1877 and was a farmer. He also served one term as Orange Township Trustee. To this union was born two sons, Leslie and Bert. John died January 9, 1929 and Melissa passed away on her birthday in 1938. Both were buried in the McCarty/McCarter Cemetery. Their son Bert was a teacher and later engaged in farming. For a period of 1905 to 1914, Bert lived in North Dakota. He was married to Stella Conn who died March of 1937. Bert passed away September 5, 1959. Their second son was named Leslie and he was a farmer who was married to Emma Catherine Kney. Their 8-year-old son, Archie, died in 1915 of Appendicitis. Leslie passed on March 12, 1950 and Emma on December 13, 1967. They were buried in McCarty/McCarter Cemetery.

Alonzo Harcourt was born May 15, 1857 and was a farmer in Orange Township. Lon as he was called married to Mary 'Mollie' Owens on October 5, 1882. They had one son named Earl. Alonzo died at the age of 81 years old on December 4, 1937 at his home and Mary expired August 23, 1942 at the home of her son. They had four grandsons: Robert L., Maurice, Kermit and Paul.

The fourth child of James F. and Harriet Harcourt was Elmazy and she was born October 11, 1859. She was first married On February 19, 1879 to Monroe Hungerford, the brother of her sister's husband, John Hungerford. They had two daughters Lola and Edith. Monroe passed away in 1882 and was buried in McCarter Cemetery. Elmazy later married John Hardwick in 1888 and they lived at 501 N. Arthur Street in Rushville. He was a carpenter and died September 5, 1931 from Liver Cancer. Two daughters were born to this union: Jessie and Blanche. Elmazy died December 31, 1941 at the home of her daughter, Lola Alexander in Orange Township. Lola was born March 3, 1880 and she married Lora Alexander in 1901. She was survived by Marjorie (Myron) Baringer of Terre Haute, Dorothy (Lowell) Gosnell, R. 4, Rushville, Merle, R. 1, Silver Lake, and Estell of Rushville. Lora was a farmer, the son of William and Emily Jane Lower Alexander. Lora died April 1, 1947 and Lola died January 12, 1973 and entombment was in the East Hill Shrine Mausoleum.

Elmazy and Monroe's second daughter, Edith was born April 7, 1882. She married Benjamin Hartzell and they made their home in Anderson. Benjamin worked at the Remy Electric plant in Anderson, Indiana. The morning of February 21, 1924, Benjamin was killed when his car was struck and demolished by the westbound Big Four passenger train in the east part of Anderson on his way to work. His body was badly mangled, his neck broken and his left foot severed. The couple had four children: Georgia, Pauline, Glen and Russell. Edith passed away May 22, 1969 and they are both buried at the East Maplewood Cemetery in Anderson.

Jessie Hardwick was born October 14, 1887 and she was first married to Roscoe Morgan who was electrocuted on July 7, 1917 when he fell into wires when up on a ladder at work at Hydro-Electric company at Connersville. The had one son, Roscoe Wilfred Morgan. She later married Clarence E. Sampson in 1920 and they lived at 516 Central Avenue in Anderson where he worked 28 years for the Container Corporation there. Clarence died July 11, 1962. He had a surviving daughter by his first marriage was Jean (Carter) Sidebottom of Rushville. Both Jessie and Clarence were interred at East Hill Cemetery.

Blanche May Hardwick was born November 7, 1889 and she married Dale Jackson who was a barber at Rushville before he became ill and died on January 10, 1930 from Tuberculosis. They had one daughter, Helen who later was married to Joe Heckman. Blanche died at the St. John's Hospital in Anderson of myocarditis on November 16, 1946. She was buried at Rushville's East Hill Cemetery.



INVENTOR'S SON—L. E.
Harcourt, Milroy, worked in his
father's drill factory on Flat
Rock river.

The fifth child born to James and Harriet Harcourt was Lewis Edgar (Ed) who was born October 16, 1862 in Orange Township. He worked at his father's drill factory until he was 23 years old. He then rented his father's farm in Anderson Township until his father's death when he was given 40 acres. He added to the by purchase the adjoining 40 acres. Later selling this 80 acres, he bought a farm of 117 acres. He served on the advisory board for Anderson Township. Ed married Martha Hodges in 1886 and they had five children: Faud, Ertel, Callie, Clifford and Jewel (died at a young age).

Faude Harcourt was born February 7, 1887. He was married Nellie Whiteman in 1910. She died April 12, 1915 from peritonitis after the birth of her daughter, Lois on April 8, 1915. Faude later Marie Newhouse in 1925. He worked at the Union State Bank in Morristown for 49 years and Marie worked there as well. Faude passed away on February 17, 1974 and Marie died in December, 1992 and they are buried at the Asbury Cemetery in Morristown.

Ertle Harcourt was born in Anderson Township. June 30, 1888 and was a farmer who married Grace Kiplinger on April 25, 1920. Ertle died at the age of 47 in 1936 and Grace died July 1, 1972 and they are both buried at the Milroy Cemetery. They had one son, Louis E. Harcourt.

The third son was Calla Vincent and he was born August 3, 1890 and was married to Helen Mills in 1925. In 1956 Calla and his son Conrad began a business in a chicken coop that grew to the successful Harcourt Outlines that makes pencils and notebooks along with many other school supplies. Conrad died at just age 47 of a heart attack, but his daughter, Jean Ann and son, Joe, took the reins and have grown the business.



Clifford Dan Harcourt was born March 25, 1894 and during his youth was a well-known basketball and baseball player. He married Carrie Brown and he was a farmer. Carrie died in January, 1992 and they are buried at the Milroy Cemetery.

The next children were a set of Twins. They were born on October 28, 1865 – Lucy and Luther Leslie were their names. Lucy was married to Elbert (Bert) Orme and they had three children: Iva, Chase, and Nettie May. Iva was born in 1887 and was married to Claude Smith. Chase was born in 1889 and considered “feeble-minded” and at age seventeen, he wandered off and fell into a stream and was drowned. Nettie was born in 1892 and was married to Russell Glendenning. During World War I, she was employed in the U. S. Naval Shipyard and Glen served in the US Army. Russell served as police chief under two mayors. He owned and operated the Glendenning Liquor Store for 30 years.

Luther was married first to Verna Thresher in 1895 and they had one son, Dora Dailey born in 1896. He had a store in Milroy and the Post Office was part of this store. He married second to Melissa Conrad. Luther died April 2, 1920.

The eighth child of James and Harriet Harcourt was Wilbur Thomas born June 11, 1869. He was a farmer and blacksmith and lived in Milroy. He married Mayme Barlow in 1896 and they had one son, Norman who was a druggist that had a store in Milroy and later in Liberty, Indiana. Wilbur passed away November 24, 1943 and his wife Mayme on March 3, 1928 of dropsy and heart trouble. Moscow Cemetery, Section 1, Row 9 is their burial site.

Owen Harcourt was born December 6, 1871. He was married to Estella Brown on July 4, 1894 and they lived two miles east of Milroy. Two children were born to the marriage, one of whom died in infancy.

Ira Harcourt was born August 18, 1875 and married Addie Kney in 1902. They couple lived three and a half miles northwest of Milroy and they had one daughter, Opal who married Bonnell Boring. Ira died September 18, 1958 after a six-year period of bad health. Addie died October 28, 1963 and they are both entombed in East Hill Shrine Mausoleum.

Bonnell Boring died on January 15, 1975 at the age of 78 when his pickup collided into a tractor- trailer that was making a u-turn and had gotten stuck on the berm. Bonnell was killed instantly. He was born October 24, 1896 in Rush County, the son of Francis and Mary Harcourt Boring. He was a farmer and had married Opal on January 31, 1931. The couple had two daughters, Patricia (Merrill) Carrigan and Jenny (Richard) Egan. Their son Richard had passed away in 1957. Pat passed away May 2, 2020 due to Covid-19. She graduated from Earlham College and Mount Holyoke College and enjoyed being a housewife and mother of five. They made their home in the Harcourt family historic Victorian home – the fourth generation to live there. After the children were grown, she tutored English to spouses of the Japanese executives at Fujitsu Ten in Rushville. She followed in her mother, Opal’s interest in genealogy and was a member of the Rushville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



**RUSH COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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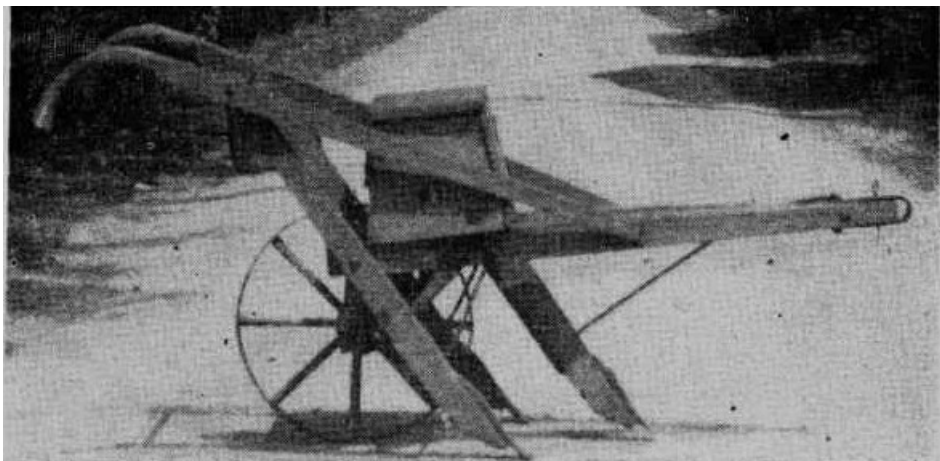
www.rcgsociety.org

Our Mission:

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



Four Generations - Bert Hungerford, Harriet (Keeler) Harcourt,
Baby is Vaugh Hungerford, and Melissa (Harcourt) Hungerford



GRAIN DRILL, 1866 MODEL—The Hoosier Grain Drill pictured is now in the Rush County Historical Museum, presented by Ira Harcourt of Milroy, a son of the inventor.