

Rush County Genealogical Society

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Rush County Families

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Parthenia Nicholas

Parthenia Nicholas's photograph can be found on the top row of the Old Settlers of Rush County No. 2 compilation. Very likely, her family's influence and connections in the early days of the County are being honored with her inclusion in the photo array. Parthenia was the daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Wilson) Conde and second wife of War of 1812 veteran Joseph Nicholas.

The Conde family is believed to be of French Huguenot origins who fled persecution by first relocating to Holland and then to the Rensselaer area of New York. The early New York Conde family was large resulting in a multitude of early progenitors who also produced large families. Adam Conde was one of 12 children born to Jesse and Parthenia (Ogden) Conde who settled in Charlton, New York. After the birth of ten children, Adam and Elizabeth are next found living in Kentucky. And it was in Campbell County, Kentucky, that young Parthenia Conde married Thomas Wilhoit on February 21, 1821.

A daughter and a son were born to Parthenia and Thomas before Thomas passed away in 1826. It was not long afterwards, that the young widow Parthenia and her two children followed her parents to Rush County, Indiana. Once in Rush County, Parthenia made the acquaintance of Joseph Nicholas, also a young widower with a small child. Joseph had previously married Sally Ewick on July 6, 1824. Researchers believe that Sally died shortly after the birth of the couple's son on November 9, 1825. Perhaps feeling they had much in common, Joseph and Parthenia were married on February 6, 1827 in Rush County.

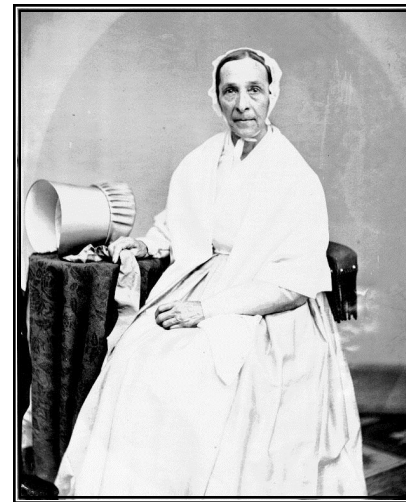
Joseph and Parthenia lived a long life together from that day forward until Joseph's death on August 6, 1870 at the age of 75. Three of Joseph and Parthenia's five children lived to a mature age, and two are known to have married and had children of their own. None, however, are known to be buried near their parents in Rush County. Parthenia did live for a time with her widowed daughter, Sarah Josephine Eddy, and grandchildren in Indianapolis after Joseph's death. Although Parthenia's death was reported in Richmond, Indiana, on July 8, 1887, at "*the ripe age of 89 years - almost three score and ten of scripture,*" she was interred beside her husband Joseph at East Hill Cemetery in Rushville.



Buildings and Businesses

Ripley Township was one of the original six townships created within the boundaries of Rush County. Located in the northwest corner of Rush County, Ripley Township is bordered on the north by Henry County, on the west by Hancock County, on the south by Posey Township of Rush County and on the east by Center Township, Rush County. After the first land sales in 1820, Ripley township became one the most populated townships in Rush County. The Big Blue River flows through the township from northeast to southwest, leaving well-drained, fertile land for farming.

Located in the center of the township, the town of Carthage, which grew to be the second largest town in Rush County by the 1920s, was first platted in 1834. The plat contained 16



Lucretia Henley Hill
dau of Joseph Henley and wife of Henry B. Hill



Main Street looking north
Carthage, Indiana

lots, eight on each side of Main Street, and three cross streets: First, Second and Third. Predominantly populated by Quaker families from North Carolina, some of the first community buildings were a Friends Meeting House and school. Stores and services to meet the needs of the growing township were added as the population increased.

One of the largest businesses, employing up to 150 people, was the U.S. Board & Paper Company. Maurice Lewman writes on his website, “. . . it was referred to as the Straw Board. This was because they used large amounts of straw to make the paper. The straw was mixed with scrap paper to make paper for cardboard boxes. There were five or six huge piles of straw piled up like pyramids on the property. For whatever reason, a pile would catch on fire. The heat was terrific but two houses that were a hundred feet from the one pile never caught fire.” In

2007, the closing of the plant was announced, after having been open since 1891.

The railroad was once a boon to the town and township, bringing in people and services through a station on the Big Four line. It was eventually replaced by the automobile and by trucks which run over roads that don't necessarily go through Carthage. While the farms are just as fertile in the township, the town has become a shadow of what it once was.

During an oral history interview in 1980 by the Junior Historical Society, A. J. Carr, a former Carthage citizen was asked, “What do you think is the best thing about having lived in a small town like Carthage?” And Mr. Carr answered: “Oh, I think it's the compatibility. I think it's good for the children; it's good for knowing your neighbors and I think it's being able to be a little bit slower, you're not as much tension. I think there's a lot of advantages.”



**REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS:
IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!**

Meeting Notes

We wish to extend our thanks to member Joel David. Joel gave us a very informative talk about his research and work to preserve the David family cemetery plot in Jackson Township. Thank you, Joel!

* * * * *

Plans are now in the works to host an informal roundtable during February. A panel is being formed of long-time residents of Rush County to reminisce about days of yesteryear in Rush County.

* * * * *

RCGS was contacted by Donald Craig, a Craig family researcher from Indianapolis. Donald has been researching his Craig family from Rush and Shelby counties since 2005. In an effort to share the Craig family history and to perhaps network with any other Craig researchers, Donald wished to visit RCGS to make a presentation of his work. We hope you will join us in welcoming Donald to our May meeting.

* * * * *

We wish to thank Bill Baetz for all his hard work on our website. A new Obituaries List has been added and other pages are being kept up-to-date. Thanks, Bill!

* * * * *

The election of officers for 2015 was held at the November meeting. We wish to thank all of our officers for their service and willingness to remain an officer for 2015. There was one change of position: Karen Pruet decided she must step down from the position of Historian. We thank her for her years (and years!) of service as our Historian. And we extend our appreciation to Kevin Harr for his willingness to step into the position. Thank you one and all!

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE - NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY HOLIDAY !

100 Years Ago



On Jan. 25, 1915, the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, inaugurated U.S. transcontinental telephone service as part of a demonstration that included dignitaries in New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Jekyll Island, Ga. Bell, in New York at the time, made the first call to Thomas Watson, his former assistant, who was in San Francisco.

The New York Times reported, “On October 9, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A. Watson talked by telephone to each other over a two-mile wire stretched between Cambridge and Boston. It was the first wire conversation ever held. Yesterday afternoon the same two men talked by telephone to each other over a 3,400-mile wire ... They heard each other much more distinctly than they did in their first talk thirty-eight years ago.”

Bell repeated the words of his first-ever telephone call in March 1876, when he said to Watson, standing in another room, “Mr. Watson, come here, I want you.” After hearing those words, Watson ran into Bell’s room saying that he could understand the message. This time, from California, Watson replied, “It would take me a week to get to you this time.”

AT&T, the telephone company that had bought Bell’s phone company in 1899, built the line and began investigating the possibility of a transcontinental line in 1908. At the time, it was impossible, as voices weakened as they traveled along the line, becoming inaudible after long distances. The solution came from Lee De Forest, an inventor who brought to AT&T his “audion,” a high-vacuum tube that amplified the sound of the voice. Harold Arnold of AT&T made significant improvements to the audion and made it practical for a long-distance line.

AT&T began constructing its transcontinental line in 1913 and completed it in June 1914. AT&T’s president completed the first transcontinental test call a month later, but AT&T held off on revealing it to the public until January 1915, ahead of San Francisco’s Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/25/jan-25-1915-alexander-graham-bell-demonstrates-atts-transcontinental-telephone-line/>

Though he is credited with its invention, Alexander Graham Bell refused to have a telephone in his study, fearing it would distract him from his scientific work.



The New York Times, Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 31:

THE PASSAGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The great feature of the existing rebellion was the passage to-day by the House of Representatives of the resolutions submitting to the Legislatures of the several States an amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery. It was an epoch in the history of the country, and will be remembered by the members of the House and spectators present as an event in their lives. At 3 o'clock, by general consent, all discussion having ceased, the preliminary votes to reconsider and second the demand for the previous question were agreed to by a vote of 113 yeas, to 58 nays; and amid profound silence the Speaker announced that the yeas and nays would be taken directly upon the pending proposition. During the call, when prominent Democrats voted aye, there was suppressed evidence of applause and gratification exhibited in the galleries, but it was evident that the great interest centered entirely upon the final result, and when the presiding officer announced that the resolution was agreed to by yeas 119, nays 56, the enthusiasm of all present, save a few disappointed politicians, knew no bounds, and for several moments the scene was grand and impressive beyond description. No attempt was made to suppress the applause which came from all sides, every one feeling that the occasion justified the fullest expression of approbation and joy.

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0131.html#article>

The 13th Amendment

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The 13th Amendment was passed by the Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified by the states on December 6, 1865

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/13thamendment.html>

TO EMPLOYEE

Read carefully all instructions in this folder before starting to fill out form. Treasury Regulations require completion and return of this form to your local postmaster not later than December 31, 1936.

FORM SS-5
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER

#10

PRINT NAME

1. (EMPLOYEE'S FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE NAME) (LAST NAME)
(MARRIED WOMEN: GIVE MAIDEN FIRST NAME, MAIDEN LAST NAME, AND HUSBAND'S LAST NAME)

2. (STREET AND NUMBER) 3. (POST OFFICE) (STATE)

4. (BUSINESS NAME OF PRESENT EMPLOYER) 5. (BUSINESS ADDRESS OF PRESENT EMPLOYER)

6. (AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY) 7. (DATE OF BIRTH: (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) - (SUBJECT TO LATER VERIFICATION)) 8. (PLACE OF BIRTH)

9. (FATHER'S FULL NAME) 10. (MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME)

11. SEX: MALE _____ FEMALE _____ 12. COLOR: WHITE _____ NEGRO _____ OTHER _____
(CHECK (X) WHICH) (CHECK (X) WHICH) (SPECIFY)

13. IF REGISTERED WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD _____

14. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS, STATE _____ (PLACE) (DATE)

15. (DATE SIGNED) 16. (EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE, AS USUALLY WRITTEN)

DETACH ALONG THIS LINE

VOID

Original SS-5 Form from 1936

According to the Social Security Administration, the first Social Security Number was issued sometime in mid-November 1936, and hundreds of thousands of SSNs were probably issued on that same day.

All Social Security numbers have a specific sequence of numbers XXX-XX-XXXX. The first group of three numbers are referred to as the Area Numbers. With a few exceptions, the Area Number represents the State where the applicant was living (his mailing address) when he applied for a Social Security number. This is helpful to genealogists in determining where family members were living at the time they applied for a Social Security number.

However, due to the large quantity of SSNs issued since 1936, the Social Security Administration changed its method of assigning numbers in June of 2011. Since 2011, the assignment of all groups of numbers that make up a Social Security number is completely random to ensure privacy is upheld as well as the Administration's continued ability to issue numbers without having to change the process in the future.

Steve Morse has created a website with a multitude of useful calculators for genealogists. One page of his site offers an easy way to interpret the Area Number.

<http://www.stevemorse.org/ssn/ssn.html>

Should you decide that you would like to obtain a

copy of the application your ancestor submitted, the Social Security Administration will provide you with a copy of a deceased person's application. The application form is called an SS-5. True to governmental form, however, the form to request an application is called an SSA-711, and does require payment. If you know the person's Social Security number, the fee is \$27.00, or \$29.00 if you do not.

The form, fees and instructions can be found at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-711.pdf>

The original SS-5 application will provide you with the applicant's name, address, date and place of birth along with both parent's full name. Additionally, the applicant's employer's name and address was requested.

Keeping in mind that this information is accurate only to the extent of the person providing the information, from a genealogical perspective, it may well be worth the time and expense of obtaining a copy. This caveat is added because one genealogical blogger found that her grandmother provided her grandparents' names as her parents' names in order to conceal her out-of-wedlock birth. While known to not be accurate, this was useful information. However, it is a cautionary tale to others: Simply because it is a governmental form, our ancestors may have had reason to not be entirely forthcoming when providing information.

Our Mission:

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

The Indianapolis Journal, December 1, 1901:

Wedding Superstitions

Relative merits of the various months with regard to matrimony are set forth in the old rhyme which runs:

*Marry when the year is new,
Always loving, kind and true;
When February birds do mate
You may wed, nor dread your fate.
If you wed when March winds blow
Joy and sorrow both you'll know;
Marry in April when you can,
Joy for maiden and for man;
Marry in the month of May,
You will surely rue the day;
Marry when June roses blow,
Over land and sea you'll go.
They who in July do wed,
Must labor always for their bread.
Whoever wed in August be,
Many a change are sure to see.
Marry in September's shine,
Your living will be rich and fine.
If in October you do marry,
Love will come, but riches tarry;
If you wed in Bleak November,
Only joy will come, remember;
When December's snows fall fast
Marry, and true love will last.*

The answer to September's Reader's Challenge:

The Indianapolis & Cincinnati Traction Company, or Interurban, ran an inspection trip on October 28, 1904 and ceased to operate on January 1, 1932. The tracks were taken up by April of 1932 and sold for scrap.

December's Reader's Challenge:

What former Carthage resident wrote the popular Methodist

hymn "Are Ye Able?" in 1926?