

Rush County Genealogical Society

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Rush County People, Buildings and Businesses

Our Officers:

- *President:*
Carol Jones
- *Vice-President:*
Bill Baetz
- *Secretary:*
Katrina Cole-Cooper
- *Treasurer:*
Shirley Biehl
- *Historian:*
Kevin Harr

One common trait of family researchers is our love of old pictures. And it is also said that the best place to begin your venture into your family's history is in your own home. Scour the attic trunks in search of the pictures and papers that were kept through the years for a reason: they are the pieces of your family's story.

In this issue, let's take a peek into some of the pictures found at the Rush County Historical Society. Found among the numerous scrapbooks in the Society's collection, they provide a peek into our ancestors' lives.

The photo at top right, cut from a newspaper, is captioned: This photo is of Lytle's Drug Store on the corner of Third and Main Streets. It would become known as Pitman-Wilson.



These musicians are identified as members of the orchestra at Main Street Christian Church in 1914. Front, left to right: E. C. McMahin, Mrs. Earl Moore, Miss Mary Smith, Orlando Sims; back: Harry Lucas, Claude Owens, Charles Sherman, Harry Kennedy.

Inside this issue:

<i>People, Buildings & Businesses, cont.</i>	2-3
<i>From Our Officers</i>	4
<i>100 Years Ago</i>	5
<i>Brick Wall Tips</i>	6

This photo shows Rushville's fire truck leaving the fire station located on East Third street.



Rush County People, Buildings and Businesses



These horn-players are identified as Roy and Guerney Swain, and the young girl is Matilda Denning.



The snowfall in the Winter of 1908 did not keep Frank Hillis from being out and about around Milroy in his one-cylinder 1908 Reo.



Written on the back of this picture:
Non Coms of B Co. 4 Ind, Aug 1917 at
old Fair grounds, W.W. 1
Top row, left to right: Tom Price, Cleo
Emsweller, Tubby Coons, Charley Pea
2 Row, L. to R.: Donald Newman, -
Cameron - Guy Newman, Harford Sallee
Front: Johny Wilkason

The Historical Society's collection includes postcards and oral histories that contain a wealth of information about your ancestor's lives. Pictured at left is a postcard that we all gravitate to for its picture. Taking a minute to read some of the notes on the back of postcards gives a glimpse and breathes life into the lives of your ancestors or their neighbors.

Franklin McIlwain, a former Rushville postmaster, was interviewed by the Junior Historical Society in 1974. His oral history is on tape at the Historical Society Museum. Excerpts of his interview are transcribed below.

"The first post office was located just north of Flatrock River near the now-named Morgan Street. Charles H. Veeder was postmaster and operated the post office in his home. Mail was first received by horseback on a route which followed a trail through the forest from Indianapolis to Connersville, the mail being carried in saddlebags. In 1831, a stage line began operations from Indianapolis to Cincinnati, through Rushville. Mail service took a step forward with the stage line but the trip from Indianapolis to Cincinnati was said to have been arduous. The journey required two days and two nights and passengers were often required to lend assistance in pushing the stagecoach through the mud. For this, the passenger fare was \$5.50, a goodly sum in those days.

Postage stamps did not appear for general use until 1847, although they were introduced in 1842 in some areas in the East. Before that time, the mayor in Rushville used to tax the postage on a letter, which was one bit, or 4 and ½ cents. And the addressee paid the other half on delivery. This ensured delivery."

"On September 10th, 1850, mail arrived by railroad from Shelbyville. Thus began nearly a century of rail transpor-

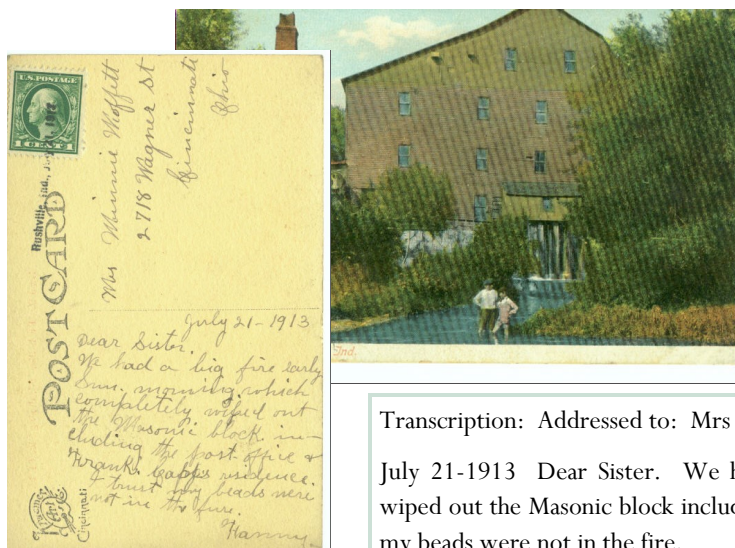


Transcription: Addressed to: Mr. Chas. Hugo, Rushville Ind

Uncle Charley I can not get that other fellow to paper for me If you can get Jim I rather you would Let me know by card tomorrow if you can get him Lola

tation of mails to Rushville." When the railroads discontinued use of the rail lines, the railroads "left a network of connecting lines and enabled the United States post office department to provide the most efficient mail service ever known. Until 1950, city carriers made two trips a day to residential sections. Consequently, a letter mailed in Rushville in the morning would be delivered in nearly all towns and cities within 50 miles that same afternoon. A letter mailed in the morning in New York would be delivered in Rushville the following afternoon. While a letter mailed in New York in the morning would travel to Los Angeles in 53 hours and be delivered in the afternoon of the second day."

"From the early 1920s, no less than 24 trains carrying mail to or through Rushville, operated during a single 24-hour period. However, the number of passenger trains declined gradually from that time until, on January 17, 1951, the last train was removed from the schedules. Thus mail service by train ended for Rushville."



Transcription: Addressed to: Mrs Minnie Moffett, 2718 Wagner St, Cincinnati Ohio

July 21-1913 Dear Sister. We had a big fire early Sun. morning which completely wiped out the Masonic block including the post-office & Frank Capp's residence. I trust my beads were not in the fire. Fanny



Meeting Notes

We were pleased to move some of RCGS's collection of material to the Historical Society Museum for storage and ease of access to other members. We were also pleased to have the Historical Society entrust RCGS with several folders of documents of interest to family researchers. Some of the family names included in the collection of papers include: Caldwell, Mitchell, Spurrier, Diederich/Holbet, Newby, Hiatt/Dunn.

The Historical Society made transcripts of the Bibles in their collection that had any kind of family record. Those families are: Miller, Harrison, Allen, Cassidy/Gruell, Coleman, Cook, Crawford and Henry. And there is an extensive collection of resumes containing biographic material of past RHS Alumni award recipients. Some of the following graduates of RHS include: Green, Kimberling, Bills, Thomas, Moore, Palmer, Harning, Gantner, Moster and Underwood.

A complete list of our holdings will soon be posted to our website.

On the agenda at our November meeting was the election of officers for the coming year. A motion was made to retain all officers in their current positions. The motion was seconded and, as all officers were agreeable, the motion passed. Our thanks to Carol, Bill, Katrina, Shirley and Kevin for your willingness to serve another year.

Also at our November meeting, Kevin Harr presented some of the many pictures of buildings and businesses in and around Rushville over the years. Our thanks go out to Kevin for sharing some of his vast collection.

There will not be a meeting in December.

We wish all of our members a very merry Holiday Season!

From: History.com Staff; History.com, 2009
<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/woodrow-wilson-marries-edith-bolling-galt>



WOODROW WILSON MARRIES EDITH BOLLING GALT

On this day [December 18] in 1915, President Woodrow Wilson marries Edith Galt in Washington, D.C. The bride was 43 and the groom was 59. It was the second marriage for Wilson, whose first wife died the year before from a kidney ailment. Edith, who claimed to be directly descended from Pocahontas, was the wealthy widow of a jewelry-store owner and a member of Washington high society.

According to the National First Ladies' Library, the couple was introduced by his cousin and a mutual friend. Unlike Wilson's first wife, who was shy and avoided politics, Edith shared Wilson's passion for the subject. Wilson proposed three months later and they married at her Washington, D.C. home. As the 1916 presidential campaign heated up, many of Wilson's advisors worried that his whirlwind courtship and marriage to Edith so soon after his first wife's death would become a political liability. By the time of his second inaugural in March 1917, though, Americans soon had more serious matters to think about: America's entry into World War I.

Excerpt from: South Bend News-Times, Tuesday, December 21, 1915; <https://newspapers.library.in.gov/>

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Dec. 21 -

The happy couple have remained secluded in their closely guarded apartments or hidden away in a high-powered automobile which eats up the roads at a 50-mile an hour clip, ever since they reached here on Sunday. And the crowd of 100 winter guests at the hotel, and the residents of the vicinity who come from as far away as 25 miles hoping to catch a glimpse of the newly wedded pair, have had to content themselves with a very hasty look at long range as they enter the auto.

It had been reported that the president and Mrs. Wilson would play golf before breakfast today.

In consequence of this many early rising requests were left at the hotel desk than ever before in its history. And golf clubs were at a premium, every one at the hotel seemingly being anxious to get a set. But there was nothing doing. Neither the president nor his bride put in an appearance, though there are reasons to believe that they had a quiet smile over the occurrence inasmuch as the golf links are directly in front of the sitting room windows of their suite."

Picture from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/99403197/>



Excerpted from: *Determining Your Own Migration Trail*, Casefile Clues by Michael John Neill, Vol 1, No. 48, 27 June 2010:

“A knowledge of major trails and routes are helpful, but it’s important to note that most of us have ancestors who were parts of ‘chains of migration’ where the common bond was often shared culture or heritage.

How are these migration chains determined? Often it requires a study of the ancestor’s ethnic group and what factors might have caused him to settle in the area where he did. . . . Keep in mind that if your ancestor was a part of a migration chain that settled an area that the migration might have taken place over a period of a few years or a few decades.”

“County histories can provide potential leads on other individuals who might have taken the same path of migration as your ancestor. The ability to perform full-text searches of county histories makes it easier than ever before to determine if there are others who might have ended up in the same location as your ancestor. The family of James and Elizabeth Rampley left Coshocton County, Ohio for Hancock County, Illinois, in the late 1840s. Performing full text searches of Hancock County histories for the word “Coshocton” might reveal biographies of other Hancock County residents that mention this word.”

“Rootsweb’s WorldConnect is fraught with the pitfalls one encounters in any compiled database. However, because of the search structure on the advanced search page it does

offer the user the ability to get creative. Search the database without entering in any names at all. If your ancestor was born in Harford County, Maryland and died in Coshocton County, Ohio, search the database for individuals with that place of birth and that place of death. Searching without names will reveal other submissions who have the same beginning and ending points as your ancestor.”

“Finding where they are from is not the only problem with migrating ancestors. There are times where they simply “evaporate” after a certain point in time. Sometimes they might have died in the very location where they had always lived, only to leave no record. Other times they headed off to greener pastures and perceived opportunities. Finding where those locations are can be difficult but researchers have some options.”

“The Last Deed. . . .Is there a power of attorney recorded right before the deed? That power of attorney might be what the ancestor drew up to allow someone who stayed ‘home’ to sell his property after he left.”

“Receipts in the Probate. Did the evaporating ancestor leave behind parents or other family from whom he might inherit? Have you been through all the accountings to see if there are any clues about his whereabouts? Do receipts indicate a date and a location?”

“Newspapers. Do newspapers mention the individual coming back to visit relatives? If so, the new residence might be listed. If the time is recent enough, obituaries of family members who never left the area might mention locations of those who moved.”

“How to Think About the New Location. . . . A more successful and realistic approach is to ask, “What records in the ‘old’ location might reveal the ancestor’s new location? . . . Exhausting records in the ‘old’ place is usually a good first step in locating where the disappearing ancestor went. Failing that, determining places where groups of people from the ‘old’ location went is an excellent next step.”

**RUSH COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 54
Rushville, IN 46173
rcgsociety@gmail.com

www.rushcogs.com

Our Mission:

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



“Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are; and, as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many...”

William Bradford, *Bradford: Of Plymouth Plantation*