

# Rush County Genealogical Society

VOLUME , ISSUE

2016

## Upcoming Events

### Our Officers:

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

November 12, 2016 Meeting – Presentation by Jeannie Regan-Dinius, the Director of Special Initiatives for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. Among her many duties includes researching the location of all cemeteries in the state and surveying them, organizing the statewide preservation conference and maintaining the DNR online database of sites, structures and cemeteries. Jeannie has been our guest speaker previously and is so interesting. Come hear her speak about cemeteries.

December, 2016 - No meeting

### \*\*\*2017 Schedule\*\*\*

January 14, 2017 Meeting – Marilyn Gray Roberts to speak on the history of Mays and northern Rush County.

February 11, 2017 – Working meeting – bring your family information and work in the Library’s Indiana Room. If you are stuck, bring what you have and we will brainstorm what other ways you might try to get the information.

March 11, 2017 - tentative - Joan Hostetler on Identifying and Preserving Old Photos.

April 8, 2017 – Working Meeting

May 13, 2017 – tentative – Presentation about Orange township, Gowdy/Moscow area.

June 10, 2017 – Field Trip to a cemetery – learn do’s and don’ts for cemetery research. Marilyn Yager to organize.

July, 2017 – No Meeting

August 12, 2017 – Genealogy Library Trip - perhaps Cincinnati.

September 9, 2017 – Working Meeting

October 14, 2017 - Historic Home Tour - Katrina Cooper to organize

November 11, 2017 – Presentation – Carol Jones to secure speaker

December, 2017 – No Meeting

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### Inside this issue:

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Click “okay”

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*Thank you in advance for your contribution.*

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## Rush County People, Buildings and Businesses



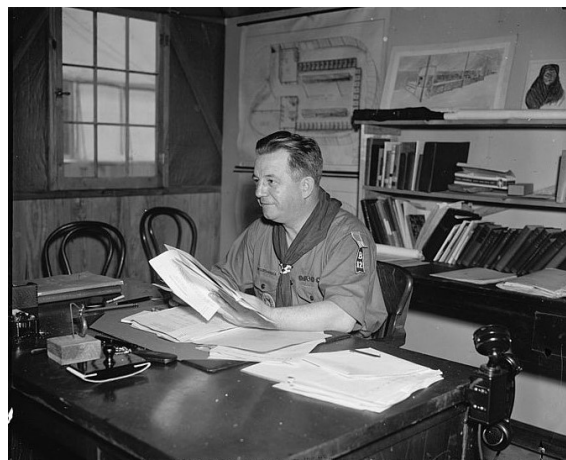
Harvey Adam Gordon was born January 19, 1884 near Raleigh in Rush County, Indiana. He was the son of Adam Oscar and Minora J. Smith Gordon. He graduated from Raleigh High School and later worked as a field manager for Prudential Insurance Company in Philadelphia. He was appointed deputy field commissioner for the third district and began as a Pittsburgh scoutmaster in May of 1913. He was considered one of the ablest scout officials in the area. Earlier in the year he had directed a campaign for the BSA where \$23,000 was raised for a three-year scouting program when \$15,000 had been the goal. In 1917 the Manhattan Borough Council of Greater New York called Mr. Gordon as field executive.

In the middle of the 1920's scouting was growing at a tremendous pace. There was a group of New York men called the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York who dreamed of acres of unspoiled woodlands to be used by Boy Scouts for underprivileged youth campers, mainly from New York City. A man of great foresight and an abundance of Boy Scout training, Franklin D. Roosevelt, founded the group in 1922 and later became the president in 1929. One of his goals was to find a permanent camp for the

ever increasing number of scouts.

Around 1924 the Foundation began its search for acreage that would contain lakes, streams and timberland and a few main roads in relative isolation from settled communities, but accessible to rail, water and public highways and an adequate water supply. After two years no such campsite could be found within fifty miles of New York City. After another year of searching, it was found that options could be placed on thirty-two small parcels of land and farms in the area of Ten Mile River. The location was not publicly disclosed while the \$1 million fundraising was taking place and the real estate firm in like did not disclose the land was for the Boy Scouts so the price would not be increased by the individual sellers. On October 7, 1927 all thirty-two landowners were invited to Monticello to sign the deeds and receive payment for their lands.

Harvey A. Gordon was brought in immediately as Chief of Construction. A construction camp was set up on Turnpike Lake and sawmills were erected near Rock Lake, Wildcat Pond and Half Moon Lake. Sand, rock and gravel for roads and sewer systems were obtained right from the camp property. Gordon first constructed the Brooklyn Camp on the shores of Rock Lake and had it ready for campers by the summer of 1928. Next he built a camp on Half Moon Lake for the Staten Island Council. He stated some time later that he was proud of his privilege to build these camps and wanted the boys who used them to view them with equal pride. The buildings were ruggedly and handsomely built to withstand the elements for fifty years or more. His work continued as the Foundation bought another 970 Acre Crystal Lake parcel where he built two camps – one for





During 1932, Gordon is listed on a Passenger list arriving from Havana, Cuba and in 1933 from Cherbourg, France having traveled for Boy Scout Business. 1935 was to be the first National Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington D.C. to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Scouting; however, it was postponed two years due to the polio outbreak. Again, the Scouts turned to Harvey A. Gordon and appointed him the Director of Physical Arrangements for this first Jamboree that was to run June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup>. The camp site was around the Washington Monument and Tidal Basin. He was responsible for the erection of tents to accommodate 30,000 Scouts and 3,000 Scout Officers. It was also his duty to see that 5 miles of water line was laid to the tents, installation of 100 telephone which would necessitate 10 miles of telephone line, and the ordering of 250 tons of food and supplies daily. It has been estimated that 1,000,000 gallons of water would be used each day. President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the Jamboree and the scouts attended a

three-game baseball series between the Washington Senators and the Boston Red Sox at Griffith Stadium and were also able to tour nearby Mount Vernon.

Harvey Gordon married Bonnie Reba Pritchard from Richmond and they had two sons, Richard and Robert. In the 1930 US Federal Census Harvey is listed as divorced and in the Passenger lists mentioned above, his wife was listed as Lillyana Gordon, born March 12, 1894 in New York. He died in New York December 15, 1938 in Manhattan, NY after an illness of several months. His body was brought back home and the funeral was at the home of his parents and interment was in the Zion Cemetery at Raleigh. The eulogy was read by Arthur Schuck of New York City, National Director of Operations for Boy Scouts of America, an associate of Harvey. Many scout executives served as active pallbearers and honorary pallbearers. Local Scout Troop 24 formed the honor guard. Troops 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29, all of Rush county also took part in the services.

There is no special BSA marker at the grave of this dedicated Boy Scout Leader and Executive; however, it is hoped by the nephew, Jim Gordon, who donated the material and photos for this article, that one can be added to the site of his burial as recognition of his many efforts for Scouting.

\*\*\*\*Sources available upon request.

## Civil War Veterans

### Last Living Rush County Civil War Veterans

The last Rush County Civil War Veteran to pass away was noted as



William H. Buchanan in his obituary found in the Rushville Republican. William died at age 91 on Monday, December 11, 1939 at the home of his son, Newton, 3 ½ miles southeast of Milroy. He was actually born in Ripley County on October 15, 1848 where he lived most of his life. He lived with his children in Rush County the last few years of his life. William was a private in Company A, 120 Indiana regiment during the three years that he served in the Civil War.

Mr. Buchanan's wife passed away in 1926. Surviving children were Newton, mentioned above; Harrison of near Milroy; John of Seymour; Charles and James of Osgood; daughter, Mrs. Rosie Renfro of Holton in Ripley County; and Mrs. Ralph Pea of Rushville. He had sixteen grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. The services were held at Newton's home with military graveside rites conducted during interment at the Milroy Cemetery.

The next to last Civil War Veteran to expire in Rush County was John Alter. He died at the age of 93 years at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Murphy in Milroy. He had been ill for seven weeks.

John Alter was born in Rush County and had lived most of his life here. For the past nine years, he had made his home at the Murphy's home in Milroy. Before that he had lived on a farm west of Milroy for 40 years.

John enlisted in Company E, 121<sup>st</sup> Indiana Regiment, December 24, 1863, and was discharged at Louisville, Kentucky on June 10, 1865.

Survivors listed were two nephews and one niece with services held at the Murphy residence and burial in the McCarty Cemetery, three miles northwest of Milroy.

William Alfred Caldwell was born December 24, 1844 on a farm in Jackson Township of Rush County, the son of James and Alcy (Plough) Caldwell. He was the oldest of eight children. As a young man he decided that a commercial life was better suited to his tastes than farming. He went to Rushville after he completed his schooling and became an apprentice in the dry goods business with W. C and A. G. Mauzy. He later owned his own store and was a part of the Caldwell and Jones store as well. He later was associated with the Winship Dry Goods store which later became the E. R. Casady firm.

In 1873 Mr. Caldwell was married to Emma Cullen of Rising Sun. They were the parents



of four children, Fred A. Caldwell who was a funeral director in Florida, Mrs. A. R. Herkless, Mrs. Wyatt Dewitt and Mrs. James Tarbet, all of Rushville.

William Alfred enlisted in Company K, 134<sup>th</sup> regiment, Indiana infantry and took part in many of their major engagements. He was a very active Republican and was always given a seat on the stage of political rallies and meetings.

Joseph S. Endicott died at the age of 92 died at his home at the corner of Second and Hannah Streets after having been in ill health for several years after a fractured hip. Mr. Endicott was born in Ohio on September 26, 1844, the son of Jesse T. and Mary Stevens Endicott, the former of Kentucky and the latter of Indiana.

On December 4, 1863 Joseph enlisted in Company E, 123th Indiana Infantry to serve in the Civil War. He was discharged at Lexington, North Carolina on August 25, 1865. He was a member of the G. A. R.

Mr. Endicott was married three times. His first wife was Miss Nettie Hiatt and upon her death he married Miss Mary Storey and to this union was born two children. He later married Mary Ellen Moler who preceded him in death in 1913.

Survivors listed in is obituary were: Mrs. Florence Kearney of Indianapolis; one son, Ralph Endicott of Chicago; a sister, Mrs. Lottie Brown of Indianapolis; and a half-sister, Mrs. Melissa Spurgeon of Milroy.

Funeral services were held at the late residence with interment at East Hill Cemetery with military rites held at the grave.

Within the obituary of Joseph S. Endicott who died January 18, 1937, it listed the only two other Civil war veterans living in Rush County: W. A. Caldwell of Rushville and Mr. Alter of Milroy.

Sources: Rushville Republican: Monday, December 11, 1939, page 1, column 6; December 12, 1939, page 3, column 3; May 25, 1939, page 1, November 29, 1938, page 2; January 9, 1939, page 1, January 5, 1938, pages 1 and 6, January 19, 1937, pages 1 and 6.



## **Our Mission:**

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

### **Some common Symbols/Emblems found in Cemeteries**

Anchor - Christian symbol of Hope, strong faith, steadfastness

Book – an open book usually represents the Bible, faith; several books in a pile used most often to denote knowledge, academic life

Broken Branch, tree, column or cross – a life cut short; death; mourning

Butterfly – resurrection; rebirth; natural cycle of birth and death

Circle – no beginning, no end; eternity; resurrection

Crown – triumph over death, strong faith; often seen on stones of women

Pointing finger – “gone home”, “until we meet again”; departed, no longer on earth

Flame – life, breath

Flowers – love; reward

Gates – portals to the promised land; entry into the Kingdom of Heaven

Handclasp – parting, farewell; friendship/brotherhood

Harp/Lyre – heavenly music; music; the arts in general

Heart – life, love

Hourglass – death, end of time

Ivy – friendship; love; constancy/undying affection; immortality; remembrance

Lamb – innocence of a child

Lily - purity, innocence, love

Lilly of the Valley – reawakening, purity, and humility

Morning Glory – symbolic of youth, bonds of love; associated with death of a child

Oak – strength, steadfastness; honor, strong faith

Palm – spiritual victory; heavenly reward, eternal peace

Poppy – death; eternal sleep

Rose – love, heavenly joy

Shell – a journey, particularly a pilgrim’s journey

Snake – death; a snake with its tail in its mouth is a symbol of eternity

Star – divine guidance, birth/rebirth; Star of David – Jewish symbol of divine protection

Torch – life; a down-turned torch represents the extinguishing of life, death

Tree Trunk – a life that has been cut off

Urn – death; draped urn is traditional symbol of sorrow, mourning

Vine – symbolic of the Church; Christ and His followers

Weeping Willow – mourning, sorrow

Wheat – productivity, bounty; gathered wheat represents harvesting and is seen most often on the stones of productive, mature men of faith

Wreath – victory, honor, eternal love