

FB The South Bend Tribune

BACK IN TIME

Sunday, July 19, 1998

## Many records available from Revolutionary War era

Sometimes it seems that researching an ancestor who lived during the Revolutionary War era is easier than tracking down one who lived in the 20th century. There are more records available, and since everyone is involved in long dead, there is no fear of invading privacy.

If your ancestor was alive during the Revolutionary War, which was in 1776 or 1777, knowing the history of the area in which he lived might help you decide, and knowing his migratory pattern could also give you a clue. Did he move just after the war? Was his land confiscated? If so, he was probably a Tory.

Records for service in the Revolutionary War may be found on two levels. One is at the federal level, although only a small percentage of men served in the Continental Army, and most of their records have been lost.

Records of the country militia will be found at the state level, or possibly even the county level. Many of these records have been transferred into book form.

States gave land and pensions to their soldiers, as did the federal government. Records can be found at the state archives as well as in major libraries and research repositories.

On the national level, the National Archives holds service records, which include company numbers, roster, rank, enlistment, discharge, prisoner lists, records of burial and date of death.

The pension records may be available. Different laws passed at various times after a particular military engagement qualified different veterans for benefits. These records are especially valuable to researchers because the veteran had to fill out a long questionnaire, supply a room of documents, and prove his qualification for the pension. Often widows applied for the pension, which required another set of documents such as marriage licenses and the date of death of the soldier.

Many land warrants are another source of information. Both the states and the federal government offered land to their veterans. Often these veterans sold the land and didn't migrate, thus creating another set of documents.

Military histories are an interesting source. Often found in major research libraries, they can also be found in state libraries, the Library of Congress and Catholic libraries in Pennsylvania.

If the ancestor didn't serve with a unit, he may have provided services such as food or transportation. Or his property may have been damaged in some way. The claims records can be found at the National Archives and state archives.

We are fortunate in this area because we have the microfilm records of the National Archives both at the Allen County Public Library and the National Archives, Great Lakes Region, in Chicago.

Other sources, in book form, would be the "Tribune's Register" of officers issued by John Pierce, Esq., publisher general and commissioner of army accounts, in 1776.

For more information, visit the National Archives at 11 a.m. today. Office at corporate headquarters in Wayne, Mich., said the article was the result of no contract. Management and the officials of Associated Local 5, United Auto Workers, have been meeting for several months in efforts to reach an agreement on a new contract, but the union did not accept the company's final offer.

## Michiana Roots

By CAROL COLLINS

officers and soldiers of the Continental Army under the act of July 1781 (Continental Congress) and the "American Continental Geographic Index to American Geographic, Biographical and Local History Materials."

All of these resources can be found in area libraries and university libraries.

**News and Notes**  
■ The Marshall County Genealogical Society will hold its annual potluck at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the home of Edith Smith Collins.

■ The New England Historic Genealogical Society has named Thomas J. Kemp library director. He was previously employed as a library director of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and is currently employed as head of the Special Collections Department of the University of South Florida.

■ He is a nationally known lecturer and author in the genealogical field, and a native of New England.

■ Family Tree Maker's Version 5.0 on CD-ROM for Windows 95 and 98 only adds features that will please the genealogist. These include: bourgeois trees, color-coded boxes in trees, unlimited events, PLS 3.0 import, alternate events, smarter date ranges, historical timelines, tick name placement options, research journal tools list, married maiden name control, clean page breaks for trees, custom report saving, improved image printing and foreign language font letters. Visit <http://www.familytreemakers.com> for more information.

**Inquiries**  
6045. John W. LINDLEY lived in Knox, Tenn. County at least between the years 1774-1780. Possibly buried in the Lindley Cemetery near Greenville. Three sons: Ed ward, John and George, and two younger children. Wife's name Mary, maiden name Nancy Sarah. Hannah and Martha Barwick.

6046. Need correct mother of Hannah POWERS, first wife of Asa and Sarah C. POWERS. Mother of Harrison Barwick. Hannah's death certificate, however, gives mother as Hannah POWERS of Mass. Which mother is correct? Pal Mable, 111 E. County Road 200 South, Union City, IN 47388.

**Inquiries limited to 25 words, plus names and address (including ZIP code). One inquiry per sheet of paper, clearly stated with typed or printed name and address. Send to: Michiana Roots, Publishers Department, South Bend Tribune, 222 W. Colfax Ave., South Bend, IN 46702. Carol Collins can also be reached via e-mail at [mcv000@aol.com](mailto:mcv000@aol.com).**

## South Bend team faces baseball champs

First of two parts

By KERRY COTTER

I was a clear summer morning in June. The temperature was in the 70s. A slight southerly breeze brought hints of summer days to come.

Baseball fans in South Bend waited expectantly as the train from Chicago was due to bring the "Champion" Red Stockings of the Union of States and Canada.

On June 26, 1878, the train carrying the Boston Red Stockings arrived at the depot at 11:08 a.m. The crowd that greeted them could not know that of the nine players plus their coach, three would eventually wind up in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Still the team that disembarked the train that morning was an impressive lot. Not many players in today's standards (no player was over 5 feet 11 inches tall) and athletic, with neckties and a polished appearance, but they were not strangers to those accustomed to the brewing game of baseball.

Only three weeks earlier the captain of the visiting Victorian team shocked the fans in South Bend by removing his shirt and openly drinking from a bottle of rum during the game.

He was termed, by one reporter in the city, "the missing link." Of course, the fact that South Bend lost that game might have added to the indignation.

No "missing link" in this bunch at the train station though. That was Harry Wright's handwork. He was the coach and manager (and occasional player).

Wright was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1962 and is called by some the "father of professional baseball." He coached the famous barnstorming Cincinnati Red Stockings, who were nearly 100 straight games around the country during 1870.

This led to the organization of the National Association in 1871 and its successor, the National League, in 1876.

The other half of the team on the team was George Wright (Harry's brother) and James O'Rourke.

The South Bend Green Stockings might have been in March of 1878 with a letter in the editor of the South Bend Tribune.

"LaVere and Eckhart have already organized teams for the coming season, and surely our city of 14,000 ought to support one club."

Two weeks later it was announced that the Green Stockings of South Bend had been formed. The letter almost certainly was written by John Duncan, a young clerk who worked in his father's cigar store at Chapin and Superior streets. During the next few years he would captain a baseball team having a level of play never before seen in the city.

As the players from Boston moved off the train they must have noticed the orchestra, which was part of the reception given after visiting baseball teams in South Bend. The game had been arranged just six days earlier, and allowing

## Through the Years Getting the ball rolling



The South Bend Green Stockings, organized in 1878, introduced the city to a new level of baseball play.

Through the Years is a Michiana history column coordinated by Mary Bradshaw from the Northern Indiana Center for History. For more information about the column, write the NICH, 222 W. Washington St., South Bend, IN 46702.

We have to guess that John Duncan already knew the good players from countless amateur games around the city. In fact, a printer's apprentice, in the first name that appears, he went to Chicago with them on April 27, 1878, to purchase "staples" and other equipment.

If you were buying baseball uniforms in Chicago, you were probably shopping at Al Spaulding's baseball emporium, "the largest sporting goods store in the West." Spaulding's "best and truest uniforms" consisted of shirts, pants, shoes, cap, belt and stockings (with base plate spurs) in for large orders, cost \$240 each. The South Bend team spent over \$100 in Chicago on a princely sum in those days. We know the 1878 Green Stockings used Spaulding's new wear and were listed in Spaulding's Base Ball Guide of as one of 22 non-league teams "deserving mention." They were the only team from Indiana or

Michigan listed (Detroit didn't even have a league team at that time). The Green Stockings' park was located near the Northern Indiana Center for History at the corner of Third and Laurel streets. Today MacPherson Street runs through what was the outfield.

Harry Wright probably had a meeting with John Duncan some time before the game to decide on the rules. This was important as baseball was in an improvisational state and non-league teams were of little use in keeping up with changes.

With the season settled, the game was ready to commence. **Next week: The game** —Kerry Cotter of Michiana is former director of the Museum Theater at the Center for History.

It's 6 o'clock.  
You walk in from work.  
What's for dinner?

## desperation DINNERS

Desperation Dinners is a new column designed to help you put a nutritious, home-cooked meal on the table in less time than it takes to have a pizza delivered. From stacking the party to organizing the heater to shortcuts on the stove top, Desperation Dinners shows you how to approach cooking in a crunch without losing your mind.

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## From Our Files

1898

The Shubakers are erecting a large and fine theater and music hall which they have named the Auditorium. They have completed a lease of the house to Hartman and Davis, a large and financially known theatrical syndicate. Mr. Al Hartman is now looking down and intends to open the house Oct. 1. The syndicate controls all of the best theaters in the country and promises South Bend an excellent series of attractions in the Auditorium.

1948

South Bend's population is 114,496, according to survey estimates announced by the South Bend Association of Commerce. That estimate represents a 2.1 percent increase since 1938. The estimate is for South Bend proper and does not include the many suburban developments growing more rapidly than the city.

1923

The Detroit Auto Sales Company will open the doors of its spacious new headquarters tomorrow at Lafayette Boulevard and Division Street. It marks the opening of one of the largest and most up-to-date auto sales routes in northern Indiana. The new structure serves as a monument to the advance of the industry and adds to the beauty of the downtown business district. The building is three stories high and contains 27,000 square feet.

1973

Some 1,300 hourly workers at the South Bend division and the Michiana plant of AM General Corp. went on strike at 11 a.m. today. Office at corporate headquarters in Wayne, Mich., said the strike was the result of no contract. Management and the officials of Associated Local 5, United Auto Workers, have been meeting for several months in efforts to reach an agreement on a new contract, but the union did not accept the company's final offer.

## Greg M. Mielke, M.D. P.C.

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