

Randolph County, News Items from the *Winchester Journal*, 1918

Ruth Dorrel and Callie McCune

The fall of 1918 saw the precipice of great change for news communication in addition to the end of World War I. Journalism changed dramatically in the year following the armistice. Sensationalism, in tabloid-style format, was on the rise, and the first commercial radio station began broadcasting in Pittsburgh and Detroit.¹ However, for the rural town of Winchester, Indiana, newspapers such as the *Winchester Journal*, first published in 1855, were the primary source of news. National news items ran alongside articles about social events, home remedies, visiting relatives, letters from the front lines, local gossip, and advertisements. This potpourri of local stories was very popular and served to build a sense of community within Randolph County.²

The following items transcribed from the October 16, 1918, issue of the *Winchester Journal* include comings and goings of area residents as well as social events and business interactions.

Notes

1. Edwin Emery and Michael Emery, *The Press and America: An Interpretive History of the Mass Media*, 4th ed. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1978), 363–67, 393–94.
2. Carrie Buchanan, “A Sense of Place in the Daily Newspaper,” *Aether: The Journal of Media Geography* (Spring 2009): 62–84; John W. Miller, *Indiana Newspaper Bibliography: Historical Accounts of All Indiana Newspapers Published from 1804–1980*, (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1982).

News Items from the *Winchester Journal*, 1918

MULL ITEMS

America Willams received a letter from her brother Jerry Shaver who has been gone for 21 years; had not heard from him for 16 years. He was in St. Louis at the time he wrote this letter, was well and trying to get into the army.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Citizens Banking Co., ex. to M. V. Maulsby and A. J. Goodson, 172 acres, Nettle Creek Tp., Ex. D. \$18,060.

MODOC ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Johnson and daughter, Mrs. Agnes Shoemaker and son of Muncie spent Saturday night and Sunday with their parents Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harty.

D. C. Moore of Indianapolis, spent Friday night with his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Moore.

O. B. Gray, wife and son attended the silver wedding anniversary of his father at Saratoga.

MARTINDALE ITEMS

Mrs. Ferrell from Clinton county is visiting her son Guy.

Mrs. Jerry Willis spent Tuesday with the latter's brother W. M. Baldwin and family.

WEST UNIONPORT ITEMS

Johnnie Hernley was buried at Buena Vista, Tuesday.

The sale of C. E. Disinger and J. W. Pegg Jr. was well attended. The families will soon leave for Pontiac, Mich., to make their future home.

Dr. O. E. Current reports a boy born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hobbice Friday eve which has been christened Robert Bruce; also a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Fouts Friday night; also a new baby came to Mr. and Mrs. Corwin Geringer week before last at the home of the former's parents Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Newley.

SOCIAL ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. George Mills entertained last Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Mills and Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Rathbun and sons Lyle and Glen who left Thursday for California where they will make their future home.

Mrs. Ed Ashwill was very happily surprised last Friday afternoon when a jolly crowd of her neighbor and friends called unannounced to remind her of her seventieth birth anniversary. As each one brought something good to eat the afternoon passed all too soon in conversation and enjoying the eatables. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Ashwill entertained guests at dinner. The dining room was prettily decorated in fall foliage and the table center piece was of fall flowers. A

three course dinner was served to Mrs. Mary Hamilton, Chas. Ashwill and O. E. Ross and family.

OBITUARY. ETHEL DIGGS KOCHMAN.

Ethel Elizabeth Diggs, daughter of William S. and Emma Hensel Diggs of Pittsburg, Pa., formerly of Winchester, Indiana, was born February 4, 1888, at Montpelier, Ohio and passed away in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 9, 1918, aged 30 years, 8 months and 5 days. She was a victim of Spanish influenza followed by double pneumonia.

On Sept. 26, 1912, she was married to Elmont F. Kochman of Cincinnati, who with a little son Marshall survive her. She also leaves a sister Ione Diggs Shepherd of Providence, Rhode Island.

Ethel Kochman was a graduate of the Cincinnati College of Music, and a vocalist of more than local reputation. The charm of her voice was felt for years in church and concert. A continuous service of eight years for the Walnut Hills M. E. church, Cincinnati, was closed by her death. Her activities in musical organizations were noteworthy and she served as president of one. Thus a life is closed replete with christian service, always eliminating self.

Those coming from a distance to the burial service, other than the parents and sister, were Mrs. Louis Kochman of Cincinnati, mother of the bereaved husband, Charles Wallace a neighbor and friend, Mrs. P. L. Rauvall of Chicago, Mrs. Paul M. Millikan of Ft. Wayne, Albert B. Diggs of Winamac and Marshall W. Diggs, wife and daughter Maurice of Toledo.

The service in Cincinnati was conducted by her pastor the Rev. Dr. McGurk and at Winchester where she was laid to rest by Rev. G. M. Payne pastor of the First Presbyterian church.

OBITUARY. PERRY THOMAS WILMORE

Perry Thomas Wilmore, only son of Clarence H. and Minnie Wilmore, was born February 16, 1895. His earlier years were spent on the farm until old enough to attend the public school. He spent the greater part of the school year with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Overman, attending the Winchester public schools. He was hindered by a frail constitution and imperfect limb so that he was unable to enter into the full zest of boyish sports and activities, though by his natural good will and cheerful disposition he secured the warm friendship and association. Frequent attacks of ill health made it difficult for him to keep up with his grades in school work. At an early age he became substitute rural mail carrier and was quite satisfactory to the postal authorities, and pleasing to the patrons whom he served. He was engaged in this work almost two years when, unfortunately for him, he was hurt in an auto accident which injured one knee so badly that he never fully recovered and his already impaired constitution could no longer stand the strain and on Tuesday, Oct. 8, death came to his relief and he passed away at the age of 23 years, 7 months and 22 days, leaving his parents, grandparents and a large number of relatives to mourn his early demise.

About four years since he became a member of the Winchester Friends church where he had frequently attended Sunday School, Christian Endeavor and church service.

HUNTSVILLE ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Jones have gone to Virginia to visit their daughter Mrs. Days and other relatives.

Mrs. Kerr of near New Castle, is visiting her sister Mrs. C. C. Brosey.

Mrs. Brumfield, of Marklesville, is visiting her daughter Mrs. Carl Pricer.

Carl Pricer and Guy Terrell went to Frankfort last week and moved the former's parents there.

CIRCUIT COURT

Orville and Norman Wood filed bond in the sum of \$10,000 as administrator of the estate of John F. Wood.

Earl C. Reisch was appointed guardian of Jacob Reisch.

David Allen Patterson vs. Flora Gladys Patterson, defendant defaulted and divorce granted plaintiff, cost vs. plaintiff.

Russell Vaughns vs. Keziah Rice estate, claim allowed.

William Saucere vs. Loretta Mann estate, claim allowed.

[Online Connections](#)

[Regional Sources and Stories](#)