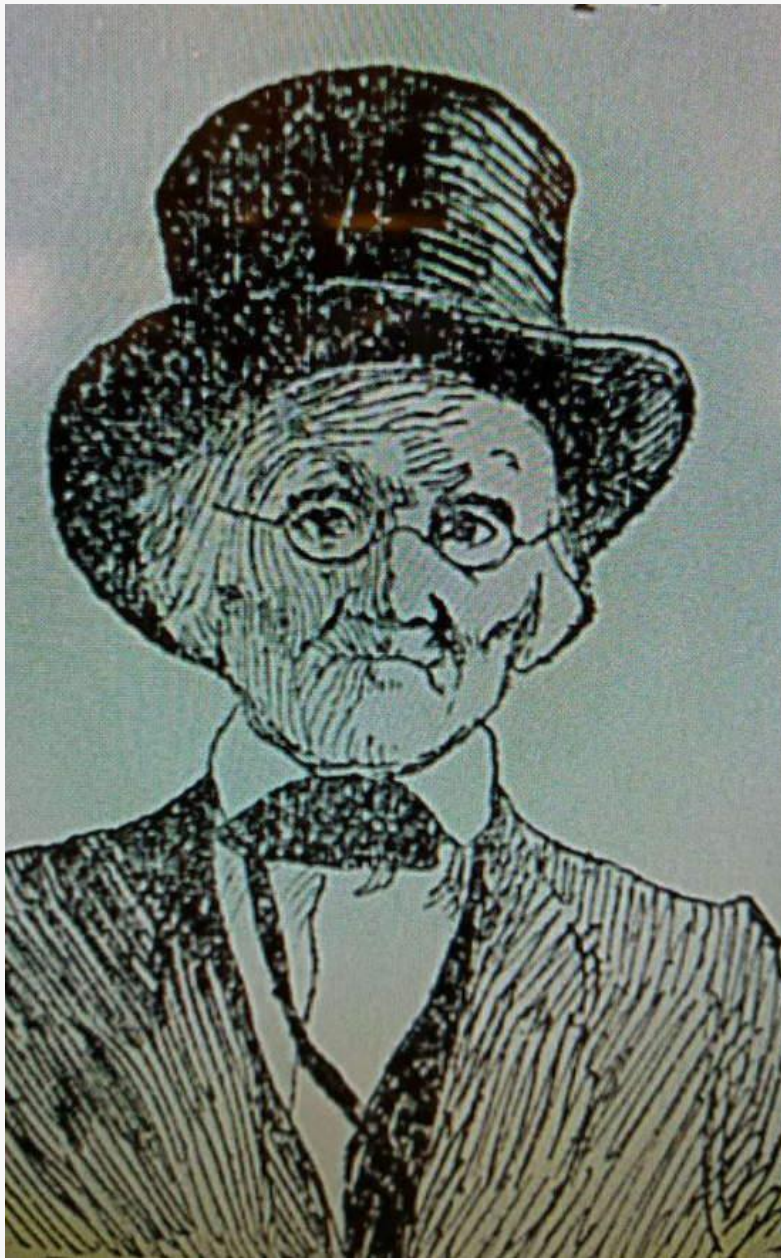


WILLIAM KRUG _ 100 years old



THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM A. KRUG.

William Augustus Krug was 100 years old last Wednesday. It is no uncommon thing in this age of novelty and sensation to read in the press telegrams of the death of a centenarian, "Old Aunt Dinah aged 102 years, an exslave of Gen. Washington, died at her granddaughter's home in Nowhere, New Jersey, yesterday." What a familiar song that is, and we really begin to believe that the slave girls born in the distinguished

families of Revolutionary fame are exceptionally long lived and numerous. The truth is this: these old crones have really no idea of their length of days. Born in ignorance and bondage, trafficked from mart to mart, it is not to be expected of them, and when they have lived out their three score years and ten and are questioned concerning their age it is not surprising that the response should be "wal, nigh onto a hundred years I specs, honey." The element of doubt is quickly eliminated by the vigorous and not too scrupulous imagination of the reporter who verifies the century and adds a year or so for luck. He gives the world his rather doubtful information and pockets his shekels with a grin. Rarely indeed do we hear of a white person attaining 100 years, and usually when we do, it is a white person whose youth was passed in the "old country," and in as dense an ignorance as that of the old reliable colored Aunty. Putting down then the vast majority of reported centenarians as the veriest shams they really are, we are bound to the conclusion that a real genuine centenarian is a personage not often met with. Crawfordsville has such a one, however, concerning whose genuineness there is no manner of doubt as his history is recorded in black and white from his birth in Pennsylvania until to-day, and whose early life is neither obscured by the ignorance of southern rice fields nor the slums and byways of Europe.

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Before giving the biography of Wm. A. Krug, we will digress somewhat from the fixed formula and first give an enumeration of his descendants since reference must be constantly made to certain of them throughout the sketch of his life. He is the father of ten children, four boys and six girls: Emma, his first daughter, born in 1813, died in infancy Wm. J., born in 1814, resides now in Crawfordsville Elizabeth, born in 1816, was married to Geo. W. McKeehan and now resides in Jamestown, Ind. Geo. J., was born in 1818 and after accumulating quite a fortune died in 1847, some time after his wife, Barbary Bever, leaving one child, Mrs. D. W. Gerard, of this city Sarah, the third daughter was born in 1821 and now resides in Hallowell, Kan., the wife Dr. R. M. Earl; Groff Augustus, born in 1823, died in infancy Henry E., was born in 1825 and now lives in Fountain county Mary was born in 1828 and resides here the wife of Dr. J. R. Duncan Louisa, born in 1830, resides in Crawfordsville Caroline, born in 1833, married to J. L. McClure and lives now in Baldwin, Kas.

It will be seen from the above that seven of the ten still live, only one who reached maturity having died although all are quite old now. He has besides his children twenty-five living grandchildren, and fifteen dead thirty-three living great-grandchildren, and six dead two great-great-grand-children living, and one dead, making a total of ninety-two descendants of Whom sixty—seven are living.

To take up the sketch of his life then, we would say in the first place that since he has celebrated his 100th anniversary that he was born on September 17, 1790. His birth

place was Lancaster, Penn., and his parents were of German descent although both of them were born in the quiet little town of Lancaster and played together as children among the cauliflower and cabbage. There were five other children besides William, three boys and two girls. One of these still lives, Jacob, aged 94, and a resident of Eaton, Ohio.

The subject of our sketch having acquired a good English education and a very considerable knowledge of German, apprenticed himself to a saddler to learn the trade, which he followed successfully until his removal to Indiana in 1839. In 1812 he was married to Elizabeth Jones, who was the mother of all his children and his beloved helpmate until March 17, 1860, when she died. After his marriage Mr. Krug continued to follow his trade at Lancaster until 1821, when he moved to Starke county, Ohio, and there lived until 1822 when he left for Hamilton, in Butler county, Ohio. In 1839 he purchased a section of land three miles east of Pleasant Hill, in this county, and removed there with his family.

His farm was christened Mount View and here he remained until 1846, when on account of the sickness in his family occasioned by the malarial swamps he removed to Pleasant Hill, or Wingate as it is now known. In the following autumn he opened a tavern there which he called the "Temperance House," and continued in this business until the death of his wife in 1860. During his residence in Pleasant Hill he held the office of postmaster, not because he was of the then dominant party, but because he was the general choice of the people of that section. After the death of his wife Mr. Krug made his home with his daughter, Louisa, and the two spent a major portion of their time with Mr. Krug's brother-in-law, Rev. George Jones, a chaplain in the Navy with headquarters at the naval asylum in Philadelphia. There was a great attachment between the old gentlemen which continued up to the time of Mr. Jones's death. After this sad event Miss Louisa Krug went to Logansport to take charge of the children of her brother, Henry, who was lately bereft of his wife. Consequently Mr. Krug made his home in that city until 1880 when Louisa removed to this place accompanied by her father who continues to have a regular and comfortable home with her here.

Mr. Krug was raised in the German Lutheran church, but at his marriage he went to the Episcopal church of which his wife was a member. He has continued steadfast in the faith, living an upright Christian life. The first vote Mr. Krug cast was for DeWitt Clinton in 1812. He afterwards voted nineteen times for President never falling to vote against the Democratic party. The men he voted for were Rufus King, 1816 John Quincy Adams, 1820, 1824 and 1828 Henry Clay, 1832 Wm. Henry Harrison, 1836 and 1840 Henry Clay, 1844 Zachary Taylor, 1848 Winfield Scott, 1852 John C. Fremont, 1856 Abraham Lincoln, 1860 and 1864 U. S. Grant, 1868 and 1872 R. B. Hayes, 1876 James A. Garfield, 1880 James G. Blaine, 1884, and Benjamin Harrison, 1888. He continued with the Whig party until its dissolution,

when he became a Republican, and a more unswerving exponent of that party's principles it would be hard to find. He was terribly disappointed at the election of Cleveland, and expressed his one desire as that of living to see another Republican President. So highly elated was he upon the nomination of Harrison that he solemnly declared, after the fashion of fifty years ago, that he would never shave until he saw Gen. Harrison in the Presidential chair. He kept his word, too, and one of his most highly prized possessions is an autograph letter of the President. During the war he was a staunch Union man and although entirely too old to enter the service himself, he often expressed a great readiness to sacrifice all his sons-in-law in putting down the Rebellion. Mr. Krug's appearance is almost too familiar to be noted here. Dressed in the old fashions he loves so well, his slender and slightly bent, but exceedingly sprightly form is a familiar object on our streets as he daily, in all weather, walks about carrying, but rarely using a heavy cane. He eats heartily, sleeps well and is regular in all his habits.

He has always been a strictly temperance man in every particular, and what better demonstration of the reward of a youth well spent can there be than the anniversary he celebrates today? Like Adam in "As You Like It," he never did apply hot and tempestuous liquor to his blood and lives to enjoy a green old age. The occasion is a significant temperance lesson in itself worth fifty frothy lectures by short haired women or long haired men. Mr. Krug's mental faculties are splendidly preserved. He talks readily and gives correct and intelligent accounts of incidents which transpired 90 years ago. Within the last two years he has visited his brother in Eaton, Ohio, alone, and returned as a man of forty might do. His eyesight is somewhat impaired but he persists in carrying on all his correspondence which is very considerable. He remembers with pride his intimate acquaintance with the two men who built the first railroad locomotive in the United States, namely Jonathan Jessup and Phineas Davis, Quaker residents of York, Pa.

Strange to relate, however, (and in this he differs from all other centenarians) he was never patted on the head by George Washington, nor did he ever see him. We believe this fact as much as any other thing demonstrates his genuineness. Everything considered, Mr. Krug bids fair to live a number of years longer and none who know him would be at all surprised to see him celebrate his 110th anniversary. He has not changed in the last few years and shows but little signs of failing. Such in brief is the history of a man who is to all intents and purposes as old as our constitution, a man who has seen nations fade entirely from the earth, and all nations change in character and territorial possessions a man who has seen steam practically applied to commerce and manufacturing, electricity utilized and the wildest dreams of his parents more than realized a man who was an infant when bloody Robespierre ruled France, a school boy when Washington was President and a man grown when the Old Guard rode out

in the gray twilight on its last fatal charge at Waterloo a man who can be said in truth to have seen the world wag and wag for the betterment and uplifting of mankind.

Old things have passed away since he first saw the sun and dark places have been made light as day. Paul has planted, Cephas watered and God has given the increase. But yet withal, we fancy there must be certain sadness for Grandfather Krug, on this his hundredth birthday. Surely there is food for sad reflection accompanying it, the thought of lost youth, and early friends, the nearness of the end of life. Like the old gentle* man is whom Holmes wrote, he seems, indeed, the "Last limb' on the tree in the Spring."

They say that, in his prime, hit the pruning knife of lime
Cut, him down. ••Not a better man was found,

By the Crier on his round Through the town.

The mossy marbles rest Oil the lips that he has pressed,

Just their bloom And the names lie loved to hear

Have been carved for many a year. On the tomb.

My Grandmamma has said— I'oor old lady! she is dead Long ago— ,

Unit he had a Roman nose, And his cheek was like arose In the snow."

But all the joys of youth are fleeting and have fled.

In their place tho solemn reflections of old age have come.

Cato, tho elder, tolls us tho thoughts of old age are sad but sweet, and no doubt if the thoughts of Grandfather Krug were expressed they would be something similar to those of that grand old pagan who said before the feet of Christ had pressed the earth,

"I would not, like Pelias, be plunged into the rejuvenating caldron. Indeed were any god to grant that from my present age I might go back to boyhood I should steadfastly refuse, nor would I be willing, as from a finished race, to be summoned back from goal to starting point. And in due season I shall depart from life as from an inn, not as from a home for Nature has given a hero a lodging for a sojourn, not a place of habitation." "Time has laid his hand Upon his heart, gently, not smiting It. Just as a harper loves his open palm upon his harp, to deaden Its vibrations."

THE CELEBRATION. Relatives of the centenarian continued to pour in on every train that morning, and at noon when the banquet began there were at least 130 persons at the home on west Pike street. Rev. G. W. Switzer was present and asked the blessing. Never in the history of the county has there been a more notable family reunion. Five generations were represented and the two extremes, Mr. Krug and his great great grand-children were as lively as any in the party, In fact the old gentleman is in perfect ecstasy. It is the happiest day of his life. About two o'clock according to arrangements made before, tho oldest man of the city and vicinity began to assemble-: at Smith it Morgan's drugstore for the purpose of escorting Mr. Krug from the scene of the banquet to tho residence of Dr. J. R. Duncan where tho public reception was

hold. Shortly before three o'clock the old man started in "carriages to get the centenarian, the band being in front. He and his younger brother were given the place of honor in the front carriage and the procession then passed through several of the principal streets before reaching its destination.

The following is a list of the old men who were in the procession: Joseph Ensminger, was 92 last Sunday, born in Pennsylvania and moved here in 1822.

James S. Pear, is 88 years old and came here 38 years ago from Pennsylvania where he was born. He voted for Andrew Jackson three times, and is now independent in politics.

William Chambers was born December 21, 1808, at Baltimore, and came to Indiana 40 years ago. He is now a Republican and voted for Andrew Jackson.

Charles Allen was born May 19, 1811, in Shelby County, Ky., at the age of 39 moved to Indiana. He is a Democrat.

John Rice is 83 years 5 months and 17 days old and came here from Washington county, Penn. He is a Republican.

E. W. Crane is 77 years old and came here from Ohio in 1823. He is a Republican.

Alvin Duckworth is 78 years old and was raised a Democrat in Kentucky, moving to this State 35 years ago.

Michael Barnes will be 84 on next Christmas day. He was born in Kentucky just across the river - and has lived here since 1866 having voted the Democratic ticket.

Thomas Davis is now 86 and in his own language "was born in Virginia, raised in Kentucky and wore out in Indiana." He is a Democrat.

Joab Elliott is almost 83 years old and was born on the line between Ohio and Indiana. He is Republican and has lived here since 1826.

Alexander Thomson was 78 last January. He was born in Ohio and came here in 1835. He is a Republican.

Ben T. Ristine was born in Kentucky 83 years ago and came here in 1823. Republican.

Samuel Daisy is 83 years old and was born in Maryland.

Thomas Hall is 75 years old and was born in Warren county Ohio. C

ol. John Loo is 64 years old and the oldest man born in Montgomery county, having first seen light March II, 1826.

William Bromley, aged 72.

Samuel Austin, aged 72.

Silas Jones, aged 74.

J. N. Wright, aged 76.

VISITING RELATIVES The following is a list of the visiting relatives: Jacob Krug, aged 94 and two sons, Wm. and George Mrs. W. W. Jefferson, Mr. Longnecker, wife and daughter of Eaton, Ohio Harvey Caldwell and wife of Rushville Mrs. Cox, of Middletown, Ohio Mrs. W. N. Williams, daughter and son-in-law, of Ohio, Wm. Younger and wife, of Danville John Krugg, of York County, Penn. A. M. Williams and wife, of Rushville Geo. McKeehan, wife and daughter, of Jamestown Wm. Unger, of Danville, III. Calvin Krug, of Hanover, Penn. Gottlieb C. Krug, Indianapolis Jacob Kitzmiller, Canton, O. Wm. G. Kitzmiller and wife, of Massillon, Ohio Mrs. Jacob Bucher, Canton, Ohio Cornelias Bucher, Canton, Ohio Mrs. Catherine McKinsey, Newtown Sam'l Kerr and wife, Newtown Mrs. Scott, Pleasant Hill, Mo. Arch Bailey and wife, Wesley Gus Krug, wife and six children, and Albert Earl, Hallowell, Kas. Mrs. Col. Learning and son, Harry, Lafayette Dr. J. F. Davidson, wife and child, Yountsville

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98th Birthday

Source: Crawfordsville Weekly Journal, 22 September 1888

Monday was the 98th birthday of Win. A. Krugg. He was born September 17, 1790, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, In youth he learned the saddlers' trade, which he followed for many years, both in Pennsylvania and Ohio, he came to this county in 1839, bought a section of land in Coal Creek township, and after removed to Pleasant Hill. In politics he was a Federal, then a Whig, but now stalwart Republican. He cast, his first vote for President, for DeWitt Clinton in 1812, and has voted continuously for every President since, making nineteen Presidential elections at which he has voted. If he lives until Nov. 6th. it will make his twentieth. He voted for W.H. Harrison in 1836 and in 1840, and will vote for the grandson in November. Last week he wrote a letter to General, Harrison, and Monday, his birthday, he received a reply which the old veteran said was more valuable to him than a suit of clothes or a gold headed cane. The receipt of the letter was a grand celebration of the day for him. The following is a

full text of General Harrison letter: INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Sept. 15, 1888. WM. A. Krugg. Esq. Crawfordsville. Ind. My Dear Sir:—Your letter of Sept. 10th has been received. I am glad that you have been able to assert the supremacy of Indiana over Connecticut. I congratulate you upon the ripe old age you have attained, which I hope is attended with every circumstance of comfort. What, an amazing development you have seen. Hoping that your life may be preserved and thanking you sincerely for your kind personal interest, and your intelligent zeal in this campaign I am Most Sincerely Yours. Benj. Harrison Crawfordsville Weekly Journal, 22 April 1893

DECLINING HEALTH Grandfather Krug, Crawfordsville's well known centenarian, is losing ground quite rapidly and is breaking very perceptibly. It is very doubtful if he lives through the coming heated term. - thanks to Kim H