

The Higgins-Mapes Family Legacy

Newsletter No. 10

December 1997

A Look at 1997

By the time this newsletter reaches you, Christmas will be nearly over and the new year just a few days away. For the Higgins-Mapes Family Historical Association, 1997 has been a relatively quiet year. First of all, we decided not to hold a 1997 reunion. This was not an easy decision, but with only limited resources and a small active membership we felt organizing a reunion this year was simply beyond our capabilities. We knew, of course, there would be negative repercussions. With so much time away from each other, it is easy to lose the momentum we need to grow and attract new members. Furthermore, even though many of us have known each other for only a short time, the reunion provides the only opportunity for us to be together as a family. Unfortunately, by the time of our next reunion, we will not have seen each other for a full two years. With an eye on these concerns, the officers have scheduled a 1998 reunion, to be held on October 11, in Allendale. Please mark your calendars now. This one-day event will be a little different from previous reunions so be sure to look for more details when they are announced in our spring newsletter.

Secondly, we issued no newsletter in 1997, a fact that made not getting together for a reunion even more noticeable. The newsletter is also the victim of limited resources and limited information. The Executive Committee would like to expand our newsletters to include family information of interest to all of us, but your help is needed to do this. Please be encouraged to submit news, family information, and entire articles if you wish. Our Family Historian Bill Currie has submitted an article about our Revolutionary War ancestor George Higgins which we hope to print in full in our newsletter of next spring. All members of our Association are encouraged to submit information that would make our newsletter more fact-filled. With your help, our newsletters can become a much-awaited publication for important family news and history.

The Couch-Higgins Cemetery north of Friendsville continued to occupy the attention of the Executive Committee in 1997. In many ways, the cemetery is a real success for us. Though still missing most of its stones, the cemetery has been cleared of unsightly weeds and briars and is being mowed at regular intervals during the warmer months. The Association has contracted with Mr. Bill McClane of Friendsville to mow the cemetery and deal with fallen limbs, etc. at least once a month between May and September. His work has been especially important in keeping the cemetery free of unwanted vegetation. We are extremely grateful for his efforts. He has not been alone, however. Many of our members have devoted time and effort to improving the cemetery but the work of Harriet and Henry Davis should be singled out. Harriet serves as chairperson of our cemetery committee and with her husband Henry has devoted countless hours to cemetery restoration. They deserve much of the credit for the cemetery we enjoy today, but even with their heroic efforts much remains to be done. The Couch-Higgins Cemetery will remain a priority of our Association even as we begin to recognize the many other Wabash County cemeteries that are of interest to our members.

Last April, the Executive Committee met with Nancy Rayborn, President of the Wabash County Historical Society. Our hope was to identify common interests between the two groups and seek ways we could work together to further Wabash County genealogy. We were especially encouraged

to learn that the Historical Society has been doing cemetery restoration work of its own around Wabash County. This presents an excellent opportunity for us and we intend to pursue this and other possible areas of cooperation. The Executive Committee is hoping to meet with the entire Society at one of the Society's 1998 meetings.

We don't hear a great deal of news from our Association members between reunions (another important reason to hold frequent reunions), but we can report that Sharon and Scott Adrian have relocated to Michigan and have been actively engaged in genealogy research and instruction in their new home. Both Harriet Davis and Rosemary Sitzman have spent some time in the hospital this past year, but both are fully recovered and in fine health as 1997 comes to an end.

Please remember that dues must still be collected despite the lack of a reunion this year. Dues remain the primary support of our organization. If you have not paid your 1997-98 dues, please do so. Checks should be made out to The Higgins-Mapes Family Historical Association and mailed to our treasurer Rosemary Sitzman at 5844 Willow Brook Court, Newburgh, Indiana 47630-8827. Dues remain \$5.00 for individuals and \$10 for families.

We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and an especially fine new year. Let's make sure we see other in 1998!

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