



# Brown County Journal

November 15, 2011

## Events:

Brown County Historical  
Society meeting  
December 5

Brown County Genealogical  
Society meeting  
December 13

Gingerbread Log Cabin  
Open House  
Nov. 20 - Dec. 3

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Rhonda D.

## Who was Mary Grupe?

If one keeps coming across a name one tends to be curious and wonder who was this person. In October of 2006 the Historical Society received a letter with a gift, a photo album. The letter said, "We want to return this photo album to its home. It was rescued from the trash, but it seems it would be of great value to someone. The photo album was the original property of Mary Grupe who was a professor at what is now Central Washington University. There is a conference center on the campus named after her. In the album she refers to herself as 'the girl from Tacoma.' We don't know why she was visiting your area way back then in 1917 but we are glad she took the time to put the pictures in the album.

Signed: Bernie & Marlene Martin"

We were amazed when we started looking through the album, there were photos of Brown county people and places with many identified. There were also many photos of the artists that had come to the new Art Colony in Brown County. Could there be a connection of this Mary Grupe to the Art Colony somehow? When our museum curator was looking for old photos to compile a book on Brown county, she came across this photo album and was amazed. She asked the archivist, "can you help me find out who this Mary Grupe was? There are a lot of photos of her and the artist Ada Shulz, so there must be a connection either to Ada or to the Art Colony. Most of us know a little about Ada Shulz, she is famous as a painter of Brown county people such as Grandma Barnes and family oriented scenes with children.

So where do we start? First we brush up a little on the background of Ada and Adolph Shulz, that's easy because there are published biographies of them both. And from Ada Shulz's short obituary it reads: "Mrs. Ada Walter Shulz died Wednesday at her home in Nashville, aged 58. She was one of the founders of the Brown Co. group of artists. She specialized in mother/child subjects. Burial will

be in Delavan, Wisconsin.” (Brown Co. Democrat, May 3, 1928)

In Mary Grupe’s photo album there are two postcards. The first one from 1908 is from Mary A. Grupe to Mrs. Ada A. Grupe. It talks about a garment that Mrs. Grupe is making for Ada Shulz and the length it needs to be. The next postcard dated in 1909 is from Ada Shulz to Mary Grupe. Ada is asking Mary to change her visit for the summer to an earlier time. So from these two postcards it seems they have some sort of relationship either as friends or relatives.

What’s the next step - find Ada and Mary, in the census. From calculations Ada Shulz would have been born about 1870 so we should be able to find her in the 1880 to the 1920 census records. Census records were recorded by the federal for every ten year period. From her biography she married Adolph Shulz in 1894 so we should be able to find her from 1900 to 1920 in her married name. Her husband, Adolph Shulz’s obit says they came to live in Brown county in 1917 so we should be able to find them here in the 1920 census. But before that time from Adolph’s obit they traveled a lot so we could find them anywhere from Chicago to Wisconsin to Europe according to his biography. Then we should be able to find Ada before she was married as Ada Walter in the 1880 census living with her parents as she would only be about 10 years old. When tracking a person using census records we usually start with the most recent record and go backwards. Mary Grupe will be a little more difficult since we don’t know anything about her yet. But we can check the same time periods since they both were living during the same period and seemed to know each other.



Ada Shulz at work



Artists Shulz, Vawter, Sonny, Riddell, and Hafen

Starting with the most recent census in 1920 Adolph R. Shultz age 50 and Ada Walter Shultz age 49 are found living in Nashville, Brown County. The census record says he’s born in Wisconsin and she in Indiana. That means Ada’s a native Hoosier. From one of her biographies it states she was born in Wisconsin, apparently one is incorrect. The fact that Ada is listed as born in Indiana might be a good clue to help find Mary Grupe. If they are related then maybe Mary was either a native Hoosier or had lived in Indiana at one time. Now on to Mary, knowing she was living in Washington state when she put together her album we look for

her there. She is found in Ellensburg, Washington in 1920 listed as Mary A. Grupe age 46 born Kansas and with her is her mother, Ada A. Grupe age 74 born Illinois. This could be a really good clue, her mother has the same first name as Ada Shulz. Also, remember the postcard that was addressed to Mrs. Ada A. Grupe.

Now we go further back to the 1910 census. Ada and Adolph Shulz are living in Delavan, Wisconsin as expected as that was where Adolph was stated to be from. Mary Grupe is not to be found in 1910 but her mother, Ada Grupe age 64 born Illinois is found in Columbia County, Washington living with a son, Charles E. Grupe age 31 born Indiana. There is our Indiana connection to the Grupe family. Now we go back to the 1900 census where Ada and Adolph Shulz are still in Delavan, Wisconsin and been married five years. Ada's birthplace is stated as Indiana again. So now we know Ada Shulz is a native Hoosier. Also in the 1910 is Ada Grupe, Mary's mother, still living in Columbia County, Washington with son Charles again and now a new person, a Mary A. Jackman age 90 as her mother. We must keep this bit of information in case we run across this name, Jackman, again. Still Mary Grupe herself is not to be found at this time, she could have been traveling or could have married and been under another name.

Now we go back another 10 years to the 1880 census to see if we can find the two women as girls living with their parents. Now guess where we find them in the 1880 census – Indiana. We find Mary Grupe's whole family together: William H. Grupe age 35 as head of the house, Ada A. Grupe age 34 his wife, Mary A. Grupe age 6 daughter, and Charles Grupe age 1 son. They are living in Terre Haute, Indiana. Now looking for Ada Shulz as a young girl we do a search for Ada Walter in her maiden name. Where do you think we find her - in Terre Haute, Indiana. That is our first piece of concrete evidence. The rundown

of her family is: Mrs. M. J. Walter age 36 as the head of the house, Ada Walter age 9 daughter, Allen J. Walter age 7 son, and M. A. Jackman age 70 mother. Remember earlier when we said we should remember this name, this must be Mary A. Jackman. Finally we find our link to Ada Shulz and Mary Grupe, they had the same grandmother, Mary A. Jackman, and this makes them first cousins. They both had Hoosier roots after all. Mary Grupe must have spent her summers visiting her first cousin, the artist Ada Shulz, in Brown County where she took the photos for her album that is now our prized possession.

In August 1900 a Chicago newspaper featured an article on the scenic beauty of Brown County and Adolph Shulz as an artist working in Chicago was intrigued by the article. The Art Colony was said to have started with Adolph and Ada Shulz's visits to Brown County where they loved to come paint in the summers, and eventually many artists followed them. Mary Grupe's photo album records these early times with many of the artists that came to paint, and with scenes from Brown county and its



Mary Grupe

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people as it used to be in the early 1900s. Sometimes a mystery seems unsurmountable but with a little luck and some good sleuthing obstacles can be overcome.

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## 150th Anniversary of the Civil War

Many have heard stories of the Civil War, that it was one of the deadliest wars our country has ever seen. It is also one of the most studied and most revered times in our country's history. Have you ever been to a Civil War re-enactment? A few years ago I was able to watch a Civil War re-enactment of John Hunt Morgan's Raid into southern Indiana in Salem. This year is the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, there are all kinds of events going on throughout the country to commemorate this event. Wikipedia gives this description on the Civil War. "In response to the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, 11 southern slave states declared their secession from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America ("the Confederacy"); the other 25 states supported the federal government ("the Union"). After four years of warfare, mostly within the Southern states, the Confederacy surrendered and slavery was outlawed everywhere in the nation." Many lives were lost during the war and many homes were lost and families decimated. Many young men didn't return home from the war or died from disease during the war.

Below is a letter from a young man that went to serve his country during this awful time. Unfortunately this Brown County boy did not get to return home. His military headstone is at Mt. Zion Cemetery. These letters are all that remain to tell something of his life and his experience in the war. This is one of the letters written by David A. Whitehorn Jr. dated February 17, 1863 and sent home to his parents, David Allen and Amy Whitehorn, and to his brother, Elijah Douston Whitehorn.

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Feb. 17th A.D. 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and hearty and to sincerely hope and trust that those few lines may find you and family all well and doing well. I received your kind and welcome letter on the 14th of this month bearing date February 7th. I was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was all well except Caroline. I was heavy heart to read your letter when I came to the part that told me of the death of my beloved little sister. But there is one thing that consoles me and this is this I know she is gone to rest for God has said in his holy word to Suffer the little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of God. She was called in her infancy, I hope I may be as well prepared as she. I intend to try to meet her where parting will be no more and war will never come. I want you to write and tell me what ailed her and how long she was sick. But little did I think when I left home



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the last time that I would never be permitted to see her on earth. It surprised me to hear of her death, but we all have to go. She has paid the debt that we all have to pay sooner or later.

I will now tell you that I have just returned off of a scout, we were gone from camp for 14 days. We had a hard time and last night we were on picket and it rained all night and such a muddy night you never saw as we were. I have no strange war news to write to you. We were in camp and I don't see any sign of moving soon. I hope that peace will soon be made so I can return and see all of you that were still on the land and among the living. I still hope that they will be waiting for me when our Congress takes their seat. I will hope for the better if I never see it. I will write a few lines to Lige. He told me in your letter that he was not very well but I hope that those few lines may find him enjoying the best of health. He wanted me to let him know how the President's Proclamation set well. He will have to guess at that for I am bound head and foot and cannot leap an inch. You all know what is the matter for it is death to speak disrespectful of the President or any of his cabinet. You know what I think of it.

I must soon close. I want you to send me some more postage stamps and I will pay you well for them. I will say in conclusion that I expect to draw my pay in a few days. I think I will get 4 months pay and if I do I will send 60 or 65 dollars home this time. I want you to write soon and give me all the news that is going at present. Still I remain your dear brother until death. So fare you well.

David A. Whitehorn to Allen Whitehorn and E. D. Whitehorn

P. S. I understand that since I parted with you last Fall that a dear daughter from you and a dear sister from me Christ dost call. Father and Mother do not mourn her troubles are over, her crown are won, and you by faith must soon follow on. When I last left home her eyes were sparkling with her cheeks like the rose were in full bloom and they now lay moulding in the silent tomb. I hope that I may be justifiable before Christ to stand that I may \_\_\_\_ .

(If you have a Brown County boy in your family that served in the Civil War we would like to hear from you. We are always collecting photos and family histories.)

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## Brown County Historical Society ~ December Christmas dinner

Next month's meeting will be on Monday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m. This will be the annual Christmas Dinner and will be held at the Parkview Nazarene Church just east of Nashville on S. R. 46. Reservations are required and tickets are \$12 per person. Following dinner there will be entertainment.

## Brown County Genealogical Society ~ December Christmas program

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Traditional Arts Building. This will be our annual Christmas Party. All are asked to bring snacks and finger foods. Our program will be on Ohio Resources for Researching our Ancestors.

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