

## Crider Family of Greenfield, Annual Reunions, 1937–1940

*Erin Wright and Natalie Burriss*

Family reunions listed in newspapers can be valuable resources for both historians and genealogists. Beyond the obvious details of time and place, they also reveal names, relationships, and important events, such as births and deaths of family members. This allows researchers to draw some conclusions with greater certainty.

Good examples of articles about family reunions that give these and other details are Crider family reunion articles in the *Greenfield Daily Reporter*. A 1939 issue of the Greenfield paper notes that the Crider family held large annual reunions every year and had already held forty reunions. This family, descended from William and Elizabeth Crider, who settled in Hancock County, Indiana, from Virginia, began holding reunions in 1899. Forty years later these gatherings were still an annual event with family members from across the country traveling to Greenfield, Indiana, to catch up with one another, share news, and enjoy activities together.<sup>1</sup>

Listed below is information extracted from articles about the Crider family reunions that took place from 1937 through 1940. Detailed in the articles are names of family members elected to offices and committee positions, births and deaths of family members, and entertainment performed at the reunions.<sup>2</sup> Researchers can use the information provided to solidify family relationships and identify individuals' residences at particular times. These types of details help put together accurate family trees, and they also serve as a foundation for further genealogical research. For example, it may be useful to know that there were at least two McKinley sisters in the family or that Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crider traveled all the way from their home in Washington, DC, to attend the 1940 reunion.<sup>3</sup>

### Notes

1. "An Old Family Holds Reunion: Descendants of William and Elizabeth Crider to Number 125 Meet in Riley Park. The Forty-First Meeting." *The Greenfield Daily Reporter*, August 12, 1939; "The Crider Family Reunion," *Greenfield Daily Reporter*, August 8, 1912; "Members of the Crider Family," *Greenfield Daily Reporter*, August 13, 1938.

2. Ibid.; “The 39th Reunion of Crider Family,” *Greenfield Daily Reporter*, September 8, 1937;  
“Crider Family in 42D Reunion,” August 10, 1940.
3. “Crider Family in 42D Reunion,” August 10, 1940.

***Greenfield Daily Reporter, September 8, 1937***

Date of Reunion: September 6, 1937

Place: Riley Park, Greenfield, Indiana

Attendance: About 50

**Prayer:** Mrs. Genevra Moore

**Song:** “Faith in Our Fathers”

**Poem:** “Beautiful Country,” in memory of and furnished by Noble Crider; read by Mrs. Anna Niles

**Elections for Following Year**

President: Ralph Crider, Acton

Vice President: Mrs. Frank Trees

Secretary–Treasurer: Mrs. Alice Chandler

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Emma Smith

Arrangement Committee: Frank Trees, O. B. Crider, Ott Boyer

Coffee Committee: Mattie Crider, Elizabeth Trees, Kate McKinley

Entertainment Committee: Selma Stephens, Nell Trees, Frankie Griffith

**Out of Town Family Members**

Mr. and Mrs. Hinkle and Marshall Crider, New Castle

Rev. Ralph Crider and wife and Rev. Marcellus Crider and wife, Acton

Mrs. Ellen Gibbs and Mr. and Mrs. Watt Harrison, Acton

Mrs. Rosa Rinker, Shirley  
Mr. and Mrs. Adrew Sipe and daughter and Louis Rinker, Muncie  
Walter Rinker, Inglewood, California  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Vanduyn, Maxwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Barton Burke, Eden  
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Smith, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Ethel Crider and son Lyle, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Della Carroll, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Crider, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Olvey, Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Ott Boyer, Fortville  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Chandler and daughter Georgana, Wilkinson  
Mrs. Anna Niles, Charlottesville

***Greenfield Daily Reporter, August 13, 1938***

Date of Reunion: August 11, 1938  
Place: Riley Park, Greenfield, Indiana  
Attendance: 125

**Prayer:** Rev. Mack Crider, West Terre Haute

**Short Talks:** Mrs. Ellen Gibbs, Charles M. Gibbs, O. B. Crider

**Programs**

Music: McKinley sisters

Readings: Bettie Jean Briney, Mrs. Anna Niles

Crider Family Reminiscences: Written by the late Mrs. Elnora Stephens (d. December 1937) and read by her daughter Mrs. Emma Smith

Historical Records: O. B. Crider

### **Birthdays**

Mrs. Ellen Gibbs, 81

Charles M. Gibbs, 83

### **Visitors Present**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Lyn[---]m, Mrs. Maria Helm and daughter Delight of Indianapolis, Mrs. Cora Williams, Mrs. Maude Davis, Mrs. Clara Scott, Mrs. Lawrence Wood, Mrs. Ora Myers

### **Elections for Following Year**

President: Rev. Ralph Crider, Ellettsville

Vice President: Mrs. Nell Trees

Secretary–Treasurer: Mrs. Emma Smith

Assistant Secretary: Helen Crider

Arrangement Committee: O. B. Crider, chairman, Ott Boyer, John Williams

Coffee Committee: Nell Trees, Anna Williams

Entertainment Committee: Mrs. Selma Gibbs, Mrs. Frankie Griffith, Mrs. Anna Niles

### **Out of Town Family Members**

Mr. and Mrs. David Bentley, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and their daughter, Mrs. Jesse Dorsey and husband, Waukegan, Illinois

Rev. Mack Crider, West Terre Haute

Rev. Ralph Crider and wife, Ellettsville

Mrs. Rose Rinker and son, Muncie

Mrs. Daisy Olvey, Anderson, and her brother Ott Boyer of Fortville

Miss Rhea Stephens, Indianapolis

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Gibbs, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Ellen Gibbs, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Della Carroll, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Crider, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, Indianapolis  
Mrs. James Moore, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Nell Trees, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Ruby Parish, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Pansy Smith, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Trees, Indianapolis  
Charles Crider and daughter, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Pearl Carpenter, Indianapolis  
Millard Humes, Indianapolis  
Miss Robb, Indianapolis

***Greenfield Daily Reporter, August 12, 1939***

Date of Reunion: August 10, 1939

Place: Riley Park, Greenfield, Indiana

Attendance: 125

**Prayer:** John Williams

**Song:** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Short Talk:** Crider Family Reminiscences, John Williams

### **Family News**

Mrs. Nell Trees, daughter of George W. Crider, had been present at each reunion.

Bert Boyer, Chesterfield, Indiana, was gravely ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Orvin Crider, Lima, Ohio, were adopted into the family by vote.

### **Elections for Following Year**

President: Rev. Ralph Crider, Ellettsville

Vice President: Nell Trees

Secretary–Treasurer: Emaline Smith

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Lawrence Crider

Arrangement Committee: Oscar Crider, John Williams, Ott Boyer

Coffee Committee: Nell Trees, Anna Williams

Entertainment Committee: Catherine Wampner, Fern Elsbury, Selma Gibbs, Anna Niles

### ***Greenfield Daily Reporter, August 10, 1940***

Date of Reunion: August 8, 1940

Place: Riley Park, Greenfield, Indiana

Attendance: 110

**Prayer:** Rev. Cooper

### **Duets**

McKinley sisters

Rev. Ralph Crider and Mrs. Phillips

**Readings:** Mary Beeson

**Song:** “God Be With You ’Til We Meet Again”

**Birthday:** Mrs. Ellen Crider Gibbs, whose 83rd birthday would be on August 11th, was not present at the reunion, but she was acknowledged as the oldest member of the family.

### **Deaths**

Charles M. Gibbs

Mrs. Pearl Carpenter

### **Elections for Following Year**

President: Ralph Crider

Vice President: O. B. Crider

Secretary–Treasurer: Emaline Smith

Assistant Secretary: Allie Chandler

### **Out of Town Family Members**

Mr. and Mrs. David Bentley, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crider, Washington, DC

Rev. and Mrs. Robert B. Phillips, Columbia, KY