

**More Tornado Information**

Advance warning of severe weather has become a priority in our county, as it has throughout the nation. I, myself, have seen the members of the Brook Volunteer Fire Department perched atop their fire trucks on the road just east of my home apparently they are aware of the path that these storms take, and know that they have a great view of the southern skies from that vantage point. Let me tell you, when you see the fire department sky watching from your back porch, you make sure you have the cellar door open!

The history of advance warning was put together by Kyle Conrad, NCHS member and Fire Chief of the Brook Fire Department.

Before the automated sirens were installed in Brook, they would drive the fire trucks around town with the lights and sirens on to warn people to take cover. While in theory this was OK, you had to have at least 15 minutes advance notice as that's how long it took to drive the whole town with two trucks.

In the late 1980's they switched to blowing the fire siren for a 3 minute steady blast, rather than up and down like the fire siren. Today, a three minute blast is still the warning signal, but the sirens can be activated by radio from the sheriff's department and within seconds, all sirens in the county can be activated.

These post cards were sent to me from Rita Knecht, who has written her family history for "Focus On Families" in this issue. The description on the back of the top card addressed to Mrs. Maggie Bridgeman, Lake Village, Indiana, reads "The building standing is the Blunder House with some boards thrown up against it. The large man is Dan Bower near the floor of the house it did not move"

The second card is addressed to Mr. Ephie Bridgeman, Lake Village, Indiana, dated April 21, 1918. "Cyclone ruins. First house north of our Swedish Community in Illinois. Family of 7 killed only one escaped with his life to witness the scene." More about this Rice family is in the feature story of this issue. *Submitted by Beth Bassett.*

**The Newcomer**

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. Published 4 times a year. Articles for submission are encouraged and may be sent to the editor, Beth A. Bassett, 1681 East, 1100 South, Brook, Indiana 47922.

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**The Newcomer**

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
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**What's On Our Agenda . . .**

**The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month, on the same day, the Family History Division meets at 2:00 at the Resource Center at 224 N. Third Street in Kentland and the Society general meetings are held in different locations in the County at 7:00 p.m. Local members are notified of the place and time each month. Don't Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!**

*We'd Like Your Input!! We are looking for suggestions for stories, articles and pictures for our next edition of The Newcomer. We know that there are many stories of our past ancestors and their way of life that are just waiting to be told! This newsletter is designed to do just that!! If you would like to write an article, submit a photo, contact the editor or a member of our society.*

Visit our web site at [www.rootsweb.com/~innewton](http://www.rootsweb.com/~innewton)

**The Newcomer**

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**• Volunteers Needed!**

We are seeking help to "man" the Resource Center at Kentland a few hours each day. We also have many on-going projects such as census transcription and obituary extractions that can be done from your home. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Beth Bassett at 219-275-5741, Janet Miller at 219-474-5380, or Sue Humphrey at 219-474-6081.

**Windstorms, Cyclones and Tornadoes-Oh My!**

By Beth Bassett

Please forgive my "take" on a famous line from Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" but it just fit so well! My fascination with storms of this type probably was inspired by this book, and later the movie. Or, could it be that storm of 1967 when the clouds gathered, it became dark as night during the day, and I remember my Mother trying to gather me and my Grandma Bassett, who was living with us at the time, together in one place to at least keep us safe. But, Grandma was sure she couldn't possibly do anything without her pocketbook, so my mom dashed upstairs to fetch it for her, while I stood out on the enclosed front porch and watched the buckets fly by. I was nine years old at the time . . . it didn't seem to bother me as much as it would in 1994, when I would once again encounter "the mighty and powerful Oz". I was fortunate that I did not have as much damage as had occurred in 1939, when my place was totally blown to smithereens – as well as my neighbors to the west and east!

How many of you have dreamed about someday – over that rainbow. . . well, for those of us who have sat out, or should I say, hid from a bad spring or summer storm – rainbows at the time are the last thing that you are thinking about – however, the fascination slowly dwindles when you "come out – come-out" – as Belinda the Good Witch says, to see devastation at your feet.

The accounts from the local papers not only describe the destruction of the storms that have passed through our county over the years, but it also gives a great insight to where people lived at those times. If you map out the paths of the storms, which you can easily do with the descriptions that follow, you will see that there are definite paths that the storms seem to follow. I am certain that there have been other tornadoes that occurred at one time or another, but space prohibits me to allow ink for all of them. However, I would appreciate any information you may have regarding weather in Newton County, or personal recollections that we could keep in our files at the Resource Center, or possibly publish in future newsletters. Please send them along to me!

**Cyclone Sweeps through County May 25, 1907 Leaving a Trail of Destruction.** *Newton County Enterprise, May 30, 1907.*

"Commencing two miles southwest of Morocco, we first heard of the tornado was at the farm of John Cox. At five o'clock in the afternoon, a heavy rain and hailstorm was in progress, when, without a moment's warning, a huge funnel shaped cloud went whirling by Mr. Cox's farm, demolishing small buildings, uprooted trees, and driving his horses and livestock into wire fences. Thence eastward went

*Continued on page two*



*Home of Charles L. Smart near Morocco, showing steps where two children were crushed to death while attempting to get into the cellar. They were half way down when the house turned. -Newton County Enterprise Photo, April 25, 1912.*

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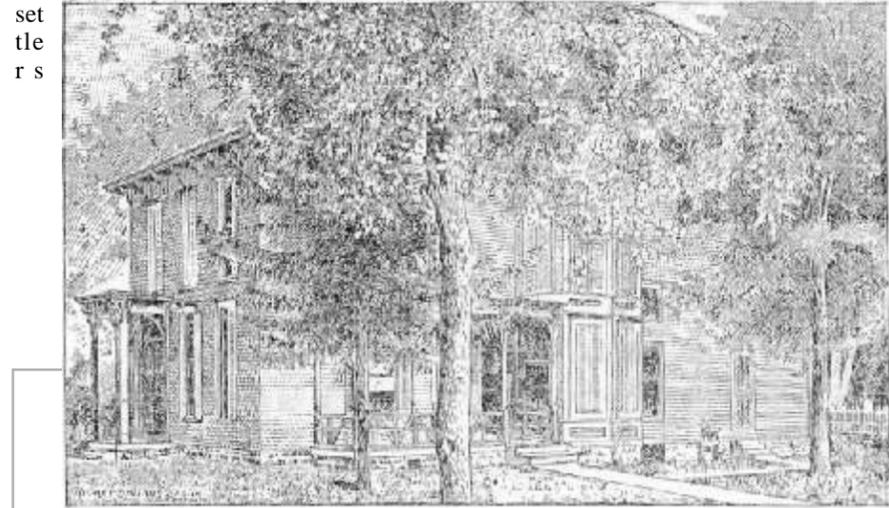
Bunkum, I do not say it was true, that when there was a dancing party in the place, the men fought for partners, that is the best man physically danced with the prettiest girl.

"And Kent Station, though just started, was a lively, booming place. Work was plenty. Everybody was busy. John Peacock, Sr., since deceased, served satisfactorily at the same time in the several capacities of station agent, postmaster and merchant, and others were equally busy. Besides those mentioned there was A.J. Kent, who owned the land upon which the town is situated, and whose enterprise and generosity was of inestimable benefit to our town and township; and there was Wm. Ross, J.B. Chesebrough, Sylvester Root, Nathaniel West, Samuel Bramble, Sr., Col. David A. McHolland, J. B. Spottswood and others, who cast their fortunes and wrought each in his own way, for the new town before the war. These I have mentioned are dead, but the work they assisted in commencing still goes on.

"Then this place was but a railroad station on the wild prairie in the 'swampland region'. This township, yes I can say this part of Newton County and the southern part of Benton County, was indeed fenceless, treeless and trackless country. On all sides of this town, save one, as far as the eye could reach there was scarcely anything in sight except a broad expanse of prairie. Then we had no bridges, no roads, and water, especially in the spring of the year, covered nearly half of the land. And the sights and sounds of those days are well remembered by the old settlers. There were the prairie fires that often went like the wind over the prairie and in the night made darkness light all around us. And the cold wintry wind that used to sweep over the prairie without a shrub, or a tree, or a hedge to break its force, and how the howling and yelping of wolves made the night hideous. Such were some of the conditions in this region in the early history of the town, and the town was not commenced until after the railroad was built in 1859.

"But there are few men with families living in what is Jefferson Township some years before the railroad was built through this region. These men lived here for years without the advantages and convenience furnished by a railroad.

"A railroad brings almost everything a man wants almost to his door, but these men were even forced to haul everything they used in wagons-sometimes for miles over a water soaked prairie. These men were the old



*Home of Jethro Hatch, Kentland, 1912*

- the true pioneers, and we can well believe that all of their trials, hardships and experiences are not known, or at least cannot be fully related by their children and grandchildren. The names of these pioneers of Jefferson Township, ought to be engraved on a monument to be known and read by those who come after.

"Among those early settlers, who are still living in this vicinity, I mention James Martin, John Whitaker, Isaac Speck, George Herriman, and Jerry Johnson. Martin Crown, another old settler, recently moved to Kansas. And there was Otto Anderson, Joel Anderson, Charles Anderson, Amos Clark, James Collier, John Davis, Squire Davis, James Dodson, Mitchel Dunn, John Evans, John Knouff, William Littlejohn, William Smith, John Smith, Thomas Smith, Josiah Smith, Joseph Staton, Sr., Samuel Staton, Hugh Warren, Amos White, Ruben White, George White and perhaps others. Many of these are dead, but they were all brave, hardy and energetic men. They believed in these prairies. They had confidence that these lands could be drained and tilled, and could soon bring forth abundant harvests. To these men-these old pioneers-we owe much, and to them we accord all honor and praise.

"They started the great and wondrous change that has come over this part of our country, and this change has come or taken place within the memory of many, now living in this vicinity. This change has come silently, so evenly, so rapidly, comparatively speaking, that to the old settlers it seems like a dream. We can almost fancy that the wand of the magician has passed over the land and instead of the fenceless, treeless and

trackless country we once knew, we have a prosperous village, rich and thriving farms, happy homes, churches, schoolhouses, pleasant groves and abundant harvests.

"Now we have good roads, (we expect better when we have the stone roads) and our streams are bridged and our lands are ditched and tilled. Now we can hear the rattle of the reaper and noise of the thrasher on the very places where once was heard the croaking of bullfrogs and the screeching of the waterfowl. In other words, places that were once called swampland and marshes have become under the hand of civilization gardens of beauty and fruitfulness. And there are now good streets; our good sidewalks, the electric lights, the water works and the telephone, and have all come to us since this town was young.

"And, we have no reason to expect that this great work-this great improvement and progress-will continue as the years roll by. It will not stop with us, it will not die when we die, but it will go on in the future, not only in this region, but also in our whole country."

This is but a brief sketch of a life that fills an important chapter in the history of Kentland, and our county.

**- Web site directory -**

- Cemetery Records •
- Newton County Census Records: 1860 & 1870, 1880, 1900 (Beaver Twp)
- Jasper County Census Records: 1850-Index
- Enter & View Newton County Queries
  - Newton County Look-Ups
  - Obituaries of Past Residents
- New! Complete Brook Alumni List!**

doubled in like paper. Other churches also reported damage.

"The country surrounding Morocco suffered in like proportion. A large barn on the Mrs. Gertie Chizum farm tenanted by Harry Henry, was blown down. Thirty head of stock were in the barn, and two hogs were killed. Harve Rust also lost a barn. Dr. Triplett a barn and silo, Carey Hagen a barn, Ross Lucas a big barn and crib, Victor Carlson a barn and on the M. Padgett farm a



*Above, The Burley home place, 1939, was totally destroyed, as was the Bower home, below, just east of the Burley farm. NCE photo*



*The beautiful trees on the east side of the Hazelden home of George Ade were destroyed. NCE photo.*

barn was demolished and a large crib was blown around on its foundation. East of Morocco, on the Mrs. Geo. Deardurff farm a barn was wrecked. At the Francis Elijah farm a barn and stock shed were razed. Damage in the way of unroofed barns was also reported at the farms of Scott Clark, H.L. Wright, Martin Barker, John Zoborosky, and in fact, such damage was general in the whole scope of the county from about two miles north of Ade to a like distance north of Morocco, and extending east and west clear across the county.

"The Otterbein Church in Jackson township, we are informed was struck by lightning and burned to the ground."

**June 9, 1939 and May 4, 1994**

This storm, stated by *The Brook Reporter* dated June 15, 1939, was the worst storm that had happened in Northwestern Indiana in fifty years. It swept in from the southwest, following about 20 minutes of rain. They reported that all of a sudden the sky turned a yellowish green and from out of the southwest came a dark rolling cloud. It swept a path about a quarter of a mile wide, beginning with the George Ade farm where tenants Glen Harper and his wife lived with five children. It was flattened out as if a huge roller had struck it. Two of the little girls were upstairs when the storm hit the building, when it was over; they were lying under part of the debris. Outside of slight cuts and bruises, they were fine.

Then it continued to literally sweep everything away in its path. Across the creek on the hill stood the big barn and buildings of the old Wilson Griggs Farm where Mr. and Mrs. Burley resided. Mrs. Burley had just returned from the hospital and was confined to her bed. He saw the first part of the storm and came to the house to be with her. He turned the team towards the barn and ran for the house, he called to his wife and started with her to the basement, but could not get the door open. Then, he said, "something hit me in the back and that is the last thing I remember until I came too under a bunch of boards about fifty-feet from the house. I worked my way out from under there about 10-15 feet away sat my wife on the ground. She had never lost consciousness, and saw my feet sticking out from under the pile of lumber and thought I might have been killed. Outside of the shock and bruises and a slight cut on the leg, neither of us were injured" How this escape could have been possible, seems a miracle to everyone, for the house and barn were literally torn to pieces and scattered the lots and fields. The foundation

absolutely bare.

At the Bower's farm, the housekeeper, Mrs. Wilbanks and her daughter Patty were bathing. The little girl it is said, was thrown out the window, but Mrs. Wilbanks hardly knows how she got out of the house. The wind seemed to have lifted it up and shook it and dropped it on the foundation. The mother was met wandering down the road in a daze and the little girl was unconscious when picked up, but neither was seriously injured.

At the Ernest Martin home, all the buildings were wrecked. From the Bowers home the storm swept on until it reached the Lyons homestead. This was torn apart and scattered over the ground. It then touched slightly on Manuel Anderson's buildings and left some of them roofless. The Abe Dewees place was hit where it destroyed most of the barn and blew out the windows in the home.

A mile or so further, it struck Hazelden. At the farm home, the big grain elevator was left a mass of ruins, while the barn was a complete wreck. It followed on to the grounds of Hazelden with it's groups of shade trees, that have withstood the winds of a hundred years or more, crumpled under its impact and went down in a twisted mass of trees and shrubbery and giant oaks were torn in pieces or uprooted. Mr. Ade who was in Rensselaer at the time stated, "I could have replaced the house, but not the trees".

A mile farther on it hit the buildings of Mr. Ade's Riverside farm. The big barn was minus an upper story when it was over. A large implement shed was lost in an adjoining wheat field. Here is where the storm ceased is work.

The Red Cross set up camp at the Burley residence and reported after a general survey that 55 people were involved, 20 families, 10 property owners, 10 tenants, 6 injured, 2 in the hospital, 2 houses demolished, 3 barns, 13 outbuildings, 7 houses damaged, 8 barns damaged, and 7 outbuildings. Four cattle killed, 32 hogs and 1000 chickens.

This neighborhood would rebuild and once again enjoy the surroundings of their farms and homes. Fifty-five years later on May 4, 1994, the "periodical windstorms" would once again visit these farms. The former Harper home at that time was inhabited by Gene Beasley and family and would have damage to their barn; the Wilson Griggs farm, now owned by Beth Bassett, would once again lose the landmark barn to total destruction and minor damages to the

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home; and at the Bower farm, the rebuilt barn in the early 1940's was once again destroyed by the storms. *Editor's note: Joe Burley's son, Garry told me that his father discussed this tornado with him many times. His neighbor to the north, now the Sally Conn residence, had chickens that were literally plucked clean.*

**Tornado Plays Havoc in Kentland and Vicinity**

The 1939 storm would cause an estimated \$250,000 in damage to property in the county, and much of that would be in the town of Kentland. Many local businesses would lose their window glass, roof and home damage. However, nothing was completely demolished.

The Ben Franklin Store on Third street had the front plate glass windows blown in and the entire rear end of the building removed by the terrific force of the wind. The brick from the store was piled on William Zimmerman's car, parked in the alley behind the store. Mr. Zimmerman was the store manager. Among the other buildings affected were: The Deck, Grab-It-Here Store, Sears Roebuck & Co., Post Office, Bairs Grocery, Kentland Democrat office, Harlan Grain Company; Heistand Law Office, Linco Service Station, Anna's Cafe, Enterprise Office; Cunningham Law Office, Newton County Jail; Fred Walker residence; Jas. Illingworth residence; William Funk and A.D. Washburn residences.

**March 11, 1967 – Tornado Hits Northern Newton County.**

Reprinted from the *History of Newton County, 1985*. Northern Newton County was declared a disaster area due to the extensive damage caused by a tornado, and possibly 2, that ripped across the county on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

The twister first touched down in Lake Township, moving across Lincoln and then into Jasper County. Naked City and the Ponderosa Sun Club along with the Pioneer campgrounds sustained extensive damage. The Drosts of Naked City estimated their damage to be \$250,000 to the glass-walled house and to the mobile homes in the resort. Pioneer campgrounds lost the recreation building, their office building and various buildings on the site.

The American Red Cross reported that there were two deaths, ten injured and hospitalized, fourteen homes totally destroyed; twelve homes with major damage; 13 minor damaged homes, eleven mobile homes totally destroyed; three mobile homes with major damage and five

businesses damaged. A total of 52 families in Newton County suffered damage and loss, leaving estimated total of over \$1 million.

**July 6, 1987 – Tornado Rips Through Morocco's Northwest Side**

Shortly after 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6, 1987 a well-known path was once again taken by a returning visitor to the town of Morocco. Rated by the National Weather Service as an F2 tornado, with a path of only a half mile long and 200 yards wide, it's destructive path left 2 trailer homes completely destroyed and caused nearly \$1 million dollars in damage to at least 15 homes, a doctor's office and the bath house of the community swimming pool.

The Morocco Little League teams were in the middle of a game, Rose Vaughn had just gone into the kitchen to check the time – 6:10 p.m. and Gordon White was in his kitchen.

There was very little indication that a tornado was about to touch down, and residents stated that there was no more than a minute of high winds and darkening clouds to warn them. Then, Gordon White heard a big boom, and the second tornado in 19 months ripped through the northwest side of town.

Seconds earlier, the Little Leaguers had cleared out from their dugouts, which were completely demolished. From an account in the *Post Tribune*, Gordon had less time to react.

"I thought about running across to the house because there's a cellar. But there was no time. I just grabbed the refrigerator and hung on," White said. "The trailer

started to tip. I rode the refrigerator across the yard – we just bounced across." His house trailer was ripped and strewn across a nearby field. Furniture and appliances were spread all over the place.

His neighbor, Clara Louise Coley, also lived in a trailer. She was not as lucky as Gordon. When the twister ripped open her home, she was thrown outside. A stereo whipped by the wind landed on top of her.

The tornado uprooted trees, blew the roof off Dr. Robert Bathurst's office, and destroyed the bathhouse of the community swimming pool. Harold LaCosse, a member of the Morocco Volunteer Fire Department, stated that their biggest concern was the chlorine leak at the swimming pool. He watched the tornado as it went by about a half a block from him.

"It would stop in one spot for a few seconds and then go on. It was kind of an eerie thing", he said. He saw it hit some houses and thought it was coming towards his house, but the tornado went past it." "I wasn't scared, but I was concerned."

The State Police reported that the two damaged chlorine tanks at the swimming pool had been neutralized by the fire department. They also reported that the tornado initially touched down on Indiana 114 then went through West Field Park, where the swimming pool and baseball fields were located. After hitting the northwest section of town, the tornado traveled to the northeast, where it eventually dissipated.

*Pictured left is the tornado that hit in 1967, photo was taken by Larry Schanlaub, and published in The History of Newton County, 1985. Below, Gordon White points to what originally was his home, 1987.*



**Jethro Ayers Hatch - Kentland's First Physician**

By Beth Bassett

Many of you who have read "Ralph, the Story of Bogus Island", are familiar with its author, J. A. Hatch. This story, originally serialized in the early issues of the *Kentland Enterprise*, and later published in book form by the *Morocco Courier* and most recently by the Newton County Historical Society, may be the only recognition of this name to some people. However, J. A. Hatch touched the lives of Newton County residents and his country throughout his entire lifetime, in many different ways.

Jethro Ayres Hatch was born in Pitcher, Chenango County, New York on June 18, 1837, one of five children born to Jehthro and Minerva (Pierce) Hatch. In 1847, his family later settled in Sugar Grove, Kane County, Illinois, where he attended the common schools and the institute in Batavia, Illinois. He graduated as a physician from the Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois, in February 1860. In 1861, J.A. arrived in Kentland and became their first physician.

In response to the first call of President Lincoln, Hatch enlisted, and in 1862, he was commissioned as the Assistant Surgeon of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and afterward promoted to Surgeon, with the rank of Major. He participated in many of the greater engagements of the Civil War, retiring with a military record that but few could boast. He continued to serve until he mustered out of service February 8, 1865, at which time he returned to Kentland. Here, he resumed his practice, as well as serving as Secretary and later President of the Pension Examining Board from 1865-1907.

Dr. Hatch was instrumental in organizing the Kentland American Legion Post, McHolland Post, and in 1906, became a member of the Loyal Legion of America, composed of officers of the Army. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and at the time of residence here, was the only member in Newton County. He was a Mason of high rank and a member of the Presbyterian Church.

During his entire life, he was an active Republican. In a special legislative session of 1872, and the regular session of 1873, he represented the 10th District, which include Jasper, Pulaski and Newton County, as their State Representative in the U.S. Congress. He was elected to the 54th Congress, (March 4, 1895-March 3, 1897), but was not a candidate for re-nomination in 1896.

Upon completing his terms in office, he again resumed his medical practice in Kentland, as well as serving on the board of the Logansport Hospital for the insane. At that time, he also served as the physician and surgeon for the Logansport Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and was a surgeon for the Chicago and Cairo Division of the New York Central Railroad from the time it was built until 1907, at which time he and his family moved to Victoria, Texas and engaged in the real estate business.

On May 26, 1881, he was married to Sarah Shaeffer of Ohio. To this union a son, Darwin and a daughter, were born.

On the afternoon of his death, August 3, 1912, Dr. Hatch had made a short talk before the Republican convention in Victoria, Texas. He had been calmly seated for some moments when those near him saw his head drop to one side. Given immediate attention by the attending physician, the end came as peacefully as it was sudden. Services were held in Victoria, but his body was returned to Kentland, where he was interned at Fairlawn Cemetery.

**When Kentland Was Young by J.A. Hatch**

"The discovery of this inclusion in The History of Newton County, 1985, may have been a speech that Dr. Hatch gave at a town ceremony, but more than likely at an Old Soldiers and Settlers Reunion. After reading this, you may understand why Dr. Hatch wrote the book "Ralph, the Story of Bogus Island". When it was actually read or originally written is not known. However, his love for the area and the people can be seen between the lines of this, a brief description of Kentland and Jefferson Township, told by a "40 year ago" pioneer.

*A poet once said:  
"Yet while we linger we may all  
A backward glance still throw  
To the days when we were pioneers,  
Seventy years ago"*

"Now I do not say "seventy years ago," nor do I claim to be one of the pioneers of this region, but I can say "forty years ago," and I claim to be one of the early settlers of this town. And there are others who share with me the importance and the honor - in our own estimation - of being very early settlers of the town and continuous residence here since 1860. Among these I mention John Ade, the first Recorder of the county; Oscar Phelps, the first druggist of



Jethro A. Hatch

the town; Charles E. Ross, clerk in the first store in town, Barnett Hawkins, one of the first carpenters in town.

"June 12, 1860, I located here as a physician and surgeon, and it is probable that I incidentally and no doubt modestly mentioned to the few people living here and in the vicinity that I was "sure cure" for "shakes", "fever and auge", "milk sick", and "rattle snake bite", the then prevailing diseases of the country. At that time this place was called "Kent Station", Goodland was called "Tivoli", and Remington was called "Carpenter's Creek", This place consisted of the depot, one store, one boarding house, one residence, one blacksmith shop and a hotel and two store rooms in process of erection. A three-cornered pile of lumber served for a saloon, and no Carrie Nation in the whole country to make kindling wood of it. For a time there was no churches, no church societies, no secret societies, no police, no justice of the peace, no town marshal, in other words, there was nothing in town to interfere with our pleasure or limit enjoyment, and I must say, though perhaps I am not the one to say it, we behaved exceedingly well, under the circumstances.

"This was a new town, but there were old towns in this vicinity, towns that had been centers of business trade for some years. Brook and Morocco in this county were good trading points and Concord, now the flourishing village of Iroquois, then better known as "Bunkum", in the adjoining county of Iroquois, Illinois, was an Indian trading post, and for a time the chief business point of the region. In 1860, it was known far and wide as a lively place, in fact a "red hot town". In those days it was said of

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the whirling, surging mass, now in the air, and now sweeping the ground until Elbert Kessler's place, one half mile south of Morocco was reached. Here windows were blown in, chickens killed, fences torn down, trees up-rooted and as the cloud vanished for a time, so did Mr. Kessler's hen house and the ruins were found half a mile away where the cyclone next came to earth. Then on eastward went the devouring twister, demolishing an uninhabited house and a barn for Orrin Elijah, and orchard and machinery house for Riley Harwood, and thence to John Kennedy's farm, five miles east of Morocco, where the greatest damage was done.

"Samuel Kennedy lives on the farm and at the hour of the storm, his brother, Kinder, was visiting at his home. Knowing that a severe storm was coming, they had hurried to the barn to turn the horses into a nearby pasture. The barn and crib are-or were before the storm -situated on the west side of the north and south road, and the house, a new one story structure, is situated across the road and opposite the barn. Before they could return to the house, the tornado was on them. The top of the large double crib was sliced off as neatly as if a mighty axe had done the work. The barn, a 30x40 structure, was so thoroughly demolished that not a single timber remained standing, a major portion was blown entirely over the house, which stood 150 feet distant. The house was turned crosswise of the foundation and all the windows were blown in. Huge pieces from the barn were driven entirely through the upper portion of the house.

"In a north room lay Mrs. Samuel Kennedy and her tiny three day's old babe. They were saved from injury by the foresight of her sister-in-law, who piled pillows over them. Samuel Kennedy and Kinder Kennedy were blown senseless to the ground, and both were terribly injured by flying timbers. After the storm had passed, Miss Bertha Kennedy ran to a neighbor's through mud and water ankle deep for aid.

"After the devastation at the Kennedy home, the storm seemed to increase in power instead of diminish, and a half mile to the eastward demolished the large barn of Henry Brunton as if it were an egg shell. Mr. Brunton's orchard was completely demolished. " Again, on eastward, the tornado paying the farm house of George Schanlaub a visit long enough to demolish the porches and apart of the orchard; and thence to Marion Corbin's home, one mile

south of Mt. Ayr. His barn was smashed to kindling wood and three horses buried in the ruin.

"On its continued journey towards Jasper County, the cyclone passed through several large tracts of timber on the Harris and Yoeman farms, and here its irresistible force was most shown. Giant oaks, centuries old, were twisted off as easily as one breaks a match, and others were torn out by the roots, leaving large holes in the ground. At the end of the article, it states that the tornado took shame at Mr. Cox's farm, but reports were also received that the wind played havoc through parts of Iroquois County as well.

**April 21, 1912 - Tornado Sweeps Center of County, 9 People Killed and Many Injured**

This storm could possibly go down in our county history as the most deadly of spring storms the county has seen. Seven victims at the home of Charles Rice and two at the home of Charles Smart were taken. Farm buildings were demolished like paper. The Jack Bowers, Frank Potts and Mike Gorman homes were completely wrecked. Farms and cribs in the path of the storm were twisted into kindling wood and orchards were uprooted. Many horses, cattle and poultry were killed. Two young couples going to the home of John Conn were thrown from their buggies and their clothes torn off.

The following are excerpts taken from

the *Newton County Enterprise*, April 25, 1912.

"A tornado reaping a death toll of nine and causing great property loss swept over central Newton County Sunday evening, leaving grief and destruction in its path. It was the worst storm this county has ever known and was at its worst between 6 and 7 o'clock.

"In the immediate vicinity of Kentland, there were some rain and considerable wind, but the storm assumed no dangerous proportions. The clouds could be seen whirling northward, and it was anticipated there had been a big storm before the news reached here from up county.

"The storm that did the deadly work came from the southwest and passed to the northeast, entering Indiana from Illinois near the Swede Church, about six miles southwest of Morocco. The cloud at that point had become a cyclone, demolishing buildings, over turning and uprooting the largest of trees and leaving devastation in it's path.

"At the home of Charles Rice, across the line in Illinois, the house was blown entirely away, as were also all of the buildings except a small tool shed with a straw roof, which was untouched. The timbers of the house and barn were scattered for nearly a quarter of mile to the southeast.

*Continued on page four*



*A cat surveys the cyclone ruins in Morocco on April 21, 1912. Close inspection also finds a woman viewing the destruction - can you find her? From The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection, Gerald Born photo. More photos on page 20.*

**McCray Scholarship Winners, "Conrad" - continued from page 3**

Jenny was married to a Chicago bank cashier for eleven years. A few years after the marriage Lemuel Milk gave them four thousand acres in Lake Township of Newton County, located just south of what is now Lake Village.

They built a home and called it "Dune Oak." They went into the cattle raising business, supplying beef for the markets in Chicago. The land they did not use they rented for grazing land to other cattlemen. In addition, she was the leading breeder of Poland China hogs in the United States, and she sold and shipped them all across the country and around the world. Hoosier historian Harry G. Black said that she was being credited as the inventor of the six or eight bottom plow which was pulled by a steam tractor.

Jenny did have an antipathy for the people and the community of Lake Village. The maps show that she only lived two miles south of Lake Village, but would travel five or ten miles out of her way to catch a train at Schneider or Lowell rather than Lake Village. She would also have a horseman travel twenty-four mile round trip to Morocco to get her mail rather than have it go through Lake Village.

She had one child, a son named Platt Conrad. Her husband, George died in 1896 and she took over the farm and livestock operation. It was said that she would carry a shotgun as she rode about her property in a carriage. She also expanded her land by three thousand acres.

Those who remember Jenny say she was a retired Morocco attorney who was tough and a mean old gal. She had trouble keeping hired men due to her not being able to stand having other people on her property. She would also run people off her land for hunting, picking berries, and swimming in her ditch.

Jenny also became known as an empire builder. In 1905 she laid out and recorded the plat for the town of Conrad. After this she was able to have the Chicago, Indiana, and Southern Railroad stop at Conrad.

The plat is very impressive. It had one hundred fifty lots surrounding a 2.7 acre park named after her son. The streets were named for family members. The entrance to Conrad is about one-quarter mile north of the Conrad Ditch, and George Street became known as Old US 41. The town in the end had a general store, post office, a cement block factory just south of Jane Street or 950W, a stockyard, a blacksmith shop, the Robinson family home, four frame tenant houses, the depot, section house, a coal shed, a church, and a hotel. Located nearby were three more tenant houses and Jenny Conrad's house which was built near the Conrad Ditch.

Edwin L. Robinson, of Morocco, who grew up in Conrad, said that "Jenny owned everything in town except for the railroad property and our house, and everything she owned was painted yellow except for the Poland China hogs." He also stated, "She was not happy unless she was suing somebody."

At Conrad's peak it had between twenty and thirty people. The decline of the town took place during the 1930's. The school was closed in 1927, and it was torn down so that bricks from that structure could be used in the Lake Village School. Also in the 1930's the railroad pulled out the maintenance crew that had been lodged at Conrad. This took the population down to a handful.

Mrs. Conrad's fortunes continued to decline to the point that she sold her four thousand acres and one account states that she had only 1,597 acres at the time of her death.

She died at the home of her niece in Rensselaer in 1939. She was buried beside her husband in Mount Grove Cemetery at Kankakee.

There is not much left of the town anymore. About all you can find are the steps to the old school and some foundations. Some people have said they have been there and could rarely find anything that was left standing. Although, Robinson was able to find the remnants of his house, the section house at the depot.

The few foundations, sand streets, and the thick grove of oaks are all that remain of Jenny Milk Conrad's dream of an empire.

**SNHS McCray Scholarship Winner - Lyndsey Penny "Charles 'Pat' Mullen"**

Charles "Pat" Mullen was an amazing man. He helped shape the law enforcement in Newton County. Pat was born in 1923 and lived his whole life in Newton County. His father, Joseph Mullen, was sheriff for four years and was re-elected for four more years, but was unable to finish the job because of an illness. So Pat took over for him the last two years. Pat was Joseph's Deputy, but now he was sheriff. He enjoyed doing this work and decided to run for sheriff in November of 1965. He won and his family then moved to the jail. The cells were in the back and the living quarters in the front. Pat and Kate, his wife, raised six kids, who also helped with the work to be done.

It was the 60's, when the hippies and flower power were the rage. Pat and his dog, Fritz, arrested many people from all over the world who came to pick the marijuana in Newton County. Pat worked close with the Indian State Police arresting the pickers. He also had to deal with the drunks, domestic disputes, and even murders. Pat was on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. He was allowed only one deputy.

After the State Police moved their post up to Lowell from Kentland, Kate would spend many days and nights being Pat's radio operator. As time and crime moved on, Pat fought for more deputies to help him maintain and keep peace from the Northern and Southern ends of the county. By the time Pat's term as sheriff was over, he had accomplished many things. He was on National Television and Newspapers all over the world. Pat solved murders and transported prisoners to the "farm" or the state penitentiary. He also was granted three new deputies to work along side of him. This in it's self was quite an accomplishment. After his ten years as sheriff, Pat became first deputy and captain for eight years. During this time, he maintained his commitment to his county, serving and protecting it.

Then in the fall of 1983, Pat ran for sheriff again and won. During this time, he worked with the commissioners to help hire more deputies and town marshals. He then retired here in Kentland. By this time everyone knew Pat Mullen and what he stood for. He was a man of authority and justice.

Charles "Pat" Mullen was one of the many heroes of Newton County. He put his life on the line several times for the county he loved. Pat maintained the dignity and the positive reputation of this county for many, many years. His respectable manor, sense of justice, and determination to make this county the best are what made him such a likable person. I think the people of Newton County should be proud and honored to have such a remarkable person written in their history. Pat Mullen was one of the many people who made Newton County the place it is today and I would like to say "Thank You", to him. Pat served the county for twenty-eight years in law enforcement. Charles "Pat" Mullen passed away on June 6, 1996 and was buried with full military honors.

*Continued from page two*

The furniture and contents of the house were twisted into shapes which would seem impossible to accomplish, and when the wreck had passed every member of the household except Mr. Rice lay dead either in the yard or adjoining fields. Mrs. Rice and two children, a son's wife, Mrs. Edgar Rice and her two children, and a hired man had all perished. The bodies were found as far as sixty rods from the house, nearly stripped of clothing bruised and broken.

**Progress of the Storm**

"The residence of George Baker, west of Morocco, was torn from its foundation and the barn entirely swept away, as were all the outbuildings. Next in line was the large barn of John Conn, which was demolished, the windows of the house broken in and considerable damage done to the new dwelling.

"It was here that Harold Johnson, Bruce Hanger, Mattie Conn and Miss Hamill, all of Morocco, were out driving. The storm came upon them unexpectedly, the first warning of danger being when they were thrown from the buggies in which they were riding. After being carried through the air for some time, they were thrown upon the ground and rolled along the road for several hundred feet. Before leaving the buggies, the young men had tried to protect the ladies, and had hold of them in the efforts to keep them from injury. They were alternately thrown in the air and against objects, being injured severely by passing limbs and boards caught in the storm. Johnson's overcoat was all torn away except a part of one sleeve. Hanger was divested of most of his clothing, as were the others, but all were covered with mud to such an extent that they were hardly recognizable.

"The buggies were demolished and blown in trees and across fences, spokes were twisted entirely off at the wheels and there was hardly enough left to tell that it had once been a nice carriage. Strange to say, one pair of shafts and a harness were found in the road at the place where the storm struck them. The horses were blown entirely over the fences into adjoining fields, but were not seriously injured.

"Mike Gorman's house, barn and contents were entirely swept away while the family was absent from home. Not a vestige of their once comfortable home was in sight when they returned."

**A Miraculous Escape**

"A little further northeast, and less than two miles from Morocco, the storm encountered the house, barn and other out

buildings on the farm of Andrew J. Bower. These were swept away as though they had been built of straw. The entire family was in the house at the time. Mr. Bower called to his family to lie flat upon the floor, and when the storm had done its work, no member of the household was injured. Great shade trees were torn away and everything on the place except the family, even to the poultry, was either blown away or destroyed."

**Continued in Mad Furor**

"Here the storm lifted for perhaps a half mile, dropping again on the new barn of William D. Martin, blowing the same into kindling wood and killing and injuring several head of horses and cattle.

"The barn and the out buildings on the Norris farm next fell prey.

"The stock and sale stable belonging to W. O. Stoner, at the north edge of Morocco, and which at the time contained many valuable horses was entirely demolished. The horses were in some miraculous manner unhurt, except for a few scratches.

"A slaughter house, next in line of the storm, cannot be located".

**Terrible Disaster at Smart Home**

"To the north stood the large farm house belonging to Charles L. Smart, where he and his family resided. When the storm was close upon them, and the timber in the grove west of the house began to fall before the wind, Mr. Smart and his family started for the basement. Mr. Smart had gone first and was unhurt. His daughter, Cassie, a young lady about 16 years of age, caught the baby in her arms and started to follow. Just as she reached the second step of the stairs, the house left its foundation and she was caught between the foundation and the building and instantly killed. The baby, which was still in her arms when the bodies were removed was dead, the bodies being frightfully crushed.

"The wife was unhurt. The son was caught under the house and slightly crippled. The father worked heroically to dig his son out, while Mrs. Smart ran through water knee deep to summon help. The house was torn from its foundation and damaged beyond repair. One peculiar freak of the storm showed here. An entire partition was torn out and carried to the opposite side of the room. The dishes in the cupboards were ground into dust like they had been hammered with a sledge. Other buildings on the farm were demolished."

**Storm Continues Northeast**

"Across the road to the east, the barn of Benjamin Archibald was piled into heaps of rubbish, the hen house and other out

buildings were destroyed, but the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald was at the time untouched. Farther east and north the properties of Benjamin Best, Joe Ogden, Kinder Kennedy and Charles Elijah were either demolished or parts blown away.

"When the storm was at it's worst, lightning struck the electric light plant at Morocco and so injured the machinery that the lights went out immediately.

"The loss of life is heavy, and the amount of damage to total at least \$50,000."

**Wind Storm Sweeps Center of County - Does Considerable Damage in Path About 10 Miles Wide - March 23, 1916**

With the consistent pattern of "wind storms, cyclones and tornadoes" in our county, the readers of the March 23, 1916 *Newton County Enterprise* were once again informed of their "periodical windstorms" Considerable damage resulted in the way of overturned barns, demolished silos, broken windmills, and the like. As the storm swept through the county, it covered a strip east and west about ten or twelve miles wide, and the property loss was heavy, however, no lives were lost.

"The storm broke over Morocco at about half after nine on Tuesday evening, March 21st. Men on the streets noticed a strong wind from the east, and in scarcely the time it takes to tell it, a counter current of great velocity came from the west, with slight bearings to the south. The storm from the west continued not over eight or ten minutes, after which it was again noticed the direction of the wind was from the east.

"The storm passed through Morocco, and found the damage to property to be quite heavy. The west fire wall of the two story brick building occupied by Smart's restaurant was blown over. The entire tip of the one story brick block west of the Citizens Bank and occupied by Henderson's Barber Shop, Purdy's Meat Market and Deardurff's Jewelry Store was toppled over into the street. Just a moment previous the first show at the Opera House, a few doors to the west, had adjourned and the crowd passed in front of these buildings. Had the storm struck at that time, a number of people would doubtless have been killed. From the two story brick building occupied by Martin Bros. hardware store, the wind peeled off every foot of roof but did no otherwise damage the building.

"At the Christian Church, a company of 200 were enjoying an entertainment when the storm broke, and it required cool heads to avert a panic. The large art windows were

**Collections Of A Lifetime** *Kay Babcock's Key Chain Collection*  
By Beth Bassett



Anyone who has visited with Kay Babcock at her office inside Sigman's Sales and Service in Goodland, undoubtedly noticed the vast collection of key chains that she proudly displays upon the walls. Dick Sigman has told her that she can hang as many of them as she would like, as long as they stay "inside" her office!



She started her collection in 1982, when someone gave her a Century 21 key chain. She thought that it was cute, and hung it upon the wall. Twenty-three years later, customers, friends, relatives and anyone she may not know have added all shapes, sizes and themes of key chains. She initially thought she would collect only free chains, those that were handed out by businesses, etc. However, people who went on vacation or attended a special event, returned to her office with a souvenir of their



trip for her, in the form of a key chain.

Above, Kay poses in front of only one of three walls of her collection. Above right, you only see a select few of the "unusual" chains. Over 50 baseball park chains, chains from Russia, Mexico, and Equador, and many local businesses. She believes the oldest that she has is from the Hermanson Nash Sales, 229 W. Kellner Blvd., Rensselaer, IN Ph. 438. How many of you remember the viewfinder key chains? Kay has one that has a picture of the restaurant her mother owned in the late 1960's, Brambles' Café in Goodland. These photos are just a select few of her vast collection. You can identify the older chains because they have an actual chain to hold the keys. Today a ring, thus being called key rings, holds them. Stop in anytime and visit with Kay at Sigman's. It is located on U.S. 24 on the west side of Goodland.

**Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?** *By Janet Miller*

1. The following ad from *The Brook Reporter*, January 23, 1903 answers the cigar question: "The BANK Cigar, That's All. Ask your dealer for Brown's Havana cigar, made at Goodland." If anyone knows anything about this cigar company please contact the editor.
2. Tiebel's Restaurant of Lake County once had a farm in Newton County where they raised chicken for their restaurant. The farm was located in Lincoln Township near Boezeman's Oil Company.
3. The S. S. Liberty Ship George Ade was named for the famed Hoosier author, humorist and playwright, posthumously and launched August 9, 1944. Ade died May 16, 1944.
4. "The best tool on earth" for working corn, according to the ad, was manufactured in Kentland. It was called "The Hooper Gopher". Any more information on this farm machine would be of interest to our society.
5. The states that have honored these two heroes, Sergeant Jasper and Sergeant Newton are Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas. Iowa has a Jasper, but no Newton, while Arkansas has a Newton but no Jasper.

**THE BEST TOOL ON EARTH**  
**THE HOOBER GOPHER**

for working corn, is now manufactured by Fletcher, Hard & Roberts at Kentland. Use them once and you will always use them. Single, durable and effective. They do the work and don't you forget it.

— ALSO DEALERS IN —

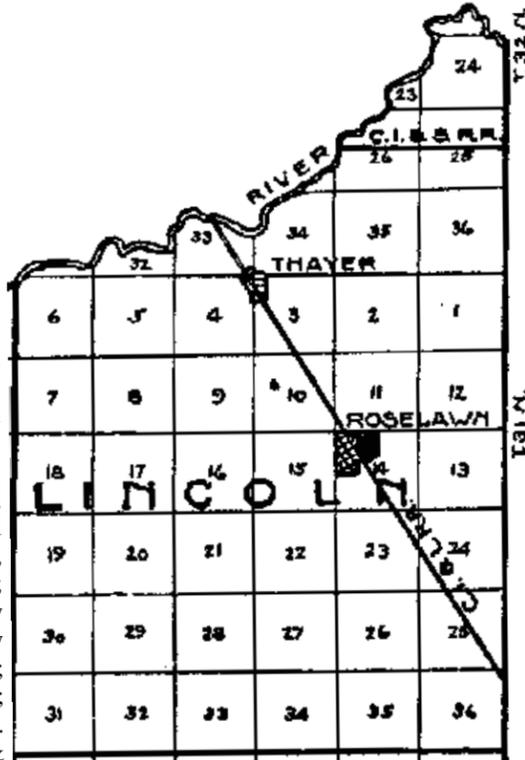
**FARM MACHINERY,**  
OF ALL KINDS.  
**FLETCHER, HARD & ROBERTS**

## Newton County Landowners in 1904 - Lincoln Township

By Janet Miller

### Township 28N, Range 8 West

**Section 1:** Phillip Swing, Gerritt Grevenstuck, Marion Spitler, Laren S. Stowell, F. R. Otis; **Section 2:** Joseph R. Kight, George L. Miles, Klaas Wiersum, Jella Roorda, Lida C. Prentiss, George W. Castelan, **Section 3:** R. A. Hasper, John Melter, Riemer A. Hasper, Marion L. Spitler, Town of Thayer, Six lots east of Thayer are illegible; **Section 4:** Marion L. Spitler, W. Flatt, M. M. ?, Mary E. ?, Edward Roush, Peter DeVries, John Meeter, Lorris Dunning, Mary Allis, Cath. Miller, J. Castelan; **Section 5:** Joseph Adams; **Section 6:** Joseph Adams, Charles D. Wilson. **Section 7:** Joseph Adams; **Section 8:** Joseph Adams, **School #2 - Brutchett School;** **Section 9:** David B. Flenallen, Giles Sink, John H. Lee, Ball & Simpson, Ed. T. Boyle; **Section 10:** George W. Castelan, Lida Conger Prentiss; **Section 11:** George W. Castelan, Charles F. Otis, Cemetery; **Section 12:** Archibald Leitch, Charles Homuth, Charles F. Otis, F. R. Otis. **Section 13:** Fred R. Otis, John Lawler, Luther M. Fairbanks, Emeline Burgess; **Section 14:** Fred R. Otis, Louise A. Wright, John M. Goodwin, Town of Roselawn, Hans Jensen, John Lawler; **Section 15:** Ann Guilf (illegible), M. Iccson, Lars Rosmussen, part of Town of Roselawn, Petrolz Benes, **School #1,** John C. Jensen, Neils P. Sorensen, Bertha Rostrap, F. D. Church, Josiah Hopper, Asker W. Neilson, James M. Otis, Dilly I. Thornton, Edw. B. Holmes; **Section 16:** Ed. T. Boyle, Fred Algrim, C. M. Boyle et al, John H. Lee, Wm. Korth, Jas. F. Hickman, Charles R. Ball; **Section 17:** C. C. Brutchett, Anna M. Mead, Joseph Adams, Nagel Herman, Lida Hammon; **Section 18:** Joseph Adams. **Section 19:** Everett Halstead, Alexander Hank, Wm. Ross, Ira H. Drake, Chloe E. Parrish, George W. Lawrence; **Section 20:** Wm. B. Austin, Samuel M. Larece, Martha D. Brown, Humphrey Barbour; **Section 21:** E. T. Boyle, James F. Hickman, Elmer F. Emery, Humphrey Barbour, **School #6 - Barbour School,** J. H. Cumming, W. S. Wilde, Helen M. Boyle; **Section 22:** John Lawler, Clara J. Boyle, Josiah Hopper, E. T. Boyle, J. H. Cumming; **Section 23:** John Lawler, Luthur M. Fairbanks; **Section 24:** Luthur M. Fairbanks. **Section 25:** John H. Broshma, John Bouchard, Luther M. Fairbanks, Thompson & Lawler, **School #4 - Bouchard School;** **Section 26:** Frank L. Williams; **Section 27:** John Lawler, W. S. & Edith Wilder, Harmon A. Hoag, Henry J. Christianson; **Section 28:** Schwing & Stoller, Eliz. A. Boyle, John H. & Jessie Grantham, Hulda J. Goldsberry, Elijah Grantham, Millard J. Leeson, W. S. & Edith Wilder; **Section 29:** John H. & Jessie Grantham, Matilda Cox, Jerry C. Mote, Oliver G. Wilder; **Section 30:** Henry E. Stann, William Ross, Douglas A. Lawrence, Harwood & Corbin. **Section 31:** Alexander B. Tolin etal, Jacob F. Sammons, Clifton D. Hampton, etal; **Section 32:** Clifton B. Hampton etal; **Section 33:** Mary Halleck, Fletcher Buntain, Wesley F. Buntain, Henry C. Harris; **Section 34:** John & Obed Barnard; **Section 35:** Thompson & Lawler; **Section 36:** Thompson & Lawler.



### Township 32N, Range 8W

**Section 23:** Nelson Morris; **Section 24:** Nelson Morris, E. C. Cok; **Section 25:** Nelson Morris; **Section 26:** Nelson Morris; **Section 27:** Fred Walther Co.; **Section 32:** Joseph Adams; **Section 33:** Diana Hunt Club, Benj. Fogli, Joseph Adams; **Section 34:** Nelson Morris, Goris Vanderslyde; **Section 35:** Henrich Schroder, Peter Deverice, Nelson Morris, Abraham Miller, **School #5 - Miller School.** **Section 36:** Charles Amstein, Marion Spitler.

### Publications Available

“The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection” - \$63.60 Available at Sharpe’s Store, The Prairie House, Morocco IGA store. “Ralph - The Story of Bogus Island” - \$5.30 “The Newton County Historical Coloring Book” - \$5.30 “The Morocco Centennial” - CD only \$21.60. Tax included in all above prices.

### Resource Center Library Needs History Books

Do you own a copy of any published Newton County history books that you would like to sell? Our society is seeking particular copies of these book. Please contact us today.

## Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. In what Newton County town were cigars made? What was the brand name?
2. What famous Lake County restaurant had a farm in Newton County where they raised the chicken for their restaurant?
3. What famous person in Newton County had a ship named after them?
4. "The best tool on earth" for working corn was manufactured by Fletcher, Hard & Roberts at Kentland. What was this tool?
5. According to The Newton County Enterprise, April 16, 1903, both Jasper and Newton Counties were named after Revolutionary War heroes, Sergeant Jasper and Sergeant Newton. Many states have counties named for them, and generally both names are given to neighboring or adjoining counties. How many states have honored these two heroes?

(See answers on Page 17)



Ephie Bridgeman Family, ca 1920. l to r: Leslie (1903-1997), Elsie (1915-), Maggie (1879-1969), Ida (1901-1982), Ephie (1877-1945) and Flossie (1909-1994).

poor I had to lug my things all over the country, but any how, she came out to the road the other day and told me she wanted a pair of birds . . . and that her mother-in-law wanted 30¢ of flowers for the window curtain, so I guess they think it is not so bad after all, for me to sell the things that I do.”

Youth were no less mischievous in those times. After learning there were some puppies for sale, Ephie wrote, “When you stop to buy one of Mrs. Dowling’s dogs, just take one for me and then she will have plenty left.”

On January 14, 1900, Maggie Van Der Karr and Ephraim “Ephie” Bridgeman, son of Samuel Bridgeman, Jr. and Ida James, were married. They had five children: Ida (1902-1983) married Elwin Knecht, Leslie (1903-1997) married Ella Wasmuth Petit,

male infant (1906-1907), Flossie (1909-1994) married Charles Wesley Harris and then Joseph Caldwell, and Elsie (1915-living) married Bernath Knecht, the brother of Elwin. They lived in St. Anne and Watseka, Illinois, and Lake Village, Indiana prior to moving to Pleasant Lake, northwest of Cadillac, Wexford County, Michigan in March 1920. This move was recommended by their physician for the health of their daughter, Flossie, who had been ill with the Cuban grippe and suffered chronic lung disease throughout her life. This move was a sacrifice for their daughter’s health. The farm at Pleasant Lake had no electricity so daily chores took a lot of effort and the soil in Michigan was so sandy it was difficult to grow good crops.

Ephie and the children, along with their household possessions and the cows and horses moved via train to Michigan. When the train stopped in Grand Rapids, my mother, Elsie, not quite 5 yrs, saw the largest Golden Delicious apple she had ever seen. What a treat and how tasty it was!

The 1919-20 flu season was devastating! Maggie had stayed in Indiana to care for Ephie’s brother, Harold Bridgeman, who was very ill with the flu. No sooner had Ephie and the children arrived in Michigan than a telegram notified him

of the death of his sister, Leta Bridgeman Bassett, age 24, from influenza and pneumonia. Ephie immediately returned to Indiana for Leta’s funeral.

In 1923 when Samuel Jr. returned to Morocco, Ephie’s family moved to the Bridgeman farm in Cadillac, Michigan. Maggie was thrilled! The farm was at the edge of town and had electricity so she could now use her electric washing machine.

The Bridgemans ran a dairy farm for many years. The barn was beautiful and the only thing that needed to be installed was an electric water system to deliver water to each cow so they didn’t have to be taken outside to the water trough in the winter. Flossie and Elsie teased their father that “the pine floor in the hay mow is so beautiful, you could make a lot more money using it for a dance floor.”

Leslie managed the milk delivery to people’s homes. During the Depression, he made it a point to leave milk on the steps of families with young children whom he knew would not be able to pay for the milk. He thought this was far better than pouring milk down the drain because people could not afford to buy it. Although he had no children, Leslie and his wife, Ella, spent much of their life contributing to the local Seventh-day Adventist church and school. Helping children was a priority for their resources.

Ephie and Maggie subscribed to the *Morocco Courier* for many years after moving to Michigan and maintained strong ties with relatives and friends in Newton



At Samuel Bridgeman, Jr.’s - Morocco, IN 1927. l to r, standing: Archie Storey, George Crudden, Raymond Storey, Edith (Bridgeman) Crudden, Harold Bridgeman, Opal (Bridgeman) Storey, Samuel Jr. and Wilminia (Kay) (Best) Bridgeman, Maggie McDonald, Ephie Bridgeman, Nancy (Bridgeman) Brunton; l to r, sitting: Elsie Bridgeman, Opal “Fonderine” Storey, Flossie Bridgeman, Delores Crudden, Eva Storey holding Dorothy Crudden and Milton Storey.



The house of Margaret “Aunt Maggie” McDonald, Morocco, IN, ca 1920. l to r: Maggie McDonald, Ida Bridgeman and Maggie (VDK) Bridgeman.

County. Dorothy (Crudden) Bitler told of a fond trip from Indiana to visit Ephie and Maggie when she was a young girl. Several relatives cars caravanned together. They tied red handkerchiefs on the back bumper so they could recognize each other’s cars and

Continued on page fourteen  
Continued from page thirteen



# Focus on Families

Family History Division • Jim Robbins, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

## Van Der Karr - McDonald

Maggie Lois Van Der Karr was born 24 Aug 1879 at Aroma, Kankakee County, IL, the fourth daughter of Martin Van Der Karr (1836/9-1929) and his second wife, Vandilla McDonald (1842-1879). Martin's parents were Jacob and Irena (Vickery) Van Der Karr and Vandilla's parents were John and Martha (Hewes) McDonald. The heritage of Martin and Vandilla goes back to the late 1600's in New York and Massachusetts, respectively.

In 1840, Martin Van Der Karr, with his parents and siblings, moved from Arcadia Twp, Wayne County, New York and went



Vandilla (McDonald) Van Der Karr (1842-1879), 2nd wife of Martin Van Der Karr, married August 10, 1870; mother of Lucy, Vandilla, Martha and Maggie.

via the Erie Canal and the lakes to the port of Chicago, Illinois. They put up at the Mansion House and for two long weeks existed in a state of dread and uncertainty as to the future. The town was nothing but an overgrown village, the country low, and wet and full of malaria. Fortunately, the family got in with one Frank Downer, of Downer's Grove. The situation there was a great improvement and the family became reconciled to the west. After two years at the grove, they removed to Joliet and after repeated excursions over the old Indian Trail

which led to the southeast, connecting Joliet and Danville, found that agricultural paradise, what is now known as Aroma Township. Martin became a highly successful farmer and developed the "Waldron" or "Kankakee" watermelon and muskmelon. He subsequently grew crops for seed and later sold his entire output to "Vaugh, the seed man of Chicago."

In 1858 Vandilla McDonald, with her parents and siblings, moved from Shaftsbury, Vermont by way of the cars [rail] to Crete, Will County, Illinois. John came two weeks ahead to find the relatives by the name of Hewes. This was William and Abigail (Woodcock) Hewes, the uncle of John's wife, Martha Hewes. The McDonalds first lived in Crete, Illinois, later moved to Grant Park for a few years and finally settled in Beaverville, Iroquois County, Illinois. Martha Hewes' father and one of her two brothers were physicians and Martha was trained as a school teacher. John McDonald came from a large family and had little chance for an education so they had a hard life but as a family they were very close.

Martin married first Lucy Alpaugh (1839-1869) about 1863, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Way) Alpaugh of Rensselaer County, New York by whom he had three children: Chloe, Christina "Tiny," and Francis. Lucy died December 15, 1869 following the birth of her son, Francis on October 22, 1869.

Martin married second Vandilla McDonald (1842-1879) on August 10, 1870 by whom he had four daughters: Lucy, Vandilla "Dilla", Martha and Maggie. Vandilla, the mother, died September 14, 1879 after the birth of Maggie on August 24, 1879. In a letter written by Vandilla in March 1879 while pregnant with Maggie, she complains of her ill health and attributes this to poor habits in her earlier days and things weighing heavy on her nervous system. Vandilla actually died of heart disease at the age of 37. The letter to her husband and three daughters shows an insightful woman who had a great deal of concern about her children forming habits noble and Christian like. Her admonishment to the children was:

*"Be good, good to each other, good to your Pa. How much he needs good*

*children. Try to overcome all bad habits if you are inclined to have any. Overlook each others faults. Do right, in all things be strictly virtuous. Help the younger ones along. Be thankful to God you yet have a good father to go to. Oh, be truthful. What a large thought there is in those few words, be truthful. Obey God's commandments. Try to gain heaven, that is best of all. This you will only do by doing right."*

A year or so after Vandilla's death, little Maggie and her sister, Martha, were given to Vandilla's sister, Margaret "Aunt Maggie" McDonald (1847-1934), to raise. Aunt Maggie was a single school teacher living in Morocco. She quit her job to raise the two girls. She managed to eek out a living by braiding rugs and making crafts and selling them. When the girls were old enough, they too made crafts and sold them to help provide a living. Although their father was a very successful farmer, Martin did little to provide monetary assistance to Aunt Maggie for raising the girls.

Martin married third Mary Ann Jones (1854-1932) on Aug 19, 1885, the daughter



Van Der Karr Family, 1879. l to r Chloe, Martin holding Maggie, Christina, Martha, Lucy, Vandilla and the empty chair for mother (Vandilla) who had died.

Van Der Karr-McDonald  
Bridgeman-Murphy  
Bridgeman-James-Morlock-Best  
Bridgeman-Van Der Karr  
Knecht-Bridgeman  
By Rita Knecht



The Martin Van Der Karr family, ca 1898, Aroma Park, IL. l to r, standing, Irvn, Lucy (VDK) Gerard, Martin Jr., Mary Ann (Jones) - 3rd wife and mother of sons Nelson; l to r sitting: Maggie, Christina "Tiny" (VDK) Meeker, Martin Sr., Vandilla "Dilla" (VDK) Clark and Martha. Oldest daughter, Chloe (VDK) Kent died in 1885.

of Demutt and Jane (Waldron) Jones of Aroma Park, Illinois, by whom he had three sons: Martin, Jr. (1888-1978), Nelson (1890-1980) and Irvn (1893-1959). Maggie Van Der Karr had a good relationship with all of her siblings and remained in close contact with them throughout their lives.

## Bridgeman-Murphey

Samuel Bridgeman, Sr., and his four brothers came from Virginia to Logansport, Indiana with their parents about 1818. Michael Bridgeman, Sr., (1790-1860's) and perhaps older brothers of Samuel began chopping trees and clearing the way for a government road leading to Michigan City. They later moved to Fountain County and in 1840 to Beaver Township, Jasper (now Newton) County where Michael took a claim in Section 29. The mother, Mary Bridgeman (1790-1849) is buried in the Murphey Cemetery.

Michael Bridgeman, Sr., married second, Nancy (?), and was living in Jasper County in 1850. By 1851, Michael had gone to Oregon and returned to Newton County, Indiana. About 1855, Michael Sr., Michael Jr. (1821-1883), who married Mary Dollarhide, David Bridgeman, son of Ephraim and Joanna (Doty) Bridgeman, and Jesse and Nancy (Murphey) Dollarhide, Jr., had moved to Fayette County, Iowa and were there in 1860. In 1861, due to severe winters and crop failures, the Dollarhides and David Bridgeman joined a wagon train and moved west. They reached Carson City, Nevada and stayed a while to work and purchase

Mountains from the Applegate family and it became the Dollarhide Toll Road. In 1916, the State of Oregon bought the right-of-way and built the first public highway through the mountains from Oregon to California

The hardships of life in Iowa were apparent as Michael Bridgeman, Sr., had property confiscated by the Sheriff for



L to r: Samuel Bridgeman, Jr., (1854-1940), and his brother, Alonzo Bridgeman (1859-1929).

supplies before going over Donner

Pass to Sacramento, California. They took up land in Dixon just west of Sacramento in Solano County and in 1869 moved to Jackson County, Oregon. The Dollarhides bought the toll road over the Siskiyou

inability to pay a debt. It is unknown when he or Nancy died or where they are buried. By 1867 Michael and Mary Bridgeman, Jr., had moved to Montgomery City, Kansas. Michael Jr. and his daughter, Sarah, are buried in the Radical Cemetery, Sycamore Township, Montgomery County, Kansas. Samuel Bridgeman, Sr., (1815-1890), the oldest of the seven known children of Michael and Mary (?) Bridgeman, Sr., married Lavina Murphey (1817-1887), the oldest daughter of John and (Jane Donnell) Murphey, about 1842. Samuel Sr. and Lavina had nine children: Sarah Jane (1843-1934) married Samuel J. Deardurff, Lydia County, Anne (1845-1912) married Christian C. Deardurff, Nancy E. (1847-1929) married Cyrus Brunton, John (1849-1893) married Eunice F. James and after his death she married Luther (Lewis) C. Pitzer, Michael (1851-1901) married Etta Goodale and then Julia Griffin, Samuel Jr. (1854-1940) married first Ida C. James (the sister of Eunice who married John), second, Eliza Morlock, third, Elvira Bailey and fourth, Wilmina "Minnie" Kay Best, the widow of James Best, Alzoria "Allie" (1856-1934) married George E. Lowe, Alonzo (1859-1929) married Olive Jane Hooks, and Mary Catherine (1860-1945) married William A. Coovert.

Samuel Bridgeman, Sr., lived the majority of his adult life in Beaver Township, west of Morocco. He made several trips to Chicago, taking the hogs they had butchered. They would drive three yoke of oxen and the meat would sell for about 3 cents a pound. The trip consumed about a week. Samuel Sr. and Lavina are buried in the Murphey Cemetery.

## Bridgeman-James-Morlock-Best

Samuel Bridgeman, Jr., set out on his own as a teenager, working for five years as a laborer. Over the years he bettered himself and became a successful farmer.

Samuel, Jr. married first Ida James (1858-1877) on November 22, 1876, the daughter of West M. and Lavina (Starkey) James, formerly of White County, Indiana, by whom he had one son, Ephraim "Ephie" (1877-1945). It was said that Ida died from a lung infection caused from exposure to grain dust/mold on her husband's clothes after working in the oats. The cause of death may have been childbirth.

Samuel Jr. married second Eliza Morlock (1856-1890) on February 13, 1883, the daughter of William and Mary (?) Morlock who were formerly of Baden

Continued on page twelve

Continued from page eleven

Germany, by whom he had three children: Clare Harold (1884-1954), Opal E. (1888-1972) who married Arch Storey, and Edith L. (1889-1957) who m. George Crudden. Eliza Morlock brought a daughter, Cora Elizabeth Lamb (1874-1929), to the marriage. The family history of Dorothy Crudden Bitler indicates that Cora's father, (?) Lamb of Lake Village, was drunk when he came to marry Eliza so she refused to marry him. Cora's school records show her as Ida C. Lamb. Cora married Samuel G. Herron, Jr.

Samuel Jr. married third, Elvira Bailey



L. to r: Leta (1895-1920) and Lora (1903-1970) Bridgeman, daus. of Samuel bridgeman, Jr., (1854-1940) and his 3rd wife, Elvira Bailey (1863-1921).

(1863-1921) on May 28, 1893, the daughter of Dr. Alexander and Mary (Phillips) Bailey, by whom he had three children: Leta M. (1895-1920) who married Ralph E. Bassett and after her death he married Effa A. Deardurff, Lora E. (1903-1970) who married William Nienhuis, and Gilbert A. (1905-1906).

In 1921, Samuel Jr., Elvira and their daughter, Lora, moved to Cadillac, Michigan where Samuel bought the 250 acre Alexander farm at 530 Holbrook Street built in 1911. This became known as the Bridgeman farm. There was a beautiful three story brick house with a large screened-in summer porch and a basement. The barn was described as elegant with a finished pine floor in the hay mow. Just months later on August 22, 1921, Elvira died of typhoid fever. Samuel remained in Cadillac until November 1923, when he returned to Morocco. At that time, his son,

Left: Lavina/Lurvina (Starkey); mother of Maliessa (J) Gowdy, Julia A. (J) Spriggs, Minerva (J) Roadruck, Eunice (J) (Bridgeman) Pitzer, George James and Ida C. (James) Bridgeman. Right, Ida (James) Bridgeman (1858-1877), 1st wife of Samuel Bridgeman, Jr., mother of Ephie Bridgeman. ca 1876.



Ephie, took over the Bridgeman farm and Samuel's daughter, Lora, and her husband moved to the farm at Pleasant Lake, northwest of Cadillac, which had been farmed by Ephie since 1920. Samuel and his first three wives are buried in the Murphey Cemetery.

Samuel Jr. married fourth, Wilmina "Minnie" Kay Best (1858-1943) January 1925. Wilmina was the daughter of James B. Kay and Selena E. Butler and the widow of John P. Best whom she married February 14, 1875.

**Bridgeman-Van Der Karr**

In 1898, Ephie Bridgeman, at the age of 20 and shortly after he began dating Maggie Van Der Karr, went west to find work. His venture is described in letters between he and Maggie. Ephie took the train from Morocco to Kulman, North Dakota. He found a gentleman to go with him by the name of Mr. Duffy (presumably from Newton County). They took the train from Morocco to Chicago and Ephie



Ephraim "Ephie" (1877-1945) and Maggie (Van Der Karr, 1879-1969) Bridgeman, married June 14, 1900.

admitted to "trembling a little when we got off the train but soon got over it." After lunch and getting their tickets to Minneapolis, they had time so looked over the city where they saw many beautiful sites, the lake and large steamers.

It was Maggie's intention to be at the train station to bid Ephie farewell but one of the pigs got out of the East pen and delayed her and Aunt Maggie for about an hour; then Mrs. Tracy, a neighbor of Ephie's, stopped buy to purchase silver polish so Maggie and Aunt Maggie only got as far as Mr. Dempsey Johnson's place when the train left town.

Ephie arrived in Kulman, North Dakota on August 31, 1898. The harvest was over and the threshing was just beginning. There were plenty of work hands and wages only \$1.25 per day so he elected to try carpenter work for 17½ cents per hour. They were to work 11 hours per day. His work was to build a grain elevator and "if the work suits me and I suit the foreman, I will be here about two weeks so please write. There are about 13 elevators to build, 12 at other places." Ephie paid \$3 per week for board and said the foreman generally builds a shanty at each place as these are all new stations and no place to board. In the first 13½ days he cleared \$20.36 and thought he was doing well but it was dangerous work. He later said there were not always enclosures in which to sleep and they slept any place, just so they could lay down.

Ephie described the various communities in which he worked by the settlers of the community such as Germans, Russians, etc. Maggie inquired, "What do Russian people look like?" and he responded, "Dark complected, generally fleshy and build their houses of dirt." From Maggie, "You know I told you how them Cherry girls' mother told me I was so very

**Letter To The Editor**

More Information on Bogus Island Counterfeit Monies and W. O. Schanlaub

We received a letter from fellow member, Damon Howell, regarding further information on W.O. Schanlaub. He attended the auction of the Ruth Corbin estate in 1990, and obtained a box that contained miscellaneous papers. He sent them to me in response to the article that appeared in the Fall, 2002 edition of *The Newcomer* written by Donna LaCosse featuring W.O. Schanlaub.

"The first article was written by Harland W. White, Assistant Registrar, Purdue University, May 5, 1951. It is dated two days after W.O. Schanlaub died. It could have been read by Harland W. White at the funeral of W.O. Schanlaub and the copy or a copy given to Ruth Corbin. Or perhaps it was sent to Ruth Corbin and she read it at the funeral. In any event, it is a tribute to W.O. Schanlaub who served in the Newton County Education system for many years.

"Also in the box of papers, there was an envelope of labels and some display cards measuring 8.5x11. On the envelope was 'Labels from Newton County display used at Reference Library, Lake County Public Library, April 1-24, 1972'. Ruth Corbin apparently set up a display of Newton County History at the Lake County Library. On one display card was brief information about Bogus Island. At the top of the display card was a photo (shown here), and below it was the label - "Counterfeit Coins Found On Bogus Island". At the bottom of the display card was a postcard of Bogus Island and below it a label that read 'Bogus Island - a band of horse thieves and counterfeiters came to this island in 1837 and remained in business until 1838. According to tradition they operated from a cave and reached the island by a submerged roadway.'

"The picture below of the coins is out of focus. On the back of the original picture is written 'Coins from Bogus Island'. Although the photo is out of focus, one can

clearly see that there are at least two sizes of coins.

"These coins that were found on Bogus Island were probably discovered by people who were scouring the area for arrowheads and other Indian artifacts. The coins may have been given to Ruth Corbin, loaned to her, or perhaps she herself may have gone hunting for artifacts on Bogus Island and found these coins. In any event, it brings to life - just a little bit - of the counterfeiting that occurred on Bogus Island and that "real" bogus money has been found on Bogus Island."

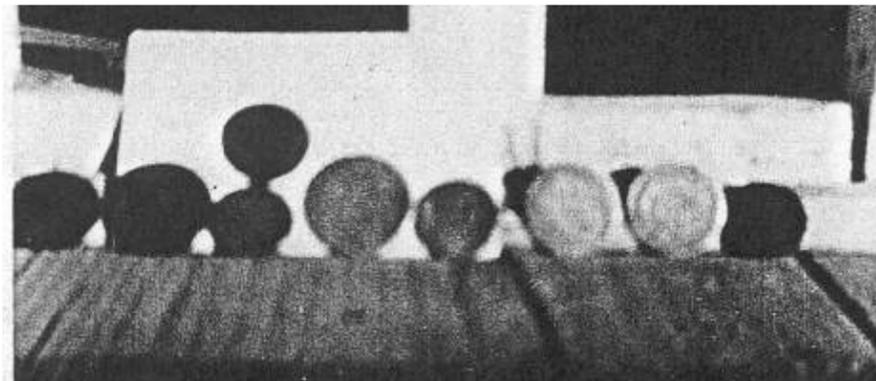
**W.O. Schanlaub. Written by Harland W. White, Asst. Registrar, Purdue University, May 5, 1951.**

There comes this time for every man when he has nothing left but the influence he has wrought. It is the lot of every man to influence for good or for ill the lives of scores of human kind. It is the lot of but few men to influence for good unnumbered thousands of his neighbors.

For half a century the youth of Newton County have felt the unerring impact of Mr. Schanlaub's educational leadership. Wherever adults have debated the needs of youth, his presence, his leadership and his influence were present. Wherever educators met, his counsel and advice were sought. Wherever youth flexed its mind and muscles in vibrant growth, his guiding hand was present.

Nothing new in education escaped his alert and analytic mind. Nothing evil escaped his scorn and tireless opposition. Nothing good escaped his notice and dynamic assistance. No tasks were too small, no child too poor, no obstacle too great, no pressure too severe, and no challenge too formidable to cause a moment's hesitation if the welfare of youth was at stake.

He rose above partisanship. He stood



above pettiness. His leadership radiated into every township of this county, into every county of this state, and literally into every State of this nation.

Many men spoke in loud voices of what others should do. Mr. Schanlaub not only spoke eloquently and with conviction of what things should be done, but he dedicated his life to doing them.

To some men are built monuments of stone-cold, hard, impersonal. But the monument to Mr. Schanlaub began growing fifty years ago in the minds and bodies of little boys and girls and has continued to grow in each of the passing years. His goodness and his influence is now written indelibly into almost every human personality in this county. As long as we his students and his friends live, we will carry in our hearts the warm sympathetic, and understanding imprint of his forceful character. His monument is erected in our minds, in our hearts and in our very souls.

**"Beaver Lake - A Land of Enchantment" by Elmore Barce to be Reprinted**

Place your order now for your copy of this wonderful presentation of Beaver Lake written by Elmore Barce in 1938. Delivery expected August-September.

As he wrote in the foreword of the book... "In the summer of 1937, he sat upon the old bench near the cabin of Alexander Lanier Barker, east of Sumava, and listened to his inimitable tales. A life of seventy-six years in the vicinity of the lake, the stories and traditions that had proceeded from the mouth of his father, a clear and unusually scrutinizing attention, had stored up in his brain a series of pictures which he was able to present with a clearness and a perspicacity scarcely to be excelled. Under the spell and enchantment of these tales the winds and the waves of the lake reappear - the canoe of his father still dances upon the waters - the lordly buck still stoops on the shining strand to take his drink."

In conjunction with the Benton County Historical Society, orders are now being taken for the book, available in paper cover for \$10.00 or hard cover for \$20.00 each.

Contact the Newton County Historical Society at 219-474-6944 or e-mail the editor at beth@ffni.com to place your order. Limited number of copies available.

not get lost. When they needed water, they stopped at school houses along



Four generations of Bridgemans, Morocco, IN ca 1933. l to r: Ephie Bridgeman, his father, Samuel Bridgeman, Jr. holding Beverly Harris, his gr-granddaughter, and Flossie (Bridgeman) Harris, dau of Ephie.



Marriage of Bernath J. Knecht (1910-2002) & Elsie Bridgeman (1915-) dau of Ephie & Maggie (VDK) Bridgeman, at Cadillac MI June 27, 1935.



Rita Margaret Knecht, daughter of Bernath J. and Elsie (Bridgeman) Knecht. Born December 9, 1938.

## Pages Of The Past transcribed by Janet Miller

The following excerpts are from *The Kentland Enterprise* during the Spring of 1903.

**Kentland**  
March moving is in full blast, and the roads are hub deep. You saw the beast Sunday. Which was it, a lamb or a lion.

Sidney Lee, our new liveryman, spent Sunday at his old home at Chatsworth, (IL). He was accompanied to Kentland Monday by his wife and they have moved into the Ephraim Sell tenant property south of Court Park.

An item appearing in the *Enterprise* a few weeks ago concerning telephone rates seems to have been misleading to some. Mr. McCray informs us that the rate from Kentland to Goodland, Brook or Morocco is 15 cents to subscribers and 25 cents to non-subscribers. This rule applies to either end of the line if you inform the operator that you are a subscriber to the Kentland exchange.

Nicholas Hennis, living southeast of town, was fined \$5.00 and costs in Judge Coulter's Court Tuesday morning on the charge of violating the law governing the hauling of heavy loads over macadam roads. David Weldon, superintendent of the Jefferson township roads, filed the complaint and Mr. Hennis voluntarily appeared before the Court and plead guilty, thus receiving but the minimum fine. The violation occurred Monday in hauling corn over the Mulligan road to the elevator at this place. And, while on the subject it may not be out of place to call the Town Board's attention to the condition of Third street. It has been damaged in several places by heavy hauling during the soft weather, and the property owners who paid out their good money for its construction have a right to demand the protection guaranteed by law.

The public reception held Saturday afternoon at the office of the Kentland Telephone Exchange was a surprising success, considering the very bad weather. One hundred and fifty people called between the hours of one and five o'clock and Mr. McCray and his assistants exerted every effort to entertain them. The offices were tastefully decorated with potted plants, and refreshments were served to all callers. The switch board was thrown open for inspection and telephones and other appliances were exhibited in full working order. The first directory issued by the exchange on the 15th day of June, 1896, attracted considerable notice. It contained twenty-eight names and hung beside the new directory just issued containing 294 names, showing the growth

of the exchange within the seven years of its existence. Mr. McCray is to be congratulated on the success of his undertaking.

The vacant room south of Keefe's dry goods store, is being remodeled for the reception of the postoffice, which will shortly be moved therein.

The pressure of railroad, theatrical and real estate business is seriously interfering with the opening of the croquet season. Gentlemen, remember the injunction, pleasure before business.

**Brook**  
The brick for Nealy Wilson's feed barn are nearly all on the ground. The barn will be erected as soon as the weather will permit.

The ladies Outing club met Thursday at the home of Mrs. Haynes, president of the organization. The event of the meeting was a paper read by the secretary, Mrs. Henry Deardurff, describing a recent trip taken by the club to Morocco, ostensibly to have their pictures taken, but really to have a good time out from under the supervision of their tyrannical better-halves. These meetings are greatly enjoyed by the ladies and are unique that gossip is strictly prohibited and punishable by fine.

Mr. Rogers of Frankfort moved into the station house on Smokey Row Saturday.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Laban Lyons on Friday, twin boys.

**Roselawn**  
Following is a list of pupils neither tardy nor absent during the month ending Feb. 27th: Upper Room: Frank Shelly, Forrest Oilar, Cora Kight, Albert Bailey, Flora Frye, Clarence Dobbins, Jesse Hancock, Lida Taber, George Carrothers, teacher. Lower room: George Taber, Mann Taber, Vernon Taber, Florence Frye, Fred Baxter, Grace Sock, Hiland Weaver, Clara Jensen, Frank Frye; Phoebe Karr, teacher.

Mrs. C. Bailey moved into the tenant house on the Otis ranch near Penbroke Monday, in order to board the ranch workmen.

**Lake Village**  
Married at the residence of Fred Rainford Wednesday of last week, Reuben Conklin of Harmon, Illinois, and Miss Clara Rainford of this place.



### Pleasant Grove

Mr. John White and Miss Mary Sell were united in marriage Thursday at the home of the grooms parents, by Rev. C. McCain of Kentland. Mr. McCain married the senior Mr. and Mrs. White twenty-one years ago the 21st of last December.

Uncle George Herriman's are making maple syrup.

### Goodland

The Bank of Brook was burglarized Friday night and Bringham Bros. store at Goodland on the night previous. Between \$50 and \$60 was secured at Bringham's and something over \$400 in stamps were taken from the Bank.

### Thayer

The first oil well in Newton County was shot near Thayer last week and it is estimated the well will produce about thirty barrels a day. Notwithstanding the amount of surface gas sent roaring through the circumambient atmosphere of the north end by the explosion, there seems to be the real oily stuff down below and more wells will be sunk. *The Review* says that an offer of ten thousand dollars has been made for the well now in operation.

### Morocco

*Otterbein News:* Through D. A. Messner of Oxford, breeder of the world famed Dan Patch, Aaron Carmony this week sold his fine stallion, Wood Patch, to Ham & Kennedy of Morocco. The price paid was \$500, and the horse was shipped to Morocco yesterday.

*Morocco Courier:* The Coats ranch northeast of Morocco, containing 700 acres, was sold last week to John Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy, we are told, will use the land for pasture and hay purposes.

*Morocco Courier:* Nish Wright of Homer, Ill., tells us that he offered \$135 an acre the other day for a farm in Jefferson township. Land in Newton county is getting up in price for a fact.

What you will find on our web site . . .  
 • Newton County Biographies Project  
 • Morocco and Goodland Alumni Lists  
 • Newton County Marriage Records thru 1971  
 • Links To Other State & Local Sites  
 • Index of "The Newcomer" Articles  
[www.rootsweb.com/~innewton](http://www.rootsweb.com/~innewton)



## Family History Division

Update By Beth Bassett



**Resource Center Work Day.** Volunteer members Bethel Kindell, Jeanette Hall and Yvonne Kay sort through photographs given to the society from the Morocco Courier. Right, Kathryn Sprinkle organizes veteran's records for the Resource Center.

Over the past few months, many new family histories have been added to our files, inquiries continue to arrive via the internet and the mail. Visitors to our Resource Center have had the advantage of added records from the Court House, Veteran's Office and scrapbook contributions from members of the society and our community.

The recent "work" day was a huge success, thanks to the filing capabilities of Jeanette Hall, Bethel Kindell, Kathryn Sprinkle, Yvonne Kay, Janet Miller and Sharon Collins. A good cleaning was done throughout the building, ready to welcome visitors for research.

All members of the division agree that we need to have the Resource Center manned on a more regular basis. A motion was made by Gerald Born to immediately hire an individual to coordinate the building and its records, but after discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was declined. Funding of this position was the main objection, however, it is hoped that this possibility will someday be a reality – so, we look to our members once again to volunteer their time to add to the success of researchers to our Resource Center.

Many of you may think that you need to have computer experience, or a vast knowledge of history to qualify for this help. This is not true. It would be helpful, but those of us who currently work the building can direct visitors to our library, the newspapers upstairs, our family files, show them the copy machine – and let them have fun! Brochures and business cards are available for visitors who do have access to the computer that contain our web information and address. You may also think that you need to devote an entire day to this project – this too, is not true. An hour or two in the morning or afternoon would be sufficient.

At this time, Jim Robbins, who has volunteered to be at the building on Monday afternoons for the past four years, is our only true day that the building is open for sure to visitors. Thank you Jim for your time and continued dedication to our society.

Reprinting of the Elmore Barce book "Beaver Lake-Land of Enchantment" is getting closer to a reality. We have heard from the Benton County Historical Society and are preparing to take it to the presses by mid-July. Look for announcements on obtaining your copy from the society!

Donna LaCrosse and Janet Burton are working hard on the Mt.

Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Township history. They need everyone's help with this major project – from providing history, to typing, to proofreading. Please contact Donna at 219-285-2861 if you would like to help them in any way.

The Brook-Iroquois-Washington Townships Sesquicentennial Book Committee is meeting on a regular basis. Over 15 people are currently involved in the project – and much history is being recorded and discussed! Family histories are being updated from *The History of Newton County, 1985*, so if you live in these townships and your family was included in that history book – be sure to update it for this book! Contact Janet Miller at 219-474-5380 if you have any questions. Society members are heading the committee, Kyle Conrad, Chair, Janet Miller,

Treasurer and Beth Bassett, Secretary. A special thank you to the Brook-Iroquois Twp. Library for allowing the committee to use their new scanning and indexing software for the book project. We encourage all members of the society to stop into the Library and bring your county photos for preservation – no charge!

A new web site is being developed for preservation of the Ghost Towns of Indiana. I was contacted through GenWeb, who maintains our web site, that they are looking for volunteers to contribute information about these towns in each county. If you have any information on these "ghost towns" – please let me know.

Recent additions to our web site have included Marriage Records of Indiana through 1850, and the Indiana Genealogy Society. These can be reached through a link to the Indiana State Library. They are very accessible, and may help researchers to our site.

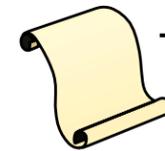
We hope to see you at our next meeting. We meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Resource Center on the same day the general society meets. Hope to see you there!

### *Brook and Mount Ayr Histories In Process-Committees Seeking Researchers*

Members of the Society and a committee have volunteered to begin compiling the histories of Mount Ayr, Brook and their surrounding townships. Iroquois and Washington Township residents will be receiving a letter requesting family histories.

If any of our members have historical material or photographs they think applicable, please pass them along to the committee. It would also be a good time to put together your family history to be included in the book. There is much typing and researching old newspapers that needs to be done for the book. Anyone interested?

Mt. Ayr was formed in 1883 and it will be their 125th anniversary before long, a good time to start a history. Brook will be celebrating their 150th in 2006. Washington and Iroquois Twp. will be included in this history as well. Please contact Donna LaCrosse or Janet Burton regarding Mt. Ayr, and Kyle Conrad, or drop off information at the Brook-Iroquois Twp. Library for the Brook publication.



## The President's Corner

Newton County Historical Society Update By Yvonne Kay

This will be my last message to the members of the Newton County Historical Society as President. It has been an interesting four years. Sometimes I wanted to tear my hair, but for the most part it has been a rewarding experience. In looking back we have tripled our membership. Our focus has been on recording local history. Even though we are a not-for-profit organization, I have made an effort to run our Society in a business-like manner. We prepared an annual budget for submission to the County Commissioners. I pursued obtaining our not-for-profit status and tax exemption. I am happy to say that we got both.

We have made an effort to find programs that are both challenging and relevant to our local history. Last year we asked for our neighboring historic societies to tell us what they were doing. For a young society we compare very favorably. We are very proud of our newsletter, which the *Newcomer* Committee and the editor have worked very hard to produce. We have brought the By-Laws up-to-

date. I take personal pride in the publication of *The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection*, the first major book the society has produced.

My only regret is that the estate of Ann Scott was so complex that the house has not yet been turned over to the Society and that we have lost five years of having a museum to be available to the citizens of Newton County.

I want to thank everybody who has made my job easier. I would like to challenge the incoming officers to continue making the Society a dynamic force in the county and to complete those tasks that remain unfinished. We need a building to house our resources on one level that can be used by the handicapped and elderly and humidity controlled. We need to have the materials accessible on a regular basis, with paid staff if necessary. We need to find more volunteers to do the job at hand.

Again thank you for all your help.

By Donna LaCrosse  
Newton County Historian

## Historically Yours

I am still waiting for warm weather! And it is not happening! I guess we just need to hang in there because I have a feeling that when the heat hits, it will be more than we asked for.

On June 7 we had our annual Mount Ayr High School Alumni meeting. Since we do not have a school in Mount Ayr, our meetings are held in the gym of the Morocco Elementary School. We had more people attend this year than we have had the past two or three years; perhaps this is because several of those classes who were celebrating an anniversary were larger than most of the earlier graduating classes, therefore the attendance was up. Hopefully those who came this year will have had such a great time, they will want to return next year, and the years after that, even though they are not celebrating an anniversary.

I wished several times during the evening that I had taken my recorder. Lots of stories were floating around that would make good reading in one of the histories of the Mount Ayr community and school! Those first-hand stories are what makes history so interesting. So, they might not be exactly factual, but they are the "truth and nothing but the truth" to the people remembering the past. I am hoping I can remember who some of the people were talking about the past and things they had done while attending school many years ago and can get them to repeat some of those stories for the book for which we are gathering information.

On Sunday evening, following the meeting on Saturday evening, the committee who organized and planned the annual meeting this year, met at our house for a supper of the banquet leftovers and discussed the meeting we had just held - wondering how we could better the next one, what we could do without next year and how we could change what and where! That meeting was also a great time of story telling and before we knew it, the clock said 9 p.m. and my husband was still up! The guests acted as though they didn't want to leave but knew they all had to get up in the morning and go to work. With this thought in mind, they quickly said their good-byes and returned to their own homes, feeling good about both meetings.

When I sent out the notices with information about the meeting, I also sent a history form hoping everyone should fill it out

and return it to me so I would have that information on file for continuing work on the Mount Ayr, Jackson Township and Colfax Township book. Several sent replies but not as many as I wanted to think would respond to my plea for history news. So, we will just have to beg for news and if that doesn't work maybe we can use blackmail!

I hope Brook is getting lots of participation in their gathering news for the book they are working on. Julie McNamara, the daughter of Henry Hermansen, attended our meeting on Saturday night and gave me information about Brook and I will give that to Kyle Conrad when I see him. I don't want to fold it and mail it, so he will have to wait until we see each other. Julie said she had more information she would have copied and send to me, so we have that to look forward to receiving.

I hope you all have a great summer and, just remember - everything you do is history so think about making history in everything you do!

### **McCray Scholarship Winners Announced**

The committee for the 2003 McCray Scholarships have selected the winning essays. They follow here. First is North Newton High School winner Wilma Domele's essay entitled

**"Conrad: A Town and A Lady Worth Remembering"**

Though it has been almost nearly a half-century since the last residents left the town of Conrad, it still shows up on most maps of the area, and some few relics remain of Jenny Milk Conrad's dream.

There was a small community south of Lake Village that was once threatening the life of this community. This was when Jenny M. Conrad inherited six thousand acres of land from her parents and began to build her own dynasty. The town consisted of a store, stockyard, saloon, blacksmith shop, cement block factory, and several houses.

Jenny M. Conrad was the originator of the registered spotted Poland China hogs and they became widely known. People from all over came to the sales of these hogs, which lasted three days and each hog carried registration papers. The church served dinners for those affairs. *Continued on page nineteen*