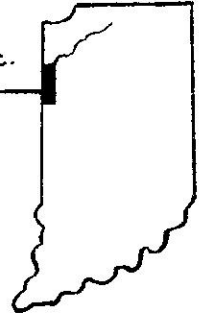


The Newcomer



A Publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

INDIANA'S *youngest* COUNTY



Vol. 1, Issue 1

April 1994

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the premiere edition of *The Newcomer*, a milepost for the Newton County Historical Society. While this name could have many connotations, its original meaning is quite simple.

While exploring possible names for our publication, we were faced with the task of choosing a name that best fits our entire county's heritage, not one event or one person, even though we have much to be proud of. The name Newcomer fits our entire county quite well, having been the last of Indiana's 92 counties to be formed, and it was felt this name would be appropriate for this publication as well.

Our membership may also feel our organization can be classified as a newcomer. Having seen little activity for many years, 1991 saw a rebirthing of the society and reorganization soon followed. Our slow, but steady progress has resulted in this publication being made possible. Also, our family history division is working on the first ever complete cemetery index for all Newton County cemeteries. But other advances in historical preservation are also occurring throughout our county.

Work is about to begin on refurbishing the home of Newton County native, author, playwright, and humorist George Ade. 'Hazelden', as it was named by Ade, is about to undergo a renovation that will exceed \$500,000. And, our own past president Gerald Born is undertaking a publication on his own on history from the Morocco area. May this progress continue for many years to come.

This publication is a great step for an organization our size to take. Its success will rely on the involvement of its readers and the members of the society. I hope it serves you well, and I encourage you to take an active role in its success.

Kyle D. Conrad

COUNTRY CHURCH CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

The Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 11233 S 500 W, Kentland, Indiana, will be celebrating their 125th anniversary on Sunday, July 31, 1994. Plans are being made for a 10:00 a.m. worship service and an old fashioned basket dinner at noon. A service of praise and thanksgiving will be at 2:30 p.m. The church is in the process of updating their history. Anyone with pictures or information that would be useful, please contact Greta Taylor, R.R. 1, Box 154-A, Kentland, IN 47951.

(Thanks to Greta Taylor for this information.)

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Genevera 'Nev' Carlson informs us that the Golden Rod Chapter #157, Order of the Eastern Star of Kentland is beginning to make plans for their 100th anniversary. Dispensations were granted for organization on June 28, 1894. Nev has given us a list of charter members:

John Higgins	Mrs. Annie Higgins
John Ade	Mrs. John Ade
George E. McIntosh	Mrs. George E. McIntosh
James R. Chancellor	Miss Augusta Chancellor
William Perry	Mrs. Nancy Perry
R.F. Seal	Mrs. R.F. Seal
S.B. Bonham	Mrs. C.M. Bonham
Miss L. Shonkwiler	Mrs. Maggie Oswalt
Miss Stella Shonkwiler	Mrs. C.A. Marshal
Mrs. E. Sell	Mrs. Rose Talbot
Mrs. S.D. Woods	Mrs. S.B. Houser
Mrs. J.A. Hatch	

First Worthy Matron--Maggie Oswalt
First Worthy Patron--John Ade

THE WEEKLY NEWS-REVIEW

Rose Lawn, Fair Oaks, Lake Village, Thayer and Shelby
Saturday, December 26, 1903

FREDERICK RAYMOND OTIS

Frederick Raymond Otis died in Chicago, December 17, 1903 in the the 79th year of his age.

He was well known to the people of Jasper and Newton counties where he has been interested in the development of land in Union, Keener and Lincoln townships. His first purchase of Indiana land in this section was from the government and was made in January 1855. He continued to purchase land in this locality from time to time until his present holdings amounted to ten thousand acres.

This land, when purchased, was mostly in a wild state, without drainage or roads and on account of it not being ditched was unsuitable for farming.

Twenty years ago he commenced the construction of ditches so as to drain this tract of land and make it suitable for farming purposes. This work was continued at a considerable expense to him until most of the land was drained. But it was a wise expenditure, for where formerly there was a wilderness, today may be seen the cultivated fields and the homes of many a family.

Mr. Otis took great pride in the breeding of fine livestock and conducted on this land a large livestock and dairy business. He had a herd of about four hundred cows and made daily shipments of milk to Chicago.

When he lived in Ohio he was interested in the buying of cattle through northern Ohio for shipment to the New York market.

He was the last one living of the four Otis brothers, James, Lucius B., Frederick R., and Joseph E. -- all of whom were Chicago pioneers. Mr. Otis suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1899 and had been an invalid ever since. For the last three weeks he had been in failing health.

Frederick Raymond Otis was a descendant of John Otis, who came from England and settled in Hingham, Mass. in 1635. Frederick Raymond was born at Berlin, Ohio, February 10, 1825, where he engaged in livestock and farming until he became of age, when he and his brother, James, founded the first bank at Malan, Ohio.

News of the "new city" on the great lakes, called Chicago, reached Mr. Otis and in 1849 he decided to investigate the possibilities to be found there. As there was no railroad connection with Chicago at that time, he drove overland arriving in September of that year and remaining some weeks, making a general observation of the locale and the existing conditions.

From that time on he made frequent trips to Chicago, investing occasionally in real estate, before he located there permanently with his family in December 1869. On his first visit to Chicago in 1849, he predicted a great future for the city and continued buying real estate, making his investments with much care and judgment.

So great was his faith in these investments that he would not sell any of his property, and consequently, at the time of the fire in 1871, he suffered considerable loss.

This, however, was largely repaired within a short time, and since then the history of Mr. Otis' holding in real estate had been similar to the history of Chicago's progress.

Mr. Otis was married December 27, 1848 to Evaline Tillinghast of Berlin, Ohio, a daughter of Oliver Tillinghast. Their children, all of whom are living in Chicago, are Charles T. Otis, Lucius J. Otis, Margaretta E. Otis, Mrs. H. H. Deming, Mrs. Lucius A. Hine and Mrs. William G. Sage. One sister, Mrs. A. H. Miller of Fremont, Ohio also survives him.

(Submitted by Gerald M. Born for the Family History Div.)

It is my understanding that the Otis ranch and mansion were located east of Roselawn and that the house burned within recent history. The Newton County Historical Society is very interested in recording the history of the Otis ranch and other large ranches in Newton county, so if you have information you would like to share about them, please contact a member of the society and we will help gather and write the history. These ranches played a major role, as seen in the above obituary, in the early development of the county and their legacy should be preserved. Pictures, too, are an important part of the past.

The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.

Published in March, August, and October of each year. Articles for submission may be sent to the Editor, Kyle D. Conrad, P.O. Box 49, Kentland, IN 47951.

Membership dues to the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. are annual from July 1 to June 31 of each year and are as follows:

Student	\$2.00
Individual	\$5.00
Family	\$8.00
Institutional	\$25.00
Contributing	\$50.00
Individual Life	\$100.00
Family Life	\$175.00

Officers of the Newton County Historical Society.

President	James Robbins, Lake Village
Vice President	Velma Jean Dart, Goodland
Secretary	Robert Williamson, Morocco
Treasurer	Janet Miller, Kentland

FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION TO PUBLISH CEMETERY INDEX

The Family History Division of the Newton County Historical Society is planning the publication of index books for all Newton County cemeteries. While much of the ground work has been completed, updating and verification remains to be done on many of the county's cemeteries. Joyce Kay of Morocco has headed up this project, and would appreciate any assistance from society members or other interested parties. "Anyone wishing to help read, proof, record ownership on printouts, check indexes, make maps or help in anyway is welcome" says Kay.

Three books are planned for publication. The first one will contain listing for Beaver, Lake, McClellan and Washington Townships. Another will contain Colfax, Iroquois, Jackson, and Lincoln. The third book will list burials in Grant and Jefferson Townships.

While much headway has been made in this project, much more work is needed and all assistance given will be greatly appreciated.

The following listing is of the Sell Cemetery of Washington Township and is an example of the work Joyce Kay has done in compiling burial information.

SELL CEMETERY

Row Plot	Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Inscription
1	ORTNER, Matie V.		12 Dec 1890	Dau. of P. & L.A. * Aged 4 Y. 6 M. 25 D.
	ORTNER, Minnie B.		10 Dec 1890	Dau. of P. & L.A. * Aged 2 Y. 7 M. 4 D.
	ORTNER, Ada May		22 Nov 1885	Dau. of P. & L.A. * Aged 1 Y. 4 M. 7 D.
	SELL, Rosie	4 Jul 1858	3 Oct 1892	Wife of Samuel * Aged 34 Y. 3 M. 1 D.
	SELL, Maudy M.		27 Oct 1886	Dau. of S. & R.E. * Aged 6 Y. 12 D.
	SELL, Infant Son		9 Oct 1885	Infant Son of S. & R.E.
	SELL, Mary B.		2 Nov 1878	Dau. of M.P. & A.C. * Aged 11 M. 23 D.
	SELL, Baby Daughter	4 Jul 1886	4 Jul 1886	Dau. of M.P. & A.C.
	HILL, Cecil M.		21 Sep 1901	Dau. of C.E. & M.M. * Aged 9 M. 9 D.
	Dorsey L.		21 Jun 1902	Son of C.E. & M.M. * Aged 1 Y. 1 M. 11 D.
	HERATH, Fannie		5 Oct 1883	Dau. of P. & P.M. * Aged 1 D.
	KIIFNER, Infant Daughter		12 Feb 1885	Inf. Dau. of Conrad & Bertha
	KIIFNER, Infant Daughter		14 Feb 1909	Inf. Dau. of Edw. & Ola
	LITTLE, Ralph S.		24 Oct 1885	Son of J.W. & L.C. * Aged 4 M. & 20 D.
	BIXLER, Annie Grace		4 Dec 1885	Dau. of S. & Sarah * Aged 2 M. & 5 D.
	2	SELL, Daniel W.	9 Sep 1827	24 Jun 1900
Susan S.		1836	29 Apr 1917	
SELL, William H.		3 Aug 1882	11 Sep 1895	Son of Edward & Euphamie * Aged 13 Y. 1 M. 8 D.
PENCE, David			27 Apr 1888	Aged 64 Y. 5 M. 12 D.
Catherine		7 Nov 1823	28 Dec 1895	
	Illegible Stone (J. Lee)			Son of

(Read cemetery rows north to south)

The SELL CEMETERY is located on the west side of County Road 50 West between State Road 16 and County Road 1000 South approximately 1 1/2 miles west of Brook.

INQUIRY: Marcia A. Buescher, Route 1, Box 5-C, P.O. Box 542, Kimball, NE 69145. Ph: 308-235-2008. She is looking for information on Augustus and Sabra BINGHAM descendants. Augustus died 8 Oct. 1849 and Sabra died 28 Mar 1852 and are buried in Weston Cemetery, Jasper County, Indiana. Descendants include Augustus W. BINGHAM, Julia Ann (BINGHAM) SPARLING, another daughter, and George K. BINGHAM. They were found at various times in Jasper and Newton Counties in Indiana and Kankakee County, Illinois. She is also interested in finding out if John RICHARDS is related to the BINGHAMS. She is willing to pay for research.

A Few Newton County History Books
published in 1985
are still available for purchase.
The cost of this book is \$50.00
plus mailing expense.
For further information contact:
Joyce E. Kay
P.O. Box 188
Morocco, IN 47963

DEATH ON THE RAIL

From the *Kentland Gazette*, November 10, 1881

Another terrible and fatal accident occurred on the railway at Goodland, Friday last afternoon, by which Mrs. Clarinda Wilson, lost her life. She was walking on the track near town, and it appears for some reason was unconscious of the near approach of the train, although going directly toward it. The engineer and employes claim in their testimony that the usual danger signal was given and that they were unable to stop the train before striking the woman. They also attempted to make the lady appear as having been insane, but the relatives and friends testified to her mental soundness. The fact seems to remain that the train was running faster than the law permits in incorporated town. The coroner stating the fact that Mrs. Wilson came to her death from wounds and hurts received by an engine of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railway, sum up as follows: "I also find that employes of said engine and locomotive on said railway, it being train number seven, so called, are wholly blameless in the pre-

mises, but that the said Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railway company, is culpably negligent in this to-wit: That it has not obeyed or caused to be obeyed by its servants, employes and agents, the ordinance of said Town of Goodland, relating to the speed at which trains should be run through said town, passed June 12, 1876, and in failing to have flagmen properly placed as by the ordinance required, the said railway company having had copies of said ordinance served up its proper officers, duly acknowledged the same."

The engineer, D.M. Snyder, was also in charge of the train which killed Mrs. Hennesy. The wounds found on Mrs. Wilson were several in number. The throat was cut, lower jaw broken, both clavicle (collar bones) broken, the upper part of the sternum (breast bone), and the right leg were broken; the upper part of the chest crushed and the abdomen torn and lacerated.

The Newcomer

A Publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

INDIANA'S *youngest* COUNTY

P.O. Box 49

Kentland, IN 47951

