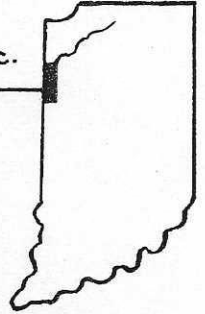


The Newcomer

A Publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

INDIANA'S *youngest* COUNTY



Vol. 1, Issue 2

August 1994

TELEPHONE SYSTEM OF THE OTIS RANCH

Lucius J. Otis was in town last Saturday. He has been engaged for a few days making an extension to the telephone department of the Otis ranch. Mr. Otis was the first person to build a telephone line in Newton and Jasper counties. His first line was from Rose Lawn to the ranch headquarters over a common barbed wire fence, using the barbed wire for transmitting messages. Today the Otis ranch owns twenty miles of a system which connects the house of every tenant between Fair Oaks and Rose Lawn. The last two connections were made the past week, one at the home of William Cale and the other at the home of Calvin Parks. Any tenant has communication with all other tenants and the entire system of the Otis Ranch has outside connections at Fair Oaks and Rose Lawn.

(Submitted by Gerald M. Born, Hammond, Ind.)

(News Item from the Weekly News-Review; Devoted to the Interests of Rose Lawn, Thayer and Shelby, Indiana)

Thayer, September 20, 1902

OIL STRUCK AT THAYER

Oil was discovered in the well now being drilled on the Adams ranch at Thayer. Messrs. Armeson and Baker informed a reporter of the New Review that a vein was struck this week that would produce about 50 barrels a day. It is their intention to drill farther in the hope of striking a larger vein. The above gentlemen were in high spirits over the find. It is expected that arrangements will be made to develop several other wells in this vicinity. Oil leases have been secured in this place on thousands of acres of land.

(Submitted by Gerald M. Born, Hammond, Ind.)

(News Item from the Weekly News-Review; Devoted to the Interests of Rose Lawn, Thayer and Shelby, Indiana)

Thayer, March 14, 1903

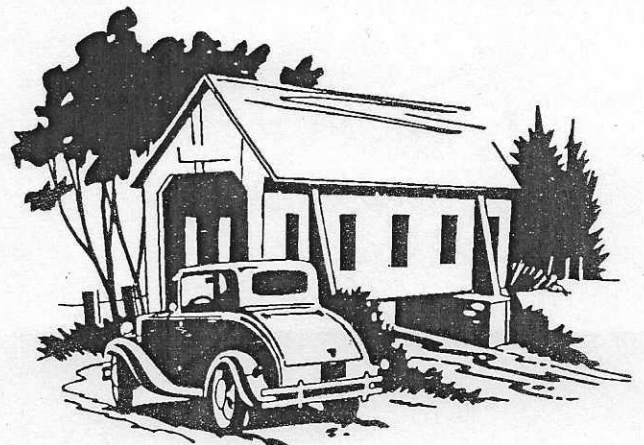
A NEW TOWN IN NEWTON

TRIPOLI, TO BE COLONIZED BY ITALIANS AND GREEKS. BEING PLATTED ON JOE OGDEN RANCH NORTHWEST OF MOROCCO.

A new town, named Tripoli and to be colonized by Italians and Greeks, has been laid out some three miles north of Morocco-according to newspaper reports. In section 10, 11 and 12 in Beaver township 1400 acres of land of the Joe Ogden ranch are being platted in to ten-acre tracts-except the town site, located on a high piece of ground, and which is cut into half-acre lots. The Pillarella Italian Colonization Co., of Chicago has charge of the new enterprise. There are four families there viz, those of N. Boozenberg, J. Faraco, S. Narks, and V. Pillerella.

The whole tract will be plowed up this fall and made ready for the gardening to be done next year, when it is expected that 50 to 100 families will be located there. Cottages will be erected either on the ten acre tracts or on the town lots to house these people. This may be only a beginning of what will be done with much of north Newton county in the near future. It is ideal land for gardening and these people are the most expert gardeners in the world.

(From The Newton County Enterprise, August 2, 1912. Thanks to John J. Yost of New York, NY for this submission.)



INDIANS NEVER FORGET A KINDNESS

A story told by John Lyons of an early experience with an Indian. He had moved from Ohio to southeast of Brook in the winter and one cold stormy evening he saw an Indian coming from the east. He inquired where he was going and the Indian replied that they were short of shot in his tribe at Rensselaer and he was going to Iroquois, about 15 miles down the river to get some.

Since it was cold and snowy, Mr. Lyons asked the Indian to stay in his cabin all night. In the morning, he checked his shot and found that he could spare some which he gave to the Indian saving him from a cold long trip down the river.

Mr. Lyons had moved that winter from Ohio and brought a mare with him. She raised a colt that summer and one day in the fall she disappeared. He was hunting for her when he met this same Indian. He told his story saying he guessed he would have to let her go as he had a wife and baby at home and he must return to them. The Indian said, "show me her tracks and I will find her for you." Mr. Lyons showed the tracks to the Indian and returned home.

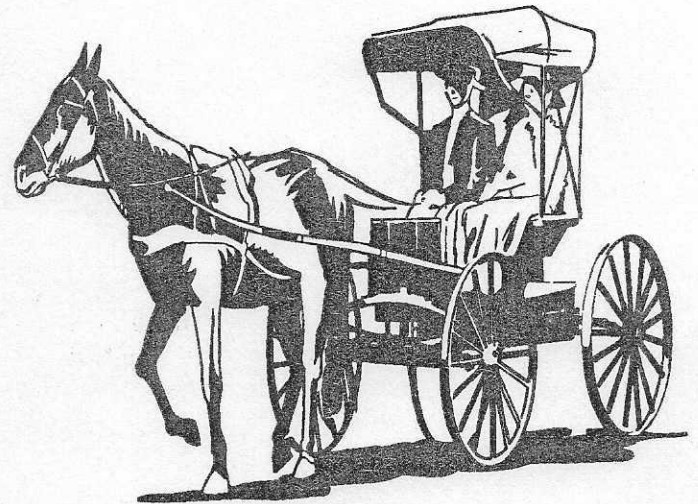
After two days he had not seen the horse or the Indian, he didn't expect to see either of them again. On the third

day, the Indian appeared leading the horse with the colt following. On questioning the Indian, he said that he thought that he had gone almost to Logansport before catching up with her.

When he offered to pay the Indian, he said, "No, you paid me last" and would not accept any reward.

This story was written by Kenneth McCarty for his grandson, Mark Barten. I don't know if he had seen it written or if it was just handed down by word of mouth.

(Submitted by Esther Barten)



THE KENTLAND REDUCTION PLANT

What my family and others called, not too affectionately, the 'stink plant' has taken care of farmer's need for many years. Dead animals, especially horses and cattle (too large to bury) were taken to the first place south and east of where U.S. 41 now crossed the Iroquois River.

Bob White of Kentland thinks that this plant was built around 1914 by Dr. Hess who was a veterinarian in the area. They picked up the carcasses, and used coal to fire the water process whereby tankage would be made. This was a cooked meat product and made excellent feed for hogs. Tankage was many times sacked and provided truckers a load for their return trip from shipping cattle from Chicago. This too, was for hog feed, probably for the Chicago Stock yards.

Dr. Hess left Newton County to become the State Veterinarian for Indiana and the business was next operated by Mark Bryant, who would later move to Rensselaer. Mr. White says that living next to the plant was not very nice at times. One year it was so hot and dry that horses and cattle died so fast the plant could not keep up. White also says that when the smell was bad enough, his family would have to leave. He drove to Logansport with a load only once during a period when the reduction plant was closed. He knew then he'd never do that again.

Bob Evers now owns the rendering plant, but the rate of use is down to very little. The days of the horse and the big numbers of cattle feeding operations we used to know are almost non-existent. Newton County is now down to one dairy farm. But we remember the days of livestock and the rendering plant.

(Submitted by Velma Jean Dart)

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

NEWTON COUNTY BARRACKS #219

(The following information was submitted by Newton County Veterans' Service Officer John Shafer.)

The National Headquarters of Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., which was located in the Washington D.C. area, has been closed. The original charters for all the 'barracks' of this organization have been returned to the archives of the various states. Newton County-Kentland had such a barracks, #219, containing 108 names of

Ackerman, William
Ade, Rolland C.
Alexander, Wm. J.
Ambrose, George D.
Andres, Louis A.
Andrist, Reuben E.
Arnold, Alfred G.
Beyer, Edward A.
Biddle, Josiah
Blaney, Harry C.
Bokma, Chester
Bowers, James A.
Bridgeman, Ernest
Broshears, Altus L.
Bruck, Wm. A.
Bryant, Byron B.
Bushman, Andrew F.
Camblin, Lawson L.
Carlson, Robert E.
Cobleigh, Herbert G.
Constable, Raymond L.
Courtright, Loren C.
Cox, Van E.
Danruther, Wm. J.
Davis, Carl E.
DeGroot, Anton
DeHahn, Rudolph

George H. Denham
Dickey, Elmer
Edwards, Percy
Flatt, Theodore J.
Flowers, Charles F.
Gentry, Elmer C.
Gerbracht, Henry R.
Gerhold, Edwin L.
Gerhold, Fred R.
Gerrich, Bernard A.
Goldenstein, George W.
Gott, James F.
Gulley, Dana I. Sr.
Hall, William L.
Hampton, Ulysses G.
Hardy, Lee J.
Hawn, Harry H.
Hendry, William J.
Hendryx, Joseph C.
Hess, Walter G.
Hoover, Alva M. B.
Husha, Claude E.
Irwin, Arthur R.
Jaye, Gobind S.
Johnson, Eric J.
King, Roy B.
Kline, John W.

World War I veterans and dated June 1954 is now available here. A copy has been provided to the Newton County Historical Society and to the Kentland Library.

(The following is the list of the 108 charter members for barracks 219. Thanks to Mr. Shafer for his sharing this information with us.)

Korth, Alfred
LaCosse, Ira J.
Limp, Henry J.
Littlejohn, Guy
Lloyd, Charles E.
Louette, Frank E.
Lowry, Roy A.
Manchester, Arthur B.
Manning, Frank
McClatchey, Logan C.
McConnell, Thomas S.
McKnight, Bernard L.
Miller, Clarence E.
Miller, Mount M.
Medlock, Charles P.
Messersmith, John E. Sr.
Moore, Ernest C.
Morgan, Leonidas E.
Newell, Jerimah
Newell, Omer R.
O'Neil, Jesse V.
Ortner, Irvin
Padgett, Harry W.
Parrish, Elmer
Perkins, Percy M.
Porter, Ezra Ray

Plunkett, John M.
Railsback, Ward L.
Rainford, Chester Sr.
Reagan, Charles E.
Reed, Sidney C.
Reed, William R.
Rieger, Jacob
Ringer, Lemnel P.
Robinson, John S.
Rothrock, John S.
Rothrock, Harmon G.
Rusk, Clarence
Russell, Alvia R.
Sayers, Clarence V.
Scheel, Richard H.
Simison, Wilbert P.
Skinner, Alonzo M.
Skinner, Elmer L.
Smart, Elvin L.
Spurgeon, Lawrence F.
Starnes, Kenneth
Talley, John F.
Watson, Thomas J.
Whaley, Russell L.
Zraniak, Rudolph

BROOK TRIBUTE

Elmer Hess or "Old Mack" owned a Drug Store in Brook in 1888 and for many years thereafter. Mr. Hess brought fame to Brook with the invention of the Witch Hazel Cream.

Witch Hazel is a shrub or small tree that blooms in October and November. The Witch Hazel extract is distilled from the bark and twigs. The shrubs or small trees are usually found along streams in the United States from New Brunswick to Iowa and South to Arkansas and Florida.

Mr. Hess searched his drug books for ingredients that would be soothing and healing for the farmers with chapped hands from corn husking and found Iris Moss; several kinds of seaweeds that grow in rocky places of Great Britain, Ireland and the eastern coast of North America. Mr. Hess received his in gunny sacks from France.

Merchants sold Iris Moss commercially after it has been washed, bleached and dried in the sun. Mr. Hess experi-

mented with the moss and it finally became the base for the Witch Hazel Cream Lotion and the sales started. (Thanks to Sue Humphrey for submitting this information.)

A Few Newton County Historical 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

AND WE GET QUERIES . . .

Seeking information on the DICKEY family. Benjamin Dickey b. 1817, Fayette Co., IN. Married Mary Wolf 08-16-1840 and Ella A. Carlisle 11/25/1848. Moved to Newton County and died at the home of his son Joseph Dickey near Iroquois, IL. Buried in the cemetery south of Kentland. Is Benjamin's second wife, Ella, buried with him? Were there any other children? Any information will be appreciated. Betty Haas, 3008 Beeson St., Connersville, IN 47331.

Seeking additional information on James Wilson, husband of Clarinda Wilson, both of Goodland. Clarinda's obituary appeared in the April issue of 'The Newcomer'. Killed by a train in 1881 in Goodland. James is not buried with Clarinda in Goodland Cem. Mary E. Wilson, 3249 UMBER Rd., Holiday, FL 34691

Information needed on Clifford Constable of Virginia. Wrote letter to his uncle Richard Constable, formerly of Goodland, wishing to sell this uncle some

land near Goodland. Any info. on Clifford or which property he was referring to will be appreciated. Barbara Paulus-Marshall, 1250 Loryn Lane, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

For a planned volume of Newton County history, I would like to receive any information readers might have, including an obituary on Newton County poet and 1890's era County School Superintendent Will W. Pfrimmer. I would also like to borrow for reproduction in a book, any photograph of Bogus Island. Contact John J. Yost, Ansonia Station, Box 898, New York, NY 10023. Thank you.

For sale: 26 never used, full size, metal license plates commemorating Indiana's Sesquicentennial. Words at bottom are NEWTON COUNTY. In the center is George Ade's picture with his full name. Price per plate is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 first class mailing. All 26 plates will sell for \$120.00 plus \$15.00 shipping. H.C. Dimmich, 1010 Cumberland #509, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

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