

The Newcomer

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In this issue . . .

1909 Brook Baseball Team and Omak, Washintgon Salt: Ed Camblin of Morocco Buildings on Graham Street, Kentland, Built in 1909 James and Rebecca Dodson Family The End of Summer, My Summer Visits to Brook First Reunion of Newton County Veterans, 1889 Kentland's First Production of "The County Chairman"

1909-11 Brook Baseball Teams and Omak, Washington

by Beth Bassett

Tony Bauer of Dallas, Texas, sent a request regarding his wife's grandfather Jesse Edward Whiting, who lived in Brook in the early 1900s. He related that he is putting together a historical account of Mr. Whiting's younger days to add to a brief supplement Jesse had left behind for his descendants. A member of their family possesses a framed photograph of Jesse, aged 16 or 17, in a baseball uniform with the letter "B" on his jersey. Knowing that Jesse grew up in the town of Brook, Mr. Bauer utilized our web site www.ingenweb.org/innewton, and found an article in a *Newcomer* stating that the Brook baseball team had played a game against Wolcott in connection with the annual Kentland Horse Show and Festival in 1903. This led him to believe that Brook had an amateur baseball team playing in Newton County during the first decade of the 20th Century, and that the letter on the jersey may stand for Brook.

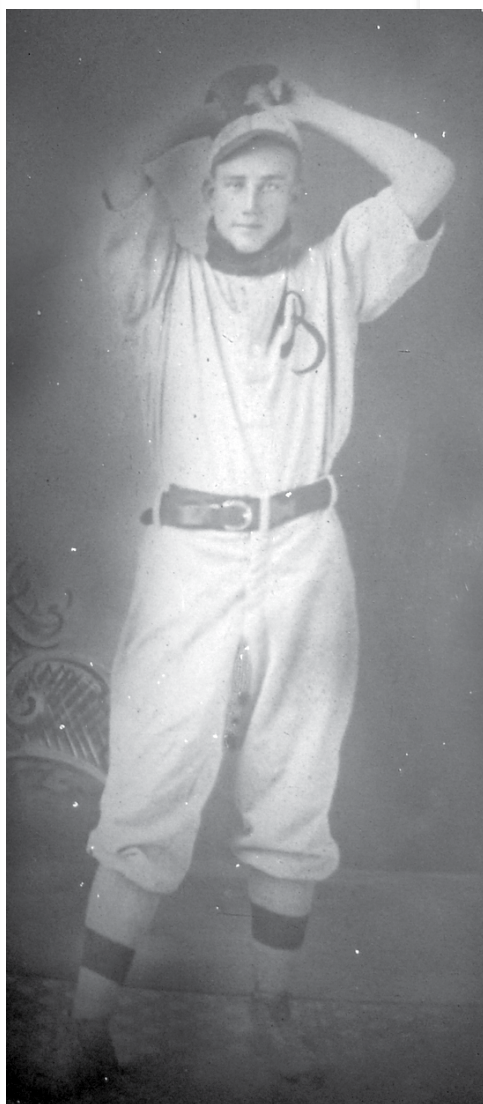
He shared with us the following information:

"In March 1911, five young men in their late teens/early 20s left Brook, Indiana and traveled 2,000 miles to the town of Omak in North Central Washington. Inasmuch as there was no rail service to Omak in 1911, the men most likely took a train as far as Wenatchee, WA. Then, they traveled the last 100+ miles by steamboat up the Columbia and Okanogan Rivers. These five men were Henry Simpson, John A. Wise, Jasper N. Staton, T. Conn (maybe Charles C. Conn) and C. Merchant (maybe Roscoe C. Merchant). Once in Omak, they met up with two former townsmen from Brook, Jake Fink and D.C. Worrall. Then, two more men from Brook, Harry Edwards and Jesse Edward Whiting, arrived in Omak a short time later. In fact, Mr. Whiting, who used the alias Jesse Davis, arrived early enough to have his picture taken with the Omak Team before the 1911 season started. Most of the men who left Brook in March, 1911, were lured away to play baseball for the Omak team. Apparently, the Omak fans were somewhat fanatical about having a winning team and must have offered various incentives to the young fellows from Brook such as travel expense, pocket money, jobs upon arrival, free or cut rates on room and board, etc."

How could one pass up researching this topic? I knew that we had published two photographs of a Brook baseball team circa 1909 in the "Brook, Iroquois and Washington Township Sesquicentennial Collection, 2006" and was hoping the names would be there. Unfortunately the team members were not identified. At first glance you see that the "B" on their jerseys matched the "B" on Mr. Whiting's jersey. I emailed the photographs to Mr. Bauer, and immediately, new information began pouring in regarding Mr. Whiting and clarifying the identities of his team members noted in his initial inquiry. Mr. Bauer had four objectives in mind:

1. Obtain a picture of the Brook Baseball Team with players in uniform circa 1908.
2. Determine whether or not the uniform Jesse Edward Whiting is wearing in the attached pictures is a Brook Baseball Team uniform.
3. Obtain rosters listing the Brook Baseball players for say 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1910.
4. Obtain any news stories from the *Newton County Enterprise* mentioning the Brook Baseball Team, Jesse Edward Whiting and/or the March 1911 departure of the young men who went to Omak, WA. Concerning Mr. Whiting, there could be some news stories regarding him in the *Enterprise* about the same time the *Indianapolis News* ran a story on January 30, 1909, about him receiving a tryout with the Terre Haute "Hottentots" and/or about the same time that he was given a contract to play with the Danville "Speakers" as reported in the February 21, 1910, edition of *The Decatur Review*, Danville, IL.

Objectives one and two were met by finding the two < *Continued on page 2* >



Jesse E. Whiting in his baseball uniform.

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photographs in the Brook history book. Objectives three and four however, would take a bit more research. I knew from the area that the *Enterprise* at that time would carry more news of the Kentland baseball team, rather than the Brook team, so I ventured to the Brook, Iroquois and Washington Township Library in Brook to look through the microfilm of *The Brook Reporter*, 1909-1911.

My instincts were right about the Reporter; the three years provided the information Mr. Bauer was seeking - and more! Articles also referred to the Brook residents he had mentioned, as well as the account of the Brook boys leaving town for Omak, Washington.

I sent off copies to Mr. Bauer of the related articles and anxiously awaited his reply.

"I received the copies of the news stories you extracted from *The Brook Reporter* the other day. Thank you so much for the effort you made. I spent yesterday and today transcribing most of the news stories into a Word doc for easier reading. I attached a copy of the transcript to an email that I sent to Barry George. Mr. George is a gentlemen whom I've been in contact with at the Okanogan County Historical Society in Washington. He's been extremely helpful in providing me with information about Jesse Whiting's baseball activities in the Northwest after he left Brook. He's also developed information about several

of the other Brook townsmen who settled in Okanogan County. If you are considering writing a story about the Brook folks who went West, Mr. George could be a good resource."

Thus began the search on my end for information regarding Jacob Fink and the other Brook individuals. Utilizing census records and information that Mr. George sent to me

that he had amassed regarding the players from Brook who resided in Omak, I was able to clarify some of the information they had and "fluff" out the lives of the individuals who played on the Omak baseball team.

Here is the information that Tony, Barry and I have collected regarding the Indiana players and townsmen.



Early 1909 Brook Baseball team, l-r, back: Charles Conn, Jesse 'Davis' Whiting, Henry Simpson?, John X. Lyons, Jasper "Micky" Staton. Front: Sam 'Tude' Conn, George Corbett, ?, John 'Jack' Wise, ?.



1909 Brook Baseball team, packed in George Ade or Fred Lyon's auto, l-r, back: Orpheus Lyons, ?, ?, John X. Lyons, ?; Center: Micky Staton, ?, Tude Conn, George Corbett, seated on end; Front: Jack Wise, Jessie Whiting, Fred Lyons, Charles Conn.

The Team Members

Jasper N. "Micky" Staton, was an established barber in the town of Brook at the turn of the century, and upon his arrival in Omak, was set up in business there as a "tonsorial artist". He married his hometown sweetheart Hazel Wilson aboard a riverboat that was transporting the Omak baseball team and all their fans back to Omak from Wenatchee, Washington, where they had just played a ballgame. Mick was the son of Benjamin and Lucy (Watson) Staton. He remained in Omak till his death in an automobile accident in 1948. In the 1930s, Mick managed the Omak baseball team. His grandson Rick Staton still resides in Omak, Washington.

John A. "Jack" Wise. John Wise was the son of John and Martha (Good) Wise. In the 1910 Census of Iroquois Township, Newton County, he is residing with his wife Ethel P., and daughters Marjorie, 14 and Leta Fay, 13. John was the rural route one mail carrier for Brook, as well as a respected musician, associated with the Brook band. His departure from Brook was mentioned in the locals of the *Brook Reporter* which stated that he and his family moved to the area in 1895, and that they would be missed. Upon moving to Omak, he worked as a surveyor in the area. Their daughter Leta Fay, passed away September 9, 1910 and is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Brook. His wife and daughter Marjorie went to Omak in June, 1911. Marjorie graduated from Omak High School. Riverside Cemetery records indicate that John passed in 1954, and is buried at Omak Cemetery in Washington.

Henry Dee Simpson. Henry's birth father, John Simpson, died at a fairly young age in Missouri, where Henry was born. His mother, Almeda Choate, remarried George Fox of Brook, in 1895. Henry grew up in Brook and moved to Omak, Washington, in 1910. In 1913, Henry married a local girl, Lulu Voy Bailey. Voy Bailey and her sister Beryl Bailey were the "first" (and only two) graduates from Omak High School in 1912. Henry remained in Omak most of his life. He initially worked at a lumber yard in Omak in 1910, then farmed for O. F. Courson. Sometime after 1920, they moved back to Indiana, but returned to Omak in 1946. Henry died in October, 1977 in Omak. One of his daughters, Mrs. Leda V. Harlan, still resides in Okanogan, Washington.

Sam "Tude" Conn. One of the questions

I had was to the identity/clarify the Conn player listed on the back of the photo of the Omak players. Tony and Barry thought it read "Lude" Conn, and Tony thought this "Lude" Conn was Charles C. Conn. It turns out that "Lude" was actually Sam "Tude" Conn. Tude is the son of Samuel and Elma S. Conn of rural Brook. Born in 1889 in Salem, Oregon, the family moved to Newton County in 1896. He had two brothers, Richard and Donald, and two sisters, Margaret and Marea. Tude played baseball in Omak for a couple of years and in 1913 played for the Brewster, Washington team. He returned to Brook, Indiana, and married Dora Allis of Kentland, who died in 1952. They had a daughter Mary. Tude and Dora also raised their grandson John Conn. Tude died in March of 1965 of a heart attack at his home and is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Brook.

Charles Conn was the son of Lemuel and Ella K. Conn. His father was a foreman at the Terra Cotta plant in Brook. Charlie lived on Harrison Street in Brook growing up, living next door to some of the other boys on the baseball team.

Roscoe C. Merchant. Roscoe was the O. Merchant listed in the rosters for the team, and listed as C. Merchant in the article from the Omak Chronicle announcing the arrival of the Brook boys in Omak, Washington. He was the son of Joe and Elizabeth Ann (Warr) Merchant of Brook. He had two brothers, George and Dorsey. Their mother died in 1902, and their aunt and uncle William and Edna McMillian, owners of the McMillian

Hotel in Brook, raised Roscoe. The history books do not mention the time he spent in Washington playing for the team, but does state that he attended Purdue University, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering, and that he went on to work in an automobile factory in Detroit, Michigan.

Jesse E. 'Davis' Whiting, the source of interest in this story, grew up in Brook, Indiana, with all of the aforementioned players. It is his granddaughter that brought the story of these young men and their Washington connection back to life again. A more in-depth look at the life and times of Jesse Whiting follows this story.

Other team members who traveled to Omak were **Harry Edwards and George Corbett**. Not much information is available at this time regarding these two players, other than they are located in the census records living in Omak, Washington in 1910.

Since one of the articles in the *Reporter* mentioned an O. Lyons as one of the members of the Brook team, I contacted Larry Lyons, son of Orpheus Lyons, and yes, it was his father that was in the picture, as well as his uncle John X. Lyons. Larry explained that John used the "X" at the end of his name because there were two other John Lyons living at the same time in Brook, and the "X" allowed the bank and the post office to distinguish him from the others.

Another of Larry's relatives, Fred Lyons, was also mentioned in the articles in the *Reporter*. In the July 23, 1909 *Reporter* we found some great informa- < *Continued on page 4* >



Omak Baseball team, 1911, l-r, standing: Guerdon Wilkinson, Lewis Danielson, Henry Simpson, Jake Fink, Jack Wise, Jesse E. Whiting, Tude Conn. Kneeling: Bob Fiker, George Corbett, Jasper N. "Micky" Staton and Lorin Kenny.

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tion: "George Ade and Fred Lyons took the ball team to Grant Park, Tuesday, in their automobiles, no train service being possible." The automobile in one of the team photos may have been George Ade's with Fred Lyons in the front row in the suit and cap. Now we can date the photo and further identify those in the photo. Since the boys are all piled into one auto, I'm guessing it was Mr. Ade's - a thrill for them, I'm sure. Why not capture the moment in a photo!

Published rosters of players who made hits during their games throughout the year revealed the members of the 1909-1910 team. Unfortunately, only first initials or "nicknames" were published at times. R. Crisler; Light; C. Conn; Myers; John Lyons; John Wise; Tude Conn; Jesse Davis (Whiting); Jasper N. "Micky" Staton; O. Lyons. Other names mentioned were "Newt" Wickwire; Leavitt; Harry Edwards; George Corbett.

On To Omak

From the information gathered by Tony Bauer and Barry George, former Brook harness maker Jacob "Jake" Fink may have been the major recruiter of the Brook boys for the Omak, Washington team; working with local team promoters setting them up with housing and jobs in the area.

Local notes from the *Brook Reporter* dated January 28, 1909 tell us that his services as harness maker at Lyons & Hershman's would **Omak Connection.** Below is a photograph of Omak, Washington, 1912, and the ad that appeared in the *Omak Chronicle* for Fink's Shop in 1910. The arrow points to Jacob Fink's Harness Shop. Note the baseball game just north of his location. Right; a photo of the goods created by Jacob Fink and for sale at his harness shop.

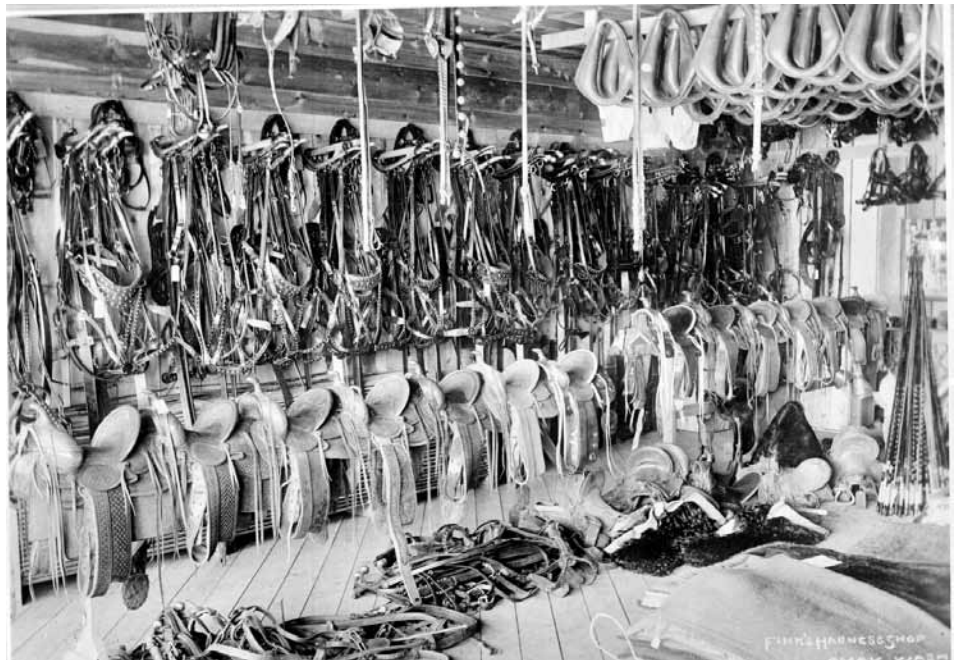
be ending February 1st, as he would be leaving for Washington in a few weeks, followed later by his family. In February, other Brook residents, two Kiifner brothers, Fred and Albert, referred to in the papers as Fritz and Will and sometimes Bill, were noted in the *Reporter* to be leaving for Omak. They may have been moving Jake's family there, as Jake had secured a job for Will for the summer. In May, 1910, a local note in the *Reporter* stated: "Jake Fink is in business on his own, but he also farms; Fritz and Bill Kiifner, Jack Worrell, Harry Edwards and Henry Simpson are all out there and like the country fine."

The April, 1910 Census of Omak, Washington, gave us some insight to those living there.

The Fink family was living in Omak Village: Jacob, Edith M., daughter Charlotte, son

Merritt, mother-in-law Mrs. Carrie Limbrick, his aunt, Mrs. Jennie Hawkins, and cousin Harrison Hawkins. Fred Kiifner, age 21, and Harry Edwards, 38, Engineer, Well Drilling, were living in the household of Albert Greene, Surveyor. Albert, or "Bill" Kiifner, age 23, hired man, is listed with the Burrus Hendricks family noted to be "Hendricks Flat". Henry Simpson, 21, hired man was listed with George Waite, a farmer, at "Robinson Flat". George L. Corbett, 24 was living and working on his own farm. The whereabouts of Jack Worrell is unknown, as he is not listed in Okanogan Township anywhere.

In June of 1910, Fink sent a copy of the Omak paper which had an advertisement for his harness shop in Omak. The last mention at this time of Fink is June 24, 1910, where he sends a paper noting that Omak had voted



dry, and by August of 1910, Fritz Kiifner was home, and they expected Bill any day.

Mr. Bauer believes that it was Henry Simpson who greatly influenced Jesse Whiting and Jasper Staton to join him in Omak. Henry played for the Omak team in 1910. It is also believed that another Brook native, Sam "Tude" Conn, also accompanied Jesse and Jasper on the trip.

An article from the *Omak Chronicle*, March 17, 1911:

"A brigade from the Hoosier State swooped down upon Omak, Tuesday evening and captured it without a struggle. The party, consisting of Henry Simpson, John A. Wise, J. N. Staton, T. Conn and C. Merchant, came from Brook, Indiana, the erst-while home of Jake Fink and D. C. Worrall and other good citizens who have chosen Omak for their home. There is a lot of good talent in the party, four of them ball players who will be a welcome addition to the local team of swatters and three performers on musical instruments. Henry Simpson, who returned with the party, is well-known here having been a star pitcher on the local ball team last year. He states that Harry Edwards of Brook, who was here last year will probably arrive later. Judging from the appearance of the newcomers, it is hoped that the other half of the population of Brook moves to Omak."

By 1911, the photograph of the Omak Baseball team included seven former Brook men: Henry Simpson, Jake Fink, manager, Jack Wise, Jesse Whiting, Tude Conn, George

Corbett, and Micky Staton.

Unlike so many inquiries we receive at the historical society, we were able to answer questions from all parties interested, myself included. Obtaining the names of the baseball team photographs along with identifying the auto as George Ade's was an unexpected delight for me. I also found within the articles utilized for this research a note that George Ade umpired many of the local matches held in Brook. He was an avid baseball fan, nationally and now we know locally as well!

Mr. Bauer was able to pass along the information to other family members, and has begun looking into other Newton County relatives, starting with the Spittler family, so his research continues.

The information found in the articles added to the collection of information that the Okanongan County Historical Society had on Jacob Fink, their local harness maker, as well as more detailed information about the Omak baseball team.

Newton County also benefited from this research in regards to the legacy of the Whiting family. Information on Jesse as well as his father Joseph added to our Civil War and family history files at our Resource Center in Kentland. Thanks Tony and Barry for this incredible journey.

Short History of Jesse Edward Whiting's Life

by Anthony J. Bauer, Sr.

Jesse Edward Whiting was born in Brook, Newton County, Indiana on August 1, 1891

(see attached birth certificate). His parents were Joseph Lewis Whiting, a Civil War veteran, and Rosetta B. Whiting (nee: Barnhouse). Jesse was next to the youngest of eight children born to Joseph and Rosetta consisting of five boys and three girls: Harry (b. 1874), Lottie (b. 1876), Thomas (b. 1879), Lulu (b. 1884), Harriett (b. 1887), Elmer (b. 1888), Jesse, and Charles (b. 1897).

Little is known about Jesse as a small boy; but as he reached his teenage years, he developed a passion for playing baseball. He joined the local Brook amateur baseball team as a young teen. It seems it did not take him very long to develop above average skills as an all-around player. Although he played several different positions, he was especially skilled as a left-handed pitcher. By the spring of 1909, while he was still 17 years of age, Jesse was offered a "try-out" to pitch for the Terre Haute "Hottentots", a Class B minor league team and member of the Central League. It's not clear if he made the team or not. However, one would conclude that he didn't make the "Hottentots" since news stories obtained from the *Brook Reporter* show that he played for the Brook amateur team during the entire 1909 season. Nevertheless, on February 21, 1910, it was reported by The *Decatur Review*, Danville, Illinois that Jesse was signed to pitch for the Danville "Speakers", another Class B minor league team and member of the Indiana-Illinois-Iowa League (a/k/a - Three "I" League). However, as happened in 1909, the *Brook Reporter* published < *Continued on page 6* >



Jesse Edward Whiting, l-r: suited up in his uniform; WWI, about 1917; Jesse and Anne's 30th wedding anniversary celebration.

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news stories at the beginning of the 1910 season showing that Jesse played for the Brook team again. In fact, on June 8, 1910, a *Brook*

Reporter news story gave an account of Jesse pitching a “no-hitter” against St. Joseph’s College from Rensselaer, Indiana...commenting that it was “something that has not happened

here for many a day.” Not long afterward, another *Brook Reporter* news story dated July 17, 1910 reported that Jesse was no longer available to pitch for Brook...adding the phrase, “The Hon. Jesse Whiting having flown his kite.” It’s difficult to know how to interpret the aforementioned phrase; but the writer suspects that the Danville “Speakers”, who Jesse signed with earlier in the year, may have finally called him up to play with them for the balance of the 1910 season.

Despite his baseball successes in amateur and league play close to home, Jesse wasn’t satisfied...perhaps due to other things going on in his life. Before the 1911 baseball season began or before getting too far into that season, Jesse was drawn to Washington State to play ball for the Town of Omak. Most likely, Jesse was influenced, along with several other young Brook townsmen, by Jacob “Jake” Fink and Henry D. Simpson. In 1909, Mr. Fink was one of the first men to leave Brook for the Northwestern U.S. After resettling in Omak, Washington, he corresponded regularly with old friends back in Brook...painting a glorious picture of life in Okanogan County, Washington. Mr. Fink started his own harness making shop and became the Manager of the Omak baseball team. Some of his letters were published in the *Brook Reporter* for all to read. Then, in 1910, Henry D. Simpson moved to Omak and played on the Omak baseball team during the summer of that year. Mr. Simpson returned to Brook in the off-season and went back to Omak during March 1911 with several other young men from Brook in tow. Those young men included, John “Jack” Wise, Jasper “Micky” Staton, Samuel “Tude” Conn, and C. Merchant. Harry Edwards, who had been in Omak the year before, was expected to follow later.

It’s quite clear that Jesse did not travel with the aforementioned group; because his name was not mentioned in the news accounts published by the *Brook Reporter* or the *Omak Chronicle* reporting the event. Indeed, while Jesse did play ball for the Town of Omak during the summer of 1911, the first time his name was mentioned in the *Omak Chronicle* as an active member of the Omak team was the June 2nd edition. This chronology seems to suggest that Jesse traveled to the Northwest alone and probably did not arrive in Omak until April or maybe as late as May 1911. Upon his arrival, Jesse started using the alias “Jesse Davis”. He used the aforementioned

President’s Thoughts

By Bernie Murphy

It is looking like winter as I address the recent activities of your Newton County Historical Society. We have again been quite busy this past summer and early Fall. First I would like to congratulate Diana Elijah as officially being our County Historian with the Indiana Historical Society. She has been our County Historian for several years doing a wonderful job and now she is also recognized as such by the Indiana Historical Society.

The current window display features “Campaigning In Newton County” in keeping with the current mid-term elections on November 4th. This display will be taken down shortly and replaced with a Christmas/Winter theme in time for our annual Open House that is scheduled for Friday, December 12.

Our monthly meetings have been fruitful along with most interesting programs such as: Phil Boldman sharing his knowledge and history of local railroads; Alyssa Nyberg gave us a snap shot of the “Kankakee Sands” areas of the Nature Conservancy in McClellan Township; and most recently, a very interesting presentation by Doug Green on Willow Slough – the history, types of wildlife and fish as well as the day-to-day management of this vast treasure in Newton County.

On September 10th, the society hosted a “Neighbor to Neighbor” program in conjunction with the Indiana Historical Society. We had a great turnout of 15 to 20 visitors, which included members of our society and representatives from the Indiana Historical Society, Benton County Historical Society and Jasper County Historical Society. We were able to discuss issues, programs and concerns common to all local Historical societies.

Recently the Society has rented storage space to relieve the congestion of our very small storage space at the center and allow for more organization of stored records and historical artifacts. The additional space will be utilized to store items such as holiday decorations and card tables; items that do not need to be in an environmentally controlled atmosphere. A committee I appointed several months ago has studied and revised the Society’s Constitution and By-Laws and put before the general membership attending the October meeting. These will be put in place upon approval by the membership at the November 24th meeting.

I, as always, want to thank all the volunteers who make the Society the great institution it is and, again, call for more volunteers. I wish you all a happy holiday season!



Current Resource Center window display.

Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller Answers on page 14

1. This is a three-part question. At the present time there is nothing unusual about women holding county-wide elective office, but such was not always the case. Who was the first woman elected to a county office; what was that office; and when did this occur.
2. Who is accredited with naming the town of Kentland?
3. From the story of the 1889 First Reunion of the Veterans of Newton County came the following quote: “Several of the boys engaged in an innocent game of old sledge in their tents Tuesday night.” Old sledge was what kind of a game?
4. While the Iroquois Indians were among the earliest native residents of the area, who were the last two tribes of Indians to live in the Newton County area?
5. When and where was the first public school established in Newton County?

alias the entire time he lived in the Northwest (i.e. Washington, Montana and British Columbia, Canada) from 1911 to 1918. The writer has never found an explanation for why Jesse used the alias. None of his direct descendants, including the writer's wife, her sister, her cousins, her aunts and uncles and even her mother (Jesse's daughter) seemed to know. As a matter of pure speculation, he may have simply wanted to use "Jesse Davis" as a "stage name"...or...he wanted to remain incognito to avoid detection by certain parties. Regarding the latter possibility, the writer noted in a short news story posted in the August 12, 1910 edition of the *Brook Reporter* that Jesse was being sought by railroad detectives in connection with a beer theft from a railroad car. The same news story reported that Jesse's brother, Elmer Whiting, was arrested by mistake in both Chicago Heights and Hammond; but was released soon afterward when it was discovered he wasn't Jesse. If Jesse was involved in the reported beer theft, could that event have been part of the reason Jesse left Indiana to go to Omak?

After playing the entire 1911 baseball season for Omak, Jesse began jumping around from town to town playing for different teams. While he started the 1912 baseball season pitching for Omak and recorded another "no hitter" against the town team from Malott, the *Omak Chronicle* announced in its June 7, 1912 edition that Jesse was leaving Omak to play for the Town of Oroville. The following is a complete text of the announcement, "Jess Davis, Omak's star twirler who has helped the locals clean up everything in this section, left for Oroville Tuesday, where he will pitch during the remainder of the season. With the Oroville line-up strengthened by the crack southpaw, it should be a strong aggregation in the future. Davis has established a strikeout record for this section that will probably stand for some time to come, averaging 15 during the games he has pitched for Omak this season. A man of Davis' caliber should not be playing small-town ball for he has the ability to make good in organized ball."

Continuing the trend that Jesse started in 1912 by jumping from Omak to Oroville, he began the 1913 baseball season pitching for the Town of Okanogan. However, by late June 1913, he moved to Kelowna, BC to play ball there until their season ended in early September. Things got very confusing over the first few months of the 1914 baseball season inas-

much as the writer found news stories posted in the *Kelowna Record* as well as the *Oroville Weekly Gazette* reporting that Jesse played for both Kelowna and Penticton, BC. However, by mid to late June 1914, Jesse appears to have left the Kelowna team to play full-time for Penticton. As it turned out, the Kelowna team disbanded by mid-July 1914 for several reasons. The primary reason was financial; but Canada also entered WW I with Great Britain about the same time and that development was also a contributing factor. By mid-July 1914, Jesse was found playing for Penticton, BC exclusively. However, by the end of the 1914 season, it was reported that Jesse pitched for Chesaw, a small town located just east of Oroville. When the 1915 season opened, Jesse was playing in the Town of Mansfield. During the early months of that season, he participated in a 21 inning classic game between Mansfield and Bridgeport, Washington. That game finally ended with Bridgeport winning 1 – 0. Later in the 1915 season, Jesse rejoined his old friends at Omak and helped them win a crucial game with Oroville. The following comment appeared in the June 25, 1915 edition of the *Oroville Weekly Gazette*, "To Jess Davis, who has been playing on the crack Mansfield team of the Douglas County league this spring, Omak owes its victory. Whatever the man may be, he knows how to play ball. In the first inning, he sacrificed in the first run for the visitors, and was responsible for the third run in the eighth inning. Besides, nothing escaped him in the field."

Based on a limited number of news accounts, Jesse began the 1916 baseball season playing for Okanogan and apparently stayed with that town team for the entire season. As a consequence, Jesse was instrumental in helping Okanogan win the pennant of the Okanogan Valley League that year. In the final game of the season against his old buddies at Omak, Jesse was the hero of the game deciding which team would carry off the pennant. The following is the headline that appeared in the August 8, 1916 edition of the *Okanogan Independent*:

**LOCALS BREAK TIE;
WIN LEAGUE PENNANT
DECIDING GAME PROVES TO
BE CLOSE AND EXCITING**

*Davis Breaks Up Fray With Long Hit –
Omak Threatens Rally in Ninth Inning*

Jesse was not only the winning pitcher of the game but he delivered the winning hit. His exploits were described in the news story

as follows: "In Sunday's game, Gillespie and McCloskey opposed Davis and Holly in the battery points. Davis not only had the edge in the pitching duel, but won his own game with a three base drive, scoring Holly in the third inning. The hit was probably the longest recorded on the local grounds." In retrospect, it was a joyous but very sad moment for Jesse since the game was almost certainly the last game he ever pitched. Jesse did not play the next season...choosing instead to join the U.S. Army in 1917 after our country entered WW I. Then, while overseas, Jesse's lungs were injured during a mustard gas attack; and that incident prevented him from ever being able to play ball again.

At the beginning of 1917, Jesse hoped to move to Montana and join the Butte "Miners", a Class B minor league team and member of the Northwestern League. However, the U.S. entered WW I on April 6, 1917...well before the baseball season started and Jesse decided to enter the U.S. Army rather than play ball.

After his discharge, Jesse, who had not been home for many years, returned to Brook, Indiana to see his parents. He remained in Brook a short time; but he was anxious to visit his brothers and sisters living in other communities such as Chicago Heights, Hammond, and South Bend. One of his sisters, Lulu Whiting Spitler (married to Charles Spitler) lived at 1206 ½ Washington Street in South Bend. As the family story goes, when Jesse went to see Lulu, he got her address mixed-up with another and knocked on the door at 1216 Washington Street. The knock was answered by Anna Nemeth Hoffer, a rather wealthy and attractive lady who was recently widowed in March 1919 when her husband was killed in a truck/train collision. A rapid romance ensued between Jesse and Anna leading to their marriage on November 24, 1919. Following their marriage, Jesse moved in with Anna and they continued to live at 1216 Washington Street for several more years.

In September 1921, while still living at 1216 Washington Street, South Bend, Jesse enrolled at Notre Dame University to study Law. Inasmuch as there is no evidence that Jesse ever graduated from high school in Brook, his acceptance at Notre Dame must have been based on some special arrangement with the federal government to benefit WW I Veterans. In fact, the writer obtained Jesse's transcript from Notre Dame < *Continued on page 8* >

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and noted it was marked "Federal Board Student". Jesse attended Notre Dame as a local commuter until February 1924. Regrettably, his grades were never very good and he ultimately dropped out of school.

According to family lore, it is said that, although Jesse was no longer in school at Notre Dame, he joined hundreds of his former fellow students in confronting the Ku Klux Klan in downtown South Bend. The Klan was very strong throughout Indiana during the early 20th Century; and from May 17 to May 19, 1924, the Klan held a mass rally in downtown South Bend...then planned to march to the Notre Dame campus. The following paragraph from the February 16, 2011 edition of the Irish Echo describes the confrontation in this manner: "...clashes between Notre Dame students and Klansmen occurred throughout the weekend near the convention hall housing the Klan's rally. The students' fury reached a fever pitch on May 19, when rumors (false it turned out) flew about that Klansmen had killed a Notre Dame student. Thousands of students massed downtown intent on tearing the Klavern to shreds. Only the arrival of college president Fr. Matthew Walsh and a spring downpour managed to cool the crowd and no further violence occurred. The next day, football coach Knute Rockne spoke at a campus rally and implored the students to obey the college president and refrain from further violence. A few days later the Klavern broke up and South Bend returned to normal."

For several years after attending Notre Dame, Jesse bought and sold real estate. Like many others, however, he suffered financially as a result of the Great Depression. At one point, he worked as a security guard for an agency that provided security guards at the Studebaker plant in South Bend. In the early 1950s, Jesse and his wife, Jesse's son, Jess Gerald Whiting, and his family and Jesse's daughter, Gloria Ann Vary, and her husband and family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. At this point, Jesse was retired. Shortly after his wife died in 1956, Jesse moved in with his daughter and son-in-law, Donald William Vary. Jesse died of cancer in the VA hospital at St. Petersburg on March 6, 1965. He was buried in Royal Palm Cemetery, St. Petersburg, Florida along side his wife. Somehow, Henry D. Simpson learned of Jesse's death and he contacted the *Omak Chronicle* to notify them that "Jesse Davis" had passed away in St. Petersburg. It seems quite evident that Jesse maintained contact with his old friends from Brook and Okanogan County, Washington throughout his entire life.

Salt

Ed Camblin by Jeff Manes

"I may not be as strong as I think, but I have many tricks and I have resolution."

– Ernest Hemingway, from "The Old Man and the Sea"

If Ed Camblin isn't the greatest J.C. Murphy Lake bass fisherman who ever lived, he's certainly the most venerable. The lake is part of Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area. Born Aug. 17, 1920, James Edward Camblin has fished "the Slough" since its creation in the 1940s, and still fishes it every day possible. Camblin is a retired mailman who lives in Morocco with Marcheta, his wife of 71 years.

"I was born on the farm, three miles west of Morocco near the state line," Camblin began.

The area you describe in Beaver Township is very near where Potawatomi chiefs Turkey Foot and Bull killed each other in a fight. They were "buried" sitting up against two trees facing each other.

"As a boy, I had a bushel basket of arrowheads. But there was a man named Ed Hamilton who was paying a penny apiece for them. This was back in the Great Depression. A penny was a lot of money. ..."

Were you in the service?

"Yes, I was in the Navy and the amphibious force. We were the ones who put 'em on the beach. I was on a landing craft tank.



Ed served in the U.S. Navy, amphibian forces during WWII.



Ed Camblin

"I got married when I was on leave in '43. I came back home in '45. My wife has always maintained that was the best two years of our marriage."

Do you care to talk more about the war?

"I was in the European Theater, but started in Africa. This headband was what (German Gen. Erwin) Rommel's men wore around their hats."

"AfrikaKorps." - Where did you get that?

"Off a prisoner. Our first invasion was into Sicily. We were also in major battles at Salerno, Anzio and Southern France. Plus, minor battle at the island of Elba."

I can only imagine what was going through your mind during those major battles.

"I've seen a lot of Fourth of July celebrations, but unless you've sat ready to storm the beach, ready for your orders to go. ... You look up and see all those tracers, well, they look like flocks of ducks with lights on them. You can't explain it. You have to be there. It's something that stays with you the rest of your life. I got hit in Salerno."

Did you go back to farming once the war was over?

"Yes, the first year that I farmed, I used an old F-20 (tractor) and four head of horses. I planted all my corn with the horses."

When did you become a mailman?

"I started turning mail in 1950. I was still farming. In '52, the doctor told me: 'If you want to live to be 40, you're going to have to quit one or the other.' I was farming 435 acres back then."

The early days of Willow Slough?

"Bill Madden was the first manager of the Slough. He was my best friend. In '89, the year after he died, the boathouse at Willow Slough was dedicated in Bill's honor."

Tell me more.

"We used to pole our boats around the lake because when they built the Slough, they never cut any of the trees. You couldn't row your boat with a set of oars. There just wasn't a whole lot of open water when they first flooded it."

Bass fishing?

"Once the bass bug bites you, there's no cure for it. Whenever someone asks me how I learned to be a fairly good bass fisherman I tell them I learned from the best – the violators. You see, during the Depression, the people who were catching and selling fish were breaking the law.

"For four years, my dad was a game warden. He caught a lot of flak because he didn't arrest some of those folks. A couple of those poachers, whose names I won't mention, had five kids apiece. Dad figured if he put those guys in jail, the county was going to have feed them."

I'm sure you remember Dutch Swartz who ran the bait shop on State Line Road.

"Dutch turned out to be a decent fisherman, but he had emphysema real bad. He was constantly coughing and couldn't conceal his honey holes. If the wind was right, you could be a half-mile from him and know he was catching bass back in the cattails.

"There were two women who loved to bluegill fish at the slough. One was Mrs. Bryant who ran the A&P and the other was Doc Purkey's wife. Whenever I'd spot the gills on the beds, I'd let them know where."

A couple of your favorite lures?

"The bait I caught the most bass on at Willow Slough was a black Johnson Spoon with a green and white skirt. Me and Madden would buy them off Dutch by the dozen."

Your biggest bass out of the Slough?

"It was 7 pounds 1 ounce. Caught him on a purple worm."

Favorite top-water bait?

"Ever heard of a man named Leo Packner out of Momence, Ill.?"

Yeah, the guy who made homemade lures. His daughter married professional bass fisherman Roland Martin.

"Well, Leo invented the Walkie Talkie. It's a little plunker. If you reel it straight it has action like a Jitterbug."

You and the Slough today?

"About two or three years ago, my wife and daughter made me quit taking my canoe out to the Slough. You see, I tipped the canoe a time or two. Plus, I've had complications with my bad leg and hip."

Mementos of Salerno?

"Yeah. I fish out of a jon boat these days. Still take my push pole, though."

"The last time I went in the drink at Willow Slough was in October, took me over an hour to get to Mormon Hill. The canoe filled with water. And that water was cold. I started doing jumping jacks trying to get warm. I looked up to the sky, and what do you think I said?"

"Please dear Lord don't let me get hypothermia. At age 90, I promise to never take my canoe to the Slough again?"

"No, I said: 'Madden, you son of a (b- - -), I know you're up there laughing at me, but I sure could use a stiff drink right now!'"

In 1962, Outdoor Life did a big write-up on bass fishing at Willow Slough. The two anglers featured?

Bill Madden and Ed Camblin.

This article first appeared in the Post-Tribune August 17; Newton County Enterprise, September 3; Lowell Tribune, October 7, 2014.



Ed and Marcheta Camblin, 2014.

The Pennies In The Box

Reprinted from the Newton County Enterprise, January 14, 1909. Ed Camblin may not remember the Bassetts on RR2, Morocco, leaving pennies in a cup for stamps ... I remember putting them there... do any of you as well? - Editor.

"John Lowe, rural mail carrier, and generally one of the most patient, accommodating and cool tempered men in the world, hands us the following poem for publication. He didn't say that he composed it, but he said emphatically that it expressed his sentiments:"

I'm Uncle Sam's most favored pet,
I'm hearty and I'm hale;
I've nothing in this world to do
But glide 'round with the mail,
But one thing almost breaks my heart,
And my nervous system shocks,
It's the everlasting pennies
That I'm fishing from the box.

I carry stamps and envelopes,
And postal cards and such;
And I would like to sell a few—
'Twoud please me very much;
But a man can't sell unless you buy,
No matter how he talks;
So have to keep on diving
After the pennies in the box.

It's alright in the springtime,
Or when summer breezes blow;
But a different proposition
When it's thirty-two below;
When all your fingers and your toes
Are frozen hard as rocks,
It's most anything but funny
Scratching pennies from the box.

And now quite confidentially,
I'll tell you something more;
A rural carrier (way out west)
Forgot himself and swore;
Say's he: "I can stand the snow drifts,
I can stand the frozen locks,
But blast the measly pennies
In the blasted measly box."

When the "roll is called up yonder,"
And we all shall gather there,
They wouldn't let a mail man in
If they knew he learned to swear.
If you want St. Peter to open the gate
When your rural carrier knocks,
Buy stamps and don't be guilty
Of putting pennies in the box.

First Reunion of the Veterans of Newton County

October 1, 1889, Newton County Gazette

"In response to the call, veterans from far and near came to Kentland Tuesday to the reunion, responding to the summons as promptly as they did so many times when drum and bugle called them to duty. In many instances tears moistened their eyes as they met again and clasped one another in their sturdy arms. The veterans sang the old war songs and fought the battles over around the campfire, and their wives and children enjoyed it almost as much as they did. Soldiers, and those who were not soldiers, came and heard the speaking and were well entertained and went away thinking more of the old veterans by learning more of the heroic sacrifices made by those brave patriots who endured the horrors of war and faced death deal engines of the enemy. Old veterans who enlisted from a dozen different Sates assembled and greeted each other as brothers. Some were with Sherman in his march to the sea; others with Grant at Vicksburg; Shiloh, Mission Ridge, etc., indeed from all parts of the army – but they met as one family who were for the Union. They met and talked of their experiences in camp and on the battlefield.

"The citizens of Kentland were active in looking after the comfort of the "boys in blue" who have earned the lasting gratitude of all loyal people. Nothing inspires more patriotism in the breasts of people than a calm and careful study of the life of an old soldier. There is not a better place to make this study than a reunion of this kind.

"Two hundred and twenty-two soldiers registered at the gate of Camp Sheridan. There were probably 20 or 30 present who did not register. About sixty Sons of Veterans were in camp and participated in the proceedings of the reunion. They presented a nice appearance in their neat uniforms. On Monday the indications were that there would be inclement weather on Tuesday, but fortunately the weather was very pleasant.

"Tuesday morning, Camp Sherman presented a busy scene. Old soldiers were arriving and being assigned to their quarters, and the committee of ladies who were in charge of the "eatable" department were busily engaged in the large dining hall. All old soldiers and Sons of Veterans were fed free.

"After dinner-not a dinner of hard tack

and s.b., but a dinner of roast beef, fried chicken, warm bread, coffee, and etc.-all assembled at the grand stand.

"After an invocation by Rev. S. P. Edmondson, pastor of the M. E. Church of Kentland, Morris Jones led in a song.

"The welcome address by Dr. J. A. Hatch struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the old soldiers and citizens. The Dr. spoke strongly and in his most happy vein and his thoughts were clothed in eloquent language. The welcome extended was an earnest one and the audience appreciated it as such. Various subjects appropriate to the occasion was touched upon and in commenting upon the same the speaker expressed sentiments that met with the hearty approval of all. As is customary with the Dr., he enlivened his address with several spicy anecdotes. We refrain from mentioning the subject matter of his address as in our next issue we will publish his address in full.

"Chaplain J. H. Claypool, pastor of the M. E. Church of Goodland, responded on behalf of the veterans. His response was brief, to the point and eloquent. His audience was acquainted with his reputation as a speaker and expected a treat, and they were not disappointed on the occasion.

"Judge Peter H. Ward followed Chaplain Claypool and highly entertained the audience with a short talk. The Judge is always at home on the rostrum and is never wanting for something to say that is entertaining. He is truly a "soldiers' friend" and is happy when speaking to or mingling with the boys. His address pleased all and the veterans especially appreciate his effort."

The Balloon Ascension

"The crowd patiently waited nearly two hours to witness the balloon ascension. This was to take place at 4:00 but the high wind compelled the aeronaut to postpone his ascent till near 6:00. The balloon ascended about 400 feet when the aeronaut let loose from the balloon and descended to the ground. It was an exceedingly tame affair and in no way tended to the credit of Mr. Baldwin who had charge of the balloon business. The association paid him a big price and in return he gave the poorest kind of a "one-horse" affair. First-class aeronauts generally ascend from 3,000 to 6,000 feet before they jump. On this occasion,

Submitted by Beth Bassett

Mr. Baldwin did not make the ascent himself but sent a boy who had never before made a jump from a balloon. The association was in no way responsible for this as Mr. Baldwin was recommended as first-class and they paid him a big price."

Camp-Fire

"In the evening a large crowd assembled in the grandstand to attend the camp-fire which was a very pleasant affair. The meeting was addressed by Col. E. P. Hammond, Capt. R. W. Marshall, John Ade, Geo. G. Jenkins, Patrick Keefe and Barney Shaw. The address of Mr. Keefe was highly spoken of as one that was highly pleasing to the audience and credible to the speaker.

"W. W. Pfirmmer read the following original poem written for the occasion and was laudly applauded:

*Im pore on the talk, and I can't tell
Things that I think, like a collage swell;
Lack edication but that don't keep
A feller like me from thinkin' a heap,
An' hearin' folks talk o'Tanner an' Black
How one uz too clost an' tother too slack,
Kind o'sot me to thinkin' about pension laws,
An' I bin here o' late sort o' lookin' up the flaws.
An' it kind o' seems to me when a feller has fit
Clean through to the end, ef he didn't get hit,
If he fit clean through, then it ort to be the same
With him as with them as come home a little lame.*

*Now I ust to know a feller by the name o' Jim Good.
Follered for a livin' a cuttin' cord wood;
When he worked kine o' steady, cut his three cord a day,
An' two an' a half was nothin' but play -
A jolly good feller, he 'ud whistle an' sing,
Goin' to an from work till the whole woods 'ud ring*

*Well, the very first time the fellers had the drum
Down at the muster, Jim he come.
He was workin' in the bottom, down back o' the mill,
When the drum started in, Jim's ax uz still,
He jest socked it in a log clean over the bit,
An' fer all I knew, its a stickin' there yit,
Then he tuk a short cut to the musterin' ground,
Didn't say nothin', just sort o' loafed round,
'Till the speakin' was done, an' the time come to sign,
An' blamed if Jim Good wasn't the first into line.*

*Fit three years, reinlisted and' then
Spent nearly two in a rebel pen;
Come home thiner 'n a penariie steer,
Folks in the neighborhood all thought it queer,*

*An' everybody else, that Jim pulled through,
An' I guess like as any way he did too.
But he picked up again, and after a while
Looked well as ever, had the same old smile,
An' to ou'ard appearance the same Jim Good
Was back in the timber cuttin' cord wood;
But some how or nother there seemed to be a lack,
His song an' his whistle they never come back,
An' some how or nother, let him work as he might,
From the first peep 'o day 'till plum pitch night,
With might little noonin' let him do all he could,
He couldn't knock together mor'n two cord o' wood;
Constitootion busted, bottom's clean gone,
Aint nough left for him to build on.*

*But there ain't no pensions for a feller like Jim,
For they ain't nothin' special the matter with him.
Now meby that's right, but I think you'll agree,
Y, the hull things plainer'n day light to me,
That the government had ort, for it can aford,
To pay Jim Good for the tother half cord.*

Wednesday

"The morning dawned bright and clear and at an early hour people began to gather on the streets and campground. The weather could not have been more auspicious and the old soldiers were in excellent spirits and were assured of a day of pleasure."

The Parade

"At 9:00 the parade formed on the campground and proceeded on the line of march through the principal streets of the town and back to the campground. The procession was an imposing sight and was headed by the Morocco band, followed by the old soldiers, Sons of Veterans, Excelsior Band and Cavalry."

Business Meeting

"After the parade the soldiers assembled in the grandstand and after a song by Morris Jones, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Capt. D. M. Graves of Morocco; Vice Presidents, W. L. Graves, of Beaver Township; G. G. Jenkins, Grant; J. W. S. Ulrey, Iroquois; A. Beabout, Jackson; J. A. Hatch, Jefferson; J. Hess, Lake; O. G. Wilder, Lincoln; A. Ellis, McClellan; Harvey McFarland, Washington. Secretary, I. W. Bemenderfer, Morocco; Treasurer, J. D. Deardurff, Morocco; Surgeon, Dr. Triplett, Morocco.

"After the election of officers to the association decided to hold the next annual reunion at Morocco, the date to be announced in ample time previous to holding the same.

"A proposition to consolidate the organization with Jasper and Benton counties was spoken of but met with no favor. The boys

expressed themselves as willing to meet their comrades of these counties in reunion at any time or place, but expressed a strong determination to keep up their county organization separate and distinct from any other.

"After the business was finished, Rev. A. W. Beabout and Comrade J. Extrand favored the audience with eloquent and patriotic addresses.

"After dinner, Col. A. D. Streight addressed the reunion. The Col. is a plain and forcible speaker. he used sold shot and did not beat around the bush in anything he had to say. He believed in the soldiers standing up for their rights. He respected the brave enemy who fought and after conquered laid down their arms and accepted the issues as settled. He riddled the dough-faced northern element that were in sympathy with the rebels and stayed at home and done their fighting in the rear. He believed in reconciliation but did not believe in the sacrifice of principal to accomplish it. His address well-received and highly commended."

Sham Battle

"After the conclusion of the Col.'s address the long roll was sounded and the boys fell to participate in the sham battle. The opposing sides were marched to their positions and a brisk firing was commenced on the skirmish lines. After both sides alternately advanced and fell back, the Union forces made a grand charge and captured the enemy. The battle was witnessed by 3,500 people and was well conducted. We have witnessed sham battles in which there were larger forces, but we never saw one that was more interesting or better conducted.

"After the battle the old veterans and Sons of Veterans were drawn up in dress parade.

"The program being finished, the breaking of camp was commenced and all started for their homes.

"The reunion was a success in every particular and the pleasant time enjoyed in Kentland will always be remembered by the boys.

"The citizens of Kentland will take pleasure in entertaining the old soldiers whenever they find it convenient to honor them with their presence."

Stray Shots

"The reunion next year will be held in Morocco."

"The reunion was a glorious success."

"W. A. Jackson handled the artillery in the sham battle like an old vet."

"The attendance on Tuesday was 3,000 and on Wednesday 3,500."

"The boys were highly pleased with their entertainment."

"The Morocco Post brought the Morocco Cornet Band with them."

"Comrade David Wood was the happiest man in camp."

"Several of the boys engaged in an innocent game of old sledge in their tents Tuesday night."

"Henry Griggs is no slow coach at a reunion. Things hum when he is around."

"The S. of V. furnished the red tape, but the vets let'er go gallager.

"Comrade Marshall hit the reunion on the right end."

"The Excelsior and Juvenile bands of Kentland came out and furnished music Wednesday."

"Jacob Sager was in camp Wednesday."

"Morris Jones is an enthusiastic singer and contributed music to the enjoyment of all."

"A large number of the members of the Women's Relief Corps registered at the gate."

"Barney Shaw of Lafayette was rolling in clover and had an immense picnic."

"Little boy: 'Mamma, is that Capt. Rosecrans with a blue uniform and a little sword?'"

"Momma: 'No, that is Capt. Strohm.'"

Roster of Veterans Attending

Soldier	Service
Allan, T.	2nd Ill., Co. I., LA
Allen, A. P.	150th Ind., Co. E.
Allman, J.	13th Ind., Co. E.
Anderson, William	155th Ill., Co. F., Capt.
Ash, Daniel	99th Ind., Co. E, Capt.
Babbitt, C. W.	9th Mich., Co K.
Baker, C.	113th Ill., Co. I.
Baker, C.	4th Ill. Cav., Co. C.
Ball, C. R.	29th Ind., Co. F.
Bart, W. J.	74th Penn, Co. G., Capt.
Bartholomew, F.	9th Ind., Co. G.
Beabout, A.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Beckwith, G.	21st Ind. Bat.
Bell, J.	113th Ill., Co. F.
Bellows, A.	4th Ill. Cav., Co. K.
Bemenderfer, I.	46th Ind., Co. K.
Bramble, A.	104th Ill., Co. D.
Brown, John	99th Ind., Co. E.
Brunton, C.	99th Ind., Co. E.

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12 The Newcomer

Soldier	Service
Bryant, E.	5th Ky. Cav., Co. L.
Bull, J.	8th Kansas, Co. I.
Burton, T.	137th Ind., Co. H.
Bush, T. M.	78th Ohio, Co. B.
Carney, J. E.	138th Ind., Co. F.
Chaffee, J. C.	11th Mich., Co. G.
Clark, G.	5th Ind. Cav., Co. F.
Clark, Wm.	113th Ill., Co. I.
Claypool, J. H.	12th Ind., Cav., Chaplain
Conklin, J. D.	138th Ohio, Co. I.
Corn, J. T.	128th Ind., Co. A.
Crum, J. S.	128th Ind., Co. A.
Cummings, G.	36th Ill., Co. F.
Cummings, W.	88th Ill., Co. H.
Daugherty, C.	35th Ohio, Co. I.
Davidson, B.	26th Ohio Bat.
Davidson, R.	24th Ky., Co. I.
Deardurff, G.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Deardurff, J. S.	9th Ind., Co. D.
Denny, I. C.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Dick, G.	Mexican War
Doolittle, H.	100th Ill., Co. C.
Dorn, J.	11th Mich., Co. D.
Doun, J.	13th Gun Boat
Downey, J.	15th Ind., Co. A.
Drake, W. T.	7th Ohio
Duttenhaver, P.	15th Ill., Co. L.
Eck, F.	1st Ohio Bat., Co. E.
Ellis, L.	12th Ill., Co. E.
Enslett, F.	58th Ind., Co. E.
Extrand, J.	13th US
Fields, H.	12th Ind. Cav., Co. H.
Fleiel, J. C.	42nd Ill., Co. K.
Flick, I.	38th Ind., Co. I.
Flint, A. V.	64th Ill., Co. F.
Flowers, A. J.	50th Ill., Co. E.
Fory, D. M.	1st Ohio, Co. G.
Foster, R. W.	76th Ill., Co. E.
Frankenberger, C.	128th Ind., Co. A.
French, J.	54th Ind., Co. K.
Fry, D.	9th Ind., Co. H.
Galbraith, G.	8th Ill. Cav., Co. K.
Gates, E.	36th Ill., Co. D.
Gilbert, O.	4th NY Art., Co. H.
Gilmore, R.	36th Ill., Co. D.

Soldier	Service
Girard, H.	151st Ind., Co. H.
Gleason, O.	4th Ill. Cav., Co. K.
Goddard, J. D.	9th Ind., Co. D.
Grant, J. H.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Grant, S. W.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Graves, D. M.	12th Ind., Cav., Co. K., Capt.
Graves, W.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Hammond, E. P.	87th Ind., Lt. Col.
Handley, E. G.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Hartsock, W.	3rd Md., Co. E.
Haskell, G.	128th Ind., Co. A.
Hatch, J. A.	36th Ill., Surgeon
Hawn, D. J.	59th Ind., Co. H.
Heilman, A.	4th Ill., Co. D.
Higgins, John	51st Ind., Co. B., Drummer
Highberger, A.,	155th Penn., Co. G.
Holiday, W.	151st Ind., Co. H.
Hosier, J.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Howenstine, J.	5th Ind. Cav., Co. K.
Humphrey, J.	39th Ohio, Co. H.
Jackson, J. H.	86th Ind., Co. C.
Jenkins, J.	187th Ind., Co. K.
Jones, M. A.	87th Ind., Co. A.
Kennedy, W.	100th Ill., Co. E.
Kenoyer, A.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Kenoyer, J.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Lake, R.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Lally, P. H.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Linton, J. R.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Love, W. R.	88th Ill., Co. A.
Lowe, J. H.	128th Ind., Co. A.
Lowe, John	51st Ind., Co. B.
Lyons, J. B.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Marshall, R.	100th Ill., Co. C.
Martin, W. H.	83rd Ind., Co. F.
Martindale, S.	132nd Ind., Co. A.
Mashino, F.	12th Ind. Cav., Co. C.
McAfee, G.	12th Ohio, Large Art.
McCabe, J. J.	20th Ill., Co. D.
McClain, H. H.	51st Ind., Co. B.
McClintin, J.	155th Ill., Co. F.
McFarland, H.	78th Ill., Co. G.
McKinney, I.	76th Ill., Co. A.
McKinstry, J. M.	4th Ill. Cav., Co. K.
Medworth, R.	100th Ill., Co. F.

Soldier	Service
Merchant, G. F.	9th Ind., Co. D.
Merrifield, O.	8th Minn., Co. H.
Minner, H.	191st Ohio, Co. G.
Monty J.	64th Ill., Co. F.
Moody, R.	4th Wisc. Cav., Co. A.
Moore, T. C.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Moulton, L. N.	64th Ill., Co. F.
Myers, J. C.	8th Ohio, Co. C.
Myers, J. F.	151st Ind., Co. H.
Nace, J. J.	86th Ill., Co. K.
Noble, S. M.	2nd N. York, Co. A, Hvy Art.
Nugent, J.	10th Ind., Co. D.
Odle, E.	20th Ind., Co. E.
Ortner, J.	209th Penn., Co. G.
Oswalt, F.	11th Ind. Cav., Co. L.
Parker, J.	76th Ill., Co. A.
Patton, G. W.	40th Ind., Co. C.
Peck, A. E.	8th NY Cav., Co. E.
Perkins, I.	18th Ind. Bat.
Pettit, E.	39th Ohio, Co. E.
Pfrimmer, D. A.	38th Ind., Co. E., Capt.
Phelps, F.	36th Ind., Co. D.
Pierce, S.	76th Ill., Co. E.
Pillars, D.	9th Ind., Co. G.
Plummer, A.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Pumphrey, G.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Randall, J. W.	15th Ky., Co. H.
Recker, J.	100th Ill., Co. G.
Reed, A.	76th Ill., Co. I.
Reynolds, T.	113th Ill., Co. I.
Rimer, H.	1st Mich. Cav., Co. M.
Roadruck, R.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Robeson, W.	10th Ind., Co. D.
Rodgers, M.	86th Ohio, Co. C.
Ross, C.	8th Ill. Cav., Co. I.
Ross, F.	8th Ill. Cav., Co. I.
Roush, J.	76th Ill., Co. I.
Runion, F.	151st Ind., Co. H.
Sager, D. F.	15th Ind., Co. H.
Sager, J. H.	9th Ind., Co. G.
Saunderson, J. T.	2nd Ind., Cav., Co. A., Lt.
Sawyer, G.	69th Ill., Co. I.
Schneckenberger, John	42nd Ind, Co. H.
Schmidth, J.	67th Ill., Co. D.
Search, T.	33rd Ind., Co. K.

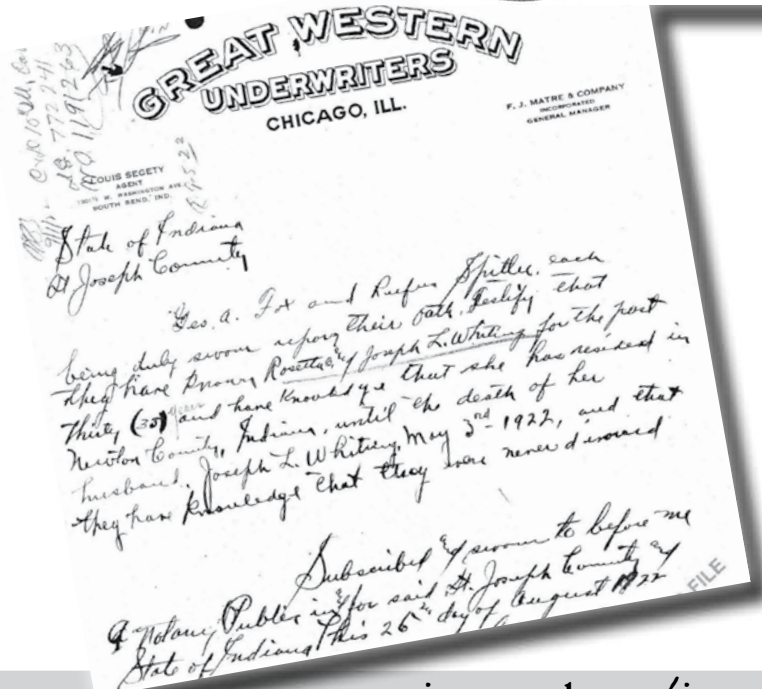
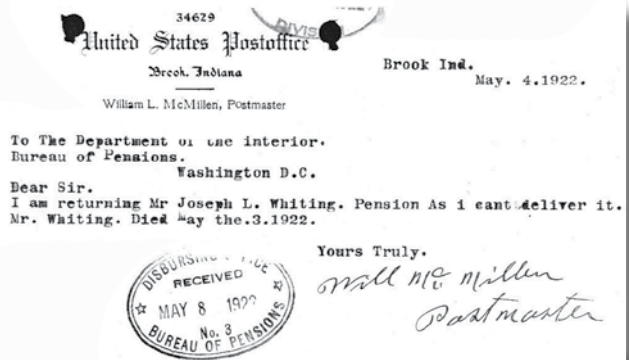
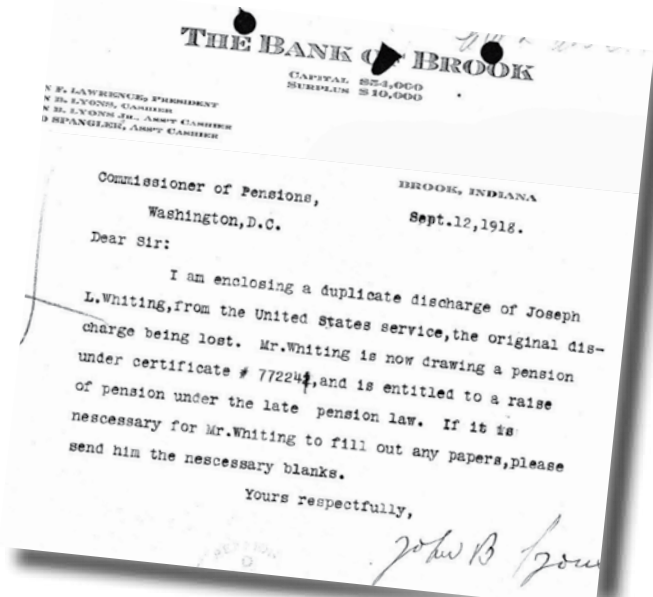
Soldier	Service
Shaffer, J.	9th Ind., Co. D.
Shaffer, J. F.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Shephard, J.	53rd Ill., Co. I.
Sherwood, W.	128th Ind., Co. A.
Shiltz, J.	209th Penn., Co. G.
Shortridge, W.	113th Ill., Co. I.
Simms, J.	20th Ind., Co. B.
Simpson, E.	55th Ill., Co. E.
Skinner, J.	51st Ind., Co. B.
Slockslager, D. W.	Bridge Co., W. S.
Smart, I.	9th Ind., Co. D.
Smith, D. P.	48th Penn., Co. G.
Smith, G. B.	57th Ind., Co. B.
Smith, G. F.	20th Ill., Co. B.
Smith, G. H.	64th Ohio, Co. H.
Smith, J. C.	57th Ind., Co. G.
Spalding, G.	113th Ill., Co. H.
Starkey, T.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Steward, A.	16th Ind., Co. H.
Stillman, J.	2nd Ky., Co. G.
Stonehill, P.	99th Ohio, Co. H.
Straw, J. B.	10th Ind.
Streight, A.	51st Ind., Col.
Stucker, I.	67th Ind., Co. I.
Tadlock, C.	63rd Ill., Co. A.
Tanner, F.	42nd Ill., Co. D.
Thomas, S.	124th Ind., Co. A.
Torbet, W.	113th Ill., Co. I.
Tullis, G.	113th Ill., Co. F.
Umensetler, J.	97th Ind., Co. C.
Ulrey, J. W.	120th Ind., Co. K.
Urmston, E. L.	Mexican War
Vayette, J.	4th Ill. Cav., Co. K.
Vondersmith, E.	88th Ill., Co. H.
Waling, C.	64th Ill., Co. F.
Wamsher, R.	11th Penn., Co. B.
Warren, H. K.	15th Ind., Co. H., Capt.
Wats, J.	1st Mich. Cav., Co. H.
Weber, G.	151st Ind., Co. C.
Wellington, J.	59th Ill.
Whaley, J.	151st Ind., Co. H.
Whittlesay, W.	83rd Ohio, Co. I.
Wilder, O. G.	91st Ill., Co. E.
Wilson, J.	10th Ill. Cav., Co. D.
Winder, P.	128th Ind., Co. A.

Soldier	Service
Wolf, P.	71st Ohio, Co. C.
Wood, C. A.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Wood, D.	40th Ind., Co. F.

Wooden, A. E.	76th Ill., Co. F.
Wright, J.	154th Ind., Co. K.
Young, A.	99th Ind., Co. E.
Zoborosky, J.	48th Ind., Co. K.

The Right to a Civil War Pension

Pensions were a hot topic at the time of the 1889 Reunion of the Newton County Veterans as noted in the *Enterprise* article. The U.S. federal government granted pensions to Union veterans of the Civil War, and to their widows, minor children, and dependent fathers and mothers. Documentation was required for every request, backed by testimonial letters from individuals and/or officials who attested to the validity of the individuals making the request. These are three documents found in Brook Civil War veteran Joseph Whiting's Civil War files, submitted by Tony Bauer, his great-grandfather in law.



Pages of the Past

Excerpts taken from *The Kentland Gazette*
Fall, 1886 by Janet Miller

Brook

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Foresman, of Foresman, will start next Tuesday for a visit with old friends in Massachusetts and Vermont. Mrs. Foresman has not been back to her girlhood home for 34 years.- *Goodland Herald*.

Comrade Charles Waling of Brook, Ind., went to Bushnell, Ill., Tuesday, to attend the reunion of the 64th Regt., Ill., Vol., Infantry, his old regiment.

The Brook parsonage is receiving a nice coat of paint, which makes a beautiful appearance. Howard Gross is the dauber.

Washington Township

A young son of George Herriman was seriously if not fatally injured on last Tuesday by being run over by a wagon load of clay.

We are informed by the Secretary of the Patron and Farmer's Fair that the receipts were \$782.00.

FOUND: on the Patron and Farmers' Fair grounds a gold bracelet. The owner can recover the same by calling at this office, prove their ownership and pay for this notice.

Goodland

On Friday, Sept. 24th, a special train will run from State Line to Goodland to accommodate those wishing to hear that great statesman, gallant soldier and eloquent orator, Senator Ben Harrison. The train will pass Kentland at 12:30 p.m. The fare will be 25 cents for the round trip. you can return at 4 o'clock or at 9 o'clock. Let every one go and take all their friends.

Fred Slyter, late of Dakota, returned home last week. Give him old Indiana for climate, and Newton county for soil, before all others.

Mr. A. J. Kitt and Miss Hattie Spoor, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of S. C. Spoor, our banker, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at the residence of the brides father, Monday at 1 o'clock p.m.

Morocco

The following is the program of the speed ring at the Morocco Fair next week: Wednesday--Green running race, limited to Newton county; purse \$25.00; Thursday --Free for all running race; purse \$50.00; Friday - Pacing race; purse \$100.00--time 2:30. also running race, three year old and under; purse \$25.00;

Saturday - Free for all trotting mile heats; purse \$125.00--time 2:30. Running race, mile heats; purse \$100.00. Mule race, two mile dash; purse \$15.00.

Peter A. Kline, son of Peter Kline, the boss cattle raiser of Newton county, had a number of fine Short horn and grade Hereford cattle on exhibition at the fair last week, and was successful in carrying off a large number of red ribbons. Among his herd we noticed a fine heifer calf, ten months old that weighed 950 pounds,. He is a chip off the old block in the cattle raising business and shows some of the finest stock in the country.

NOTICE: I wish to procure good homes for my two little boys, one 8 and the other 4 years old. Any person wishing to take a boy to raise will please call on, or address me at Morocco, Indiana. James Brown.

Mt. Airy

In our last week's items we made mention of the new millinery store, but we were not aware at the time that there was a firm of more than one. Mrs. Samuel Wilson will please excuse our ignorance of the fact and accept our apology for omitting her name as partner with Mrs. Patrick.

At the Morocco Fair last week there was on exhibition a quilt containing 11,500 pieces, put together by Mrs. Sarah L. Dennison of Mt. Ayr, who was 67 years old last June.

Roselawn

Mrs. Hammon, an old lady living in the country took her first ride on the cars last Friday. She went to Rensselaer and set for her first picture.

The year 1886 came in on Friday, and will end on Friday, and will have fifty-three Fridays. Four months of the year have five Fridays, and the moon changes five times on Friday. The longest and shortest days of the year were on Friday.

Kentland

Reports from threshing machine men show a vast difference in the amount of grain raised from tiled land. Oats on tiled land turn out 60 to 70 bushels to the acre, while that raised on untiled land runs from 25 to 30 bushels. *Lafayette Courier*

Persons attending the State Fair in Indianapolis: J. Z. Johnston and son, Frank; Mr. &

Mrs. John Cunningham; Mr. & Mrs. William Perry and daughter; Miss Maud Arnout.

The new Hubertz Hotel is a neat and attractive building and adds much to the appearance of Third street.

Lake Village

The boys on Knott's Dredger are running at the rate of 200 feet per day in hard digging. They have reached Long Point and say that in a couple of weeks they will be in easy digging and then they will have fun on the home stretch.

Now You Know Your County of Newton!

By Janet Miller
Questions on page 6

1. The first woman elected to a county-wide office in Newton County was Etta Hess. She was elected County Treasurer on the Republican ticket in 1922.
2. Kentland has had many names, among them Adriance, Kent Station, Kent, and finally Kentland. Kentland was the name bestowed on the town by Hon. Schuyler Colfax (1823-1885). He was a United States Representative from Indiana, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the 17th Vice-President of the United States serving in the Ulysses S. Grant administration.
3. The game of "Old Sledge" was also called All Fours, a card game, known also in America as Seven Up, Old Sledge or High-Low-Jack, usually played by two players, though four may play. If you are interested in how the game was played look up All Fours on the Internet.
4. The last two tribes of Indians who lived in the Newton County area were the Miami and the Potawatomi.
5. The first public school established in Newton County was in Morocco in 1854.

Castongia's, Inc. Celebrates 75 Years in Business

By Beth Bassett

In February, 1939, Archie Castongia walked away from the 267 acres of land he was farming north of Beaverville, Illinois, crossed over the state line into Indiana and never returned to his native Illinois except for a visit.

His first stop in Morocco, Indiana was at the Morocco State Bank where he rented the old creamery building for \$17 per month. A large sliding door was installed on one side of the building so a truck or tractor could be driven inside for repairs and he was almost, but not quite in the implement business.

He had a building but no merchandise; he had the know-how but no money. So it is safe to say Castongia's Implement Company had no place to go except up.

Archie sold a load of hogs to the Chicago Stockyards for \$487. At the same time, he received his first shipment of tractors, the freight bill was \$113.50 and Archie knew for sure he was one broke man!

It wasn't long before he sold his first horse drawn manure spreader to Arthur Grant of Donovan, Illinois.

There were no shelves in the store so parts sat around on the floor in boxes for a month or so and when a farmer needed something, Archie hunted through their contents to find what he needed.

He sold machinery and received horses and cattle as payment. At one time, he had 21 head of horses at the farm.

In January 1942, Archie and his wife purchased the hardware store in Morocco and moved the John Deere business to the

east end of town, where it remained until the latter part of 1947. A new, facility was built on the east side of town, expanding the operation to accommodate the industry. Archie's son Ezra, home from the army at that time, worked with him until 1966.

Archie's youngest son, Roger, began "hanging around" the shop when he was about eight years old. In 1959, he joined his father in business after graduating from high school and tour of duty in the service.

In 1966, Archie had a really great year – he sold 45 combines; 25 of them new models. Roger bought Archie's share of the business in 1967, and then Archie worked for Roger until he retired in 1969. Roger's son, Jon, followed in his father's footsteps, hanging around the store as he did, and eventually becoming part of the family owned business in 1990. Jon has managed the entire dealership since 2000.

Each passing year brought changes not only to the ag industry, but also to the dealership. Roger expanded the business in 1988 by acquiring Butler John Deere's two locations in Rensselaer and DeMotte. The Morocco location remained active until 1990. In 2004, that building was designated one of Newton County's historical structures by the Indiana Historical Society; unfortunately in 2012, a fire gutted the structure. It was razed shortly thereafter. In 1993, Castongia's added their Fowler location.

In the early years, the business carried a variety of merchandise including Frigidaire appliances, GMC trucks, and DeLaval milkers. During World War II they also carried



Castongia's was first located downtown Morocco, most recently occupied by the NAPA store. This photo was taken in 1945.

Case machinery in addition to John Deere.

Technology has changed dramatically since the early implements. The tractors that are being sold today utilize satellite technology and steer themselves based on the perimeter of the field. This technology requires a lot of training on both ends of the transaction. Castongia's sales, parts and service staff are trained and certified by John Deere to give the customer the confidence they need to own and operate the equipment of today.

Castongia's recently renovated their Rensselaer location, expanding their showroom, sales, parts, business and service departments. They will continue into the next generation upholding the tradition of quality service to their customers started in 1939 by Jon's grandfather, Archie.

With the merging of several John Deere dealerships in the state, Castongia's is now the oldest continuous John Deere Dealer in Indiana.



Left: The staff in 1965 at the Polk Street location, l-r, Jake Reagan, Ken Smart, Dick Smart, Howard Porter, Archie Castongia and Roger Castongia. Right: known staff members are third from left, Roger Castongia and next, right, Archie Castongia; taken after opening on Polk Street.

Buildings on Graham Street, Kentland, Built in 1909 by Beth Bassett

The Arcade Hotel

On November 11, 1909, the *Newton County Enterprise* ran a story on the Hotel Kentland, announcing that it would reopen on the 12th of November under new management. Mrs. Sarah E. Smith released that it would reopen under the management of Fannie W. Hawkins. The article goes into detail about its newly furnished parlor and Mrs. Hawkins will make a strong bid for patronage by providing a good table and the conveniences and comforts that may be rightly expected at a modern and well appointed hotel.

With the recent re-opening of the Old Colonial Inn, the former Hotel Kentland aka Kentland Hotel, this article naturally caught my eye, as I am trying to snag any bit of news about this historical building for the new owners. However, the tidbit that Mrs. Sarah Smith was the person who released the news to the press intrigued me more.

Sarah Smith is best known in Kentland as the builder, owner and operator of the Arcade Hotel, located just 1/2 block east of the library in Kentland, on Graham Street. The historical society was given a handful of photographs of the Arcade as it was being constructed in 1909,

which are great shots of the building upon completion. I decided that these photographs would make a great wall display, and as the story usually goes with me, one thing would lead to another-my research being guided by ignorance and driven by pure curiosity.

In April, 1909, Mrs. Sarah E. Smith closed a deal with the owner Jethro Hatch of Block 12, Lot 10, known as the Hatch Lot on Graham Street to erect a hotel on that site that summer. The lot was 30x150 feet, and was thought to be an admirable location for hotel purposes, being located a quarter of a block from the business center of town. At the same time, she was negotiating with Mr. Harbison, and would later obtain, Lot 11, the strip of land lying east of the Hatch lot. With this acquisition, she would cover the entire frontage, and be two stories high. At that point in time, she had only established that the building would be built of brick and stone, and to be arranged and furnished in first-class style for hotel purposes.

The article in the *Enterprise* dated April 15, 1909, that announced the news about the new hostelry in Kentland also mentioned that one of the first hotels of Kentland stood on the ground on which the new hotel was to be erected, and that it had an interesting history. The building had been destroyed by fire some twenty years before, with its last manager being a Mr. Thompson. Back in the early days it sheltered many guests of prominence. For many years it was the custom of former President Benjamin Harrison to come out to the great hunting grounds of Newton County. He would make his headquarters at the old hotel and his stays would generally cover a period from two to three weeks. When not on the trail, the "General would seat himself on the wide board walk facing the hotel and discuss

Arcade	Land Transfer Records Lots 10 and 11-Block 12, Gramma St. Kentland
March 8, 1905	Anna R. Thompson, Lot 10
March 11, 1905	William Cummings, Lot 10
March 13, 1905	Jethro Hatch, Lot 10
April 13, 1909	Sarah E. Smith, builds Arcade Hotel
April 13, 1909	Harbison sells Lot 11 to Sarah Smith
March 19, 1918	Partial Lot 11 sold back to Harbison
October 22, 1925	Former County Home Managers, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hooker Manage Arcade
March 6, 1930	Sarah E. Smith/Margaret E. Bridgeman, daughter of Sarah Smith owns 1/2 interest of property
August 29, 1931	Margaret E. Bridgeman, sole proprietor
February, 1932	Sold to Pascal B. and Cora M. Weeks
September 30, 1932	Sold to Hutson Durrell
June 2, 1958	Sold to Kenneth and Lucille Jones
November 14, 1966	Lucille Jones sole owner, husband Ken passed
July 6, 1976	Sold to George and Helen McArdle
May 2, 1977	Sold to Mary Jean, Daniel A., John M. Thompson
June 23, 1978	Sold to Frank and Mary Jean Thompson
August 11, 1998	Sold to Leroy Sandstrom and Niki Waylord
May 16, 2000	Sold to Jerald B. Turner
July 6, 2005-Today	Ownership in The Jerald B. Turner Estate



Building in progress, 1909, Sarah and the Don Brothers on the left; building crew standing under the arches of the hotel.



The finished hotel, late summer 1909. Note the flag pole on the top of the building. It no longer exists.

war, politics and fishing and hunting with anyone present, and in those days, there were generally plenty of loafers around a hotel."

By September, the contracts for the new hotel were let to the Don brothers of Morocco for the construction of the new building, and the work would be started at once. The building was to be of Bedford stone trimmings, and will be two stories and basement, with a fifty-foot frontage and eighty foot deep. The plans were drawn by H. P. Fike, architect, of Peru. The first floor plans provide for an office to the east, with a sample room and gentlemen's toilet to the rear. In the front center would be the dining room, 26x32 in size with a large French window opening onto the balcony. To the west a parlor and bedroom, and in the rear a kitchen, pantry, family dining room and bedroom. Two stairways led to the second floor, one from the office and one from the parlor. The second story had sixteen sleeping rooms, each having baths and toilet rooms and closets. The building was estimated to cost Mrs. Smith \$12,000.00.

On the last Sunday in October, 1909, the cornerstone was laid with informal services in front of a couple hundred people. The Don brothers placed the stone in position. Deposited in a box within the stone were papers containing scriptural quotations that were read during the ceremony, the names of those engaged in erecting the building, and numerous coins of various denominations, and a few trinkets.

The name Mrs. Smith selected for the hotel was the "New Arcade." The newspaper wrote that the Bedford stone arched front "not only suggests a reason for the name, but will add beauty to the building."

One of the most interesting notes that I found in regards to the Arcade was in our own publication, Volume One of the "Newton County Historical Coloring Book." It notes that Mrs. Sarah Smith was the first to establish a NO PARKING law in Kentland. If someone parked their car in front of the Arcade, and were not staying or had business at the hotel, she would turn on the garden hose and flood the car - apparently this was a more effective system than parking tickets.

Mentions Over the Years

A travel guide for the Chicago area noted that a stay at the Arcade Hotel in Kentland, Indiana, is \$2.00 per night. This seemed to be the going rate for hotels at the time.

The *Newton County Enterprise* would have a personal item from time to time, as in 1912, in the Kentland local news: "Strangers in Kent-

land are fascinated with the floral display in front of the Arcade Hotel. This is a beauty spot that it seemed too bad for the blighting fingers of frost to meddle with."

In 1914, an *Enterprise* news item noted, "The stranger in Kentland is particularly attracted by the flower garden in front of the Arcade Hotel. Mrs. Smith has the faculty of making two flowers grow and bloom where the average person can scarcely make a weed grow. Her flowers are now in their prime, and the wealth of beauty and fragrance is admired by everyone."

The End of an Era

In November, 1925, Mrs. Smith handed the management of the Arcade over to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hooker of Kentland. At the time, they were residing and managing the county home, and had been in charge of that institu-

tion for the past twenty years. They purchased the furniture and had taken a three year lease. Mrs. Smith was going to retire after twenty-three years catering to the public in Kentland, and decided upon a well-earned rest at her bungalow, just west of the hotel.

Mr. Huston Durrell had been making frequent visits to Kentland since 1908 in regards to his land holdings in Raub, expressed further confidence in Kentland and the community by purchasing the Arcade in August of 1933, where he had always been a guest during his many visits to Kentland. Mr. Durrell made many improvements and repairs to the building, and boasted that it would be the most modern and up-to-date hotel in every respect. At that time, Homer Latta had been operating the hotel for the past few years, and would con-

< *Continued on page 18* >

Sarah (Muhl) E. Smith

On November 8, 1909, Sarah Smith turned the management of the Hotel Kentland over to Fannie W. Hawkins; she was ready to open her own hostelry, The Arcade Hotel, located on Graham Street.

Sarah E. (Muhl) Smith was born November 4, 1853 in Zanesville, Ohio to Micheal and Christinia Muhl, both born in Germany. Soon after her birth, the family moved to Miami County, in the small town of Chili. She married Abraham R. Smith of Roann, Indiana, and they had two daughters, Margaret and Alberta M., who died in infancy. Her husband must have passed prior to 1899, as she is listed in the 1900 Census of Kentland as a widow, with her daughter Margaret, age 19. Her occupation was land lady, Hotels. A Wilburn Smith was listed with her as the hotel clerk.

Sarah had to have the will of Job and the tenacity of Helen Keller to survive in a man's world at the turn of the century - as she was able to secure the funding to build an \$18,000.00 hotel that would become a landmark in the town, as well as Newton County.

Reports in the *Newton County Enterprise* over the years the Arcade was under her stewardship were nothing but high praise for her contribution to town and the community. It would not be until 1930 that she decided to convey half the interest of the hotel to her only daughter, Margaret, who had married Clarence Otto Bridgeman of Kentland. By August, 1931, Margaret or Mary, as she was known locally, had complete ownership. Sarah retired to the little bungalow located west of the hotel, later to be occupied by Shorty Davis.

Otto Bridgeman was the son of George and Ada Bridgeman of Kentland. He and Mary lived on a farm northwest of Kentland for over twenty years. Otto passed in 1950 and Mary in 1959; both are buried at Fairlawn Cemetery in Kentland.

Sarah passed away on August 5, 1939 in Watseka, Illinois. Her obituary listed a sister, Mrs. A. M. Blake of Los Angeles, CA and a brother, William Muhl of South Bend. She is interred at the Chili Cemetery, in Peru, Indiana.



Sarah Smith and the Don Brothers of Morocco, the builders of the Arcade Hotel.

18 The Newcomer

< Continued from page 17 >
tinue to do so.

In 1938, the *Enterprise* made a note that the former principal at Mt. Ayr High School, Miss Gladys Webber was going to operate the Arcade. It also mentioned that a man by the name of Lettas operated it previously for seven years.

During the five day celebration of the Kentland Centennial, the *Enterprise* reported that the Arcade Hotel would serve as the headquarters for the event. What a great recognition of one of the town's oldest business buildings.

Was it the strength of the Bedford stone, brick and mortar; architect's design; skills of the contractors; or the strong constitution of the original builder, owner and manager, Sarah E. Smith that gave this 105 year old building its tenacity? In 2014, it is an apartment building, providing shelter for more than just a short stay to those wishing to make Kentland their home. Next time you drive by 209 E. Graham Street, pause a moment and take a close look at the old girl, you can't miss her, she's the building standing straight and tall, shouting out her name in carved Bedford stone, "Arcade Hotel."

Elite Opera House and K of P Lodge

The empty lot at 212 East Graham Street in Kentland was once the home of the Elite Opera House built in 1909. Charles Ephriam Hatch, his son Chesney Hatch and Harvey. C. Webber pooled their efforts and purchased the lot from George Rider. The opera house would fill the full frontage of the lot and be 100 feet deep, with cement outer walls. The front of the building had a large arched entryway, leading to a 16x30' lobby. The 20x30' stage was located in the north end of the building. The dressing rooms were in the basement, and the auditorium had an elevated floor, (parquet), with a seating capacity of about 300 with modern furnishings.

It was then announced that Damon Lodge No. 72, Knights of Pythias, (K of P), were to have a new home, and its location would be built over the Hatch and Webber Opera House. The lot would be expanded another six feet so that the frontage of the opera house would now be 36'x100'. The ceiling was made higher, allowing the balcony to expand across the rear of the building, extending partially over the parquet. The K of P were responsible for adding the second floor. The interior was designed by architect Samuel Young of Monticello. The floor space provided a



The Arcade circa 1950s-60s.

lodge room proper, banquet hall and kitchen, a reception room and a smoker, aka smoking room. The entrance would be from the Opera House lobby. They named their new lodge Castle Hall.

Will Fletcher was hired to do the interior decorative work on the new Pythias hall. The steel ceilings were painted in a pretty design and the walls were tinted in water colors. It was thought to be one of the finest Pythias halls in northern Indiana.

Upon completion of construction, the K of P and the Elite opened with style. The K of P sponsored the production of George Ade's "The County Chairman," with the cast formed from local residents, under the direction of Chicago native George Herbert. It would be staged in the Elite for three consecutive nights. The dedication of Castle Hall was on November 12, 1909, attended by a large crowd with several local and state dignitaries attending.

In 1909, Messrs. Hatch and Webber owned and operated an electric theatre, and the opera house would give it a permanent home. They also planned to book theatrical companies and cater the year around to the entertainment of the public.

Their electric theatre offered a 45 minute to an hour program consisting of vaudeville acts, and later, short silent films. The Elite was showing headliners for the day as the advertisement from December 9, 1909 reflects. Cameron G. Marshall presented a program in "fine arts." His promotional flyer stated that he was a Baritone of marked ability, a pianist, harpist and clay modeler. Virro Anderson, a 15 year old pianist and cellist accompanied him on the stage. The venue for the weekend also included a production of "Across the

Great Divide" by the Percy Comedians, an acclaimed comedy troupe; a Saturday matinee production of "Camille" and that night "A Royal Prisoner."

An article from the *Enterprise* dated April 22, 1909, stated, "There has been a demand

ELITE

Open Every Night

To-Night—

Cameron G. Marshall

Musician, Crayon Artist and Clay Moulder, in second number of Epworth League course. Assisted by Virro B. Anderson, boy pianist.

Friday Night—

Percy Comedians

— IN —

Across the Great Divide

Saturday Matinee, 2:30—

"Camille"

Saturday Night—

"A Royal Prisoner"

REGULAR PRICES OF ADMISSION.

Advertisement in the *Newton County Enterprise* for the Elite.



Elite Opera House and K of P Hall, 1910.

in Kentland for years for an opera house, but the possibility of it being a losing financial venture has been a discouraging factor. We believe that an opera house nicely and completely equipped, and managed in a way to command the respect of the public, will receive the public's support."

In August, 1909, the opening night at the opera house staged "Monte Cristo." Over 500 people turned out to see the new building and witness the presentation. "In view of the fact that the company producing the play opened their season here and had had but few rehearsals somewhat marred the acting and dulled the climaxes that the actors gave evidence they are capable of producing when the rough edges have been smoothed down." This was the review of the production given by the Newton

County Enterprise published the week following opening night.

But in spite of the "not-so-great" production, it seems that the public was generally pleased with the opera house, and highly anticipated what the future held for them in the way of entertainment. There were, however, some criticisms regarding the structure itself. "There has been some adverse comments on certain arrangements of construction; particularly regarding the supporting columns that center in the parquet, but the audience found these interfered only a trifle with a full view of the stage from any part of the house, and they gave an assurance of safety that more than outweighs any objections that might be made against them. Arched steel beams for a building of that size would probably cost more than the patronage which Kentland will give an opera house would have justified. The feature of most importance to the public, after all, is to know that the building is safe."

The article continues stating that the stage arrangement was ideal, well lighted and nicely furnished; the seating of the parquet was splendid; the aisles were much wider than those found in the Chicago opera houses; the spacing of the rows allowed for added comfort, as well as making it easy for patrons to exit more quickly in case of fire or other mishaps; the balcony seating accommodated a good sized audience. The lighting was adequate and well arranged-one hundred incandescent lights sparkle from all parts of the building and could be manipulated. Noticeable among the first nighters were the large number of country people, and this augurs much for the success of the opera house project.

The paper felt "That with the improved highways and better conveyance, Jefferson Township had become to all intents and purposes a part of Kentland, and the people are more prosperous and willing to spend their money for good clean amusements. The dedication of the Elite can be counted nothing short of a most pleasing success."

By October, 1910, the Messrs. Hatch and Webber sold the Elite to H. L. Sammons and James Couch. These new managers were planning on installing a heating plant and make other improvements that time and experience proved necessary.

Land transfer records show us that the opera house passed through several owners over the years. Harvey Webber, one of the original owners and builder < *Continued on page 20* >

Opera House and K of P Lodge	Land Transfer Records Lot 21, Block 17, Graham St. Kentland
March, 1892	Patterson and Jacob Brodes Owners
May 1892	A. and A. S. Heilman Owners
June 1, 1897	Smart and Rider Owners
July 6, 1897	Rider and Conklin Owners
March 11, 1899	Lot Owned by George Rider
1909	Charles, Chesney Hatch and Harvey Webber Owners, build Opera House
1909	Building Plans expanded to Include 2nd Floor by K of P
November 9, 1910	H. L. Sammons and James Couch Owners, for seven years
1917	Mr. Strobe Owner, opens with "The County Chairman", the movie
1925	Mr. Hay, Owner and operator for five years
1930	Elizabeth Boyle, Owner, now known as Kentland Theater
1926-February 28, 1929	Mr. and Mrs. Sanders operate the theater
February, 1929	Sanders introduce "talkies" to the area
April 1, 1929	Dallas Cannon purchases Kentland Theater properties
February 3, 1938	Federal Fire Marshalls condem building. Owned by Boyle
1938	Dallas Cannon builds KENT Theater on US 24
1940	Boyle sells property to Leslie and Bertha M. Center
1944	RH., Rose and Johanna Reinhold and Frances Eilts Owners
1958	Rose Eilts Owner
1961	Gerald McCarty Owner. Opens Kentland Locker Plant
1976	Richard and Beverly Delong, Operate Antique Store
1984	Kentland Bank Owners
1988	Kentland TV and Appliance Owners
1999	Kenneth Jr., and Sherry McMillian Owners
2002	Sherry Thompson, Rose Ann Large and Troy Thompson Owners
2002	S. Thompson, T. Thompson and DeMotte State Bank Owners
2002	DeMotte State Bank
2003	Leo R. Conry Owner
2006-Today	Town of Kentland Owners, Building razed, lot remains empty

20 The Newcomer

< Continued from page 19 >
of the opera house, is mentioned in the book "Kentland Centennial, 1960," as owning the first nickelodeon theatre in the 1900s. He and the Hatches sold it to H. L. Sammons and James Couch, who were in possession of it until 1917. At that time, Rufus A. Shobe owned and operated the opera house.

In April, 1917, Shobe brought George Ade's "County Chairman," shown in pictures to the anxious community. Only eight years earlier, the Knights of Pythias presented Ade's play, "The County Chairman," as part of their grand opening ceremonies for Castle Hall, the second floor of the opera house. Please see related article in this edition.



In 1922, after remodeling, Rudolph Valentino was on the marquee starring in "The Sheik".



Talking pictures came to Kentland in 1930. An ad announces their arrival.

Coincidence? Maybe. Maybe not. The *Enterprise* stated that Mr. Shobe had "quite a little difficulty" securing it for his patrons. The article continued, "No doubt, it will be a splendid drawing attraction as all who took part in it when played here will want to see if the other fellow that took the same part in this picture does their turn right."

In February, 1922, Shobe repaired and transformed the opera house, and it was recognized for the first time as The Kentland Theater in the *Enterprise*. We know that it is the same building, as the article states Shobe removed the four posts obstructing the parquet. These same posts were mentioned in the description given earlier in this article regarding the opera house. At the same time, he extended the balcony on either side and re-decorated throughout the building. In place of the posts, he erected two large steel beams to support the ceiling, and from which the new balcony was suspended. Now the house could seat six to seven hundred, boasting that everyone had an unobstructed view of the stage. The newly paneled light brown tiffany walls were stated to add wonderfully to the appearance of the stars of filmdom who would appear nightly to entertain the people.

Those who attended the opening night viewed the movie "The Sheik". The *Enterprise* wasn't sure if the patrons were more dazzled by the scenes of the Sahara desert, the African coast and the Orient, or the newly arranged theater that was "a blaze of light during the

opening hour" to give them a chance to see changes that had been made. At the conclusion of the movie the first night, Shobe surprised the patrons by lifting the curtains one more time to reveal the Kentland Boy's Band, making their second public appearance. Approval was expressed in a storm of applause.

In 1929, an *Enterprise* article states that the picture show had been sold.

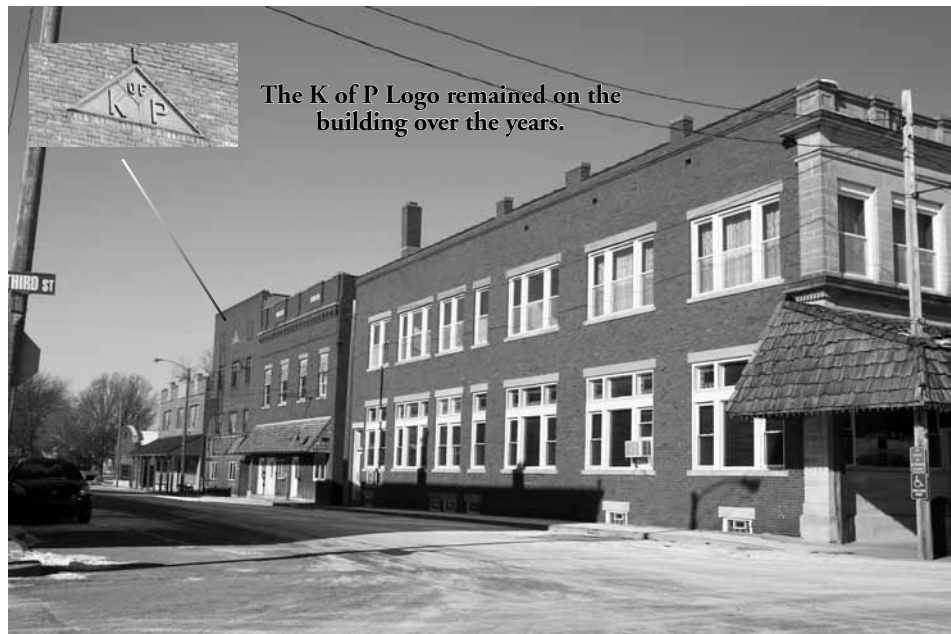
"The Kentland Theatre, which has been owned and operated for the past three years by John Sanders has recently been sold to D. E. Cannon of Knox, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders had arrived in town three years earlier, and he would remain manager until April 1st."

In the final weeks of their management, beginning February 14 and 15th, the Kentland Theatre announced the initial showing of talking pictures. The Sanders left in a blaze of glory.

During the time that the Sanders were to have owned and operated the theater, 1926-1929, land transfer records show that Shobe sold the building in 1925 to a Mr. Hay, who owned it until 1930, then selling it to Elizabeth Boyle, who owned it until 1940. It is possible that others owned the building, while Sanders and Cannon owned and operated the theatre rights and property.

In the February 3, 1938 *Enterprise* we find this article:

"Dallas E. Cannon, manager of the Kentland Theatre, was notified last week by the



Graham Street, Kentland, 2002, looking west from Third Street. The opera house is the third building from the right, known in later years as the Conry building.

State Fire Marshal's office at Indianapolis that the building housing the theatre equipment had been condemned by the department, because of fire hazard, and that he was necessarily forced by law to close the doors."

However, Mr. Cannon was in the process at the time of building what most of us today know as the KENT Theatre, located on U.S. 24, located directly behind what is now identified as the NAPA building. Mr. and Mrs. Cannon would operate at this location until 1954, selling the building and theater properties to the Griffis family, who would own it for many years.

"I used to be a 'popcorn girl' at Kent theatre." Darlene Swaim shared with us on facebook. She continues in reply to the ownership of the KENT Theatre by the Cannon family, "Yes, Dallas Cannon (great uncle of my husband, Bill) owned the theatre. My Aunt Clare was an usher there. Jack Griffis owned it when I was popping corn. Dick Graber was the film guy upstairs. Dad Clinton was next door and he was maintenance and helped with concessions when we were crazy busy-intermission etc. For a sci-fi movie Jack and Dick built a giant paper and wire spider and then dropped it on audience during the scene where the giant spider was eating a small town. Very funny ... but everyone ran out of the theatre and we had to persuade them to come back in. I had several screaming crying kids in the popcorn area holding on to me for dear life. I remember the carpet was big swirling leaves. There was an old sofa in the lounge area. Loved the Kent Theatre. Movies were 20-25 cents. Those were the days."

So ended the era of the opera house as the center of recreation for many generations in the community. The building, however, would continue to house different, popular businesses, but would eventually fall in disrepair, finally being owned by the Town of Kentland in 2011, and shortly thereafter be dismantled leaving an empty lot once again on Graham Street.

Just when the Knights of Pythias left the opera house is not known. But with monies bequeathed them by Helen Boyle, and added fund raising, the Damon Temple No. 95, Order of Pythian Sisters were able to build a new building for their lodge in 1959. Miss Boyle was a member of the lodge for 39 years, and passed away in 1957. The formal dedication was held on June 26, 1960. Today, the building houses a fireworks business, the K of P merged with the Morocco lodge several years ago.



Plaque on old K of P building reads: Dedicated 1960 In Memory of Helen M. Boyle, P. C.



Pythian Sister Temple Dedicated June, 1960

Damon Temple No. 95, Order of Pythian Sisters, dedicated their new temple in June of 1960. At the time, it was the only known Pythian Sister Temple, built and owned by the Pythian Sisters of the International fraternity in the world. The building also served as the lodge home of Damon Lodge No. 72, Knights of Pythias of Kentland, whose members helped with building and planning of the building.

Monies from the Helen Boyle estate helped build the Temple. Helen was the adopted daughter of Elizabeth (Boyle) and Terrance Cunningham of Kentland. Her maternal grandfather was Albert Boyle, who served as a Newton County Recorder. Both of her parents were lawyers. Elizabeth was also one of the owners of the old Opera house from 1930-1940.

The Correct Spring Styles



3402
Wooltex



Wooltex



Copyright 1908 by
Michael Stern & Co.
Rochester, N. Y.

John W. Ryan & Co.

EVERYTHING TO EAT AND WEAR. FURNISHERS FROM HEAD TO FOOT

Going to the opera in the spring of 1909 ... This ad reflects the styles available in the area from John Ryan & Co., Kentland.

Home is Where Your Story Begins

James and Rebecca (Sailor) Dodson by Beth Bassett

James and Rebecca Dodson and their small family moved to Jefferson Township in 1850, from Bloomington, Illinois. In the November 7, 1909 *Newton County Enterprise*, Rebecca was in a feature article written by S. M. D., (her son Squire who worked at the paper), entitled "A Grand Old Woman," that details the way of life in our area at the time of her family's arrival. James' biography in the "History of Jasper and Newton Counties, 1916," gives an insight to his occupations and his contribution to our community. Further, in the book, "Kentland Centennial, 1960," their sons James, Squire and Jesse are mentioned as businessmen of their time.

In 1850, the Dodson family wended their way through the tall prairie grass, over boggy sloughs and open creeks, and settled down among the little colony of pioneers that skirted the Iroquois River. At that time there were no more than a dozen families living within the boundaries of Jefferson Township, and these families nestled as close to the timber as possible.

Mrs. Dodson stated that in 1851, the family moved out into the prairie, as it was called at the time, nearly two miles south of the river, and their home was the outpost of civilization. "Not another habitation of any description in the whole sweep of country to the south until one approached Sugar Creek in Benton County. Can you imagine the sight? One grand expanse of open prairie extending southward as far as the eye could see, without one fence or a house to break the monotony or mar the original handiwork of nature," she related, "There was a small settlement over in Illinois, following the course of the Iroquois River, but to the east as well as the south, there was an unbroken picture of level prairie land."

Her article continues to state that the best land in Jefferson Township was selling at \$1.25 an acre, and the market was exceedingly dull. The people's choice of land those days was close to the timber, and those who ventured out on to the prairie were deemed exceedingly unwise.

In referring to her early experiences here, she stated that their home was one of the most "pretentious" in the township, built of hewn logs, 16x18 feet in size, and contained, all



Left, Rebecca Dodson, photo published in 1909. Right, photo of the Dodson home from 1862-1886 as it appeared in the "History of Jasper and Newton Counties, 1916."

told, one room. There were two entrances - one on either side. One was supplied with a real wooden door, and a bed quilt sufficed at the other. The furniture was in keeping with the house, but as Mrs. Dodson stated, "it was all that was needed."

When she was asked how they made a living and got enough to eat, she replied: "There was no money, but this made no difference as we had no use for money. Lafayette and Chicago were our trading points, excepting a store or two at Bunkum, and we women didn't go shopping very often. The men folks, my husband and two or three neighbors, would haul their wheat to Chicago and their corn to Lafayette and buy what few necessities we needed. One of our neighbors, John Davis, held a shelling bee, shelling a load of corn by hand, and hauled it to Lafayette and sold it for 15 cents a bushel; he paid 16 cents a yard for some calico. He later purchased a machine that shelled one ear of corn at a time, and this was a great curiosity. We had our own flour and meal, taking the grain to the old mill at Texas, down the river near Watseka, or to Norway, near Monticello, for grinding, and game was plentiful; so we had enough to eat."

She continued, "Prairie chickens flew in such great flocks that they nearly darkened the sky. I kept a barrel at the side of the house in which I kept the dressed chickens, and often I would have from twelve to sixteen ahead, and wild geese were so plentiful that we would station the boys out in the wheat field to keep

the geese from destroying the crop. So we had plenty to eat, excepting delicacies and fruit, but there were papaws, wild plums, and crab apples, and these sweetened up with sorghum molasses tasted pretty good. Fish could be secured in great abundance in the river and in any of the branches."

"Eggs were another stable diet, and those not eaten were packed off to market and sold for 3 cents a dozen, and what couldn't be sold were given to the children to play with. We would soon have become wealthy on eggs with the supply of those days and present day prices!"

"I think my worst dread of those days were the wolves. They roamed over the prairies in untold numbers, making the night hideous with their yelping, and I lived in constant fear that they would find their way in through our quilt door."

"Another pest were the myriads of green heads, or horse flies. It was hardly safe to drive a horse through the prairies during the summer. We had an old cow that was particularly wise for her day and generation. She would stay out in the grass until she was completely covered with green heads, and would then lie down in the yard and let the chickens pick the flies off. She did that day after day, all summer."

Sadly, only 2 months later on December 19, 1909, Mrs. Dodson passed away at her home on Carroll Street. At the time, she was one of the oldest residents of Kentland,

aged 87. Rebecca (Sailor) Dodson was born in Clark County, Ohio, on September 30, 1822. On February 16, 1841, she married James W. Dodson who was born in Kentucky, August 31, 1808. In 1847, they moved to Bloomington, Illinois. On their move to Newton County in 1851, he secured 40 acres five miles northwest of Kentland, where they lived for many years.

Mr. Dodson held great mechanical skills, and besides being a successful farmer, he was a capable shoemaker, in the off seasons, plying his trade with needle and awl, and finding plenty of occupation during the long winter months. He was also a manufacturer of fire-

works and is credited for the first display of fireworks in Bloomington, Illinois for the Zachary Taylor presidential campaign.

It was the custom in his day for the shoemaker to visit the homes where his services were required, and he spent many pleasant days as the guest of various families in the county. A great lover of music and a very creditable flutist, wherever he went he was pressed into service as an entertainer. He also possessed a very pleasing voice, so it was not uncommon for him to sit up until the small hours of the morning singing and playing with friends. Among the most cherished possessions of his son's was a singing book, published in 1812,

used by their father in his lifetime. James Dodson was only 53 years old when he passed on in May 16, 1863. James' first wife was Mary Ann Reynolds, born March 18, 1820 and died April 22, 1839, having two children, a son, William R., who died in 1903, and Mary Ann, who died April 11, 1839.

Rebecca and James had seven children. John S., born July 7, 1842 and died June 17, 1844; Jesse, born April 18, 1844, died January 16, 1910; Mary Jane, born March 7, 1846, and died June 14, 1899. Mary Jane married John Strohm, who died October 17, 1872; they had one son, Harry A. Ruth E. was the fourth child in the family of seven, born August 23, 1847 and died October 24, 1847; Lewis S., born March 30, 1849; Squire M., born July 26, 1851, died May 15, 1915; Jeremiah, the youngest, born on June 5, 1854.

The 1916 history tells us that Lewis, Squire and Jeremiah, went to school in the old log cabin school houses of that period and they experienced all the hardships and joys incident to pioneer life. For twenty-eight years they were associated in a business partnership in Kentland, but retired in October, 1910. This business was a hardware store known as Dodson Brothers.

The book, "Kentland Centennial, 1960," included this note on the Dodson Brothers:

"In 1883 the Dodson Bros. set up shop in the hardware business. These three bachelor brothers, Tie, Louis and Jerry, (Squire, Lewis and Jeremiah), lived with their mother and never kept any separate accounts of their business operations. When any of them needed any cash for a necessary expense, he simply took it out of the cash drawer. They left a substantial estate. These bachelor brothers had a very large and unique business because they always refused to sell the last item in stock since they needed it for a sample. In 1910, the Dodson brothers purchased the competition, a hardware store which began in 1887, started by Levi Ross & Son."



This sketch of the Dodson Bros. Hardware store appeared in a 1909 Newton County Enterprise. Today, the building remains a hardware store in 2014, known as Hopkin's Electric and Hardware. Note the entrance to the Damon Lodge #72 on the left—they met upstairs in this building prior to the erection of Castle Hall on Graham Street in the summer of 1909.

Newton County Historical Society Resource Center

PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951

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Pioneers Have Big Banquet

Reminiscences of the Long Ago Made the Evening Interesting

Ten of the pioneers of this vicinity and a number of their friends and relatives were given a banquet at the Newton Hotel New Year's Eve. The combined ages of the ten present is 701 or an average of 70. Is there another town in the county that can boast of so many young old pioneers? These are part of the people who helped start Newton County. "All of which they have seen—a part of which they have been and are."

The guests of honor are given here in about the order of their ages: Abe Beabout 87, George Clark 85, D. M. Graves 85, Aunt Katherine Deardurff 81, Dr. Triplett Sr. 80, John Brown, A. J. Ellis, Jacob Hosier, G. W. Grooms, Mrs. Kate Shafer. The last named are in the 70's. Mrs. Capt. Graves and Mrs. A. J. Ellis were among the guests.

Mr. Beabout gave the principal talk of the evening, telling of his experience the first day in the county in 1852. Scott and Pierce were then candidates for the presidency. He told how he walked across the country from Kentucky on his way to Chicago and stopped at Morocco to rest for few days. All agreed that they were glad he had stopped at Morocco and that he had made his home here ever since. He told of the moral state of affairs in the town at that time, stating that the jug was passed around on every occasion. He mentioned that the skill he had developed as a Kentucky rifleman in squirrel hunting was used to good advantage the first day he was here.

Mrs. Deardurff told of the beauties of Turkey Foot grove when she came there 72 years ago. She spoke of the prairie flowers, flocks of birds and herds of wild deer, all of which made a lasting impression.

Capt. Graves told of the wild cranes sighting near their home one Sunday morning and having a crane dance (only those who have seen a crane dance can appreciate this). They evidently thought because it was Sunday they would not be disturbed, but their actions so exasperated the captain as a boy that he took down his trusty rifle and killed two of them at one shot.

Uncle John Brown told of his march with Sherman "from Atlanta to the sea" during the rebellion,

Mr. Ellis told of stopping a man when he came to the county, to ask him where he would find Morocco, whereupon the man, Dr. Humpston, with pants in his boots, re-

plied "you are right there now."

Mrs. Finley Shafer came here in 1847. As a girl things that impressed her were the sloughs and ponds, the snakes and the prairie fires and the weird and doleful sound of the Thunder Pumper. All of which made her homesick for old Battle Ground.

When Mr. Hosier settled near Mt. Zion in 1852 he said it was customary for a woman when going visiting to ride on an ox with one child in front of her and another behind her. A long jump indeed from the ox to the high powered and speedy auto or air ship but Mr. Hosier has seen it all.

When Mr. Grooms settled out north the Beaver lake country was covered with herds of cattle and it was the paradise of hunters. Then Bogus Island was a reality.

Mr. Clark came there in the early '60's from Franklin. He was postmaster at Beaver Timber (Pilot Grove) for more than 20 years and is yet hale and hearty, looking a decade younger than he is.

Last but not least comes Dr. Triplett who arrived here from Kentucky in 1850. He is the



**Dr. C. E. Triplett,
Morocco's
first physician.**

dean of physicians to this part of the state. He is truly a doctor of the old school for he practiced medicine here for 50 years. He has probably covered a wider scope of territory in visiting the sick, ridden farther on horse back, endured more hardships and exposure and brot more joy and hope to the sick room than any other man living here at this time. A record to be proud of.

And to you Squire Holmes, in your absence, we drank a toast with cider. We missed you. So here ended the first annual banquet of the pioneers—the young old people of Morocco. Contributed.

This splendid banquet which no doubt brought cheer to these worthy pioneers whom we are so glad to yet have among us, was conceived by J. B. Chizum and together with his brother, J. M., was carried to a successful conclusion.

Reprinted from the Morocco Courier, January 8, 1915. Submitted by Beth Bassett.

Historian's Corner

By Diana Elijah
Newton County Historian

The harvest season looks about half or better finished and farmers are discouraged with lower prices and the wet weather - still, the holidays are fast approaching!

As a child we had Christmas exchange at home. Dad frequently played Santa for the Boys Scouts or other groups. We would travel to my grandparent's home, alternating holidays with each side. I always loved the time spent with cousins and my grandparents.

After I became a farm wife, we usually were home most holidays or at the in-laws or my parents in Brook.

We have always had carry-in dinners, and now we gather about once a year the rest of the Elijah clan. Last year about 35 family members attended. Later, in January, we held an immediate family Christmas. Our families are growing and it is becoming increasingly difficult to make specific dates work for everyone.

In a recent "coffee time" in Brook at the Methodist Church, I told others at the table that I needed "fodder" for this article. A anonymous member of the Lyons family said he always went to the hotel in Brook that his grandparents owned for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I can attest that Ida Lyons was an exceptional cook!

Beth Lyons remembers 50 years ago when her youngest daughter was 18 mos. old and her children had the chicken pox. Her father, Bill Dalton, brought a giant box filled with unwrapped toys and clothing. Her children enjoyed that memory most of all - their presents not being wrapped.

Peg Lawrence remembers going to her Grandma's in Rensselaer for the holidays.

Jerry Johnson remembers his Dad rabbit hunting on Thanksgiving. His mother cooked up the rabbit, but also a turkey. He was happy with the turkey, as he does not care for cooked rabbit.

Share your memories with your families this holiday season and reflect upon the good times. Happy Holidays to all! Have a thankful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

The End of Summer, My Summer Visits To Brook

by Ralph Park Youngren, submitted by Carol Light

Inspired by those who attended his brother Howard's memorial service in 2010 he wrote down the memories of his early childhood in Brook. Ralph Park Youngren published them in 2012. The booklet included photographs of family members from Brook as well as local shots of places.

Ralph is the son of Fred and Eunice (Park) Youngren. Eunice grew up in Brook, Indiana.

Near Brook my grandfather had acquired 160 acres, then called the Homestead Farm. In 1884 he married Mary Theodosia Steele and had four daughters, Edith, Ruth, Grace and Eunice. With all daughters, my grandfather built a house on the main street of Brook so they could go to a better school, take piano lessons and have a more active social life. They spent summers at the Homestead Farm.

When I was very young, as soon as school was out in Cloquet, Minnesota I would go with my father, mother and brother Freddy to Brook, Indiana to see my Grandmother Park and my mother's two sisters, Edith and Ruth. This was in the 1920's and we would go by train to Rensselaer, Indiana. My Aunt Ruth, the only sister of the four who could drive car, would meet us. Our family would be in Brook for several weeks in June.

When we arrived in Brook my grandmother's house had two stories—living room, parlor, dining room, master bedroom, bath and kitchen on the main floor and four bedrooms on the second. All the houses in Brook had large front porches and my grandmother's, with swing and cane furniture, was no exception. There was a large vacant lot behind the Brook house where golfers would practice their game. Freddy and I would collect the lost golf balls—we had a large collection.

There was a strict division of labor—Aunt Ruth was the chief cook, Grandmother Park in charge of desserts and Aunt Edith handled all the finances including the shopping.

Saturday was a special day. Aunt Edith would take me with her: an umbrella to ward off the sun (at that time all women carried umbrellas in the summer), and a large wicker basket which was my responsibility. The stores were two blocks from the house and walking was exceedingly slow. Large maple trees lined the main street and their roots had heaved the sidewalks making walking difficult.



Grandmother Park with Aunts Ruth, Edith, Grace and Ralph's mother Eunice.

Everyone in Brook knew everyone else. Each person you met or saw on a front porch meant a long conversation. Reaching the "downtown area" the procession was always the same. First the bakery, next the bank run by a relative, Harry Lawrence, next the grocery store run by Charlie Stonehill, and was our main stop and crossing the street was the post office, run by Leland Hess. There were two mail deliveries a day. You had to get your mail and newspapers from a lock box. My aunt would lift me up so I could dial the combination, making me feel very important! The weekly *Brook Reporter* and the daily *Chicago Tribune* were the newspapers we received in the lockbox except on Sunday when *The Chicago Tribune* was for sale only at the Pool Hall. My aunts would never go into such a place so either my father or a neighbor boy would have to get them. Brook was very conservative—politics were seldom discussed and always took second place to the weather and the price of corn.

Continuing our routine, next was the empty lot on Main Street adjacent to the library called the Park park. When my great Aunt Eunice died she gave the lot to the town for a park and her house was moved to Emma Park's farm at the edge of town.

Our final stop was McKinley Park. The entrance was through an ornamental arch and between two large cannons and stacks of cannon balls – very exciting for children! In the park was a mini-Washington monument with

the names of local soldiers who had served in the Civil War. Included were the names of Franklin and Eugene Park, brothers of my Grandfather Byron Park. In the park was a professional croquet field, a level hard surface and permanent wickets. In Brook, croquet was a big event.

On arriving home, Saturday was a busy day in the kitchen, the largest room in the house. Dominating the room was a huge black stove, fueled by corn cobs winter and summer with a variety of burners and ovens. There was also a gas stove but this was seldom, if ever, used. A sink in the corner had a small pump for city water and on a table nearby was a pail with dipper filled with well water which everyone thought tasted better. A large refrigerator with trays of ice cubes and a washing machine completed the equipment. To one side of the kitchen was a screened porch where my grandmother cooled her specialty, a series of pies. There was no air-conditioning in those days and we were never there in the winter. My Grandmother, her dog Teddy, and my aunts went to Hot Springs, Arkansas for the winter.

Saturday supper was always a light meal and then we changed into our best clothes for the main event. My Aunt Ruth would have parked her car at 4:30 p.m. in front of the bank and walked home. Main Street would be closed from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. All the stores including the < *Continued on page 26* >

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< Continued from page 25 >

bank would be open. There were benches in front of the stores, but these filled early and my grandmother would sit in her car with all the windows open and talk with her friends. There was a vacant lot on Main Street occupied by a bandstand, a large high platform with a roof and great steel wheels. This was rolled out to the middle of the street by four husky farmers and the band played off and on during the evening. At 10:00 p.m. the band stopped playing and in the Park park a large screen was raised for silent movies with everyone sitting on the grass. Then home to bed.

On Sunday morning we got up a bit later and got ready for Sunday school and church. There was a rule that in addition to wearing white starched shirts, all shoes had to be shined. The Methodist church was a three minute walk down Main Street-Sunday school for children and adults and then the main service. All the windows in the church were open and Harry Lawrence's wife played the organ. There were fans in all the pews and these were furnished by Hershman Funeral Home.

Church over, we walked home for a cold chicken lunch and another long summer nap. In Brook everyone took daily naps; if the children did not take a nap they had to be very quiet. All the stores closed from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. except the bank and post office. After our rest on Sunday, we would sometimes drive to the Homestead Farm to visit our tenant, Mr. Elbert Potts. The crops were end-



The Youngren Boys, l-r: Fred Robert, John Howard and Ralph Park Youngren.



Ralph's book was dedicated to the Park girls, pictured here. Back row: Grace Elizabeth, Ruth Amelia. Front, Eunice and Edith Helen.

lessly discussed and my grandmother always insisted that the fields bordering the roads be evenly mowed and all volunteers (corn stalks in soybean fields) be removed.

As the afternoon cooled we would occasionally visit the Riverside Cemetery west of Brook. All the Parks were buried in the same area with a large marker in the center with the name Park on both sides. A river, the Iroquois, was the boundary on the south side and a wonderful wooden bridge spanned a ravine; great for children. There were long discussions about the markers and the people buried there. On the way home we would drive around the various farms to see if the edges had been mowed, all volunteers removed and if the buildings were in good order.

After a light supper we would sit on the front porch and talk to anyone walking by. When it got dark, or too many mosquitoes, a card table would be set up in the parlor and we would play a game called "Rook". At 9:30 sharp the lights were turned out and we went to bed.

I tried to recreate this childhood in Brook. When our sons were small, Ann and I remodeled the Park Homestead house, added a screen porch, new kitchen and bath. There were wonderful summer weekends from Chicago, tree houses, fishing, and croquet on the lawn. The contrast between life on Walton Street in Chicago and life on the Homestead Farm in the summer was enormous. Everything seemed to move much more slowly, the

few cars crunching by the house on the gravel road and the long days and evenings when the sky was so black you could see all the stars.

The boys grew up and wanted to stay in Chicago on weekends. Finally we moved to Michigan, the Brook farms were sold and the fantasy "Tom Sawyer" boyhood vanished. Truly the end of summer.

There is more to this collection of memories from Ralph Park Youngren. They are on file at the Resource Center in Kentland in the family history files.



Eunice Park has a park named for her in downtown Brook. There you will find a memorial to the local veterans.

Kentland's First Production of George Ade's "The County Chairman," 1909



This picture appeared in the April 6, 1950 *Newton County Enterprise*, identifying some of the cast of the Kentland production of Ade's "The County Chairman" in 1909 at the Elite Opera House. Back row, l-r: Robert Coughlin, ?, Will Ade, John Ade, Guy Rettinger, Dolphin Johnston, Frank Klinger, J. B. Staton, ?, John Simons, ?, ?, T. B. Cunningham, Sue Simons. Second row standing: ?, Mrs. T. B. Cunningham, George Herbert, Adah Bush. Sitting l-r, ?, Freemon Reed's eldest daughter, Nellie McCain, Dwight Worsham, Maude Steele, Albert Thompson, Otto Kessler, Ruth?, ?, Elizabeth McCray, H. L. Sammons. Lloyd Miles on floor.

In 1909, the town of Kentland was celebrating the construction of two new business buildings on Graham Street, The Arcade Hotel and The Elite Opera House. The second floor of the opera house being the new home of Damon Lodge No. 72, Knights of Pythias. As part of the grand opening celebrations, George Ade's "The County Chairman" would be staged at the Elite, produced by the Knights of Pythias and directed by Mr. George Herbert of Chicago, who cast local residents for every role.

"The County Chairman" was produced in 1903 at the Studebaker Theatre in Chicago and ran for six months, after which it was taken to New York and played continuously for one year at Wallack's Theatre. The scene of the play is laid in Antioch, Jefferson County, Missouri, in the year 1880. As the story unfolds, Jim Hackler, the county chairman, has for a law partner a young man, Tillford Wheeler, just out of law school. Elias Rigby, who was a boyhood friend of Hacker's, but now a bitter enemy, is a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney. Hackler names his partner, Tillford Wheeler, as a candidate to oppose Judge Rigby. Wheeler, being engaged to marry Lucy Rigby refuses the nomination. Hackler insists that Wheeler must make the fight and succeeds in his purpose. During the campaign, Rigby has been very bitter in his denunciation of Wheeler. Wheeler, who is present at a Rigby rally, is forced to declare himself and does so in such a dignified manner that he makes friends of some of the flowers of Rigby. Election day comes around, the fight is bitter, but Wheeler is triumphant and wins both the office and Lucy, the daughter of Elias Rigby.

The three night production yielded total receipts of \$781.00, with \$500 in profit for the K. of P., quite an impressive sum for the era. The *Newton County Enterprise*, dated November 18, 1909 accredited the success to the excellence of "The County Chairman", coupled with the local pride in George Ade and their desire to do him honor stimulated enthusiasm that began three weeks prior to the event. They also gave credit to the splendid work of George Herbert who staged the piece and directed the rehearsals. He also portrayed the character Elias Rigby and they noted that he gave an "excellent exhibition of fine acting and was an inspiration to the local players."

"But not to take away accolades from Mr. Ade and Mr. Herbert, the local actors measured up to their full responsibilities and did themselves gloriously proud. It was a cast of all stars," the *Enterprise* added.

Music was furnished by the High School Orchestra, making their first public appearance. The members were Prof. F. W. Kratli, director, slide trombone; Stanley Kemp, cornet; Ferol Davis, piano; Gladys Webber, clarinet; Edith Miller, violin; and Hazel Grau, mandolin. For this occasion they were assisted by H. C. Webber, violin, and Claude Akers, traps, (drum set).

"The County Chairman" would be staged a few more times in the years to follow, and still stands as one of the locals' favorite Ade play.

The 1909 Cast

Jim Hackler	Will H. Ade
Tilford Wheeler	J. D. Worsham
Elias Rigby	George Herbert
Riley Cleaver	John Simons
Wilson Prewitt	T. B. Cunningham
Jupiter Pettaway	Sam Molter
Sassafras Livingston	Robert Coughlin
Uncle Eck Millbury	O. P. Keesler
Jefferson Briscoe	A. J. Thompson
Vance Jimmison	J. B. Staton
Joe Whittaker	H. L. Sammons
Carl Barcus	R. R. Cummings
Chub Tolliver	Lloyd Miles
Henry	Col. W. H. Roberts
Clabe Overton	Guy Rettinger
Amos Whitney	John Ade
Dawson Montgomery	Ralph Martin
Lucy Rigby	Maude Steele
Mrs. Elias Rigby	Adah E. Bush
Mrs. Jefferson Briscoe	Lizzie Cunningham
Lorena Watkins	Sue Simons
Chick Elzey	Hilda Palmer
Tillie	Helen Boyle

Members of the fife and drum corps. School children, town people, and others appeared in the rally scene.

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This photo appeared in the spring/summer *Newcomer*. It was recently discovered on Morocco's Old Photo Page. It was noted there the men in the photo were George Murphey and Bennett Chizum. Our source did not provide this information and the *Newcomer* identified them as George and Ira Murphey.

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