

# The Newcomer

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A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.  
**Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County**

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"When you farm by the river you are constantly taking water off the land and putting it back on – it's a never-ending process. You do what you have to do." - Sig Boezeman, "The Grand Kankakee Marsh – The Everglades of the North."

## Newton County Ditches

By Beth Bassett

Why do we have ditches? When were the ditches created? My fellow historian, David Truby wrote an excellent article entitled "The Draining of Newton County" in the Winter, 2012 edition of *The Newcomer*. His article goes into detail regarding the beginnings of our county drainage system as well as methodology. Look for it on our website, [www.ingenweb.org/innewton](http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton).

Ditches are utilized to move water from one place to another. A landowner/farmer installs drainage tile on their property to maintain an equal balance of soil moisture. The water carried by the drainage tile flows into the ditches, which ultimately reaches a larger water source such as a creek or river. We have two rivers and two creeks that are part of our county drainage system. To the north, the Kankakee River; to the east, Curtis Creek; to the south the Iroquois River; and to the west Beaver Creek. These four waterways keep water moving and the drainage system working.

The article regarding the old marsh in Lincoln Township published elsewhere in this edition piqued my curiosity a bit. How many ditches are in Newton County? Which Township has the most ditches? How is a ditch named? When and who built the ditches?

I am sure there are county records available that would reveal when and who built the ditches, however, for this article I utilized the current Newton County map and the GIS system found at [www.newtoncounty.indiana.gov](http://www.newtoncounty.indiana.gov) to name and locate the ditches.

The map had dates listed with two ditches: Coon Marsh (1897) in Lake Twp.; Cox Tile SCS Reroute (1951) in Lincoln Twp.

There is also a reference to Beaver Lake (1834) that covered sections in Lake, McClellan, and Colfax Townships. In Colfax Township, Sections 31, 30 and 29 a Deep Pond was located dated 1834. Newton County landmarks are also listed. Pick up a free copy of the map in the lobby of the Newton County Government Center in Morocco.

Obviously the most famous ditch in the county is Beaver Lake Ditch which stretches through McClellan, Lake and into the Kankakee River. It was built to drain Beaver Lake beginning as early as 1853. In 1874, after an expansion of the ditch by the landholders was completed, the newspapers documented a special ceremony hosted by Jennie Conrad that marked the passage of Beaver Lake.

I recognized several early settler's names and landmarks on ditches in each township. A few of these cover multiple townships.

Lake: Conklin, Best, Davis, Knight, Tolin, Lawler; LaSalle F&W, Coon Marsh, Greenacres, Beaver Lake.



A winter view of the Beaver Lake Ditch that flows from McClellan Twp. north through Lake Twp. to the Kankakee River. *Archive Photo*

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# President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

Do you often wonder why so many are financially struggling?

Bill and I were married in 1965. We lived in a house that came with rented ground. Our only monthly bills were REMC (electric) and telephone (the kind that hung on the wall). Of course, food, clothing, vehicles and other normal living expenses existed.

Water came from a well, sewer went to a leach bed in the back yard, and television by means of an antenna by the side of the house provided five or six channels for our viewing pleasure.

### Fast Forward to 2020-2021-2022

Rents and mortgages are sometimes very high.

If you own your home and it is paid for all the way down to China, you are still facing monthly expenses-not exactly 'home free'. Not to mention the property taxes, insurance, and general upkeep repairs.

If you live in town, you will pay for your water. If you live in the country - your water is drawn from a deep or shallow well. However, you may have added a water softener to improve the quality of the water - thus an added expense.

No more taking the trash to the barrel in the backyard and burning your trash - remember the aerosol cans exploding? Weekly pick up is available of your trash and the fee is added to your water bill; in the country you pay a contractor to pick up your garbage. However, a few of our Township Trustees foot the bill for their residents. In town, the trash fee is added to the water bill, along with sewage fees.

In the country you have septic tanks and field tile, or perhaps a leach bed, (quite an upgrade from the one-hole or two-hole outhouse). Just another one of those items that require "general upkeep" from time to time. Take some advice from a friend, find out where your tile is located and do not plant a tree near it.

That black phone on the wall has turned in to a cell phone that goes everywhere with you - with a price. These phones can do amazing things - if you can figure out how to use them. The household not only has one phone, but everyone in the house may have one too.

The family car - one, or two? If both parents had jobs, you need more than one vehicle. And vehicles were not traded every year or two. Now there are two or three or more (depending upon teenagers in the household) in every house, all insured to the hilt, of course.

Do you have a Cable TV, DirecTv? Hulu? Netflix? That phone or laptop need a Wi-Fi connection? Remember that antenna that brought your television signal for free? How many did you replace after spring and summer storms ventured through Newton County?

Do you moan when checking out of the grocery store? Remember big gardens and putting them up by canning and freezing? Remember making baked goods, salads, and entrée

dishes from scratch? Meat with every meal was not the norm.

And clothes - how many outfits did you have in school? Ladies, did Mom make your dresses or did you? How many pairs of shoes are in your closet?

And what about health insurance, to see a doctor these days, unless you have all the money in the world, you must be insured. Healthcare and prescriptions are priced out of reach for many - some so high the insurance won't cover it - so does your doctor dictate your health care these days or your insurance company?

Are we pricing ourselves out of financial security by having so much? Is it all necessary? We have made it this far by putting our priorities in order - but do we want to give any of it up?

Those "golden oldie" days will be replaced with the new "golden" days. Wonder what they will be like?

### Newton County Historical Mural

Our mural on the east side of our Resource Center building is underway - showcasing historical people, places, and things of Newton County. We are so pleased to have Rein Bontreger as our artist. A list of items to be included in the mural were painstakingly chosen by a committee headed by Barbara Wilfong. It was not an easy task - but a worthwhile project when finished. A brochure will be available onsite explaining each historical item, and a QR code will also be part

## Rein Bontreger Historical Mural Artist

Rein Bontreger has been a local resident of both Newton and Jasper counties for the past 47 years. Moving to north of Mount Ayr at age 11 from Bremen, Indiana, he graduated from North Newton High School in 1981. He started his business, Reinforcements Design, in 1985 in Rensselaer, developing self-taught skills of airbrushing and hand lettering on signs and vehicles. In the decades since, he has expanded into various additional methods of signs, graphics and shirt printing.

Bontreger has enjoyed large graphic challenges over the years, which has led to the recent interest in murals. In 2020, he created and painted a mural in Rensselaer's Iroquois Park using local historical subjects and interests to complete the project.

Utilizing that same methodology, Bontreger will be creating a large mural on the east side of the Newton County Historical Society building highlighting various points of interest pertaining to Newton County. He is excited to embrace this project and will enjoy watching it come to life. This mural will be completed using several freehand techniques.



of the mural for instant access to the information. Special thanks to Barbara and her committee for moving forward with this project.

**In Memoriam**

Bernard (Bernie) Murphy was a faithful society member for many years. He served as our president for more than two terms; he was always ready to open the Resource Center for a day or two each month; he enjoyed manning our booth at the Newton County Punctin' Vine Fair, greeting old friends and making new ones.

Bernie was a born leader—always encouraging continued research and preservation of our county history and leading our programs and of course, cracking a joke that always made you think first – then smile. Bernie will be missed and our memories of him remain.

**The Marion J. Eller/Newton County Historical Society Scholarship**

Society member Marion J. (Rieger) Eller, (1932-2020), blessed our society with a generous donation from her estate that enables us to present two

\$1,000 scholarships each year to a North Newton and a South Newton graduating senior. With the help of the Jasper-Newton Foundation, these scholarships will continue through perpetuity, beginning in 2022. Read more about Marion Eller elsewhere in this edition.

**Monthly Meetings**

Our monthly meetings resumed in July, and we look forward to seeing everyone and sharing laughter and good friendships once again. Watch for meeting notices coming to you in the regular mail or in email.

**Newton County Ditches** *Continued from page 1 >*

McClellan: Redden, Lawler, Colbourne, Tuttle, Salisbury, Jacks, Templeton, Wooton, Hanger, Gaff; Mud Lake, Beaver Creek.

Beaver: Adams, Carlson, Duclos, Bower, Camblin, Salisbury, Deardurff, Zoborosky, Brunton, Shue, Johnson; Sheep Creek, Narrows.

Washington: Whaley, Thompson, Garrard, Clark, Shue, Chizum, Strole.

Jefferson: Bowton, Bonham, Montgomery, Kent, C. C. Kent, Talley, McCray, Ade, Bridgeman; Railroad.

Lincoln: Spitler, Hibler, Wendleburg, Rich, DeHaan, DeFries, Knight (?Kight), Gregory, Hillis, David.

Colfax: Rafferty, Gregory, Templeton, Hanley, Elijah, Deardurff, Bergren; Mud Lake, Little Lake.

Jackson: Deardurff, Beasy, Lintner, Clark, Guildenzoph, Long, Stucker, Holley, Spitler, Zoborosky, Battleday, Turner, Camblin, Haynes.

Iroquois: Camblin, Battleday, Turner, Haynes, Kurfess, Kleinkort, Jones, Barton, Weiss, Hunter; Mosquito Creek,

Hickory Branch.

Grant: Montgomery, Clymer, Kirkpatrick, Hunter, Bower, O'Brien, Peckham.

Older plat books and maps might reveal older names for these same ditches, some of which were on the map, and I included under the tables for each township. One such re-naming are the famous two creeks in which the town of Brook was named, Odle and Carpenter. Odle Creek became known as Darroch Ditch but today as the Illingsworth Ext.; Carpenter Creek today is the Hunter Ditch.

A report from the surveyor's office shows that there are 1,843,966.10 feet of ditches in Newton County, totaling 349.21 miles.

Some of the ditches lay on section line or end on section lines, please keep this in mind when reading the tables. Many ditches were not mapped, as there were built after the map was published. These are indicated in list at bottom. Abbreviation Key: T-Township; N-North; R-Range; W-West; S-Section. *Township lists follow on several pages in this issue.*

<b>Lake Twp.T31N R10W and R9W</b>		
<b>Name of Ditch</b>	<b>Where in Twp. Begins</b>	<b>Where in Twp. Ends</b>
Conklin`	R10W S25	R10W S1 into Kankakee River
Best	R10W S36	R10W S1 into Kankakee River
Coon Marsh` (1897)	R10W S1 from Best	R10W S1 into Kankakee River
Best Tile Lateral #3 Conv.`	R9W S30	R9W S30 into Best
Best Tile Lateral #2 Conv.`	R9W S36	R9W S25 into Best
Best Tile Lateral #1 Conv.`	R10W S36	R10W S36 into Best
LaSalle F&W Open`	R9W S7	R10W S12 into Best
B. F. Davis`/Geo. Watts	R9W S18	R9W S6 into Kankakee River
Knight-Moffitt*	R9W S25 from Lincoln Twp.	R9W S11 into McDowell Branch Spring Creek
McDowell Branch Spring Creek`	R9W S11	R9W S2 into Kankakee River
Beaver Lake (Tolin)	R9W S28 from McClellan Twp.	R9W S5 into Kankakee River

*Continued on page 16 >*



## 4 The Newcomer

### Kentland Placed Upon the Map in 1860 by the late Alexander J. Kent

Has Been the Business Center of the County for Many Years and the Supply Point for a Large Territory  
The Fire Fiend Has Partially Destroyed the Town Many Times, but Like a Phoenix it Rises From the Ashes  
Great Improvement Made in the Last Few Years. Good Substantial Brick Buildings Erected.

Reprinted from *Newton County Enterprise*, 1894

"Kentland was laid out in 1860 by Mr. Alexander J. Kent and was made the county seat of Newton County the same year, being selected for that purpose by L. Dunlap, Joseph Allen and Samuel H. Owen, commissioners appointed by Governor Willard to locate the county seat. The location of the county seat at Kentland may have been of some advantage to the town in the beginning, but its most thoughtful citizens are convinced that it has long since ceased to be of any commercial advantage to the town. No county buildings worthy of the name or proper in capacity or construction to serve the purpose have ever been constructed. The possession of the county seat, too, has been a positive disadvantage to the trade of the town because of the animosities it has engendered and which still survives.

"Kentland from the beginning had a large trade and was the supply point for a large territory, embracing nearly all of Newton County, a large portion of Benton County, and part of Iroquois County, Illinois. For many years Newton County had but one railroad, the C. St. L. & P., but the building of the Big Four in 1873 passing as it did near on the west and south built up new trading points which took a large trade from Kentland, and the later construction of the coal road has largely interfered with

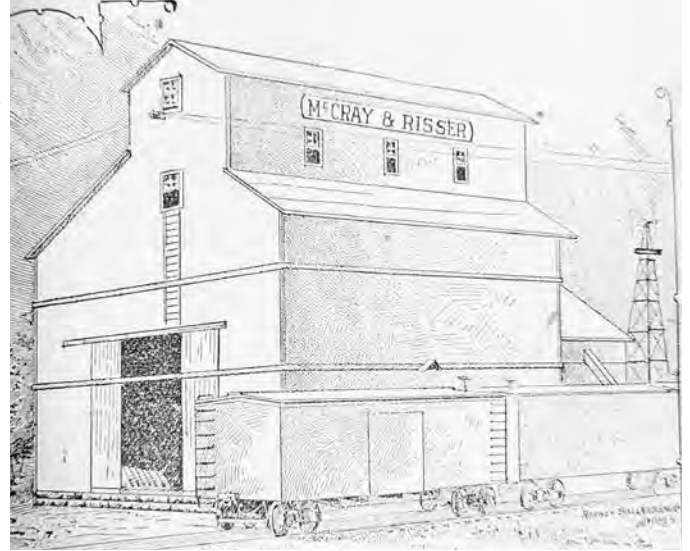
the trade of the territory on the east and north, but it still is the center of trade of a large section of fertile country, which by drainage and improved methods of farming has increased in its production greatly, and its necessities accordingly and has partially at least compensated for the loss of trade over a broader area.

"The town was at its best about 1876 when it had the largest population, about 1,200. At that time the destruction of the business portion of the town by fire of November 1870, has been compensated by the erection of the Phelps Block, the Smith and Kent Block and some other good business buildings on Third Street.

"Jefferson Township in 1876 cast 536 votes, about 300 of which were by residents of Kentland. But disasters came. The fire fiend, whether by the hand of the incendiary or by accident, has since then twice reduced to ashes the principal business portion of the town. The people became discouraged, and

the town steadily retrograded until after 1890.

"Another cause of depression was a large town debt incurred in 1871 and 1872 in the erection of a fine substantial school building, the cost of which with furniture was about \$25,000. It was built when prices of labor and materials were high, upon



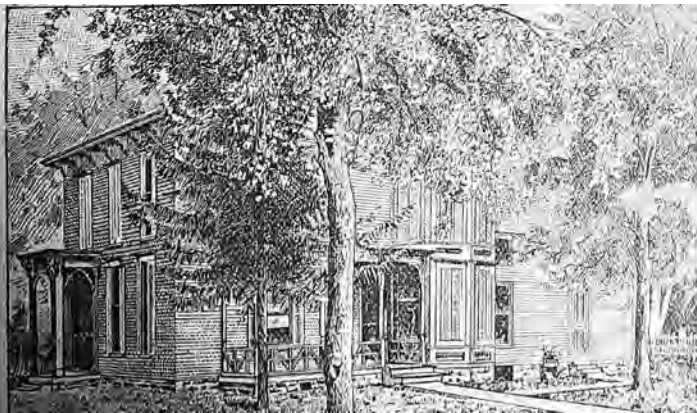
McCray & Risser elevator was located at the southwest corner of Third Street and U.S. 24 today. NCE 1894.

borrowed capital at 8 and 10 percent.

"The rate of taxation had to be increased to over 3 percent for a long term of years, to pay the interest and reduce the principal, during which time the town could not undertake any new enterprise. But finally release came.

"The last bond was paid. Taxes greatly reduced. The people found they had in their public school house a substantial building, worth all the money it cost, and which would answer all the school wants of the town for a generation to come. It was no flimsy structure requiring soon to be renewed, but capacious, convenient, solid and substantial, and has been, and will many years in the future be of great advantage to the town. Some desultory efforts at public enterprise commenced after the school debt was paid. The gas well was bored and gave a good water supply which has been utilized for filling cisterns for fire protection. A fairly good fire engine was procured and a fire company organized, which has given proof of great efficiency, and has saved much property from destruction.

"The town was not dead but had taken a long rest after many disasters.



Home of Jethro T. Hatch, Kentland's first physician and author of "Ralph, the Story of Bogus Island." Today (2021), the home is the location of Stitz Funeral Home. NCE 1894.

But it had a solid foundation and enterprising inhabitants, so the day of its regeneration had to come. The first sign of renewed energy was shown in the rebuilding of the burned elevator property, by McCray and Risser now owned by McCray and Morrison; the next was the construction of several fine and substantial residences in the north part of town, following which came new residences and old ones renewed and remodeled all over town, so much that a resident of ten years ago would hardly know the town now on revisiting it. Then the machine shop of Williams Brothers and Johnson have shown great pluck and energy in rebuilding it. They are doing a splendid business, and it proves to be a most useful institution to the county. They are energetic and skillful, and are prepared to repair all kinds of machinery from a sewing machine to a traction engine, and can build anything required either in iron or wood. The pluck of the businessmen and citizens of Kentland has been best shown during the past two years of business distress and disaster all over the country. During this time, Third Street, the main business street of the town has been macadamized with crushed rock in a most substantial and satisfactory manner, an electric light plant erected, amply lighting the town, and the last remaining spots of former disastrous fires have been filled with substantial brick business rooms, and last but not least, the ground exposed by the burning out of five business houses, a wooden row, in this year of grace 1894 has already been covered by a fine brick block.

“Among the notable buildings of the present year is the imposing two story building of Dodson Brothers adjoining the Kent block on the north, the upper room of which has been leased for a term of years and will be occupied by the Knights of Pythias.

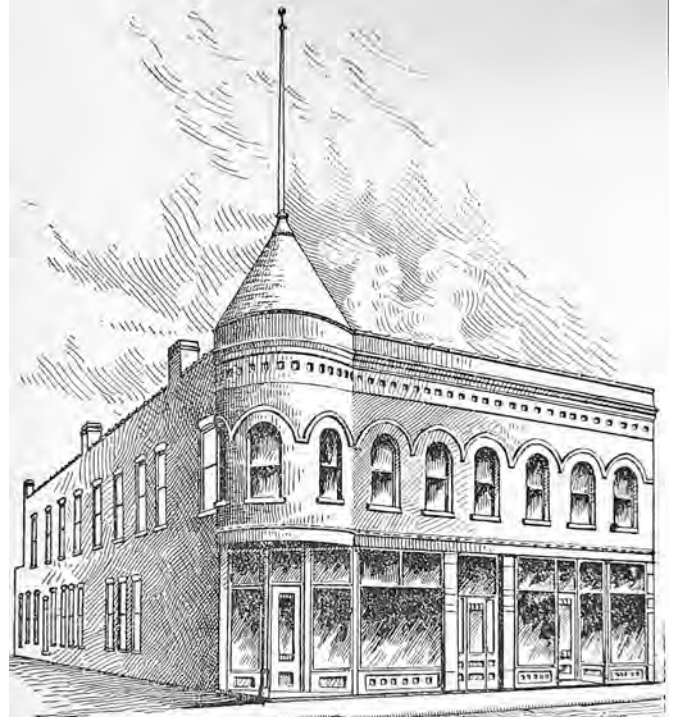
“The hotel building on Third street west of Public Square, is a fine imposing building in modern style and will make a first class hostelry - a long felt want in Kentland.

“Today Kentland is in better condition than it has been for many years. It is rapidly recovering its lost population. Its wealth is increasing. Its trade is returning and it is on a solid basis.

“The people of Kentland are loyal to Newton County. They take pride in the growth and advancement of the whole county. There is no local jealousy of surrounding towns, or of sections; but with malice toward none and charity for all, our people are ready and willing to aid in any work which will tend to advance the welfare of the whole county.

“Kentland is not perfect, nor is it finished. It has many needs. Today it ought to have a public hall centrally located, adapted to general use for public meetings as well as theatrical, concert and exposition purposes. It would not be a difficult matter to secure the necessary capital, and it will not be long until this want will be supplied; in the meantime the school hall furnishes a good substitute. A good flouring mill would pay well here, and give to a large section of the county much needed milling facilities. It is a recognized fact that our soil is becoming better adapted year by year to the growth of small grain, but the lack of mills has prevented the sowing of wheat. A canning factory could be as well supplied here with vegetables to can as anywhere in the whole country, and would give employment to many persons. If profitable anywhere it ought to be here. All those things cannot come in a day, but from time to time as the ability and opportunity of our enterprising citizens will permit, they will all be realized.”

KENTLAND'S NEW \$10,000.00 HOTEL.



Kentland's \$10,000 Hotel, 1894

Herewith we present a cut of the new hotel which occupies 48x104 feet of ground. On the first floor is an office 20x30 feet, dining room 22x10 feet, kitchen, laundry, ware room, commercial men's sample room, and a business room 20x76. On the second floor there is a parlor, sitting room and twenty large guest rooms well ventilated and lighted. The building will be finished throughout with what is known as East Lake, and will be heated and lighted on a modern plan. NCE 1894.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIS J. KIRKPATRICK.

Home of Willis J. Kirkpatrick, 304 E. Carroll St., who was the partner of Warren T. McCray in the grocery business in Kentland known as McCray and Kirkpatrick until 1889. NCE 1894.



## Historian's Corner

Mother and Father's Day by *Newton County Historian Diana Elijah*

### Origins of Mother's Day

Ancient Greeks and Romans honored mothers with festivals for Goddesses Rhea and Cybele. (Google them to find more info). The modern precedent for Mother's Day was the early Church festival known as Mothering Sunday. In the U.K. and Europe this was the 4th Sunday of Lent and people returned to their Mother Church. Did you know that Mothering Sunday became more secular, then merged with American Mother's Day?

The "Mother's Day" we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, in one divided West Virginia town celebrated "Mother's Work Days" that brought together the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers.

Suffragette Julia Ward Howe, who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" in 1870, wrote a Mother's Proclamation which called people to action to have the U.S. government to proclaim an official Mother's Day.

However, Mother's Day did not become a commercial holiday until 1908, when—inspired by Jarvis's daughter, Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her own mother by making Mother's Day a national holiday—the John Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored a service dedicated to mothers in its auditorium.

Thanks in large part to this association with retailers, who saw great potential for profit in the holiday, Mother's Day caught on right away. In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of "that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America."

**More phone calls are made on that day than any other holiday.**

### Origins of Father's Day

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers, and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Many men, however, continued to disdain

the day. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother's Day—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential reelection campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last and officially celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

**The necktie is the most popular of all Father's Day gifts, while hammers and golf clubs are also popular presents.**

My parents and I went to one side of the family or other



Diana and her daughter Elaine.



Diana's family gathered for "luncheon on the lawn" dressed in special frocks and hats for the celebration of Mother's Day, 2021. left, front to back: Tom Smith, Ryan and Adrienne (granddaughter) Maxwell and their son Conrad T. Maxwell, Diana's great-grandson. Right, front to back, granddaughter Gabrielle, daughter Elaine (Elijah) Smith and Diana.

for Mother's Day and my mother was intent upon making that weekend whichever place was easier for Grandma. Dad's mother loved having everyone at the farm.

That was a bunch if they could all come! So, when I married, I always helped my mother-in-law with dinner and my parents who lived in Brook, were usually invited to the Elijah gatherings, more-so upon the passing of my grandmas. We always had carry-ins with this family. Cook-outs were popular with the Elijah clan.

Early years, late 50s-60s, corn was frequently still being planted in early May, so for many years the guys would go back to work in the fields after our dinners.

My daughter Elaine is always working at making memories, so we all dressed up with hats and had a Victorian luncheon on the lawn followed by croquet. Elaine was our hostess. 'Twas a little chilly in May this year and we celebrated the day before as rain was predicted for Mother's Day Sunday - which it did.

Most of our historical members reported not doing anything special for the two holidays. Nancy (Williams) Prue talked about the Brook Alumni for most of its years was held the evening before Mother's Day and so her family was involved with the alumni.

Barb Wilfong wrote: "There were no outstanding family traditions for Mother or Father's Day in our family. We always tried our best to gather together whether it be in a restaurant or in one of our homes to enjoy the day, and celebrate our wonderful parents with food, laughter and story telling."

Flowers For Mom



Carson Misiara, Diana's great-grandson presented his mother Rae (Elijah) Misiara with a picked bouquet of beautiful flowers - with a look of love and adoration for his Mom - which is what Mother's day is all about!

An Evening With Roosevelt

Society members were dazzled by the brilliant performance of Gib Young as Teddy Roosevelt at their August meeting.



He spoke of his involvement with the development of our national parks and monuments and much more. Many members felt they were taught more history in this presentation than in their high school history class.

Morocco Courier, September 19, 1919

New Company Formed

"Plans are underway for the immediate organization of a \$10,000 Cry-and-Smile Company in Morocco. This preparation devised by J. R. Purkey, has proven one of the most popular drinks ever put on the market, and the new cooperation proposes to promote the sale of it all over the nation. One of the first steps will be to employ an artist to make a new drawing with "Drink Purk's Cry-and-Smile" neatly engraved on a big lemon.

"Mr. Purkey and A. M. Robertson recently met with C. J. Hill, secretary-treasurer of the Orange Crush Co., of Chicago. During the past few weeks Mr. Hill has made several tests with the new drink, and he informed the Morocco boys that this was the only drink of its kind on the market that will mix with other drinks, or that can be used in ice cream sodas, etc.

"J. R. Purkey's desire is that his Cry-N-Smile customers and friends have a chance to buy some of this stock. Those interested should see Mr. Purkey or Mr. Robertson at once, as already most of the stock is promised.

"Should this deal materialize, there is little or no probability of failure, it will be a great boon to Morocco, for the plant to manufacture the drink, as well as the head offices, will be located here."

Read more in the "Morocco Sesquicentennial Collection."



A day of croquet with Diana's family, l-r, Conrad on porch, Ryan, Adrienne and Tom.

Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - Answers on page 23

1. George Ade, Newton County's author and playwright wrote the first ever play about football. Can you name this play?
2. What was the original name of Newton County's LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area?
3. What was the original name of Newton County's Willow Slough Fish and Game Area?
4. The once beautiful Beaver Lake had an aboriginal name. Can you name it?
5. George Ade, Newton County's author and playwright, was a staunch Republican. Mr. Ade was offered a vice-presidential spot on the ticket of what presidential candidate?



## 8 The Newcomer

### Marion J. (Rieger) Eller

The society is honored to announce that they have recently received a generous monetary gift from the estate of Marion J. (Rieger) Eller.

For many years, Marion had ongoing communication with member Janet Miller regarding her Rieger family history and made donations of items from Newton County, in particular Kentland, to our Resource Center in Kentland. She stopped in the center several times throughout the year, but we saw her the most in the summer, usually around the time of the Kentland High School Alumni gatherings.

Marion was born on October 12, 1932, to Jacob and Mae (Swaim) Rieger in Watseka, Illinois. Her father was the first delivery postman in Kentland and later worked at that post office. Her parents also owned and operated Rieger's Bakery that was located on the square in Kentland. Her grandmother, Carrie Swaim worked for Governor and Mrs. McCray and allied families.

She was a 1950 graduate of A. J. Kent High School and graduated from Indiana State University in 1954 with a bachelor's degree. She then graduated from Colorado University with a master's degree in Education. She spent nine years as a teacher at Rochester High School and retired from Northwestern High School in 1996 after 32 years of service.

In 1963 she married Richard "Dick" Eller in Kentland, who preceded her in death in 2009. They had two sons, Michael Charles and Richard Wayne. She enjoyed raising sheep.

#### Items Donated to Society

She first gave us a recording machine so that we might preserve history by doing oral visits with members of the community. She also brought a tape she had recorded of her



mother, Mae Rieger. This came along just at the time as member Nancy Jo Prue was compiling oral histories.

She gave us two beautiful clocks: a wooden Craftsman Style belonging to Alice Ade Davis, a sister to George Ade and Mrs. Ella McCray; and a Rosalind Cast Iron Clock, from the Anson Clock Co. that belonged to Fannie (McCray) Comporet, sister of Gov. W. T. McCray.

A large and small spinning wheel and a wool winder which reflect her interest in sheep and the wool industry

One of the most interesting items is the old wooden pigeonhole mailbox desk (see more info below), that came from the first Kentland Post Office which was located on North Third Street. It has some of the original names listed under the boxes. Her father had rescued this antique when the old post office moved to the new post office on Graham Street.

A doll house, and cardboard house her father had made for her when she was a child, a doll highchair and other old toys are now part of our collection.

We also have her wedding dress and her husband's wedding attire.

We have cookbooks and a baker's hat from Rieger's Bakery in our business displays.

Much paper memorabilia that her mother had saved through the years, such as obits from Newton County, program books, newspaper articles, scrapbook items, and church bulletins.

Two cupboards: a breakfront that was in the Kentland Pythian Sisters Hall and an oak cabinet that had belonged to Fannie McCray Comporet, sister of Gov. Warren T. McCray.

Our collection of antiques and the ability to continue to preserve and promote Newton County history is extended well into the future because of her generous contributions.

### Kentland Post Office Recollections of Mae (Swaim) Reiger



Wooden mailbox holder from the first Kentland Post Office.

*"In 1929, Christmas we were snowbound for three days. No mail on Saturday. Jingle Wilson took his team and box wagons and left early for Sheldon. He brought back the box wagon loaded with first class mail. By late afternoon we got a truck load of boxes. Sunday, they loaded our car with mail. Walter Gerrick drove, and Jake and Kenny Richcreek delivered. They went up to Kents. Coming back got stuck in a snowdrift. Walt couldn't get out and Jake tried and tore the back end of our car out. Finished delivering by late afternoon with Walt's Coupe. Packages weren't delivered, so Monday at the Post Office we were busy handing out packages."*

**Left: Kentland Post Office pigeonhole desk is on display at our Resource Center in Kentland.** Marion's father, Jacob Rieger saved the desk when it was discarded when the new post office was built. Some of the names could still be read on the boxes. They include Sheriff W. I. Strole; Dr. Curtis, D. C.; Ranier-Brown; Clerk; Selective Service; Sears; Jack's; F. Hall; Theatre; Penn RR; Jack Mullen; John D. Lacy; Eva Stephens; Yegerlehner; C. M. Murphy's IGA; Loaring; Tilton; Morton; Gott; Cloud; McCray; Yegerlehner; W. L. Hall; Telephone; Locker Plant; Krug Hardware; Meade; Sewing Shop; Sorrels; Fitzgerald; Kentland Hardware; Ashton; Hunters; Olson; Shoe Shop.



Above, this photo of Ramona Sego was taken in 1919 as she worked at the Kentland Post Office. The count of the mailbox holes in this photo match those of the desk at the Resource Center. It is a good possibility they are the same desk.



September 13, 1894 *Newton County Enterprise*

## Old Settler's Meeting Held - 1500 Young Settlers Enjoy Day At Least 100 Old Residents Present

"Old Settlers Day has come and gone but the hundred guests of the association will remember it for years to come. Here was a meeting place, and acquaintanceships were renewed and old friendship revived by pioneers that had been separated in many cases for a quarter of a century. The old settlers came, some with sprightly step, and some with unsteady hand and foot caused by great age, but the brightest one of them present showed the effects of their early hardships. The Association is more than pleased at the outcome. A day that has heretofore been a dry one passed off pleasantly and to the satisfaction of the directors and visitors. The meeting was called to order by Patrick Keefe, first vice-president of the association. Mr. Keefe spoke in his usual happy style, bidding the old settler a hardy welcome. He dwelt upon the past with its hardships, and today with its luxury and independence. He threw a little side talk about the World's Fair and closed with an eloquent flourish that called forth enthusiastic cheers. Mr. Keefe then introduced Mr. Zecha (as in paper) Spitler, president of the day. Mr. Spitler thanked the association for the courtesies tendered the pioneers, after stating that he was one of the first in this county, and locating the first place where court was held viz: Parish Grove, now in Benton County. Mr. Spitler closed.

"The next speaker was Wesley Spitler of Illinois. Mr. Spitler first came to this county in 1835, left his family in Ohio, and settled in old Bunkum, now Iroquois. His family arrived in 1836. The speaker went on to say that this country was called the lost land, but in his judgment it was today the found land. He spoke of the honesty of the people, stating that fifty-nine years ago he left 1000 pounds of bacon hanging in an open house

without a lock or key. Crime was almost unknown, the first real criminal coming from beyond Rensselaer. Mr. Spitler claims the distinction of marrying the first couple in 1837.

"D. M. Johnson, the historian of the north end, delivered the address of the day, confining his remarks to days of '48 and '49. He spoke of the wages paid in his day and informed the young men present that the best farm hand could only get \$12 per month, and in most instances they were glad to get even that. His description of his first home after marriage would cause the young married people of today to shiver; a little cabin, the cracks stuffed with slabs, roofed with clap board, puncheon floor and make-shift windows. His household furniture could easily be packed in a Jew's peddler pack. Kankakee city was the place people from this locality did their

shopping, or if they preferred Lafayette was the next point. Oats were hauled to either place, and brought from 14 to 15 cents a bushel. In Mr. Johnson's Township, there were 29 voters, of which 13 have since joined the silent majority.

"Peter Barker followed Mr. Johnson. He has lived in Indiana 75 years, Mr. Barker, like most of the early settlers, spent a great portion of his time in moving from place to place. He settled in Newton County in 1861. He closed his address by calling upon the pioneers to arrange their affairs, in order that their last move would be in the direction of Heaven.

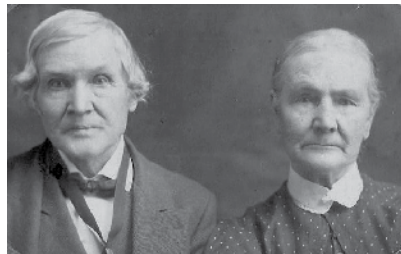
"Our fellow townsman, Mr. John Ade, delivered an interesting talk, dealing almost entirely with facts and figures. The main points of his address will be found in our county write up in this morning's issue. Mr. Ade is well qualified to speak upon this subject as he was an actual participant in many of the stirring scenes incident to the establishment of the county. His address was received with deep attention by the audience.

"Mr. David Nowells, the oldest pioneer, was unable to come. He sent the *Enterprise*, however, a brief outline of his experience, which in part reads as follows: "I was born in Holmes County, Ohio in 1821. In the fall of 1834 my father and I came to Bunkum, and having heard of the famous "Rapids of the Iroquois," (Rensselaer), we together with Joseph Yeoman, equipped ourselves for an expedition to that region. After our arrival we spent ten days looking about us, and being satisfied with the location, Joseph Yeoman took up a claim of 160 acres of land, the very land upon which the town of Rensselaer now stands. A cabin was commenced, and I, a lad of 13, hauled the material to the building site. Thus was laid the foundation

of the town of Rensselaer, and as far as I know the first house within the limits of Jasper County. Indians at this time were very plentiful, but friendly. Of the little company that settled at that point at that time I am the sole survivor. In the spring of 1838 I carried the mail from Logansport to Bunkum."

"Mr. Nowell's document is exceedingly interesting and we regret that we cannot publish it in full. W. W. Pfrimmer entertained the crowd with one of his original poems.

"The exercises were closed by President Spitler, dismissing the assembly. Among those present that did not speak we note the following: Eliza Whiteman; I. H. Eastburn; F. C. Lowe; Aaron Lyons; John Franklin; John Weldon; James Hoagland; M. L. Spitler; J. B. Lyons; D. Deardurff; Mrs. Jane Kenoyer; Mrs. Dodson; Senator Gilman."



David (1821-1913) and  
Phebe Ann (Benjamin)  
(1819-1907) Nowells

David Nowells located to Bunkum, Illinois with his father John, sister Sarah and her husband, Joseph Yeoman at the age of 13. They took up claims in Jasper County, Indiana known as the "Rapids of the Iroquois" and built the first cabin in the settlement, thus laying the foundation for Rensselaer, Indiana.

## Pages of the Past

Excerpts taken from the Newton County Enterprise Spring, 1921 | By Janet Miller

### Newton County

Market Report - March 10: New Corn - \$0.52; Oats - .38; Eggs - .28; Butter - .40; Potatoes - \$1.50.

### Kentland

**The Kentland Grill. New Eating House to Open Saturday in Drake Block.** O. R. Reames who recently purchased the Markley Restaurant, expects to open the doors to the public on Saturday. The place has been redecorated and refurnished throughout and will be known as the Kentland Grill. Mr. Reames will serve meals and short orders and will operate a soda fountain.

**William Collins** has a letter from his sister in England, the first he has received in four years. Two of his sister's sons were killed in the war, one was gassed and the other was a truck driver.

**Mike Duffy** was in Kentland Tuesday morning trying to rouse out a lawyer before nine o'clock, and was successful, but under protest. Mike lives on the farm and keeps a rooster for an alarm clock.

**Two reels of the pictures** taken at the last International Livestock Show will appear at the Kentland Theatre next Monday night. A feature is made in these pictures of the members of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs who won trips to the International.

**A number of the Kentland** members of the Ladies Hazelden Bridge Club were at Rensselaer yesterday guests at a Bridge party given by the Rensselaer members of the club.

### Colfax

**County Commissioner George H. Hillis** was down from his home in Colfax Tuesday on business. Mr. Hillis is away on a ten day visit. He says wheat and rye are looking good and farm work is wonderfully advanced for this time of the year, made possible by the good weather we have been having.

### Goodland

**O'Neil's Change Farms.** Mr. and Mrs. B.F. O'Neil moved to their farm on the north Goodland road on Monday, and their son Frank and wife moved to the farm vacated. The senior Mr. O'Neil

has lived on the Mrs. L. Kent Morrison farm just north of town for seventeen years, and surrenders the place with a feeling of sadness."It is breaking most agreeable ties," Mr. O'Neil stated to an *Enterprise* reporter, "for there is not a landowner in the state that will compare with Mrs. Morrison."

**Work Started On Museum. A. D. Babcock Erecting Building to House Collection.** Thirty-six years ago, Attorney A. D. Babcock of Goodland was given a stone axe by a friend and told to start a museum. The idea took root and since that time Mr. Babcock has scoured the four corners of the earth for relics, curios, etc. and his collection became so large that it was necessary to build a building for display. Work is now in progress on the new museum, and in his will Mr. Babcock proposes to leave this museum to the children of Goodland.

**Talbot "Tigers" will be "Reds" First Opponents at Spinney Park. Come.** The opening game for the Goodland baseball club will be Sunday, May 1st, when the fast Talbot Tigers will come for a clash with the locals. The Tigers are no strangers here having played at both tournaments last year and made a good showing. The Goodland players signed for 1921 are as follows: Catcher: J. T. Chamberlain, Chalmers: Pitcher: Jesse Halliday, Brookston; 1st base: Chris Mulligan, Kentland; 2nd base: Paddy McGraw, Fowler; 3rd base: James Mead, Goodland; Short Stop: Mike Dwyer, Logansport; Fielders: Bert Gravel, Fred Klause (also extra pitcher); Ralph Heck, L. Gorman, and Mr. Jones, Rensselaer. From the *Goodland Herald*.

### Brook

**On Tuesday, February 22,** occurred the marriage of Miss Reba Whaley and Mr. Curtis B. Kindig at the U. B. parsonage, the Rev. J. W. Borkert officiating. Mrs. Kindig is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Whaley west of Brook. Mr. and Mrs. Kindig will make their new home on Mr. Whaley's farm south-east of Ade. They have the best wishes of their many friends.

**The Library circulation** reached the high water mark during February when a total of 1,767 volumes were circulated.

**Entertainment was high** here on Friday and Saturday while our team was in Gary engaged in the tournament. A large number of Brook people were in attendance at the games. We are proud of our boys. They put up a good fight, and we feel they made up a good record. On Friday afternoon they won over East Chicago by a score of 31-14. On Saturday morning in probably the hardest game in the tournament they won over Froebel in a score of 13-11. The score was tied at the end of the second half, so that it was necessary to play off the tie, which resulted in favor of Brook. Excitement was high throughout the auditorium during this game. In the afternoon we played Emerson and the game ended with the score in favor of Emerson. We are proud of the record our boys made.

**On Thursday evening** a banquet was given the basketball team by Karr, proprietor of Karr Restaurant. This was much appreciated by the boys and a good time was enjoyed by all.

### Morocco

**At a meeting held** at Morocco Monday night the farmers who had pooled their wool last year, decided to sell their wool which they have had in storage, and also appointed a committee to look after the pool for this year. The sentiment of the meeting was to stick with the state organization in its plan for wool pooling.

**Lightning Killed Farmer Monday. Fred Beckwith,** thirty-five years of age and unmarried, was killed by lightning Monday afternoon while working on the Zoborosky farm about five miles east of Morocco. Beckwith was engaged in discing at the time. The horses attached to the disc were not injured. Beckwith was a son of the late W. H. H. Beckwith, and was a hard working man.

### Julian

**Homecoming at Salem.** The little red schoolhouse is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. This year marks the



end of the Salem or Julian Schools in Iroquois Township, as it will give place to the new modern consolidated school at Foresman. This school, established about 1850, has played an important role in the educational and religious life of Newton and Jasper Counties. If the old building could only talk, the story that it would tell would rival the modern novel. Teachers by the score and pupils by the hundreds are now scattered to the four points of the compass. On the last day of the present term, Saturday, April 23, an effort will be made to combine with the regular program a sort of homecoming. Let everyone, be they former pupil, teacher, or patron, make a special effort to be back on that day and talk over old times. Each one who reads this announcement should appoint himself or herself a committee of one to spread the news, Let Salemites from far and near gather on that day with well filled baskets and make it a day to be long remembered. Miss Sparks is teacher.

**Mt. Ayr**

**Sheriff Makes Raid. Pat Miller of Mt. Ayr Arrested for Bootlegging.** Sheriff Gardner and Deputies H. B. Crawford, John Sullivan and Ray Hedrick, accompanied by Sheriff Woodworth of Jasper County and two federal officers of Hammond, raided the home of Pat Miller of Mt. Ayr Saturday night and seized a gallon of grain alcohol and about six quarts of whiskey. Miller was placed under arrest and taken to Rensselaer and Monday night was arraigned in court and released under a \$2,000 bond. Two men at the place at the time of the arrest were held as witnesses. The case will be called for trial at the May term.

**Old in Years, But Young in Hearts. Marriage License Issued to Groom Ninety-Two and Bride Eighty-Four.** Cupid must have gotten mixed in his engagements, and caused a record to be broken in the Clerk's Office Tuesday. Robert Scott Banks, giving his residence as Missouri and his age as 92, appeared at the marriage license desk, with Mrs. Lydia A. Davis of Mt. Ayr, aged 84, and called for one of the engraved permits issued at that office. Clerk Hosier

blinked his eyes, pulled a few typewriter kinks out of his back, and asked them to repeat the request. There was no mistake, the license was forthwith issued, and Squire Mock summoned. The ceremony was performed in the presence of the court attachees. The groom was in a happy mood and quite talkative. He had been married twice before but was willing to try again. The bride was sprightly for her years, and signed the record without glasses. She has been married four times before.

**News From Roselawn and Northern Newton**

Last Friday the Roselawn Schools closed with a picnic and basket dinner. About 200 persons were present and all

enjoyed a splendid dinner. Although the weatherman served up some bad weather, a program of spicy games was played by the children in the auditorium room to the amusement of those present. County Superintendent Schanlaub was present, attended the closing exercises and enjoyed a pleasant time visiting among the patrons and teachers. Our school population and patrons should count themselves fortunate that we have such an efficient man at the head of our public schools of our county.

**We hear that one** of our citizens received a kick from that "white mule" that seems to come from no one knows where, a few days ago, and in the tussle he lost his false teeth.

**Kentland Electric Light, Heat and Power Company Transforms Town To A Little City**

*Reprinted from the April 26, 1894, Newton County Enterprise*

"Last Friday evening the Kentland Electric Light, Heat and Power Company turned on the electric light, and by this simple act Kentland found herself transformed from a country town into a little city. It was entirely unexpected, and people in their stores and dwellings were greatly astonished to find themselves in possession of this great modern luxury on Friday evening when they had been informed by the company that the current would not be turned on until Saturday evening. The plant has started and has been in operation every night since, giving consumers a perfect service. It is usual that numerous vexatious delays and accidents occur at the opening of a new plant, but this has been an exception.

"A number of our citizens were fearful that the fifty candle power incandescent on the streets would not furnish sufficient light, but in this they were mistaken, as they give a magnificent light and every part of the town is well pleased with them. The residence service is giving great satisfaction. The light is beautiful, steady and very powerful, and every person that we have questioned say unhesitatingly that they would not part with the service.

"Tuesday the great arc lights arrived and were placed in position over the streets in the business portion. At night the streets were crowded with people to see the illumination and they were not disappointed. With the powerful two thousand candle power lights on the corner of Railroad, Graham and Dunlap streets the business part of town will be as light as day.

"The history of the plant is familiar. Mr. A. T. Presson and Mr. H. V. Templeton appeared among us last winter and stated that they would build an electric light plant here if they received the proper encouragement. A number of our citizens placed themselves in line with the improvement, and the *Enterprise* is proud to say that it was among first to endorse the plan. The city council, acting on a petition, granted a franchise and work was commenced within five days and has been pushed forward under the direction of Mr. Presson to its completion. The successful starting of the plant has proven that Messrs. Presson and Templeton thoroughly understand their business. Everything has been built as near perfect as possible and the engineer sent here by the General Electric Company, after a thorough examination, pronounced the plant perfect in every respect, and spoke highly of the gentlemen in charge of the work."

### Newton County - The North End - The Black Marsh

*Reprinted from the March 29, 1894*

*Newton County Enterprise*

"In company with Mr. Barnet Hawkins as engineer and Mr. I. W. Burton of Lake Township as joint viewers, the editor of the *Enterprise* has been devoting some days to the duty of finding the best route for a ditch to perfect the drainage of the region of country known as the Black Marsh in Lincoln and Lake Township.

"Newton County comprises two distinct and very dissimilar regions. To the south is open prairie with a deep rich soil, which to the north is the region of sand ridges and sandy flats covered with inferior growth of oak timber, while interspersed between the timber ridges and flats is found large and extensive bodies of marsh land.

"The south part of the county was well adapted to settlement and cultivation, and has been for years occupied and divided into many small farms, reasonably well improved and occupied by industrious and thrifty farmers. On the other hand, the north end, in a state of nature was poorly adapted to settlement and cultivation. Its occupancy and reclamation for man's use has therefore been slow, difficult and costly."

#### Original Survey

"Sixty years ago (1834) this north end of the county was surveyed by the government. The condition of the country there was reported by then Deputy Surveyor, Samuel Goodenow.

"McClellan Township (S30R9): This Township is all a lake or deep marsh or morass, except a little in the southwest corner. Marsh 4 or 5 feet deep. No outlet to lakes."

"Lake Township, (S31R9) he says: A great portion of this township is wet prairie, or in other words entirely a marsh. There is a small portion of timber growing along the margin of the Kankakee River. The whole Township bears the aspect of that of the surrounding country, alike interspersed with sand ridges which are dry, and donates a country destitute of any inducement to invite the emigrant to locate there. The marshes are principally covered

with alder wild rice. The timber upon the sand ridges is Black and White Oak and some underbrush. That along the river birch, maple, swamp ash and some willow.

"Colfax Township, (S30R8) the same deputy surveyor reports: "This township contains no good land. The prairie is all very marshy and the timber scattering, and the soil in the timber entirely sand I have seen no place fit for cultivation.

"Lincoln Township (S31R8) Deputy Surveyor Briggs, repeated: "This Township is entirely unfit for agricultural purposes, the soil being mostly sand. The marshes however are generally covered with grass, bulrushes, etc. The ridges were thinly covered with Yellow, Pin and White Oak. No undergrowth.

"It would be a revelation to these deputy surveyors if they were now permitted to revisit the scene of their labors of 60 years ago, and they would probably greatly modify their reports. The surveyors deserve credit for fairly honest work, as the corners established by them are readily found from the witness tree, and prove their lines as accurate as in a country less difficult to survey. The surveys of this north end were made mostly in the winter season, in fact, it would have been difficult to have made the survey except by the aid of the ice, for rubber boots had not then been invented. It must have been a lonely, cheerless job.

"Beaver Lake covered about 17,000 acres, and extended from near the State line, across McClellan and into Colfax Townships. The lake marsh or marsh directly adjoining the lake extended further east and south covering most the remainder of McClellan and a larger part of Colfax, while connected with this lake marsh by a narrow strait, is the Black Marsh, occupying a small part of Lake and large part of Lincoln Township, extending east even into Jasper County.

"So long as the waters of Beaver Lake remained, the surrounding marshes could not be drained, and this whole region remained the paradise of the hunter and trapper. In 1853 the U. S. ceded its swamp lands to the states,

conditioned that the states use the proceeds so far as necessary for their drainage. A very large portion of the north end of Newton County thus became the property of the State, but the State has made a conspicuous failure in draining the same. It did however, cut an outlet through the retaining sand ridge on the south side of Beaver Lake, and it allows its waters to flow north to the Kankakee River. The surface of the lake having an elevation of about 45 feet above the river, 5 miles distant, caused a rush of water which has cut for itself, aided from time to time by man, a wide deep channel which affords sufficient drainage to the adjacent lands, as well as to the body of the lake, as well as greatly reducing the water in the adjacent marshes, and rendering a large amount of marsh land fit for grazing; and the cowboy put in an appearance much to the detriment of the hunter and the trapper.

"Following the drainage of Beaver Lake, some effort at settlement by farmers on small tracts was made, but experience soon proved that the country was not yet prepared for diversified farming. A large expenditure of money would be regained for more thorough drainage, and that after drainage, grazing would be necessary to compact the peaty soil of the marshes before it was fit for the plow."

#### Large Land Owners

"Then commenced the process of gathering these lands into large tracts which is still going on. Among the present large land owners in the north end of Newton County are the following: Mrs. Rachel S. Gaff, over 10,000 acres; Lemuel Milk estate about 800 acres; John A. Kent about 7,700 acres beside adjoining lands in Jasper County; Allen Gregory about 7000 acres; Henry H. Cooley's estate about 6,000 acres; A. L. Pogue about 5500 acres; Mrs. Jennie M. Conrad about 4400 acres; Joseph and John Adams about 3500 acres; James Hill about 3000 acres; Morris and Greenhaut 2500 acres; Clarey and Payne about 2200 acres; the Danforths and Bupest about 2100 acres; Mrs. Franklin Sanders about 1500 acres; Samuel McCorkle, Lawler Bros., Ban-



croft, Moore Bros., Schultz and Crowley, and James H. Moore have each holding of 1000 acres or over.

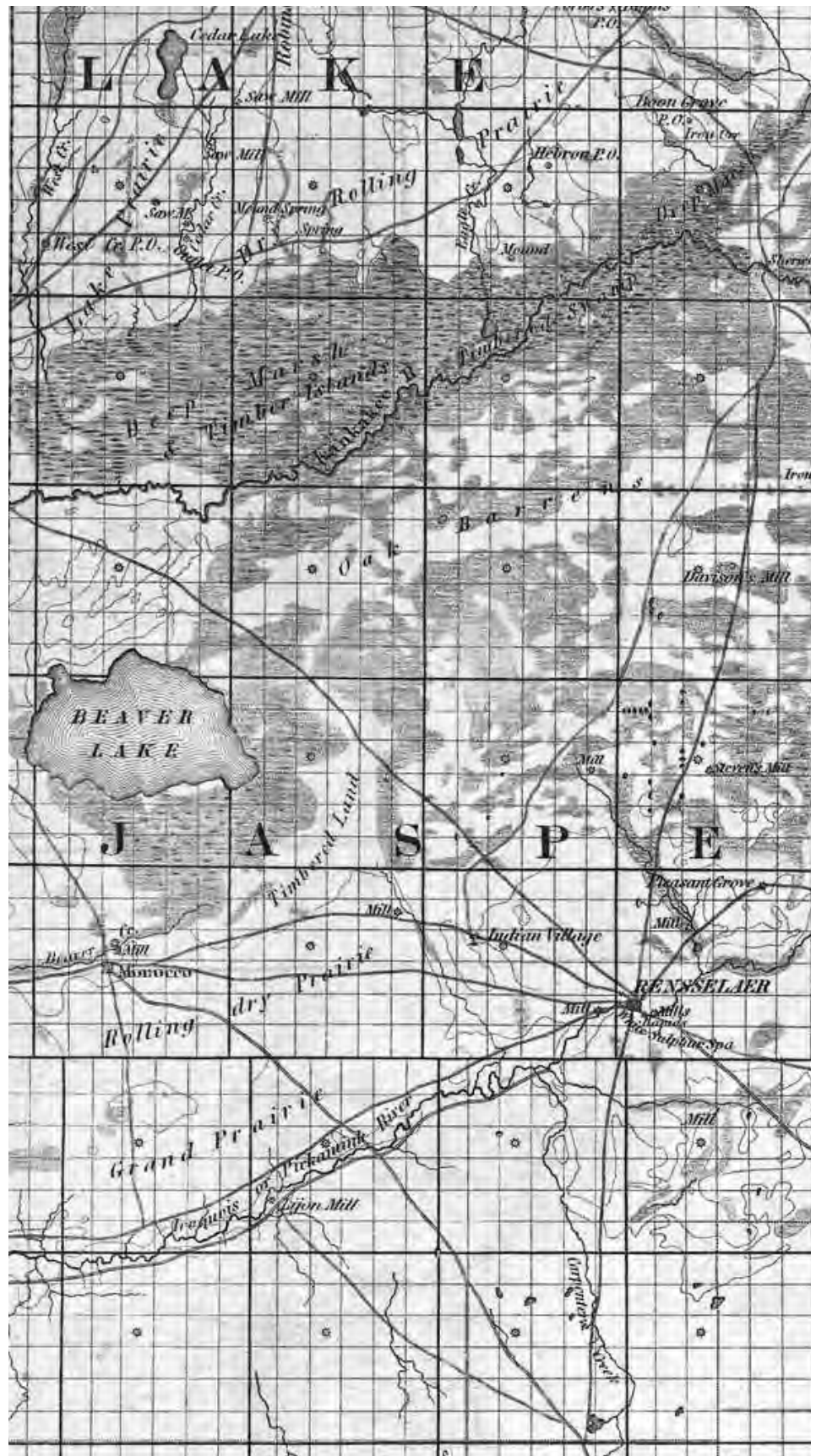
“Some of these large holdings are by non-resident speculators who do nothing for the improvement of the country; but the majority of these large holdings are in the hands of enterprising and intelligent men who have labored long and earnestly, and spent their money liberally to improve the country and advance the general welfare.

“The Black Marsh proper in Lake and Lincoln Townships embraces a dozen or more sections of marsh land, which will become valuable agricultural lands when properly drained. The old Black Marsh Ditch passes through the south part of this marsh nearly six miles and then bends south into the lake marsh and finally empties its waters into the lake outlet ditch. It has greatly relieved the marsh of its surface water, but has failed to benefit its northern portion.

“The new proposed ditch is located in the northern portion of the Black Marsh and extends west into Lake Township and then north into the river, at spring creek near Blue Grass, several miles above the lake outlet ditch. A low divide with a short cut has been found between the west end of black marsh and the river marsh, and the ditch can have a good fall in all its course.

“That this is a better region for diversified farming than it has hitherto had credit for its manifest from the numerous small farms with comfortable dwellings and neat surroundings to be found wherever there is any chance of drainage. Within two hours of Chicago, the best general market in the world, a ready sale is had for all productions, whether vegetables, eggs, butter milk or hay and stock. On the stock farms of moderate size are produced the needed grain and hay for feed. Good crops of corn have been grown on the white oak flats after the brush has been removed, as well as on the richer marsh and where the soil has become dry enough for the plow.

“The progress of the past gives great promise for the future, and we look forward to the time when all this northern region will be densely populated as the southern part of the county, and its lands become as valuable.”



1852 Colton Map. This map depicts the vast amount of marsh and swamplands that occupied our county at the time, known as Jasper.



# Home Is Where Your Story Begins

Dorothy Molson of Colfax Township

by Beth Bassett

Farming is more than an occupation for Dorothy Molson, it is her way of life.

Dorothy grew up milking twenty cows a day, outside, rain or shine. She has worked fields behind a four and two-horse hitch, then tending to the needs of those horses after the days' work. All while attending school to finish her high school education. Her roots run deep into the soils of Kankakee County, Illinois and Newton County, Indiana. Her love for the benefits of farming far outweighs the toils and trouble along the way. About two years ago, Dorothy turned over the Molson farming operations to her daughter Gale - at the age of 94.

Dorothy M. (Fountain) Molson was born in Kankakee County, Illinois to Eva (Eggen) and Fred Fountain. She grew up in Pembroke Township working alongside her mother in the fields, garden, and pastures to provide for the family. She and her sister Betty attended St. Anne High School, graduating in 1943. Following the inspiration of Amelia Earhart, Dorothy attended flight school and obtained her pilot's license - she had hoped to expand her flying ability, and assist during wartime, but the training camp proved to be too expensive.

In 1948, she married Albert Wil-

liam "Al" Molson, whose family owned a farm down the road from Dorothy. About the same time, her mother was able to purchase farmland in Newton County, so the three pulled up stakes from Illinois and moved to Colfax Township in Newton County.

After talking with Dorothy, I realized that a farmer needs more than simply great weather to have a successful farm. You must know what works best in the soil: which seed, what chemicals, and how much moisture. And you must work hard, day and night, 365 days a year. Dorothy and Al worked side-by-side on the farm - equal in their skills of operating equipment, handling livestock, and managing the farm.

The first year they added nitrates to the soil for the wheat crop, dug a few ditches and doubled the size of the harvest for that year. This success gave the pair the confidence to continue moving forward with their future farm plans.

The Molson farm holdings would grow over the years. Acquiring lands in other townships and eventually selling those to purchase land closer to their own farm. The initial land holdings of 261 acres grew to 2700 (+) acres. Lands include pasture for a 60-head herd of black angus cattle, and then a herd of horses in later years.

They had a few dairy cattle at first,

but when their milk buyer closed, they decided to abandon dairy production. They had a few hogs too, but those were used to sell and for meat.

Dorothy said that the tractor was one of the best innovations for the farm - as it replaced those poor old horses that had to do the heavy work in the spring and fall. You had to have a bit of animal science in your head to keep them going from dawn to dusk, when to rest them, water them and see to their needs. The old collars would rub sores on their shoulders, and they could easily over-drink at the water trough if you did not watch them. Most farmers treated their horses like family members and saw to their needs as they would their own children.

Dorothy and Al have two children, Dawn, who recently passed away, and Gale. Both girls were active in 4-H and were ribbon winners in a variety of barns at the fairgrounds. "It was a great way for all of us to get away from the farm for a while. We would also take off for the lake on the weekends after planting to water ski - little time for vacations for farmers," she told me.

Dorothy participated in the tractor pull at the Newton County Fair one year - "only one," she said, "I really didn't like it."

Dorothy ran for a position on the



Sister Betty and Dorothy; Betty and Dorothy with guitar; Flight school grad, Dorothy, 1943; First wheat crop, Newton County.



North Newton School Board and sat on the board from July 1970 through June 1986 and returned in July 1994 through June 2002. Dorothy is very grateful toward a member of the teaching staff at St. Anne who encouraged her to finish high school. She feels that by serving on the school board, she was able to give something back to her community that gave her so much during her lifetime.

Al passed away in 2003 at the age of 81. For the next 16 years, 600 acres of their farm would be tended by Dorothy alone - except for the planting. She felt she just could not handle it and hired out for help. She loved sitting in the tractor in the spring preparing the fields. In fact, she still has one of her favorite tractors sitting in the barn. It is the first tractor they purchased, an IH 450 purchased in 1945.

"I just can't sell it. It means too much for me - I love that tractor," she said.

They harvested their fields initially with a Cockshut self-propelled combine, but when the John Deere 9600s came out - the Molsons were sold on it.

"It was amazing, you didn't have to get out and clean out the back to get rid of all the chaff that would clog up - you simply pushed a pedal on the floor, backed it up - and it would all come out!" she explained.

She enjoyed harvesting and seeing the bounty of their work at the end of the season.

She said, "It makes it all worth-while to do it yourself - you achieve a great

sense of satisfaction and can sleep well each night, knowing you have done a good day's work."

When I asked if she had any advice to those wanting to become a farmer she smiled and said, "It's a good profession - very satisfying, but you have to discipline yourself and use common sense."

After a health issue two years ago, she came home to the farm to work the fields and discovered the hired help for planting had already prepped the fields. This was very disappointing to her on many levels and decided that it was time to let it go. And she did.

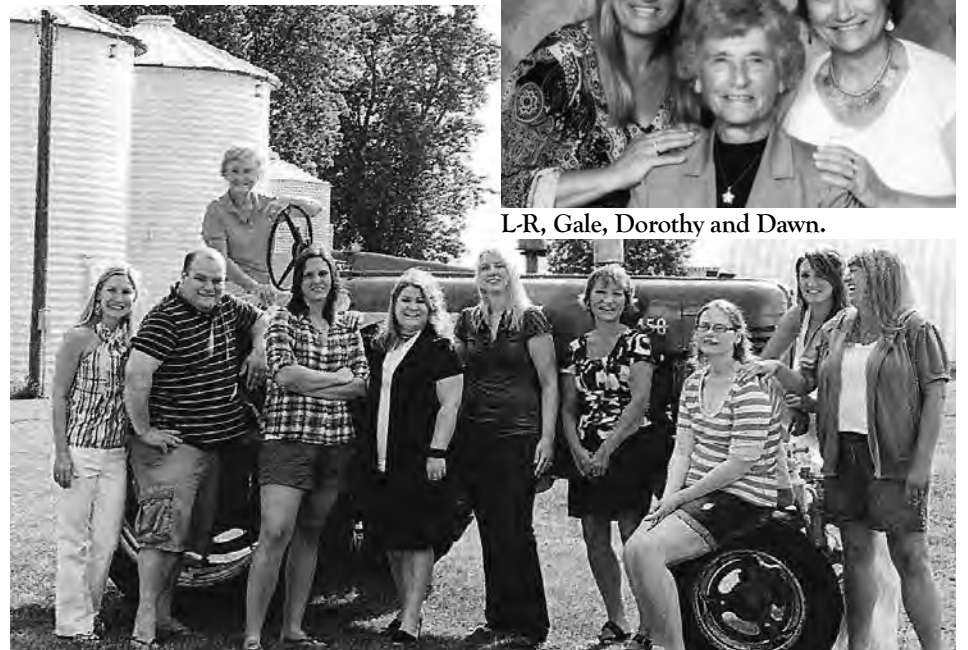
But her heart and soul remain in the fields with each passing spring and fall.



Dorothy and Al at a school board function.



L-R, Gale, Dorothy and Dawn.



Sitting on her IH 450, Dorothy Molson is surrounded by her daughters and grandchildren. Left to right, Jessica, Josh, Claire, Lara, Sara, Dawn (daughter), Annie, Natalie, and Gale (daughter).



A young Dorothy and Al; Dorothy and her dogs; On the tractor with her dog, 1947; Mom Eva Fountain, with Dorothy's daughters, Dawn, (right) and Gale. Dorothy is very grateful to her mother for taking care of the girls during the height of the farming season.

# 16 The Newcomer

> Continued from page 3 - Lake Township Ditches Continued

Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Beaver Lake Lateral`	R9W S8	R9W S5 into Kankakee Reiver
Lawler Ditch	R9W S21	R9W S6 from McClellan Twp.
GreenAcre Lateral #2`	R9W S33	R9W S33 into Beaver Lake (Tolin)
GreenAcre Lateral #1	R9W S33	R9W S33 into Beaver Lake (Tolin)
NC Map ID: `not mapped; *Knight.		
<b>McClellan T30N R10W and R9W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Redden	R10W S1 from Illinois	R10W S6 into Lawler
Houseworth-Riner**	R9W S18 from Lawler	R10W S6 into Beaver Twp.
Lawler	R9W S17	R9W S6 into Lake Twp.
Lawler Lateral #2` *`	R9W S17	R9W S17 into Lawler
One-Half Section Line Lateral` *`	R9W S20	R9W S20 into Colbourne Cleanout
Colbourne Clearout` *`	R9W S20	R9W S19 into Houseworth-Riner**
Lateral on South Line S20`	R9W S20	R9W S20 into Colbourne Cleanout
Tuttle Lateral`	R9W S29	R9W S30 into Houseworth-Riner**
Salisbury	R9W S21	R9W S33 into Beaver Twp.
Jacks	R9W S9	R9W S3 into Beaver Lake (Tolin)
Beaver Lake (Tolin)	R9W S13 from Colfax Twp.	R9W S34 into Lake Twp.
Mud Lake	R9W S1 from Colfax Twp.	R9W S2 into Beaver Lake (Tolin)
Templeton	R9W S22	R9W S11 into Beaver Lake (Tolin)
Wooton Ditch`	R9W S23	R9W S24 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Murdock Lateral #1`	R9W S23	R9W S23 into Wooton Ditch`
NNHS Open Lateral`	R9W S23	R9W S23 into Rainford Lateral`
Murdock Lateral #2`	R9W S22	R9W S23 into Murdock Lateral #1`
Rainford Lateral`	R9W S23	R9W S35 into Hanger
Hanger	R9W S34	R9W S35 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Short Lateral`	R9W S34	R9W S34 into Hanger
Short Lateral #2`	R9W S34	R9W S34 into Short Lateral`
Bolley`	R9W S34	R9W S2 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Molson^	R9W S36 from Colfax Twp.	R9W S36 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Beaver Creek (Gaff)	R9W 25 from Wooton Ditch	R9W S35 into Beaver Twp.
NC Map ID: `not mapped; *Lawler; **Riner-Houseworth; ^Bergren		
<b>Beaver T29N R10W and R9W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Houseworth-Riner**	R9W S6	R10W S12 into J.C. Murphey Lake
Houseworth	R10W S12	R10W S12 into Illinois
Sanderson Lateral #2`	R10W S13	R10W S12 into Riner-Houseworth**



Beaver Township Ditches Continued

Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Sanderson Main `	R9W S18	R10W S12 into Riner-Houseworth**
Sanderson Lateral #1 `	R9W S18	R9W S18 into Sanderson Main `
Beaver Creek (Gaff)	R9W S2 from McClellan Twp.	R10 W S24 into Illinois
Adams Open	R9W S10	R9W S 11 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Bolley	R9W S2 from McClellan Twp.	R9W S2 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Carlson	R9W S30	R10W S24 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Duclos `	R9W S19	R9W S19 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Wells Open Reroute `	R9W S19	R9W S19 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Joel Bower `	R9W S20	R9W S 19 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Newell Johnson^	R10W S36	R10W S25 into Carlson
Sheep Creek*	R9W S12 from Jackson Twp.	R9W S11 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Narrows	R8W S10 from Jackson Twp.	R9W S2 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Maria Hope `	R9W S14	R9W S14 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
L. E. Camblin Lateral #1 `	R9W S31	R10W S36 into Newell Johnson^
Salisbury	R9W S21 from McClellan Twp.	R9W S16 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Sam Deardurff***	R9W S15 from Zoborosky	R9W S15 into Beaver Creek (Gaff)
Zoborosky	R9W S24 from Jackson Twp.	R9W S 15 into Sam Deardurff***
Brunton and Decker Lateral `	R9W S24	R9W S 25
West Shue+	R9W S32	R9W S32 into Washington Twp.
NC Map ID: **Riner-Houseworth; ` Not mapped; *Sheep; ***Deardurff; ^Johnson; +Shue.		
<b>Washington T28N R10W and R9W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
James Whaley*	R10W S12	R10W S26 in Willobe Troupe Ext.*
James Whaley*	R10W S35 from Willobe Troup Ext.*	R10W S36 into Thompson
Thompson	R9W S6	R10W S36 into Iroquois River
Stella Garrard	R10W S14	R10W S14 into James Whaley*
Etta Whaley^^	R9W S22	R9W S 21 into Thompson
George Clark^	R9W S3	R9W S3 CC Shue+
CC Shue+	R9W S5 from Beaver Twp.	R9W S9 into James Chizum***
James Chizum***	R9W S11	R9W S16 into Thompson
Strole	R9W S1	R9W S35 into Iroquois River
NC Map ID: *Whaley; **Riner-Houseworth; *Whaley; ***Chizum; ^Clark; +Shue; ^^Hambridge.		
<b>Jefferson T27 R10W and R9W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Morrison No. 1*	R10W S26 from Illinois	R10W S12 into Kindig-Montgomery

> Continued on page 18 >

# 18 The Newcomer

> Continued from page 17 **Jefferson Township Ditches Continued**

Bowton	R10W S35 from Benton County	R10W S24 into Bonham Ditch
Bonham	R10W S25	R10W S12 into Kindig-Montgomery
Kindig-Montgomery**	R10W S1 from Iroquois River	R9W S12 into Grant Twp.
Morrison No. 3***	R9W S31	R9W S7 into Kindig-Montgomery
Morrison No. 2+	R9W S23	R9W S10 into Kindig-Montgomery
Kent	R9W S34 from Benton County	R9W S9 into Kindig-Montgomery
C. C. Kent	R9W S28	R9W S19 into Morrison No. 3
Talley	R9W S35 from Benton County	R9W S26 into Morrison No. 2
McCray-Ade Open/Lateral~	R9W S1	R9W S1
Railroad ^	R9W S28	R9W S19 into Morrison No. 3
Bridgeman Conversion `	R9W S8	R9W S7 into Kindig-Montgomery
Kindig-Montgomery Benton West**	R9W S36	R9W S36 into Grant Twp.
*NC MAP ID: *Sheldon; **Montgomery; ***Morrison#2; +Morrison#1; ~Ade-McCray; ^No ID; `Not mapped; **Montgomery.		
<b>Lincoln Twp.T31N R8W</b>		
<b>Name of Ditch</b>	<b>Where in Twp. Begins</b>	<b>Where in Twp. Ends</b>
Rebecca Spitler	S10	S31 at Kankakee River
Rebecca Spitler Lateral 1 `	S3	S4 into Rebecca Spitler
Valley Forge	S14	S11 into Hibler
Denham Subdivision Lateral	S9	S9 into Rebecca Spitler
Hibler	S12	S2 into Rich
Hibler Lateral #1	S12	S12 into Hibler
Hidden Pines North Lateral/West**	S12	S12 into Hibler Lateral #1
Oakwood Acres Lateral	S1	S1 into DeFries
Insalaco Lateral	S2	S2 into Jasper County
Wendleburg	S2	S3 into Rich
Pleasant Winds Estates Ext.	S2	S2 into Wendleburg
Dream Farms Lateral	S2	S2 into Wendleburg
Rich	S2	S34 into Kankakee River
Rich Ditch Lateral 2	S35	S34 into DeHaan (Jasper)
DeHaan (Jasper)	S25 from Jasper	S34 into Kankakee River
DeFries	S1	S26 into DeHaan
Knight-Mofitt*	S15	S30 into Lake Twp.
Wentworth	S24	S27 into Knight-Moffitt
Knight Moffitt Lateral	S22	S29 into Knight-Moffitt
Cox Tile SCS Reroute 1951	S20	S29 into Knight Moffitt
Gregory	S36	S2 into Colfax Twp.
Hillis, G. H Tile Conv.	S31	S30 into Knight-Moffitt



Lincoln Township Ditches Continued

Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
David	S29	S29
NC Map ID: *Knight ?Kight and Moffitt; **Otis & Boyle; ^ R. Spitler Ditch & Tile.		
<b>Colfax T30N R8W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Mud Lake	S6 from McClellan Twp.	S9 into Mud Lake Ditch Lateral #1
Mud Lake Lateral #1	S9	S10 into Templeton Lateral of Mud Lake
Huber Lateral`	S10	S11
Rafferty Lateral`	S8	S17
Gregory	S6 connects w/Mud Lake	S5 into Lincoln Twp.
Templeton	S9 connects w/Mud Lake	S14
Hanley Lateral #2	S16	S16 into Hanley Open
Hanley Open	S16	S17 into Mud Lake
Curtis Creek (Jasper)	S12	S35 into Jackson Twp.
Kosta (Jasper)	S36 from Curtis Creek (Jasper)	S36 into Jasper Co.
Smalley/Lateral	S34	S34 into J. R. Elijah
J. R. Elijah**	S33	S35 into Curtis Creek (Jasper)
David D. Deardurff*	S32	S32 into Jackson Twp.
Lintner	S33	S33 into Jackson Twp.
Beaver Lake (Tolin)	S18 from McClellan Twp.	S28
Dickinson Upper`	S35	S35 into J.R. Elijah**
Molson`	S30	S31 into McClellan Twp.
Little Lake Lateral`	S29	S30 into Molson
Bergren Lateral`	S29	S30 into Molson
NC Map ID: *Deardurff; **Elijah; ` not mapped.		
<b>Jackson T29N R8W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Narrows	S10	S2 Beaver Twp.
David D. Deardurff^^	S5 from Colfax Twp.	S5i into Narrows
Beasy Lateral	S3	S4 into Lintner
Lintner	S4 from Colfax Twp.	S4 into Narrows
Clark-Guildenzoph Open`	S2	S1 Curtis Creek (Jasper)
Curtis Creek	S1 from Colfax Twp.	S12 into Jasper Co.
Ed Long``	S11	S12 into Curtis Creek (Jasper)
Stucker Combination`	S13	S12 Ed Long``
Alice Holley Open`	S10	S10 into Narrows
Oscar Holley`	S9	S4 into Narrows

Continued on page 20 >

## 20 The Newcomer

> Continued from page 19 Jackson Township Ditches Continued

Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Mary E. Spitler <sup>^</sup>	S21	S5 into Narrows
Mary E. Spitler <sup>^</sup> Open Lateral	S8	S8 into Mary E. Spitler <sup>^</sup>
Bogie Mutual	S8	S8 into Mary E. Spitler <sup>^</sup>
Zoborosky	S19	S19 into Beaver Twp.
Battleday	S33	S4 into Iroquois Twp.
Turner	S27	S35 into Iroquois Twp.
L. E. Camblin <sup>**</sup>	S33	S33 into Iroquois Twp.
McIntosh <sup>*</sup>	S31	S31 into Iroquois Twp.
Haynes <sup>~</sup>	S25	S36 into Iroquois Twp.
NC Map ID: <sup>*</sup> Cline; <sup>**</sup> Camblin; <sup>~</sup> Haines; <sup>^</sup> M. Spitler; <sup>^^</sup> Deardurff; <sup>``</sup> Long; <sup>´</sup> Not mapped.		
<b>Iroquois T28N R8W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
McIntosh-Cline <sup>^</sup>	S6 from Jackson Twp.	S9 into Hickory Branch
McIntosh <sup>+</sup>	S6 From Jackson Twp.	S5 into McIntosh-Cline <sup>^</sup>
L.E. Camblin <sup>#</sup>	S5 from Jackson Twp.	S9 into McIntosh-Cline <sup>^</sup>
Battleday	S4 from Jackson Twp.	S9 into Hickory Branch
Turner	S2 from Jackson Twp.	S12 into Iroquois River
Haynes <sup>`</sup>	S1 from Jackson Twp.	S1 into Turner
Mosquito Creek	S24 from Jasper County	S14 into Iroquois River
Hickory Branch	S9 from McIntosh-Cline <sup>^</sup>	S15 into Iroquois River
Kurfess-Kleinkort Lateral	S22	S21 into Iroquois River
Kurfess-Kleinkort Main	S22	S21 into Iroquois River
Fleckenstine Open	S22	S21 into Iroquois River
Ezra Jones <sup>~</sup>	S8	S20 into Iroquois River
Barton	S35	S30 into Iroquois River
Illingworth Ext. to O'Brien <sup>*</sup>	S32 from Grant Twp.	S30 into Hunter
Hunter <sup>+</sup>	S33 from Grant Twp.	S32 into Iroquois River
John Weiss <sup>**</sup>	S35	S33 into Hunter
Stack	S35 from Grant Twp.	S35 into John Weiss <sup>**</sup>
Gushwa (Jasper)	S36 from Jasper Co.	S25 into Jasper Co.
NC Map ID: <sup>*</sup> Darroch; <sup>**</sup> Weiss; <sup>~</sup> Jones; <sup>^</sup> Cline; <sup>`</sup> Haines; <sup>#</sup> Camblin; <sup>+</sup> Carpenter Creek.		
<b>Grant T27N R8W</b>		
Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Kindig-Montgomery (Benton) West	S31 from Jefferson Twp.	S30 into Kindig-Montgomery
Kindig-Montgomery (Benton) East	S32 from Benton Co.	S30 into Kindig-Montgomery

> Continued from page 20 Grant Township Ditches Continued

Name of Ditch	Where in Twp. Begins	Where in Twp. Ends
Glasgow D. Clymer**	S36	S24 into Kirkpatrick Jasper Co.
Kirkpatrick	S25 from Jasper Co.	S24 into Hunter
Goodland Lateral	S26	S23 into Hunter
Hunter	S23	S4 into Iroquois Twp.
Hunter Lateral #1^	S10	S10 into Hunter
Illingworth Ext.*	S9	S32 into Hunter
John Bower# (Kent)	S20 from Peckam ~	S5 into Illingworth Ext.* to O'Brien
O'Brien	S27	S28 into O'Brien Open+
Peckham ~	S19	S20 into John Bower
O'Brien Open+	S28	S9 into Illingworth Ext.*
NC Map ID: *Darroch; **Hunter; ^Moran; ~ Bower Lateral; #Bower; +O'Brien.		

Morocco Courier, October 3, 1919

## Local Company Buys Brown Ranch In McClellan Township

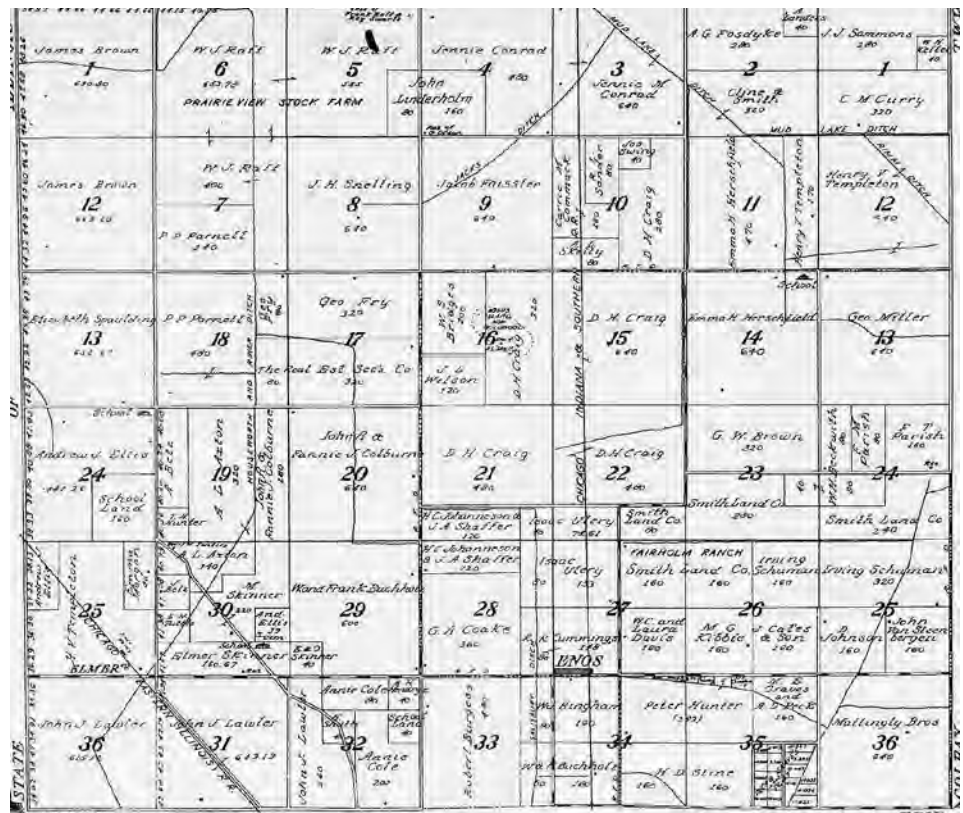
"The James Brown ranch of 1354 acres in McClellan Township has been purchased by a company of ten Morocco citizens, who expect to still further improve the place and run it as a stock and grain farm. The ranch is already exceptionally well improved, the south section having 25 miles of tile thereon. There are also several first-class horse and cattle barns, two houses, two silos, and the entire ranch is fenced with woven wire and cedar posts, all of which makes it one of the most desirable ranches in the central west. The soil is exceptionally good. At the present time there is no stone road into this locality, but the matter will doubtless be attended to within the next year.

"This is perhaps one of the largest real estate deals ever recorded in Newton County, and the most important part of it is the fact that the purchasers all men of ability and energy who will not only improve their own buildings to the greatest extent possible but will thereby bring about a corresponding improvement to the entire section.

"Those interested in the deal, all of whom are members of the company, are as follows: W. D. Martin, Ross Lucas, J. M. Padgett, J. D. Law, B. H. Graves, A. J. Law, M. E. Graves, James Redden, A. J. Martin and Elmer Padgett.

"This land has been owned by Mr. Brown for about nine or ten years and has been a paying proposition for him.

He is head buyer for Armour & Co. in Chicago and has been unable to give it the personal attention necessary for maximum profit, which was the reason for selling. The new owners will no doubt make a success of the venture."



This plat map of McClellan Township dated 1916 shows James Brown as landowner of Sections 1 and 12, R10. The dots within the sections indicate where a house was located.



## Korean Certificate of Appreciation Day Honors Area Veterans



On Sunday, November 28, 1954, the Newton County Selective Service Board, No. 58 held a Day of Recognition at the Kentland High School gymnasium for area veterans of the Korean War Conflict. Service Board members at the time were Samuel E. Molter, Chairman, William A. Rafferty, Marion Smart, Harold Oliver,

Emory Towers and Caroline Geib, Clerk. Mr. Molter served as Master of Ceremonies.

The program began at 2:00 p.m. with a band concert by the Thirty-Fifth Army Band under the direction of Master Sergeant Alonzo D. Foote. This was followed by the band playing the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the Presentation of Colors by the Hedrick-Brandt American Legion Post No. 23 of Kentland. Chaplain of Post No. 23, T. Arthur Kenney led the invocation, followed by "Sempre Fidelis" played by the Thirty-Fifth Army Band.

Officials attending were introduced by Mr. Molter who introduced the speaker for the day, Roy M. Amos, Past Indiana Department Commander of the American Legion. Another

selection by the band, "The Liberty Bell March" preceded the presentation of the Certificates of Commemoration by the Rev. Bernard W. Gordon, the Department of Indiana American Legion Chaplain. A cornet solo, "The Holy City" was performed by local Raymond Leon Molter, accompanied by Mr. John Dowling.

Certificates of Appreciation were then presented to veterans present by Mr. Molter, followed by the band performing "Stars and Stripes Forever." The Hedrick-Brandt American Legion Post No. 23 then Retired the Colors, and the closing benediction was given by Rev. Richard W. Geib, Pastor of the First Christian Church of Kentland.

This information was gleaned from a program of the day's events donated to our society and is on file at the Resource Center in Kentland. The town listed with each name may represent their residence at the time of the presentation, or perhaps those out of county veterans were invited to the ceremonies for recognition.

There were 216 certificates presented to veterans in person; four certificates were presented posthumously for deceased veterans. Newton County Vets totaled 177.

### Brook

Barten, William R., Brook  
 Carroll, Gerald W., Brook  
 Carroll, Robert L., Brook  
 Chapman, Willis L., Brook  
 Cooper, Richard L., Brook  
 Criswell, Caris D., Brook  
 Curts, Jerry O., Brook  
 Ekstrom, Norman L., Brook  
 Hess, Don E., Brook  
 Honn, Harold E., Brook  
 Honn, Kenneth L., Brook  
 Honn, Marion F., Brook  
 Hood, James D., Brook  
 Kenoyer, Richard E., Brook  
 Kenoyer, Robert L., Brook  
 King, Robert V., Brook  
 Kline, John M., Brook  
 Laffoon, Gerald E., Brook  
 Laffoon, Harold D., Brook  
 Malott, Bernard J., Brook  
 Malott, Paul L., Brook  
 McGee, Charles R., Brook  
 Mohr, John H., Brook  
 Myers, Harold P., Brook  
 Pickett, Bernard D., Brook  
 Pippenger, William W., Brook  
 Sanders, Gerald R., Brook  
 Tiede, Bill R., Brook  
 Watt, Donald G., Brook  
 Whaley, Calvin K., Brook

Whaley, Harold, Brook  
 White, Charles R., Brook  
 White, George F., Brook  
 Whiteman, Ora A., Brook  
 Zickmund, John E., Brook

### Goodland

Barney, Fred R., Goodland  
 Benner, Richard L., Goodland  
 Bobbitt, John A., Goodland  
 Bond, Edwin, Goodland  
 Bower, Joseph F., Goodland  
 Burman, Arnold W., Goodland  
 Burns, William H., Goodland  
 Cudworth, Alvin R., Goodland  
 DeGroot, Ernest, Goodland  
 Donovan, James E., Goodland  
 Frohreich, Richard A., Goodland  
 Geller, Richard J., Goodland  
 Green, Lawrence R., Goodland  
 Hoaks, Melvin R., Goodland  
 Hotler, Arthur E., Goodland  
 Lowry, Bernard F., Goodland  
 Lyons, Richard D., Goodland  
 Miiller, Fred F., Goodland  
 Miller, Robert L., Goodland  
 Molter, Richard J., Goodland  
 Nevitt, Ralph R., Goodland  
 Peck, Teddy L., Goodland  
 Prue, Alexander J., Goodland  
 Rheude, Clyde R., Goodland  
 Schneidt, Francis G., Goodland

Simonin, Laverne D., Goodland  
 Spurlock, Ernest D., Goodland  
 Stombaugh, Francis L., Goodland  
 Troup, Raymond E., Goodland  
 Turner, Lawrence E., Goodland  
 Weiland, Raymond R., Goodland  
 Welsh, James P., Goodland  
 Workman, Robert E., Goodland

### Kentland

Becker, Robert J., Kentland  
 Bidwell, James C., Kentland  
 Burton, Richard D., Kentland  
 Buswell, Ronald L., Kentland  
 Cady, Raymond H., Kentland  
 Couch, David T., Kentland  
 Couch, James H., Kentland  
 Couch, John R., Kentland  
 Diedam, John R., Kentland  
 Good, Wayne E., Kentland  
 Hadley, Charles B., Kentland  
 Hall, Rex H., Kentland  
 Hall, William J., Kentland  
 Hassett, Charles P., Kentland  
 Hassett, James A., Kentland  
 Henry, Robert W., Kentland  
 Hougland, Robert G., Kentland  
 Kain, Charles E., Kentland  
 Kohl, LaVerne E., Kentland  
 Limp, Tom E., Kentland  
 Martin, Lester E., Kentland  
 Meyers, Ernest R., Kentland  
 Miller, Robert D., Kentland  
 Miller, Roy S., Kentland  
 Montgomery, Norman E., Kentland

Montgomery, Willard G., Kentland  
 Murphy, David C., Kentland  
 Newland, John R., Kentland  
 O'Brien, Richard P., Kentland  
 Perkins, Donald R., Kentland  
 Phillippi, Glen F., Kentland  
 Polen, Jr., John J., Kentland  
 Reed, William W., Kentland  
 Rieger, Harold G., Kentland  
 Sammons, George M., Kentland  
 Schuster, Flavian E., Kentland  
 Small, Harold R., Kentland  
 Small, Howard E., Kentland  
 Snodgrass, Bernard D., Kentland  
 Standish, Ernest E., Kentland  
 Standish, Richard W., Kentland  
 Stembel, Joseph E., Kentland  
 Tilton, Leland K., Kentland  
 Tuell, Jackie R., Kentland  
 Walkup, Calvin E., Kentland  
 Walkup, Richard J., Kentland  
 Yost, John F., Kentland

**Lake Village**

Anderson, Guy E., Lake Village  
 Armstrong, Gerald A., Lake Village  
 Armstrong, William J., Lake Village  
 Christenson, Robert G., Lake Village  
 Davis, Leon D., Lake Village  
 Dick, George D., Lake Village  
 Early, Donald L., Lake Village  
 Manes, James A., Lake Village  
 Meltzer, Robert A., Lake Village  
 Miller, Devon L., Lake Village  
 Miller, Howard H., Lake Village  
 Prohosky, Leroy V., Lake Village  
 Rainford, James E., Lake Village  
 Robbins, James E., Lake Village  
 Stone, Kenneth J., Lake Village  
 Veselak, Robert V., Lake Village  
 Vraniak, Louis F., Lake Village  
 Wood, Grover D., Lake Village  
 Wukovitz, Robert S., Lake Village

**Morocco**

Arnold, Charles J., Morocco  
 Banister, Gordon N., Morocco  
 Borem, Denzil, Morocco  
 Brownfield, Raymond W., Morocco  
 Cory, Malcom, Morocco  
 Cox, David V., Morocco  
 Davis, Ronald L., Morocco  
 Dawson, Dean L., Morocco  
 DeGroot, Arnold L., Morocco  
 Denton, Jr., Vern F., Morocco  
 Falk, Donald L., Morocco  
 Falk, Richard D., Morocco  
 Hagen, Bernard R., Morocco  
 Hammel, Leslie V., Morocco  
 Harrison, Jimmie E., Morocco  
 Hoskins, Paul E., Morocco  
 Madison, Norman G., Morocco

Mashino, Donald G., Morocco  
 McClatchey, Paul E., Morocco  
 McMillan, Floyd J., Morocco  
 Purdy, Delbert A., Morocco  
 Ringer, Jerome M., Morocco  
 Sargent, Cletus E., Morocco  
 Sargent, Harvey A., Morocco  
 Schanlaub, Francis K., Morocco  
 Swartz, Jr., Earl L., Morocco  
 Thompson, Bernard H., Morocco  
 Wiseman, Kenneth L., Morocco  
 Wooton, Arnold M., Morocco  
 Wooton, Harold, Morocco

**Mt. Ayr**

Brunton, Robert G., Mt. Ayr  
 Brunton, William J., Mt. Ayr  
 Carroll, Ralph G., Mt. Ayr  
 Laffoon, Wayne A., Mt. Ayr

**Roselawn**

Hesh, Clayton L., Roselawn  
 Smith, David R., Roselawn  
 Smith, Gerald A., Roselawn

**Thayer**

Binge, Robert R., Thayer  
 Faucher, Jr., John O., Thayer  
 Hanley, William R., Thayer  
 Jansen, Donald L., Thayer  
 Lowe, Wallace A., Thayer  
 Yacuk, Alex, Thayer

**Out of County**

Boezeman, John A., DeMotte  
 Hanley, Richard A., DeMotte  
 Knapp, John P., Fair Oaks  
 Mauck, Ray M., Fair Oaks  
 Johnson, Paul W., St. Anne, IL  
 Stafford, Lloyd W., Fayetteville, AR  
 Reddel, Jr., William N., Chicago, IL  
 Stombaugh, William E., Sheldon, IL  
 Jonkman, Raymond P., Wheatfield  
 Sparks, Donald D., South Bend  
 Whaley, Leonard L., Valparaiso  
 Ekstrom, Wayne W., W. Lafayette  
 Gentry, Darrell R., Watseka, IL  
 Johnson, Conrad L., Wayne City  
 May, Robert M., Terre Haute  
 McMillen, Daniel M., not entered  
 Lane, Wilbur D., Portsmouth, VA  
 Hilton, Carroll D., Rensselaer  
 Mingear, Curtis D., Rensselaer  
 Rater, Philip G., Rensselaer  
 Shaw, Robert W., Rensselaer  
 Simmons, Joel C., Rensselaer  
 Taylor, Robert D., Rensselaer  
 Jansen, Glenn E., Miss. City, MS  
 Vent, Thomas L., Momence, IL  
 Stombaugh, Richard E., Monticello  
 Baer, Carl A., Lafayette  
 Swihart, John W., Lafayette  
 Jiles, John W., Goshen  
 Plank, John D., Greenville, MI

Todd, Robert E., Hammond  
 DeFries, Willard K., Hebron  
 Wilkes, Robert L., Jersey City, NJ  
 Karlock, Merlin E., Kankakee, IL  
 Northcutt, James C., Kansas Cty, MO  
 Spoor, Norman D., Gary  
 Broe, Russell E., Fowler  
 Spencer, Robert L., Fowler  
 Bresson, Francis H., Ft. Wayne

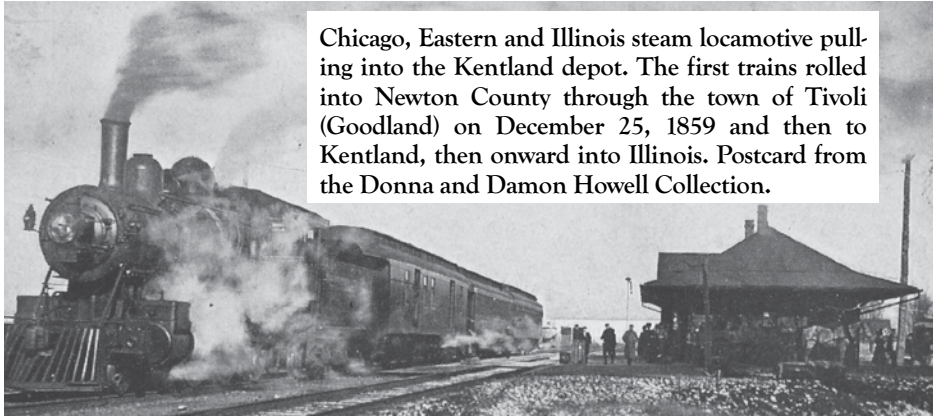
**Deceased**

Binge, Charles F., Deceased  
 Ivory, Charles A., Deceased  
 Lindahl, Jr., John, Deceased  
 Lowe, William R., Deceased

**Answers to  
 Do You Know?**  
 By Janet Miller - Questions on Page 7

1. The first ever play written about football was attributed to George Ade. It was called "The College Widow".
2. The original name of Newton County's LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area was Kankakee River State Park. Lands were donated by Murray D. Baker and Dr. and Mrs. Ray S. Churchill. The dedication was August 3, 1952.
3. The original name of Newton County's Willow Slough Fish and Game Area was Forest Park. Both LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area and Willow Slough were created from funding of House Bill No. 64 authored by State Representative, Howard Hiestand, of Kentland in 1947. This was Indiana's 18th State Park.
4. In the book, the "Twelfth Annual Report to the Governor of the Indiana Department of Geology and Natural History," by State Geologist John Collett, issued in 1882, lists the following information on the name of Beaver Lake in Newton County. "In this connection we have a very sure footing for the aboriginal name of the once beautiful Beaver Lake, now growing corn as abundantly as it originally produced the beaver. "Sag-a-yi-gan" (a lake) and "uh-nick-yung," (the "yug" added to the "uh-nick" being the plural number of beaver). "Sag-a-yi-gan-uh-nick-yug" the Lake of the Beavers.
5. George Ade was offered the vice-presidential spot in the cabinet of William Howard Taft. He refused the offer but was a fervent support of Mr. Taft.

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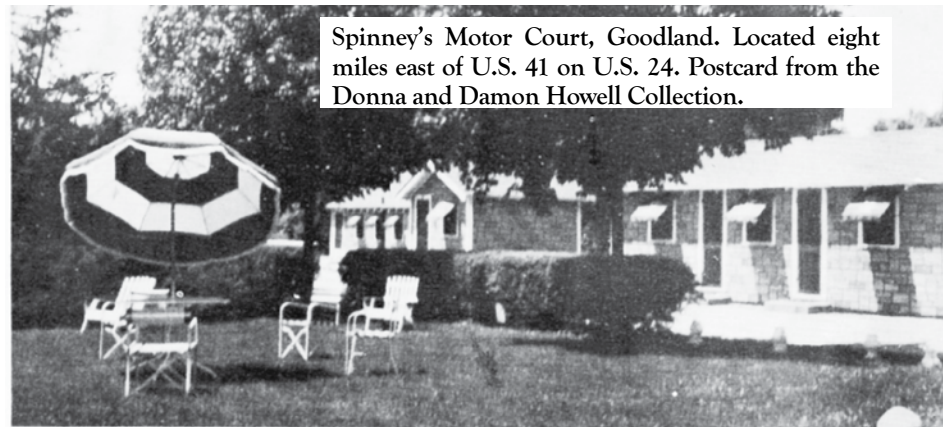
Chicago, Eastern and Illinois steam locomotive pulling into the Kentland depot. The first trains rolled into Newton County through the town of Tivoli (Goodland) on December 25, 1859 and then to Kentland, then onward into Illinois. Postcard from the Donna and Damon Howell Collection.

## Farm Bells

Time was when many general farms had a bell on a cedar post by the kitchen door, or a bell fastened to the ridge pole of the shed.

The farm bell called men and boys to noon dinner, and when the bells rang out up and down the road, one knew the family by the sound of the notes. Each family had its code for special purposes. Sometimes there was a wild, heart-stirring, furious ringing, and then one knew there was an emergency as he raced from field or woodlot.

The old days of farm bells in an era that is gone, bells have joined buffalo robes, fringed top surreys, and kerosene lamps. But many a man now working in a city office can remember the music of the farm bells of yester-year. One mellow October day as you are walking your acres or working in the garden, stop a minute and listen. Perhaps you can hear the notes on the overhead breeze – a remembrance of the time when life was less hurried and more flavorful.



Spinney's Motor Court, Goodland. Located eight miles east of U.S. 41 on U.S. 24. Postcard from the Donna and Damon Howell Collection.

# The Newcomer




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*Mission Statement: It is the hope of the volunteers and members of the Newton County Historical Society will bring together those people interested in the history of Newton County, and will promote an understanding and appreciation for the people and community of Newton County through research, preservation, restoration, education and publications. (c) 2021 Newton County Historical Society. All rights reserved.*

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