

The Newcomer

Volume 23, Issue Three
Summer/Fall 2017 \$3.00

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

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Iroquois River History

By Beth Bassett

Collecting in a tiny marsh at the edge of a green-carpeted pasture, the water pauses. Woodpeckers and Blue Jays chatter noisily along its banks. Wild Turkey, pheasant and deer roam the upland and the Red Tail Hawk and American Bald Eagle circle overhead. Slowly the water flows away forming the first few miles of the Iroquois River in Jasper County.

The Potawattomi Indians who lived along the banks called it the Pickamink, meaning muddy waters. However, the 1834 surveyors Perrin Kent and Sibley Clark named and documented it as the Iroquois River after the Iroquois Indians of Illinois. Like the Indian tribe for which it is named, the Iroquois is a creature of the open country, uncomplicated by cities, industries or commerce. It runs through the land known for its rich yield of grains and livestock offering a way of life that is quiet and rural, plain and unpretentious, little noticed and often disregarded.

The Iroquois rises northwest of Rensselaer, flowing 94 miles to the Kankakee River in Illinois, draining 2,175 square miles along the way. Trickling due north, growing stronger, widening from the strength of a hundred field drains, it swings in a great circle toward Rensselaer, which is less than three crow-flown miles away, yet is 20 miles by the circuitous course of the river.

It then meanders southwest through Iroquois and Washington Townships in Newton County and on to Watseka, Illinois, progressing onward toward the Kankakee River. In Illinois, the river flows a devious channel of many loops and bends, wandering almost like a lost child, winding around, doubling back on itself like a ribbon, moving in complete disregard of man's habitation of the lands. For 60 miles it parallels the Kankakee. Suddenly the Iroquois stops playing around between the winding banks and skipping among the trees, it makes a surprising change of directions and heads north. The once-shallow stream reaches a depth of 9 feet and width of 400 feet, which is eight times its width at the state line. It broadens into a small lake, losing its identity at last in the Kankakee, which it has been seeking for a lonely 94 miles.

Numerous Indian village sites and camps were located along the Iroquois River in Newton County according to Joe Hiestand's "An Archaeological Report on Newton County," published in 1955. He wrote, "The best way to describe it would be to say that the Indians took full advantage of the waterway of the Iroquois River and established camps up and down it on both sides all the way across the townships."

Mr. Hiestand went on to say that when the river was dredged, many of the archeological sites were destroyed with the removal of the elbows and bends of the original stream, cut off by the channeling.

The river was also the first location of early settlers to Newton (then Jasper) County. Family histories of these settlers include stories of both children and adults living side-by-side with the Indians there. Between 1848-1850 at Brook, John Lyons and John Montgomery built the first mill dam in the township on the river.

But the meandering waters of the Iroquois would oftentimes not sufficiently drain the adjoining lands when the late, heavy snow began to melt in the spring, followed by unpredictable rainfalls throughout the summer and into the fall. Some who owned land adjacent to the river felt there was a need to improve the drainage of the river to prevent flooding of their fields and pastures. Others did not.

Dredging the lateral ditches and spurs was becoming very common-place in our area after and during the draining of Beaver Lake (1853-1880s). The fact that the process of dredging required the input of local help brought mention in the local news columns of those individuals, and where they were working. Several accidents associated with the occupation were also found throughout the pages of the papers of the 1900s.

Petitions for dredging and improving the Iroquois had been filed prior to 1903, as an article published in the Jasper County newspaper, *The Rensselaer Journal* dated March 1903 indicated. It stated that appropriations of \$3640.00 for improvements were paid out by Jasper County, but the project had been abandoned. The article did not relate as to the

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The Iroquois rises in Jasper County, 94 miles later meets with the Kankakee River at Aroma Park, Illinois.

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dates of these proceedings. The County had sued the petitioners to pay back the money. The petitioners in turn appealed that lawsuit at the Supreme Court level, who found against them with judgement being they repay the county. I was unable to locate details of these proceedings within the pages of the paper, however, court records should reveal the petitioner's names and amount needed to be repaid.

Newton and Jasper Counties were attached to the 30th Judicial Circuit meaning that court proceedings were heard by the same judge in both counties, who from 1902-1920 was the Honorable Charles W. Hanley of Rensselaer. For those not familiar with the history of the judicial system in Indiana, please refer to the article elsewhere in this edition.

In 1907, a petition filed under the name of Cary L. Carr in Jasper County court, that became to be known as The Iroquois River Dredging Improvement scheme by Newton County landowners along the river. The petition proposed to begin where the Jasper County improvements ended, two miles west of Rensselaer, and continue through Newton County to a point south of the town of Brook, twelve miles.

This petition stirred the interest of the editors of *The Brook Reporter*, who followed with great interest the "goings-on" regarding their back yard. From the June 21, 1907 edition we read,

"Not much has been said of the late regarding the dredging of the Iroquois River as far down as the C. & E. I. railroad bridge south of Brook, but it seems that the parties that have been pushing the matter are not letting it rest in the least but are busy at work. This week a corps of surveyors is busy at work running lines and depths for the proposed dredging, deepening and straightening the river bed. From what little can be gleaned it seems that the parties backing the work are confident that the river will be dredged and say that it will be of great benefit to the land along the river. The land owners down this way, however, do not agree with them and when the time comes will undoubtedly put



The Iroquois River rises from this tiny marsh at the base of a gentle moraine 3 miles north of Rensselaer. The river, like a creature of the outdoors, is uncomplicated by cities and commerce. Reprinted from an article that appeared in the *Indianapolis Star Magazine* in 1972.

up a fight against the work."

In July of 1907, the *Reporter* called the dredging "a lovely pipe dream," after an article appeared in the *Rensselaer Democrat* stating, "the people down this way should petition for the dredging of the Iroquois River down the line until it reaches the State line, instead of fighting the proposed improvement of dredging the river to this point."

The *Reporter* replied, "The fact of the case is, while it would be a thing of beauty forever to have the Iroquois River dredged from stem to sternum, the practical value and benefits would amount to little, in fact it would not pay a decent interest on the money invested. What low lands are affected by freshets this far down would be affected in any event in flood time, and the material benefits would only amount to getting the water off a little faster when the river was within banks. The straightening of the Iroquois River looks nice on paper, but when it comes down to practical results, it is a pipe dream that will never be realized."

Obviously, most of the cost of dredging the Iroquois fell upon more landowners in Newton than Jasper, which was estimated to be over \$100,000.00. They argued that they would not benefit by the dredging, for the simple reason that the land on both sides

of the river, except for a few acres of bottom land, was high enough that the overflow in no time affected them, and that the bottom lands would overflow just the same, dredged or not dredged. The petitioners felt, however, that the work must be carried on west to save them from almost total crop destruction from the waters that will be poured down upon them by the increased flow from the ditch that was already constructed, which ended two miles west of Rensselaer.

When the case was called in court in January 1909, a remonstrance from Newton County landowners bearing the names of 1,463 property owners was filed against it. The case had been in hearings before Judge Hanley for several weeks, and he ultimately rendered a decision sustaining the remonstrance. The law required that in order for the remonstrance to be sufficient to defeat a petition, it must be signed by two-thirds of those affected by the petition. The judge determined that only 13 names on the remonstrance did not qualify, which still left 87 more names that needed. The possibility of an appeal was considered, or that after a time, a new petition would be filed with the belief that many who signed the remonstrance would not sign the next one. Only time would tell, and it would.



Near Aroma Park, Illinois, a photo of the merging of the Iroquois and Kankakee Rivers. *Internet photo.*

Through the months of May through July of 1909, articles written by "A Friend of the River," appeared in the *Brook Reporter*, giving the readers something to think about. The preface to these articles projected the cost would now be \$300,000.00. A new petition for dredging was being circulated by July 28, 1909, that was headed by another Jasper County landowner along the Iroquois, Joseph Borntrager. By October 1, they were back in court.

The next mention we have of the dredging issue is from an article in the March 17, 1911 edition of the *Brook Reporter*.

"Engineer Hugh Gamble and viewers S. D. Clark of Wheatfield and Thorp Beagley of Brook, have completed their report on the lower Iroquois drainage scheme and the same was filed with the court Friday. The petition was continued without action until the next term of court. Parties originally named in the petition have ten days in which to remonstrate and new parties have ten days in which to remonstrate from the time they are given the notice. Land owners in Jasper, White, Newton and Benton are assessed for construction."

As of November 7, 1911, the survey on the Iroquois River was underway. This is the first mention I found in the *Brook Reporter* since March. Now the engineer is making estimates of the number of yards of earth to be removed, sinking out the route for the proposed dredging, depth of cuts, etc. The assessment of benefits and damages and the calling for bids for the construction of the proposed dredge ditch would be the next step.

The petition had a long and rocky road to travel, and the ditch was ordered established by Judge Hanan of LaGrange, sitting as special judge after hearings had lasted several months. Newton County land owners fought the improvements all along, but many laid down on the last petition, realizing that the ditch was going to go through sometime. C. H. Sternberg and Son, who dug the upper portion of the Iroquois had left their dredge in place, was expected to be the lowest bidder, and that it would come in under \$100,000.00. However, Mr. Sternberg did not see J. J. Lawler coming his way.

J. J. Lawler, was not a dredge man, but a stockman and landowner in Jasper and Newton County, said at one time said to be the biggest landowner in Indiana. Mr. Lawler was assessed \$8,500 for the construction of this ditch on his properties, and his object in bidding was said to reduce his assessment.

Rensselaer Republican, February 1913: "The excavation yardage as estimated by the engineer is making the specifications 1, 611,641. The estimated cost was 6.5 cents per yard, which would make the total cost \$104,7643.16. Since the ditch went for 5.9

cents a yard, the total cost will be \$95,086.82, or \$9,676 less than the estimated cost. The savings can be attributed to Mr. Lawler, as all other bidders quit when the estimate was reached. After that time only, Sternberg and Lawler continued the bidding and gradually the price was whittled down a tenth of a mill at a time, until Sternberg bid 5.9, when Lawler quit and the sale was closed. A tenth of a mill meant a saving of \$161.17, and a mill meant \$1,611.74, and the other dredge men say that the contract was sold to low.

"Mr. Sternberg will begin as soon as the weather is suitable to enlarge and repair his dredge. The dredge as it now stands to cost him \$19,000, and to equip it for the work it is now to do will require an expenditure of about \$8,000 more. The boat, which is 90 feet long, will be lengthened 20 feet and its width increased from 35 to 55 feet. The boom will be lengthened from 70 to 86 feet. The ditch is required to be completed in two years from the time construction is begun and Mr. Sternberg is of the opinion that the time will be required."

However, the dredging did not begin until October 1913, and would not be completed until the end of September 1916. The *Brook Reporter* followed the progress of the dredging, from the overhauling of the dredge in February 1913, to the launching of the boat in July, and first sand being thrown in October of that same year. During the three years the dredge team encountered the obstacles along the way ironically such as water levels either too high or too low, and accidents that caused injury and loss of life. The biggest event however, was that of Carl Sternberg's passing in October of 1914. He had been diagnosed with a stomach cancer not long before his death. He was 50 years of age. It would be his son that would complete the Iroquois River Dredging Improvement.

The dredging caused quite a stir amongst the locals. The *Reporter* mentioned that it was becoming quite a tourist attraction as it entered Newton County in late November of 1914. When it approached Foresman, a huge conglomeration of folks appeared which the paper dubbed as "show day at Foresman."

Some felt that the fishing was spoiled, due to the high embankments, but the swimming was excellent according to the youth of Brook.

Upon completion of the dredging, the machine was dismantled within six to eight weeks and transported to its next location in Tennessee. I was told that some of the scrap iron left behind at the site was collected during WWII.

An illustration on pages 12-13 give a view of the river before and after the dredging.

Iroquois Dredging Timeline

Note: the dates are associated with the publication the Brook Reporter, unless otherwise noted. Utilize the website newspapers.com for more information.

July 11, 1913

Big Dredge Launched. The big dredge boat being built to dredge the Iroquois River was launched just below Rensselaer last week. It is expected that the dredge will be completed and ready to throw dirt by the first of September.

October 24, 1913

Big Dredge Now Throwing Sand. The digging of this monster ditch will rescue a large acreage now almost a total waste, while it will aid the entire watershed along the upper Iroquois and Pinkamink, the Howe ditch and Carpenters Creek and all other lands along streams and ditches as far as the improvement is carried. - *Rensselaer Republican*

March 27, 1914

The Sternberg dredge has completed something over three miles of the Iroquois River project and is now working through the Cox Bros. farm, about a mile above the Lamson Bridge.

April 17, 1914

The big Sternberg dredge at work on the Borntrager or river ditch, is now about four miles out and is throwing dirt rapidly. The second dredge will be ready to start on the Carpenter Creek lateral in three or four weeks now.

April 24, 1914

The big Sternberg dredge on the Iroquois River is now cutting across the horseshoe bend just above the Lamson bridge. They will miss the river entirely for about a mile and a half.

May 15, 1914

The dredge on Carpenter Creek was started several days ago. It is of a yard and half dipper capacity and will dig the Carpenter Creek while the large boat continues the main channel work.

June 19, 1914

The big dredge that is cutting the Borntrager ditch, or rather deepening the Iroquois River, is becoming a point of attraction for our people, and almost daily several auto loads from this place are going up to see the dredge throw dirt.

July 17, 1914

If the dry weather conditions continue for a few more weeks, it will probably stop the Iroquois River dredge for lack of water to float the dredge boat. While there is still water enough to run the boat below the working point the river is dry with the exception of the deep places and the dredge men are very careful to hold back every bit of water they possibly can.

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President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

There are spider webs flying ... trees are changing to bright yellows, red and oranges ... scary pumpkins are appearing on doorsteps ... fall is finally arriving ... and winter is coming.

The Historical Society has been busy this past spring and summer and as we move into fall there is more to come.

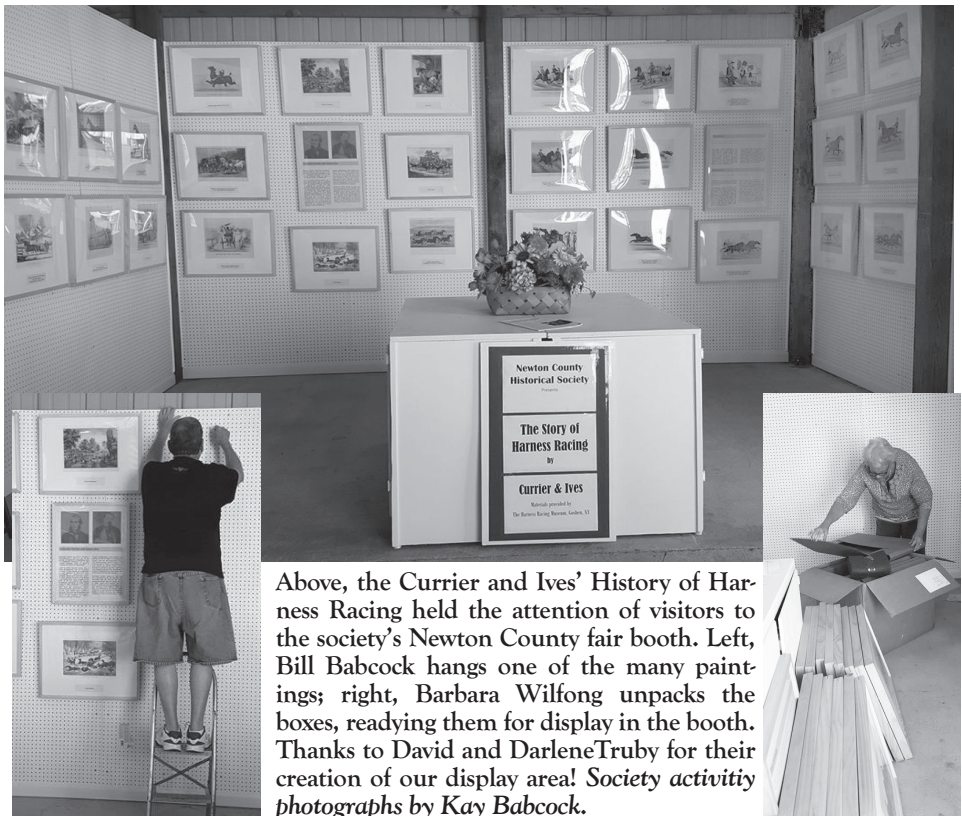
We have viewed a documentary – “We are Indiana – But how did we become Hoosiers.” It was narrated by Alan Washburn, and has clips from Beth Bassett and Jeff Manes talking about their Newton County roots. It features Newton County and the Kankakee Sands.

In June, we went to Sig Boezman’s country home for our annual meeting. It was a carry-in meal but the delicious meat was cooked on an open fire. Doug Hahn and his helper Tom Willoughby brought a chuckwagon that belongs to the Hahn Du Farm. It is a fully stocked chuckwagon, just as it would have been back on the western cattle trails. After the meal, they talked with us about the wagon and where they have taken it to shows and have won awards. It was our annual meeting and all officers were retained for another year.

There wasn’t a meeting in July, as we were busy at the Newton County Fair. Member Barbara Wiltfong came to us several months before with the suggestion that we use an exhibit of Currier and Ives harness racing paintings available from The Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in Goshen, New York. The Museum has the largest collection of Currier and Ives Equine Lithographs. To get us ready for this beautiful exhibit, David and Darlene Truby added to our booth pegboard walls. This made hanging the pictures very easy. Our booth looked so fresh and bright. We had many volunteers to man the booth and greet our visitors.

On a warm summer evening, we went to Carpenter Creek Winery in Jasper County. We were given a very informative tour of the winery, including a demonstration of how they bottle their wine, all is done by hand. Then we could have a taste ... all the wines got thumbs up! Some even bought a bottle or two to take home. We then traveled to Kentland to eat dinner at Monical’s.

In September, our speaker was Kathy Darding, who has authored two books about



Above, the Currier and Ives’ History of Harness Racing held the attention of visitors to the society’s Newton County fair booth. Left, Bill Babcock hangs one of the many paintings; right, Barbara Wiltfong unpacks the boxes, readying them for display in the booth. Thanks to David and Darlene Truby for their creation of our display area! *Society activity photographs by Kay Babcock.*

a young Southern girl. She spoke about changes that came about because of the Civil War, the woman’s role during the war, and the aftermath. She was very informative and answered many questions. Several of our men seemed to think that if she had been teaching history when they were in school, they might have paid more attention!

At the September meeting, Jennie Washburn and Steve Burton gave the Society the Kentland Lion’s Club Charter, bell, a Past Presidents plaque and a framed flag. The Club has decided to disband because of low membership. These items are now on display at the Resource Center in Kentland.

The October meeting will fittingly have ghost stories! County historian Diana Elijah dressed in her witch’s costume and presented stories from the book “Weird Indiana.” Larry Lyons, Velma Marcum and others shared their ghost stories as well.

There are five extra Fridays in the calendar year, and no one is on the regular schedule to have the Center open. They have come to be known as “5th Friday Fun Day.” All are welcome to come in the afternoon, it is not a work session, it is time for fellowship and sharing some great snacks. There is lots of laughing and story telling, sometimes a serious conversation! The next 5th Friday is December 29th – who knows what may happen that day!

The Resource Center in Kentland is open each Monday, Thursday and Friday

from 11-3, CST. Stop in look around, volunteer your time – you will have a chance to make new friends while learning more of Newton County’s history.

Members of the society meet at the Government Center the fourth Monday of each month offering a different historical topic each time. The public is welcome to attend – and bring a friend!



Author Kathy Darding spoke to the members about life during the Civil War. She has penned two books, from the perspective of a young southern girl, copies of which are now on our library shelves.



Members visited Carpetner Creek Cellars in Jasper County for a bit of history and process of winemaking. A tour and sampling was followed by the group meeting at Monical's Pizza in Kentland for a bite to eat.



Above left, the chuckwagon that belongs to the Hahn Du Farm, operated by Doug Hahn and his helper Tom Willoughby, were featured at the annual meeting in June. Above right, host Sig Boezeman chats with Doug, while Dave Truby watches Tom preparing the chow. Right, Doug Hahn and Tom Willoughby.



Our history witch, Diana Elijah shared stories from the book "Weird Indiana."



What do the volunteers at the Resource Center do on the extra Friday in a month? Well, gather together that day of course, and share food, fun and stories - no work - just play! The next fifth Friday is December 29 - please come and join us - and have some fun!

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Submitted by Janet Miller, Newton County Enterprise, Summer, 1916

Newton County

Hoosier Poet Dead. James Whitcomb Riley Expires Saturday Night. James Whitcomb Riley, the beloved Hoosier poet, died at 10:50 Saturday night at his home on Lockerbie street in Indianapolis. Death was due to the third stroke of paralysis. George Ade, a personal friend of Mr. Riley for many years, was one of the active pallbearers. During his long career Mr. Riley paid two visits to Kentland, and many of our people have a personal remembrance of the noted Hoosier poet, and join with the state and nation in mourning of his death.

Drs. Pfaff Address Medical Society. Physicians of Jasper and Newton Counties Guests of Dr. Mathews. The Jasper-Newton Medical Society was addressed Friday night by Drs. G.G. and John Pfaff of Indianapolis. The Drs. Pfaff are specialists in abdominal surgery and diseases of women, and their talks before the local society were along these lines. It was the largest and most interesting meeting the society has ever held. Those in attendance from neighboring towns were Drs. English, Kressler and Johnson of Rensselaer, Drs. Besser and Ranier of Remington, Drs. Kinneman, Kennedy and Bassett of Goodland, Dr. Merry of Mt. Ayr, Dr. Collier of Brook, and Dr. Gibson of Sheldon. At the close of the meeting a three course dinner was served by Mrs. Mathews.

The towns of Fowler, Oxford, Goodland, Brook, Rensselaer and Morocco are forming a baseball league, with a regular schedule of Sunday games. Kentland will continue to play croquet, the game is so exciting.

Kentland

A derrick above the McCray block now supports Kentland's fire bell, and it would seem that at last it has been admirably located. For several years it has hung in the water tower, about the most inaccessible place in the town. From its new location it can be operated direct from the telephone office, where all fires are first phoned, or from the ground below. Let us hope, however, that it will rust away with age before it is again called into service. Since the fire bell has been located above the telephone office, Henry Bosh suggests that it be connected with the system so that it may be used in waking up the night operator. Every once in a while Henry has a good idea.

Charles Prue has on exhibition in Ryan & Co.'s show window a skin of a rattle snake of the diamond back variety. The skin measures over five feet in length and is adorned

with seven rattles. It was sent to him by Neal Tanquary of Texas, who killed the snake in his front yard. Even the skin looks ferocious and deadly to a tenderfoot Hoosier.

It is difficult to tell which Henry Dieter thinks the most of, his wife or the flower beds in the water works park. He has these grounds in superlative condition, and the beauty of the same attracts the attention of everyone, especially strangers. If you have not visited the park this spring walk over some day and see Henry swell up with justifiable pride.

Col. Root At Border. Passed Through Logansport Sunday With Regiment. Col. Edward A. Root, Kentland's only graduate from West Point, is now seeing service on the Mexican border. In command of the 30th U. S. Infantry, Col. Root passed through Logansport Sunday enroute to the front, and addresses his old friends here through a postal received at this office Monday morning, saying: "To my friends in the old home town whom I am not permitted to see, although so near, I send greetings. I am on my way from Plattsburg Barracks, New York, with my regiment, to the Texas-Mexican border at Rio Grande City, Texas."

New Catholic Parsonage. St Joseph Congregation to Erect New \$8,000.00 Residence. The Catholic parsonage which was erected many years ago by the Rev. Fr. Messman and has been the home of all the priests who have since served the St. Joseph parish, is to be sold at auction on June 3rd, and in its place will be erected a new parsonage. The new parsonage will cover a ground space of 38x39 feet, to have nine rooms, and will be modern in every particular. It is to be constructed of brick. The building committee hopes to start work on the new parsonage by July 1st and have it ready for occupancy by the first of next year.

Buys Old Parsonage. A. J. Schuh purchased the old St. Joseph parsonage Saturday, sold at public auction, for \$25.00. He will wreck the building at once, clearing the ground for the erection of the new parsonage.

Seven Austrians employed at the stone quarry were taken seriously sick Friday with ptomaine poisoning and Dr. Mathews worked with them for several hours to relieve their suffering.

Word has been received from Trent, England, that Rifleman Herbert Williams, a nephew of William Collins, was married at London on June 1. Miss Eva Collins received a box of wedding cake. When the

war is over Mr. Williams expects to bring his bride to America.

Kentland Chautauqua July 10th to the 14th. Kentland's third annual Chautauqua will open next Monday on the C. C. Kent grounds at the east end of Graham Street. The Marine Band of New York City is coming.

Florida Tourists Here. Motorists Traveling Over Dixie Highway in Kentland Yesterday. Twenty-three car loads of motorists embarked on the first motorcade from Lake county, Florida to Chicago, over the recently planned Dixie highway, passed through Kentland yesterday. In the party were men of all professions, with their wives and daughters, and they reported a most enjoyable and interesting trip. Just how they came to pass through Kentland was not explained as it is not our understanding that the proposed Dixie highway will touch this county.

The rural route covered by John Lowe has been extended three miles out in the Lewis Kenoyer corner, and Mr. Lowe will hereafter serve patrons along a route thirty-one miles in length. The change will be made Monday.

The editor resides on west Washington street, and assisted by Hume Sammons, John Ryan, Henry Russell, Will Schanlaub, Amos Morris, John Clark, John Bruck, Otis Galey, and some more of the youngsters of that neighborhood will give a party to the boys and girls of Kentland on the morning of August 3rd. Every boy and girl between the ages of six months and sixty years will meet us at Ryan's corner at 4 a.m. prompt. We will then form in line and march west one half block to the picnic grounds. It is hinted that the Wallace-Hagenback circus may be unloading at this point at about the hour named, but that will not interfere with the party.

A few days ago Lowe Hess, the ice-man, hung his tongs on a wire in the basement at Rice's restaurant. Mr. Hess was standing on wet boards and the wire was carrying electric juice into the building, and what happened in the next few minutes was no joking matter. Mr. Hess could not release his hold on the tongs, so he aroused the neighborhood with some lusty calls. Mr. Rice ran to the basement and grabbing Hess around the body gave a quick jerk, breaking the connection.

Contract Awarded. New Catholic Parsonage to be Built by Frank Schuster. At a meeting of the building committee of St. Joseph Church Friday evening a contract was

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Submitted by Janet Miller, Newton County Enterprise, Summer, 1916

awarded for the building of the new parsonage. There were a number of bids submitted, and the contract was let to Frank Schuster for \$8,100.00. An additional contract for heating and plumbing was let for \$1,404.90, and electric wiring for \$198.50. Work is to start at once.

Two New Dentists: Kentland is to have two new dentists. Dr. Heatlie has disposed of his practice to Dr. Ermal C. Baker of Kewanna, who has already taken charge of the office. Dr. Gravelle has traded locations with Dr. C. W. Doyle of Upland, and the change will be made in a week or so. Dr. Doyle is a brother-in-law of Earl Gardner. Both dentists come well recommended.

"Indiana", Kentland Theatre, Kentland, Indiana. One Day Only—Thursday, August 10th! Matinees at 2 and 4; Evening at 7 and 9. Adults 25 cents; Special Children Matinees only 10 cents. James Whitcomb Riley appears in Each Reel as the "Story Teller" - Story opens with land of LaSalle in 1679 and closes with Soldiers' Home at Lafayette, 1916. See the Battles of Vincennes and Tippecanoe, Morgan's Raids and Indian Massacres. Under Auspices Kentland Centennial Committee and Woman's Club.

Newsletter Covering the Kankakee Country. Charles R. Ball, one of the early settlers of the Kankakee region, died at his home west of Roselawn Sunday night. Mr. Ball was a soldier in the Civil War, and was also a minister and preached at different places in the community but did not hold a regular charge. He was a former postmaster of Roselawn. The funeral services were held at the Roselawn Church Wednesday.

Lincoln Township

Day with the Board of Commissioners. Hear Ditch and Road Reports and Grant Liquor Licenses. The highways leading from Water Valley to Kentland, and other Saharian spots of Newton County, will continue to be much smoother to ride over than when traveling in the opposite direction. At the meeting of the Board of Commissioners Monday the license of Ben Fogli to continue the retail sale of liquor at the only "cold goods" emporium in the county was renewed.

Central and Northern Newton

The Thomas Barker homestead in Jackson Township, that once well-known landmark, has undergone a decided change in the last few years. The place has gone to strangers and nothing is as it once was. The spreading oaks, which Uncle Tom prized so highly and preserved with so much care,

have been cut down to make pasture land, the rail fences have been replaced with woven wire, and the hospitable old home, with its broad, comfortable fireplace has been torn down and removed. Many of the older citizens doubtless will remember this place and its one time owner, "Uncle Tom."

Lake Township

Villa Killed. Bandit Run Down on Farm of B. F. Davis in Lake Township. B. F. Davis is the hero of Lake Township. Ned Barker must surrender the belt as a wolf hunter. Mr. Davis the other day killed the largest wolf ever seen in Lake Township, and brought the pelt down Monday to show the boys around the Court House. The wolf stood nearly three feet tall, and was hoary with age. He was making the rounds of Mr. Davis' hog pens when discovered, and a bullet from the trusty rifle of Lake Township's trustee brought the beast to the ground. By reason of his ferocious looks Mr. Davis gave his victim the name of Villa.

Morocco

Several machine loads of Methodists went to Royal Center Sunday to view the new church at that place with a view of possibly erecting one similar to it here.

The Methodist Church was sold Saturday afternoon to Carey Hagen for the consideration of \$210. The fixtures have been removed and Mr. Hagen will move the building at once in order that the construction of the new building can begin at once.

Willard Lucas has a pony power lawn mower and is doing a good business in custom mowing.

Morocco Boy World's Champion. The wrestling match Tuesday between Johnny Billiter, world's light weight champion wrestler, and Fred Hall, a local star, resulted in

a victory for Hall. The first bout lasted 35 minutes and ten seconds and was won by Billiter, who put Hall down with a toe hold. The second bout lasted just eight minutes and thirty seconds and resulted in the fall of Billiter when Hall imposed the body scissors and arm hold. The third fall lasted just twenty minutes, Hall coming back with his body scissors and the arm hold, and Billiter went down, thus giving Hall the much coveted championship.

Conrad

Mrs. Jennie M. Conrad, who is adding to the good name of Newton county through her success as a farmer and a breeder of prize hogs, was an honored guest at a dinner given by the Woman's National Agricultural and Horticultural Association at the Art Institute in Chicago on Wednesday evening of last week. Mrs. Conrad made a talk after a very laudatory introduction by her old friend, Charles P. Hutchinson, president of the Art Institute, who in his remarks concerning Mrs. Conrad said, "We were boys together."

Henry Corbin went to Conrad Monday to accept a position with Mrs. Conrad as deputy postmaster.

Large full page ad: Oak Dene Farms, Public Sale of Leading Herd, Old-Fashioned Spotted Poland China Hogs, Jennie M. Conrad, Conrad, Newton County Indiana, Monday August 7, 1916, 55 Head of Boars, Bred Sows and Bred Gilts, My Entire Herd, Danville Division, New York Central Ry. Train Leaves Chicago 7:15 a.m. Returns 7:30 p.m. Will meet north and south bound trains at Roselawn on Monon Route. Luncheon and Dinner will be served by the women of the Mission of Conrad, and the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church, Morocco, *Continued on page 8* >

Do You Know?

By Janet Miller, Answers on page 19

1. What was the population of Kentland in 1940?
2. Name the counties that border Newton County.
3. The following buildings have something in common. They were designed by the same architect: Remington and Sheldon Public Libraries, Remington Methodist Church, Kentland Coliseum, Sheldon Presbyterian Church, Rensselaer City Hall, Alexander J. Kent High School (later Kentland Elementary School), St. Joseph School in Kentland; and school buildings at Pine Township in Benton County, Foresman, Mount Ayr, Lake Village, Conrad, Sheldon, Remington, Raub, Fowler, Goodland and Enos. Who was this architect who resided in Kentland?
4. On May 21, 1991 our current Newton County Historical Society was organized with 18 members. Can you name the four officers elected at that time?
5. What did the letters C-SELM stand for, and what was it?

8 The Newcomer

< Continued from page 7

Indiana. (Picture of Big Paul No. 20, "The Hog of the Hour")

Brook

Hoosier celebrities issue Centennial Home-Coming call to absentees: "An Invitation to You and Your Folks" is the title of the George Ade Centennial Home-Coming booklet, just issued by the Bobbs-Merrill company, under the auspices of the Indiana Historical Commission.

George Ade has tendered to Governor Ralston his resignation as member of the board of trustees of Purdue University, giving as a reason for his withdrawal that other pressing duties denied him the time to give the position the thought and attention its importance deserved. Mr. Ade has been a member of the board for seven years, and had five more years to serve.

The dredge boat reached the old mill dams the middle of the week and removed parts of those old land marks without the least bit trouble, contrary to the opinion of some of our citizens who expected the work would present more difficulties. According to Bennett Lyons the first dam was build about 1848 or 1850, by John Lyons, father of the late Aaron Lyons, and John Montgomery. The second was built by a company organized by Edgar Hawkins, Morris Lyons, Andrew Hess and Samuel Benjamin. The dredge lifted, one sub-sill 14 by 14 and 35 feet long. Much of the rock used in building was rafted down the river. Mr. Lyons remembers that his father, Samuel Lyons, worked there for 75 cents a day and boarded himself. He insists that they had just as much to eat in those days, and more pleasure, and he knows that the fare of corn bread and all that went with it made better soldiers than this day produces. The railroad bridge was removed and the right-of-way cut through Sunday and service resumed Monday.

Reliability Run. Chicago Motorists to be Guests at Hazelden Tomorrow. The annual reliability run of the Chicago Automobile Club and the Chicago Athletic Club is now in progress. The trip from Chicago to Indianapolis will be made today and the return trip will be made tomorrow, stopping at Hazelden for dinner. There will be about thirty cars and possibly one hundred or more people in the party. Dinner is to be served at Hazelden by the Woman's Club of Kentland.

The Woodmen of the World will unveil the monument erected at the grave of the late J. C. M. Chafee in the Brook cemetery at 2:30 Sunday afternoon, with the usual ritualistic services. W. E. Cady of South Bend, state manager, will speak. William Darroch of this place will also appear on the program, and many members of the order

and others are planning to attend. Music will be furnished by the Kentland Band.

Grant Township

Orchard Lake Sale, New World Record. Warren T. McCray Retains Title of Hereford King. Sale Totals \$96,525.00. Seventy-five Head Bring Average of \$1,287.00. Superior Fairfax Heads List at \$10,000.00. Warren T. McCray, Jim Henry and Perfection Fairfax contributed another chapter to Hereford history yesterday, and established a new world record. The eighth annual sale held at Orchard Lake Farm was truly a record breaker in many ways. The offerings were the best ever led through a sale ring, the attendance of breeders and stockmen was possibly never exceeded. The arrangements were complete in every detail, and Newton County was placed more securely on the map as the home of the greatest Hereford cattle farm in the world. (Editor's Note: Buyers were from: Indiana, Illinois, Purdue University, Iowa, Kansas, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Ontario, Nebraska, Mississippi, Ohio, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Michigan, Idaho, Missouri and Pennsylvania.)

Goodland

Struck by Lightning. Goodland Woman Has Shoes Torn From Her Feet. Mrs. Ida Campbell, a woman about sixty years old residing at Goodland, was struck by lightning during a severe electric storm Sunday afternoon, and will recover. Mrs. Campbell was on the porch and the lightning seemed to cover her entire person. It melted the rims from her spectacles and tore the shoes from her feet. One shoe was reduced to ribbons, and the other was split from the sole. As a matter of course the woman was burned and badly shocked, but the attending physician says she will recover.

Lesley Cummings, son of Mrs. F. A. Cummings of Goodland, has been appointed a naval cadet at Annapolis by Congressman Wood, and has passed the entrance examination.

Mt. Ayr

Dr. J. T. Martin, the well known physician of Mt. Ayr, received word Monday of the death of his father at Indianola, Iowa, and left immediately for that place to attend the funeral.

The Mt. Ayr Tribune is the name of our new paper, which was published for the first time last week. H. C. Jenkinson is the publisher, with an office in the J. M. Hufty store building. A newspaper has been one of our needs for a long time, and may success crown the efforts of Mr. Jenkinson.

On the morning of June 1st, Hamlin Smith found eleven hides stolen from the slaughter house east of town. They were valued at about a hundred dollars, and it is hoped that the guilty parties may be appre-

hended.

Lloyd Hopkins has resigned as an instructor in the Mt. Ayr schools and accepted a position as assistant cashier of the Bank of Mt. Ayr.

The barn on the farm of W. W. Miller was discovered on fire Saturday about noon, and together with a crib nearby, was totally destroyed. The barn was a large building possibly worth \$2,000. In the barn was 40 tons of new hay and a lot of harness and implements. The crib contained between two and three thousand bushels of corn. The loss will probably total \$4,000, with about \$600 insurance. The people from town and community turned out and by their efforts succeeded in saving the house, although the shingles on the roof caught fire several times.

I. Raymond Stucker of Mt. Ayr has accepted a position as principal of the Muncie Business College and has entered upon his new duties.

Ade

We are informed that the Ade Grain Co. is contemplating the erection of a new concrete elevator to take the place of the elevator destroyed by fire at Ade last Thursday. Plans for the new building are now under consideration.

Beaver City

The farm home of Claude Holley, one and a half miles north of Beaver City, was destroyed by fire Tuesday morning. The fire originated from a spark from the chimney. The house was entirely destroyed, and only a part of the household goods were saved.

Washington Township

The congregation of the Mt. Zion Church held a jubilee meeting Sunday in celebration of wiping out the debt on the church building. Such a crowd was present that all could not gain access to the church. Talks were made by the local pastor and a number of visiting pastors, and at the noon hour a dinner was served in the spacious dining room.

**Newton County
Census Records,
Cemetery Transcriptions,
Marriage and
Death Indexes
can all be found
on our website:
www.ingenweb.org/innewton**

Salt

Harold LaCrosse
by Jeff Manes

Originally published in 2011

*"The quality goes in before the name goes on."
- Zenith slogan.*

The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Harold LaCrosse's 16th birthday. On December 8, 1944, the day after his 19th birthday, he arrived in Europe with the 63rd Infantry Division, also known as the "Blood and Fire Division."

LaCrosse, 85, was born in Lake Village and raised in Fair Oaks. Today, he lives in Morocco with Donna, his wife of 63 years. They've raised three children; the youngest, Gina, graduated from North Newton High School in 1975. We were classmates.

For 55 years, LaCrosse owned an appliance store in Morocco. Harold and Donna are members of the Newton County Historical Society.

"My parents came from the Momence (IL) area," LaCrosse began.

"At one time our surname was spelled LaQuiox."

There still are quite a few people of French ancestry from that neck of the woods. What high school did you attend?

"Mount Ayr."

After being discharged from the Army, what did you do?

"Thanks to the G.I. Bill, I attended Coyne's Electronics in Chicago. In 1948, I opened up an appliance store - repairs, sales



Harold in his Army uniform.

and service."

Television was in its infancy back in '48. I imagine, even after going to school in Chicago, you had to keep up with the latest technological advances.

"Absolutely."

Making contact with one of those old television tubes sure could wake a guy.

"You had to watch where you put your hands; I've been knocked off of more than one stool."

Me too, Harold. But it was usually in a place like the Hilltop Tavern, just down the street.

"I've also fallen from a few roofs in the wintertime while putting up antennas."

Did you sell items like refrigerators?

"No, I didn't do any white goods - all electronics."

Which included?

"Radios, TVs, stereos"

Harold, I remember my mother working as a waitress for a buck an hour so she could buy a stereo. That behemoth was the size of a sequoia.

"They were a piece of furniture back then."

What kind of TV set sat in the LaCrosse living room?

"I liked Zeniths."

Electronically speaking, what's one of the biggest changes you've seen between the '50s and '60s and the 21st Century?

"You used to be able to repair things; nowadays, you can't afford to repair things. It's a throw-away world now. It's cheaper to buy a new item."

Are you a member of Morocco's American Legion?

"Yes, but I've never been to a meeting."

Who's the oldest World War II Vet you know from the Morocco area?

"Vane Harrison; he's well into his 90s."

You're kiddin' me. Speed Harrison is still alive? That rascal has defied all laws of science and nature. When I first hired in the mill, "Speed-o" was still working as a locomotive engineer.

"Speed' was a pilot in the war."

In which parts of Europe did you fight?

"Southern Germany and southern France; I wound up on the Danube River."

You were probably involved in several battles.

"Absolutely. We went through the Siegfried Line and the Maginot Line. Both of those lines were nothing but pillboxes and dragon teeth."

Harold, bear with me, I know what a pillbox is. Dragon teeth?

"Dragon teeth were cement blocks about 3-feet square and about 3-feet tall scattered out on about a 20-foot-wide pad. They were tank obstacles."

How did you overcome them?

"The Allied Forces would take bulldozers and push dirt up against them, and the tanks would go right through the dragon teeth."

Harold, I can't imagine the chaos and horror you guys endured.



Harold and Donna LaCrosse.

"It's unexplainable; you have to experience it."

What kind of weapons did you use?

"I carried an M-1 (rifle)."

What about a Thompson machine gun?

"I carried a Thompson for a little while, but they're too doggone heavy. It wasn't a good gun for where we were at."

Were you awarded any medals?

"I received some medals. It lists them on my discharge papers."

Can I take a look at those papers?

"I suppose; they're in the other room somewhere."

Among several other decorations and citations, it says you were awarded not only the Bronze Star, but also the Silver Star. Harold, they don't get much higher than the Silver Star. Do you care to talk about what you did to earn that?

"I'd rather not."

This is the 63rd anniversary of the 63rd Infantry Division Association. The association's annual national reunion will be held from Aug 18 to 20 at the Crown Plaza in Indianapolis.

Donna LaCrosse is secretary-treasurer of the association and editor of "Blood an Fire," which is the association's newsletter. The publication comes out three times each year.

Some guys expound upon their battle experiences and some don't. Former Sg. LaCrosse wouldn't go into a lot of detail, at least not with someone like me, who wasn't there. I never push it.

Most folks from northern Newton County who know Harold probably think of him as the polite, unassuming man who repaired their TVs. They probably don't realize he's also a former GI with a Silver Star boxed away in a back room. And that's just the way he wants it.

Harold LaCrosse is a lot like those old, American-made Zeniths he knew inside and out - the quality was within.

They don't make 'em like that anymore.

Originally published 2011; republished in Volume I, "All Worth Their Salt - the People of NWI," by Jeff Manes.

Historian's Corner

Women And The Vote

By Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian

The demand for women's suffrage began to gather strength in the 1840s, and even more so after the Civil War in 1869. Many people thought this was a state's rights issue. In some locations, women were given various forms of partial suffrage, as voting for school boards. Women were enfranchised in Wyoming as early 1869 and in Utah, 1870. Endorsements would come from the short-lived Populist party, contributing to success in Colorado in 1893 and Idaho in 1896. In 1870, the movement received major boosts from the WCTU, (Women's Christian Temperance Union), when they decided to campaign for the effort. It was the largest women's organization in the country; their influence was felt nationwide. In 1886, the WCTU petitioned Congress with 200,000 signatures for a woman's right to vote. Rallies and efforts continued. In 1888, the Grange, at that time one of the largest farm organizations in the nation, endorsed the women's cause, along with the Federation of Labor collecting 270,000 signatures at one time in support of women's suffrage.

Attempts to vote in an election by suffragists such as prominent leader Susan B. Anthony in 1872, resulted in her arrest. As early as 1878, Senator Aaron A. Sargent, a friend to Anthony, introduced an amendment on women's right to vote. It ultimately failed passage.

Independent suffragist leaders Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucy Stone eventually merged their efforts after several years of rivalry in 1890. This sparked the long-endured campaign for a constitution amendment giving women the right to vote. Before this movement, women seldom voiced their opinion in public, let alone speak at meetings and rallies. The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, guaranteeing all American women the right to vote. After several decades of women in Indiana rallying to obtain the right to vote, it finally arrived on August 26, 1920.

Needless to say, it didn't take long for Newton County women to step up and become involved in their communities beyond the church, school and local organizations.

In the 1922 election, two women, Republican Etta Hess of Brook and Democrat Marian J. Bruck of Kentland would run for County



Etta Hess, Newton County's first woman to be elected to a county office, Treasurer.

Treasurer. Etta was the daughter of Commissioner David Hess, who also owned a dry goods store in Brook. Marian was the daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Bruck, who taught in Newton County schools. Etta was elected and served a 2-year term from 1923-1924. She eventually moved to Warsaw to live with her sister Blanch Gast. She died at the age of 78 in Warsaw, and is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Brook. Marian served as Deputy Treasurer for eleven years, continuing on to work in government offices in Indianapolis. She died in 1972, and is buried at St. Joseph Cemetery in Kentland.

As these articles from the Newton County Enterprise reflect, women were getting involved in what at one time was strictly considered a man's job.

March 29, 1924. Women Drawn for Service on Jury. Three Names On Special Venire to Report In Court This Morning.

"Three women of Newton County now have the distinction of having been drawn to serve on the jury. They will report in court this morning, and will very probably be dismissed, for we believe we can state without violating the confidence of Judge Williams, that he has never expressed himself very kindly toward women jurors on the ground that accommodations at the Courthouse are not suitable for mixed juries.

"The court ordered a special venire of thirty names drawn from which will be selected twelve jurors to try the State case against

Attorney John A. Dunlap, Rensselaer for rape. The case was venued here from Jasper County and is set for trial today before Special Judge William Isham of Fowler. When the jury commissioners met the first name they drew from the box was Louvisa Rainford of Lake Village. The name of the other two women called were Mrs. Laura Recher of Morocco and Mrs. Adda White of Kentland."

May 29, 1924. Woman Serves on Liquor Case Jury. This Single Honor Falls to Mrs. Nelle Cox of Near Enos.

"Mrs. Nellie Cox of near Enos has the distinction of being the first woman in Newton County to serve on a jury and participate in the finding of a verdict. The case in question was heard in the Circuit Court Tuesday afternoon and had to do with the violation of the liquor law.

"Mrs. Cox bore her honors gracefully, and did not appear embarrassed or ill at ease. She was neatly attired and gave evidence of being a lady of high intelligence. When the bottle of white mule whiskey was presented to the jury for the examination, Mrs. Cox quietly and without fuss examined its contents and passed the uncorked bottle beneath her nose. One could not help being impressed with her dignified bearing, and the manifest interest she took in the progress of the trial.

"Mrs. Cox exhibited no false modesty in retiring to the jury room with her eleven male companions, and in all her acts and deportment set a splendid example of the women who may hereafter be called to render jury service.

"At the March term of the Newton Circuit Court three women were drawn for jury service, but they were not privileged to hear a case. At the present term, Mrs. P. W. Gains was drawn, but was excused, leaving Mrs. Cox to actually serve as the first lady juror in the local court.

"The liquor case in question was brought against Frank Benner of the Earl Park neighborhood, who was arrested on the evening of May 16th down by the Nu-Joy dance hall."



Newton County was in the path of the full eclipse on August 20, 2017. A viewing party was held at the Brook-Iroquois Washington Township Public Library. Identified are left, Kyle Conrad, Rich Miller, Drew Conrad. In front of steps on right, Diana Elijah, in window right, Janet Miller. *Brook-Iroquois-Washington Twp. Library Facebook photo.*

History of Newton County Courts

By Beth Bassett

In the early years in Indiana, each judicial circuit included a number of counties. The state judiciary was represented by a circuit court judge who was required to travel from county seat to county seat within his judicial circuit on a regular schedule to hold court. These regularly scheduled sessions in each county called "terms of court" were held quarterly. The honorable Issac A. Naylor of Crawfordsville served as the first circuit court judge whose jurisdiction included Jasper and what is now Newton County. He continued to hold court in Jasper County on a regular basis from 1839 until the reorganization of the circuit courts in 1852.

The fact is that "circuit riding" continued to exist with regard to Jasper and Newton County until 1929, when the Indiana's Judicial Circuit was reduced to single counties, with the exception of two small counties in the state. Newton County is held within the 79th Judicial Circuit that was created by the Legislature in 1929, but did not actually come into existence until 1933. A few days thereafter, George F. Sammons was appointed under said act as the first judge of the 79th Judicial Circuit. The seat has since been held by Hon. Roland R. Cummings, 1941-1943, who died in office; Ralph Bower, who was appointed upon the death of Judge Cummings and served until 1944; Newell A. Lamb, 1945-1987, serving seven terms; George Vann, 1987-1992; Robert Smart, 1993-2000; William F. Sammons, 2000; Jeryl F. Leach, 2001-present.

The Newton Circuit Court operated as the Judicial Branch of the State Government unassisted by other judicial officers with the exception that each township in the county was entitled to have one Justice of the Peace to preside over township matters. The JP handled a variety of smaller, local issues, such as traffic offenders, disorderly conduct, public intoxication, burglaries, assault and battery and reckless driving. They also had the authority to perform marriage ceremonies

However, in 1976, the Indiana State Legislature decided to do away with the office of Justice of the Peace, and to require the Circuit Courts of the state to handle all the business previously handled by both offices.

Under the Indiana change of venue statute, a great number of lawsuits were sent to Newton County from surrounding counties. Presiding Judge Lamb often remarked that he lived in the country and has a highly metropolitan type practice before him. With the overload of out-of-county venue cases, as well as those at one time handled by the Justices of the Peace, it became apparent that there was a need for a Superior Court in Newton County. In 1980 the Indiana Legislature passed a statute establishing a Superior Court with Dennis Kramer as the new judge. Mark Bauer, was elected in 1984, and held the office from January 1985 until October 1985. Steve Bower served as the interim judge until 1986, when Daniel Molter was appointed by the governor, and then elected to serve to the present day.

Gov. McCray's Farm Early 1900s: Orchard Lake Stock Farm



Brook Terra Cotta Plant's Pit, North of Brook, 1900s



These three photos of Orchard Lake, the Terra Cotta Pit, and a possible photo of Perfection Fairfax, were part of a photo collection from the Bentley family of Brook by family descendent, Janet Scott.

George F. Sammons was born in Newton County in 1898, and spent his entire life in Newton County. After graduating from DePauw University in 1920, he assumed the position as the English and Mathematics teacher at A. J. Kent High School.



In 1926, he graduated from the University of Chicago Law School with a degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence. He engaged in the practice of law in Newton County for seven years. Upon separation of the Judicial Circuit in 1932, he was appointed by the governor of Indiana to serve as the first Judge of the Newton Circuit Court. He passed away on February 24, 1987.



Newell Lamb

Newell A. Lamb was born in 1909 in Chicago, IL, and grew up in St. Charles, IL. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1934 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1934, he received his Bachelor of Law degree from Wisconsin Law School, and his Doctorate of Law degree from University of Wisconsin in 1966. He began his law career in 1935 in Madison, Wisconsin, and was elected that same year as Justice of the Peace for Madison, moving to Kentland in 1940, where he joined the law firm of Howard Hiestand. From 1940-1944 he served as the Kentland town attorney, Newton County Attorney, Newton County Prosecuting Attorney and Appeals Attorney for the Selective Service System in Newton County. He was elected Circuit Court Judge in 1944 and served seven terms, retiring in 1987. He passed away on March 30, 1988, and is interred at the Fowler Cemetery.



12 The Newcomer

> Continued from page 3

Iroquois Dredging Timeline

• **November 27, 1914.** The big dredge is in Newton County, now, and is at work on the Ben Harris farm. It will probably arrive near Brook in time to take the place of the new library building for the sightseeing part of this community when the spring opens up.

• **June 11, 1915.** The Big Dredge. Sunday was show day at the big dredge and hundreds went to see it work. It was busy throwing dirt just east of the Foresman bridge and cutting out quite a channel. When this is completed it looks like it will be dangerous to go along the bank when the river is dry and a fall into the river bed would mean a broken leg or neck. While the big dredge was busy with the channel the bridge gang were making preparation to move the iron work of the bridge. All the wooden parts had been removed and the intentions were to skid the iron frame on rollers to the south without taking it apart. That bridge has been in place since 1882 and looks like it might last many years longer. There is more water in the river than the dredge can use and for the first time since they started the water was allowed to run past the dredge freely while at work.

• **June 25, 1915.** Nibs Hess is sore on the dredge, for he says it has spoiled the fishing. The banks are so high that you lose all the big ones trying to get them on top. This goes to show that as an inventor Nibs believes in getting out something new.

• **July 23, 1915.** Since the high water the boys around town have been enjoying a daily plunge in the dredge ditch east of town.

• **October 8, 1915.** The river dredge is a couple of hundred yards above the river bridge at the Hazelden farm and moving down very slow. The continued high water of the last couple of months has seriously handicapped the work, and during the last three months they have made no more progress that ordinarily they would make in a month. At the present rate of digging it will take them another year at least to complete the work.

• **October 15, 1915.** You can hear the Victrola most anywhere, but the most unusual place for the next year will be on the Iroquois River. This week H. S. Tjaden purchased one of the \$130 machines and has it in his home on the house boat that accompanies the dredge.

• **October 22, 1915.** The Hazelden river bridge, east of town, was

pulled out Sunday morning and the dredge started to dig the channel through and are now below the bridge. They will have quite a long stretch to dig in the old channel and this will go pretty fast until they strike southwest again through the Hess land, when a cut of about seventeen feet will have to be made for some distance.

• **October 29, 1915.** Sunday was quite a sight seeing day for the river dredge work and many people came from Illinois to see the dredge at work while there were dozens out from town and surrounding country. At present the dredge is rapidly going down the river, being now several hundred yards below the Hazelden wagon bridge. They are cutting about six feet out of the bed of the old channel of the river, which they will follow for nearly half a mile when they start across country again on a seventeen-foot cut. If there was ever any beauty connected with the Iroquois River the dredge is certainly destroying every bit of it and a person familiar with the past conditions of the river could hardly place himself with the high banks of mud and numberless sloughs of what had been at one time the river bed.

• **January 7, 1916.** The big river dredge has got down nearly to the cemetery, but have been going very slow for the past month or two, having a number of deep cuts to make. They will probably reach the railroad bridge by spring.

• **April 28, 1916.** The dredge men think that it will take about three weeks more of digging to reach the railroad bridge south of town. If it takes them the same length of time to tear out and replace the railroad bridge as it did the one at Foresman there will be no passenger trains for about three days.

The big river dredge is cutting on the last section before it reaches the railroad bridge crossing the river. The dredge men hope to reach the river bridge by next Sunday although it is doubtful if they will, being about a quarter of a mile above the bridge cutting in the old channel.

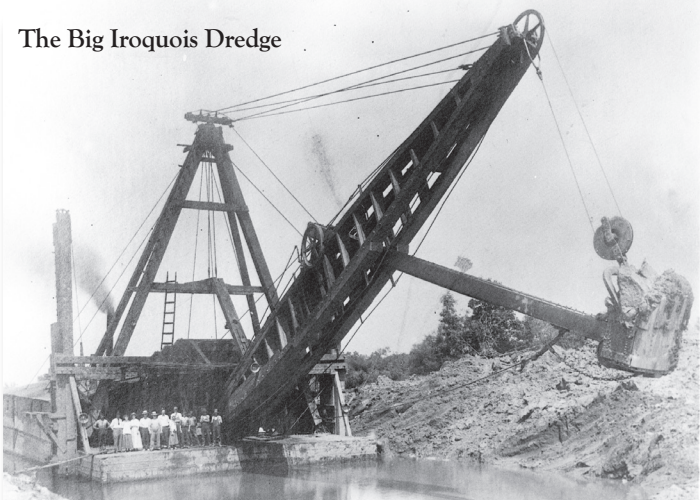
• **May 16, 1916.** Owing to the high water in the river the dredge was compelled to stop operations until the water becomes lower in the channel.

The big dredge reached the railroad bridge on Saturday evening and the work of tearing out a channel of sufficient width to allow the passing of the dredge boat was at once commenced by the railroad company. The dredge boat commenced throwing dirt as soon as the bridge was out of the way and cleared the bridge on Monday morning and work at replacing the bridge commenced, but was not completed and ready for the trains until Monday night. Hundreds of people watched the work of the dredge on Sunday. The dredge is now crossing the Gaines land and expects to reach the wagon bridge sometime the first of next week.

On Monday the railroad company hauled the express and passenger baggage from south of the river and transferred the passengers via automobile route from the same place to Brook to get around the river bridge, which is torn out on account of the dredge.

• **June 16, 1916.** The dredge is now past the south river bridge and

The Big Iroquois Dredge



work has commenced on replacing the bridge to its former position.

• **July 7, 1916.** Ed Sternberg is authority for the statement that the Borntrager Ditch will likely be completed by August 1st. As there is no move being made to continue it, the dredge will be dismantled and shipped some other point.

• **September 1, 1916.** The dredge machine broke down last week and part of the machinery had to be sent to Lafayette for repairs. Howard Myers went to Rensselaer Wednesday to get them and the old boat was busy again on Friday.

• **September 29, 1916.** The Borntrager Ditch was finished last week, and the crew are busy tearing down the dredge preparatory to shipping it to Tennessee. It will take from six to eight weeks to prepare it for shipment.

About The Big Dredge

“The big boat is now at the sandbank, only about 300 feet down stream from the construction and launching point. The massive boom and the big dipper extend far in front of the hull and tower above the top of the boat. The power from the 60 hp engine would be unable to lift the big boom except for the gearing arrangement, and it is quite wonderful to watch the great dipper as it is lowered into the channel and then plows its way through the dirt and is carried with a great splash. The stumps of good sized trees on the heavy and solid bank form no barrier for the powerful dipper and

consistant movements it piles dipper after dipper of the earth out of the channel.

“It so happened that the writer was at the dredge when it moved forward, which it does at about 16 feet at a time. To move is a simple matter. The boom is swayed to the right as the anchoring spud on th left is withdrawn and then swung to the left and the other sud is raised. Then the boom stops at the center, the dipper is extended to full length and lowered to the full length and lowered to the solid bed of the old channel in front and the boat pulled forward by the cables controlling the dipper. The spuds are then let down, with the boom being swung from right to left several times to settle them into the ground. The process requires only a few minutes and then the digging goes merrily on. The boat is equipped with an electric light plant and four big lamps on either side of the boat, with new tin dishpans for reflectors that give splendid light for the night work . The work is not so much different from that of any other dredge in operation, except the massiveness of the boat and the boom and dipper. It is a sight worth seeing and well worth a visit from any person.” *Reprinted from the Rensselaer Republican in the Brook Reporter, October 24, 1913.*

November 27, 1914. The big dredge is in Newton County

June 11, 1915. East of the Foresman bridge.

October 8, 1915. Above the river bridge at the Hazelden farm

SR 55

Foresman

SR 16

October 22, 1915. At the Hazelden river bridge, east of town.

About This Map

This current Google map of the Iroquois River flowing through Newton County's Iroquois and Washington Townships clearly reveals its original path (black line; the white lines indicate the dredging accomplished in 1916, and the flow of the river today through Iroquois Township.

May 16, 1916. reached the railroad bridge

June 16, 1916. The dredge is now past the south river bridge

C.&E.I. RR

January 7, 1916. The big river dredge has got down nearly to the cemetery.

April 28, 1916. The dredge men think that it will take about three weeks more of digging to reach the railroad bridge south of town

October 29, 1915. At present the dredge is rapidly going down the river, being now several hundred yards below the Hazelden wagon bridge.

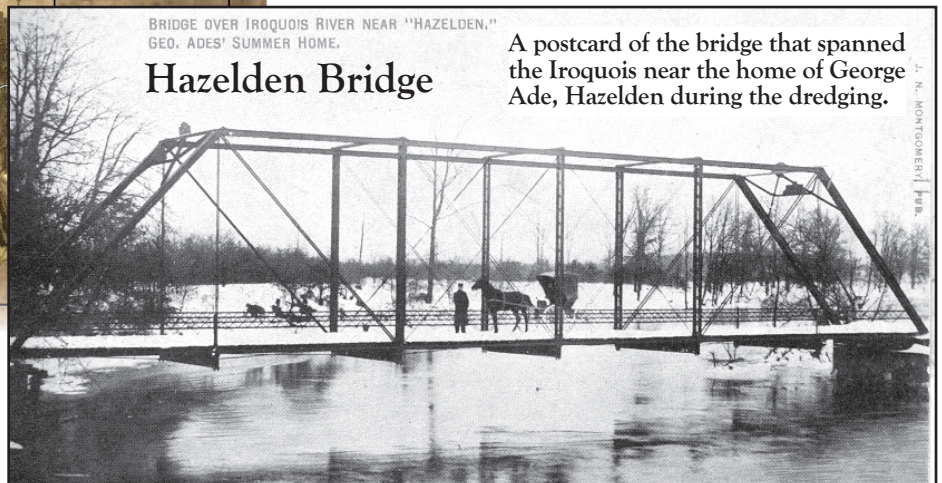
September 29, 1916. The Borntrager Ditch, as the contractor called it was finished.

This is where the dredging stopped. The remaining miles of river in Newton County flow as they did since the beginning of time - with a bit of cleaning out every now and then of log jams and debirs.

BRIDGE OVER IROQUOIS RIVER NEAR "HAZELDEN,"
GEO. ADE'S SUMMER HOME.

Hazelden Bridge

A postcard of the bridge that spanned the Iroquois near the home of George Ade, Hazelden during the dredging.



14 The Newcomer

1900-1940: A Period of Growth, Strength, Prosperity, and Heroism in Newton County

Compiled by Beth Bassett. This is the last of a series of articles in the Newcomer covering the history of Newton County from its beginnings through 1940

The 1900s-1940s was a time of growth in all aspects of our county. The lifestyles of the residents adapted and prospered despite the disposition of the nation's economy and the world powers' struggle for dominance.

The sense of community and morality of our society was reflected in the news articles that appeared in the local papers. What better way to tell the story of these amazing 40 years in time than through a selection of those articles and headlines. These are not complete articles and headlines, but perhaps it will peak your interest and you will venture into our facility for more research on the items. Please refer to the column "Pages of the Past," also in this edition that focuses on the Summer of 1916 from the *Enterprise*. The following articles are reprinted from the *Newton County Enterprise*, unless otherwise noted at the end with (BR), *Brook Reporter* or (MC), *Morocco Courier*.

July 26, 1917

Fifty-Nine Quota for Newton County. Must Have Inflated Our Population to Secure That Number

"Newton County will furnish fifty-nine men in the new army being raised by the United States to send to the eastern war zone. The gross quota of the county is 107, and from this we are given credit for 23 enlistments in the regular army and 25 in the National Guard which, deducted from the gross quota of 107 leaves a net quota of 59.

"This is much higher than estimates made here, both on the actual population of the county and on the number registered, as compared to the total furnished by the state. The only answer is, the county must have been given an inflated population. But there is no use to offer complaint, and no disposition to do so. The war is on, and must be fought to finish, and Newton County will do its share."

March 1, 1917

Will Erect Large Reduction Plant. Pearson Pendergrass to Establish New Industry Down by The River

"Pearson Pendergrass will start work this morning hauling out material for the erecting of a sanitary reduction plant along the river east of the Roberts bridge. The business will be conducted under the name of the Newton County Reduction Plant. The building will be of concrete and will be equipped with boilers, tanks and machinery sufficient to properly handle all the business that may develop in this and adjoining counties.

"The plant will handle all dead and undesirable animals, garbage, meats and vegetables of every character. The product will be fertilizer and hog feed.

Continued on page 15 >

	Education
1915	The original Enos Schoolhouse burns; another is built, and attempts to burn it down fail. Lake Village dedicated their new school house.
1918	Colfax Township to build a new school.
1921	Foresman dedicates their new school.
1925	W.O. Schanlaub appointed to Newton County Education board.
1926	Consolidation of all schools - closing one room schoolhouses.
1927	St. Joseph School and Sister home dedicated in Kentland.
1929	W.O. Schanlaub elected to another four-year term.
1938	Lake Village will build a new gymnasium, in May 1939 a dedication is celebrated.
1938	Kentland Alumni organized.
1938	Six-man football is being played at Kentland High School.
1940	Morocco High School athletics department is put on probation due to football practices being held prior to season. One coach resigns, and another is hired.
1940	Kentland wants to erect a new gym and community center.

	Community
1909	Creation of a library in Kentland is considered.
1912	A new brick church proposed at Mt. Zion.
1917	Morocco dedicates their new ME Church.
1921	A.D. Babcock opens the Open-Door Museum in Goodland.
1922	Farm Bureau has members in Jefferson Township.
1925	Children's party planned at Hazelden.
1926	Farm Bureau in every township.
1932	Morocco holds contest to name town park. Name chosen as Recher Park.
1933	Zoro Nature Club creating quite a stir within the county.
1933	Local racecar driver Les Spangler is killed during race at the Indianapolis 500.
1938	300 boys and girls will be recruited in Newton County for 4-H. Organizational meeting was held and 441 children were enrolled. In 1940, 575 4-H projects were registered in the county.
1940	Charter is granted for the Kentland Rotary.
1940	Newton County 4-H will utilize the new Pig barn for the first time at county fairgrounds.
1940	The Newton County fair presents a musical venue entitled "Broadway On Parade."

	Towns
1905	In June there is an announcement of new town - Conrad.
1914	The colony of Tripoli in Jackson Township brings comments to the local news.
1927	Sumava Resorts on the Kankakee established.
1932	Many homes have been sold in Sumava Resorts (MC)

> Continued from page 14

“Such a plant will prove a great benefit to the county, and we trust profitable to Mr. Pendergrass. The proper disposal of dead animals and garbage is a serious question in all communities. Dead animal carelessly buried, and garbage thrown out at random are a menace to the health of the people, and a plant where such refuse may be properly reduced to useful products should be welcomed by all. Mr. Pendergrass has plans for a perfect sanitary plant, sufficiently removed from all dwellings and where the work may be carried on to the best advantage.”

October 25, 1917

Company of Home Guards Organized. Will Meet at the Coliseum

Tuesday Night to Elect Officers.

“Fred Berger, appointed by the County Council of Defense to organize Home Guard companies throughout Newton County, was in Kentland during the week and with the assistance of some of the local boys secured the names of sixty-eight men. This is more than enough for a full company, and after meeting with such good success here Mr. Berger changed his original plans of organizing a company through the support of the several towns of the county and will organize a full company here. He stated that the other towns, providing they did not come forward, would be organized in units and be made a part of the Kentland company.”

April 25, 1918

First Gold Star in Newton

County Flag. Chester Harry of Brook Dies of Pneumonia at Camp Taylor.

“The sad intelligence reached Newton County Tuesday morning from Camp Taylor that Chester Harry, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Harry of Brook, had succumbed to pneumonia the previous night. This is the first death among the two hundred or more young men who have gone forth from this county to serve their country, and the people as a whole mourn deeply, and join as one large family in extending whole hearted sympathy to the bereaved parents and others of kin, of this noble young hero.”

On to The Goal! Newton County

Liberty Loan Set at \$300,000.00.

We Will Do It! We Will!

“Again, Newton County has been put to the test and not found wanting. Liberty Loan sales continue to show a marked increase for the week and a total of \$278,300 has been reached.

“Both Warren T. McCray, County Chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee, and Miss Adah E. Bush, Chairman of the Woman’s Committee, are jubilant over the splendid work accomplished by their respective committee workers. The women are giving of their time and energy unstintedly, and that we have gone “over the top” is due in a large way to the active work and indirect influence

of Newton County’s patriotic women.”

March 17, 1918

War Mothers Meet and Form Society.

Fifty-One Women in Jefferson

Township Have Boys in Service.

“The war mothers of Jefferson Township met at the Public Library Saturday afternoon and formed a society, the purpose of which is to look after the interests and welfare of

their own sons, and to assist in war work in whatever manner possible.

“Mrs. John G. Davis, Newton County, called the meeting to order, and a permanent organization was formed. They elected Mrs. R. C. McCain president and Mrs. W. J. Cunningham secretary. Mrs. McCain requested the creation of an executive committee, and named as members thereof: Mrs. J. G. Davis, Mrs. W. Kirkpatrick, Continued on page 16 >

	Utilities and Business
1900	Will McCray working on expanding telephone lines. Three of them in Kentland. Planning on working with Abe Halleck’s telephone company in Rensselaer. Wants to join together Rensselaer, Brook, Mt. Ayr and Morocco with Kentland. In January 1900, 3 phones in Kentland, 70 in Brook and 50 in Morocco. By the end of June, Kentland had connections to all these towns; Goodland, Earl Park, Fowler and Oxford negotiations were ongoing. In the meantime, the Otis Ranch in Rose-lawn were double checking their phone line connections.
1900	In September, the citizens of Kentland are pleading for sidewalk repairs, which was answered with positive response, however a notice appeared requesting that the markers set for the new sidewalks not be moved – that they were placed where the sidewalk would be built. In 1905, an anti-spitting ordinance was in effect.
1900	Sigler’s at Mt. Ayr placed gasoline lamps in front of the store. More are expected throughout the town.
1909	Hotels are built in Kentland, the Arcade and in Brook, the McMillan.
1910	The county home is destroyed by fire; immediate talks begin regarding reconstruction.
1916	Oil has been discovered at Thayer.
1916	Mt. Ayr has a new newspaper – the Mt. Ayr Tribune.
1917	Reduction Plant built by Pearson Pendergrass north of Kentland opens.
1917	McCray builds elevator at Enos.
1920	W.T. McCray’s King of the Herefordshire, Perfection Fairfax dies. He is buried at Orchard Lake with a monument built on his grave site.
1929	Green Acres has power lines.
1931	Home Creamery opens in Morocco.
1933	Lake Village and Kentland Cheese factories open. Within two months, the Lake Village site burns to the ground.
1933	In July, eight buildings burn in Mt. Ayr. (MC)
1933	Many improvements are being made in Lake Village.
1938	A Rural Electric Association meeting is held with the possibility of electrifying rural Newton County. Mapping the area begins in November and \$250,000 is earmarked for Newton County REMC project.
1940	Rural electrification begins in January. Electricity was made available to the first unit Monday, June 17, 1940. The residences of Albert Bower and William Unger, Jefferson Township, were the first to secure electricity from the Newton County REMC project.
1940	A new factory is proposed in the location of the Kentland Coliseum. In August, the Dean Davis Company opens with expectations hiring 50 employees, 80% of whom will be women. They will manufacture and assemble solenoids, transformers, electric coils.
1940	Oil is discovered on the Yacik farm in Thayer.

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> Continued from page 15

Mrs. Jacob A. White and Mrs. T. H. Dixon.

"At the conclusion of the meeting twenty-eight women registered. There are 23 war

mothers in the township who were not present, and they are urged to be present at the next meeting and affiliate themselves with the society. Meetings will be held every two

weeks.

"On convening the meeting, Mrs. Davis made a nice talk on the purpose of the organization and solicited the active support of every mother who has a son in the service. Mrs. Dixon gave a talk on the necessary work of the Red Cross, and suggested getting a service flag for Jefferson Township. Miss Adah Bush made an interesting talk on the importance of writing letters to the boys, and the work that is being done to stimulate cheer and contentment in the camps.

"Mrs. McCain, in assuming her duties as president spoke at length stating, "We meet here for mutual benefits, to form new friendships, and the tie that will bind us together is the love for our boys, and our interest in their welfare."

Thursday, July 18, 1918

Famous Golfers To Play At Hazelden Western Golf Association Arranges Match

The big match at Hazelden has been set for July 18, about 2:30 in the afternoon. "Chic" Evans and Kenneth Edwards, two of the best amateurs in America are going to play "Jock" Hutchinson and "Bob" McDonald, the two great "pros" who have been cleaning up the whole country of late. It will be a match worth going miles to see, whether you understand the fine points of golf or not. Each person witnessing the contest must buy and exhibit a Red Cross badge which will cost \$1.00. Before the match the privilege of caddying for the star players will be auctioned off and after the match the balls used in playing will be sold at auction. This match is under the direction of the Western Golf Association but the entire proceeds, less the actual traveling expenses of the players, will go to the Newton County Chapter of the Red Cross and be expended for work-room supplies. Anyone who wishes to see the grandest golf match ever pulled off in the state of Indiana, and, at the same time, lend a friendly hand to the Red Cross women of Newton county should be at Hazelden on the afternoon of Thursday the 18th.

August 13, 1925

Children's Party at Hazelden Farm. George Ade Host to 500 Little Folks Yesterday

"The spacious and well-kept grounds of Hazelden Farm, the country home of George Ade, is strewn with litter this morning. Remnants of paper lunch boxes, toy balloons, fancy paper hats and skeletons of horns and whirligigs cover the lawns in endless profusion.

"But amidst all this litter, Mr. Ade retired last night the happiest man of the whole countryside. Yesterday was the date of the party for children which Mr. Ade gives annually, and he was host to 500 little folks. The children romped the grounds, and participated in a spectacular program that con-

Agriculture	
1900	In August, threshing brings 50-70 bu./acre; Three mammoth barns were being built in McClellan Township. In December, over 120,000 bushels of corn marketed at Kentland at 32 cents per bushel, netting \$38,400.00 in one week.
1909	Kentland hosts Horse Show.
1914	Jenny Conrad raising Poland China Hogs - creating quite a sensation in the county.
1914	In September, hoof and mouth disease is reported in the county.
1915	There were many large farms/ranches in the county, among those are Orchard Lake Stock Farms and Conrad which are mentioned in articles.
1940	The elevator at Foresman burns, destroying 30,000 bushels of oats and 500 bushels of soybeans. The two corn cribs holding a vast amount had been emptied only days before the fire.
1940	The state Corn Husking tournament is held on the grounds of the county home. The Newton County winner was Edmyre Henson of Thayer.

Government and Politics	
1900	Location of the County seat contested by Morocco. The struggle would be decided with an election, with results deciding that it would remain in Kentland. Brook would also contest location, which would also require an election and would also end with the same results.
1905	New Rural Routes had been established.
1917	Newton County Bar Association is organized.
1918	Thanksgiving Day is established.
1920	W. T. McCray makes his second run for Governor, succeeding at being elected Indiana's 33rd Governor. The McCrays would be first family to occupy the new governor's mansion.
1922	Four women apply for county offices. The first to do so in Newton County.
1923	Miss Hess elected and takes office. By 1925, she would retire.
1923	Articles begin to appear regarding the demise of W. T. McCray's governorship and his personal finances. He would be indicted for fraud and would resign from office in 1924. In 1926, a pardon was expected due to health issues - however he did not get his freedom until September of 1927. He would receive a full pardon in December of 1933, and die in 1938.
1924	Three women's names were drawn for jury duty. In May one of those jurors, Nellie Cox, would serve on jury and find a verdict.
1924	Women were given legal status in Political Organizations.
1930	Newton County wants their own Circuit Court.
1933	After appeals heard at the Supreme Court level, Newton County now has its own Judicial Circuit - the 79th.
1933	18th Amendment is ratified.
1933	Local WPA launched and several civil works are underway.
1940	The 1940 Census is taken - which was released in 2010 for public research.
1940	President Roosevelt is elected to his third term; Charles Halleck retains his 2nd District Congressional Seat.

tinued without intermission from 9:00 a.m. until evening.

“It was a circus, a carnival, and a Fourth of July celebration all in one. And as many grown-ups stood along the sidelines and watched with the keenest interest every event that was staged by Mr. Ade for the delight of his little friends.

“Automobiles loaded from fender to windshield with expectant kiddies began arriving early, and each child on arrival was given a large bag containing a fancy hat and a picture of Hazelden, on which grounds they were to spend the day in hilarious enjoyment. The little folks needed no coaching and were soon adorned with an array of headdress that gave color to the assemblage and delight to the wearers.

“Judging from past years, Mr. Ade had prepared for 250 children, but acceptances of his invitation came in such great profusion that rush orders were wired to Chicago Tuesday to double the quantity of everything that had been engaged for the party.

“Box lunches had been prepared and the little folks marched through the pavilion and each given one. In addition to the dinner proper, keg after keg of ice cream was rolled out and tapped, and great jars of lemonade flanked the eating tent.

“Then came the big events of the day. A ventriloquist, a clown, a Punch and Judy man and a Dago with hand organ and monkey had been imported from Chicago for an hour gave just the kind of entertainment that pleases children most.

“Then a carton of noisemakers was opened, and each child given his choice of the most variegated collection of horns, megaphones, whistles, horse fiddles, screechers - everything that would make a noise - and bedlam broke loose. In the mean-time, baseball games and contests of all kinds were taking place. Affinity races, egg and spoon races, dressing contests, contests in weights of the various ages, cracker eating contests, needle and thread tests, and a dozen other games and contests that fairly enraptured the little folks, as well as proving none the less interesting to the adults.

“After the games Mr. Ade invited the little folks around the pavilion and presented a long and handsome list of prizes to the winners. By this time, the toy balloons were showing the worse for wear, and a new supply was handed out and amid shouts of laughter, the children were herded out on the golf course adjoining Mr. Ade’s home to witness a gorgeous display of day fireworks.

“This concluded the day’s program, and the half thousand happy, but tired children were returned to their homes, and for weeks following will talk of the wonderful day they had at Hazelden as Mr. Ade’s guests.

“The annual children’s party at Hazelden is never given second place in George Ade’s big program of entertaining, none other is so

close to his heart, and we doubt if any of the year affords him more real genuine pleasure. It is nice to have *Continued on page 18 >*

	Military
1900	In July, Leroy Templeton shipped five cars of cattle destined for South Africa - billed to New Jersey - transported from there to Liverpool, then on the South Africa for use by England’s soldiers - longest distance of any stock shipment from Roselawn.
1900s	Old soldiers meet at Brook.
1915	A monument to the Indiana 51st Infantry, Company B, in the form of a tablet is placed inside the Brook Public Library.
1917	WWI news begins to fill the pages. Rolls of Honor, lists of registrants and letters from the front bring news of the war. Women participate in the war effort throughout the county by knitting socks for the soldiers. Fifty-seven women in Jefferson Township form a group called the War Mothers. Goodland would also organize their own group. In October, the Liberty Guard is re-organized in Kentland, the first to do so.
1918	Women may be asked to register for the draft, the first women in Newton County were from Jefferson Township to register. In March, Liberty Bonds were being promoted by locals such as George Ade and W. T. McCray.
1918	The first Newton County soldier to die in WWI is Chester Harry of Brook in April. Deaths would be known and recognized as Gold Stars.
1918	In July, George Ade organizes a fund raiser for the Red Cross at Hazelden.
1918	Newton County ladies respond to the government’s pleas to provide nurses for the cause.
1918	WWI is over by November, letters continue from soldiers.
1921	Armistice Day is proclaimed.
1940	Federal and State draft laws are set; Men between the ages of 21-35 to register by October 16; 1,023 men are registered that day; In November, the first Newton County boy, Glen Cundall of Brook is called to service.

	Miscellaneous
1900	Small pox reported.
1909	Talks are ongoing regarding dredging the Kankakee, known as the Marble Ditch project and the Iroquois, known as the Iroquois River Improvement project. In 1914, the Marble Ditch contract was sold, as was the Iroquois River dredge. By 1921, the Marble ditch would be finished, and the Iroquois in 1916.
1914	Small pox outbreak.
1918	Flu epidemic at Brook, public meetings cancelled. The epidemic would claim more lives in Newton County than WWI.
1918	The Adeway - the road that runs from Chicago to George Ade’s Hazelden is laid out. In 1920, the state would claim the road, giving Newton County forty-four miles of State road.
1924	In June, Ned Barker has killed 63 wolves in the county since November 1st.
1925	Local roads given federal numbers, US 41, US 24 (also known as the Harding Highway), and US 52.
1927	100 landowners along US 41 must sign over land - all but five signs.
1928	US 41 opens between Kentland and Morocco.
1929	Agnes Molter to have law office in Kentland.
1940	Under a state project, a roadside park is established at Lake Village.

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> Continued from page 17

the facilities to stage such an affair, and still more wonderful to have the disposition to do so."

March 10, 1927

Summer Resort on Kankakee River. Wealthy Chicagoans Plan to Make Site North of Lake Village Summer Resort.

"A group of wealthy Bohemians of Chicago have purchased four-hundred acres of land paralleling the Kankakee River one mile north of Lake Village which they plan to convert into a playground for summer pleasure seekers. The resort is to be known as Sumava Forest, a name taken from their native Bohemia. Building operations are already in effect.

"It is the plan of the syndicate to erect many cottages and surround them with the usual attractions that go to make a summer resort. An artificial lake will be constructed by dredging a ditch from the Kankakee which will feed the water into the excavation which will form the miniature lake.

"Boating, bathing and fishing facilities will be provided. It is also stated a golf course will be laid out. A dance pavilion is also included in the plans and hotel service will be available for transients. Lots will be laid out and anyone caring to do so, we are informed, may purchase any of these lots and erect cottages of their own.

"It is stated the promoters have erected several such summer resorts and have made them so attractive that they were eagerly sought by parties who wished to purchase them.

"The general typography of the land bordering the Kankakee at this point and the wealth of beautiful scenery make it an ideal

location for a summer resort and undoubtedly many city people and others will make it their home during the hot weather."

September 13, 1928

41 To Be Opened by November 1. Increased Force of Workmen Adds Progress to Road Building.

"Work on the Davis Construction contract, which had the building of the ten miles section on U. S. Highway No. 41, extending north from Kentland, has been making substantial progress during the past ten days. It would now appear that all the work, including bridges, will be fully completed and opened to the public before November 1st.

"Since the bonding company took over the work they have increased the force of workmen. One gang is now building shoulders at the north end. Another gang has started the preliminary work on the south end. A drag line machine has been installed for the removal of the earth at the north end of the bridge. There is a cut for several hundred feet at the north end of the bridge of an average depth of five feet. Riveters are now at work on the bolting of the north span of the bridge and as soon as this work is completed, they will lay the cement floor. The earth work taken from the cut to the north is being placed in the fill at the south end of the bridge. This requires about 12,000 yards of earth, but it is expected that the fill be completed within fifteen days.

"Everybody will be pleased when they can go straight through on No. Forty-one.

November 15, 1928

Sells Reduction Plant. E. S. Hess Disposes of Interest to M. A. Bryant & Son. "E. S. Hess, who for the past eleven years

has operated the Kentland Reduction Plant, north of Kentland, has disposed of his interests there to M. A. Bryant and M. E. Bryant, who have taken possession and will continue to operate the business under the same name as heretofore. Mr. Bryant and son have had an interest in the plant for some time and are experienced and fully qualified to carry on the business in a satisfactory manner. Dr. and Mrs. Hess expect to leave soon for Louisiana where they will be for a short time. Upon their return it is their intentions to make their home in Kentland.

March 21, 1929

New Building. Miss Agnes Molter to Have New Law Office on Third Street.

"Work has been started on a new one-story brick office building on the vacant lot south of the Ferris Pool Room. This improvement is being made by Miss Agnes Molter, and when complete will be used by her for a modern law office. A basement will be built under a part of the room, of sufficient size to house a heating plant and for a fuel room. The room proper will be partitioned so as to afford suitable law library space and the necessary waiting room and private office. The erection of this room will greatly improve the appearance of Main street and is an improvement much needed."

June 6, 1929

Green Acres Farm Being Improved. Building Program and Extension of Power Lines is Under Way.

"One of the most comprehensive development programs in the history of the county is under way on the farms acquired by the Insull-Huber interests > Continued on page 19

NOW! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY!
You can buy a genuine lifetime **Maytag** with square aluminum tub

Model 30, electric \$79.50
Model 31, gasoline 99.50 (aluminum tub) 8 sheet capacity

FOR ONLY \$79.50 For a Limited Time

Yes! This is the very latest model Maytag-brand new

MAKE OUR DRUG STORE YOUR DRUG STORE
BOONE PHARMACY
KENTLAND, IND. PHONE 48-J (AUTHORIZED MAYTAG DEALERS)

Maytag PREFERRED BY MORE THAN 50 NEWTON COUNTY WOMEN

MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF YOU DESIRE
LIBERAL TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE FOR YOUR OLD WASHING MACHINE

GENUINE MAYTAG MULTIMOTOR OIL \$1.25 GALLON

FREE RINSO Ask For Details

MAYTAG CHURNS AND MEAT GRINDERS
Mr. and Mrs. Farmer—Investigate these modern conveniences for your Maytag. Let your Maytag washer do this work for you too.

Model 10 (electric) \$59.50
Model 11 (gasoline) 79.50 (porcelain tub) 6 sheet capacity.

For a LIMITED TIME - While They Last!
An Amazing **NU-TYPE Aladdin Mantle Lamp**

White Light from Kerosene (EXACTLY AS ILLUSTRATED) Regular Retail Price \$4.75

for only \$2.85

Cash when your purchases at this store amount to but \$10.

HURRY! HURRY! Ask Us At Once For Details

FREE DEMONSTRATION NOW ON

Lyons & Hershman

New Easter Hats and Dresses

NEW STOCK JUST RECEIVED

THE FROCKS are in dainty prints and plain knit rayons featuring new neck, sleeve and novel frilled details. They are priced at from **\$3.88 to \$7.75**

THE HATS are of the newest straws and braids in the seasons newest styles. They are priced at 98c to \$2.55, featuring a special line at only **\$1.85**

The Gem Store
Brook Indiana

These advertisements appeared in the January, 1934 editions of the Brook Reporter.

Summer/Fall 2017 - www.ingenweb.org/innewton

> *Continued from page 18*
 in Colfax and Lincoln Townships. The entire body of land comprising more than 2500 acres in Colfax, and one section of 640 acres in Lincoln, is now operated as the Green Acre Farms. One-half interest is owned by Edward Huber, the other half by the Martin Insull interests. The soil and local conditions are well adapted for modern diversified farming activities, and the owners are seeking to further a development that will establish Green Acres as one of the most modern farming and livestock producing tracts in this part of the country. The buildings and fences are being repaired and replaced and improvements are being added as rapidly as possible.

"Major Rafferty, son-in-law of Mr. Insull, has general supervision of the farms. A new home has been erected by Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty and is almost ready for occupancy. Geo. H. Hillis, for many years a county commissioner, and a man who is familiar with every nook and corner of the northern part of

Newton County, has been employed as general manager. Mr. Hillis is well equipped by experience and knowledge of farming conditions to aid in the establishing of approved modern agricultural methods. Under his direction the tractor and four row planter and cultivator is replacing the horse and wasted man power. Only a few days ago, men working on the Greenacre farms planted 55 acres of corn in a single day with one of the 4-row planters with tractor power.

"But not only in the fields is the new order of things shown. The Interstate Public Service Co. has extended the power lines into this new territory and has made available to the employee's modern conveniences for their homes. Nearly 11 miles of transmission lines were constructed in order to furnish light and power to the various homes located on the farms. The power thus made available will also permit the installation of electrically driven grinders and elevators and other tools so useful on the modern farm. The extension of the lines will also enable many other farmers to secure electric service, and it is understood that the Enos and Colfax schools are to be connected to the Interstate lines. The county is fortunate in having this development underway, for it is not only a valuable improvement in itself, but it may furnish the incentive to others to join in building up the farming industry."

February 16, 1933

Lake Village Shows Spirit for Progressive Community Growth

By Henry Stoner. "Lake Village, Indiana, is a thriving little town, very old, but not overgrown, and a nice place for good people to live. As they quoted the old saying when they shot the horse thief as he jumped the ditch just north of Mrs. Conrad's, "the country is so healthy they had to kill a man to start a graveyard."

"Lake Village derived its name from the once famed Beaver Lake, which was drained by the Beaver Lake ditch which runs just west of the Village a half-mile. Bill Dowling, Ned Barker and others used to spear muskrats by the thousands and the ducks, geese and brant were so thick they actually darkened the sun when they flew up. The biggest part of the old lake bottom is excellent farm land.

"The Village is not incorporated, has no Chamber of Commerce or Lions Club. We have a lively bunch of businessmen that are "go-getters," and usually get what they go after. They have just located a cheese factory which began operations the 15th and will furnish a good market for the farmer's milk. They will be able to handle up to 30,000 pounds of milk a day.

"The N.Y.C. Railroad and Road 41 goes through town and we sure give Warren T. McCray full credit, for he is the boy who made

them both possible.

"The town has been practically rebuilt in the last few years, the old log cabins were replaced with new modern homes.

"We now have located here the Shell Petroleum bulk station, Claussen's pickle factory, five filling stations, three restaurants, Presbyterian Church, barber shop, two stores, one big garage, a three-room school, a hotel and five modern rooming houses. The community club meets the last Friday of each month.

"There were 35 houses built in Lake Township last year and we are in need of more. There will be five miles of cement road built in the spring. We have other factories in sight and are talking of building our own power electric plant on the Beaver Lake Ditch." (MC)

Continued on page 20 >

1940 Car Prices From Ad in Brook Reporter

Make and Model	Price for Sedan
Cadillac V-16	\$5140
Lincoln V-12	\$4905
Cadillac "75"	\$2995
Packard "180"	\$2395
Chrysler Imperial	\$2245
Cadillac "60 Spec."	\$2090
Buick "90"	\$1942
Cadillac "62"	\$1745
Packard "160"	\$1632
Buick "80"	\$1553
LaSalle "52"	\$1440
Lincoln-Zephyr V-12	\$1439
Mercury-8	\$990
Ford Deluxe "85"	\$812
Plymouth Deluxe	\$805
Chevrolet Sp. Del.	\$802
Chevrolet Mast. Del.	\$766
Ford V-8 "85"	\$750
Chevrolet Mast. "85"	\$740
Plymouth "Roadking"	\$740
Ford V-8 "60"	\$709

Answers to ...
Do You Know?
 By Janet Miller
 Questions on page 7

1. The population of Newton County in 1940 was 10,775 persons.
2. The five counties that border Newton County are Lake County, Jasper County, and Benton County in Indiana and Iroquois County and Kankakee County in Illinois.
3. The prolific architect who designed the aforementioned buildings was John Bruck of Kentland.
4. The four officers of the Newton County Historical Society organized in 1991 were: President - Kyle Conrad, Brook; Vice-President - Gerald Born, Morocco; Secretary - Joyce Kay, Morocco; and Treasurer - Janet Miller, Kentland.
5. C-SELM was an acronym which stood for Chicago-South End (of) Lake Michigan. C-SELM was a plan devised by the Army Corps of Engineers which called for the treatment of wastewater from Chicago by pumping the waste through an elaborate pipeline to huge holding lagoons involving 30,000 acres of land in Newton, Jasper and Pulaski counties in Indiana and Iroquois County in Illinois. The plan called for the wastewater to be filtered through the soil and then pumped back to Chicago as "clean water". A massive outpouring of opposition by the people of the counties earmarked to receive the sewage caused its demise.

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> Continued from page 19

September 21, 1933

Nature Nudists Frolic in Woods in North Newton

"A nudist colony operating in Northern Newton County was placed in the spotlight by Chicago papers Monday. The camp is called the Zoro Nature Club, and has been operating since June 15. Since the members hail from Chicago little attention has been paid to the enterprise by local people.

"According to the stories of daily reporters who visited the camp the members, who pay a fee of \$10 to join, partially disrobe in the loft of a large barn, then skipping into the woods in trunks or pajamas completely disrobe. Swimming, volleyball and walks through the thick woodland are practiced in the nude.

"Attorney and Mrs. Alois S. Knapp of Chicago are owners of the camp. Mrs. Knapp, whose parents, now dead, once occupied the farm, declared that the camp is for healthy minded, healthy bodied people." (MC)

January 3, 1934

Brook's Tourney Record

"The Brook basketball team has won eight of the eleven section tourneys. In 1923, the Brook net men won the tourney, defeating Rensselaer in the final game 15-14. In 1924, Otterbein defeated Brook in the final game, 18-6 and also won the regional tourney. In 1925, Brook won the final tourney game from Remington by a score of 33-28. In 1928, Brook took the final game from Morocco by a score of 22-9 and was declared

tourney winner. In 1927, Kentland won the section from Goodland by a score of 25-21. Brook was eliminated in the semi-finals by Goodland by a 25-29 score, Goodland won the 1928 tourney by defeating Remington in a double overtime game, final score 28-26. Remington defeated Brook in the semi-finals by a 21-20 score. In 1929, Brook won the final game by defeating Goodland 24-12. In 1930, Brook defeated Goodland in the final game by a score of 18-11. In 1921 Brook won the tourney from Morocco in an overtime game. The score was 29-28. In 1932, Brook defeated Goodland in the final game by a score of 24-13. Brook won the 1933 tourney, defeating Goodland by a score of 45-30." (BR)

July 4, 1934

Can't Get Anything on These Nudists, It Seems.

"Unclad members of the Zoro League, who are children of nature at heart, may gambol o'er the green acres of their Roselawn camp beneath skies unclouded by threats of criminal prosecution.

"That was the glad cry which Monday escaped the lips of Alois Knapp, Chicago attorney and head of the Zoroists when he received word from Rensselaer that an injunction suit to halt all nudism in and around Roselawn had been dismissed.

"The suit was brought last October at Kentland but was sent to Rensselaer on a change of venue. Scandalized citizens of the Roselawn community instituted the action, but evidently experienced a change of heart during the winter. No effort was made to

press the suit when it was called." Reprinted from the *Rensselaer Republican*. (BR)

September 12, 1935

Pilots Must Soar High Over Roselawn Nudist Camp

"American Airlines pilots have received instructions to stop flying low over a nudist camp just west of Roselawn, Ind., the airline officers disclosed Saturday. The practice of flying low over the area, the office said, was begun on the request of the passengers who frequently flew the Cincinnati-Chicago route, some of whom had begun to carry field glasses. Called to explain, Pilot Joe Westover told the airline president that the passengers "liked to see the nudist scurry behind trees." (BR)

October 24, 1940

Edmyre Henson Is County Husking Winner. Thayer Man Husked 32.54 Bushels to Defeat Six Other Contestants

"A crowd of approximately 400 people were present Monday to attend the annual Newton County corn husking contest, on the Harry Sell farm near Ade. Edmyre Henson of Thayer was the winner of the event over six other contestants. Mr. Henson husked 32.54 bushels to beat last year's record of 25.89 bushels when Loren Vent of Morocco was the winner.

"Other contestants and the number of bushels husked were: John McGraw, Kentland, 31.06 bu.; Harry Murphy, Brook, 30.94 bu.; Clifford Herath, Brook, 29 bu.; LaVerne Vent, Morocco, 28.4 bu.; Adam Styck, Kentland, 27.95 bu.; Roy Keith, 26.18 bu."

> Continued on page 21

BROOK THEATRE

Where Sound and Sight and Price are Right.
Doors open 6:45 P.M. Show Starts 7:15

Sat., Jan. 27 Sun., Jan. 28

MAE WEST

"I'M NO ANGEL"

You've read of—heard of it—Now! Your LAST CHANCE To See It!

—EXTRA—
Cartoon, "She Done Him Wrong"
10c and 25c News 10c and 25c

Tues., Jan. 30 Wed., Jan. 31

Tuesday Night is Family Night
Remember "The Champ"? Here's another.


JACKIE COOPER IN

"LONE COWBOY"

Is the same kind of story as "The Champ". It packs the same heart tugs, and human interest—plus the color of a Western Setting.

"Three Little Swigs" 10c and 20c Shorts

FOG, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, DANCING LADY.




NONE-SUCH BRAND
FOOD PRODUCTS
THE SHIELD OF QUALITY

1934

The Gem Store

HANSON, SUNDERLAND



January 27th to February 3rd.

THESE PRICES CASH

GOOD CUP COFFEE, nothing better under 30c per lb.	23c
AUNT TILDY COFFEE makes a good cup of coffee, per lb. ...	22c
KEPT FRESH COFFEE, Vacuum Packed	23c
FRESH CORN MEAL, 5 lb. sack	13c
PURE BUCKWHEAT FLOUR, 5 lb. sack	25c
ROYAL JELLITIN DESERT, 3 pkgs. ... 19c 1 extra pkg. ...	20c
Making 4 pkgs, for	
FANCY PRUNES, 2 lbs. for	25c
RAISINS, per pkg.	19c
LARGE GRAPEFRUIT	5c
CELERY HEARTS, bunch	19c
ORANGES, Calif. Sunk'st, nice large size, per doz.	30c
PALM OIL SOAP, large bar	5c
PORK & BEANS, None Such, per can	7c
SHRIMPS, per can	23c
MUSHROOMS, per can	13c
POST BRAN FLAKES	19c
KELLOGGS BRANFLAKES, PEP or RICE KRISPIES, pkg. ...	10c
Chop Suey Sauce, Bead Molasses and Bean Sprouts.	

SHIELD OF QUALITY STORE

The Gem Grocery

> Continued from page 20

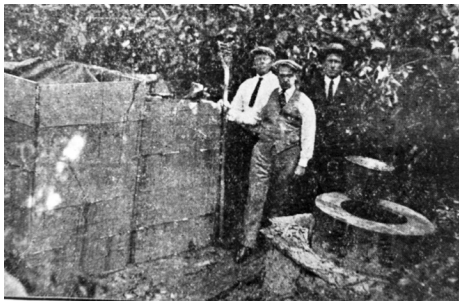
October 13, 1938

Kentland To Play Six Man Football Novel Game Expected to Draw Large Crowd; Knox H.S. Here Friday

Kentland High school one of the few smaller schools playing football, will introduce the new six-man football game to spurt lovers in this section of the state Friday when they play host to the Knox High school team.

School officials here indicated yesterday that the game is of the open type and that spectators will enjoy the thrills that come from this type of game.

The game has been played for the past four or five years in some of the western states, where it is one of the most popular of



May 25, 1922. "The Iroquois Still. The above picture of the still located in a ravine along the Iroquois River. Harry Drake, prohibition enforcement officer, is in the foreground. Ed Sunderland at the left and Sheriff Gardner at the right."



Among the Bentley photographs were pictures identified and Brook fire, Dr.'s office. The building is now the current Community State Bank and parking lot. The building has an extensive history, at one time housing the Collier Hotel./House aka the Busch Hotel, the Collier Saloon, a tailor, a restaurant, paint shop, and Dr. Larrison's office. This fire took place in circa 1926. Note the early fire equipment used by the Brook Fire Department and the overhanging street lamp. The brick building on the left side of the left photo remains standing today.

all sports.

Six-Man football is quite similar to the eleven-man game, excepting a great deal of line play is eliminated by a less number of players. The rules call for three linemen, a center and two ends. In the backfield a quarterback, fullback and halfback. If the play is a run the pass from center must be indirect, that is, some backfield man must handle the ball before it can be advanced. However, on passes, the pass from center may be direct.

It is reported that the game presents most of the familiar formations of the eleven-man game. Single wing and double wing back formations with side end runs and lateral passes are to be seen at a six-man game.

The game has grown in popularity by leaps and bounds and many schools in other states are using it as a major sport. Colleges and large high schools have already reported it to be fascinating among their students.

Indiana has several teams either playing the game or expect to start soon. Several schools in the Wabash valley have formed leagues and play for championships.

It is thought that the local school will discontinue eleven-man football in favor of the six-man game. School officials hope to complete a regular schedule for next season.

July 13, 1940

Home Economics Regular H.S. Course. Large List of Students in County taking Subject.

"It is just necessary to plan a purposeful program for school girls as it is for boys. The

home economics curriculum study program used in Newton County schools is the result of the efforts of organized groups of people interested in the subject.

"Each high school in this county employs a vocational home economics teacher who is on the job at least eleven months during the year. This department had its beginning in the domestic science teacher. In the year 1917-18, Kentland, Brook and Goodland secured teachers for this new subject. Miss Ruth Harper started the work in Kentland; Miss Vivian Taylor, Brook; Miss Opal Light, Goodland. In 1918-19, Morocco added the subject and Miss Eunice Rider was the teacher. In 1920-21, Mt. Ayr secured Miss Eulala Hormell to teach domestic science, which completed a 100% organization for the county." (Article also included list of all county students enrolled in 1940).

July 20, 1940

Morocco Adds Voc. Ag. To H.S. Program. Now Three of Five County Schools Have Such Departments.

"Vocational agriculture will now be a regular course in the Morocco High School. Trustee Henry Brandt secured the services of J. O. Mills of Lafayette, who will have charge of the new department. Brook was the first school to establish vocational agriculture. W. E. Brandt was employed by the school in 1930 and has served continuously since that time.

"The department in Kentland was established in 1939. Harlan Parr developed and instructs the class today."

September 26, 1940

Registration to Be Held October 16 For the Selective Training and Service Act.

"It shall be the duty of every male citizen of the United States and every male alien residing in the United States, between the age of 21 and 36 to register on October 16, 1940, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. for the Selective Training and Service Act.

October 17, 1940

1,023 Register Here for Draft. Fifty-Seven from Other Counties Among Count; Many States Represented, Board Says

"One thousand twenty-three men registered in Kentland last Wednesday for the Selective Service recently enacted by Congress.

"The number was larger than many thought it would be estimating it on the basis of ten percent of the county population. Fifty-four were registered here from other states, these cards to be returned to the homes of the registered men later. This gives some idea of the number of out-of-town people either coming to this city or passing through each day.

"The board is made up of Rev. B. Servies, Kentland; J. R. Sigler, Mt. Ayr; and Roy King, Goodland. Mrs. Wilma Robinson of Morocco has been selected as secretary to the board."



Home is Where Your Story Begins

The Bentley Family - Submitted by Beth Bassett

We recently acquired a box of photographs from Janet Scott of Monticello, that were from her Aunt's collection, Mrs. Essie "Tudy" (Bentley) Liskey, used in this article. Janet's mother Ruth and Essie's husband, Owen "Soup" Liskey were siblings. Much to my delight 95% of the photographs were identified, kind of a lost art these days. Most of the photographs were of the Blasey and Bentley family, depicting a life of fun and adventure here in Newton County. Janet told me that the Blasey family were well-known photographers from Chicago and that may be the reason for these excellent black and white prints.

The Bentley/Liskey Families William and Sarah Bentley

Census records of Newton County, 1880, show William Bentley, his wife Sarah J. (Barker), and their son Charles, residing in Iroquois Township. Marriage records show that they were married in Newton County on April 8, 1876. William A. (1854-1923), and Sarah J. (1844-1921) are buried at Murphey Cemetery in Morocco. From obituaries, we find they had three children. Charles, George and Mary. The 1910 census show William and Sarah and their son George, living in Washington Township, and in 1920, living on the south side of Harrison Street in Brook.

Charles Benton Bentley, (1878-1948), came with his family to Brook in 1888, and remained there his entire life. He married Mabel Blasey, (1883-1963), in Chicago 1904, who originally came from Grant Park, Illinois. A sister, Edna, was mentioned in her obituary. They had two daughters, Essie, who married Owen "Soup" Liskey and Bertha, who married Lawrence Shoemaker. Charlie and Mabel are buried at Riverside Cemetery



Left, William and Sarah (Barker) Bentley



Mabel and Charles Bentley, posing during a day of hunting, in Brook.

The 1910 Census lists Charlie, and Mabel and their daughters living on Harrison Street in Brook, where he would reside until his death. His occupation was a well digger. Mabel's occupation was a Boarding Housekeeper, and the household included boarders Edith and Nina Dangerfield, who were seamstresses at the Overall Factory, as well as Shelton Haworth, whose occupation was a hired hand. The Dangerfield girls were sisters of Nathan Dangerfield, husband of Charlie's sister Mary.

In the 1920 and 1930 census it shows that Charlie and Mabel were residing on the north side of Harrison Street in Brook. In the 1930 census, his occupation is listed as a plumber, with his industry being Artesian wells. It was also known that he sold windmills, which would be a necessary part of his trade as a well-digger and plumber. Charlie's Dangerfield nephews also resided in the household; William in 1920 and Theodore in 1930. By 1940, his daughter Bertha had since married Lawrence Shoemaker, and they were residing in the home with Charlie and Mabel.

George Garfield Bentley, (1881-1949), eventually moved to Jasper County, residing in Rensselaer. He married Mary Florence Collins. Tragically, his life ended in a car/train accident on September 10, 1949 at a railroad crossing in Rensselaer. His occupations included farm laborer, working for the W.P.A., and a farmer. He is buried at Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer.

Mary E. Bentley, (1884-1960), married Nathan Dangerfield on April 11, 1900. They had four children, William, b. 1902; Theodore R., b. 1904; Harry Nathan, b. 1907 and

Frank T., b. 1909. Mary and her husband "Nate" farmed for several years in the Brook area, and he later worked at the Terra Cotta Factory. In 1916, they moved to Attica, Indiana, and resided there for about three years. In 1919, the family moved to Drumright, Oklahoma, where he worked in the oil fields. They returned to Brook in 1928, where he engaged in tile ditching until his health began to fail. Nate passed away on October 23, 1955, and Mary in 1960. They are both bur-



This photo may have been taken after an installation by Charles Bentley.

ied at Riverside Cemetery.

"Tudy and Soup"

Essie May "Tudy" (Bentley) Liskey was born October 14, 1906, in Newton County, the daughter of Charlie and Mabel Bentley. In 1928, she married Gilbert Owen "Soup" Liskey, born in Newton County in 1904. In 1937, "Soup" inherited a building that would eventually become part of the Welcome Inn Restaurant in downtown Brook. There they operated a produce stand, and published local memories include stopping by Liskey's popcorn stand on Saturday nights during the summertime. The Liskey's did not have any children, and became very active in community affairs and functions. "Soup" was a member of the Brook Public Library Board, and "Tudy" helped start the Brook Business Women in 1939. In 1956, the store was sold to Ernie Standish, making it into a barber-shop. In 1959, the couple located to Iroquois, Illinois, where they operated the Iroquois Café from 1959-1973. "Soup" passed away in 1981, and "Tudy" in 1992. They are buried at Riverside Cemetery.

"Soup's" siblings included a brother Paul and sisters Fern Nutt, Jr., and Ruth Marlin. Ruth is the mother of Janet Scott, who inherited the Bentley family photos and has donated them to our society.

Among the family photos we found several that depict different areas of Newton County. You will find many of these in this edition. The complete collection of photographs can be found at the Resource Center of the Newton County Historical Society in Kentland.

June 27, 1935. George Bentley Gets Tangled Up with A Gate

"George Bentley, who has always been known around Brook as a rather quiet sort of a chap, proved to the world a few days ago that he could not only talk, but could talk plenty loud when occasion demanded. George has been working on a farm, and among the various duties his boss assigned to him was that of coaxing streams of milk from the storage tanks of the cows. The other day he was returning from the barn to the house with two large buckets full of the precious fluid that quiets the baby in the middle of the night. To get to the house it was necessary for George to pass through one of those large gates, so he carefully set one bucket on the ground and fastened the gate with his free hand. Then as he reached down to pick up that bucket a gust of wind came 'round the corner of a corncrib and blew the heavy gate on to the unsuspecting toe of George's right foot. George let out a howl that sent all the barnyard fowl into a stampede. He tried to jump loose, but only the free foot would move and it landed in the milk bucket, tipping it over. By the time the wind had blown the gate back off George's toe, but George



Left, Essie "Tudy" Bentley; Bertha Bentley.



Left, Owen and Essie Liskey with Al Boyd.

proceeded to tell the gate what he thought of it. He has cooled down now, but is limping about town with the aid of a hickory stick."

September 12, 1935

Brook Man Raises Giant Potatoes

"If the title of potato king was being awarded to anyone, it would no doubt go to Mr. Chas. Bentley for the unusual growth of some of the potatoes in his garden. He has one vine which has reached the height of 5' and 6" and is still growing taller. It is taller than his daughter, Mrs. Owen Liskey, when she stands beside it. If the potatoes are as far in the ground as the vine is in the air, he will have to get out his well drilling equipment to dig them."

October 10, 1935. Chas. Bentley Digs His Potatoes

"Chas. Bentley, who for several weeks this summer watched his potatoes grow, and gave special attention to one hill whose vine towered toward the sky until it eventually reached a height of over seven feet, dug his crop of spuds last week.

"When he came to the hill with the record breaking vine, he gently eased his spade in the earth for the for he reasoned that with such a mammoth vine, the potatoes would surely be as large as watermelons and Charley didn't want to cut them in two. The spade sunk down without touching anything solid, and he continued digging in a circle about the base of the vine until the earth was loosened sufficiently to lift it. He pulled on it and up came the vine with a large clod of dirt hanging at the bottom. Charley began to shake the dirt away and carefully watched for the potatoes to show their eyes. He shook, and shook until all the dirt was gone. Then he turned the vine up to look at the roots and he found his potatoes. They were almost as large as hickory nuts.

"Charley will probably raise cucumbers next year, so he can watch the vegetables as well as the vines."



Caption read Thelma and Tudy at the Brook Cream Station, Main Street, Brook.

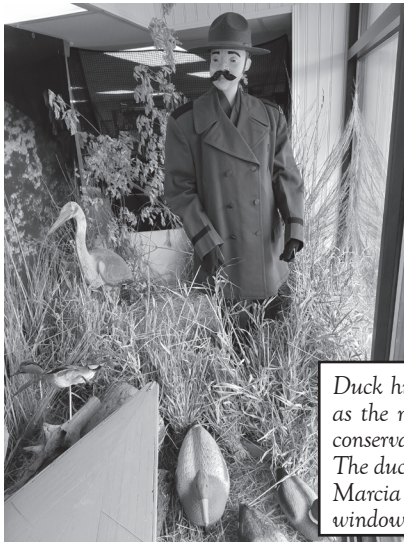


Charles Bentley with a Northern caught from the Kankakee.

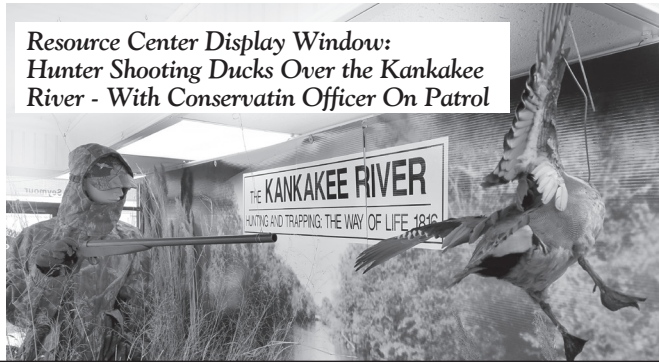
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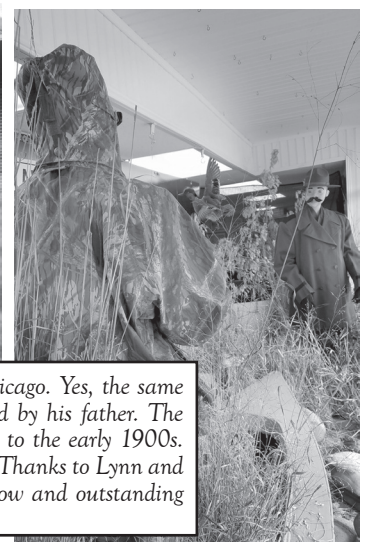
A glimpse of Sumava Forest Resorts model cottages that was being offered for sale by the developers from Chicago in 1927. The Bentley family (pictured here), fished and hunted along the Kankakee River, and belonged to the Kankakee Social Club - they may have been contemplating purchasing a cottage.



**Resource Center Display Window:
Hunter Shooting Ducks Over the Kankakee
River - With Conservatin Officer On Patrol**



Duck hunting with a 30" barrel, full choke gun, made by Armour & Co. of Chicago. Yes, the same as the meat packing company. The gun belongs to Sig Boezeman, originally used by his father. The conservation officer is wearing one of the first full conservation suits dating back to the early 1900s. The duck boat dates between 1875-1915, restored and owned by Larry Boezeman. Thanks to Lynn and Marcia Boezeman, and Sig Boezeman for their compilation of the display window and outstanding window display.




The Newcomer



A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.
Post Office Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT
NUMBER 27
BROOK, IN 47922

The Newcomer is a publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. A 501(3)c approved organization. Send membership dues/inquiries to: PO Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951; 219-474-6944 - newtonhs@ffni.com; Officers of the Newton County Historical Society: President, Kay Babcock, Goodland; Vice President, Russ Collins, Kentland; Secretary, Becky Lyons, Brook; Treasurer, Darlene Truby, Kentland; Member at Large, Sig Boezeman, DeMotte, County Historian, Diana Elijah, Morocco; Ex-Officio, Bernie Murphy, Kentland. Printing by Rensselaer PRINTCO.  Historical Newton In

Summer/Fall 2017 - www.ingenweb.org/innewton