

The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

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Those Pesky Fieldstones Found in Newton County

By Beth Bassett

Curiosity regarding the construction of the Arnold home west of Mt. Ayr led researching the origins of fieldstone and how the settlers utilized it to their advantage. Their home is built from these beautiful stones, and also used to for the porches, fencing, a garage and an outbuilding.

It was originally the James T. Blankenbaker land located about a half mile west of Mt. Ayr on St. Road 55. Newton County Historian Diana Elijah researched the history of the home in a Winter 2015 *Newcomer* article: "The farm ground originally was a land grant from President Millard Fillmore to Joseph Shigler in 1849 for his service to his country. Later Mr. Shigler deeded parcels to various family members. The land across the highway to the south was originally in this grant.

Then James Blankenbaker bought the farm around 1871 and owned it for 50 years. Simeon Walter Blankenbaker bought it in 1919-1921."

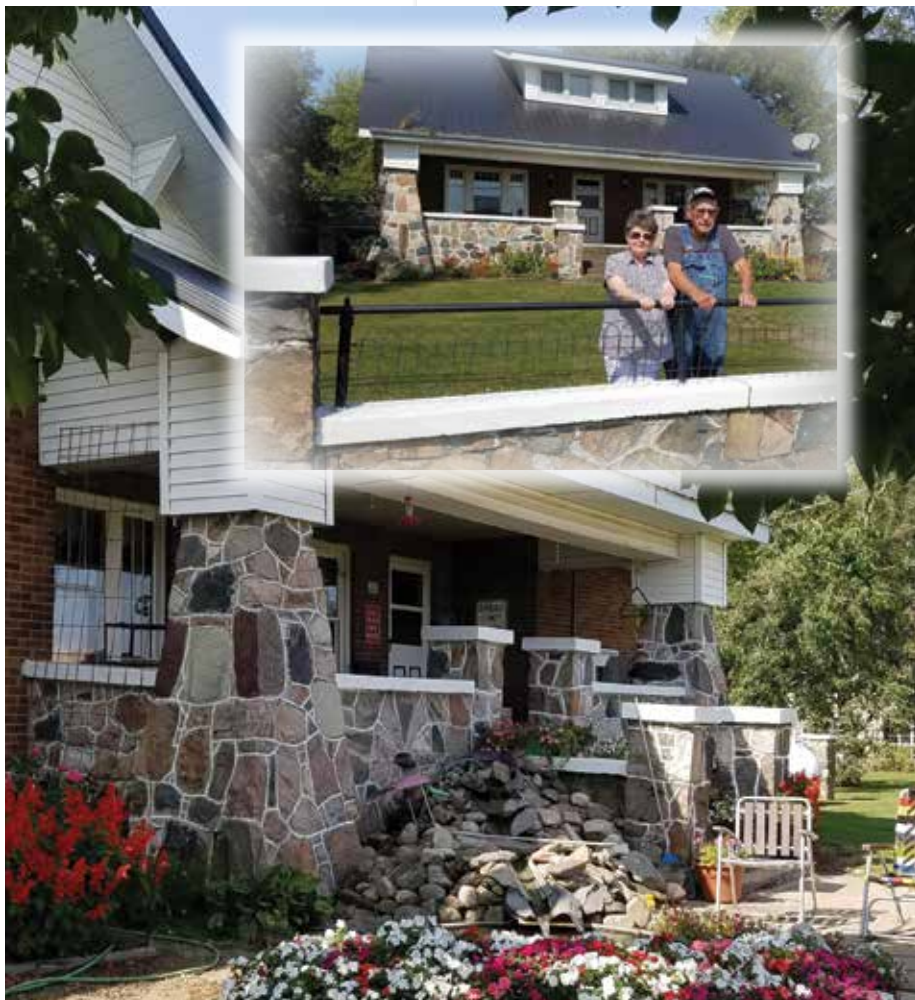
After taking a tour of the Arnold home and talking with Dave and Pat we were unable to determine the exact time when the fieldstone was added to the home. Pat told me that a relative of the Blankenbaker family stopped by many years ago and told them that it was added around the time State Road 114 was constructed through Newton County.

An article that was reprinted in the "History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships" dated January 30, 1920 gave us a better idea:

"Two Farmhouses near Mount Ayr Burned. One of the fires was at the Blankenbaker house, one-half mile west of Mt. Ayr, now owned and occupied by (Simeon) Walter Blankenbaker, who purchased the farm of his father about a year ago. The fire originated from a defective chimney and occurred Friday forenoon while Mr. Blankenbaker and family were at the home of Charles Fleming where they were shredding corn. Practically all the contents on the first floor were saved, but all their clothing, bedding, etc., being on the second floor was burnt. Mr. Blankenbaker carried insurance on both the building and contents which reduces loss considerably. He had intended to build a new house next spring and will now rush work on the same."

Pat checked the land abstract and documentation gave a detailed list of materials purchased in May of 1921—after the fire mentioned above. The extensive list and cost indicate that major work was done on the home which may have included the application of the fieldstone and erection of the two buildings. Unfortunately, it would be the end of Walter Blankenbaker's ownership of the land as it was forfeited in a sheriff's sale in 1926 to the Bank of Mt. Ayr. The sale settling a mechanic's lien for the above-mentioned materials and a mortgage against

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The east porch of the Arnold home is made of fieldstones. Colorful designs of the fieldstone are found on each side of the home. A relaxing koi pond also utilizes fieldstone from the farm (center of photo). Inset: Dave and Pat pose at the fence in front of the south porch of the house.

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President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

The year 2020 has been difficult on so many fronts. The Covid virus has closed so many things, including our Resource Center. But we are now open on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 11-3 CST. Thanks to Nancy Jo Prue for continuing to schedule our volunteers. And a huge thank you those volunteers who man the Center.

We have masks and sanitizer available to any who need it.

We have not had a meeting since the COVID-19 shut down and do not have one scheduled for the rest of the year. With all the restrictions in place, we can see no way to have our Annual Christmas Open House. Come January, we hope we will be able to get back on schedule.

Although we have been closed some things are happening.

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote, Rein Bontreger produced beautiful vinyl pieces for the Centers front and west windows.

Barb Wilfong and Judy Wirtz have been collecting information about creating a mural on the East side of our building. They will be consulting with the county officials during this process, as they own the building. We might be a year away from having it done, but it is coming.

The Society received two beautiful cabinets from Marion (Rieger) Eller. They will display many lovely things. These are just two more priceless pieces from Newton County history that Marion has given to us. Stop in and take a look.

I had a surgery this summer and one morning, my nurse, Ryan, and I were discussing family health issues. It is only natural that we know and write down the dates of births and deaths of family members, but have you considered doing the same with health issues your family may have/had in the past. I am not going to suggest that you make a family tree of family health issues but knowing could be of help to younger family members. Gathering this information together may reveal that there an unusual number of people with diabetes, heart problems, a specific cancer, or Parkinson's Disease. Passing this information to them could be lifesaving to current and future generations.

This *Newcomer* will be published after the presidential election is over, I hope you all utilized your right to vote. Never think your vote is not important, it is. There are

people in the world who would like to have this right and cannot do so; we need to use our rights and protect them.

Be well. Eat well. Take care. - Kay



These cabinets (and the cradle in the bottom right of the above photo) were donated by Marion (Rieger) Eller. They are beautiful and will be put to very good use at the Center.

Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - Answers on page 19

Newton County has ten townships and in this issue will be questions about the last five of the townships in alphabetical order. The first five townships had questions in the last *Newcomer*. If you get your township question correct consider yourself receiving a gold star!

1. Jefferson Township: Jefferson Township School house #3 has been called New Lisbon School as well as the Brees School. Its official name was New Lisbon, but with its location adjacent to Brees family land it was often referred to as the Brees School. The one-room school was located on 1250 South, just west of Punkin Vine Rd. When the school closed and students went to Kentland to school the building was used for another venue. Do you know what it was used for?
2. Lake Township: What dedicated community worker from Lake Village started the first library in Lake Village and in addition wrote children's books. Can you name this person and the names of two of the books?
3. Lincoln Township: A well-known citizen of Lincoln Township, Alois Knapp once appeared on what television game show?
4. McClellan Township: On a 1916 map of McClellan Township we find the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad running at a north south angle through the township. About three miles west of Enos we find a small hamlet where there was a stock yards where people would take their livestock to be shipped to the Chicago market. Can you name this hamlet?
5. Washington Township: Do you know how many historical markers are located in Washington Township near the Iroquois River? Can you name them?

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the land held by Simeon Walter Blankenbaker. In 1937, Clarence Blankenbaker reclaimed the home and land with documentation in the abstract stating that the garage and outbuilding construction and materials were paid in full.

Numerous members of the Blankenbaker family owned it including after Clarence, Lloyd, Kenneth B. and Mary. (Kenneth) Dean and Mary lived on the farm at one time. Harold and Carrie Helterbride bought the 80 acres and home in 1955 from Kenneth B. and Luella Blankenbaker and Dean and Mary Blankenbaker.

Eleven years later in March of 1966, Eugene and Helen Arnold bought the farm. Son Dave and Pat and family lived there for five years. They moved east of Rensselaer and started farming on their own. Pat and Dave's family moved back to the farm in 1978 and in 1991 bought the farm and have remained there until today.

The next time you are out and about the county, take notice of all the fieldstone in use today. You will be amazed just how common and the variety of uses for these ancient residents of the past.

Origin of Fieldstone Deposits

Over 2.5 million years ago a veritable ice sheet covered Canada and the Northern United States. A primary feature of this Ice Age was an up to two-mile-thick ice cap (like the modern-day Greenland icecap), that left behind glacially scoured valleys and moraines. Some of the ice remains today – a 20,000-year-old remnant called the Barnes Ice Cap on central Baffin Island. The ice cap carved out the Great Lakes as it receded and drained.

From the website IGWS.indiana.edu I found this information:

“The very first ice sheet that entered Indiana appears to have arrived sometime before 700,000 years ago and came straight from the north, out of what is now Michigan. We know this because the sediments associated with this earliest glacier are choked with fragments of coal, sandstone, and distinctive reddish claystone—all rocks that come only from the center of Michigan, and these sediments are magnetically reversed, meaning that the North and South Poles were flipped! Although the Earth's polarity has reversed countless times in the geologic record, the most recent episode occurred some 700,000 years ago, during the Ice Age.

“This ice sheet moved very slowly from north to south, encountering many bedrock hills and valleys that impeded its progress. As it crossed the landscape this first glacier completely changed the surface drainage that had taken millions of years to develop, damming up river valleys into lakes, diverting stream channels to the south, and in some cases completely filling up large valleys with sediment, leaving little record of their existence. The giant Teays bedrock valley system was one such victim. This valley system was the premier drainage way in eastern North America prior to glaciation, extending from its headwaters in the western mountains of North Carolina and Virginia to the Mississippi River in western Illinois. The gorge-like valley of this river was as much as 200 to 400 feet deep and crossed north-central Indiana between about Berne (Adams County) and Lafayette (Tippecanoe County). Today, there is virtually no trace at the modern land surface of the once giant river—only a deeply buried valley on the bedrock surface defined by various wells and test borings. The glacier also mowed down forests of spruce, birch, and other northern trees that had taken up residence in Indiana in response to the colder climate. This first glacier ultimately stopped somewhere about mid-state and slowly retreated northward, back into Canada, as the climate began to warm slightly, and temporarily.

“Glaciers dramatically changed Indiana's landscape by eroding and depositing a massive volume of sediments. Anywhere from zero to 500 feet of unconsolidated sediment overlies the bedrock in the northern two-thirds of Indiana. As a glacier moves across the landscape, debris is plucked and scoured from the underlying bedrock

and carried for tens to hundreds of miles before it is deposited. This process is known as ‘the glacial conveyor.’”

Perhaps Beaver Lake and the marsh area were left behind by the glaciers retreat. It was 16,000 acres with a depth in places of 10-12 feet of fresh water in McClellan Township without any tributaries. The lake was drained beginning in 1874, however, marshy areas can be found throughout the county, particularly in the northern end of the county. Someone out there probably knows for sure.

Today, massive boulders are still in place. They can be seen in pastures, farm fields and wooded areas, and may remain there until the end of time. In the modern age, industrious farmers utilize heavy equipment to relocate the large deposits what the glacier left behind. The smaller fieldstones that continue to emerge in farm fields and pastures can now be eradicated by pulling a “rock picker” behind a tractor. This is an annual event for many farmers in our area – a task that is not high on the list of “gosh I love to do that” but essential as a fieldstone can do a lot of damage to equipment and grazing animals.

The early settlers and a few of us today utilize fieldstones in the building foundations of barns and homes; for fences and landscaping. There are retail outlets where you can purchase fieldstone if you do not have any in your “back 40.” I imagine our ancestors would shake their heads in disbelief as to why anyone would want to purchase rocks and dirt. Something to think about.



These large fieldstones were found roadside north of Mt. Ayr.



A home in Goodland has a fieldstone foundation as do many in Newton County.



Floral designs of stone are found throughout the facade of the Arnold house.



A garage built for a Model T remains in place today at the Arnold farm.



Stone pillars on the back (north porch) of the Arnold House.



The Arnold's outbuilding reflects an art deco design in fieldstone. Note that all of the fieldstones are cut in blocks.

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The Zoro Story

By Alois Knapp

Reprinted from the "History of Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby: The First 100 Years."

The story of Zoro Nature Park is perhaps not much different from that of any other nudist park any-where. We got started a little earlier than some of the others and have had more time to improve the place.

In the early 1920's, Lorena and I acquired an old abandoned estate of 200 acres of cutover land, located in Northern Indiana, at a very reasonable price. We had no clear idea what we wanted to do with it, but we wanted to have it, and we put all our earthly resources into it. We borrowed what we could from our friends. They were good enough to let us have two thirds of the purchase price.

We then began to pay off our debts and within five years, we had title to the property in our own names. A large share of the money came from my soldier bonus for service in World War I.

We rented out the farm as a cattle ranch and began making some improvements, like rebuilding the old farmhouse and erecting a barn, also installing electricity.

Things went along until 1933, when I espied on a newsstand at Van Buren and State Streets in Chicago a copy of "The Nudist" by which name the monthly Sunshine and Health was known. I took it home and showed it to Lorena, and both of us read it thoughtfully.

About the same time a movie was shown at the Castle Theater (gone out of business long since) entitled "This Nude World." It ran for many months. We went to see it. Then and there we decided to start a nudist camp.

The beginning was slow. On July 17, 1933, we had our first outing in the sun. There were five of us. In a month we had grown to fifty. Then the Chicago daily papers heard about us and sent their reporters. Five at a time descended on us, everyone representing a different paper. We tried keeping them out, but to no avail. Fences and "no trespassing" signs did not keep them out. And did they write about us? We were in the headlines for days.... Lorena was laughing and saying that the back woods had at last reached the front pages. The news stories also brought sightseers by the score. They hid behind bushes and trees. Some of them did not even hide; they walked quietly in on us and tried to take pictures. They nearly drove us to distraction. We knew that there must not be any violence for we felt that would spell disaster. Unwittingly one of the reporters pointed the way of how to deal with trespassers. Two middle-aged fellows living in our neighborhood persisted to ogle at us from a vantage

point, always dis-appearing when we tried to chase them, only to reappear when we were busy elsewhere. The reporter went after them with his telescopic lens saying: "Let me take pictures of these fellows." That did the trick. We have used the idea since, effectively. No one wants to be ex-posed as a peeping tom.

At this time, John Dillinger and his gang killed an Ohio sheriff and delivered from jail one of the gangsters. They scattered and came west, our way. To avoid the roadblocks set up they took to the back woods and side roads, some-times on foot. Lorena reported that John had been in our house, asking directions. The news spread like wildfire and brought the police and other minions of the law into our woods. Ostensibly, they were looking for the outlaws, but we felt that it was not their only mission.

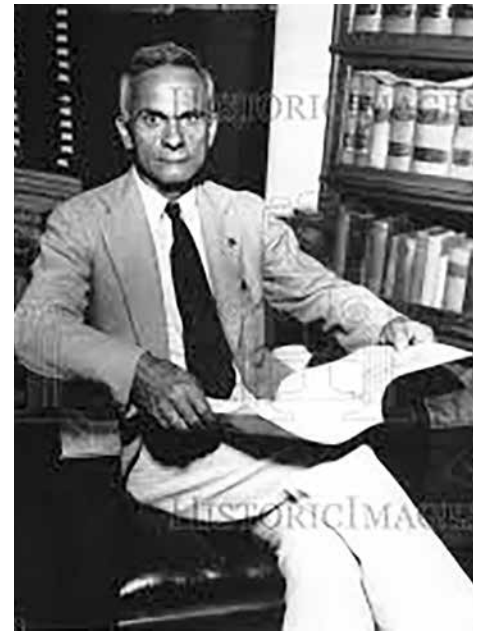
Another time ten highway policeman came from the direction of Roselawn, across the fields, and stopped in the middle of our playground. There was a volley-ball game in progress. The players did not stop their game and paid no attention to the interlopers. After a lengthy discussion among themselves, they left without saying a word. Later we found that the leader of them was an assistant attorney general and that their plan was to be a raid on us. Our failure to panic caused them to doubt the legality of their plan. Had we run for cover they undoubtedly would have pounced upon us and carted us off to the hoosegow.

By the end of the season, our County Prosecutor petitioned the court for a temporary injunction restraining us from a number of things we had not been doing anyhow. The restraining order was granted without any notice to us. As the weather was getting cold and we were closed for the season, it did not matter to us for the time being, even though the order also contained a directive not to operate any further as a nudist camp. There would be a hearing sometime in the following spring, but no date would be set. During the winter, a lot of sympathy developed in our favor. When the case finally came to trial, after a number of postponements, no one showed up in the courtroom, not even the judge himself. Many of our friends had come and were disappointed. After waiting more than an hour, I called the court to order, held a mock trial and dismissed the in-junction. I have never bothered to look up the record, but we took it for granted that the judge must have concurred in the dismissal, for we have never heard anything more about it.

Then came our first experience with the advocates of democracy. One of our voluble members had figured out that there must not be any more publicity on nudism and that we, Lorena and myself, are to change the name of our place to something that has

no connotation with nudism in any form. He sold his idea to more than 90 percent of the members. A written demand was drawn up and signed by them and presented to us. There was no way to stop publicity. My office was on the call list of several Chicago dailies. "What's new about the nudists?" was a weekly question.

The name Zoro Nature Park we would not change. We had carefully thought it out. Zoe means life, in Greek. Aster means star, in Latin. In Persian it denotes an adherent. Reasoning that Zoe-aster or Zoroaster meant a follower of Zoro or Zoe, and expounder of life, a more abundant life, should be the first word in our name. Nature needs no explanation for the nudists, although the word naturism which has developed since is not exactly what we had in mind. The weary motorist or the commuter who tries to find a resting place for his steed in the crowded city would appreciate the parking sign. We meant to have a place where parking should be free



This photo of Alois Knapp was found online. It was available for purchase, hence the writing over the top of the image. It was entitled "The Nudist King."

The description read: 1936 Press Photo Alois Knapp Austrian Nudist Lawyer Chicago. Alois Knapp, who believed that beaches would be frequented by nudists within 5 years. Alois S. Knapp emigrated from his native Austria with wife Ursula during the turbulent times between the two world wars. Settling in Chicago, Alois established his law practices whilst Ursula kept house.

This description left out much of the history that is found in Alois' own writing when he penned "The Zoro Story," published here.

for cars and trailers, tired muscles and aching feet. Hence, Zoro Nature Park.

Seeing our adamant position, our friends walked away and started a group of their own, taking with them nearly all of our people. A camp was started only seven miles from us. It lasted only two years and the group disbanded and disappeared from the scene. But while it lasted, we were almost isolated from the movement. Registration in "The Nudist" was refused to us and all inquiries were referred to them.

Slowly we began to build again until we had gotten together about twenty families. Then we had another inning with the promised land of democracy. The group was to run the camp, decide upon the acceptance of newcomers, set the rates and use all revenue for the improvement of the grounds. All of it was to be administered by officials elected by the members. It did work for a few months. After that, it became clear to us that the arrangement did not work for the good of anyone, least of all Zoro Nature Park. A paragraph had been inserted in the agreement creating the arrangement, permitted us to cancel it under certain conditions. The conditions had arrived, and we terminated the deal.

Once more nearly the entire group quit us, leaving us a membership of a bare dozen people. And once again we had to begin all over again. We had now become convinced that democracy in camp management is only an illusion. Those knowing the least about it have the most to say. It just does not work. Camp owners have much at stake. They are ever amenable to the practical suggestions of the membership. They need cooperation. But every one of them must hold himself free from any entanglement which might keep him from asserting his prerogative of effectively saying: "I am the boss."

With the departure of the last rebels began our slow but steady growth in memberships, accommodations and general expansion.

I do not want to dwell on the year just one decade ago when Lorena began to suffer from the terrible ailment that was finally diagnosed to be a malignant cancer at the base of the brain. The operation left her minus one ear and an opening in the side of her head. She lived in that condition seven months, most of the time in a coma. I attended her myself, with little time to take care of the affairs of the camp. Somehow, we managed to get through the year. She died in August 1950.

Two years later, I went to the INF congress in Switzerland, when the International was organized. The original draft of principles of the world organization bears my signature. In fact, my name appears first because in the

alphabetical order of countries, the U.S. was listed as "America" and thus headed the list. The congress took over, I took the train for the country where I had been born and which I had not seen for more than forty-two years. The train took me from Zurich to Innsbruck where I had gone to school almost a half-century before. There I met Ursula. On the next day I proposed marriage and she accepted. I was in a hurry, for three days later a TWA plane was to bring me back to Chicago. There were difficulties, for the Austrian law demands a waiting period of three weeks. There are exceptions to be made, of course, in exceptional cases, and it was up to me to prove that ours was such a case. We were sent from official to official, apparently in the time-honored tradition of passing the buck. In time we wound up with the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, who apparently had the final say in the matter. He turned out to be a genial fellow and we engaged in many pleasantries. It turned out that we, he and I, had been schoolmates in classes a year apart a little after the turn of the century. Needless to say, our request was granted, and we were married in the throne room of the old castle "Das Gold-ene Dach" (the golden roof) in Innsbruck. It was a beautiful civil marriage. My train left at midnight of the same day for Paris. Ursula could not come with me. It would take three months to have papers cleared from Washington. So, she had to be left behind.

Arriving in New York, it turned out that my connecting schedule had been hopelessly disrupted and a wait for another plane was required. This finally was taken care of and we were off toward Chicago. After a half-hour flight it developed that one of the four engines was acting up and we had to return to LaGuardia where a number of fire engines were waiting for us, apparently fearing a crash. Nothing unusual happened after that until arrival at Zoro.

Ursula finally received her visa and was to arrive in New York on Christmas Eve. Naturally, I was to meet her. I was called during the night and told that because of a heavy fog no planes could leave from Chicago for an

indefinite time. So, she arrived at Idlewild, confidently expecting to find me there. I called the airport, asking them to tell her that I could not get there and to bring her to some hotel and explain to her the circumstances. So, after making her peace with customs, she sat down waiting for me. Someone tried to page her calling over the loud speaker "Mrs. Knapp" but she did not respond because she had never been told that in English the 'K' was silent and the 'A' has a different sound from the German. She sat there for a long time. Finally, a Dutch stewardess called the name in German and Ursula found out that she was a Knapp in more than one language. Next day the fog lifted, and I was able to find her at the Wentworth Hotel in the big city. It was Christmas 1952. What Ursula has meant to Zoro most visitors to our grounds have seen for themselves. Her principle allergy is dirt. Wherever she goes, dirt must vanish.

This, then, is the story of Zoro Nature Park. From a dream twenty-six years ago it has grown with the cooperation of faithful friends, coworkers and loyal members, coupled with a good portion of good luck, to a well-known resort for nudists containing more than a hundred living units, a small lake, a large pool holding 260,000 gallons of water as well as a 2,200 foot landing field for small aircraft.

Financially it cannot be said that the enterprise has been a great success. We began with little more than nothing, although we owned the land. Our first three cottages were built by a carpenter who worked for \$1.50 a day. Much of the work was done by volunteers, most of all our large pool was made possible through the effort of all members. Our only expense was the material that went into it.

In other ways, our rewards have been great: Friends the world over, the joy of growth, the glory of action, the satisfaction of accomplishments! Could we ask for more? No, unless it was the realization and conviction that we are instrumental in the building of a better, happier and more sensible world. Reprinted from *The Nude News*, June 1994.



This image of Alois and Ursula's memorial stone is located in Ft. Myers Florida. They were married for 23 years according to her obituary. At the time of their death they had lived in Ft. Meyers, Florida for seven years, coming from Miami, Florida.

Historian's Corner

Funerals and Their Rituals by Newton County Historian Diana Elijah

Editor's note: With the recent Covid 19 Pandemic, policies have been put in place that have changed our everyday routines and family rituals. How we dealt with the loss of a loved one was only one of these family rituals. The lack of funeral services with the traditional wake and food provided were initially halted to stop the spread of the virus. The ban on public gatherings took an emotional toll on all Americans.

Our ancestors have suffered through the depression, flu epidemics and two world wars. I asked our historian, Diana Elijah to research how funerals were handled in the past – as there have been many changes over the centuries.

Victorian times were interesting as the deceased person was usually in their finest clothing and laid in ornately decorated parlors that had been emptied of usual furniture and many chairs added. Visitations usually were two evenings and funerals always at churches. Many families held vigils for 24 hours and in shifts. After Victorian times, the parlor became the living room, and no more wakes were held at home. As a child in central Indiana I remember our town had a nice funeral home plus many families had visitation in their home and church funerals.

Brook had a funeral parlor uptown next to the Hershman Dime Store (where Candace Armstrong has her law office today). When Paul Weston married Gladys Hershman, they bought the house where Gerts Funeral Home is located today. In Morocco, the funeral home was located next to Hancock's Dime Store, both operated by the Hancock family.

I interviewed Rick Gerts, who has owned and operated Gerts Funeral Home in Brook and Goodland since 1974. Although a serious business, it has been a challenge at times for this highly respected businessman to maintain his professionalism with clients. He has just about seen it all when it comes to the grieving process – and related many unusual events throughout his career. Just how he has kept his sense of humor over the years after facing so much sadness and sorrow is beyond me.

Rick was a chaperone on a South Newton student trip to Washington D.C. One of the students was to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, wearing a suit and tie. His father informed Rick to be sure and check out his son's tie, as he knew he was unable to tie one properly. So that morning, the student came to Rick with the tie. Rick looked at him and says, "But you have to lie down for me to be able to do this." The stu-

dent was going to comply, and Rick laughed and said "No, that is a mortician's joke."

Being an active member of his community has certainly brought personal involvement in many of his funerals, feeling his own personal loss alongside the family members. Rick shared with me that his first funeral after the Covid 19 outbreak was attended by seven people. As time passed the attendance grew to 25 and now 100 or more can attend.

Today's traditions include shorter visitations and funeral services are also held at funeral homes and churches. Graveside services only and cremation are also used today.

Origins of Death/Funeral Rituals

1. A body was watched over every minute until burial, hence the custom of "waking". The wake also served as a safeguard from burying someone who was not dead, but in a coma.
2. The funeral industry did not emerge until after the Civil War when the process of embalming became widespread and more accepted by the public. Before the mid-19th century, the dead were often displayed in the family home in the "parlor," hence the term "funeral parlor" that is still in use today.
3. London officials and medical practitioners in 1665 mistakenly thought that deceased plague victims spread the disease (among many other erroneous explanations), and that burying these bodies "6 feet under" would help slow/stop the spread of the disease.
4. In the 19th century, there were no funeral homes, and most undertakers made furniture or cabinets. They expanded their lines to include caskets and wooden coffins. Then

these entrepreneurs offered to "undertake" services for the grieving families, hence the term Undertaker.

5. What is the Gold Star awarded for in the military? A Gold Star Family can display a Gold Star Service Flag for service members who were killed or died, while serving in the Armed Forces, from causes other than dishonorable. The number of gold stars on the flag corresponds to with the number of individuals who were killed or died.

Widow's Weeds

Widows wore mourning dress, called widow's weeds, (from the Old English "Waed" meaning garment) complete with a veil when out in public for a long period of time.

How long was the mourning period in the 1800s? Widows were expected to wear full mourning for two years. Everyone else presumably suffered less – for children mourning parents or vice versa the period of time was one year, for grandparents and siblings



Left, Eliza Veatch, Morocco wears a crepe widow's cap; right, a brooch with a locket of hair.



Examples of widow's weeds from during the 1800s.

six months, for aunts and uncles two months, for great uncles and aunts six weeks, for first cousins four weeks. High ranking mourners wore long trains and hoods made of expensive, dull shaded black wool with black or white crepe or linen trim.

Women could wear jewelry during the second year of mourning. Their rings, broaches, and lockets were often made from the hair of the deceased.

Memorial Cards

Memorial cards originated as a card to friends and relations unable to attend the funeral. Eventually the cards themselves became a major memorial. Some were very large and elaborate and included cut paper work or original art work; they were intended for framing and hanging.

In the 1860s, mourning cards were popular after the assassination of President Lincoln, but not to announce the death of an average person. By the 1880s, though, it was fashionable to print cards to memorialize relatives.

Dark cardstock was popular in the 1880s. White or cream card stock was also used.

The use of this style and format peaked during the cabinet card era of 1880 to 1900.

Wreaths

A wreath of laurel, yew or boxwood tied with crepe or black ribbons, a symbol of remembrance, was hung on the front door to alert passersby that a death had occurred.



This funeral card dates from 1909 and is printed on the type of cardstock also used for cabinet photograph cards.

Dr. G. B. Smith Writes Editor, 1901

Editor's Note: This is another installment in the occasional Enterprise Time Capsule series. The following article originally appeared in the March 21, 1901, Enterprise. It was a part of the series called "Our Old Friends." This was a regular column in which many of the County's earliest residents set forth their recollections of the County in letter to the editor format. The editor of the Enterprise at that time was Harry A. Strohm. This letter was written by Dr. G. B. Smith of Brook, and Editor Strohm's head note states "Dr. G.B. Smith draws a picture of pioneer days when molasses, and not quinine, was mixed with the whisky 'straights.'" - J.J.Y. Reprinted from "The Yost Collection."

Editor Enterprise: On or about Nov. 15th, 1850, my father moved to Rensselaer. At that time, it was a village of about three hundred inhabitants, and probably one hundred houses - mostly cabins. There was two general stores, Uncle Davey Saylor owned one and a Mr. Clark the other; and one or two grocery stores which dealt in groceries and drinks of all kinds, whiskey being worth twenty cents per gallon and no license. Right here let me digress and tell an election story. At that time, we only had two parties, Democrats and Whigs. At the county election George Spitler was elected to two or three offices and Jack Philips was elected Sheriff. Spitler on the Democrat and Philips on the Whig ticket, there being only about four or five precincts in what is Jasper and Newton counties now. Well to make the story short, on the day following the election the successful candidates must treat; therefore Spitler and Philips obtained whiskey and molasses from a gentleman now living, set it out on the streets free to all. They mixed it and called it black strap, and there was a large time. One man sent from the neighborhood of Pilot Grove came in to order a coffin for a friend, but struck the free drinks first and forgot to order the coffin until they sent the second party the next day to look after No. 1.

There was plenty of bogus money in the town, said to be made there. I seen a peck of 25 and 50 cent pieces of that kind the first year I was there. Another little incident in outlawry: A man was arrested for stealing hogs in Nubbin Ridge and brought to trial. Being without ready cash he agreed to give an attorney his rifle if he would clear him. The attorney was successful on the plea that it was customary in Nubbin Ridge to steal. The attorney being called to attend to another case set the gun down in the corner of the courthouse and his client stole it and took his departure for parts unknown. The honest attorney said, "let him have it for I have cleared him of the charge of stealing because it was the custom of the country." So, you see we had sharp attorneys then as now. One of the sports of the time was spearing fish on the rapids. Anyone who was an expert with a spear could spear all the pike he could carry in an hour or two when the ice broke up and they were beauties at that, from eighteen inches to four feet long.

In the spring of 1852 father moved out on a farm then known as the Hunt farm, now owned by Ben Harris. Our neighbor was A.W. Gowdy, the father of J.K. Gowdy, now representing the U.S. at Paris, France, and one of the representatives that revised the constitution of Indiana in 1851 - 2. I will now give the names of the settlers at that time: J.D. Wright, Mr. Meekers, James Lewis, Ben Denton, Jacob French, A.O. Lester, Anthony Keller - a little later John Catt, John Lewis, Joshua Ponsier and Amos Pumphrey, all of whom, and their wives, have passed to the beyond except A.O. Lester and Mrs. Ponsier. The spring of 1853 father improved the farm on which Julian was built, and there was not a house in sight west, and only one north, and no school house within five miles, so our parents did not have any trouble in sending us to school. Occasionally we would be delighted by the announcement that there would be a basket meeting in some grove and everyone would get ready to go. Hitch up the old plow team to a very poor road wagon, if they were lucky enough to have any horses, if not, yoke up the oxen for the same purpose and take the whole family and dinner and have a good time socially and religiously - most socially.

In the spring of 1854 there was built a school house a half mile east of our house and we had a subscription school of two months, taught by Miss Samantha McCreary, and that winter three months free school, taught by Spellman Mead. I imagine I can see him yet going around over the school room with a young hickory four or five feet long under his arm, and a bunch of others in the corner of the room. Me thinks I can hear the remarks of the present young America when they read this article. And further I will describe the school furniture. The seats were slabs from the sawmill, with pegs in them for legs, and a row of rough boards fastened to the walls answered the purpose of writing desks. Our parents hauled the wood to the school-houses in all lengths and green in the bargain. The older boys had to chop it up and carry it in or freeze - just as suited them and the teacher. Well, I believe the youth of that time enjoyed themselves as well as they do now, if they were not happier.

As yet I have said nothing about the beauties of the country at that time. As far west and north as we could see there was but one house to break the perpetual landscape. Now something as to its fauna and flora. From June to October all over this wide extended plain was a continuous flower garden of all shades and kind, from

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pure white to dark purple, and the grass grew anywhere from six inches to ten feet high. This sometimes furnished us heroic work fighting the prairie fires in the fall after the grass became dry to protect our homes from destruction.

As for the fauna, there were deer to be seen al-most any day, and the coyotes made melody for us by night, mixed up with the honk of the wild geese and sand hill cranes, and the shrill whistle of the plover, and the strutting and booming sound of the prairie chicken in the months of spring.

I had almost forgotten to say anything about our roads. Well we had none, and if we wanted to go anyplace we took our direction by the lone trees which stood about three miles northwest of where Brook now stands, and to get there we had to keep on the highest ground at all times, working our way between the ponds, which were covered with the houses of muskrats like a hay field after harvest.

I have seen this country grow from its primeval state to one of the greatest grain producing counties in the State, and I hope to see it still improve both intellectually, numerically and financially. Yours respectfully, G.B. Smith, Brook, Indiana, March 20, 1901.

Early Lake Village Baseball Team



Can anyone identify these players or tell us when the photo was taken. At the bottom it is written: back row left is John Hess; front row left, Lon Vicory. This came from our digital archives. Contact us at newtonhs@ffni.com if you can help!

Weldon's Corner - Washington Township



In Washington Township, Newton County at the crossroads of U.S. 41 and S.R. 16 is what the community at one time called "Weldon's Corner."

In the early 1900s, Ridgley and Millie Weldon bought a filling station and a few cabins for travelers to spend the night. This was the first of three construction projects at this site by the Weldons. When U.S. 41 was widened they had to give way for progress and moved their station back to the east. This time they built a small restaurant and filling station together. This was operated mainly by the family, both children and grandchildren. The restaurant was a meeting place for neighborhood coffee breaks and well-known for its home cooking and home grown beef.

In 1954, when US 41 was made into four lanes, the building had to be torn down once again and more land lost. At this time it was rebuilt, but the restaurant and filling station were leased out separately. The restaurant has had several operators since the family gave up the work, among them have been Irol and Eunice Burton and Dick Weldon.

The restaurant area has housed the Newton County License Branch and the filling station was operated as Weiss Standard Station. In 2020, it is a used car dealership, and still one of the most active corners in the county!

Salt: Bessie Watkins

by Jeff Manes | Originally published in 2003

"You are beautiful and faded,
Like an old opera tune
Played upon a harpsichord ..."
- Amy Lowell

Bessie Watkins lives east of Lake Village and was born the year the Chicago White Stockings threw the World Series - 1919. She turned 94 on Mother's Day.

She is a widow who was married to Harold Watkins. As in often the case with nagenarians, Mrs. Watkins has buried two of the four children she and Harold raised.

Mrs. Watkins was sporting quite a shiner because she walked into a door the other day. Her eyesight might not be what it once was, but she is sharp as a tack upstairs.

Mrs. Watkins is one of many sweet ladies I remember as a kid growing up in "the Village." That list of gems would include my grandmothers, but I'm biased, of course. Most of those women have passed. I wanted to interview Bessie while still possible.

Have you lived in Lake Village all your life?

"No, Harold and I moved here in 1952," she said. "We farmed across the road. They tore down our original house."

Where did you come from?

"Chalmers; it's near Brookston on 'Old 43.' I graduated from Monon High School at the age of 16. I believe children from that area go to North White High School now. Harold was from Wolcott."

Did you go to college?

"No, I didn't have the opportunity. My grandmother had 16 children. Aunt Millie used to say: 'I'm the 14th child of a large family.'"

Tell me more about your school days.

"All eight grades were in the same building. When I started, I was the only one in the first grade. When I got to the second grade, I was still the only one. So, the teacher bumped me up to the third grade with the boys. That's why I graduated at 16; I only went for 11 years."

Did you have a favorite subject?

"Spelling. The teacher would give me kernels of corn to practice my numbers. Now, they have computers. Although I went to Monon High School, my elementary school was in Nauvoo, which is north of Monon. There was a cemetery right behind the schoolhouse. We lived about two houses south of the schoolhouse in Nauvoo."

How many kids were in your graduating class?

"There were 28 of us; as freshmen, there



were 50 of us."

I was just a kid, but I remember when your youngest drowned near Conrad.

"Roger. He could swim like a fish; I don't know what happened. Cramps, maybe. I think your Uncle Richie was in the same class as Roger in school. All my children graduated from Morocco High School.

"I remember when I was working as a waitress at (Ind.) 10 and (U.S.) 41 for Mrs. Shields."

I remember that restaurant! What was the name of it?

"The Village Inn. Anyway, your dad, Jimmy, came into the restaurant and said, 'Well, Ma's gonna sign Richie's death certificate today.' I said: 'What are you talking about?' He said, 'She's going to let him get a driver's license.'"

Uncle Rich did drive some fast cars; that blue '67 vette was the bomb.

"I also worked as a waitress at the Echo in Schneider. From there, I worked at Baker & Taylor in Momence, Illinois, for 18 years."

They produced and sold books wholesale there.

"Still do. I remember when a bunch of the women from Baker & Taylor were killed in a plane wreck back in the '70s. They were on their way to a book convention of some kind in California."

Did you work on an assembly line at Baker & Taylor?

"No, I was customer relations. Their first orders were in August of '62. I started there in March of '63. Baker & Taylor is still going strong."

Tell me about Lake Village in the early '50s.

"When we moved here, 'Old 10' was a dirt road, then they graveled it, then they paved it. There were three grocery stores. Mabel DeVelde had a restaurant. The Greyhound bus used to stop near Mabel's place."

Your husband raised coon hounds.

"Yes, they were treeing Walker coon hounds. Our operation was called Doggone Kennels. One summer, we sold 100 puppies. They were mostly black with a little brown."

Black and tans?

"No, that's a different breed. It seemed

like Doggone Kennels was just an open house on weekends. Our customers included a dentist from Ohio, a veterinarian from New York and three ministers from southern Indiana. We had a lot of colored people from up north who bought puppies."

Those folks probably had southern roots.

"The Walkers were all UKC-registered. I'd go coon hunting with Harold some nights. But mostly he'd hunt with Sandy Oxley, Bob Rainford and Rich Herron."

Mrs. Watkins, I had my wedding reception at the Coon Hunters Club.

"Yes, west of Lake Village near your Grandpa Vito's place. We won several large trophies; one was for Best Female of the Breed. They used to have a big coon dog thing in New Castle every September."

Memories of the Great Depression?

"I remember when the hucksters would drive through the country in old trucks selling groceries and such. You'd get a loaf of bread that was divided; it would have a crease down the two sides. They'd lay a pencil in the crease. You'd get a loaf of bread and a pencil for 10 cents. I used to buy a quarter's worth of sugar. The hucksters would buy eggs and cream from me."

Your father must've farmed with horses.

"Yes, he did. I see these big corn planters nowadays and I think to myself, 'Dad used to have two horses hooked up to a two-row planter.' Harold farmed with horses, too."

Let's switch gears. Great-grandchildren?

"I have 18 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren."

Life since becoming a widow?

"I like the slots."

Come, again?

"Slot machines. I've been to Reno, Las Vegas, Atlantic City... I was in that rich guy's casino ... what's his name?"

Donald Trump?

"Yes. We went into his place and I thought to myself, 'I don't know if I want to give him any of my money.'"

And?

"And I won \$200! Jeff, I've been all over the country in Don and Edmere Falk's motor home: Niagara Falls, Silver Dollar City, Old Faithful, White Sands, NM... Don spent some of his time in the service in White Sands. I just got a birthday card from Edmere; Don's in a wheelchair now."

"By the way, I really liked the article you wrote about your grandmother; it was just wonderful."

Thanks, Mrs. Watkins. Thanks for talking to me. I found it very interesting and I learned a lot.

"Was it really interesting? I said to Marsha (her daughter-in-law), 'I don't know what I'm going to tell Jeff.'"

Salt of the earth, Bessie Watkins.

Home is Where Your Story Begins

The James T. Blankenkaker Family of Jackson Township | by Beth Bassett

Lewis Ludwig Blankenkaker, and his wife, Susanna Utz, were natives of Virginia. They immigrated to Preble County, Ohio, then to Bartholomew County, Indiana. The spelling of their name would evolve into Blankenkaker after the birth of their grandson, Michael Lewis.

Their son, Joel T. Blankenkaker, born February 4, 1795 in Madison, Virginia married Susanna House on December 13, 1819 in Culpeper County, Virginia. Her parents were Michael (1764-1839) and Susannah (Zimmerman), (1769-1850). In the fall of 1864, they located to Newton County. Susannah died shortly after their arrival and Joel in 1869. They are buried in the Harris Cemetery, north of Mt. Ayr.



Stone for Susannah Blankenkaker at Harris Cemetery.

Joel and Susanna Blankenkaker

Joel and Susanna had **nine** children: Michael Lewis, Elizabeth Mary, Susan Ellen, Nancy, John W., Louisa Mildred, James Thornel, Sarah C. and Simeon Addison.



James Thornel and Eliza (Crisler) Blankenkaker.



The Harris Cemetery was restored by the Blankenkaker descendants. Read more in the Fall 2011 *Newcomer*.

Michael Lewis (1821-1894) married Elizabeth “Betsy” Urtz pronounced Oates, (1825-1909) on September 24, 1845 in Kentucky. They are buried in Weston Cemetery, Jasper County, Indiana. They had six children:

William (1846-1934) married Nancy Jane Greenwalt (1853-1937). Their children were Ottie (1877-); Kittie F. (1879-1966) and Nanna (1882).

Susan A. (1848-1879) married James E. Lamson (1849-) they had one son, Harley (1875-1959).

Mary J. (1851-); Louisa M. (1854-); John H. (1858-1883); and Martin L. (1862).

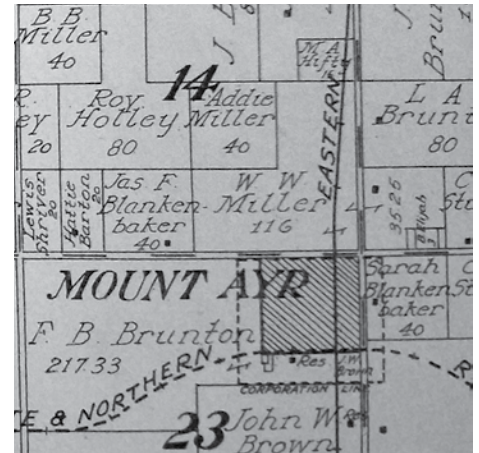
Elizabeth Mary (1822-1900) married Hamilton Crisler (1822-1900). They are buried at North Star Cemetery in Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana. They moved to Rensselaer in 1860 and had nine children:

Emily Jane (1845-1931), married Benjamin Harris, one child, Flora (1873-1931), who was a beloved member of the Rensselaer community. She was an artist utilizing oils, watercolor and painting china.

William Addison, (1847-1911), married Minnie Hopkins (1858-1921). Minnie was a dressmaker and owned and operated a millinery shop in Rensselaer. In the fall of 1901, they sold their farm in Jasper County and moved to a large home in Mt. Ayr. William was elected to a four-year term as the Jackson Township Trustee (1905-1908) In 1910 they returned to Jasper County and lived until their deaths. Their children were Orval H. (1893-1986); Hazel (1896-1897); George William (1901-1902).

James Alfred, (1849-1924), married Ruth English (1855-). Their children were Guy E. (1884-1969); Ansel Bernie (1886-1952); Irene (1888-1984); Grace (1890-); True (1892-1966); Blanche (1849-); Ray (1896-1963); Marie (1899-).

Marjorie Ellen, (1852-1944) married Noble K. Parke (1853-1923). Their children were Gertrude A. (1876-1966); Flora A. (1878-); Lillian E. (1881-1900); Harley H. (1883-1910); Nannie A. (1888-).



A 1916 Newton County plat book shows the original land of James Blankenkaker.

John Henry, (1854-) married Aretta Jane Deardurff (1868-). Their children were Lela D. (1890-); Estella (1892-1892); Leta F. (1894-); Hamilton (1904-1971); John Donald (1910-1921).

Sarah Alice, (1856-1928) married Jerome Allen Carter (1852-). Their children were Lulu E. (1881-); Charles G (1884-); Mary G. (1885-); John H. (1890-); Emmet J (1890-).

Allison Wilson, (1838-1940) married Maria Smith (1862-1930). Their children were Gracie, Ralph, Flora Lorena (1883-1968); Ethel Fern (1888-)

Margaret Lillian, (1863-1910) married John Scott Brenner (1859-1929). Their children were Edith (1884-); Edna (1886-).

Archibald, (1865-1947) married Rosa Quanstrom (1867-1956). Their son was Earl A. (1895-1977).

Susan Ellen (1826-1909), married Henry VanCleave Childers (1827-1921). They are buried at the IOOF Memorial Gardens, Carroll County, Indiana. Their five children were:

John H., (1851-).

Susan Catherine, (1852-1891) married Chas. L. Crisler (1851-1906). Their children were Carey (1872-1947); Casy M (1872-); Daisy (1876-1910); Charles A. (1880-1942); Henry VanCleave (1881-1936); Angel E. (1883-1917); Susan Ellen (1891-1974).

Joel William, (1856-).

James Isaac, (1860-1936) married Ida Digman (1863-1937). Their children were Joseph (1893-1979); Russell V. (1895-1938); Hobart Lionel (1896-1992); Florence (1898-1948); Helen Gertrude (1899-1978) Kenneth Isaac (1901-1987); Clarence (1904-1908).

Cecelia Ann (1864-) married Robert Mahanna (1852-). Their children: Ella M (1891-); Katie I (1893-); William R (1897-).

Nancy (1824-1940), married Thomas Harris (1816-1890). They are buried at North Star Cemetery, Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana.

They had one son, Edwin, (1865-1939) who was a grain buyer at the local elevator in 1910. He married Mary A. Wuerthner (1868-1941). Their children were Nellie M (1890-1973); Addie M (1891-1959); Charles Edwin (1892-); Lucy W (1897-); Maria I. (1899-); Ernest Clermont (1902-); John Richard (1906-).

John W. (1829-1890). John was first married to Jane Stucker (1839-1865) in 1857, in Bartholomew County, Indiana.

They had two children; Lewis (1860-1947) married Mary Adaline "Addie" Buford (1861-1941) and Mary Adaline (1857-1930) married James O. Haskell (1857) and had one child, Earl (1887) who married Laura L. Whaton (1893-1983). Jane is buried at the Harris Cemetery, Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana.

After Jane's death, he married Martha A. Covert (1843-1868). They had one child, William (1868) who married Mattie Gurtha Herron (1872-1889).

In 1871, he married Mary Jenkins (1850-1878). They had one daughter, Bertha (1876-). She married Fred Morton Seward (1875-1904). They had two children Donald (1910-) and Dawn C (1915).

Martha and Mary and John W. are buried in the North Star Cemetery, Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana.

Louisa Mildred (1832-1905) married George R. Thornton (1821-1892). They are buried at Weston Cemetery, Jasper County, Indiana.

Their nine children were Mary, (1860-1946) married John Kimble (1858-1937). Their children were Bessie (1882) married Charles Smith (1878); George W. (1883-) married Illa Walker (1886-1916). They had two children Clara and George Jr.; Ida Estella (1885-1968) married Leslie B. Hewitt (1882-1974) and had three daughters, Amy Ruth, Bessie E. and Emma L.; Jennie A. (1888-1967).

Samuel (1862-1915) married Elnora Moffit (1863-). They had one son, Lester G. (1895-1902).

Emily Jane (1862-1952).

Margaret Ellen "Maggie" (1864-1935) married William Fleener (1859-1923). Their children were Adelia A. (1885-1967); Orlie Edgar (1889-1968); Weaver Levett (1892-1974); Daisy E. (1894-1974); Mildred Pauline (1897-1987); Arthur L. (1902-1975); Jasper Floyd (1904-1896).

Edgar Sherman (1867-1942) married Elberdie Vannice-Daugherty (1869-1932).

Their children were Lona E. (1897-) married John Nicholas Zimmer (1895-1972). They had one daughter Katherine (1915-).

Arthur (1899-); Julia M (1901-); Eberta M (1907).

Della (1870-1950) married Sherman Renicker (1867-1952). They had five children, Maude E. (1891-1947); Jay Andrew (1893-1966); Myrtle A. (1896-1944); George E. (1902-1904); Earl L. (1906-1942). Earl was killed in WWII in England.

Clinton (1875-1950) married Harriett C. Sheffer (1875-1897). They had four children, Evadne (1899-); Mildred L. (1900-1973); Vernon D. (1907-1976); Clinton H. (1909-).

Henry Vernon (1878-1963) married Lena Lang. they had two children, Marion V (1905-1984) and Sarah R (1908-).

James Thornel (1834-1922) married Elizabeth Ann Crisler (1847-1910) on August 15, 1869 in Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana. Elizabeth's parents were

Blankenbaker Family Lore

These notes were found on Ancestry on a public member tree for the Blankenbakers. It was notes on the James T. Blankenbaker (JTB) and family, written by David Hostetler, in November 1960. David was the husband of JTB's daughter Mary G "Mollie" (Blankenbaker) Hostetler. These are the memories of JTB:

1. The Joel Blankenbaker (father of JTB) homestead was directly across from the Billy Shaw home (to the west) about 2 miles north of Mt Ayr. (Note: Sarah, daughter of Joel and Susan (House) Blankenbaker and sister of JTB married Isaac Stucker; their daughter married William Shaw - see map on page 13).

2. JTB thought his parents lived near Culpepper courthouse in Virginia. He heard them mention this place a number of times.

3. JTB and his wife purchased the homestead where they lived (40 acres for \$800). They lived in one room, the old kitchen. They had a table, few chairs, a stove, a bed, and a cupboard. Maw Blankenbaker, (Eliza Ann Crisler), thought they were amply supplied. The living room and the east parlor were built on later. The cost was about \$550. JTB was much interested in horses and pigs.

4. He said, "I was born in Preble County, Ohio. My folks Joel and Susan (House) Blankenbaker moved from there to Bartholomew County, Indiana." He spoke quite often of Hartsville and an absent-minded professor there. This man forgot the day he was to be married. Friends came to notify him of this blessed event and found him on a stepladder papering his wall. He laid his tools aside, cleaned up, and was married.

5. Maw B's father (Ansel Crisler) had a general store at the crossroads in the Helmuth barn lot. At this point the road to the east and Route #55 to the north was the 'Old Chicago Road'. The 40 acres east of the Helmuth home belonged to Leland Crisler. He offered this land to JTB for between \$500 and \$800 with all the time to pay he wished. JTB was afraid to accept the offer.

6. Maw B's father Ansel was a thrifty man. He had many acres diagonal across the crossroad at Helmuth's. Ansel died and his widow married a man by the name of Thorpe. When the widow died, Thorpe and John Deaver at Brook, Indiana swindled the other heirs out of much of their estate. Maw Blankenbaker and her sister, Matilda Wright each got 6 acres. To these 6 acres, a 20-acre strip of ground was purchased. This made the 26 acres 1 mile north of the Blankenbaker homestead.

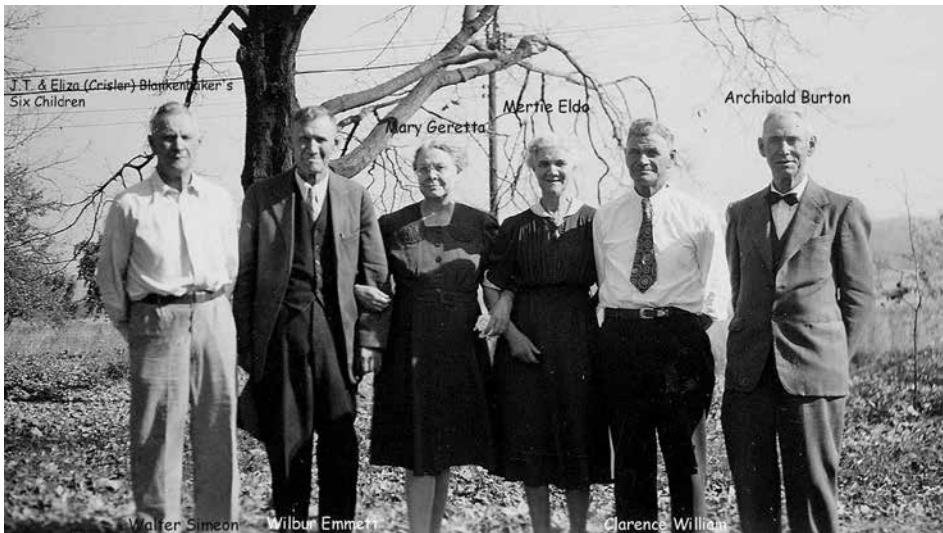
7. Paw and Maw belonged to the Primitive Baptist Church. Because of their firm and strong beliefs, they were dubbed the Hardshell Baptists. Their church was about 1 1/2 blocks north of the business section in Mt. Ayr. Their ministers were Elder Regdon and Elder Jones, publisher of the Baptist Monitor. These ministers lived near Sheridan, Indiana. They came once a month to preach. One strong point in their religion was "We do not pay our ministers." But when the church services were over, the churchmen would gather about their Elder and slip him a few dollars or \$5. So, this was a controversial subject between the Hardshells and members of other churches. They baptized with one dip backward in a gravel pit just south of Ed Long's on the west side of the road. This sect of church people was very happy in each other's company.

Paw B (JTB) on a church day would sit on the east end of his L-shaped porch, jerking out his watch, counting the minutes. The first clang of the bass-toned bell, he was quickly on his feet and hurrying rapidly toward the Church.

8. Incident: Paw B went downtown on a very windy day. At the hardware he bought a bed chamber. The hardware clerk wrapped a paper around it and tied it with a string. When Paw stepped out of the store, a strong puff of wind ripped the paper from under the string. Roar after roar went up from the throats of 18 or 20 loafers on the street, as Paw carried his bare prize up through the old school yard. JTB's comment on the incident: "The Dogged Wretches made fun of me."

9. Eliza, (Maw B) byword was, "I do say."

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The children of J.T. and Eliza Blankenbaker, left to right: Walter Simeon, Wilbur Emmett, Mary Geretta, Mertie Eldo, Clarence William and Archibald Burton.

William A. Crisler (1812-1873) and Margaret B. Harraman (1818-1881). They are buried at North Star Cemetery in Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana. They had six children:

Wilbur Emmett (1870-1948). He is buried at North Star Cemetery, Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana.

Mertie (Martha) Eldo (1872-1945) married Charles Marion Dunn (1870-1948).

Walter Simeon (1875-1957) married Eva Mae Keen (1881-1965). Walter purchased the farm and home of his father in 1919. He was known for his carpenter skills. They had two children, Russell James (1902-1979) who married Hazel Wesner (1906-1973), and had one son, LaVon Russell (1943-). In 1975 he married Bessie Lea Brown.

Their daughter Edna (1904-1995) was known as "Aunt Ninnie". She was known to have kept extensive scrapbooks with obits and information about the families. These were passed along to family members after her death. She married Cecil E. Kimmel (1897-1970). They did not have any children.

William Clarence (1880-1953) married Goldie E. Schanlaub (1884-1944). Goldie's parents were Sidney (1857-1925) and Emma (Brown) Schanlaub (1863-1934). Sidney at one time owned and published the *Morocco Courier*. They had three children.

Kenneth Burdett (1905-1970) was the owner and operator of the Railroad Salvage in Morocco, Indiana for twenty-four years. Kenneth first married Mary Ward. Their son Kenneth Dean (1930-2011) married Mary Louise Golden in 1953. Kenneth D. graduated from Mt. Ayr High School in 1948, served with the US Army during the Korean War and retired as a machinist and Wal-Mart greeter. Kenneth D. had three daughters, Cynthia, Pamela and Lori.

Wayne B. (1911-1981). Wayne was a survivor of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines during WWII. Family history notes that when he returned, he never recovered from his wartime experiences. He died in Morgan County, McConnellsville, Ohio.

Archibald Bertram (1883-1960) married Martha Ellen Warbritton (1886-1996). They had three children, Edna L. (1932-) married James B. Johnson; Leland G.; and Bernice. Mary (Molly) Gretta (1888-1953) married David Hostettler in June 1907. They had two children, Harold and Leland.

Sarah C. (1837-1913) married Isaac Stucker (1837-1911), the son of Henry (1800-1886) and Elizabeth "Betsy" Mellinger (1802-). Sarah and Isaac are buried at North Star Cemetery, Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana. Isaac served in the Civil War as a member of Company I, 67th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers.

Their daughter Lillie Belle (1864-1951) first married James F. Smelser in 1888. She had one son, Isaac Raymond Smelser Stucker (1891-1975). He married Hazel Warner (1894-1972), daughter of Samuel and Lura (Mobley) Warner. They were married in 1913. They had one son, Max I. Stucker.

Lillie divorced Smelser and in 1901 she married William Shaw (1875-1959). They had one son, Robert Cecil (1904-) who married Reva Ruth Dunlap (1906-). They had five children.

Sarah and Isaac's son Newton Clyde died at the age of 7.5 years (1874-1882). He is buried at North Star Cemetery, Jackson



Lloyd Blankenbaker, right, was recognized for his outstanding "service to boyhood," which was also presented to DNR officer Dave Mosier, left. Center is John Newland of Trail's End Camp. Photo from ancestry.com.

Township, Newton County, Indiana.

Simeon Addison (1839-1911) married Mattie M. Dunlap (1845-1917). They are buried at Little Walnut Glencoe Cemetery Beaumont, Kansas. Simon served in the 67th Regiment, Indiana Infantry, organized in Madison, Indiana. Their children were Clinton (1868-1948); Bernice (1875-1940); Mollie (1881-1901); Clyde (1883-1938); and Beryl (1887-1964).

Detailed information regarding the Blankenbakers can be found in the family history files at the Resource Center in Kentland contributed by Ruth Blankenbaker. Much information can be found in the "History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships." On the Blankenbaker and their related families. There are photos and more information available on the internet at Find-A-Grave and Ancestry.

Interested in researching your family history? Stop by our Resource Center in Kentland Monday-Thursday-Friday 11-3 CST and take a look at our family files and newspaper archives for obituaries.

Or visit our website:
www.ingenweb.org/innewton for county records.



Kenneth Dean Blankenbaker



Myrtle Eldo (Blankenbaker) Dunn. 1890.



Myrtle Dunn in later years.

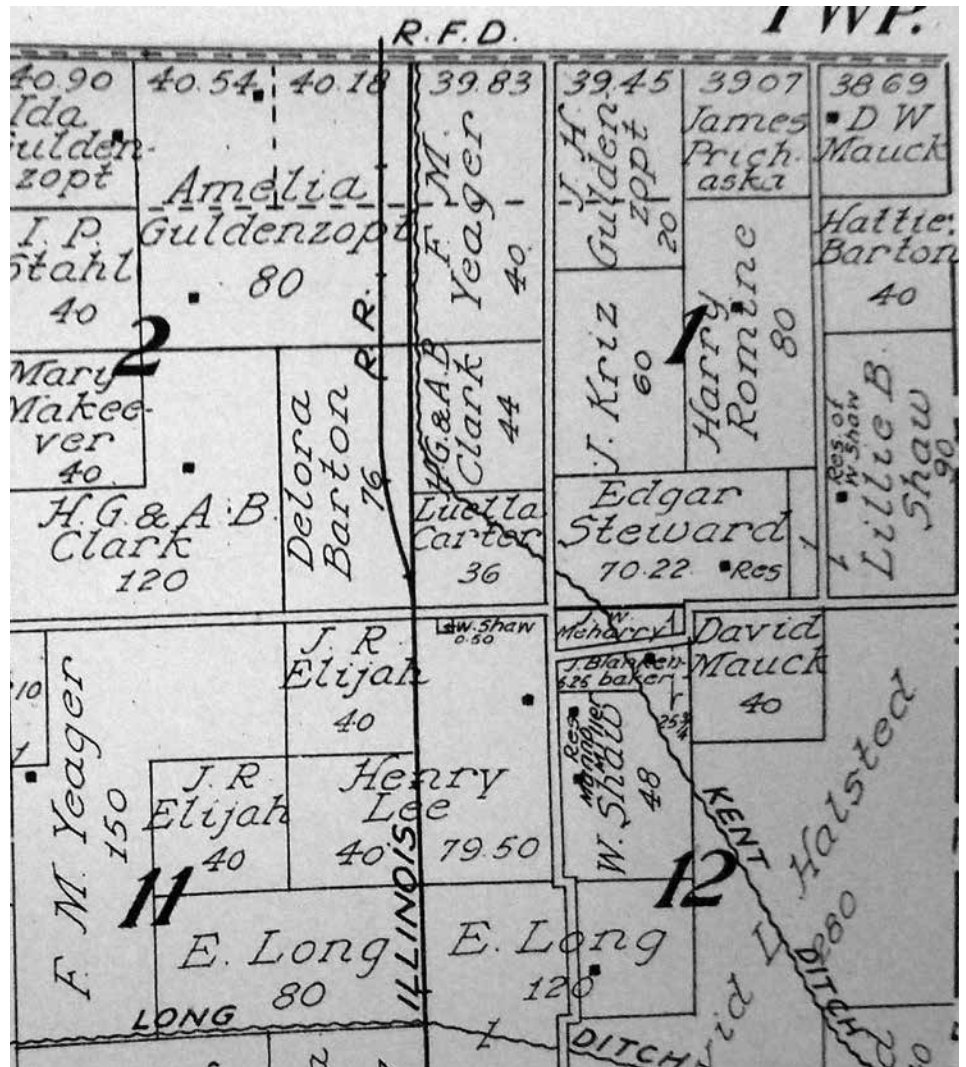


Eva Mae (Keen) and Walter S. Blankenbaker.



Clarence W. Blankenbaker

Find more Blankenbaker family history in our files at the Resource Center in Kentland, Indiana.



This plat from 1916 Jackson Township shows you the land and home of William Shaw - Section 1, on property of Lillie Shaw. The Joel Blankenbaker homestead was located just across the road west of William Shaw.

The Halleck Family in Newton County

By Beth Bassett

Many years ago, someone dropped by the Resource Center in Kentland while I was there and produced a map of Newton County in the early days showing the Gleason and Halleck families living along the Beaver Lake Ditch. For the life of me I cannot find that map, as it would be a great addition to this article. Perhaps it will reveal itself to me at another time. Please note the name was initially spelled Hallack.

The map piqued my interest at the time about the Halleck family living in Newton County, as I have always associated them with Jasper County. Mainly due to hearing and reading about the Hon. Charles A. Halleck who was born in DeMotte, practiced law in Rensselaer and served as Jasper County Prosecuting Attorney before he served in the U.S. Congress from 1935 until 1969.

I came across another photo in my files, that of Charles with his father, Abraham, and mother Lura posing together on a platform – probably during a campaign stent for their son. This time my interest was stirred enough to spend an afternoon researching the beginnings of the Halleck family—online and from historical books.

And so, I present to you the results of my research – I hope you enjoy the journey as much as I did – getting to know the impressive ancestors of Congressman Halleck. Most of the information began with the Abraham Lincoln Halleck public member tree located on Ancestry.com. One of its sources was the Hallack family Bible as well as legal documents, newspaper clippings and links to



The headstone for John D. Hallack located in Bethany, New York.

Find-A-Grave.com – which helped fill in the blanks left from the ancestry files.

Jonathan Hallack

The first documented generation is Jonathan Hallack, born 1750 in Suffolk, New York. His wife Elizabeth (1768-) and he had a son, John D. Hallack, born on December 6, 1790 at Bethany, New York. Jonathan died on March 16, 1816.

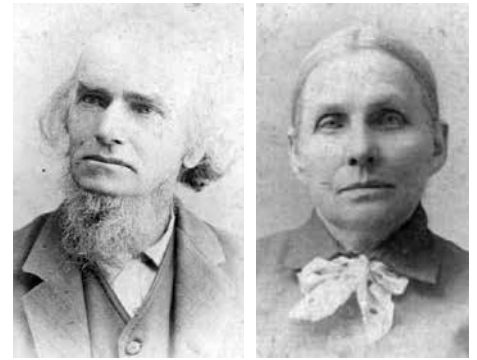
John D. Hallack

John D. (1790-1865), married Sarah Berthof (1792-1872) in 1812. There are fourteen children listed with them, William (1813-1867); Jane (1815-1889) married Peets; Charlotte (1818-1905) married Burton C. Nichols; Clarissa (1821-1897) married a Swab; Augustus (1823-1878); James (1825-1900); Caroline (1826-1895) married Leonard Gleason; Charles (1828-1906); Erastus (1830-1865); Genette (Eliza) married Evoll (1832-1836); Louisa (1834-1873) married a Wm O. Peck; and Ransom Parson (1838-1889). John D. and Sarah lived on a farm and passed their lives on a farm in their native state of New York.

James Hallack

The 1880 “History of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, Indiana” tells us that James was born on January 3, 1825, in Bethany, New York. At the age of 21 he moved to Canada for two years following a variety of occupations. He returned to New York for two years and then back to Canada for five years.

In 1855 he moved to Kankakee County, Illinois, where he owned a farm for a short time. He then went into the fruit-raising business, continuing until 1862, when he came to Lake Township, Newton County, Indiana. He purchased a farm of 120 acres and built his home. He also purchased 360 acres of



James and Mary (Gleason) Hallack.

land in different parts of Lake Township. He was a diligent dairyman, focusing on thoroughbred Jersey cattle.

James erected a sawmill on the Beaver Lake Ditch, which he operated a number of years. He served as Commissioner of Newton County for one term and served a term as Township Trustee. He was a Republican, an early settler, and a prominent citizen of the community. James may be the first who inspired the civic leadership that followed the next four generations of the Halleck family.

In 1847, James married Mary Gleason, a native of Canada. By 1864 the family had moved to Lake Township, as their daughter Ida May was born in Newton County on December 1, 1864. The Gleason family may have immigrated to Lake Township with the Halleck family – as they are listed as the next household to the Halleck family in the 1870 Newton County Census records.

James and Mary had ten children: Sarah Ann (1848-1923); Infant (1851-1851); Charles (1855-1938); James L. (1856-1860); Elizabeth “Lizzie” (1858-1917); Abraham Lincoln (1860-1944); Ransom Erastus (1862-



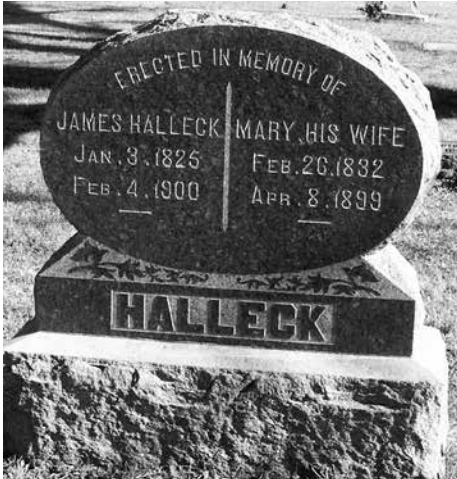
A James Hallack family portrait, unsure of date and order of names.

1930); Ida May (1864-1947); Genette "Nettie" (1868-1944); William "Willie" 1870-1939).

James and his family later moved to the vicinity of Fair Oaks in Jasper County where he proved himself an active and enterprising citizen, being instrumental in having the "milk train stop" on the Monon Railway established.

Abraham Lincoln and Birdie Lura (Luce) Hallack

Abraham Lincoln Hallack, born six days after the election of the 16th president of the United States, was named for the new president, Abraham Lincoln. I found the follow-



James and Mary Hallack headstone located in Fair Oaks Cemetery, Fair Oaks, Indiana.



Mary (Gleason) and James D. Hallack.

ing information associated with a posting at Find-A-Grave:

"Abraham Halleck's early life was passed much after the manner of the farmers' boys of that time. His education was acquired in the old Wade School and in the graded schools at Morocco. Successfully passing the necessary examination, he was granted a teacher's license when about sixteen years old, and altogether taught some six years of winter terms.

"During this time, he took a course in Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana, from which he was graduated in 1880. Subsequently, having read law in the office of Judge Peter H. Ward, in Kentland, he was admitted to the bar about 1884. For some years, however, he pursued a business rather than



Abraham and Lura (Luce) Halleck, 1890.

a professional career, engaging with a brother in the hay, grain, and implement business at DeMotte, and other places in Jasper County, and was thus occupied until February, 1903.

"He then came to Rensselaer and embarked in the practice of his profession, in which he continued with marked success, having been identified with much of the important litigation in the county. He was the present attorney for the Marble-Powers Ditch, (Cause No. 89), which had in hand the straightening of the Kankakee River for twenty-eight miles. This involved the construction of what would be the largest ditch in the State of Indiana.

"Some years ago, Mr. Halleck established a telephone line connecting DeMotte, Kniman and Wheatfield, which was the first telephone line constructed in Jasper County. Though at first but a small private affair, it eventually developed into the Halleck Telephone Company, operating 150 miles of wire.

"In politics Mr. Halleck was a Republican and in 1896 was elected county commissioner, during the nine years he served as such acting as president of the board. It was during this time that the new courthouse was erected.

"He was elected State Senator representing White, Jasper, Newton and Starke counties, serving from 1909-1911. While in the Senate he was chairman of the drainage committee. He also introduced the bill making it possible for each county to establish



L-R: Wendell Willkie; Abraham, Charlie, Lura, and Blanche Halleck on the campaign trail.

16 The Newcomer

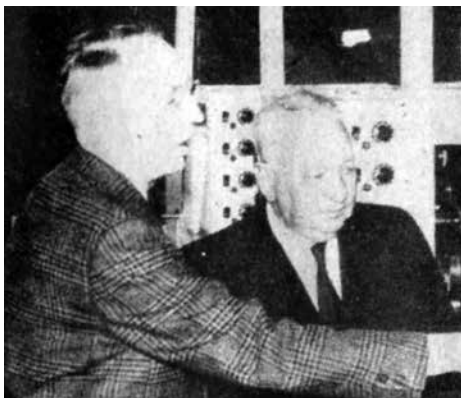
a tuberculosis hospital, passing both House and Senate, but it did not become a law, as the Governor failed to give it his signature.”

Abraham met Birdie Lura Luce while teaching at the Wade School in Lake Village. The Luce family had moved to Lake Township between 1870 and 1880 according to Newton County Census records. Lura, as she was called, was born in Steuben County, Indiana in 1865 to George and Lura (Kidder) Luce. Her father served as the Steuben County Treasurer prior to their moving to Lake Township.

Lura graduated from the Ft. Wayne Conservatory of Music and taught there for years. In 1887, she married Abraham Halleck. It is on their marriage license that we found the name Birdie L. Luce. In 1889, the couple settled in DeMotte where they lived until they moved to their home on East Washington Street in Rensselaer in 1903.

Lura also studied law and worked alongside her husband in the firm Halleck and Halleck in Rensselaer. In 1920, she was admitted to the bar of Jasper County and conducted court cases in the county. She remained active at the law firm for over 30 years - up until the day she passed, October 16, 1941, at home on East Washington Street. Lura was known for her community involvement. Immediately after moving to Rensselaer, she organized an orchestra and became active as a welfare leader. She and Abraham had five children. Mildred E. (1889-1964); Hester L (1892-1963); Lura Ardell (1896-1979); Charles Abraham (1900-1986); and Harold Jerome (1903-1986).

Abraham, too, would work until the day he died on September 4, 1944. Reports of his death were printed nationwide. He died suddenly of a heart attack while his son Charles was giving a radio address and son Jerome was in France with a medical detachment. Both Lura and Abraham are buried at the



Charlie was a friend of Rensselaer Republican owner and publisher Keith B. Robinson for many years. Here he is showing Charlie their newly installed Harris V-15A Press in the mid-1960s.



Left, Lura Halleck; Two images of Blanche (White) Halleck and Charles A. Halleck.

Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer, Jasper County, Indiana.

Charles Abraham Halleck

Much as been written about Charlie Halleck. I have a souvenir ashtray given to me that commemorates the day he and President Eisenhower visited Rensselaer. I suggest reading John J. Yost's writings about the life and times of Charlie in a series of articles that appeared in the *Newton County Enterprise* and republished in "The Yost Collection, Vol. II."

The most common nickname for Charles was "Charlie" or "Abe", given to him as a child. Born in DeMotte on August 22, 1900, he attended local schools. During World War I, he served in the Infantry of the U.S. Army. After the war, he graduated from Indiana University, in 1922; from the Mauer School of Law, Indiana University Bloomington; and in 1924 was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Rensselaer, Indiana. He was the prosecuting attorney for the Indiana thirtieth judicial circuit, (1924-34). In 1935, he was elected as a Republican to the Seventy-fourth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Frederick Landis; reelected to the Seventy-fifth Congress and to the next fifteen succeeding Congresses, serving until 1969. Not a candidate for reelection, he resumed the practice of law in Rensselaer. He also lectured in political science at St. Joseph College there until 1970 when a heart attack forced him to restrict his activities.

Charlie married Blanche Annette White



Blanche and Charles Halleck are buried at Weston Cemetery, Rensselaer, Indiana.

on June 15, 1924 in Jasper County. Blanche also graduated from Indiana University. They had a set of twins, Charles White (1929-2017) and Patricia (1929-1994). Born in Indianapolis, she was not a big part of his congressional life but shared in regular fishing trips with him to Wisconsin and Florida.

It was on one of these fishing trips in 1973 that Mrs. Halleck toppled from the couple's boat. Attempts were made to save her, and first reports stated she had drowned. Having suffered a heart attack three years before this trip later reports were that she died of a heart seizure. It was written that Charlie could not forget the way he "lost mommy out there." A sad ending to a 45-year marriage.

Charlie lived to the age of 85 dying in 1985 after a lengthy illness. Statesmen, friends and colleagues eulogized Charlie during services held at the St. Joseph College Chapel in Rensselaer. Rev. Charles H. Banet, St. Joseph College President and friend called Halleck a "god-send for this country on several issues of great moral consequence." He went on to say that Halleck called him a "flaming liberal, but their differences didn't override their friendship and mutual respect. History has recorded that it was Halleck who garnered the Republican votes to pass President Johnson's 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Charles W. Halleck

The son of Charlie and Blanche Halleck, Charles, was known as an outspoken crew-cut conservative. Judge Charles Halleck was appointed in 1965 to what became the D.C. Superior Court. He presided over trial cases that decided everything from simple traffic matters to the fate of protesters arrested for demonstrating at the White House.

He established himself as a fiery presence on the bench, known as much for keeping a revolver in his desk drawer as for his tough sentencing and conservative political views, seen by some journalists as echoes of his father, Rep. Charles A. Halleck of Indiana.

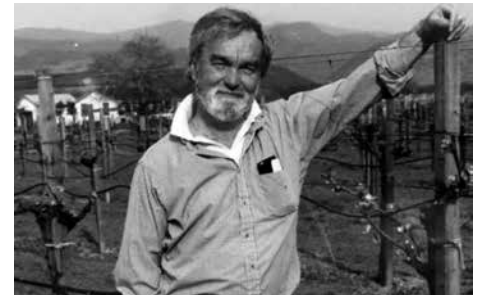
Judge Halleck served in the Navy before attending George Washington University law school and, after graduating in 1957, worked as an assistant U.S. attorney and then an as-

sociate at the law firm of Hogan & Hartson. His father's role in shepherding civil rights legislation through the House probably contributed to President Lyndon B. Johnson's decision to nominate Judge Halleck for a judgeship in what was then the Court of General Sessions.

Judge Halleck entered private practice in 1977 before retiring to Los Altos Hills, Calif., "sick" of legal work. He took up photography instead, working as a freelance photojournal-

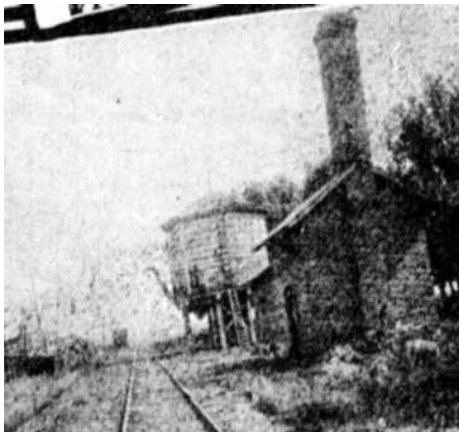
ist for the San Jose Mercury News and appearing at exhibitions in local galleries, freed of the constraints he said he bristled against as a judge. Charles died at the age of 88 in 2017.

I am not aware if the legacy of public service continues today in the Halleck family, but for four generations the name Hallack-Halleck was known throughout the lands for their public service.



Charles W. Halleck

From Our Files ...



Pogue Station, Beaver Township.



Sumava Resorts Club House.



Sumava Resorts Community House.



Sumava Resorts Dance Pavillion.

**WHY
INDIANA WOMEN SHOULD VOTE**

WOMEN SHOULD VOTE FOR THE SAME REASON THAT MEN DO

TAXATION

The women of today, like men, pay a large direct tax on all property. They pay, in the way of tariff, a heavy indirect tax of from ten to forty cents out of most every dollar expended for apparel, food and household furnishings.

CITIZENSHIP

Abraham Lincoln defined an ideal republic as 'a government of the people, by the people, for the people;' but ours is a government OF the people, by HALF the people. A voteless person is not a citizen. Therefore, we, in Indiana are aliens, wards, or what you will—BUT NOT CITIZENS!

The ballot is an educator in citizenship. An enfranchised motherhood will bring forth a race which has never been equalled for nobility, heroism and true patriotism.

LEGISLATION

The legislator heeds the voice of those who elect him; the ballot is an instrument of power. Women should be able to use this instrument in much current legislation of special interest to them.

Indiana women are concerned in the development of the public schools. They are concerned in such matters as clean streets, public sanitation and pure food.

They are concerned about the housing of the poor and the elimination of the slums.

They are concerned about the conditions of working women—their hours of labor, wages and sanitary surroundings. (There are considerably over 100,000 self-supporting women in the state.)

They are concerned about the condition of working children. (There are more than 5,000 of these.)

They are concerned in the solution of moral questions, like temperance and the social evil.

Men cannot handle such questions unaided. The intelligence of the sexes is now conceded equal; but their points of view are different. Men look at life from the business and financial stand-point. Women look at it more from the humane and individual, seeking the preservation and uplift of the race they have brought into the world. Both points of view should find expression in the State, as in the home.

At present about 3,000,000 women are enjoying full suffrage in the world, and half as many municipal suffrage. According to the best of authority this everywhere proves to be "a reform based upon justice, counselled by wisdom and justified by experience."

Indiana women are as intelligent, virtuous and public spirited as are the women of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington and California, where women now vote for all officers elected by the people.

The Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, therefore, appeals to all women to join it in an organized effort to secure this equal suffrage.

It appeals to all men to vote only for those candidates for office, and especially for the legislature, who are personally pledged to work for it.

The Woman's Franchise League of Indiana
Headquarters: 816 Odd Fellow Bldg. Indianapolis, Ind.

The above notice appeared in Indiana newspapers prior to the passing of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in August of 1920.

Pages of the Past

Excerpts taken from the Newton County Enterprise Summer, 1920 | By Janet Miller

Newton County

Woman's Department. As no subject is of more absorbing interest to the women folks now than politics, a review of the activities of some of Indiana's prominent women, and the part they are playing in the National Conventions, is timely. Miss Adah E. Bush, of Kentland, has been appointed by the National League of Women Voters to handle publicity for the league platform campaign in the Republican National Convention in Chicago, in the tour to San Francisco during which three regional conferences will be held, and finally in the continuation of the platform campaign at the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco.

Reliability Run from Gary to the Shades. A reliability run was made from Gary to The Shades yesterday, the thirty or more cars passing through Kentland, over Adaway, during the forenoon. The cars were divided into classes, and penalized for violation of the rules and regulations, and the result of the race was determined after reaching The Shades. The cars straggled through Kentland at an easy pace, and no new world records were probably broken.

The forty-five thousand pounds of sugar brought in by the local Farm Bureau reached Morocco last Friday afternoon, where the car was held to Monday. It was then moved to Goodland for the distribution of the second half of the four hundred fifty bags.

Brook

Burton Qualifies As Sharpshooter. Local Marine is skilled rifleman on Battleship Arizona. By showing his ability as a rifleman, Private Irol D. Burton, has qualified as a sharpshooter in the United States Marine Corps., according to official report from Washington. Hereafter he will wear the sharpshooter's medal and will receive an increase in pay. His father, Wesley Burton, is a well known resident of this place.

Trustee Russell of Iroquois Township was in Kentland Monday and perfected the sale of an issue of bonds totaling \$50,000, the proceeds to be used in erecting a schoolhouse at Foresman. The bonds were purchased by the Fletcher Trust and Savings Bank of Indianapolis for par.

Miss Lillie Adair returned last week from Lafayette where she has been taking a six months business course, in preparation for taking charge of the business management of the telephone office here. She will take the position the first of August.

The following young people spent some time at the Epworth League Institute at Bat-

tle Ground last week; Helen Hershman, Virginia Lyons, Ruth Lyons, Gladys Hershman, Ruby Long, Priscilla Warr, Mildred Hoffmann, Bernice Hamacher, John Pence, William Park, Roland VanderVorst, Max Herriman, John Hershman. Several other Brook people drove down for the day on Sunday. Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Wilson and family were there Saturday evening and Sunday.

Kentland

George Sammons, son of attorney, Hume L. Sammons, was admitted to the bar.

Fred Taylor had the misfortune to have his arm broken Sunday morning in cranking his Ford.

"Hudson Special No. 4" is the only car in Kentland that can make Chuckhole Avenue (Kentland's main street) on high. This car is owned by Louis F. Kime, and was especially constructed to perform the hazardous trick of which the owner boasts.

Boy Scouts. We are going on a hike Friday evening. Leave the coliseum at 6 o'clock. Use bicycles. Boys who have none may arrange to ride with some others. Take food to cook on open fire. We will have no more class meetings until September, except possibly a few hikes. The following boys have taken and passed the tenderfoot examination: Robert Bennett, Sherwood Carlson, Arvid Carlson, Harry Dieter, Hilbert Dieter, Clifford Easter, Harry Fetters, Robert Ford, Max Glick, Louis Graeber, Orville Haniford, Charles Hazel, Darrold Hammon, Chester Harlan, Lowell Harris, Raymond Hilyer, (Raymond made the highest grade so far) Donald Hosier, Norman Kohls, John Krull, Walter Largent, William Noble, Robert Paris, Oswald Reed, Leroy Richcreek, Robert Ross, James Simons, Floyd Smith, Alfred Spangler, and George VanKirk. Howard A. Kaueman, Scoutmaster.

The people of Kentland, in common with others, took about three days to free their systems of Independence Day enthusiasm. Some celebrated Saturday, there were a number of picnicking parties and drives Sunday, and Monday the crowd was largely divided between Hazelden and Morocco.

Organization of Building and Loan. Articles of incorporation have been filed with the Secretary of State by the newly elected directors of the Kentland Building and Loan Association, and the association will soon be ready for business. The directors are: Frank Starz, H. G. Ainsworth, H. H. Healy, A. L. Smart, William Darroch, H. L. Sammons, O. E. Glick, H. A. Reinhart and S. R. Sizelove. The association will be organized with a capi-

tal stock of \$250,000.00, and it is believed that a large portion of this will be quickly absorbed by the people of Kentland.

Roselawn

Isaac N. Best Dead. The venerable Isaac N. Best, coroner of Newton County, passed away at his home in Roselawn Tuesday evening. He was 84 years old and quite active up to the time of his death. Funeral services will be conducted from the family home and burial will be made in Rensselaer. Mr. Best has been a resident of Newton County for many years.

Grant Township/Goodland

Picnic Saturday. The annual picnic of the Orchard Lake clan, given by Warren T. McCray to all those engaged in any capacity on the McCray Farms, was held Saturday at the cabin on the Iroquois. About eighty were in attendance, and besides a big dinner of fried chicken, ice cream, etc., the folks enjoyed a program of field sports, and late in the afternoon came in to the Opera House in Kentland and witnessed a reel of pictures of Orchard Lake which was taken to show a modern stock farm, and two reels taken at the recent sale. All present report an enjoyable time.

A white terrier with black spots, owned by O. R. Shepard of Goodland, was lost in or near Effner, July 26th. Dog answers to name of "Tip" and was wearing a black leather collar. Finder will phone or write Mr. Shepard.

Morocco

The celebration of Independence Day at Morocco Monday drew an immense crowd and the good people of that place who were playing hosts for the day left nothing undone to make all visitors welcome and assist them in having a good time. There was a full day and night program.

Morocco Boy Drowned. Charles Watkins was drowned in Pine Creek a few miles west of Attica Friday afternoon, while out swimming in the old swimming hole. He was 19 years of age and was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Watkins of Morocco. He was in Attica visiting at the home of his uncle, James Mickles. The unfortunate young man had gone to the creek in company of his brother Albert and his cousins Charles and Floyd Mickles and all were in the water together when Watkins cried for help. Charles Mickles tried to help him but could not hold on. The funeral services were held Monday in Morocco. The young man is one of a family of fourteen children, and his death was the first to break the family circle.

Mt. Ayr

The building to house the electric light plant is completed, and is a very neat building made of cement blocks. It is to be hoped the poles can soon be put in so the plant can be completed, and the town can have electric lights.

Edwin Harris has the agency for the Lexington car and is demonstrating one to the people of Mt. Ayr. Hiram Ashby has purchased the Harris Mitchell and expects to make a trip to his farm in northwestern Minnesota.

McClellan Township

Enos to have new school building. A contract for the erection of a new school building at Enos, in McClellan Township, was let Saturday by Trustee Sellers, and will take the place of the building destroyed by fire a few months ago. The contract for the building proper went to Ed Moore of Dan-

ville for \$25,225 and the heating and plumbing to Arthur W. Murry of Hoopeston for \$7,000. The building is to be of brick, with two school rooms, assembly hall, furnace room, and is to be modern throughout. John A. Bruck of Kentland is the architect.

Roselawn and Northern Newton

The frost a few days ago touched some corn and millet quite heavily near the Buck Horn school house on the muck land.

Several persons from Huntington including the prosecuting attorney were here Friday investigating and getting evidence regarding the drowning of Elizabeth Hague, the young lady of Huntington, who was drowned in the Kankakee river near Mr. Hoig's resort, Sunday, July 25. Miss Hague had about \$60,000 in her right and the only child, and her mother of frail health, and from all appearances, the young lady may have been dealt with foully.

Answers to
Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - Questions on Page 2

1. Jefferson Township: When the New Lisbon School was closed the old one-room school was used as a dance hall called "The Green Onion."

2. Lake Township: The dedicated community worker from Lake Village that started the first library in Lake Village and wrote children's books was Dorothy Arbuckle. The two children's books she wrote were "After Harvest Festival" and "Andy's Dan'l Boone Rifle." We have these books in our library at the Newton County Resource Center.

3. Lincoln Township: Alois Knapp of Lincoln Township appeared on the television game show "What's My Line?" Mr. Knapp was the proprietor of Zoro Nature Park.

4. McClellan Township: The small hamlet in McClellan Township that was a place where livestock was shipped to the Chicago market was named Elmer.

5. Washington Township: There are four (4) historical markers located near the Iroquois River in Washington Township. They are: (1) The marker for Aaron Lyons, first white child born in Newton County on February 5, 1832. This marker is located on 1125S between roads 50W and 150W. This marker was erected by the courtesy of Al Lyons. (2) The marker for the first church in Newton County erected in 1838, a United Brethren Church with Rev. Frederick Kenoyer, Pastor. This marker is located on 1150S just west of 300W. This marker was erected by courtesy of the Kentland Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in 1976. (3) The marker for the Newton County Home that was located north of the Newton County Fairgrounds reminds us that the home was contracted in 1891 and closed in 1983. This marker is located where the home once stood. The marker was erected courtesy of the Iroquois, Washington Preservation Committee. (4) A marker was erected just north of the Newton County Fairgrounds to honor the original "Patron and Farmer's Agricultural Fair" (Pun'kin Vine Fair) 1882-1888, which was held on the farm of George M. Herriman, just east and north of the current fairgrounds. This marker was erected courtesy of the Herriman Family.

Correction: Last month under Beaver Township it was stated that the highest point in the county was at the Smith Cemetery. A member has corrected us that the highest point in the county is in Grant Township. The County Surveyor's Office shows it as an elevation of 771.81. This point is on 1800S just east of 600E. The elevation at the Smith Cemetery is approximately 740. Perhaps the history book stated it incorrectly as not being the highest point in the county but the highest point in Beaver Township.

NEW LOCAL HISTORY RELEASE

PLAYS WORTH REMEMBERING

CURATED AND EDITED BY WILLIAM C. ADE



Plays Worth Remembering is a two-volume set of 14 plays and two silent film screenplays by celebrated turn-of-the-20th century American playwright George Ade. Many of these works have never been published before and some do not exist in complete form anywhere else. Ade's plays offer a valuable and funny commentary on politics, community and social norms in the late 1800s/early 1900s.

This set also contains Ade's brief autobiography, a description of his early years as a playwright, hand-drawn stage designs and choreography suggestions, photos, poster art, and much more. It will make a fine addition to the collections of students, scholars and other aficionados of theater and film history, the craft of writing for the stage and screen, Midwestern humor, and early 20th century arts and culture.

It will make a fine addition to the collections of students, scholars and other aficionados of theater and film history, the craft of writing for the stage and screen, Midwestern humor, and early 20th century arts and culture.



\$200.00

when purchased online or via Barnes and Noble

\$150.00

when purchased from a distributor located in Newton County

100% OF LOCAL SALE PROCEEDS ARE BEING DONATED TO THE GEORGE ADE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION'S RESTORATION FUND FOR GEORGE'S HAZELDEN HOME

For more information on sales locations, contact the Brook Public Library (219) 275-2471 or visit facebook.com/georgeadehistoricpreservationcommission

Resource Center Window Display



The society's Resource Center was closed following the Covid protocol from April through August. Volunteers were unable to create an inside display, but utilized the talents of Rein Bontreger of Reinforcement Designs to honor the 100th celebration of Women's right to vote; the west window encouraged everyone to get out and vote on November 3rd.

There will not be a Christmas Open house this year, and when programs are resumed members will be notified by mail.

The Resource Center in Kentland is now open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST.

Please visit our website www.ingenweb.org/innewton for numerous county records for genealogy research.

If you are interested in purchasing any of our local publications that are for sale, please call us at 219-474-6944 and leave a message if we are not available when you call. We are happy to ship them out to you! They make great Christmas gifts.

The Newcomer




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Mission Statement: It is the hope of the volunteers and members of the Newton County Historical Society will bring together those people interested in the history of Newton County, and will promote an understanding and appreciation for the people and community of Newton County through research, preservation, restoration, education and publications. (c) 2020 Newton County Historical Society. All rights reserved.

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