

The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

Inside this issue

- *The Mellen Babies of Goodland*
- *George Ade Statue and IHS Marker*
- *Letters in a Bag*
- *The Nighthawk in Beaver Township*
- *Col. Abel and Lovinia Streight*
- *Lincoln Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept.*
- *The Crowden-Shepard Families*
- *Lemuel Milk and His County Legacy*
- *Ford Market Co. of Kentland, 1929*
- *A Pullman Car Revealed*
- *Do You Know?*

Before Gerber Babies There Were Mellin Babies . . . Two Were From Goodland!

by Kathy Snow

Up until the mid-1800s infant food was made at home. Then scientists and nutrition experts invented mass-produced baby foods. They were created to be substitutes for mothers' milk. Infant mortality was associated with tainted milk. By the late 1880s, there were several brands, Mellin's Food was one of the most popular. It was what could be called baby food now. Justus von Liebig's formula was the (credit as being) first to offer a "ideal" formula for infants. Then Gustav Mellin, a chemist in England, modified his formula in 1866. Mellin's formula was a dried malt extract that was added to milk (a milk modifier) based on a scientific formula ratio.

The initial advertising campaign in the United States was created by Thomas Metcalf of Boston. Sometime around 1880 the agency for Mellin's food was taken over by Thomas Doliber and Thomas Goodale, two of Metcalf's employees. The new company Doliber-Goodale & Co. advertised Mellin's Food as "the only perfect substitute for Mother's milk." The ads claimed that it gave the baby strength and vitality while preventing constipation and colic. Later he expanded the market to include elderly, invalids, and dyspeptics. But the focus was on infants.

The market campaign was extensive. Targeting mainly mothers, but also physicians. The product was sold in Pharmacies. Possibly all early baby formulas were, but possibly it was a strategy to sell them there to give legitimacy to the product being based on scientific research as well.

Mellin's Food ads were put in children's books, different types of magazines, and newspapers. They created trade cards, calendars, and other products to advertise the product. They created pamphlets, books, cards, and short articles explaining the product and the scientific method analysis. Some were simple and some were more complex, such as what they created for physicians and the scientific community.

Mellin's Food would advertise that if mothers (main target) wrote in, they would send a free pamphlet of information and/or a free sample of Mellin's Food. Sometime in the late 1800s, mothers started sending in photos of their babies, their names, town and state, and short statements about how Mellin's Food helped their infant become stronger and healthier. The advertisements, pamphlets, etc., started to include the baby photos and information the mothers sent in. They became a big part of the advertising campaign. They became Mellin's Food babies. Mothers, also, sent in pictures of young boys and girls who had been fed Mellin's food when growing up. They became known as Mellin's Food boys and girls, but the main campaign over the years seemed to focus on the babies or very young children who were included into the Mellin's Food babies campaign.

Perhaps, the mothers hoped their children would end up in a magazine or newspaper or maybe they just felt compelled to tell Mellin's Food Company how the product helped their children. In turn, the Mellin's Food Company capitalized on what was sent in and used the photos and information to promote how effective the product was. The more they advertised, the more mothers would send them in. The ad campaign used them as examples to "prove" how well the product worked. Being a Mellin's Food baby appears to have been very popular long before there were Gerber babies.

Two of Goodland's Own were Mellin Babies

They were Gerald Orlando and Malcolm Leroy Shepard.

Their parents were Roy M. Shepard and Fanny Crowden who were married in 1907 in Goodland. Gerald was born January 13, 1908; Malcolm was born Nov 12, 1909.

Fannie sent in her photos of her children to the Mellin Food Company. I found ads in



Fannie Shepard with her two sons,
Gerald standing and holding Malcolm.

Continued on page 3 >

President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

Fall is working its way in – chilly mornings, sunny cool afternoons, shorter days, time for bonfires, apple cider . . .

The Society met in June for our annual meeting and picnic. We gathered at the Scott-Lucas House in Morocco. A carry-in always assures us of wonderful choices (maybe too many). The present slate of officers all agreed to serving another term. A thank you was given to all who do those things in the background to keep the Society functioning.

July brings the Punkin' Vine Fair. The Society was in its normal corner with a display of Sibling Toys. Packets of the first published coloring book and crayons were given to youngsters who came through the building.



Abe Lincoln provided a wonderful glimpse into his lifetime at the August meeting

August found us back at the Government Building in Morocco. Abe Lincoln paid us a visit, he told us of his early life and the hardships he endured. Abe told us of his going into business and how he got the nickname "Honest Abe" (he had walked many miles to take a customer the change due him). Serving his country in politics did not come easy and leading the country during the Civil War was extremely hard.

Bill Reigle and daughter, Sharon Hiatt brought to the Resource Center a beautiful states quilt that Joan Reigle had made. There is a block for each state, detailing its order upon entering the union and the year. Also, each state flower and bird. It is a beautiful piece of work.

We have had a variety of donations from the general public and have displayed many of them, such as the aforementioned quilt. Stop in and see the Sam Rice baseball card collection on loan from Chris Wilson and a hob-knob Fenton glass collection donated by Joyce Allman, which was collected by either her grandmother Mary Stombaugh or great-grandmother Elsworth.



One of the Sam Rice baseball cards on loan and on display from Chris Wilson.

As Fall comes, we begin to think about Thanksgiving and Christmas. Date for our annual Christmas Open House will be announced soon – plan to attend and perhaps purchase a few of our local historical publications as gifts. Good food, good friends, good chats with old and dear friends are the usual fare of events for the day!

This month we have seen the end of an era—the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. She is the only Queen most the world remembers ruling England. My memory bank says that her coronation is the first important thing I remember seeing on TV. The coronation was not televised so it must have been a newscast. She served her country and the world well.

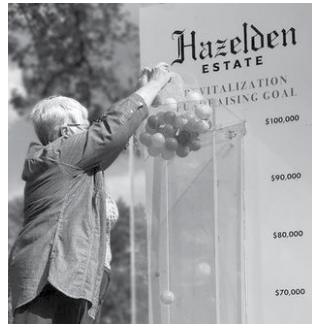
Take the time to learn some historical fact you did not know and then share it with someone. Follow us on facebook: Historical Newton In; website: www.ingenweb.org/innewton. Stop by our Resource Center at the corner of 4th Street and US 24 in Kentland, Monday, Thursday and Friday, 11-3 CDT.

George Ade Historic Preservation Committee Hazelden Estate

A group of local community members officially passed their \$50,000 fundraising goal on August 17, 2022, which will be matched dollar for dollar by IHCDA, putting them at a grand total of \$101,161 for their Gardens Revitalization Project.

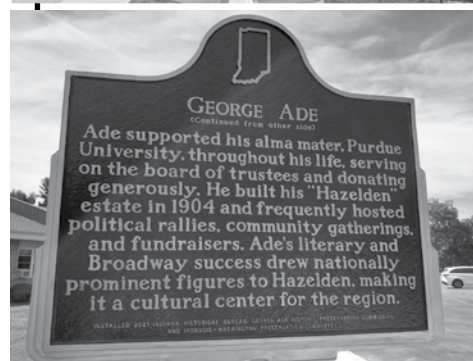
Their vision is to create a one-of-a-kind landmark and unique historical tourism destination in Newton County. They see it being accomplished through the creation of four distinct entities: The George Ade Museum, The Gardens, The Carriage House, and the Newton County Visitors Center. It will be a place for those who admire education and history or may simply wish to get away with the family and friends for a picnic amidst lush greenery – or celebrate a milestone event.

For additional information on the accomplishments and future goals of this group, please visit www.hazelden.newtoncounty.in.gov/



Committee member Kay Babcock fills the tube that reflects donation totals to date for their Hazelden projects.

A life-size statue of George Ade reflecting his age in the early 1920s, now stands at Hazelden. Ade is holding the script to his one-act play "Nettie" which debuted in New York in 1923. Shown at right.



Above, the George Ade Indiana Historical marker was placed at Hazelden by the Indiana Historical Bureau, the Iroquois-Washington Preservation Committee and the George Ade Historic Preservation Committee.



Continued from page 1 >

magazines and newspapers for them together and Gerald separately.

One of the ads with both boys confused the name of the boys (swapping them), but a later ad with Gerald by himself correctly identified him. I wonder if Fannie saw any of the ads since they were sporadically published in different magazines and newspapers and if she did, what she thought about her children being misnamed. Possibly she sent in correction information and that is why the later ad had Gerald's correct name. But maybe she was just a proud and doting mother and loved knowing they Mellin's babies.

I don't know her motive for sending in the photos and information. The family moved to Wyoming in 1915 for Fannie's health, thinking the change in climate would help her. Sadly, she passed away October 25, 1918. From the pictures I have seen of her and her children, she appeared to be a very loving mother.

The ad below with the boys misnamed. Upper left is actually Gerald O. and lower right is Malcolm L. The script entitled "Brothers" reads:

"We are sending you the pictures of our boys, who have been Mellin's Food babies from their first week up to two years. The baby is 19 months old now and is certainly the picture of health. The older one is 3 1/2 years old and a fine, healthy boy. I cannot say enough in praise of Mellin's Food." - Mrs. Roy M. Shepard, Goodland, Ind."

Editor's note: You will find the Shepard family history printed elsewhere in this edition. It reveals that Roy and Fannie had ties to the Ade family, and it is quite possible that George set them up to send in their photos for the ad campaign. Thanks to Kathy Snow for bringing this to our attention. It was this article that led to the research for articles on the Shepard and Streight families in this edition.



Above, photo of Gerald and his mother, Fannie Shepard.

"We are advertised by our loving friends"

BROTHERS

"We are sending you the pictures of our boys, who have been Mellin's Food babies from their first week up to two years. The baby is 19 months old now and is certainly the picture of health. The older one is 3 1/2 years old and a fine, healthy boy. I cannot say enough in praise of Mellin's Food." - Mrs. Roy M. Shepard, Goodland, Ind.



MALCOLM L. SHEPARD

MELLIN'S

Start your baby to-day on Mellin's Food and see for yourself what a wonderful improvement it will bring to him. Mellin's Food babies are always healthy, happy and strong.

Write to-day for a free sample of Mellin's Food to try

Mellin's Food Company Boston, Mass.



GERALD O. SHEPARD

Nearly 50 years of success



Gerald O. Shepard
Goodland - Ind



The above ad is from a *McLures Magazine* in 1911.

At left is Malcolm cropped so you can see the bottle. It appeared in an ad in the *Chicago Tribune* on Sunday, November 12, 1911.



Mellin's Food

has been the standard infant food for nearly half a century. This reputation has been earned by its merits. It is scientific, simple and practical. Properly prepared, Mellin's Food meets the needs of the baby.

To insure a good start for your baby, get a bottle of Mellin's Food today.

Mellin's Food Company Boston, Mass.

61 medals and diplomas awarded

Ad above is from *Outlook Magazine*, 1913. Left, a photo of sample sent to those who answered the ads for Mellin's Food ads.

4 The Newcomer

"I'll write home everyday, and I'll send
all my loving to you." *The Beatles* (1963)

A Bag of Letters

by Beth Bassett

Technology plays an important role in our lives today. Most of us e-mail, fax, text, facetime, tweet, and chat. But nothing will ever replace the sincerity and individualism expressed through the handwritten word.

One obvious difference between a page of handwritten text and a printout is that the trained eye can tell who wrote one, while the other might have been created by anyone. One of my favorite things about handwritten letters is that you can keep them for however long you want and revisit them at any time. A screenshot of a sweet text doesn't quite measure up. And with a text you do not have the satisfaction of ripping, burning, or flushing the paper in the heat of a moment.

Handwritten letters allow us an opportunity to pause, and the fact that we can hold them lends them a sense of permanence. Texting and emailing are mostly reactionary - you need information, so you reach out. Writing letters is much more deliberate - you do it to give, not receive.

There's a something sacred and romantic about communicating in the way generations before us did - it's how our ancestors kept their love alive during wartime. When someone sends you a handwritten letter, you receive a part of who they are.

And consider this, writing letters is a scientific process. Studies show that writing integrates three brain processes: visual, motor, and cognitive skills. You see the paper and your words, and you use your fine motor skills to form the words, and your brain to remember the shapes of each letter as you write - it's exercise for your brain!

A letter, before it is even read has already said, "I care about you. You're someone special." The writer took the time to select the stationery and envelope, craft the letter, buy and affix a stamp, and then walk to the mailbox or travel to the post office.

The validated postmark adds the importance of date and place - old letters and correspondence may be the closest thing we have to a time machine.

These are the reasons I could not destroy the bag of letters that was left at the Resource Center this past summer. Within the bag contained correspondence between John "Jack" O'Connell of Chicago and his family and friends.

The letters cover the years mid 1950-mid 1952. John has been drafted and eventually lands in Korea. He safely returns home, but along the way he writes letters to his sweetheart Mary Beth McMahon; his mother and father; his cousins; and his school chums, who in return answer them.

Someone saved everything. The letters John wrote and those he received. Amazing.

Hence, the inspired prose above. Reading these letters could be compared to reading a book. They would make a great movie. I do not feel as though I am intruding on the personal lives of those in this collection, rather looking at moments in time in the life of a group of individuals who truly cared for one another.

Included mementos were four packs of negatives. Photos taken during his stay in Korea. A sketch of John and the written poem

included in this writing portrays a bit of O'Connell's personality, and Korean money.

The person who left the letters felt the same as I do - she just couldn't throw them away. They were found after a cleaning out of an abandoned storage unit in Momence, Illinois. A Newton County connection has not been made, but perhaps someone will read this and say - hey, that's my Uncle John! I certainly hope so.



"We Are The Men of Korea"

Handwritten by John O'Connell
Author Unknown

We are the men of Korea
Earning our meager pay
Guarding folks making millions
For about three dollars a day.

Out of the widespread mountain
This land is the spot
Where we are fighting and eating K-rations
In this land God seem to have forgot.

No-one seems to care if we're living
No-one gives a damn
But we are the fighting nephews
For our old Uncle Sam.

Out in the fields with our rifles
Eating and breathing dust,
Doing the work of a chain gang
And to darned tired to cuss!

All nite the Gooks keep coming
Its more than we can stand
Well folks, we aren't convicts
We're defenders of our dear old land.

The things that we have seen,
and much to crude to tell
We hope it is nice in Heaven
For we know what it is in hell

When this war is over
and Worries no more stand
We'll do our last parading
In this far-far-promised land.

Sure St. Peter will greet us
And suddenly he will yell,
"Come in you men of Korea!
You've served your times in Hell."

Historian's Corner

The Nighthawk Dance Hall and More by Newton County Historian Diana Elijah

This subject came into my life as a newlywed in Jackson Township. My father-in-law, Markin Elijah was telling me about trying to keep up with his younger sister as a teenager and when he would lose track of her, he would find her at the Nighthawk.

I was fascinated that there was a dance hall in such a rural area. I am thinking alcohol is served there and recently found out it was a family gathering place. Jeanette Hall tells me her Dad wanted her to learn to dance, so he would take her there.

It was located on the west side of Meridian in Beaver Township, just north of CR300S, close to the Jr. Hoaks home today. All that is left is the hardwood dance floor which is now the dining room floor of the Terry and Nancy Moore home, which is located on the east side of Meridian in the same area as the Nighthawk.

Musical groups came from Illinois, one known as the Randy Lade Band, a relative of the Zoborosky family that owned the hall. No alcohol was ever served there but in prohibition times, people brought their own alcohol.

Jeanette Hall provided an news clipping from the *Brook Reporter*, dated September 5, 1935, about the Zoborosky reunion held at the Nighthawk - with 284 family members attending the gathering.

The owners closed the doors and tore the building down because fights were taking place in the parking area. There had been a concession area with sandwiches and snacks.

This made me curious about dance halls in the rest of the county.

At various times there were eight or nine located in Goodland. Mt. Ayr had one above Kriz's store - also known as the Oddfellow's Lodge and the Green Gables tavern had dancing on weekends in the 70s and 80s. Later known as the Coach Lite Inn, who hosted Crystal Gayle of country music fame.

It seemed to me that Thayer and the Kankakee River area had hunt clubs bringing the tourist trade to Newton County in their hey-day - and so they did in the early 1900s. The bar was called the Rattlesnake and it had

a separate room for dancing.

In Shelby, a family cousin, Eula Beasey Arseneau told me there was a beautiful pavilion that her brother took her to when they were youngsters, 5-7 years old. She said her parents were furious and her brother was in trouble, but she had a great time!

Morocco folks used the K of P hall, and I remember dancing at the Conservation building east of US 41.

I was unable to find any information for Lake Village, but no doubt the Grange Hall was used for dances. In Roselawn, the Legion Hall provided a place for entertainment.

The Nu-Joy in Kentland, in particular the old location on US 24, was known for big bands and dancing year-round.

Ade had a very busy Community Building, Rural Youth met there at least through the 1950s. Lots of square dancing and regular dancing by members and the local residents.

George Ade built a Dance Pavilion at his Hazelden estate, hosting big name bands and guests throughout his lifetime. The Hazelden Country Club did not have a dance floor until Chuck James came to teach at Brook in 1957-62; he also secured the Brook Legion Hall for teens to enjoy games and dancing making it a social scene for the time.

Many years before the dual lanes were built on US 41 that passed Conrad there was a dance hall out by the highway next door to a gas station. Details are unknown.

I appreciate the helpful information from Jeanette Hall, her picture and news clipping; Nancy Moore; Judy Schultz; Dean and Carol Lovall and Carol Light.



Jeanette Hall provided this photo from the Nighthawk, she is the gal with the dark dress and white collar.



The photo of these musicians is among the Zoborosky photo collection of Beth Bassett. No names given, but possibly it is the Randy Lade band, mentioned in this article.

Do You Know?

Answers on page 18

1. A 1904 Map of Newton County hangs in two places in the county - where?
2. Dr. L. E. Kresler was a county physician affiliated with George Ade Hospital, where was his office located?
3. A prominent Goodland man had a wonderful collection of artifacts on display in the county - who was he and where was his museum located?
4. An item used in bee tending and one for sharpening tools is on display - who were the original owners?
5. A beautiful serving tray was owned by a member of George Ade's family. Who was this family member and how did she use this tray?

Newton County data available on our website:

www.ingenweb.org/innewton

- Biographies, 1883-1916
- Cemetery records
- Census records
- *The Newcomer* editions, 1994-present
- Obituary Indexes from local papers
- Maps of the County
- Newton County school information
- Much more local history and links

What you can find at our Resource Center located at 310 E. Seymour, Kentland.

County published histories:

- *Morocco Sesquicentennial Collection*
- *Brook, Indiana - Iroquois and Washington Townships*
- *Roselawn, Thayer & Shelby/The First 100 Years*
- *History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships*

Local works of fiction/history:

- *Ralph, the Story of Bogus Island*
- *Beaver Lake, the Land of Enchantment*
- *Hoosier Hunting Ground*
- *Archeological Report of Newton County*
- *The Yost Collection*

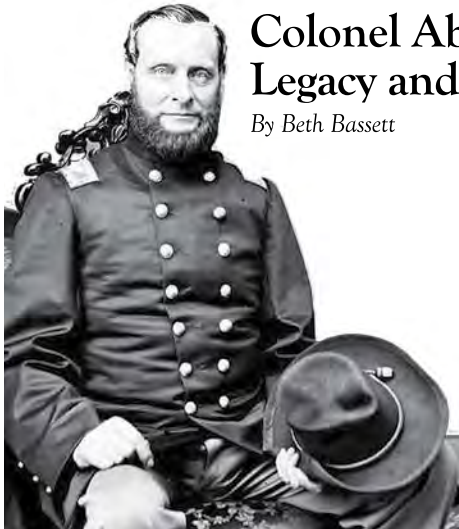
Some of these publications are available for purchase. Find a membership form and price listing on our website.

email:newtonhs@ffni.com

Our Resource Center is open

Monday, Thursday and Friday

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. CDT - 219-474-6944



Colonel Abel and Lovina Streight's Legacy and Newton County Lands

By Beth Bassett

Abel Delos (A.D.) Streight was born June 17, 1828, in Wheeler New York, son of Asa and Lydia (Spaulding) Streight. His siblings were Sarah Maria, 1823-1908; Susan H. 1830-1898; James P. 1833-1901; Benjamin F. (1834-1850); Sylvester W. (1836-1897); Charles Francis (1838-1913); Jennie 1840-1923. A.D. passed away on May 27, 1892.

On January 14, 1849, A.D. married Lovina McCarty, born June 1, 1830, in Steuben County, New York, daughter of Florence and Mary (Abbott) McCarty. Her siblings were Elizabeth (1819-1910); Emiline (1822-1894); Reuben (1825-1889); Sophia Hughes (1832-1913); Corneila (1840-?) Samantha J. (1843-1844). Lovina passed away on June 5, 1910.

A.D. and Lovina had one son, John, born in 1856. Lovina travelled with the 51st Regiment as a nurse alongside her husband, Col. Streight. John was not left behind when the Regiment began "Streight's Raid"; he travelled with his parents during the war campaigns. In 1877 at the age of 21 he married Rosa Shipman. They were married for 15 years before she passed in 1892 at their home in Marion County. He was in the best of health and was connected with several large business enterprises in Indianapolis during their marriage. At the age of 40, he was stricken with a form of childish insanity, which was pronounced incurable. He was then in the constant care of the Central Hospital for the insane and lived with his mother on Washington Street in Indianapolis. John died at the age of 49 on July 31, 1905. He is interred at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, alongside his parents.

Fellow researcher Kathy Snow, the internet, ancestry.com, local published history books, and a variety of state and local newspaper articles revealed personal details on the famous couple who at one time owned land in Grant Township, Newton County.

As a boy, A.D. grew up on a farm, educated in a common school. His father was a native of Vermont, the family being of English origin. At the age of 17 he paid his father for his time (bound labor), until he was 21, \$60/year. A common practice of the time that allowed young men to establish their own identity and live independently. This early exhibition of manhood and a desire for independence, was prophetic of the man who he was to become. He readily acquired the carpenter's trade without instruction, and before his 19th year had successfully taken on a contract for the construction of a large mill.

He then became engaged in the lumber business in Wheeler, NY, until 1858, when he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, with his wife and son. By 1859 his family was living in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was a publisher of books and maps until the beginning of the Civil War.

Realizing the importance of the need to preserve the Union, he published a pamphlet in 1861 entitled "The Crisis of Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-one in the Government of the United States" which the cause proclaimed the Nation's calamity and indicated



the measures necessary to insure the supremacy of the laws, the integrity of the Constitution, and the preservation of the Union. He believed compromise with the enemies of the government to be a mistake and advocated forcible means, if necessary to compel obedience to the laws. In his pamphlet he proved the fallacy of a policy of temporary pacification and quoted from letters written by the fathers of the government to demonstrate this to be a government of the people collectively and not of the States.



The Streight Home was located on East Washington Street in Indianapolis. The tract upon which it was built was high and rolling, with many trees and exquisite landscaping completed by Col. Streight, who built the home when it was farmland. A large brick and white pillared porch reflecting the architecture of its being built, 1865. By 1915 according to an article in the Indianapolis News, several acres of the original property off the west side were sold to the Indianapolis Orphans' home. Another slice was taken off the east side of the farm and sold into residence use. The remaining 23-acre tract in 1915 was sold to Minor E. Haywood of the Haywood Tire Company for a consideration of \$48,000, about 1.5 million dollars in 2022 dollars. It was torn down in 1917 and lands sold for residential use.

Entered the Army

In defense of the Union, he entered the army on the 4th day of September, 1861, and was commissioned Colonel of the 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Stone River, Day's Cap, Crooked Creek, and Blunt's Farm (Cedar Bluff). At the last name place he was taken prisoner and confined in Libby Prison, Richmond, VA, until February 9, 1864, when, with 108 of his fellow prisoners, escaped by a tunnel dug from the prison walls to the street. Details of his escape are printed elsewhere in this edition.

Streight's men thought him a born leader, and his fellow prisoners at Libby considered him their counselor, friend and champion. The fall 2011 *Newcomer* contains letters written by John Harris of Jackson Township, a member of the 51st under the command of Streight, and was forced surrender at Cedar Bluff to Col. Bedford Forrest. His letters detail the movements of his group throughout the war. Streight and his men were all sent to Libby Prison, but only the officers were imprisoned. The soldiers were sent home to forced furlough.

After Streight's escape from Libby, he took a brief furlough, returning to the service, participating in engagements with Wheeler's cavalry at Dalton and Shoal Creek, near Florence, AL, (in which he commanded five brigades), Columbia, Franklin, and Nashville, TN, and again at Columbia in which he forced the passage of Duck River.

After the war he retired from the army on March 13, 1865, with the brevet rank of brigadier general. Members of the 51st would reunite many times after the war at the home of the Streights in Indianapolis. A.D. visited Newton County, attended a local soldier's reunion, addressing the crowd. He had duties linked to the reconstruction of the South, overseeing reparation payments to southern businessmen.

Postbellum Life

On returning to civil life, A.D. resumed the business as a publisher. In 1865 he embarked in the lumber trade - specializing in walnut and hardwood lumber, to which he added chair manufacturing on an extensive scale. He became a leader in the Republican Party and in 1876 was elected State Senator serving for two terms. In 1880, he threw his hat in the ring for the Republican candidate for governor but did not win the nomination. Newspapers covered much of the rhetoric of his campaign, including published letters accusing him of running a plantation on his farms in Newton County and mismanagement of payments of War bounties to the southern states; later newspaper accounts clarified these accusations, proving them to be unfounded. In 1888, he was successfully elected once again as State Senator.

Streight's Newton County Lands

Previously published articles state that Streight was awarded lands in Newton County as payment of his service bounty, and that at one time his farms totaled more than 2000 acres. However, I could not find any records that confirmed this information. Newton County land transfer records show that Streight purchased land in Grant Township as early as 1868; partial acreage in Sections 4, 5 8 and all of 9, totaling 584 acres. In 1872, he purchased 320 acres of the Congressional lands in Section 16. Other parcels were added and sold prior to his death. When lands transferred to his wife Lovina in 1892, there were 1544 total acres with land and improvement values of \$33,865, which today would be over 1.1 million dollars.

His brothers Sylvester and Charles F. are listed on farms in the 1870 and 1880 Grant Township Census records, indicating Streight did not work the lands he owned, but shared their profits with his brothers. By 1886 his brothers had left the farms for other locations and occupations, and The History of Goodland and Grant Township reveals that W. A. Harrington and Otis Shepard, Sr. cash rented the land at that time. By 1903, Lovina had sold off all the lands to Wm. Reed, John and Joseph Bower, Paul and George Weishaar, Thomas Torbett, Will Ade and Otis Shepard, Sr., thus ending the Streight farms in Newton County.

Streight also owned many head of livestock jointly with W. A. Harrington, which included a heard of dairy cows.

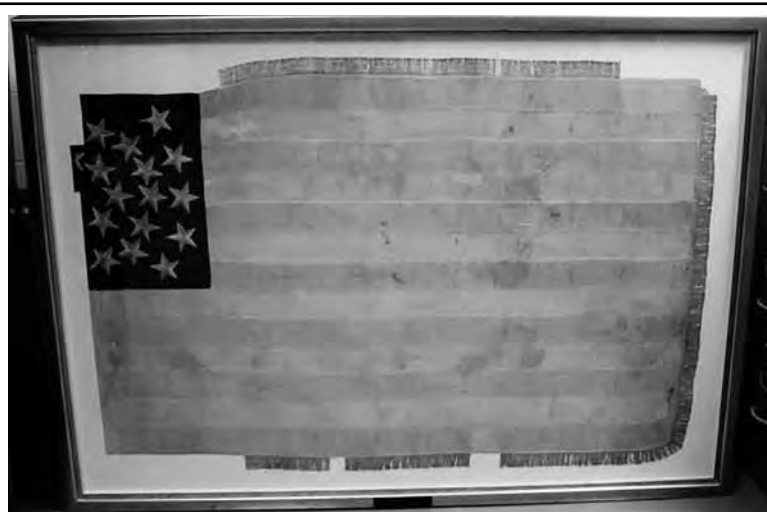
Streight and Shepard Connection

These two families have ties going back to Wheeler, New York, 1850. Asa Streight farmed in the same area as Otis Shepard's father, George. The Otis Shepard, Sr. lands were adjacent to the Streight lands in

Continued on page 8 >



Original letterhead found on ebay.com depicts Streight's publishing house located at the corner of Meridian and Washington Street in Indianapolis, 1868. Note his name on the drawing.



Abel Streight Brigade Banner, Ca. 1863

The flag appears to have been trimmed, particularly in the blue field and the border areas, with possible portions taken as souvenirs. The fabric is faded especially the red and blue stripes. It has a blue field with gold stars and a fringe border.

Historical note: Antoinette Polk, a daughter of Andrew Jackson Polk of Ashwood Hall, was sixteen years old and visiting her cousins in Columbia when she heard that Union General John T. Wilder's "Lightening Brigade" was approaching. Knowing that there were Confederate soldiers recuperating at her home, she jumped on her horse and raced home in time to warn the soldiers. When Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest heard of Antoinette's bravery, he gave her this banner captured from Union General Abel Streight's Brigade (aka "the Lightening Brigade"), in May 1863.

It is stored at the Maury County, Alabama Archives and published on line.

8 The Newcomer

> Continued from page 7

Grant Township, Sections 8 and 9 and 16. Shepard acquiring his lands beginning 1869, Streight, 1868. After Lovina's death in 1910, Shepard testified during a trial in which her sister Sophia contested her will based upon Lovina's instability in her final years to make sound decisions. His testimony indicated that Shepard was a trusted business partner with both Streights over many years. Newton County Land Transfer records show that Shepard acquired his own lands about the same times as Streight. Lovina deeded lands to Otis in 1903, his wife Lydia would then pass them along to her son George by 1916.

North Carolina Farm Laborers

The accounts of Streight's incarceration at Libby Prison in 1863 and his eventual escape and then passage from the south to the Union lines portrays a man with a strong constitution. Union supporters, such as Elizabeth Van Liew, enabled his escape both from the prison and to the Union lines. The fact that Negro slaves brought about his freedom was clear in his accounts of the events, as was his appreciation of the risks they took to assist his flee from the Rebels. Please read related article in this edition.

Local lore is that Streight brought members of the families that helped him escape prison to Newton County to work his farms. In 1931 George Ade wrote "Prairie Kings of Yesterday" for the Saturday Evening Post; in it he mentions Streight's farms: "After the war he (Streight) bought a large tract of land near Goodland and attempted the novel experiment of operating it after the manner of a southern plantation. He brought fifty ex-slaves from the South and established them in quarters. He had his own general store, wagon-repair shop, blacksmith shop and harness shop. The ambitious venture did not prove to be a glittering success and the Streight land was sliced up and put on the market. I own 400 acres of it."

The *Kentland Gazette*, September 1878, carried a Goodland news clip that stated "A load of colored brethren arrived safe in this place last Monday from Indianapolis, looking fresh as the first June bug. They will work on the Streight farm north of Goodland."

In a January 1880 letter to the editor of the *Logansport Journal*, Streight stated, "I sent two colored men and their families consisting of twelve women and children to work on my farms." Streight explained that he wanted to help those still under the suppression of the same people who suppressed his freedom - the Rebels. He reported that he met the families in Indianapolis and made an offer to them to work on his farms - making no reference that they were the same families who helped him escape. This might be the

same group that was described in the *Gazette* article from 1878.

The 1880 Grant Township Census records indicate that there were a total of 21 men, women, and children all born in North Carolina listed between the Streight and Shepard farms. Cameron Powers was operating the former Sylvester and Charles F. Streight farms, and would eventually marry Otis' daughter, Jennie. This is where the farm laborers would have lived.

The accounts of Streight's escape from Libby Prison located in Richmond, Virginia, took his path east to the Rappahannock River, where he encountered the plantation slaves, he supposedly brought to Newton County, lead me to believe that these slaves were born in Virginia - but slavery didn't always work that way. Perhaps they were born in North Carolina, and then sold to the owners in Virginia.

There isn't clear evidence at this point that the farm laborers who lived in Grant Township, the Brooks, Woods and Dorson families are from the families who helped with Streight's escape. There may be a connection, but after exhausting all my sources, I could not find any association.

Local lore tells us that there may have been a stop for the underground railroad near the community of the farm laborers. There isn't any evidence to this, but if Streight's laborers were ex-slaves now living in the north, their southern relatives may have made Newton County a stop on their way to freedom.

I only have proof that some of the farm laborers arrived in September 1878. Others may have arrived before or after. We know in 1880 there were 21 working on the Streight farm. Between the newspaper (arrived 1878) and census records (1880), and the biographical sketch of W. A. Harrington, (leased lands from Streight in 1886), I believe the community existed between 1878 and 1886.

Jeff Welsh, who now owns/farms a majority of the former Streight lands has found artifacts over the years from where he believes the established community once stood. I think A.D. would be pleased that his lands are under the stewardship of a local farmer interested in preserving the Streight legacy and the lands that are still referred to today as the "Streight Farm."

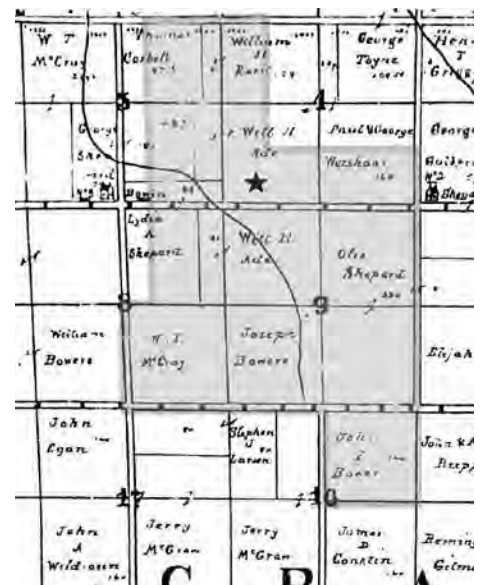
Elizabeth Van Liew, right, was said to have helped with Streight's escape from Libby prison. She was part of a network of pro-union supporters in Virginia.



These photos of Lovina were published, left in 1907 at a GAR reunion at her home and right, June, 1910.



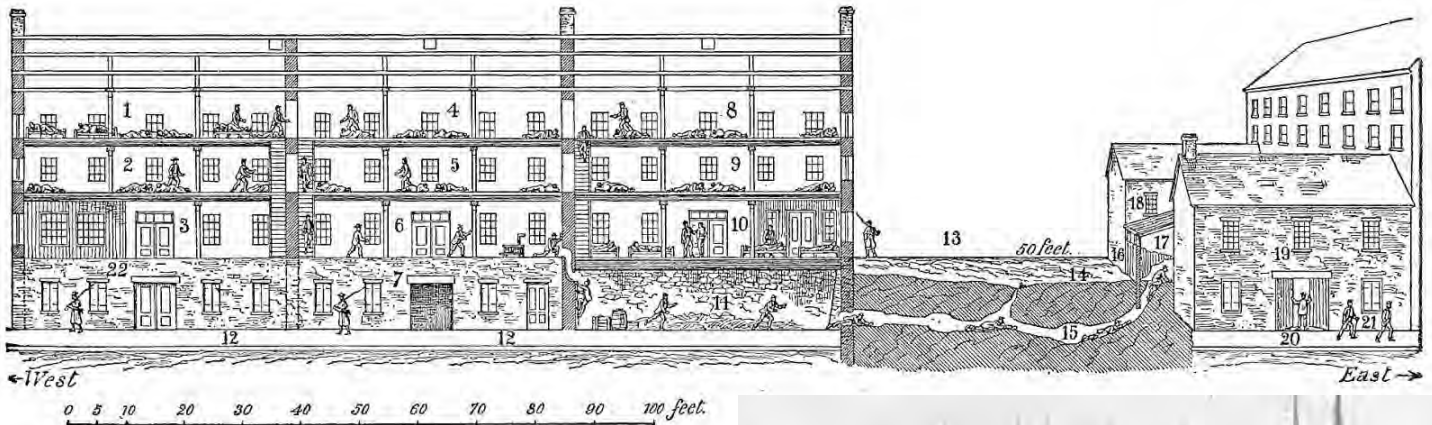
Although the Colonel was originally buried in the front yard of his home on Washington Street in Indianapolis by Lovina, his body was moved to Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis at the time of his son's death in 1905, and followed by Lovina's burial, which was said to have been the largest gathering seen at the cemetery for a funeral.



The grey overlay on this 1904 map of Grant Township depicts the lands purchased by A. D. Streight. The star in the southwest corner of section 4 is where the farm that the North Carolina farm laborers lived.

The Escape of Union Soldiers From Libby Prison, February 9, 1864

Submitted by Beth Bassett



The numbers indicate the flow of the escape by soldiers.

There were many thousands of prisoners captured by both sides in the Civil War. Although many were parolled or exchanged, many prisons were still needed to hold them. One of the south's famous prisons was Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. Before the war Luther Libby owned a warehouse for ship equipment that took up an entire block in the Confederate capitol. When the government needed a prison for Federal officers they used that building, and the old name stuck. The basement was used for storage and cooking, the first floor was the quarters for the guard, and the second and third held the prisoners. However, the kitchen had to be abandoned because of a large number of rats, and the room won the name "Rat Hell."

Although most of the prisoners avoided "Rat Hell," three of the Union officers saw it as an opportunity to escape. After the third attempt to escape failed another group took over the project and began work on a new tunnel starting from the cellar. (Ed. Note: This group included Col. A. D. Straight.) The first day of work, when they had to break through the brick wall with an old ax, happened to be the same day the Confederates were installing grates on the windows. This, combined with plenty of stomping by the other prisoners, covered the sound of the work. They then began working on digging the tunnel with a pen knife. The work was done in shifts. Two men went down at night and dug, hiding there during the day until they were relieved the next night. The dirt was packed and hid under a pile of straw in the cellar. The longer the tunnel grew, the more workers were needed, until there were fourteen men handing the dirt out to the opening, using a spittoon with a rope attached. A prisoner wrote, "No tongue can tell ... how the poor fellow[s] passed among the squealing rats,—enduring the sickening air, the deathly chill, the horrible interminable darkness." working conditions were very bad. As one of the diggers wrote:

"It was impossible to breathe the air of the tunnel for many minutes together; the miner, however, would dig as long as his strength would allow, or till his candle was extinguished by the foul air; he would then make his way out, and another would take his place — a place narrow, dark and damp, and more like a grave than any place can be short of a man's last home."

The work would have never been done in normal circumstances, but they were driven on by the hope of escaping from Libby Prison. The work had to stop after several prisoners were able to slip past the guards. Security was heightened, and the guards began to do roll call. At one roll call when the prisoners were collected, two were missing, as they were down in the cellar. They were able to talk their way out by saying they had just been missed by the officers doing roll call. But another time one officer was again in the tunnel during roll call. The



A photo of Libby prison during the Civil War. Look closely and you will see the fencing on the left side of the building with people inside.

guards decided that he escaped, and the prisoners decided he would have to remain in hiding in the cellar to avoid giving away the plan.

After 17 days of digging, it was decided that the tunnel was long enough to reach a tobacco shed, about 50 feet away. But when they broke into the air that night, it was found that they had missed the shed and were within sight of the sentries. Thankfully they did not see the hole before it was closed up. The tunnel was extended to its final length of 57 feet, right beneath the shed. The escape was made on February 9th, 1864.

The escape was very successful. 109 prisoners made their way out of the tunnel and walked out of the prison gates without attracting the attention of the sentries. The guards believed that escape was nearly impossible, so they were not particularly careful in keeping watch. When morning came the tunnel was closed and the remaining prisoners tried to hide the large number of missing men. Inevitably the escape was discovered, and pursuit was made. Many of the officers had fought in the area before being captured, so they were familiar with the terrain. 59 of the escapees were able to reach the Union lines, 48 were caught by the Confederates, and two drowned in the James River.

Source: *The Civil War 150th Blog, Stepping through the Civil War as it happened - 150 years later.* website: <https://civilwar150th.blogspot.com/2014/02/escape-from-libby-prison.html>

Note: Janet (Herriman) Miller was told that her gr.-gr.-grandfather Kenoyer was held at Libby Prison and escaped. Although no evidence was found, he was a sargeant with Straight's Brigade and we believe it to be true.



"No structure can stand for any period of time without a good foundation."

Lincoln Township Volunteer Fire Department Celebrating 60 Years of Service to Community

Submitted by Beth Bassett



Roy Greer,
Fire Chief
1962-1964



A 2018 photo of members of the LTVFD, left to right, Lupe Hinch, Zach Grosdanis, Tyler McNeely, Steve Holder, Ryan Knoll, Ryan Georgeff, Travis Jackson, Tyler Clinton, Noah Livengood, Robert Livengood, Alex Hamilton, Brandon Estes, Scott Parker, and Charlie Bradshaw. Website photo.

Note: A yearbook published in 1982 by the department details the 1962 beginnings of the department, past and current members, and activities at that time of the firemen and ladies auxiliary. Articles published in the "Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby - the First 100 years: 1882-1982", provided additional information. A visit to their website www.lincolntwpfire.com has current information on them.

The way of doing things and those who do them may have changed since 1962, but a few things remain the same. Members of the fire department serve their community in all kinds of weather, in many different situations. They do it because they care, they are not paid, and pay out of their own pockets for automotive expenses to and from emergencies and meetings are their own; they buy their own uniforms and jackets, and emergency lights for their vehicles.

Emergencies occur any time of the day or night, often in the coldest blizzard of the year, or on a holiday just when the food is about to be served. No monetary rewards, only the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping their community and serving humanity.

Beginnings

In 1962 on September 5th, twenty residents of Lincoln Township met with mem-

bers of the Shelby Volunteer Fire Department to discuss the establishment of a fire department for the township. After voting in favor of a fire department, the following officers were elected: Chief, Roy Greer; First Assistant Chief, Elwood Wiseman; Second Assistant Chief, John Knapp; Secretary, Delmar Lindahl; Asst. Secretary, Joe Wilson; Treasurer, Bob Junglas.

These residents were in favor of buying a 1941 Chevrolet 500 GPM Pumper from the Howe Fire Apparatus Company for \$500. The Shelby Volunteer Fire Department loaned Lincoln Township Volunteer Fire Department \$100 for a down payment.

Phil Jonkman offered the use of his garage for a fire station.

The first Constitution and By-Laws Committee members were Lee Mattocks, Harry Mathewson, Wilford Tuttle and Joe Wilson.

In October, a 1942 truck chassis was purchased for \$75. A 250-gallon tank was purchased for \$1.00. These items were combined to create their first tank truck.

The volunteer department was officially incorporated on December 3, 1962. Seven calls were answered by the end of that year.

While still operating from Jonkman's ga-

rage in 1963, plans were made for a new fire station. A lot on Fourth and Garden Streets was purchased from Ora Schillo for the sum of \$400. Additional equipment purchased included a E&J Resuscitator and Inhalator, as well as an extra oxygen tank.

Construction of the new fire station began in the spring of 1964. The building was dedicated in October that same year.

The charter members of the department laid a foundation of steel and stone, but most importantly compassion for their fellow man. Those members were: Roy Greer, Cap Wann, Delmar Lindahl, Robert Lowe Sr., Robert Lowe Jr., Robert Junglas, John Knapp, Phil Jonkman, Ralph Knapp, Cork Binge, Rex Binge, Daren Spidler, Joe Wilson, Elwood Wiseman, Harry Mathewson, Lee Mattocks, Roy Nugent, Elvis Mitchell Jr., Mike Roadruck, Kenneth Wiseman, Floyd H. Logsdon, Ed Criswell, Jim Davis, Duane Jenson, Dick Lindahl, Bob Stuhlmacker, Wilford Tuttle, David Smith, Ed Benson, Alex Fontanyi, Clarence Rusk, Marvin Baldwin, Arthur LaBelle, Sylvester Drinski, Charles Lindahl Sr., Pete Knapp, William E. Rahmoeller, Tony Kleinblossom, George Peterson, George Hanley and Bob Ostrom.

To help meet their budget, the members

sponsored a variety of fund-raising activities, such as the Lincoln Twp. Daze held in July. An article written in 1992, revealed that John Knapp had been the focus of two fundraisers. In 1990, he laid a mile of pennies using a special machine he created, and in 1991, the public was asked to give “bail money” to free “Crankshaft” from “jail.”

With the construction on I-65, Lincoln Township experienced rapid growth beginning the the mid-1960s. In 1970 the US Census showed 987 residents; the 1980 Census showed 3700. The calls for the fire department more than tripled during those years. John Knapp was asked in a 1992 interview about the changes that took place during 1960s. “It’s an all together different ballgame when it comes to firefighting than it was 20 years ago,” he said.

Ralph Knapp, Sr., added, “there were a lot less requirements pertaining to training. Being a firefighter before that was a more social thing. Now, you must be professional about everything you do.”

In 1981 a trained medical reserve team was added to the department, adding to the responsiveness of the fire department.

The Ladies Auxiliary continues to aid the department whenever possible. Membership consists of the wives of the firemen. They assist with social functions and fund raising.

Apparatus

The department’s first pumper truck was affectionately named “Jewel”, that today has been restored to its original beauty and showcased in parades. In 2022 their apparatus list shown on their website is top-of-the-line.

Birth of a Tanker

The second piece of equipment was a self-made tanker truck. Following are excerpts from a story written by Ralph Knapp, Sr., entitled “Birth of a Tanker.”

“What do you use to put out 99% of your fires? Water! A rural fire department doesn’t have hydrants on each street, most don’t have any hydrants at all. The water you use, you take with you.

“Pumpers usually carry 500 to 1000 gallons of water and start the attack of the fire until the tanker arrives. In October 1962, LT-VFD purchased a 1942 Chevrolet chassis for \$175 and a 1250-gallon tank from Standard Oil for \$1.00. As still happens, money or the lack of money brings out the welders and fabricators in our ranks. We much appreciated the donated time and labor of helpful outsiders aiding our cause. Working together mounting the discarded Standard Oil tank on the ’42 chassis and building a header with valves to get the water from tank, a fire truck was born. The ‘old girl’ our #2 was in service about 5 or 6 years and did a decent job.

“Then came the ‘Hog’ tanker, our #5,

a 1960 White with a 1500-gallon tank. The ‘Hog’ was ugly, overloaded, awkward, hard to drive; with the transmission often getting stuck between two gears. When this occurred, someone had to get a wrecker bar under the truck and pry on the bar to get the sucker going again. Needless to say, eyes and ears were alert for something better and affordable to replace the ‘Hog’.

“Someone in the department heard about an Army 6x6 2.5-ton vehicle available from the Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. This proved to be correct, and we were happy to retire the ‘Hog’.

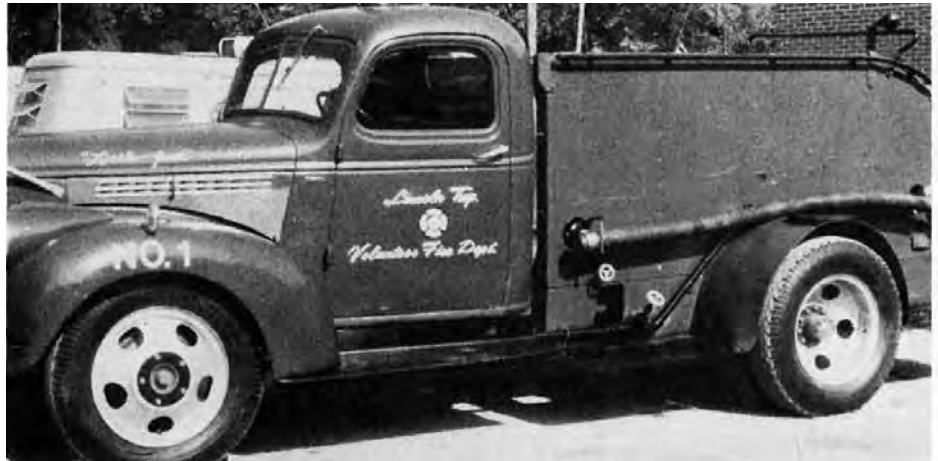
“A 1500-gallon tank was manufactured by department members and truck #8, was born in 1972. For a short time in 1974 another 1952 6x6 (#10) was in service with a small tank, then a better 6x6 was located in 1976. A copy of the tank from #8 made for the birth of #12. We added a “V” snow blade, with the help of the Newton County Highway Department, making it possible to plow your way about anywhere.

“1952 Army 6x6s are equipped with automatic transmissions, canvas tops and no

heaters. When you are responding to a call, you’re always in a hurry to the station (especially in the wintertime), not only because of normal response procedure, but so you can drive a truck with a heater: not #8 or #12. Of course, in December 1982 after many trips to the other end of Indiana for parts, very few tears were shed when #8 ‘blew a rod’ then caught fire all in the same day.”

Ralph’s story indicates that bravery is not the only trait required to be a fireman, but ingenuity and perseverance are fine attributes as well.

In 2022, the department has offered 60 years of service to their community. Many locals have donated their time, money, and efforts to improve and expand the effectiveness and efficiency of the department. That foundation of stone and steel remains in place for future generations. Many of the charter members’ descendants have followed in the footsteps of their fathers. We can never say thank-you enough to these volunteers who are our neighbors, friends, and family members who make the quality of life we appreciate safe.



“Jewel” was the department’s first piece of equipment, a 1941 Chevy pumper truck.



Unit #12 was a GMC Army truck, purchased in 1975.

Home Is Where Your Story Begins

The Shepard and Crowden Families in Newton County by Beth Bassett

Gerald Orlando and Malcolm Leroy Shepard, the two babies featured in advertisements for Mellin's baby food products mentioned in another article in this edition, were the children of Roy and Fannie Shepard. Both descended from families who settled in Newton/Benton County and were farmers. With the help of ancestry.com, find-a-grave.com and microfilm of *The Goodland Herald*, I was able to piece together the Shepard and Crowden family histories.

The first Shepard family found in Newton County is listed in the 1870 Grant Township, Newton County census. Prior to that they were in Steuben County, New York. The Crowden family appears in the 1850 Sheffield Twp., Tippecanoe County census and by 1900 they were enumerated in the Grant Twp., Newton County census.

Both families were farmers. The Otis Shepard, Sr.'s properties were in Grant Township, and the Joseph Crowden family in 1850 lived on a farm in Gilboa Twp., Benton County. The Shepard family lived most of their lives on their farms, and by 1900, the Crowden family was living in Goodland.

The Crowden Family

John and Mary (Owens) Crowden

We will start with the John and Mary (Owens) Crowden family line. John, (1807-1852), the son of Major Andrew W. and Lucy (Clark) Crowden (Croughan). Their children Sarah (1833-1840) and Joseph (1835-1919) were born in Ohio. Mary and daughter Sarah both passed in 1840, and by 1841 John and son Joseph were living in Tippecanoe County and John was married to Elizabeth Taylor (1813-1842). Their baby girl Mary died in June 1842, one month old. Elizabeth died in November 1842, at the age of 29.

In 1844, John married Cinderella "Lucinda" Scott, (1819-1896). Their children were Elizabeth (1845-?); John A. (1850-1935); and Martha Jane (1851-1931).

In 1850 we find John and Lucinda Crowden living in Sheffield Twp., Tippecanoe County with their children and with real estate valued at \$5100, value in 2022, \$191,116.62. On June 13, 1852, John passed away in Dayton, and is buried at the Hickory Grove Cemetery in Tippecanoe County.

The 1860 Census, Tippecanoe County, shows Lucinda (real property \$3200 value) and son Joseph (real property \$1800). Apparently, Joseph had inherited lands from his father. Elizabeth, John, and Martha were listed with the family. Lucinda passed away on April 22, 1886, in Dayton, Indiana and is buried at the Dayton cemetery.

Joseph Crowden

Son Joseph had moved out on his own and is found in the 1870 Gilboa Twp. Benton County Census, listed as a farmer, with real estate/personal value at \$10,700, value in 2022, \$214,202.65. He married Mary Goldsberry (1841-1872), February 24, 1864, in Tippecanoe County, and they had four children, Thomas (1864-1891); Retta (1867-1930); Sophia (1868-1925) and Josephine Alice (1870-1940).

Mary passed away in 1872, leaving behind four children ages 4-2. In October 1874 he married Marietta Harmon, (1850-1903), in Remington and they had six children. Johnnie (1875-1876); Charles (1877-); Fred Harlan (1884-1970); Fannie (1884-1918), Fred and Fannie were twins; Joseph Otto (1888-1946); and Gertrude Faith (1892-1988).

In 1880, Joseph and Mary along with five of their children and Aunt Mary Bonser were living on the farm in Gilboa Twp., in Benton County.

By 1900, the Grant Township, Newton County census shows Joseph and Mary had been married 26 years and were living in Goodland. Joseph listed his occupation as a gardener, not a farmer as he had most of his lifetime. Enumerated with them in the census was daughter Josephine, clerk at the

post office; Sophia, seamstress; Charles, travelling salesman; Fannie and Freddie, age 16 at school; Otto, age 11 and Faith age 2, both at school.

Marietta "Mary" (Harmon) Crowden was born in December 1850 in Indiana. She died at the age of 53 in 1903 and is buried at the Remington Cemetery, Jasper County, Indiana.

Joseph's obituary stated that as a small boy he came to Dayton, Indiana with his parents. In 1864 he married Mary Goldsberry, with whom he had many happy years. After her death he married the sister of former Benton County Sheriff Harmon, Etta Harmon. After her death, he resided in Goodland with his daughter Mrs. Retta (Morton) Kilgore.

Shortly after his first marriage he moved to Gilboa Twp., Benton County where he farmed for several years. He moved to Goodland in 1887. His obituary described him as a quiet man, a citizen of unquestioned integrity and sterling worth, and one whose life was identified with the greater part of the community development. Mr. Crowden an unassuming man, little given to the wanting of words, but had always a kindly greeting and warm handshake for his friends. He was a great horticulturist and loved the work. He was devoted to his family.

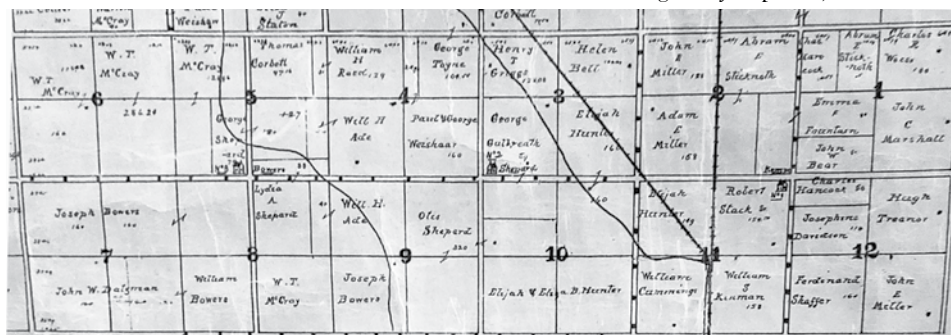
The Shepard Family

Otis Shepard, Sr.

In the 1850 New York, Steuben County Census, we find Otis listed as a law student living with Archa C. Montgomery, a lawyer. Relationship to this family is unknown. He married Lydia Ann Aulls (1833-1907) on October 28, 1852, in Steuben County, New York.

Otis Sr. is listed in the 1860 census as an attorney with real estate and personal value at \$14,500. In today's standards, close to \$500,000.00. Their children Jennie (1853-1927); Otis Jr. (1855-1919); Charles C. (1856-1944); and Kate (1859-1940) were enumerated.

Between 1860 and 1870 Shepard's property and personal value plummeted. Perhaps the Civil War along with the downturn of the economy which triggered the financial crisis of the 1870s, aka the Long Depression pushed the family westward to Indiana. Otis is listed in Vol. 2 of the U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations, 1863-1865, but I did not find any record of service. He had purchased the 320 acres he farmed in Sections 9 and 10 in Grant Twp. by 1869. His personal and real es-



Shepard lands from the 1904 Map of Grant Twp., S5, George Shepard; S8, Lydia A. Shepard; S9 and S10, Otis Shepard lands.

tate values had dropped to \$4600 real estate, \$600 personal. Or about \$116,000.00 value in 2022.

His family grew during this time with the added births of children George (1863-1933); John (1865-1936); Sarah (1867-1877); and Fannie (1869-1958), the first to be born in Indiana.

According to the 1880 census, at the age of 60, he was still farming in Grant Twp. He and his wife Lydia had lost a son, Albert in 1875, and their daughter Sarah in 1877, but added one more son, Roy Myrtle born in 1875. Otis Shepard, Sr. passed away in 1885. The 1900 Newton County census of Grant Twp. shows only Lydia and her son John owning and living on the farm, yet in 1916 the Newton County plat book shows the farm remains as Otis land and was located between CR1300N and CR350E.

Lydia Ann (Aulls) Shepard lived to the age of 72 years. She died on February 15th, 1907. Her obituary tells us that after her marriage to Otis they resided near Prattsburg, New York until the spring of 1898 when they came west and settled on a farm in Newton County, north of Goodland. In 1893 she removed from the farm to Goodland where she lived with her two sons John and Roy on Jasper Street until her death. She was described as a cheerful and bright person even when confronted with physical pain. Every neighbor bore testimony to her saying: "I don't see how we can get along without her. She was the best neighbor I ever had."

Otis and Lydia's Children

Katherine "Kate" Shepard would marry William Henry Ade, brother to George Ade. William was a prominent Newton County farmer, served as Newton County Treasurer from 1896-1900, and was a state leader for the Bull Moose Party in Indiana for over 25 years. They had four children, Nellie, (1888-1974), who married James Rathbun, secretary to George Ade; Charles Rolland (1895-1957) who married LuEthel Davis; Esther Ardis (1890-1976) who married William Frederic Kurfess; John Otis Ade (1892-1918) who married Marjorie Mary McDowell.

Jennie married C. Cameron Powers, had three children, Kathryn, Leroy and Clara, and lived in Iowa.

Charles C. married Darl Larson and had two children, Charles and Pleasant Sherlock, and lived in Minnesota.

Otis Shepard, Jr., married Mary Wild and had a son Roy and a set of twins, Jessie and Bessie.

George married Mary Smith and had five children, Glen, Lawrence, Donald, George and Ardis.

John was never married. Sarah died at the age of 10.

Fannie married Garrett VanMeter, they

had four children, Garrett, Cameron, Marjorie, and Charles. Both Fannie and Garrett are buried at Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Albert died at the age of four.

Roy Myrtle married Fannie Crowden and had boys Gerald and Malcolm.

Roy and Fannie (Crowden) Shepard

Newspaper research and online records give us a glance at the life of Roy and Fannie, parents of the Goodland Mellin babies Gerald and Malcolm. Roy Myrtle grew up and worked the family farm northeast of Goodland and attended the Goodland school, graduating in 1897. He then taught three terms at the school until 1900, when he worked as Deputy Treasurer under his brother-in-law, County Treasurer, Will Ade. After two years he successfully ran on the Republican ticket for Grant Township Trustee.

In the spring of 1902, Harvey Henderson and Roy launched the newspaper, the *Newton County Star*. In 1903, A. J. Kitt retired from the *Goodland Herald* and Alex Lardner took over as its editor. Later that same year, the *Newton County Star* and the *Herald* were consolidated. In 1904, Kitt and Shepard were the publishers of the *Goodland Herald*. In 1907, Shepard was sole publisher. In August 1908, Will C. Logan purchased the *Goodland Herald*.

In 1912, he ran for Newton County Auditor on the Progressive (Bull Moose) Party ticket but was defeated in the general election. At that time, he was also the assistant cashier/bookkeeper at the First National Bank in Goodland.

In 1907 Roy married Fannie Crowden who had moved to Goodland at the age of six with her family. The couple was married at their home on Jasper Street, with a full account of the event covered in the *Goodland Herald*, where Roy served as editor.

Goodland Herald and *Brook Reporter* social notes revealed that Roy was an avid fisherman and went with others to fish at the "Goodland Camp" on the Kankakee River. The exact location was not divulged but did relay that Shepard was a very good fisherman. Both Roy and Fannie were members of the Knights of Pythias and were musicians/singers. Articles revealed that Fannie played the piano at Pythian Sister gatherings. Fannie

was also in an organization called the Bachelor Girls, formed in 1898 by 12 women.

By 1915, the couple and their sons had relocated to Otto, Wyoming. Fannie apparently was ill and it was supposed that the cleaner environment there would improve her health. Otto, Big Horn County, Wyoming. Unfortunately, Fannie passed away on October 25, 1918, in Wyoming.

Roy's sister Sophia, "Sophy", had married Harvey Huber of Thorntown, Indiana, and lived in Billings Montana by 1916. Harvey passed away in 1917, and after the death of Fannie in 1918, she relocated to Otto, Wyoming, and cared for her nephews Gerald and Malcolm. Sadly, Sophy passed in 1925. Her body was brought to Goodland, and she was buried at the Remington Cemetery.

The 1930 Census of Big Horn County, Wyoming, listed Roy, age 54 and Gerald, age 21 as farmers. On the next farm Malcolm, age 19 and wife Zella, age 18 and their 5-month-old daughter Fannie. Also listed was John Shepard, age 65, brother of Roy, listed as a farmer.

In 1940 Roy is listed as an unpaid worker with his son Malcolm's family. Malcolm purchased a different farm than listed in 1930, as his brother Gerald's farm was no longer next door, but it appeared to be "down the road a-ways." I couldn't find Roy in 1950, but his death certificate states that he passed away on July 18, 1959, in Yellowstone County, Wyoming, at Rickett's Nursing home. He had been a resident there for 2 years and 2 months. He was buried at the Big Horn Cemetery in Otto, Wyoming, alongside his wife Fannie.

Gerald "Jerry" Shepard

Worked alongside his father at the farm in Otto, Wyoming. Records indicate that he married Ida Fay Mosley of Billings, Montana at the age of 25. They did not have any children. They divorced on October 10, 1949, based on "intolerable indignities." Ida passed away on December 3, 2004, in Texas.

Jerry died on April 16, 1971, near his cabin in Meeteetse, Wyoming, at the age of 63. It stated he had slipped and fell on the riverbank and was unable to climb back up. He had lived in Wyoming 57 years, 15 of them in Meeteetse, and worked as a ranch/farm laborer all his life. He was interred at the Big Horn Cemetery in Otto, Wyoming.

Malcolm "Mick" Shepard

"Mick" married Zelda Williams at the age of 19 in 1928. He remained on the Otto, Wyoming farm until 1960 when he moved his family to Meeteetse, Wyoming in 1960, after his father's death. He worked there for the Greybull Valley Irrigation and at the Burlington-Emblem Division Dam. Mick and Zelda had two children, Fannie and Randy. Mick passed on October 11, 1992, in Cody, Wyoming.



Roy Shepard



Fannie Shepard

14 The Newcomer

Maybe Not Such a Bad Guy After All . . .

The Life and Legacy of Lemuel Milk by Beth Bassett

Newton County residents who follow local history are familiar with the name Lemuel Milk. According to Jennie Conrad's published life history, he is her notorious, always in debt, cradle-robbing father.

Despite the monikers Jennie attached to her father's name, his passing along her mother's lands to her tended to propel her future career further as one of the most successful turn of the century farm and livestock managers in Northern Indiana.

Lemuel's parents were farmers in Fleming, New York. He worked alongside his father garnering skills of animal husbandry, livestock trading, and land management. At the age of 30 he was able to purchase a farm adjacent to his parent's lands as he continued to work in the livestock trade.

He became acquainted with Col. William Howard, a veteran of the War of 1812, and a well-known drover of livestock from the Northwest Territories to the eastern states. Milk became Howard's protégé, and as their friendship developed, Howard offered him partnership in lands he owned through Military Land Warrants in Illinois. Milk trusted Howard's judgement, and in January 1851, Howard formerly added Milk's name as partner on seven deeds in Iroquois County, Illinois. Howard's land was known as Howard's Grove, and was managed by R. P. Enos, a long-time acquaintance of Howard.

In the spring of 1851, Milk ventured to Illinois to view his share of his new acquired landholdings. With Howard's passing in 1853, deed records indicate Milk's purchase of Howard's half of the properties from his heirs. Milk had made his mind up to make Illinois his permanent home, returned to New York and began liquidating his assets.

In 1854, Milk married Jane A. Platt,

the daughter of Slorson and Minerva (Sherwood) Platt. The Platt's wealth came from land acquisitions, so Milk may have acquired additional knowledge and skills from Jane's father. Jane was an only child and her eventual inheritance added to Milk's own wealth. Their first child, Jennie Minerva arrived in 1855. It was after her birth that the small family relocated to Iroquois County, Illinois, in 1856, settling near the Kankakee River and declaring the former Howard's Grove as Milk's Grove.

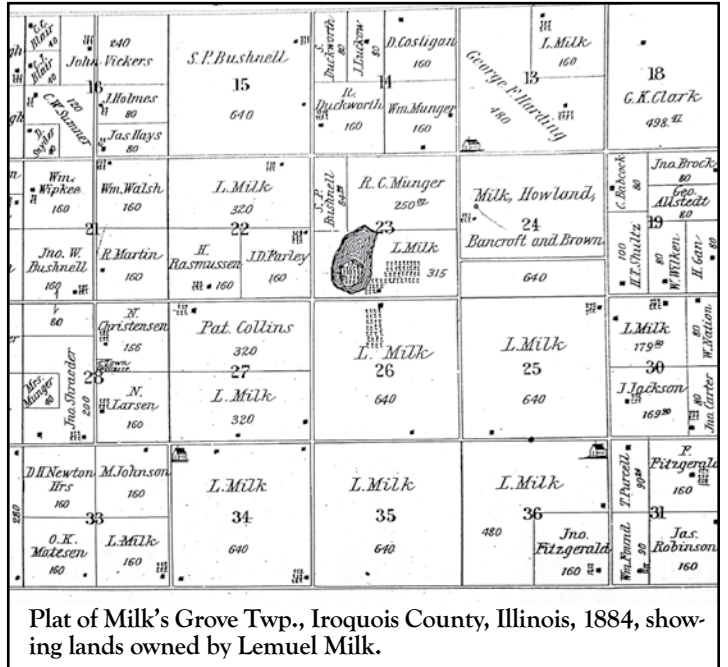
The U. S. Census of 1860, City of Kankakee, Kankakee Township, Illinois, lists the Milks, Lemuel, age 39; Jane, age 29; and Jennie, age 5, all born in New York; Sherwood, age 1, born in Illinois. The census indicates that the the family was living in the Milk Mansion.

Land deeds indicate that in 1857, Milk began acquiring adjacent lands to his Milk's Grove Farm. He developed extensive land holdings totaling more than 9,000 acres in the area. He developed cattle feeding operations on fifty farms, ranging in size from 80-640 acres. Milk specialized in raising Hereford cattle and Percheron horses.

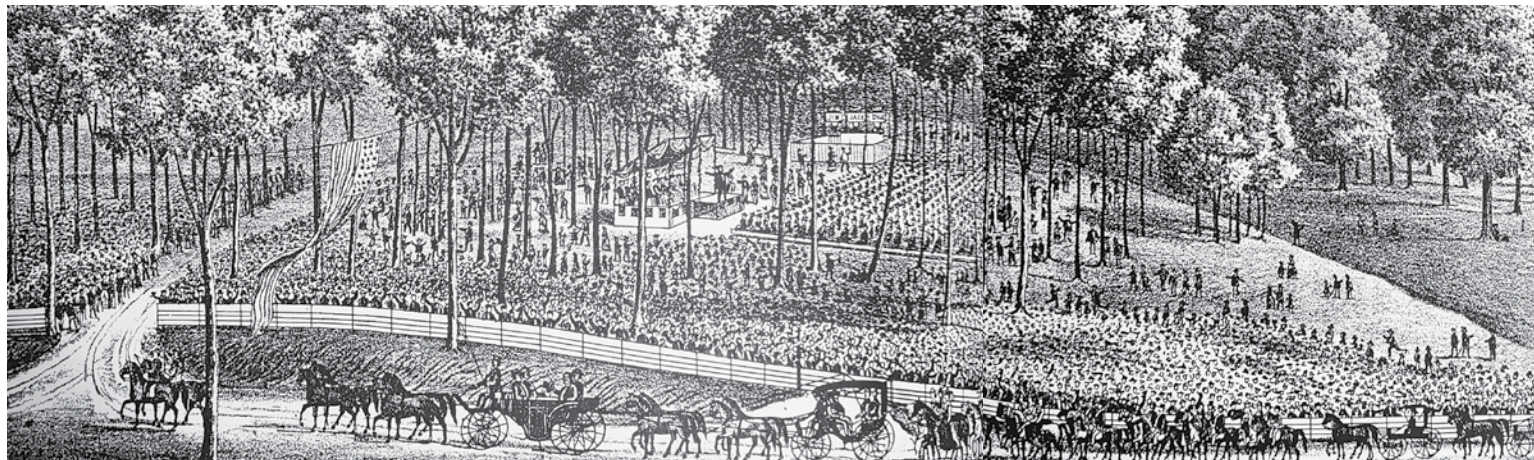
There are exquisite line drawings in the 1884 Atlas of Iroquois County of some of Milk's farms

named: Hurricane, North Grove or Barbecue Farm, South Grove, Spring and Milk's Grove.

One drawing illustrates the huge celebration held at Milk's Grove Farm on October 18, 1884 for Milk's 64th birthday and a Republican rally. Within the illustration upon one of the platforms a banner has a note: "Jim, Jack, and Dick". More than likely the candidates for



Plat of Milk's Grove Twp., Iroquois County, Illinois, 1884, showing lands owned by Lemuel Milk.



Above, 1884 Atlas of Iroquois County, Illinois LeMuel Milk illustration entitled "Scene of grand rally and barbeque held Oct. 18, 1884 at the grove of Lemuel Milk celebrating his 64th birthday and Republican Rally. Note man in first carriage waving."

the Republican rally. In the decorated bridge illustration, banners have images and the names "Blaine, Logan, and Dick."

A couple interesting notations were made on the illustration of the South Grove Farm. On one of the log-style buildings, "Built 1845", is shown, and under one of the cows, "Jumbo, 2380 lbs."

In 1868, he opened a general store in Chebanse, Illinois, which he oversaw until selling his interest in 1883. He continued to expand his land holdings until he owned over 25,000 acres consisting of over 150 farms, making him the largest landowner in Illinois. He owned lands in Kankakee County and other properties in Kankakee, Wilmington, Manteno, and Chicago and approximately 12,000 acres in Indiana. Being the largest landowner in the township may have contributed to the naming of Milk Grove Township

upon organization its 1872.

In 1876, he founded the Waldron Ice Company. One year later, the original structure was struck by lightning, and when rebuilt he doubled the storage capacity, enabling the harvesting of 42,000 tons of ice from the Kankakee River.

Born writes in his "Saga of Jennie M. Conrad," that "the rebuilding of the ice company was financed with monies he received from his mother-in-law, Minerva (Sherwood) Platt, when he sold to her his 10,000 acres of swamplands purchased in Newton County." After researching Newton County land transfer records, these lands were inherited by Minerva's daughter Jane, whose name remained on the deed until it was transferred to Jane's heir, Jennie M. Conrad in 1885, for the consideration of a \$1.00.

Milk may have had the biggest impact on the draining of the Beaver Lake lands. He and another large landowner Algy Dean, worked together in purchasing and managing their lands near the lake. These two made a powerful

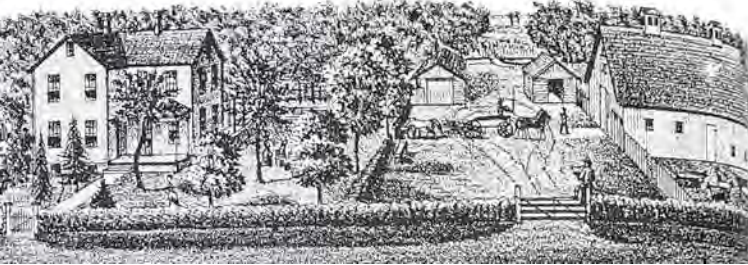
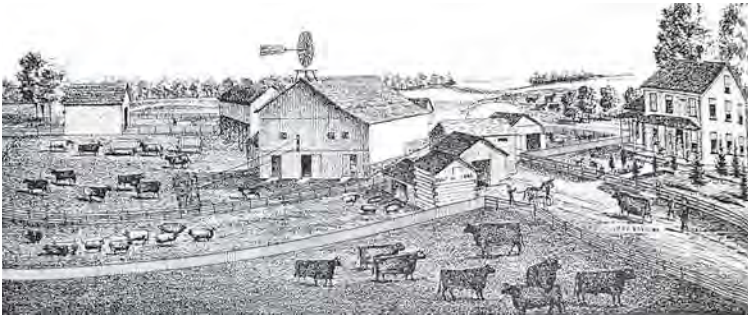
team and more than likely accomplished anything that furthered their own wealth.

In an article from the *Kentland Gazette* dated May 19, 1870, we read, "Messrs. Milk of Kankakee City and Dean of Beaver Lake, have fenced in 60,000 acres of land this spring for pasturage, near the lake." That is A LOT of pasture. Perhaps the fences were built to not only keep livestock in but squatters out!

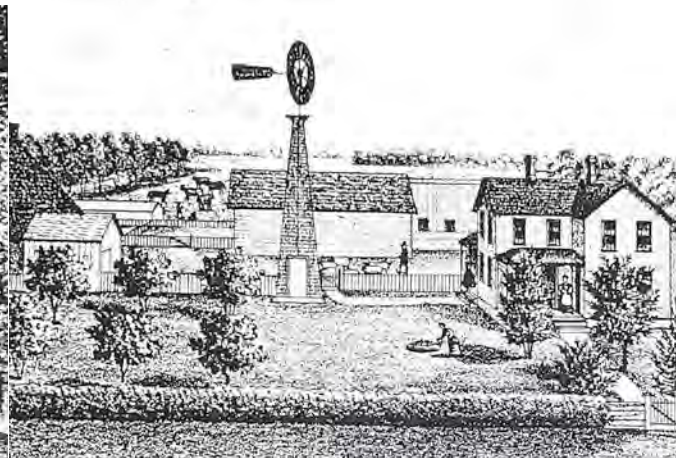
In 1874, Milk hired Ed Parsons to dig the ditch that would expedite the final draining of Beaver Lake. The ditch is known today as the Beaver Lake Ditch.

Milk's son Sherwood, had lived most of his life in the western territories, thinking to improve his health. In 1881 he was living in El Paso, Texas, suffering with consumption. His mother Jane traveled there in December to take care of him. She became ill with pneumonia and died from the illness. Milk travelled to El Paso to collect the body of his wife, returning her remains to Kankakee for burial at the Mound Grove Cemetery in Kankakee. Sherwood remained in Texas and would later move to California.

Jane was very much admired by her peers and community. She was described as a woman of high culture and refinement and her loss was severely felt by her family and her community. *< Continued on page 16*



More 1884 Atlas illustrations of Milk farms. Top left, South Grove farm in Section 26; above left, Spring Farm. Section 24. above right, North Grove, or BBQ Farm, Section 23.



Above, left, 1884 Atlas of Iroquois County, Illinois LeMuel Milk illustrations. Left, continuation of grand rally illustration, center, decorated bridge with banners at rally; right, Hurricane Farm, located in Section 25.

16 The Newcomer

> Continued from page 15

On June 21, 1883, in Colton, California, Sherwood Milk died. His obituary described him as a bright and promising young man, aged 24 years. Stating that the last years of his life were spent travelling from the Atlantic to the Pacific in a desperate fight to save his own life.

It would be five years after the death of Jane that Milk would marry Jane's first cousin, May E. Sherwood. Just when the contention between Milk and his daughter Jennie began is not known. We can speculate that it was the debt that was held against the lands that Jennie was to inherit in Newton County; we can suspect that she was embarrassed and bewildered that her father would marry a woman that was 46 years younger, (May 20, Lemuel 66), let alone one related through marriage. Whatever the reason, Jennie would carry her animosity for her father and step-mother to her grave.

In July 1888, May and Lemuel's daughter Mary "Muzzie" Sherwood Milk was born. Milk and his family lived out their lives in Kankakee.

Lemuel Milk died at his home in Kankakee on July 19, 1893. His will was filed in both Kankakee and Newton County courts. His daughter Jennie was left one dollar. Milk bequeathed his worldly possessions to his wife May and daughter Mary, except for his Geneva Gold watch and chain, a large silver spoon with the initials O.P.T. and his Milk's Grove B-B-Q picture dated October 18, 1884, he gave to his daughter Mary S. Milk.

He also bequeathed the Grove City Cemetery Association of Kankakee \$500 (\$15,000 in 2022), stating "said sum to be loaned on a good first mortgage security on farmlands in Illinois to create a perpetual fund for cemetery upkeep and repair."

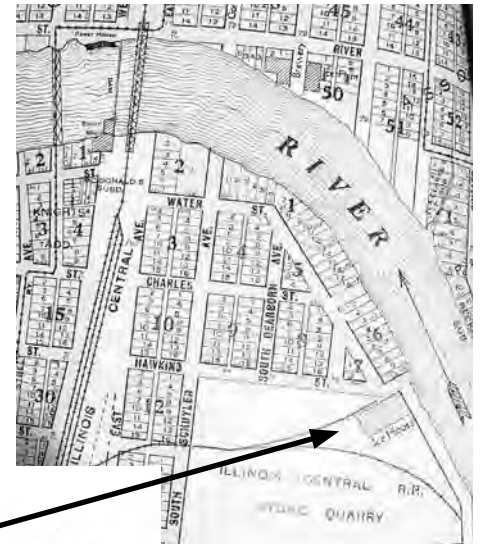
Later in his life Milk acquired lands in North Dakota. These lands were also referenced in his will. He instructed his Executrix, wife Mary, the "power in the management and sale of my said properties as I should have were I alive, except she may not be permitted to sell my estate situated in the county of Nelson, North Dakota, for the period of thirteen years from the date of hereof, except such portions as may be laid off into town lots, which she is authorized to sell at anytime of at her discretion."

Government Land Records revealed that Milk had purchased 160 acres in North Dakota on March 3, 1873. For those interested in further research the land was located T153N-R59W S34, SE1/4. A land patent dated September 6, 1902, in the names of the Lemuel Milk heirs was found online.

Today all that remains of Milk's vast holdings is his former carriage house which was listed on the National Register of His-

toric Places in 1979. Milk's name is not lost to the ages, however. Milk Grove Township still carries his name, and he will forever be known as the man who drained Beaver Lake, opening the last drainage ditch which lead to its demise.

Editor's note: Jane's obit revealed that the family came to Illinois in 1856; the 1860 census indicates Jennie was born in New York-1855. The enumerator wrote that Sherwood was born in Illinois. Hence my conclusion that Jennie was born in New York. However, her death certificate and obituary state that she was born in Illinois. Also, the 1845 date on the log cabin in one of the illustrations indicates it would have been built when the land was known as Howard's Grove.



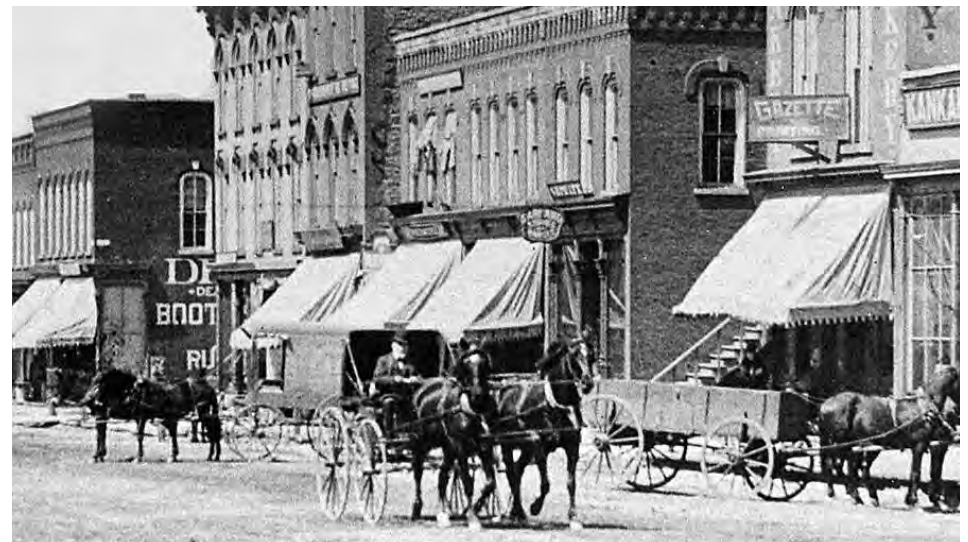
Above, a map of Kankakee, 1884, shows the location of the Ice House owned by Milk and railway track connection; top left, photos of his ice houses that are indicated on the map - location identified by the railroad car facing right, behind the building. Source: Internet



Milk's carriage house, between 1861 and 1868, is the only remaining structure from Milk's large estate. Milk lived in a seventeen-room mansion at the corner of Oak and Indiana Avenues, in Kankakee, Illinois, which has since been demolished. Aside from sheltering his carriage, Milk also used the building to house livestock.

The building was used as a barn until the early 1920s, when it was used as a painting garage. It later became a warehouse for Fred Swannell Sr.'s hardware store. The building was converted to a bakery and restaurant in 1973. The restaurant quickly went out of business and the building became a meeting place for civic groups.

In 1979, the it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Source: Wikipedia



Lemuel Milk driving his carriage on Kankakee streets. Source: Internet

Ford Market Company, Circa 1929



Lloyd Ford's grandson Dean posted this photo of Ford Market on his facebook page, "I live/lived in Kentland, Indiana". Further research in the 1929 *Newton County Enterprise* revealed articles and an ad (right), about the market shown here. No names were given, but it is a good guess that Ford is on the left and Strole behind the counter, co-owners of the market.

Ford and Strole

Lloyd Ford was born in Remington in 1885. He first married Flossy Robert in 1906, who passed in 1937. In 1940 he married Mary Mobley. Lloyd had three sons, Robert, Merl, and Lowell; a daughter, Janet, who married Jim Montgomery; two stepchildren, Cliff, and Mrs. A. Bossart. Lloyd passed away at the age of 65 in November 1950.

W. Leslie, aka Lester Strole was born in Kentland in 1885. He graduated from Kentland High School, the Culver Military Academy, and Coyne Electrical School. He served as a Newton County Deputy from 1949-1951 and was elected sheriff in 1955. Prior to that time, he had been a farmer and operated butcher shops in Kentland and Brook. Leslie died at the age of 62 in May, 1957; he was survived by a daughter and his wife Dorothea, who was appointed by the county commissioners to finish out Leslie's office as Newton County Sheriff.

New Business Announced in Kentland

In the June 20, 1929, edition of the *Newton County Enterprise* a new business was announced for Kentland that would engage in wholesale and retail marketing of meats.

"Lloyd E. Ford and W. Leslie Strole leased a four-acre tract north of the Roy Long tenant house in Kentland from Chester Wharton of Valparaiso. They will build a well-equipped slaughterhouse and cooling plant, preparatory to entering the wholesale and retail meat business. Construction work on the new plant was to begin end of June.

"Messrs. Ford and Strole's intentions are

to put at least one delivery truck in the field at once and as soon as the business is established, other trucks will be added as needed.

"The firm will also wholesale meats to local shops within trucking radius and also operate a retail market in Kentland. City water mains will be run to the slaughterhouse and negotiations are underway to obtain electricity to operate the necessary machinery.

"Both men were experienced in the business. They hoped to employ several local men as well as give local stock raisers a convenient market for their hogs and cattle."

Purchase Walter Sharp Market

In the August 8, 1929, *Newton County Enterprise* an article announced that Ford and Strole had purchased the Walter Sharp business, who owned an operated a market in Kentland since 1926, but also had a location

Call Phone No. 74 For
**Home Dressed Meats
 and Fresh Fruits and
 Vegetables**

—
**2 DELIVERIES DAILY
 8 A. M. and 10 A. M.**

—
FORD MARKET CO.

in Fowler.

"Messrs. Ford and Strole are now busily engaged in the construction of their modern killing and cooling plant west of town, where they are soon to operate a wholesale plant. The purchase of the Sharp market will enable them to also have a retail outlet.

"Both of these men are well and favorably known in local business circles and are experienced in all phases of the meat business. According to present plans, the retail market will be in charge of Robert Ford, who for the past year or more has been employed in Chicago.

"M. Sharp has owned and operated a market in Kentland for three years. He also owns a meat shop in Fowler, and it is for the purpose of devoting his entire time to this business and to the sale of the Marmon line of automobiles to which he will give considerable time, that he disposes of his holding here.

"Work on the wholesale plant is progressing nicely and it is thought that the necessary equipment will be installed, and the plant put in operation early in September. It is the intention of the owners to supply market in this territory with their fresh meats by truck direct from the plant. A nice business also is anticipated in killing hogs for farmers during the fall and winter months."



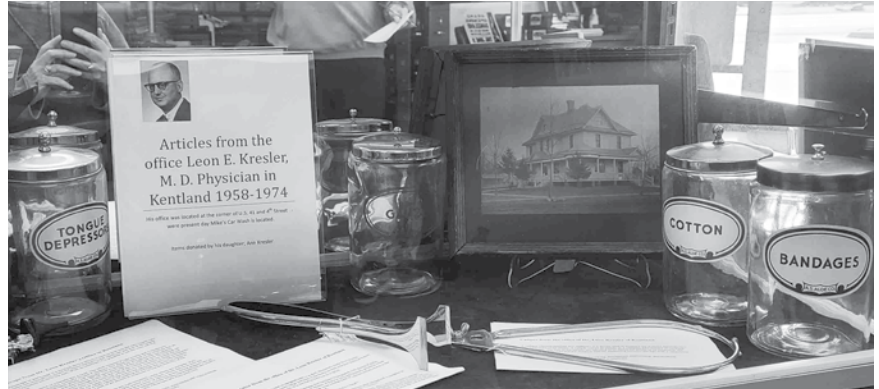
Looking east at Third Street in Kentland, south of the courthouse. Facebook photo.

Do You Know?

The following answers are about items at the Resource Center in Kentland. Questions on page 5



1. Our copy of the 1904 Orton Map of Newton County provides details of landowners, schools, railroad, and cemetery locations. The other copy hangs in the Commissioner's Room in the courthouse basement.



2. Dr. Kresler's office was located in Kentland on the east side of 4th Street at the junction of US 24. A photo of the original home and office items are on display.



3. A. D. Babcock collected numerous items and accepted donations of local artifacts that were on display in Goodland. The entire collection was given to the Indianapolis Children's Museum.



5. This serving tray was a gift from George Ade to his sister, Alice Mary. Alice Mary married John Greeley Davis. "Allie" kept her comb and brush on the tray.



4. Alexander "Kankakee Ned" Lanier Barker used this smoker when tending to his hives at his hunting camp in Sumava Resorts. The sharpening tool was used by his father, Thomas R. Barker, an early pioneer of Newton County.

Former Pullman Car Revealed

Always a great source for historical information, Dean Ford and his own facebook page, as well as his "I lived/live in Kentland, Indiana," provided the following information about the stained glass studio building owned by David Herriott in Kentland, Indiana. Follow the thread of names for remarks, questions and answers.

(Dean Ford) Is this house still standing (west of the old AJ Kent HS)? Someone said it was a refurbished RR passenger car. I believe the Stonger family lived there when we were kids.



(Suellen Stotler) The building in question is a pullman bought by Blye Presher for his daughter, Martha (my mother-when he owned the property it sits on) as a playhouse. I believe it came from Peoria, IL. In the late 40s, I believe, it became a pottery shop. Mr. Herriott and I still find all that stuff around our homes. In the 50s, it became an apart-

ment home. In the 60s, it became Kentland Kable. Then Mr. Herriott acquired the property and put a stained-glass studio in it.

(Dean Ford) In the 50s-60s it was occupied by the Stonger family. It was directly across the street from the high school entrance so anyone crossing the bridge would see it. I remember Trick or Treating there as a child - that was the only time I was inside. I thought it was cool!

(Diane Shaw) reply to Suellen Stotler your grandfather bought that as a playhouse for your Mom?? That's an interesting story--tell me more about it as a playhouse and what your Mom remembers.

(Suellen Stotler) reply to Diane Shaw: My mother was born in 1928 and died in 1997. All I know is the bits and pieces she told me through the years. She was an only child and no doubt played in the pullman with her cousins. My grandparents lived in the Presher family home on the lot. At that time, the lot the pullman sits on and David Herriott's house which was non-existent at the time belonged to the Presher family.

Sometime in the 30s, I believe, the pullman was purchased by Blye Presher (my grandfather) for my mother to play in. In the 40s, a coman, as my mother described him, came to town, talked Blye into letting him have/buy the property which the pullman sits. He turned it into a pottery shop.

(June Jefvert) Dick Maillieux had a radio shop there ahead of present owner Herriott?

(Peg Lawrence) David Herriott, owns



it today and opened his stained-glass shop there.

(Glenda Sue Vincent) It is still standing and has been modified. It is no longer a business. Previous to the Mailloux business, it was two apartments. The Herriott home and business were purchased from Mailloux at different times. It housed a tv sales business, later Mailloux's office moved to Goodland.

(Suellen Stotler) Another pic...my grand-



father, Blye Presher at what looks like the south entrance. He bought it as a playhouse for his daughter. The Presher family lived in the house I currently live in.

Member News

We would like to thank you for your continued support of our society by renewing your memberships each year.

Yearly memberships renew in January of each year. You will receive a membership form in the mail.

Donations for our Resource Center

We accept items that pertain to Newton County people, places and family histories, but do not have a lot of storage room, so we are limited on the big items that we can accept.

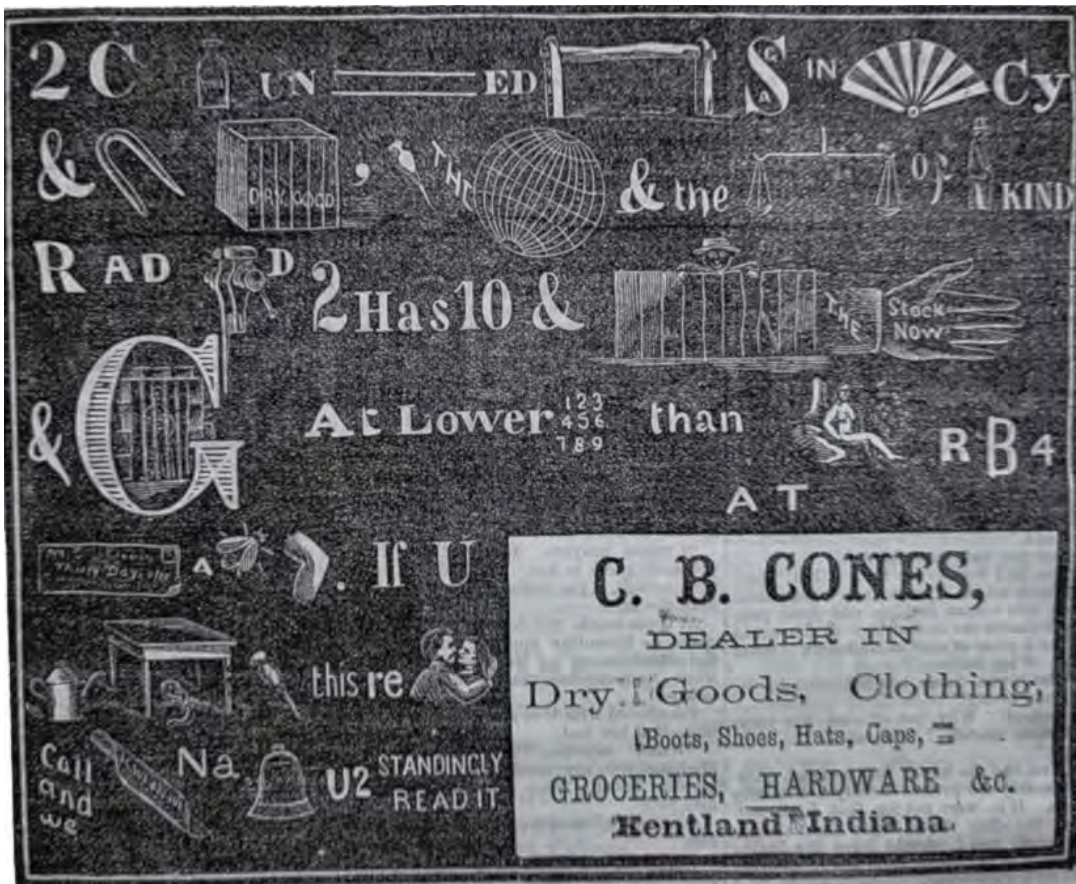
If you are submitting family photos, momentoes, etc., if you could attach the history of the items, identify the people/places in the photographs they will provide a better resource for future researchers.

The society meets the fourth Monday of each month at the Government Center, unless otherwise noted. Historical programs are offered free to members and to the public.

The Scott-Lucas House in Morocco is owned and operated by the society, and is available for community club meetings and gatherings throughout the year. Please contact us at 219-474-6944 for further contact information and details.



1935-36 Mt. Ayr basketball team, back row, l-r, Coach Shafer, Delos Potts, John Hickman, Junior Miller, Bill Brown, Orval L., Nels T., Mr. Laird; front row, l-r, Spiff C., Elvin Beasy, Turner, Jenkins, Nick Yacuk. Ellen Schlotman sent this to us via email. This is a new photo for our collection - Thank you!



Effective Advertising, 1869

C. B. Cones, a dry-goods and clothing dealer in Kentland has a unique ad in the October, 1869 *Newton County Enterprise*. Solving the REBUS is quite a challenge - will you accept it? We'll give you a free historical coloring book if you can solve it! (We're still working on it!)

Rebus: a puzzle in which words are represented by combinations of pictures and individual letters; for instance, apex might be represented by a picture of an ape followed by a letter X.

The Newcomer

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