

The Newcomer

Volume 28, Issue One
Winter/Spring 2022 \$3.00

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

Inside this issue

- Doctor and Mrs. McPhail
- Straightening and Deepening of the Kankakee River
- Orphan Trains Passing Through Newton County
- Morocco's Catholic Church
- Newton County Historical Mural Dedication Ceremony
- History of the Indiana State Police Post Kentland 3B
- Oris Brandt Burial
- Jennie Conrad Program

Doc and Mrs. McPhail

by Beth Bassett

The legend of this extra-ordinary couple is familiar to any who lived in Morocco. If you attended any Newton County schools, you know the name of Mrs. McPhail. If you lived on a farm, the phone number of Doc McPhail was written on the front of the phone book.

Those who attended Morocco High School recall memories as a teacher and club/class sponsor. The next generations recall her as the substitute teacher whose small frame and quiet mannerisms always took command of the classroom. Oh, if only I had the questions I have now at that time. It would have been some of the greatest lessons of all time.

I remember her as an artist. My father was custodian at Morocco Elementary (the old high school building) in the late 1970s. Mrs. McPhail along with Betty Kessler and two to three other ladies from Morocco gathered on a regular basis to paint in the evenings in the teacher's lounge. Mrs. Kessler, one of my favorite teachers of all time, would see me outside the room and invite me in to watch the artists at work. Fond memories from a gentle period.

Joseph N. McPhail, DVM

In January 1951, the *Morocco Courier* published an article on Dr. J.N. McPhail:

"It is the privilege of the *Courier* this week to offer a salute to Dr. J. N. McPhail, who, for the past 40 years, has served this community faithfully and well in his capacity as veterinarian. His proficiency and conscientious attention to the cases he has undertaken has been the means of saving many thousands of dollars in livestock losses and stockmen of the area.

"Still active in practice, Dr. McPhail vividly recalls his earlier experiences here. His first transportation was a horse and cart, and his first patients were principally horses and mules. The passing years have seen a changing picture. Now the doctor drives a good automobile, one of the several successors of his first Ford roadster which he purchased for \$743.50, delivered in June 1911.

"Not so many horses and mules are on his list of patients, and more cattle and hogs, the high prices paid for pork and beef having caused a considerable increase in cattle and swine raising. A definite trend toward purebred stock has also been seen.

"He stated he was very glad that he did come to Morocco when he did, and he obviously is very grateful for the cordial friendships he has formed here and the kindly treatment he enjoyed. Dr. McPhail should have a lot of friends . . . and should be well treated - he has a fine feeling of friendliness to all, and he treats everybody fairly and well. We need lots more like him!"

Morocco celebrated Doc McPhail's 90th birthday in 1968. The *Morocco Courier* reported on the event stating, "Doc was characterized as a man of faith, a professional man and a friend to young and old alike. At least two generations of Morocco families have walked past his yard to be greeted by a hearty "hello."

This biographical sketch also appeared in the same article that was provided by Mrs. McPhail:

"Joseph Neil McPhail was born on December 10, 1878, in Canada. His father and mother died when he was twelve years old. A brother died in infancy and his sister (Barbara) died several years ago.

"After the death of his parents he went to live in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Broad of Toronto, Canada. As he grew older, one of the Broad boys, Tom and Doc went to Western Canada. After being there a year or so he came to Lowell, Indiana.

"Doc started his veterinary career in Chicago. After completing that course, he went to McKillip College in Chicago, graduating from there. He lived in Lowell for a short time and then came to Morocco in 1908. He lived in what was known as the Batchelor's Quarters above Spradling's Store. Dr. Recher had an office there and Silas Recher had rooms there as well as Doc."

Dr. McPhail retired in 1965 as a veterinarian and retired to his home in Morocco. Shortly after his retiring, he and Ann became world travellers.

Ann Younger McPhail, Teacher, Mentor, Poet, and Artist

The website for the Morocco High School Alumni has posted historical information from *The Old Gold and Black*, the school newsletter, and the *Morocco Courier* over the years. Not every year is there, but this is what we discovered a bit about her teaching career at the high school.



A two-headed calf, one of Doc McPhail's most unusual deliveries, hung in the den of his home in Morocco.

Continued on page 3 >

President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

Spring is coming - we don't need to look at the calendar to know.

Though Mother Nature has thrown us a few surprises, the signs are there. Birds have arrived and are hopping around the yard looking for nesting material. The grass is greening; the daffodils and hyacinth are ready to bloom; the lilac bushes are leafing out; the willow trees are getting that yellowish green. My rhubarb is coming up, and Spring (bunching) onions are ready to cut.

History repeats itself in so many ways, do you remember a rhubarb patch at your grandmother's house? Daffodils? My niece commented about hollyhocks - ladies, do you remember making hollyhock dollies? Planted around the outhouse?

I follow a website about Orange County Indiana where my maternal grandparents lived. My Aunt Dorothea's family often relate family stories on the site, one I enjoyed was how the family picked and used fruits as they produced - first one and then and other from early Spring into Summer.

Do you notice as you are on a county road that there "used to be" a house there because there are still old apple trees, or peonies, or wild grapes or the bright yellow of a forsythia bush?

Even though we note history as important events in our towns, county, state and world, many family histories also involve the things in our backyards, I grew up loving my grandma's yard and garden. So many memories there, I hope you have some too. My Lily of the Valley patch came from my mom's patch.

The Society is getting itself back together after Covid, like the rest of the world. We are open 11-3 CST on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact us, or stop in. The Fifth Friday Fun Day occurs when we have five Fridays in a month. It is not a workday; it is a fellowship day. We gather around noon with a carry-in luncheon. We catch up with everyone by sharing stories, laughter, and memories. Consider this your invitation to join us.

Our monthly programs have been well attended and we look forward to an exciting summer of programs and events, featuring our annual meeting in June which is a carry-in dinner for everyone. In July, we will see you at the Newton County Pun'kin Vine Fair and are looking for volunteers to man the booth in the Commercial Building.

The microfilm collection once housed at the Kentland Library was donated to us by the library this past month. These films include *The Kentland Democrat* - a great new resource for family and local history. A nod of thanks to Roberta Dewing for making this possible.

Your challenge for the month is to share some bit of history with someone - a child, a grandchild, or the neighbor next door. Share it, for it may be lost if you do not.

Lilac Bushes on Farmsteads

On your next spring drive through the countryside, take notice of the lilac bushes that bloom this time of year. When you pass an old farmhouse, you will often see lilac bushes, sometimes several in a row, and sometimes located at the back of the property.

Lilac bushes grow about 12 feet or so and are more fragrant than lilac trees. If you think about it, they didn't spend much time a hundred years ago bothering with landscaping, it's a recent trend. So is the lilac bush a common at the old farmsteads?

Traditional history tells us that lilac bushes were often planted for two reasons: One, to mark the grave of a miscarriage or bury a placenta after a home birth; Two, outhouses.

Lilac bushes were planted next to outhouses to help mask the odors associated with this essential part of the farmstead. When it came time to move the outhouse, as it did when they became full or too stinky, they would plant a lilac bush (often taking off-shoots from the original bush) and plant them in the filled hole of the old privy. Over the decades lines of lilac bushes appeared, usually to the back of the properties.



If you live in town, it is possible the same theory applies. In more modern times, descendants would take "starts" from those countryside lilac bushes and plant them a bit closer to the houses so they could appreciate their lovely scent in the springtime.

Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - Answers on page 18

The following questions are about items at the Resource Center in Kentland.

1. The Society has an exterior decorative window from a building in Morocco. Do you know what building it was located in originally?
2. The Society has an old steamer trunk with the name Mrs. E. Shriver, Pilot Grove, Ind. printed on the side. In which township was Pilot Grove located?
3. The Society has spiky seeds on display that came from the American Chestnut tree which was discovered in 2006 by squirrel hunter, Bob Hoycus. The American Chestnut tree is rare with the only prior one known to be in Indiana was in Seymour, IN. Where is this tree located in Newton County?
4. The Society has the old wooden post office boxes from the first Kentland Post Office. They still have some names attached to the boxes. Where was this post office located?
5. The Society has an actual skeleton on display. Do you know who it is rumored to be? We call him "Mr. Bones."

Society Awards \$6,000 In Scholarships to Four North and South Newton Graduates

The Newton County Historical Society formed the Marion J. Eller/Newton County Historical Society Scholarship Committee in 2021. Working together with the Jasper-Newton Foundation, annual scholarships would be awarded into perpetuity.

Graduating Seniors from North Newton and South Newton may apply for the scholarships. Part of the application asked two questions pertaining to Newton County history, (1) Do you feel it is important to preserve Newton County history? Please explain why/why not; (2) Describe a Newton County historical place or thing, person, or ancestor that has influenced your college and/or career plans and goals.

Scholarships were awarded on school merit along with answers to these questions. Applications were made through the JN Foundation website and co-ordinated with each school's guidance departments.

The 2022 scholarship winners are: North Newton, Cayci Ehlinger \$2,000; Harley Schelman, \$1000. South Newton: Lea Conrad, \$2,000; Alexis Conradi \$1,000.

President Kay Babcock presented the awards during each school's award ceremonies.

Continued from page 1 >

Over the years she was the English and Public Speaking teacher as early as 1935. She regularly was listed as the Senior Class sponsor and director of the Senior class plays. In 1937, she organized the Sunshine Society for Morocco. In 1956 when the Morocco Beavers took the Basketball Section title, it was Mrs. McPhail who ceremoniously cut down the basketball nets after the victory. This demonstrates how well-respected she became as a friend, peer, teacher, and mentor.

And, to validate the claim that several generations of the same family had her as a teacher, here is an article from the May 30, 1963, edition of *Morocco Courier*:

“Commencement exercise held at Morocco High School on May 23, struck a nostalgic note as the end of an era to Mr. Harrison Bingham of Enos as his youngest son, Dennis, a member of the class of '63 graduated. Dennis represented the ninth child of Mr. Bingham to graduate M.H.S.

“Open house in honor of Dennis and Mr. Bingham was held at the Kaupke home immediately following commencement. All the family was present except for Audrey and Gary of California, who telephoned their greetings and spoke with everyone. Also present for the occasion was Mrs. Ann McPhail, former English teacher at Morocco High, who at some time during the high school education had taught each of the nine children. Although not a graduate himself, after having nine children attend and graduate from Morocco High School, Mr. Bingham is to be congratulated for his accomplishment.”

Mrs. McPhail was also a poet. M.H.S. class of 1966 graduate Gretchen (Hunter) Swallow discovered this talent of the teacher. She was published three times by the National Poetry Association, who compiled entries from teachers for their annual *National Poetry Anthology*. Her first poem in 1959, was entitled “Friendship’s Chain”; followed in 1961 with “A Christmas Prayer”; and in 1964 with “If.” You will find these poems on page 15 in

this edition. Thank you, Gretchen, for sharing these with our society and readers. The copies can be found at the Resource Center in Kentland.

Anna’s parents were Joseph V. (1857-1929), and Willamina “Minnie” Raymond (Primmer) Younger (1859-1944). Ann’s father Joseph came to Chalmers, Indiana when he was a child and settled there on a farm. He remained on that farm all of his life. In 1881, he married Minnie Primmer of White County, and they had six children: Elva Blanche (1881-1883); Abram Earl (1884-1897); Warner Claire (1886-1969); Ann Lula (1892-1984); Perle Agnes Little (1895-1986); and Charles Kelley (1898-1982).

Joseph’s obit stated that he was a member of the Presbyterian Church and K. of P. and I. O. O. F at Brookston and was a Second Degree Mason at the Brookston Masonic Lodge. He was prominent in Democratic circles and served as the county highway superintendent.

Ann McPhail attended DePauw University, University of Chicago and Purdue University. She was an English teacher in the Chalmers School System from 1912 to 1928 and later in the Rensselaer School System. She moved to Morocco in 1925 and taught there until retiring in 1969.

100 Years Combined

Service to Newton County

From an article in *The Times* dated December 31, 1975, a bit more of the personal lives of Dr. and Mrs. McPhail is revealed:

Veterinarian: A Century of Service

“Dr. and Mrs. J. N. McPhail, DVM, have served the populace of Newton County for a combined total of more than 100 years.

“Dr. McPhail celebrated his 97th birthday December 10 and has been retired as a veterinarian for 10 years, though he will avidly recall any experience during his period of caring for ailing animals of area residents from 1908 until 1965.

“Mrs. McPhail is 83, and officially retired from teaching two years ago, though she still enjoys substitute teaching for history or English classes.”

“She is a talented artist, and her versatility in painting is evident in the many pictures filling the McPhail home. The stairway is lined with a variety of subjects and still-life that have been recreated by Mrs. McPhail.

“When asked if Dr. McPhail first initiated his services through the use of “horse and buggy,” the vet replied, “heav-

ens, I couldn’t afford that, I had a horse and cart.”

“Dr. and Mrs. McPhail enjoy recounting their travels throughout the world, having visited Europe, Asia, and touring the United States. They often joined other veterinarians and their wives on excursions to those “far-off-places.”

“Certificates and licenses fill the den of the modest Morocco home, which is also lined with maps and remembrances of previous trips. “We visited China and stayed for a while until they threw us out,” bantered Dr. McPhail, “then we went to Italy, and enjoyed the sunny skies of Naples.”

“Dr. McPhail said the most unusual of his deliveries was a two-headed calf in Donovan, Illinois, in April of 1921.

“It was just the strangest thing you ever saw,” said Dr. McPhail as he recounted the experience. The two-headed calf is mounted on the den wall of the venerable doctor.

“Since his retirement, Dr. McPhail said he had been able to “enjoy the good movies on television.” Which according to Mrs. McPhail, “he never had the time to do before.”

“Mrs. McPhail said her husband used to get calls at any hour of the day and night and never refused one request for assistance.

“She is very proud of the garden which her husband tends, supplying neighbors produce throughout the summer months.

“Dr. McPhail says he likes all kinds of beans, carrots, lettuce, turnips, and a little grass to keep him on his toes.”

“Though Mrs. McPhail came to the area in 1925 from Chalmers near Lafayette, she and her husband have become fond of Morocco, calling it the “biggest little city in the State of Indiana.”

“Many of Mrs. McPhail’s former students said she was “a tough little lady, with a heart of gold.”

“Dr. McPhail’s friends who required the skills of the vet for their pets or farm animals, recalled how the good doctor could be seen during the wee hours of the morning, delivering calves or colts, and “helping out whenever he was needed.

“Dr. and Mrs. McPhail are well-remembered throughout Newton County and surrounding areas, with local residents offering only words of praise for this lovely couple, who can be seen driving around the countryside, seeing and remembering.”

On July 29, 1933, Doc and Ann McPhail were married. Their beautiful home remains a comfortable home in Morocco, at the corner of Clay Street and Indiana Avenue, just a block west of Morocco Elementary, the former Morocco High School building.

Dr. McPhail passed away at the age of 99 on February 26, 1978. Mrs. McPhail passed on January 3, 1984. They are buried at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Brookston, Indiana, where the Younger family was interred.



Artist Ann McPhail displayed her many paintings in her home.

4 The Newcomer

Straightening and Deepening of the Kankakee River | June 1, 1921, to June 1, 1923

by Chris Knochel, Newton County Surveyor 2001-2020; Former Kankakee River Basin Commission Chairman

Newton County has the distinction of being the youngest county in Indiana. The fact that it literally needed to be drained contributed greatly to missing out in the westward expansion of the nation. Frequently the original 1834 to 1835 survey notes mention the marshes and overflow land areas in Newton County. The survey notes reflect that there was no visible means to drain the areas so identified. Some shallow marsh areas were surveyed during the winter months. It is understood today to mean that disease born insects were not a problem after a killing frost. The notes also indicate that a survey stake was driven, presumably through ice and frost because, though required as part of a complete survey, no bearings were collected, and no mounds were built around the survey stake.

In addition to the insect born disease problem, Newton County also had the criminal element found at Bogus Island. It was not till the Swampland Acts were enacted at the federal level could the marshes and overland flow areas be drained at the local level. The dates of the federal acts coincide with the draining of the marshes and overflow land areas in Newton County, addressing the drainage problems associated with both Beaver Lake and the Kankakee River. Coincidentally, the establishment of the county transpired within a short period of time once a visible means was discovered to drain the marshes and overflow land areas.

Research to identify local regulated drains always began at the Newton County Courthouse. I found no drain records in Jasper County for the brief period Newton County was part of Jasper County.

The straightened manmade ditch ends at the State line. This brings the importance of the Williams Ditch to bear. The Williams Ditch was the last effort to straighten the river in Indiana.

With this background I will proceed to present the legal history of the Williams Ditch in Newton County. The construction of the Williams Ditch began 100 years ago in 1921 and ended at final payment of the contract. - Chris Knochel

In February 1923¹ the final payment was submitted for the final length of the Kankakee River that was straightened and deepened in Indiana, the only drainage project of its kind for any river in Indiana, identified as the Williams Ditch.

The final length of the construction project was petitioned by L.R. Williams on June 5, 1913². The petition identified the length of the project to begin at Water Valley, (Shelby area), and end at the Indiana-Illinois State line³. Or also identified with a legal description, beginning at a point 1,390 feet north and 818 feet west of the south-

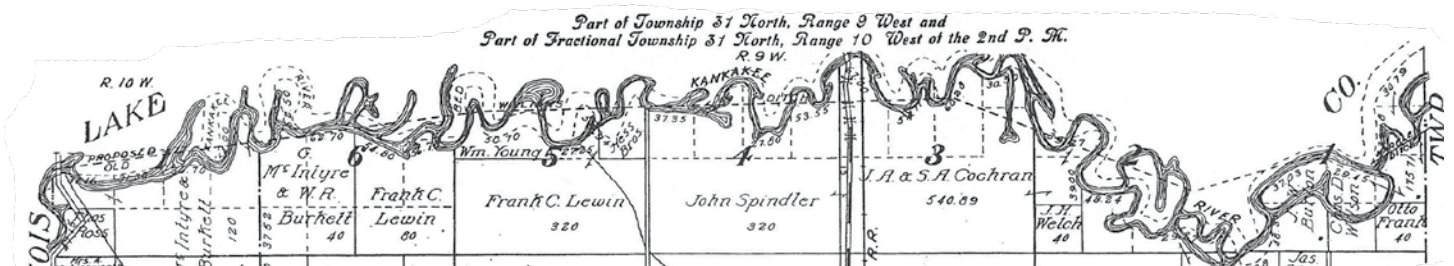
east corner of the southeast quarter of Section 1, T31N, R9W, Lake Township, Newton County and ending in the Kankakee River at a point 10 feet east of the State line⁴. Or understanding the beginning point to be in alignment with Meridian Line in Newton County and ending just short of the first crossing of the river at the state line. A downstream meander of the river crosses the state line again and reenters Illinois as the second crossing of the State line. Judge C.W. Hanley was presiding Judge. Judge Hanley identified the petition as Cause No. 7 in Newton Circuit Court.

Later in 1913, after the petition was received, remonstrances, formal documents stating points of opposition, were filed by the Trustee of Lincoln Township and the Chicago, Indiana and Southern Railroad with a second remonstrance filed again by the railroad in 1914.

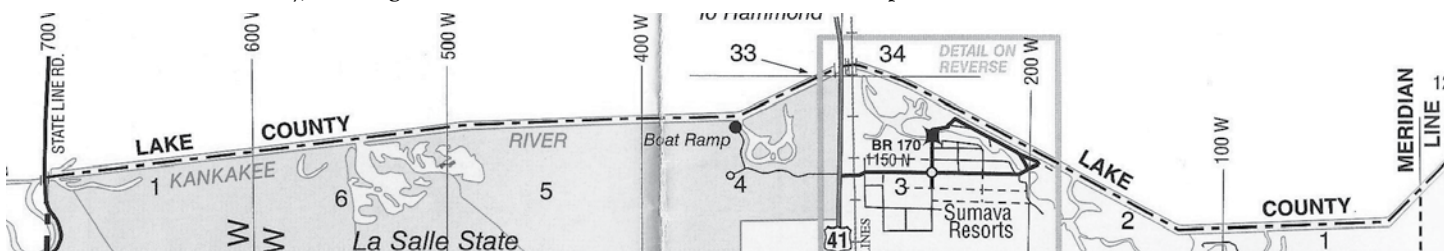
A remonstrance might address financial responsibility for existing or proposed drainage structures and direction or proposed location of storm water flow. The proximity of a parcel in the proposed watershed and level of financial responsibility assigned to the parcel could also be addressed in a remonstrance. The remonstrances were overruled by Judge Hanley and the petition was submitted to W.H. Parker, County Surveyor and Commissioners Ira H. Drake and Le-Roy Hayden. The Commissioner's Report was filed and set for a hearing in January 1915⁵.

In the same month of January 1915, a remonstrance to the Commissioners Report was filed by the Chicago, Indiana and Southern Railroad, another remonstrance was filed by John Blake and 80 others, Indiana Truck Farm filed a remonstrance and I.W. Burton and 26 others filed a remonstrance. Judge Hanley accepted a motion for Change of Venue and appointed Elmore Barce as Special Judge in the case⁶.

Various remonstrances were filed in July 1915 and Special Judge Barce, Benton Circuit Court Judge, ruled in favor of the remonstrators, vacated the report, set it aside and ordered an amended Commissioners Report⁷. In October 1915 the Commissioners filed a new report with immediate remonstrances to the new report. Cause No. 7 was set for a hearing for June 1916 with remonstrances filed in July 1916. The Court announced finding that the amended Commissioners Report not in Conformity of Law in August of 1916. Drainage Commissioners Hayden and Drake resign, and the Court appoints Frank Strickland from Lake County and Angus D. Washburn, Newton



Above, the 1916 plat map of Lake Township shows the original oxbows and indents of the River. This stretch of the river from the R9/R8 Meridian Line West to the Indiana/Illinois State line was the last segment of the river to be dredged, known as the Williams Ditch. Below is the Kankakee River today, showing the same stretch of the river as in the 1916 map.



County as Drainage Commissioners. Both were ordered by the Court to file a new report⁵. In the August 10, 1916, issue of the *Newton County Enterprise*, the two new drainage Commissioners were identified as Mr. Strickland and John R. Hershman, Newton County. Evidence on page 465 in Commissioners Record Book #14 indicated that Mr. Washburn was appointed the new Drainage Commissioner in Newton County. Both the Newton Circuit Court Record Book #2 and Williams Ditch Record Book are completely void of the name of John R. Hershman.

The two new Drainage Commissioners file a new report in February 1918 followed by the filing of remonstrances by numerous and diverse parties in the same month. An affidavit and motion were filed for a Change of Venue from Special Judge Barce in March 1918. The motion was granted by C.W. Hanley, ex-officio judge as 30th Newton Circuit Court Judge. Judge Hanley suggested a new Trial Judge be identified from the name of three parties involved. Petitioners and remonstrators were each authorized to strike out one name with the remaining name appointed as Special Judge. The three suggested names were Charles Snyder, Grant Hall and William Isham. William Isham remained and assumed jurisdiction in April 1918⁹.

In August 1918 Judge Isham requested Special Finding of Facts in the case. A total of 32 Findings of Facts were concluded from the law which were to be recorded with all subsequent proceedings. The record book contains 56 pages of findings, identifying landowners in Newton, Lake, Porter and Jasper Counties that would benefit from the project¹⁰. Two lateral drains, Moffett Ditch and Beaver Lake Ditch, that outlet into the project area were rerouted to accommodate the new river route¹¹. The record book includes pages for the grade table and quantity table for proposed material to be excavated plus the assessment roll and landowner list and indicating a final grade of 2/100 ft. per 100 feet¹².

McWilliams Dredging Company, Chicago, IL, submitted the low bid for the project in the amount of \$186,000.00. The contract called for the excavation to be done with a Marion, Vertical Spud Dredging Machine. The project was to begin on June 1, 1921, and to be fully complete by June 1, 1923. Once the project was done, J.R. Deardurff, Construction Commissioner, received \$100.00 for his work plus \$50.00 for livery hire¹³.

The section of the Kankakee River that was straightened and deepened immediately upstream from the Williams Ditch, identified as the Marble-Powers Ditch, appeared before Newton County Commissioners Court during the regular December Session on December 7, 1914. Commissioners Martin G. Barker, L.H. Recher and Meddie Sego heard the case with S.R. Sizelove, Newton County Auditor and William Dowling, Newton County Sheriff also present¹⁴.

The project drain was duly and legally established by Jasper County Circuit Court in October 1911. Remonstrators appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court but in April 1914 the Supreme Court affirmed the judgement of the Jasper Circuit Court. R.H. and G. A. McWilliams submitted the low bid of \$314,007.03 to work the upstream project¹⁵.

The Marble Ditch

Marble Ditch was petitioned by Horace Marble in September 1910 in Jasper Circuit Court and identified as Cause Number 89¹⁶. The Jasper County record references a survey of the river that was done by the Government of the United States which was used for the technical information for the river project¹⁷. The project called for the removal of trees and woody vegetation 100 feet wide from both sides of the proposed route, with a finished grade of 2/100 ft. per 100 feet¹⁸.

In the spring of 1914, it was reported that "since the death of Horace Marble the ditch has generally been known as the Marble-Powers Ditch, Mr. Powers being the next named of the petitioners"¹⁹. The straightening and deepening of the Marble-Powers Ditch project ended at its downstream point very near Meridian Line near the commencement point or upstream point of the Williams Ditch. Or just upstream from Lake Township in Newton County. The commencement or up-



The Williams Ditch contract called for the excavation to be done with a Marion Vertical Spud Dredging Machine. Rep Photo.

stream point of the Marble Ditch began on the east line of Section 12, T32N, R5W and 60 feet north of the northeast corner of lot 3 of said section and in the channel of the Kankakee River²⁰. The point was also identified as the terminus of the Kankakee Reclamation Company Ditch, the upstream deepening and straightening river project from Jasper County²¹. Additional technical information can be found in the Marble Ditch Drain Record Book in the Jasper County Surveyors Office.

Emanuel Goodnow, Deputy Surveyor under contract with Mr. L. Williams, Surveyor General of the United States for the states of Ohio, Indiana and the Territory of Michigan, recorded the following general remarks on Sept. 26, AD 1834; A good portion of this township is wet prairie or in other words entirely a marsh...denotes a country destitute of any inducement to invite the Emigrant to locate there. In many places it is difficult to tell where the bed of the Kankakee River is placed. Such is the unfavorable aspect of the country that I cannot in justice give more flattering character and keep within bounds of all matters pertaining to fact²². The river and area along the river in Lake Township were the receiving waters of the upstream deepening and straightening river projects till the Williams Ditch was completed.

In the July 13, 1916, issue of the *Newton County Enterprise* it was reported that, "Like everything else in life the matter of ditching is often commenced at the wrong end of the stream, and the trouble of one person, or class of persons, is merely transferred to the shoulders of others. Flanking Kankakee River lies thousands of acres of land in Newton, Jasper, Lake and Porter Counties the productiveness of which depends on a better drainage system. At Momenca, just west of the state line, is a stone ledge that operates to dam the Kankakee River into a sluggish stream with little fall. Instead of starting an action to remove this rock ledge and thus permit the river to perform its functions properly, the property owners affected backed up towards the rivers source and began operations. A straightening and deepening of the river from a point north of Jasper County to near the Lake-Lincoln township line in this county, known as the Marble Ditch, is now under construction. With the Momenca rock ledge damming the stream the Marble improvement can result in nothing more than dumping the water a little quicker and in greater volume down on the lands at the west end of the stream in this county. This fact led to the proposition of carrying the improvement on to the state line and is known as the Williams Ditch."

The original meandering route of the river downstream in Illinois became the receiving waters of the river project in Indiana once the last segment of the entire project in Indiana was completed just 100 years ago.

Footnotes: 1. Williams Ditch Drainage Record Book, Page 315; 2. Circuit Court Drainage Record Book #2, Page 101; 3. Williams Ditch Drainage Record Book, Page 1; 4. Williams Ditch Drainage Record Book, Page 61; 5. Circuit Court Drainage Record Book #2, Page 123; 6. Circuit Court Drainage Record Book #2, Page 137; 7. Circuit Court Drainage Record Book #2, Page 138; 8. Circuit Court Drainage Record Book #2, Page 302; 9. Circuit Court Drainage Record Book #2, Page 311; 10. Williams Ditch Drainage Record Book, Page 3; 11. Williams Ditch Drainage Record Book, Page 61; 12. Williams Ditch Drainage Record Book, Page 64; 13. Williams Ditch Drainage Record Book, Page 315; 14. Newton County 5-mile Drainage Record Book #2, Page 74; 15. Newton County 5-mile Drainage Record Book #2, Page 74; 16. Marble Ditch Record Book, Page 1 (Jasper County); 17. Marble Ditch Record Book, Page 2 (Jasper County); 18. Marble Ditch Record Book, Page 7 (Jasper County); 19. April 16, 1914, Newton County Enterprise; 20. Marble Ditch Record Book, Page 3 (Jasper County); 21. Marble Ditch Record Book, Page 3 (Jasper County); 22. Original GLO Survey Record Surveyors Report T31N R9W Pgs. 184/185.

Orphan Trains Passing Through Newton County

By Terry Lyons

Between the years 1854 and 1929, an estimated 250,000 children were sent by train from New York and Boston to the west. These children were often living on the streets of those cities or in orphanages living in harsh conditions. Charles Loring Brace, the founder of the Children's Aid Society, began what was to become the Orphan Train Movement. Brace stated that, "The best asylum for the outcast child is the farmer's home. The great duty is to get these children of unhappy fortune utterly out of their surroundings and to send them away to kind Christian homes in the country."

The term orphan train is a bit misleading. Children were not always orphans. Any child in the welfare system or were imprisoned were subject to being sent west. Hazel Latimer, an Orphan Train rider, talked about the moment she was selected:

"When she (the matron) came to me, I looked up. I said, I can't go. I'm not an orphan. My mother's still living. She's in a hospital right here in New York. The matron stated, 'You're going to Texas. No use arguing.'"

The rail junction in Kentland was a major transit for both the west and southwest. At least one of these Orphan Trains passed through Newton County if not many more. The reason that I make this statement goes back ten years ago when my wife Sandra and I entered the genealogy of the Lyons family into our computer. It was a long and tedious task that gave me a better knowledge of the work that my family compiled in the 1980s. One fact struck me as odd was that a man named John McCabe had married into the family and he was born in New York City in 1855. There are no other members of our family being tied to New York City before or since that time.

While visiting the Riverside Cemetery in Brook, I came across the grave of John McCabe. The date of birth and death matched, but Jennie Conn was listed as his wife. I recalled that this was the same man that had puzzled me ten years ago. Further research answered my questions. John McCabe had come to Newton County on an orphan train. The "History of Newton County, 1985" contains a history of John McCabe written by Carl E. Sell.

Mr. Sell tells of John's father's service in the Civil War and how John came to be on an orphan train. "In April of 1863 John's father, Thomas McCabe enlisted in the Union Navy and served on blockade duty on the USS Roanoke, an ironclad site of the Merrimac. The mother, Ann McCabe, was unable to care for her child in these war times so placed him in the care of the city Public Charities Board. After five months in the poor house with other destitute children, the Children's Aid Society arranged for his transport on an orphan train."

Newton County was not a dropping off point for orphans, eight-year-old John had escaped from the train. He was found cold, hungry, and tired walking the tracks near Kentland. John was taken in by several families and learned the livestock business. It has been said that John received instruction at Duffy's College and was hired on to the Duffy Ranch. He married Margaret E. Lyons, a cousin of Aaron Lyons, in December of 1878. She died in 1894 and John was remarried in 1897 to Jennie Conn.

Like Hazel Latimer, John McCabe's mother was still living when he was sent west on the orphan train. Mr. Sell records that John tried in vain to find out about the fates of his mother and father. Records do show that John's father died while serving on the USS Roanoke near Hampton Roads. John McCabe lived to the age of 91 passing in 1947 at the home of his daughter in Goodland.

As Newton County was not a stop for the Orphan Train Movement, it is quite possible that John McCabe could be the only member of our community to have rode on such a train. A quarter of a million children were placed in the Orphan Train Movement while it operated. John McCabe found a quite different life in Newton County than he would have had in New York City. The goodness of the families that took John in, educated him, provided a loving home, gave our community a hardworking man who raised his own family. Overcoming the fear and sadness of his youth, John McCabe raised six children and lived a fruitful and rich life by escaping an orphan train passing through Newton County.

Since beginning this article I have learned that others may have also escaped or arrived by the Orphan Trains while passing through Newton County. The National Orphan Train Complex in Concordia Kansas is an excellent resource for information on riders. They can be reached at info@orphantraindepot.org. There may be a fee for inquiries.

Editor's note: Thanks to Terry for researching this topic, as it has come up several times over the years by our society members.

Iroquois County, Illinois

From the "History of Iroquois County," we find this note:

"Various stops by the orphan trains were made in towns throughout Iroquois County, Illinois. One stop was made in Milford where two little boys got off and were given homes. When the train stopped in Watseka, one little boy of nine years walked to Kentland, and was given a home. Other children found homes in Sheldon, Gilman, Watseka and Woodland." This little nine year old boy may be the same John McCabe in Terry Lyons' family tree.

John Higgins

One of the earliest pioneers in Newton County was a young lad named John Higgins. John was born April 24th, 1849, in Brooklyn, New York, a son of Michael and Julia Higgins, of Irish descent. At the age of seven he was left an orphan and for three years lived in the institution of the Children's Aid Society of New York City on Randall's Island, New York.

In the autumn of 1860, with two carloads of other orphans, he was brought to Lafayette, Indiana, where they were distributed among the people. Samuel Bramble, a merchant in Kentland, took Mr. Higgins into his home. He arrived in Kentland in November 1860. John would

join Newton County's 51st Indiana Volunteer Regiment - Company B as their drummer boy and return to the county to live a long and prosperous life. His biography can be found in the Fall 2002 *Newcomer*.



John McCabe



Newton County Orphans

Though the ad below that appeared in the April 26, 1875 edition of the Kentland Gazette is rather disturbing for readers today, this was the best way for a guardian to find a family for children who became orphans due to drastic circumstances.

This could be the case of the Dun children mentioned in the ad. If anyone has any further information, please email us at newtonhs@ffn.com.

Notice.
Bids will be received until May 1st, 1875, by the undersigned, for the maintenance of the following named orphan children for one year: Joseph Dun, aged 8 years; Alvin Dun, aged 6 years; Marion Dun, aged 4 years; Noah Dun, aged 2 years. I reserve the right to reject all bids.
SAMUEL LONG,
Trustee Jackson Township.

Historian's Corner

Harold Douglas Zantop, Sr. by *Newton County Historian Diana Elijah*

I would like to honor my friend Harold Douglas Zantop, Sr., aka Hal, in my column this time. He was a member of our society and a good friend to me and my family. Hal passed in 2021, and I have many fond memories of our time together.

I am part of the Amway/Network 21 business community, as are my daughter Elaine and her husband Tom – and so was Hal. In fact, it was my daughter who introduced me to Hal at one of our meetings. She knew that I was ready to begin dating again and that Hal was divorced. Thinking we would make a good pair at one meeting she told Hal, "I've got someone you need to meet. And by the way, it's my mother!"

Elaine passed along my contact information and relayed the conversation with Hal to me, so I patiently waited for his call. Hal was living in Martinsville and I in Mt. Ayr. With his first call our friendship began.

Life sometimes has a way of hesitating actions of others, and in this case it did for Hal. He lost his son Don in a diving accident that came as a surprise. But on his return home to Martinsville, he stopped and visited with me. I was introduced to his family on Thanksgiving Day in 2010. Forty-five of them. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and spending time with Hal and his family, and in return he with mine.

Hal and I travelled twice to Hawaii on working vacations with Network 21 and a variety of other destinations. He would join us at the Historical Society meetings, in particular "Fun Friday", and shared his life and times with the group.

For over 10 years we shared the good and the bad times life throws in your path, and I have great memories to carry with me today of my friend Hal.

Obituary

Harold was born August 14, 1934, in the little village of Parma, Michigan. His parents were Alma (Wilkenson) and Howard Zantop. He grew up in the Parma United Church and the town school system, graduating as Valedictorian of his class. His favorite reading material for many years was the Parma News, keeping up with his former classmates and neighbors.

As a Michigan State Spartan, he became a member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity and the ROTC. His transition to the US Air Force took him to Texas A&M for a master's degree in Meteorology. Weather forecasting for the pilots was a joy for him. Most of his years in the Air Force were at Langley Air Force Base. Coming home to the family



Hal and Diana, 2019

business, he worked at Zantop Air Transport which later became Zantop International Airlines at the Willow Run Airport near Ypsilanti, Michigan.

He and his wife Barbara (Bobbi) raised six children in their home in Allen Park, Michigan, where he was ordained as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He achieved his law degree in Michigan. As a member of Network 21 he met lifelong friends. For many years he served as Scout Master and mentored his boys to Eagle Scout. His daughters were the joy of his life.

Hal had 13 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 18 Zantop and Wilkinson cousins. His oldest son, Veterinarian Don Zantop preceded him in death. He leaves behind daughters Melissa and Melanie and sons David, Michael and Douglas. Also 3 sisters, Anne Cioffi, Linda Clark and Sandra Battle; and his partner of many years, Diana Elijah and her loving family of Morocco, Indiana. Hal passed away at Franciscan Hospital in Rensselaer on July 11, 2021. A local memorial service was officiated by the Rev. Wayne Williams where his daughters shared their memories. Hal lived in Martinsville before moving to Jasper and Newton Counties and was active in the Presbyterian Church there.



World Tour

In 1906 Goerge Ade, Newton County's famous author, playwright and humorist, John B. McCutcheon, also a famous author and newspaper man, and Carroll C. Kent, the county's foremost resident at that time and son of Alexander J. Kent, founder of Kentland enjoyed a world tour and are pictured here, left to right, riding camels in the Egyptian desert, just 12 miles outside Cairo. Two natives and a boy of that country are in the foreground. In the background is the famous Sphinx and one of the great pyramids.

A note on the back of the picture states they traveled via a good stone road to this sight, over a road which was built by Napoleon Bonaparte when he controlled Egypt; also, that there were palm trees at intervals along the road. *Originally printed in the Enterprise, 1969.*

Morocco's Catholic Church: The Sacred Heart Church

by Beth Bassett

Member Harold Martin spent many hours at our Resource Center in Kentland paging through the hard copies of the *Morocco Courier*. His roots were in the Beaver Township community of Morocco, and his family tree included several of the residents. When his fact-finding research was fulfilled, he set his mind to going through the social columns that appeared each week in the paper. He found many interesting tid-bits about the town and shared them with me over the years, leaving notes with references. On more than one occasion he asked about a Catholic church in Morocco. I didn't have anything on the subject, so his pursuits continued. As far as I know, he did not confirm that a Catholic church existed in Morocco.

While researching another subject in the *Ogle 1916 Atlas of Newton County*, on the town of Morocco, I discovered a Catholic Church marked on the corner of Main Street and Indiana Avenue! Oh, how I wished I could share this with Harold. After making several inquiries and further research I uncovered some history, but not much.

I reached out to Larry Holderly, who at the time was doing extensive research on the oldest homes in Newton County, (a list of which is available at the Resource Center), and asked him if he could locate any information at the courthouse. And, thanks to him we have this information:

**Morocco Catholic Church
Larry Holderly Research**

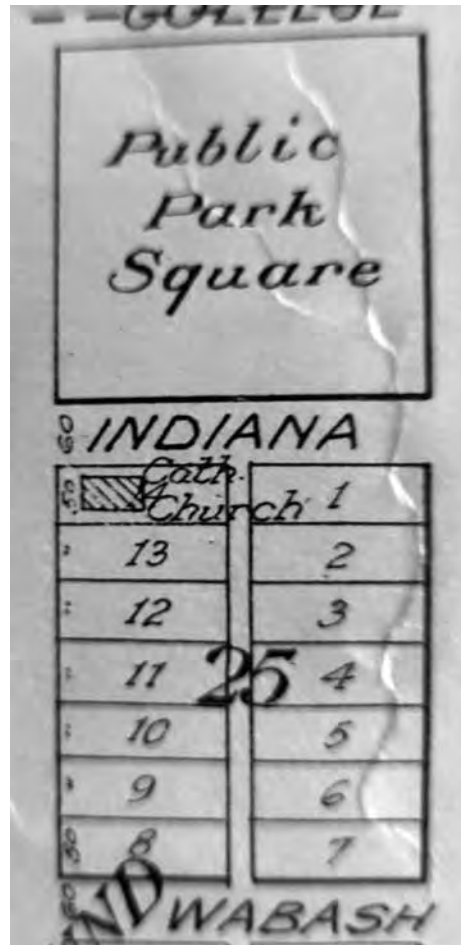
"According to the land record books in the Newton County Auditor's office Lydia A. Deardurff and her husband Christian C. Deardurff conveyed the property, Lots 13 and 14 of Block 25 in the Fairground Addition of Morocco, to Right Reverend Joseph Radamacher, The Roman Catholic Bishop of Ft. Wayne, for \$215.00 on November 4, 1898, recorded in the Deed Record book 39 on page 599. Right Reverend Herman J. Alberding, Catholic Bishop of Ft. Wayne, conveyed the property to John Dowling for \$600 on October 22, 1919, recorded in the Deed Record book 58 on page 255."

Background History

Wikipedia tells us that Bishop Joseph Rademacher (1840-1900), pictured right, served as Bishop of Nashville, TN (1883-1893) and Bishop of Ft. Wayne, IN (1893-1900). He was known as a mild and approachable leader. In early 1899, he was disabled by a stroke and died at the age of 59 in the St. Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago.



Bishop Joseph Rademacher.



Ogle's 1916 Plat of the Town of Morocco revealed the location of the Morocco Catholic Church.

From information I received from Janice Cantrell of the Ft. Wayne Diocese Archives, in 1899 the Catholic Church in Morocco was named the Sacred Heart Church. From February 1898 until October 1900, Rev. F. Joseph Bilstein had charge of Morocco during his pastorate at St. Anthony's. He built the church, and at the time the congregation numbered three families, or fourteen souls.

Morocco was attended from St. Anthony's until Goodland received a resident pastor, when it became a mission attached to Goodland, attended by Rev. I. F. Zircher in 1907.

Janet recommended that I contact the Goodland church, as they would hold the records. I was directed to contact St. Augustine in Rensselaer, which I did, but did not receive a return call.

In the *Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Goodland history* published in the "History of the Town of Goodland and Grant Township, Newton County, Indiana, 1861-2014", I found:

"The sparsely settled Catholic families of this portion of Newton and northeastern Benton County from 1860 to 1870 were attended by intervals by Rev. Joseph Stephan, who resided at the Indian School, situated about one and one-half miles southwest of Rensselaer. During this time the home of Anthony Dehner in Benton County was used for the celebration of Holy Mass and the administration of the Sacraments. In 1870, Rev. Anthony Messman, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Kentland organized and constructed a parish on land donated by Anthony Dehner. It was located seven miles southeast of Kentland known as Dehner's Settlement. It was dedicated in 1870 and named in honor of St. Anthony, a tribute to Anthony Dehner who donated 5 acres for the church. Holy Mass was celebrated in the little white church, known as St. Anthony Parish, for the first time on the last Sunday of November 1881. Goodland was now attached to St. Anthony's as a mission."

The text continues, "Pastors of St. Anthony's continued twice a month to serve the Goodland Mission with Rev. F. Joseph Bilstein from February 16, 1896, until October 1900. At this time Morocco was added to St. Anthony's as a station. Rev. Gregory Zern, then served from October 1, 1900, until October 2, 1903. A new structure was built in Goodland during this time and on October 2, 1903, Rev. Zern became the resident pastor for Goodland with Morocco as a station. He remained until his death on August 27, 1905."



Transcription of St. Anthony marker: St. Anthony Cemetery. In the spring of 1861 Anthony Dehner settled in Benton County on this tract of land now known as Dehner Settlement. the Parish of St. Anthony was organized here April 24, 1869 by Rev. Anthony Messman. A Parish church was completed in 1870 and continued in use until 1921. Many who worshiped there rest in this ground. Erected A. D. 1985.

Social items from the February 28, 1913, *Morocco Courier* listed: "Father Zearger of Goodland conducted services at the Catholic Church Saturday."

The Goodland History added, "In May 1921, the St. Anthony mission was closed, and Dehner's Settlement became a mission of Goodland."

The church in Morocco was designed by Ft. Wayne Architect Chester Wetherhogg. An article from the Ft. Wayne Sentinel dated February 10, 1900, revealed his work on the building for the Morocco church. He may have had ties to the Ft. Wayne Roman Catholic Dioceses, which would explain the connection. In the article he states, "We are now putting in the interior decorations of the Catholic Church at Morocco, Indiana." His work in North Manchester and Ft. Wayne found online attest to his abilities. I can envision the Sacred Heart Church in Morocco as an elaborate structure.



Architect Charles Wetherhogg

Gerald Born's article in the *Morocco Times* dated 2013, "The Catholics Among Us," ties the Gorman and the Dowling families to the Morocco Sacred Heart Church.

I have in my possession a photo of the Dowling Saloon which Born used with his article, that was owned by John E. Dowling. He stated that the saloon was located where the former location of People's Drug Store. In the 1900 census of the Town of Morocco, we do indeed find John (noted James in census) listed with his wife Margaret (Maggie Meadows) and family with his occupation as Saloon owner. Listed with the family is Peter Gorman, age 28, as barkeeper.

This is, indeed, the same Dowling family who built the Morocco Sacred Heart Church. This is validated through the obituary of John's wife, Maggie from the *Morocco Courier*, who died in 1966 in Hammond, Indiana. It stated, "Mrs. Dowling was the widow of John Dowling, who died a number of years ago (1930) and was the founder of a Catholic Church here which was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt."

This brings us back to Holderly's land records. They show that the lots where the church stood in Morocco were sold to John Dowling in October 1919. This indicates that the Morocco Sacred Heart Church, was no longer an entity of the Ft. Wayne Diocese at that time. Perhaps the fire induced the Ft. Wayne Diocese to sell the land. Prohibition began in 1918, thus closing the doors of the saloon. John would relocate to Gibson, Indiana, in 1925, working for the New York Central Railroad.

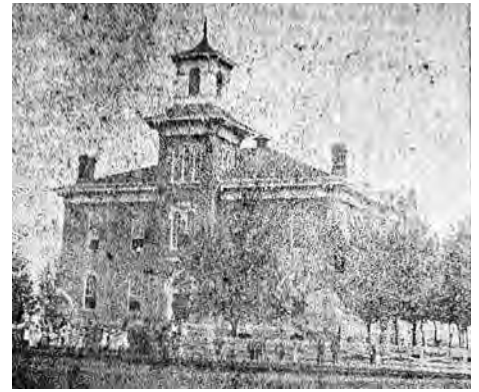
In the 1920 census of Morocco Gorman's occupation is listed as a Day Laborer. Some have said that the Klan burned the church - but I have found no evidence to validate that claim. They were very active in Newton County at that time but seems a rather drastic task for them, as they were welcomed into the communities. Editions of the *Morocco Courier* from the time do not exist and there isn't a mention of a fire in either the *Brook Reporter* or the *Newton County Enterprise* from 1918-1919.

The closing of the St. Anthony Mission in May of 1921 may have come about due to the demise of the Morocco Sacred Heart Church, a mission station of St. Anthony's.

The Dowling family members are buried in the St. Joseph Church cemetery in Kentland, so they must have joined that church.

So, a discovery on an old map created quite a big rabbit hole that I fell into, but the mystery regarding the existence of a Catholic church in Morocco has been resolved and a question answered, "Yes Harold, I do know something about it!"

Editor's note: If anyone has any further information, please forward it to us at newtonhs@ffni.com Special thanks to Larry Holderly for his help in tracing land transfer/deed records for the story.



Kentland School 1899

This was the first brick school building erected in Kentland. Located on North 1st street and built in 1871. The building burned January 15, 1902. It was presumed that an overheated furnace caused the fire which occurred at night completely destroying the building and its contents. The elementary grades and the high school were housed in the building. Following the fire, classes were conducted at the various local churches until a new building was erected at the exact location of the first one.

This photo was dated 1899, and appeared in the *Newton County Enterprise* in 1969.



Blood Donors and Officials: From left, Mr. John Connell, veteran blood donor, honored for donating two gallons of blood to the George Ade Memorial Hospital blood bank; Mr. Henry Hermanson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, GAMH; Mrs. Claude Beaty and Mr. Lloyd Molter, each a donor of one gallon of blood; Mrs. Helen Borman, George Ade Hospital Administrator. Originally published in the *Newton County Enterprise*, 1969.

Newton County Historical Mural Showcases Newton County History Officially Dedicated December, 2021

On December 3, 2021, the Newton County Historical dedicated their 100-ft. county historical mural, created by artist Rein Bontreger. The ribbon cutting ceremony was highlighted with the dedication of the mural to long-time members Rich and Janet Miller for their dedication to the preservation of Newton County history.

A crowd gathered around the completed mural that showcases historical places and people from all ten townships.

President Kay Babcock opened the ceremonies by welcoming everyone and thanking all those who were involved with the project. She then introduced project planner Barbara Wilfong who told of the process of creation.

“Late in 2020, in the heart of COVID, our organization was blessed with a very generous gift. With that in mind, a small group of our friends began dreaming out loud about the possible mural for Newton County – about Newton County.

“Even though our county is the youngest county in Indiana, we have an exciting story to tell, and we had the perfect spot for it. After careful thought and consideration, we came up with 30 places and things of historic value in Newton County, making sure all ten townships were represented. In February 2021, a survey was sent to officers, asking them to select their choices. From that survey, we started laying out the groundwork for the mural.”

To capture the spirit of local history and community conservation, we looked for a local artist to create the mural. After seeing the work of Rein Bontreger at Iroquois Park in Rensselaer, a former Newton County native, the committee unanimously agreed that he should be the artist. Rein did not hesitate –



The crowd listens as Barb Wilfong gives details of the creation of the mural and those who worked together on the committee. Community and family members listened intently.

accepting the challenge of working with the group. His talents, cooperation and knowledge brought the project to completion by the end of November 2021.

In conjunction with the wall a brochure was researched and designed by Beth Bassett and Janet Miller that explains the history of each item depicted on the wall. The brochure is available in the mailbox posted near the mural and inside the center. A QR code is also on the mural and reproduced that visitors can scan and read from our website the same information in the brochure.

The committee, unbeknownst to the Millers, decided to dedicate the mural to Rich and Janet Miller. Beth Bassett was honored to make the announcement. In her remarks she stated,

“A historian is a person who studies and writes about the past. Historians are all about accurate preservation, openly sharing their knowledge with their family and community. Newton County has been blessed throughout the centuries with a variety of historians. John Ade. William Darroch. Joe Hiestand, John Connell, John Yost. We must also include newspaper publishers who played their part as well – recording the everyday happen-

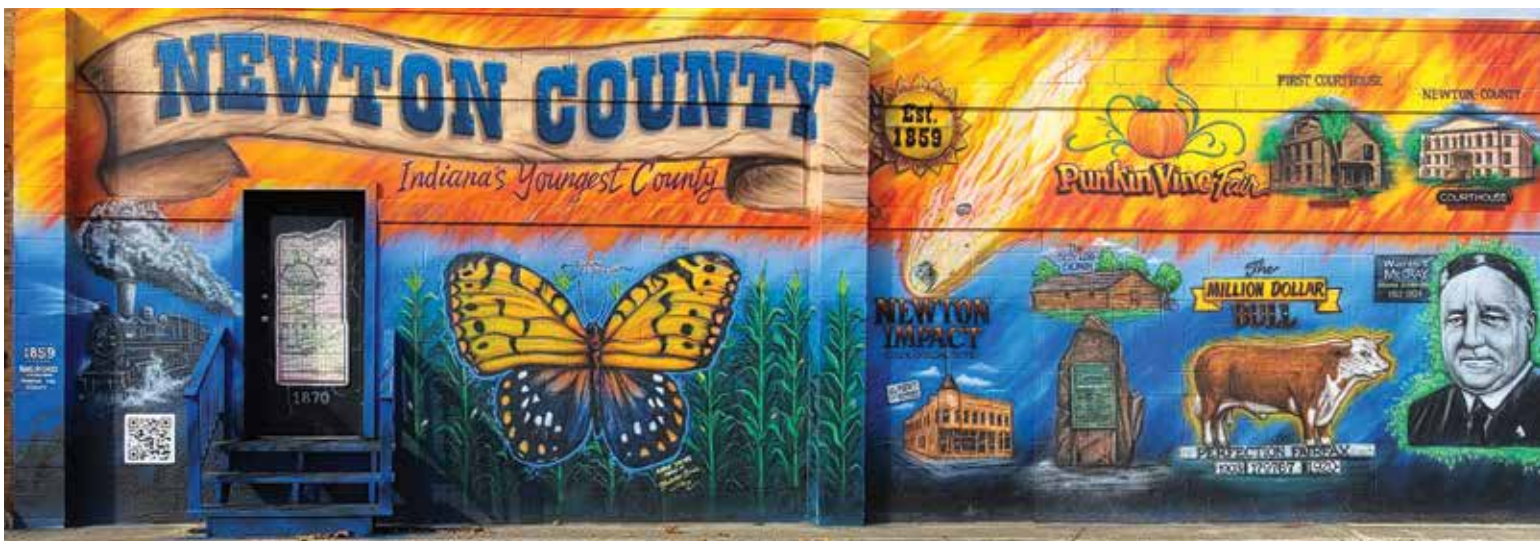
ings in each town through social notes and community events; they published birth, wedding, and death notices, thus giving future generations an excellent resource for genealogical research.

“Historically, local staffs of the libraries and government offices do their best to provide curiosity seekers answers about their ancestors, homes, and communities. Where do you find historians today? When I was looking in 1998, I ventured to the Newton County Historical Society located at that time in the old LeBeau Jewelry Store in downtown Kentland. It was there that I met Janet Miller and her husband Rich for the first time. I found out that if you had a question about local people, places, or things – these two were the ones to ask first.

Am I right?

“Janet’s curiosity for Newton County history was as contagious as Covid 19. All it took was one sneeze and I caught the history bug. Rich – he had to have been born with his right hand coming out first crying “I can do that.”

“Let it be said that this pair are two of the greatest assets of the Newton County Historical Society.





Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Left-right: NCHS member Kyle Conrad, Artist Rein Bontreger; NCHS president Kay Babcock, Honorees Janet and Rich Miller; Project Planner Barbara Wilfong and Family History officer Beth Bassett hold the ribbon as Janet makes the cut to officially dedicate the mural.

“That is why it is my pleasure to officially dedicate this Historical Mural to Janet and Rich Miller – for their dedication in preserving Newton County History.

“The inscription on the plaque reads: Thank you, Rich, and Janet – and to all the historical society members over the decades who have preserved and continue to preserve the history of Newton County.”

Needless to say, the Millers were flabbergasted.

Historical society member Kyle Conrad then spoke of his association with the Millers over the years. He was part of the group that resurrected the inactive society in the early 1990s. At that time items of historic value were stored in a well-house at Hazelden. He related working with the Millers on moving to the downtown Kentland location and then finally acquiring a permanent home as part of the maintenance building owned by Newton County.

He also stated that Rich and Janet were motivators for the group to expand and grow, and have seen it through over the past years. He and the Millers are all that remain of the

initial group of historians.

Members of the committee included Barbara Wilfong, Judy Wirtz, Kay Babcock, Rich and Janet Miller, David and Darlene Truby and officers Susie Johnson, Diana Elijah, Sig Boezeman, and Russ Collins. This project reflects the best the Newton County

Historical Society, working together to preserve our local history.

Make sure you stop and pose in front of the depiction of the Regal Fritillary Butterfly on the mural. It is life-size and perfect for “selfies.”



Above, scan the QR code and it will take you to the detailed information about the mural.

Left: The dedication plaque presented to the Millers.



History of the Indiana State Police Post Kentland 3B

by Beth Bassett

The November 2021 program for the society was a presentation on Indiana State Police Post Kentland 3B which operated in Kentland from 1956 to 1969.

Member Glen Cothran introduced Sgt. Fifield, the Lowell District 13 Public Information Officer, who presented the program. A 25-year veteran of the Indiana State Police, he along with several local ISP veterans, shared memories of their work in the district and in particular life as a trooper based out of the Kentland Post.

Retired officer Larry Bartley was assigned to Kentland in 1964. "When I arrived at about 8 a.m. that night, all of the troopers they had were there to greet us. They only had four troopers," he recalled. "There were four of us who came in, and they welcomed us with open arms. They immediately went home and got uniforms for us to wear because we didn't have uniforms. We got our gun belt and our gun and nothing else. We were still wearing our grays."

The troopers in 1964 consisted of two sergeants, a detective, four troopers and one radio operator. This allowed for only two troopers for Newton, and one each for Benton and Jasper. By the time the base closed in 1969, there were six troopers assigned to each of the three counties. The reason Newton had two troopers was due to the dangerous stretch of U. S. 41 through the county.

Local attorney Dan Blaney, son of Clay Blaney who was the local Justice of the Peace during the era of the Kentland Post, related his interactions with the policeman at the time. Retired officer Dave Lindlow related his time spent as a Chief of Investigation, working mainly with Don Hartman of Kentland on the numerous marijuana raids through out the county and the investigation of four bodies found in the Lake Village area left behind by serial killer Larry Eiler.

Bartley told the group that Newton County had a world-wide reputation for criminal investigations. He described how the Newton County Highway discovered a box alongside the road in the northwest part of the county that they thought was a toolbox. Upon opening, they discovered a skeleton. This case would become known as "The Lady in the Box," a documentary aired on the A&E channel. Bartley and then coroner Pat Caldwell successfully identified the skeletal remains, and in time her husband was prosecuted and set to prison for life.

Bartley also mentioned the infamous Spilatro brothers discovery in McClellan Township and how a movie was made from that investigation.

Glen Cothran mentioned ISP officer Doug Buck. In 1960 he was promoted to Indianapolis. He became a handwriting expert and his skills were utilized in several court cases.



Left-right, Dave Lindlow, Larry Bartley, Sgt. Glen Fifield.

Ultimately it would be the improvements of radio technology that would be the demise of Kentland Post 3B. When communication improved, the Governor Whitcomb's economy taskforce once again down-sized the number of posts, but did not eliminate any of the troopers or other personnel.

It was a very informative evening for the society, and you can view the video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/I1OzCA7K1U4>. You can also locate the link on the timeline of our facebook page: Historical Newton In.

Indiana State Police Kentland Post 3B

In July 1956, it was announced that members of the state police board inspected the new building located on U.S. 41, north of US 24 would be activated about August 1st, known as the Kentland Post 3B of the Indiana State Police. Sgt. Marshall Wagoner of Monticello would be in charge and others assigned to the post were Sgt. Detective Gene Turnpaugh, Corp. Alfred Apple, and Corp. Edward Harger. Turnpaugh and Apple had been working out of the Dunes Park post and Harger from Lafayette.

Kentland Post 3B would serve Benton, Newton and Jasper counties attached to the Lafayette district under Lt. Erwin J. Rhoda. The new location was part of the state-wide decentralization program intended to improve service to the public.

A modern style prefabricated building, it was thought to be the one of the best of the

newer buildings in the state, with a clear view of U.S. 24 and Hwy. 41. Contents included offices, radio, two bedrooms, showers, closets, toilets, garage, kitchenette, and large parking area. The installation of the aerial tower would initiate the official opening of the post.

The total cost of the building including the \$4,000 tower and furnishings was \$48,000, with the building proper costing \$30,000.

Kentland Post 3B's history is filled with accident investigations, patrols, aid to stranded motorists, criminal investigations, and a fight for highway safety. During the snowstorm of 1967, the post housed more than 1000 stranded motorists throughout the community. The post also maintained communications between troopers, post officials, and between Indiana and Illinois. The post officially opened on August 1, 1956 and was decommissioned on July 1, 1969.

In 1969, base operations were carried on by a seven-man force: E. A. Linkins, R. Block, D. Riely, K. Richcreek and A. Levy, who were in command; H. McNelly and M. Mahoney operated the radio. Stenographers at the station were Ruth Reuter and D. Byrd.

A 16-man force of troopers patrolled a three-county area in 1969. They were L. Bartley, Kentland; M. Dexter, Fowler; P. Dwigans, Rensselaer; I. Finch, Kentland; J. Graves, Remington; R. Janssen, Fowler; J. Kesterson, Fowler; W. Krueger, DeMotte; D. Landes, Boswell; J. Lynch, DeMotte; J. Neal, Kentland; J. Steel, Fowler; C. Tyner, Brook; J. Wallace, DeMotte; J. Wilder, Remington; and G. Wilkerson, Kentland. The closing of the post did not affect their positions.

Commander Sgt. E. A. Linkins stated in an *Enterprise* article about the closing, "You do the same things, but no two things are done the same. Every day is different." He continued, "As far as routine goes, the trooper gets in his car at a certain time. The interim between the two is filled with any number of occurrences. Vaguely, his 10 hours on duty





Sgt. Linkin's at his station in the Kentland post. NCE Staff Photo 1969.



Indiana State Police Patrol car. NCE Staff Photo 1969.

is crammed with an average of three enforcement contacts, one service to a motorist, four accident investigations a month, and an hour set aside daily for written reports. He drives approximately 200 miles daily."

The *Enterprise* article dated June 24, 1969, accounted the daily activities of the post over the past 13 years of existence. The troopers handled daily burglaries, car thefts, vandalism cases, and marijuana cuttings. Sgt. Linkins said, "the biggest thing coming off now (August 1969), is the marijuana cuttings. This is the marijuana capital of the country." In 1968 one of the largest seizures

of processed marijuana (\$650,000 worth) in the nation was captured here.

Under a long-range reorganization plan outlined by Gov. Edgar Whitcomb's econ-

omy task force determined closing the post was economically sound. However, there would be no change in the police coverage. Benton County became part of Lafayette Post 3;
Continued on page 14 >

| Trooper | Residence | Misc. |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Alfred Apple | Kentland | (1916-1982) |
| Herb Burnworth | Remington | |
| Daryl M. Ford | Rensselaer | Trooper in Rensselaer for 23 yrs, retiring in 1968. Served as Rensselaer mayor from 1970-72. (1913-1988) |
| Doug Buck | Morocco | Transferred to Headquarters. (1923-2018) |
| Gene Turnpaugh | Morocco | |
| Al Levy | Brook/Delphi | State Trooper 1960-67; Sgt. In charge of vehicles until 1974; transferred to the Laboratory Division as a CSI and Evidence Technician until retiring 1990. Co-founder of the Tippecanoe County Arson Task Force. (1936-2015) |
| Kenny Richcreek | Morocco | Retired in 1975, continued to work as Private Investigator. (1930-2012) |
| Ivan Finch | Kentland | 1933-2005 |
| John Neal | Kentland | First trooper assigned to the Kentland Post; Assisted in the building/construction. |
| Richard P. Block | Morocco | 1968 promoted to Sgt. |
| Carl Tyner | Francesville | |
| Gary Wilkerson | Kentland | |
| Gene Kilburn | Morocco | |
| Larry Bartley | Kentland | Later moved to Fair Oaks |
| Jerry Hole | Remington | |
| Jim Lynch | Remington | |
| Jim Graves | Remington | Transferred to Headquarters |
| Basil Ave | DeMotte | |
| Larry Parker | Rensselaer | |
| Jack Steele | Fowler | |
| Lyle Dean Ruley | Fowler | |
| Charles Berwick | Fowler | |
| Marvin Dexter | Boswell | 1936-1997 |
| Randy Janson | Oxford | |
| Ed Likens | Attica/Transferred Kentland | F/Sgt. Just before post closed |
| Ed Harger | Kentland/Transferred Lafayette | |
| Max Hunter | Morocco/Valpo-Boone Grove | Worked at Dunes Park Post until he was drafted. After returning home he had been wounded and walked with a limp, so he was placed into dispatch and worked the rest of his career as a dispatcher on Trooper's pay. |

Post 3B Accolades

The Project 41 campaign was held statewide from June 1968-June 1969. It was successful to the point that there was a decrease in fatalities and personal injuries, but an increase in property damage. Each trooper's car was equipped with Visual Average Speed Computer and Recorder, (VASCAR), which enabled a trooper to determine the rate of speed of any approaching or passing automobile. The local post patrolled areas where accidents were most frequent. This helped decrease the fatalities that occurred along what was identified locally as "Bloody 41/Killer 41."

The ISP assisted the local towns with bicycle safety programs.

The Kentland Post 3B received the Governor's Safe Driving Trophy for three consecutive years, 1963-65. It was awarded for the post with the most accident-free miles per year for all motorist personnel. They also received numerous marksmen shooting awards.

14 The Newcomer

> Continued on from 13

Newton County part of the Schereville Post and Jasper County under the Dunes District Post 1.

Lafayette gained the services of the seven-man force which handled the base operations, while the 16-man force of troopers in the three counties will remained in place. A new detective spot was created in Lafayette to replace the Kentland spot.

Community Seeks to Void Post Closing

By early July 1969, the community presented Newton County Judge Newell Lamb with a petition signed by 1400 Newton County citizens protesting the closing of Kentland Post 3B. After hearing witness testimonies, Lamb entered an order enjoining Gov. Whitcomb, the Superintendent of State Police, and the State Police Board from closing State Police Post 3B. The injunction would delay closing the post until August 1, giving the interested parties ample opportunity to have a full hearing.

Judge Lamb at the time was the chairman of the Indiana State Bar Association committee on legal ethics, disqualified himself from acting further to avoid the appearance of bias on his part in the determination of the case. However, he stated, "that the preservation of law and order in the area depended upon existence of a proper police facility and radio communication as it existed at the time."

The plaintiffs in the case were: Walt Miller, Newton County Commissioner; Eugene Turnpaugh, Newton County Recorder; Roger White, Justice of the Peace, Washington Township; Alfred Thomas, Kentland Pharmacist; Harry Mitten, President of the Goodland Bank; and Kedrick Fisher, Superintendent of South Newton School Corporation. They were represented by attorney Edward Kelly of West Lafayette.

The suit alleged that the shut-down would endanger the lives of area residents because U.S. 41 on which the post is located is one of the most dangerous highways in Indiana and known as "Killer 41."

It was pointed out that before this radio facility was erected, officers had to drive 15-20 miles north to establish contact with other officers. This would contribute to a loss of life because of the time element.

Within a week, Starke County Judge Marvin McLaughlin denied the temporary injunction and dissolved a restraining order keeping the post open. The post officially closed on August 1, 1969.

Thanks to Everyone

Sgt. Fifield presented the society with a photo of troopers in front of the Lafayette Post, and a copy of a photograph of Kentland Post 3B.

Special shout-out to Larry Bartley for providing a list of the ISP officers who served at the Kentland Post.



Aerial view of Kentland Post 3B. Photo given to society by Sgt. Fifield.



F/Sgt. Marshall E. Wagoner



Cpl. Alfred L. Apple



Cpl. Edgar B. Harger



Sgt. (Det.) Eugene E. Turnpaugh



ACRM Maurice Moody



Tpr. Richard P. Block



Tpr. Herbert L. Burnworth



Tpr. Ivan D. Finch



Tpr. Daryl M. Ford



Tpr. Lewis Glassburn



Tpr. Jimmy P. Lanman



Tpr. John H. Neal



Tpr. Kenneth Richcreek



Tpr. Jack Steele

These photographs of the post and troopers was published in the 1960 Kentland Centennial book, four years after the post opened.

Ann McPhail Poetry

Gretchen (Hunter) Swallow sent copies of three poems that were published by her Morocco High School English teacher, Ann Younger McPhail in the 1959, 1961 and 1964 *National Poetry Anthologies*.

1959 - Friendship's Chain

I'll add a charm of told today
To the fine chain I mean to wear,
This charm, a friend I found some way,
Someone who calls on me to dare
To strive to do and be the best.

Her voice a lyric tone, appeals
To all, and soothes the jagged nerves,
Indo my soul its echo steals,
And tinkles like the charm it serves,
I'll have it anchored fast to stay.

And as I touch this metal piece,
Something within springs a release,
I'm conscious of much-needed grace,
And upward rise, if but a pace.
This lovely charm means a dear friend.

1961 - A Christmas Prayer

On this, the birthday of the fair Christ Child,
Look down upon this world filled with distress,
They people who have strayed far in the wild,
Kind Father, lead them back into the fold.

The shepherd watched his sheep by day and night,
We pray that Thou will lead the lost aright,
Grant that compassion bring to all redress,
Let Christmas be more than the silver bell,
Or idle greetings that the foolish tell,
Let Christmas mean to share with those in need,
And love Thy children everywhere, we plead.

1964 - If

If I could, I'd bring warm clothes and shoes
For those whose blood is chilled and cold,
Whose homes are poorly built and old,
For those quite poor I'd gladly buy.

If I could, I'd ease the sadden heart
Of those who think that no one cares,
Who idly sit and blankly stare,
I'd like to give them hope and faith.

If I could, I'd bring a smile again
To tear stained eyes and sunken cheek
Support the weary and the meek,
I'd feel that I had done some good.

If I could, I'd ease the suffering,
Relieve the pain that come at night,
So they'd rejoice at morning light,
Sing praises for the joyous day.
If I could, all these I'd daily do,
I know t'would help both them and me,
From personal thoughts I would be free,
And life for them would hold some glee.



New Morocco Football Team Photo Published 1969 Newton County Enterprise

During 1919 and early 1920s Morocco could boast a professional football team. Pictured above is the 1919 team just before game time in a contest with Company L American Legion of Kankakee, IL. The game was played at Electric Park, an amusement park at Kankakee, where the picture was taken. This group played professional football for four years. Shown here, back row: Burdette Archibald, Leonard Carlson, Glen Murphey, Vane Smith, Ora Hough, Raymond Rust, Ansel Webber, Ernest Purkey, Elmer Russell, Alvin Bell. Front row: John Ringer, Russell Beagley, Sydney Carlson, Clifton Henricks, James Moore, Hobart Cook, and Clifford Dunlap.



Smith Livery and Feed Stable, Morocco, 1908

This photo was taken about 1908 showing the Philip Sherman Smith Livery and Feed Stable which was located in downtown Morocco where the Storey Implement was situated. One of the leading establishments in the area under Mr. Smith's ownership and management, the business was a popular place. He kept up-to-date carriages, had the only hearse in this vicinity and was one of the first to establish an auto livery.

There were at least 20 head of horses for hire with buggies, carriages, sleighs, a two seated surrey with the fringe on top, also a big coach and picnic hack. An elevator was used to move vehicles to the second floor when not in use. Mr. Smith is shown center front holding one of his teams while another is held by employee Ernest Strickler. The team being held by Smith was used always on the horse-drawn hearse; so that everything would be totally black, the white star on the horses head was painted black on the occasion of a funeral. On the extreme left, and in cases of fire, the town water wagons were permitted to fill here.

The barn was closed by Mr. Smith in 1915 when the automobile became the popular mode of travel. The building was torn down in 1925. The picture was loaned to the *Enterprise* by Milton Storey and information furnished by Philip Vane Smith, Morocco, son of the late Mr. Smith. *Originally published in the November 13, 1969 Enterprise.*

Home Is Where Your Story Begins

Oris V. Brandt and His Brandt Family by Beth Bassett

Finally Home

One of Newton County's finest returned home in 2021.

His journey was a long one – but Oris is home.

On September 13, 2021, his remains were interred at the Oakland Cemetery in Morocco, next to his parents Edward J. and Letha (Miller) Brandt. The families hopes that one day he would return were fulfilled.

Oris gave his life in service of his country on December 7, 1941, during the bombing of Pearl Harbor on the USS Oklahoma. While

moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The ship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Seaman First Class Brandt, age 20.



From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uauu Cemeteries. In September 1947, members of the American Graves Registration Service disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. In 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as nonrecoverable, including Brandt.

In April 2015, advances in forensic techniques promoted reexamination of unknown remains associated with the Oklahoma. Oris Brandt's remains were eventually identified on February 20, 2019, by using the DNA that

his brother Carlin donated to the project.

Unfortunately, Carlin passed away (2015) before knowing that his efforts were successful.

Nearly 80 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor, First Class Seaman Brandt's remains were laid to rest with full military honors alongside his mother and father in Oakland Cemetery in Morocco.

The United States flag flew high and proudly over the entrance of the cemetery on the warm September day, hoisted by the ladder truck of the Lake Township Fire Department.

Members of the Newton County American Legion Posts stood side-by-side with local and visiting veterans lined up to honor Brandt as his casket was carried by members of the U.S. Navy.

Oris' nephew, Col. Keith E. Brandt accepted the American flag that draped his casket for the family. Keith along with his wife, daughter and granddaughter attended the ceremonies.

Community members wiped tears and shared memories of Oris amongst themselves. Oris and his parents now rest in peace.

The Brandt Family

Christian Ludwig Brandt (1847-1910)

Although the family line of the Brandt family found at ancestry.com owned by Robert Brandt begins with Jens Jensen Yde, (1618-1688) who married M. Christendatter, (1610-1688), we will begin with the Newton County family line of Christian Brandt.

Christian Ludwig Brandt Yde was born December 3, 1847, in Aalborg, Denmark, one of four children born to Nicolai and Ellen Maria (Frederickson) Brandt Yde. His father followed farming in his native country all his life, passing away in 1856 in Jerslev, Hjorring, Denmark.

Christian at the age of fourteen, began working by the month on a farm, continuing until 1868, when he came to Iroquois County, Clifton, Illinois. The surname "Yde" was too difficult for Americans to pronounce, so



The United States flag flew high at the cemetery entrance in honor of Brandt's arrival.



Oris' nephew, Col. Keith E. Brandt accepted the American flag that draped his casket.



Oris Brandt's casket bears his photo.



Members of the Newton County American Legion Posts stood side-by-side with local and visiting veterans lined up to honor Brandt as his casket was carried by members of the U.S. Navy. Ceremony photos by Beth Bassett

he adopted part of his given name "Brandt" as a surname. Later when his brothers Bertel Alfred and Frederick Peter and his mother, Ellen Maria Yde, came to America, they became known by the surname "Brandt" also. A sister, Bartoline, remained in Denmark, where she married and raised two sons.

In March 1879, he moved to Lake Village, Indiana, and in 1882, purchased 320 acres in Section 29 of Lake Township, Newton County. His mother resided with him and his family there, and brothers Alfred and Peter were not far away.

Christian was a member of the Lutheran Church and was united in marriage to Ane Sophia Christensen (1847-1883) in 1869. They had six children, Ellen (1871-1957); Christian "Christopher" Martinus (1872-1955); Winthrop "Winnie" Peter (1876-1947); Lorena Josephine (1878-1966) and Edward "Ed" Johannas (1881-1966); two died in infancy. His wife Ane passed away in 1883, and in 1884 he then married Louise K. Johnson (1863-1944). Their children were Frank Alvin (1884-1950); Rosa (1886-1958); Herman Conrad (1888-1940); Henry Benjamin (1890-1972) and Mabel Sophia (1892-1933).

On August 7, 1910, Christian was assisting the threshers at his home and was in the act of driving his team and



Christian L. Brandt



Louise K. (Johnson) and Christian L. Brandt.

wagon under the grain spout of the threshing machine when the wagon came in contact with the machine, causing a sudden jar to the wagon. He was thrown to the ground with sufficient force to cause the dislocation of his spine, which caused paralysis of the body below his head. He died the following morning, although conscious until a short time before his death.

Christian was well-known, both socially and politically in the county affairs, having held repeatedly the office of Township Trustee and served as the Lake Village postmaster from 1889-1897. Over seventy carriages were in the procession to the Lake Village cemetery, where he was laid to rest.

Edward Johannas Brandt

The son of Christian and Ane was born on September 28, 1881, in Lake Village. He grew up on the farm in Lake Village, working alongside his father. By 1910, he had



Edward J. Brandt

moved to Morocco, residing in a boarding house owned by Frank Ainsworth, a local drayman, working at a feed mill. His brothers Christopher (Christian M.) and Herman C. are listed with him as boarders in the same household. By 1920, Edward is working as a railroad operator and has married Letha Lucinda Miller on August 6, 1919. Their first son, Oris Vernelle Brandt was born on February 16, 1921, in Rensselaer, Indiana. Their second son, Leo Carlin Brandt followed on March 13, 1924, born in Newton County.

In 1930, Edward had worked at least ten years as a railroad operator, now for the New York Central, and living in Washington Township. By 1940, he owned farmland in Jefferson Township, northeast of Kentland. Both sons were still living at home.

On November 23, 1957, Letha Brandt passed away. She was buried at Oakland Cemetery in Morocco. Edward remained on the farm and served as the Newton County Recorder for eight years. In 1961 he moved to New Castle, Indiana to live with his son Carlin. On October 31, 1966, at the age of 85, Edward passed away in New Castle. He is



Sons of Christian Brandt, l-r: Henry, Herman, Frank, Edward, Winnie, and Christopher.

buried alongside Letha at Oakland Cemetery in Morocco.

Oris Vernelle Brandt

Oris graduated from Kentland High School in 1939. He excelled in athletics as a part of the football team, served as Captain of the basketball squad and participated in track. He was a six-year member of the band and held many class offices. He was named valedictorian of his class. Oris was an active member of the Brook United Brethren Church where he taught a Sunday school class. He was also a member of the K. of P. Lodge.

He enlisted in the U. S. Navy in March 1940, starting out at the Great Lakes Naval Station, then assigned to duty on the Pacific Ocean. On September 18, 1941, he was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma as a member of the anti-aircraft fire control team. Oris was killed in action during the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. The Kentland Hedrick-Brandt American Legion Post is co-named for Oris. His remains returned home in September, 2021 and were interred at Oakland Cemetery alongside his parents.

Leo Carlin Brandt

Carlin graduated from Kentland High School in 1942 while attending Purdue University, he was drafted and served in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Carlin was a forty-year Ag Teacher, 4-H and FFA leader at Eastern Hancock High School in New Castle, Indiana.

Leo Carlin Brandt



He was a member of the American Legion Post #137 at New Castle and the Commemorative Air Force.

Carlin married Mary Gabbard (1922-2014). They had two children, Mike and Col. Keith E. Brandt. Carlin passed away at the age of 91 in New Castle. He is buried at the Green Hills Memory Gardens there.

Editor's note: Thank you to Steinke Funeral home for the ceremony arrangements and posting the information regarding Oris' journey with his obituary; and thank you to the American Legion members and Lake Township Fire Department for their contributions.

Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - The following answers are about items at the Resource Center in Kentland. Questions on page 1



1. The exterior decorative window is originally from Morocco High School which was built in 1922. Donated by Scott Sisson.



4. This post office was located in the 100 block of North Third Street on the west side of the street. Desk donated by Marion Eller.



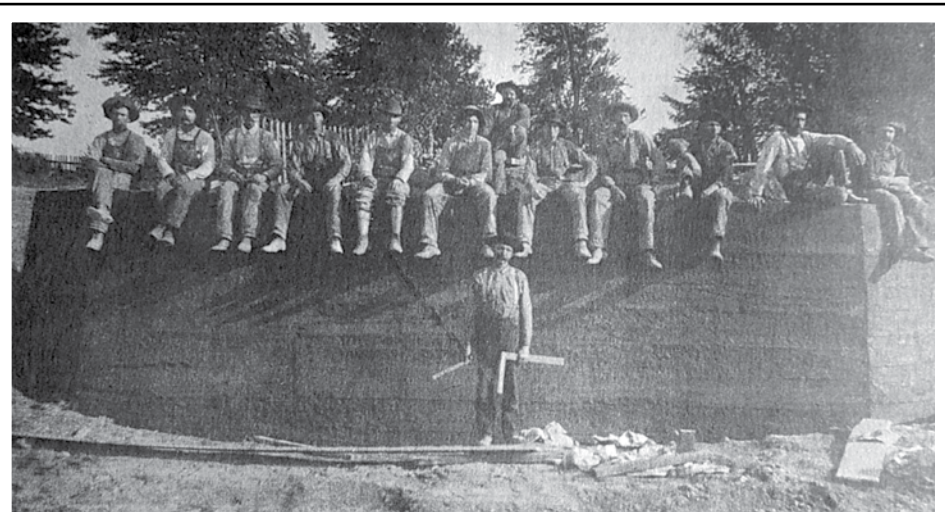
5. "Mr. Bones" is thought to be an actual skeleton of a Beaver Lake bandit. For many years he stood in the Morocco High School biology room. After that he could be found in Dr. Recher's office in Morocco. Donated by the LaCrosse family. Modesty cloth made by Darlene Truby.



2. Pilot Grove was located in Jackson Township. Trunk donated by JoAnn Grant.



3. The American Chestnut tree is located in Roselawn, Lincoln Township. These seeds were collected in 2006 upon discovery.



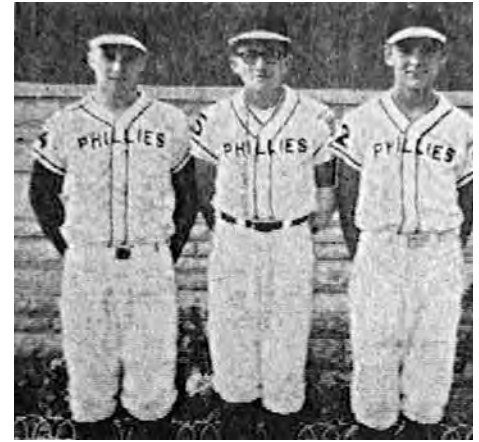
1905-06 Bridge Builders

The men pictured above were from the Morocco area and built many of the Newton County bridges still in use today (1969), including one river bridge, four bridges over Beaver Creek and the Jennie M. Conrad bridge in the north end of the county. When working on a bridge contract, because of slow transportation (horse-drawn vehicles), the workers sometimes lived in a tent on location during the week, going home to spend weekends with their families. One of the group would do the cooking.

In the early 1900s concrete was mixed on a wooden platform. The mixture was then taken by shovel-full and poured into wooden forms. Horses and scrapers were used for excavation, and one man pumped constantly to keep water from same. Sitting on the completed bridge abutment, l-r, George Webber, Jr., Charles Hagen, George Webber, Sr., Jesse Sheffer, Unkn; Unkn; Scott Clark, Unkn; Unkn; Bert Hammond; Unkn; Philip Sherman Smith. Standing with square in hand is foreman John Gray, carpenter. Photo loaned to the *Enterprise* and identified by Philp Vane Smith, Morocco. Originally published in the *Enterprise*, 1969.

Visit our Resource Center
located at 310 E. Seymour, Kentland
See these great artifacts on display!
Browse through our library for local
and family histories.
Open Monday, Thursday & Friday
11-3 CST | 219-474-6944

1965 Little League All Stars



“The Senior Division of Lowell Little League have named All-Stars, according to word from Lane Sypult who manages in the league, with three Lake Village lads making the grade. Bob Lukes was named as pitcher and first baseman, Tony Barone as shortstop (hitting at a .440 clip didn’t cause them to waste anytime in grabbing him), and Doug Rainford as an alternate. Terry Padgett, a former Village boy now living in Lowell, is also “starred” for action in the tourney which starts the 31st in Gary.” - Originally published in the Morocco Courier, 1965.



1969 Crop Show Winners

Pictured are three young winners in the annual crops show held in Brook.

Left is Tim Lohr of Kentland, whose 4-H ear corn exhibit was Grand Champion.

In the center is Jim Sego, Kentland, who accepted the trophy for his brother Ed whose shelled corn 4-H exhibit won Grand Champion.

At right is Dale Davis of Lake Village who exhibited corn and soybeans for his 4-H projects. His 186 bushel per acre won him the trophy he is holding. The presentation of trophies was made at the Annual Corn Banquet sponsored by the Newton County banks. Twenty-nine exhibits were on display. - Newton County Enterprise, 1969.



Jennie Conrad and the Town of Conrad

In 2021, Mary Kay Emrich presented a program on Jennie Conrad and her town of Conrad. She shared actual letters written by Jennie to her father, Lemuel Milk, and his return reply to Jennie. These letters reflected the rocky relationship that grew over time between the two.

Mary Kay also revealed a new map to the group, which is a blue print of Jennie’s Newton County land holdings. It locates her residence and Oak Dene farm, her stone company, the Splitwood farm, orchards, cultivated, grass, and pastured lands. It also identifies remnants of Beaver Lake, southwest of the town of Conrad. The Newton County map of 2022 puts the lakebed remnants between CR700N and 600N, where northbound US 41 curves to the east; the body of water known as Jack’s Ditch

The map also includes notation of the New York Central railroad which was completed between Danville, Indiana, and Chicago, Illinois, by December, 1905.

Field trips are held frequently at Conrad hosted by Mary Kay for those who wish to walk in the pathways today known as the Conrad Station Savanna, owned by the Nature Conservancy.

Doug Wolfe, grandnephew of Lena (Pohl) Conrad, wife of Platt Conrad, Jennie’s son was present at the meeting. He has donated several Conrad family photos that are now housed at the Newton County Public Library, Lake Village location.

Thank you Mary Kay, for sharing your love and enthusiasm for Jennie with us!



The dedication plaque to the Millers can be seen next to the mural, and brochures detailing the mural can be found in the mailbox!

Tri-Kappa Associates Hold Meeting at Resource Center

The Resource Center in Kentland and society member Barb Wilfong hosted the Kentland chapter of Tri-Kappa Associates. Members toured the center and posed in front of the historical mural on the east side of the center. Pictured, left to right: Barbara Wilfong, Vivian Ferguson, Martha Small-Stum, Janet Miller, Judy Davis, Roberta Dewing, Pat Carlson, Pam Heyde, Phyllis Haldeman, Mary Molter, Sue Frischie, Dr. Kay Boyd, Joan Hays, Joni Chapman, and Judy Wirtz.



We've published the Newcomer Since 1994 - Catch up with old editions at our website:
www.ingenweb.org/innewton

The Newcomer

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

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

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) 2022 Newton County Historical Society. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission of the editors. All rights reserved.

The Newcomer is a publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. A 501(3)c approved organization. Editors: Janet Miller and Beth Bassett. Send membership dues/inquiries to: PO Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951; 219-474-6944 - newtonhs@ffni.com; Officers of the Newton County Historical Society: President, Kay Babcock, Goodland; Vice President, Russ Collins, Kentland; Secretary, Susie Johnson, Brook; Treasurer, Judy Wirtz, Kentland; County Historian, Diana Elijah, Morocco; Ex-Officio, Janet Miller, Kentland. Resource Center located at 310 East Seymour Street, Kentland, Indiana. Printing by Rensselaer PRINTCO.

Historical Newton In

Winter/Spring 2022- www.ingenweb.org/innewton