

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Several of our community members have their own collections of memorabilia and antiques that represent their family or community history. This prize Keystone Moviegraph Patent Number



572W features an Edison Light Bulb, (see inset), and plugged into the old porcelain light sockets of days gone by. Owner Howard Kessler is happy to demonstrate how the film is placed through a slot in the top, then rolled through manually between the bulb and lens. Anyone have any idea what era this is from?

Give Howard a call at Farmer's Supply in Brook if you know! 219-275-2411.

## RESOURCE CENTER

224 N. Third, Kentland, IN 47951 • Robert E. Williamson, County Historian

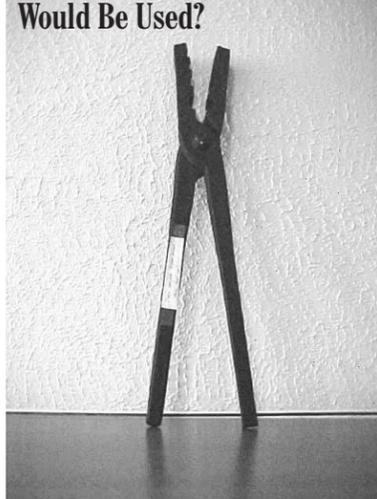
Phone 219-474-6944

The County Historian program is jointly sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana History Bureau. Robert Williamson is the Newton County Historical Society Historian. His function as the County Historian is to collect materials calculated to shed light on the natural, civil, and political history of the county, the promotion of useful historical knowledge, and the friendly interchange of ideas of such citizens of the county as are disposed to promote the aforesaid objects.

Robert is a member of the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana Genealogical Society. He is also responsible for the Newton County InGenWeb site on the internet. You can access this page at ([~www.rootsweb.com/~innewton/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~innewton/)) <<http://www.rootsweb.com/innewton/>>, which is a comprehensive Data Base for historical and genealogical information. It includes a Newton County Query link and complete census records and indices for 1850, 1860, and 1870.

Robert also has links to Allen County Public Library, Jasper Newton deaths, updated daily, Genealogy.com, the leading resource for family history, U.S. Census Bureau, Family Tree Maker online genealogy resource, and the Family Search Genealogy service and library catalog of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon). Please stop by the Research Center, located at 224 North Third in Kentland, Indiana.

### Does Anyone Know Just What This Tool Might Be, and How It Would Be Used?



This tool is approximately 28" in length, weights about 15-20 lbs, and has 4 openings at the end, smallest 1 1/4"-1"-3/4" to 1/2". The width of the holes are 2". Any clues? Call the editor if you know!

# The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWDN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.  
Indiana's YOUNGEST County

# The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWDN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.  
Indiana's YOUNGEST County  
Fall 1999 • \$2.25



## Ade's Fables In Slang Took The Country By Storm Close of the Century Marks Centennial of Literary Event

By John Yost

As this century draws to a close it is appropriate to take a moment to mark the centennial of a literary event which had no small impact on Newton County. For in December 1899 the publication in book form of a collection of George Ade's fables took the country by storm, ranking as one of the top ten bestsellers of that long ago season. *Fables in Slang* is certainly George Ade's most enduring work. Ade's fables had their origin in his newspaper work. After three years in various duties at the Chicago Record, in 1893 Ade was given an opportunity which launched his literary career.

With the opening of the Columbian Exposition the Record created a daily column called *All Roads Lead to the Cairo* devoted to coverage of the event. Most of the articles were contributed by Ade. The feature proved to be very popular, and at the close of the Fair, Ade convinced the editor of the paper to allow him to continue writing this type of pieces which were carried under the heading *Stories of the Streets and of the Town*. The articles represented a major step in evolution of the modern newspaper column.

Ade's column was carried on the paper's editorial pages and many were illustrated by his Purdue University Sigma Chi fraternity brother John T. McCutcheon. A fellow Hoosier, McCutcheon grew up four miles south of Lafayette, IN on the Wea Plains, and he later became acknowledged as the dean of American editorial cartoonists. A Pulitzer Prize winner, McCutcheon's most famous work is *Injun Summer* the two panel drawing of a grandfather and grandson looking at corn stalks which become transformed into dancing Indians.

In the *Stories of the Streets and the Town*, Ade had a free hand to write about any aspect of the city which struck his fancy. He created some stock characters through whom he told many of his stories. These characters included Doc Horne, the hotel residing retiree and raconteur; Artie, the brash young newspaper copy boy; and Pink Marsh, the bootblack whose stories became one of the first written portrayals of urban Blacks.

Ade's columns were enormously popular. One reason for their popularity was that he employed a lot of variety in his subject matter and style. One day in September, 1897, George was sitting at his desk menaced by that monster that intimidates and haunts any writer, the blank sheet of paper. He was searching for something different for the column. He hit on the idea of telling a story in the form of the ancient fables of Aesop. A fable, of course, utilizes a format of a parable summed up by an appropriate moral.

George decided to write the piece in the homespun Hoosier dialect that he knew so well from his boyhood days listening to the old timers telling tales around the potbellied stove in the back of A.J. Kent's dry goods store in Kentland, IN. In this first fable the story was of two decidedly dissimilar sisters, one plain and hardworking, and the other, pretty, not too bright, but lazy. It carried the title *The Fable of Sister Mae Who Did as Well as Could Be Expected*. It got some very favorable reader response, and two months later Ade wrote another fable, again using the Hoosier dialect, and this was similarly well received.

At this time in his career, Ade was one of the top priced writers on the paper. His columns were hugely successful. He was even getting some regional notice throughout the Midwest. Three collections of his columns, one each about Doc Horne, Pink Marsh and Artie, had been reprinted in book form, and they enjoyed a modest success.

Throughout 1898-99 period George continued to write widely varied columns, occasionally sprinkling in a fable. But he was also getting somewhat restless. He had ambitions to tackle a larger project, and his book publisher was continually after him to write a novel. In truth, Ade needed little pushing to write a novel because he had had an idea for such a book for sometime. Ade wanted to write a novel using a college setting.

He had the idea of employing a fiction based on the famous Monon Bell football rivalry between DePauw University and Wabash College. He talked about the idea for a novel with his friends and received much encouragement. With his development as a writer, many expected that it might turn out to be one of the great American novels. But the demands of writing a daily column denied Ade the time he needed to do a sustained work.

George never did get around to writing that novel, but he did not discard the concept of the story. Five years later, after his career had been transformed and he had become the nation's leading playwright, he returned to the Tudor mansion near Brook, IN. Ade retired to his study and in just three weeks he wrote a play based on his college football idea. It was *The College Widow*, and it was his most successful work. It enjoyed a long run on Broadway and toured for years on the road. It provided the basis for one of the Marx Brothers' most popular films, *Horsefeathers*. Ade called this play his meal ticket, and in 1904 and 1905 it was earning him up to \$5,000 per week in royalties. But George might never have had the opportunity to write that play or his eleven others if it weren't for his funny, folksy fables.

As 1899 wore on, Ade continued to work under the press of the daily deadline pressure as a newspaper columnist. He also continued to be pressed by his book publisher for that novel. What he did instead was collect some of his fables and write some new ones. He turned them into his publisher and offered them under the title *Fables in Slang*.

The book rolled off the presses in December, 1899 and became a sensation. The little book of stories told in the Hoosier dialect of his Kentland, IN hometown changed Ade's life and led indirectly to the transformation of the American musical comedy theater. During the year that followed its publication, this collection of 25 of his funniest short pieces sold an astonishing 70,000 copies. Demand was so strong that a year after that initial publication, a second volume, simply titled *More Fables*, was brought out, and it enjoyed equally brisk sales.

What made *Fables in Slang* so popular? Obviously their wonderful humor, but also, I think, the kindly, gentle attitude they projected in that charming prose. *Fables* had appeared in American literature before. Nathaniel Hawthorne had written a few deeply allegorical one, and my kinsman Ambrose Bierce wrote many, and they were laced with his ferocious cynicism. George Ade's were different. They poked fun at the follies and pretensions of the human race, but without sarcasm and harm. As Ade himself put it, the idea was to tell the truth about what was going on and get a little fun out of the foibles and weaknesses and vanities of a lot of our neighbors without being brutal and insulting.

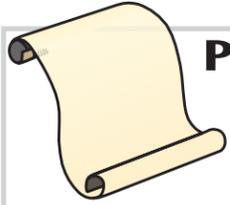
But always there was the humor. Couched in the homespun Hoosier vernacular of his Newton County home, George Ade could turn a phrase that described a person or situation in humor that is still funny a century later. Consider the following: *She was invariably the first one over the fence in the mad pursuit of culture; The house was more covered with mortgages than with paint; The music teacher came twice a week to bridge the awful gap between Dorothy and Chopin; She told him it was terrible to bear such things as he was telling her, and to please go ahead.*

The morals to his fables were a mixture of  
*Continued on page 2*

## What's On Our Agenda . . .

The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month. The meetings are held in different areas of the County at 7:00 p.m. All members are notified of the place and time each month.

We'd Like Your Input!! We are looking for suggestions for stories, articles and pictures for our next edition of *The Newcomer* to be published in January 2000. We know that there are many stories of our past ancestors and their way of life that are just waiting to be told! This newsletter is designed to do just that!! If you would like to write an article, submit a photo, or have a source for us to check into, give me a call! I'd be happy to hear from you!  
Beth Bassett, Editor 219-275-5741, e-mail: [betb@brook.ffni.com](mailto:betb@brook.ffni.com) or drop a line in the mail to me at 1681 East 1100 South, Brook, IN 47922.



**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**  
Yvonne Kay

I am excited about this year, we have members who are great to work with. There are lots of new and rewarding challenges ahead. I hope that we celebrate with the opening of the Scott Lucas House. There are great programs on schedule as we go traveling around the county. As we go forth gathering history from the past in hopes that it will benefit our future generations. I would like to welcome Beth Bassett as our editor of the newsletter. She is working hard and this will bring a significant contribution to our members who cannot attend our meetings. Great strides have been made by volunteers at our building in Kentland. Volunteers are always welcome. Thanks to everyone who has helped.



**SCOTT LUCAS MUSEUM**  
514 S. Main  
Morocco  
Indiana

The Newton County Historical Society was very fortunate to inherit this house in Morocco. Ann Lucas Scott donated her house and funding to maintain this house. The house is in the process of being restored and the restoration is being done by special talents from Newton County. The intentions for the house are to find items from families who have or are residing in Newton County. Contributed by Sue Humphrey.

**Membership Information**  
**As A Member . . .**

As a member of the Society, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, The Newcomer free!

You will also receive notification of our monthly meetings by mail, informing you of the location and time.

Dues are payable yearly (July 1-June 3), to the treasurer of the society. Please check your records to ensure future copies of the Newcomer.

Back issues or additional copies of the Newcomer are available upon request for \$2.25 each.

As always, guests are welcome at our meetings and volunteers are greatly appreciated! You don't have to be a member to volunteer!

**Kay Babcock, Treasurer**

**"Fables In Slang" History Continued**

*Continued from page 2*

humor and wisdom, such as the following: *A friend who is very near and dear may, in time become as useless as a relative; A good jolly is worth what you pay for it; To insure piece of mind, ignore the rules and regulations; Those who marry to escape something, usually find something else; Anybody can win, unless there happens to be a second entry; Give the people what they think they want; Don't try to marry and entire family or it may work out that way.*

The publication of *Fables in Slang* enriched George Ade in a number of ways. It made him, in a very short time, a national figure. It enriched him financially more than any of his prior work and led to an eventually highly profitable national syndication of his fables in many newspapers. This, then, freed him from working for a daily paper for the first time in ten years, allowing him to pursue other interests such as his enthusiasm for travel. It opened the door to him for an enormous variety of other areas of work. Magazines clamored for his fables and other articles. During the silent movie era Ade's fables were made into a series of motion pictures, for some of which he wrote the screenplays. Ade's fables appeared as a comic strip in the 1920's. He continued to crank out fables into the 1930's. In all, ten books of collected fables were published by Ade between 1899 and 1920.

The fables provided George with the free time in which he could pursue his most lucrative career, that of a playwright. Within 34 months of the publication of *Fables in Slang*, George Ade wrote and produced his first full length show, *The Sultan of Sulu*, which was an extremely significant event in the history of the American musical theater.

Its importance stems from the fact that the

show was a major departure from the usual musical comedy of the time. Previously, musical comedies were more like reviews with a series of songs tied together by lines of patter. *The Sultan of Sulu* was a rare show in which the storyline and dialogue were as strong as the music. The book advanced the story of the show. And George was able to write *Sulu* because the success of his fables brought him the luxury of leaving behind the press of the daily deadline of the newsroom and enabled him to travel to the Philippines to visit his friend McCutcheon on which trip he found the idea for *Sulu*.

*The book earned him the respect of many of the leading figures of his day. Teddy Roosevelt could virtually quote the Fables from heart.*

Yes, *Fables in Slang* had a most important impact on Ade's career. The book earned him the respect of many of the leading figures of his day. Teddy Roosevelt could virtually quote the *Fables* from heart. They were a major topic of conversation on one of the most important days of Ade's life, the day he was invited to lunch by Mark Twain. H. L. Mencken said that the author of *Fables in Slang* had a touch of genius. Carl Sandburg always kept a copy close at hand. The legendary journalist William Allen White once wrote, "I would rather have written *Fables in Slang* than be President. And just as Abraham Lincoln read humorist Artemus Ward at Cabinet meetings during the Civil War, at some of the darkest hours of World War Two Franklin Roosevelt was known to have picked up *Fables in Slang* to read to his advisors in his study.

**An Open Invitation To Join . . .**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN  
THE NEWTON COUNTY INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues (Check One) Yearly (July 1- June 3)**

Student (\$2.00) \_\_\_ Individual (\$6.00) \_\_\_ Individual Life (\$100.00) \_\_\_ Family (\$9.00) \_\_\_  
Family Life (\$175.00) \_\_\_ Institutional (\$25.00) \_\_\_ Contributing (\$50.00) \_\_\_

**FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION  
NEWTON COUNTY INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues (Check One) Yearly (July 1- June 3)**

Student (\$1.00) \_\_\_ Individual (\$3.00) \_\_\_ Individual Life (\$50.00) \_\_\_ Family (\$5.00) \_\_\_  
Family Life (\$75.00) \_\_\_ Institutional (\$15.00) \_\_\_ Contributing (\$30.00) \_\_\_

**Send Payment to: NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
TREASURER, PO Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951  
219-474-6944**

**A COLLECTION OF A LIFETIME!**

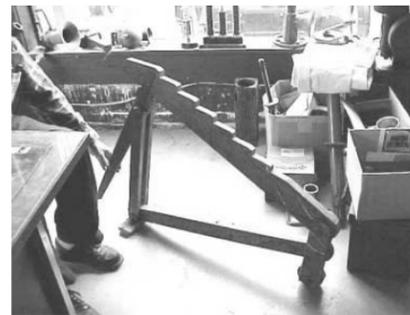
*This is just a small sampling of the collection that Howard Kessler has accumulated from family and friends over the years that is on display in his business, Brook Farmer's Supply. How many of them can you identify?*



*The oxen yoke in the foreground of this photo could have been used by early settlers to our area.*



*In one of the offices at Farmer's Supply in Brook you will find a variety of items that have special interest to the antique collector.*



*From the way that Howard explains the use of this tool, it made "courtin" a much easier task when the buggy a couple was using was in need of immediate repair. Perhaps he has "been there done that".*

**PIONEER LIFE**

Excerpts from the book "Northwestern Indiana 1800-1900" By T. H. Ball



Although the pioneer period has, to quite an extent, been placed between 1830 and 1840, during which time some of the Indians remained and some settlers were still "squatters", yet the real pioneer life in its general aspects continued, and will thus in this chapter be viewed, until the first half of the Nineteenth Century was closing; and as the second half of the century opened, the era of railroads in Northern Indiana commenced, when modes of life rapidly changed. This gives us pioneer or frontier life till 1850, or for a period of twenty years.

What was this life? In all our land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, there is not much to be found that is like it now. It is difficult to picture it vividly before the minds of the young people of the present. (Note: this book was published in 1901).

Hon. Bartlett Woods, of Crown Point, in an article on "The Pioneer Settlers, Their Homes and Habits, Their Decedent and Influence," prepared for the Lake County Semi-Centennial of 1884, gave some fine pen pictures of this variety of life.

In a history of Indiana forty pages of a large volume are devoted to a description of it. A brief view will be given here.

There were then, it should be recalled to mind, no railroads leading out from the Eastern cities, from Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, across all the great Valley of the Mississippi. The mountain ranges and the dense forests were great barriers between New England and New York and the new Indiana and Michigan Territory. Until 1837 Michigan was not a state. There was in that year a canal from Troy to Buffalo. Some steamboats were running on Lake Erie. There was a short horse car railroad extending out from Toledo. Some vessels passed around, it was said "through the great lakes", and took freight to the young Chicago. Some schooners sailed on Lake Michigan. Here, in this northwest corner of Indiana, there were in 1830 no roads, except Indian trails, no bridges, no mills, no stores, except, perhaps, some Indian trading posts, no workshops of any kind. All the necessities and conveniences of our modern civilization were then to be made. The families came in strong covered wagons drawn sometimes by horses, but often by oxen. The men brought a few tools, especially axes and iron wedges, hammers, saws, augurs, gimblets, frows, and some planes. The women brought their needles, scissors, thimbles, pins, thread, yarn, spinning wheels, and looms.

Especially the men and boys brought their guns and bullet molds, for on the grand Indiana hunting grounds they were entering, and that game, which had been so abundant for the Indians, was as free and as abundant now for them. Game laws then were not.

A few cooking utensils these pioneers brought with them teakettles, bake kettles, skillets, frying pans; also a few plates, cups and saucers, knives, forks, and spoons. Their household furniture, tables, chairs, bedding, were very simple outfits for housekeeping in all the wilderness.

After a location was chosen, and that must be near water, the erection of a log cabin was the first work, and then a little clearing was made, for these first settlers staid by the trees They built few cabins in the open prairie. In the heavy timber of our eastern border and in the groves or wood lances skirting the prairies, along the a Tippecanoe and Iroquois, and near to Lake Michigan, and on the borders of the little lakes, here and there cabins were erected, and what was called "squatter life" commenced. It was a wild, a free, in some respects a rich, a delightful life. The land like the game was free to all. Each one could go when he wished, locate wherever he chose, take whatever he could find on the prairie or in the woods, provided he interfered with no Indian and with no other settler's rights. He could cut down trees, pasture his few cattle, cut grass for his winter's hay, plow and plant the soil anywhere, Careful only not to infringe on any other who was a squatter like himself. Largely was each man a law unto himself. It was a large freedom. And well was it that these squatters brought with them the power of self-restraint acquired in their eastern homes. Well was it that they held in practice where scarcely any law but that of God was over them, their moral and religious principles and so formed virtuous and religious communities.

From at first a dozen and then a score of pioneer families, there gathered in several hundred families scattered over this region before 1840 came, and for ten years there were some Indians left among them.

**Editor's note:** *The account of life described by T.H. Ball is a wonderful window for us to view the life of our ancestors. As space allows, additional excerpts will be included in future newsletters. A copy of his book is on the shelves of the Brook Library, Brook, Indiana.*

**Pete Sauer Benefit**  
**John Yost's Show Staged In Kentland For One Night Only!**

"Rich Man's War - Poor Man's Fight, Ambrose Bierce and the American Civil War" will be presented one night only on **Saturday, Nov. 6, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. CST**, at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Kentland at the corner of Second and Dunlap Streets. Tickets are available at the Kentland Bank or by mail at the following address: The Pete Sauer Fund, c/o the Kentland Bank, PO Box 145, Kentland, IN 47951. The tickets are 10 tax-deductible dollars each. Checks should be made payable to the Pete Sauer Fund. To order tickets, include your name address and the number of tickets. Seating is limited to 300, so order now!



## FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION

"Focus On The Family" • Gerald Born, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

### Russell Family of Washington Township

By Gerald Born

My childhood was spent in Morocco in the 1930s and 40s. It seemed that during that time I was surrounded by Russells or relatives of Russells. One of the first houses my parents rented on returning to Morocco was that of Tom and Annette (Doty) Russell. Later we lived on the corner of Beaver and Clay on the former site of Jim Russell's blacksmith shop. Jim Russell's first wife was Mary Nettie Murphey, my grandmother's second cousin. His second wife was Mrs. Lucy Ann (DeWolf) Dunlap, who when she became his widow, married, Errett Graves, my first cousin, once removed. My second cousin, Evelyn Gorman became the wife of Clifford Russell, and his brother and sisters, E.E. or Jack Russell and Ruby (Russell) Kenoyer and Dorothy (Russell) Kemper were familiar topics of conversation on warm summer nights when I would visit with Evie on her front porch after closing my first business, Brandt's frozen custard stand, late at night. I was only 16 and we would have a cold beer and talk. I felt very grown up at that point.

Next door to the house on Beaver and Clay streets lived Charley Russell and his second wife Myrtle (Murphey) Russell. Myrtle was special in my life, for she treated me more like an adult than a child. For some strange reason

I always called her Russell. Her son, Orville Russell and his wife Geneva (Camblin) Russell operated the Royal Blue Store downtown where we shopped during the dark days of World War II. Their daughter, Eleanor Russell was a playmate and even though she was much older than I, she tolerated my company very well.

My greataunt, Pearl (Russell) Graves, was the second wife of my grandmother's twin brother, Claude. She always deported herself as a lady, and was the only person I ever knew who actually lived in a sod house. When she and her first husband, Benjamin F. Leavitt moved to Nebraska shortly after their marriage in 1907, they built a sod house and lived in it until the climate became too harsh and then returned to Newton County. It was difficult to imagine her living under such primitive conditions as pictures of her in her youth reminded one of Lillian Russell and that era, with huge hats and suave art nouveau dresses. She, too, had a niece named, Eleanor, but it was her mother Phyllis Russell, who was the daughter of George and Livan (Smart) Russell. Phyllis' husband was Orville Brunton. Eleanor Brunton and I spent many happy hours at Aunt Pearl's house, for she was an excellent cook and always had homemade bread, cookies, and other goodies for her young charges.

Across the street from Aunt Pearl's house on Beaver Street lived Myrtle (Hanger) Russell Camblin. They neighbored a great deal. Myrtle's daughter by

Camblin was the wife of Orville Russell, Mrytie (Murphey) Russell's son. Myrtle Camblin had two children by Oscar Riley Russell, Ray and Lora. Ray and Marie (Gwinn) Russell were members of the Christian Church, which my grandmother attended, and Lora married Otha Miller and moved into Myrtle's house when they left the farm.

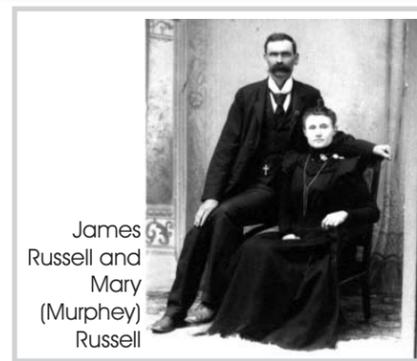
But it did not end there. My grandfather once lived in the house west of town that was later occupied by Earl "Preach" Russell, the son of Jim and Lucy (DeWolf) Russell, and I was in school at the same time as their children, Paul, Clifford, Norma, and Clara Russell. One of my brother's good friends was Russell Garrard, whose paternal grandmother was E. Maude Russell, who married Milbourn Garrard. Their son, Harley married Russell Garrard's mother, Carolyn Herriman. Russell went on to become an engineer and worked on the famous bridge connecting Mackinaw Island to the mainland, and later built bridges and superhighways for the state of Illinois.

Even when we visited with relatives at Schneider, Indiana we often heard the name of Leslie or "Slim" Russell, who was head of the Schneider Volunteer Fire Department and helped modernize that fire station. So you get the idea. Russells were to be found at almost every corner of my childhood.

Though surrounded by Russells, it was not until much later that I became aware that they all were related and emnated from the same family. Now I know the complex web of relationships that exist and the threads of family that make up the fabric of village life.

All of the above Russells trace their beginnings to two brothers who came to Washington Township from Tippecanoe Township, Tippecanoe County. Their names were Zadock and Prior Russell, and they settled in the Northwest part of Washington Township during the 1850s. The area became known for the church in that vicinity, Russell Chapel, named, of course, for the family. One of Prior Russell's daughters, Elizabeth, married William Best, and they donated the land on which the church and cemetery stood. It was organized as a Methodist Episcopal Church under the Brook Circuit, and remained there until 1870 when it was placed on the Morocco Circuit. In 1899 William Best and his wife annexed more land to the cemetery. In 1947 it merged with the Morocco Methodist Church and the unused church building was purchased by Paul and Edith Johnson and used for storage until the 1960s. The church also housed the Universalists at one time, as many of the Russells were affiliated with that group.

The Russell brothers had followed a long and winding path to arrive in Newton County. Prior Russell was the older of the two brothers. His death occurred on the 31 of May 1876 aged 77y 10m 11d., which would put his birth date at 21 May 1798. Prior



James Russell and Mary (Murphey) Russell

is buried at Russell Chapel. He was born in either Rowan or Davie County, North Carolina to Henry and Chloe (Smallwood) Russell. Chloe died in 1802 in Rowan County, North Carolina. Shortly after that Henry Russell traveled with his oldest daughter, Margaret "Peggy" (Russell) Noland to the Madison/Estille, County area of Kentucky, and in about 1810 went with the Nolands to Wayne and Madison Counties, Indiana. Henry died in Madison County, Indiana. He was born in 1754 in Charles County, Maryland and married Chloe there on 10 Nov 1782.

Prior Russell & Sarah Anna Hayes were the parents of ten children that we have records for: Elizabeth (1827 in Wayne County, IN) William (1829 in Madison County, IN) Amanda (1832) Matilda (1833) Margaret (1835) Mary (1837) James Moffitt (1841) George M.D. (1844) and the twins, Zadock Hiram and Manda A. (1850) Zadock Russell, the younger brother, died in Washington Township on 14 Mar 1876, the same year as his brother, age 71y 6m 15d. Therefore his birth date would be 29 Aug 1804. He is buried at the Porter Cemetery. Zadock and Margaret (Hayes) Russell had eight children of record. They are: Eliza F (1821) Solomon (1829) Henry (1833) James (1836) Wilson P. (1837 near Delphi, IN) Samuel (1842) William C. (1848) and Marian (1853).

We are indebted to Linda (Noland) Layman for the information on Henry and Chloe Russell, as she did the research on the early years in Maryland and was kind enough to put the data on the Internet.

This is by no means a complete record of the Russell family, but represents those Russells I have known or whose lives have touched my path in some way, and even here I am sure there are others who I have not mentioned, and ask for your indulgence in deference to time and space. It will provide, perhaps, an outline for those who wish to do further research on this family. There are additional family group sheets at the Newton County Historical Society Headquarters in Kentland available upon request, and interested members who will help you in your search. (A project of the Family History Division of the Newton County Historical Society.)

Other families throughout the county will provide a focus for future articles appearing in this column.

If you have a family you would like to write about or suggest for inclusion, please contact members of the Family History Division and they will be considered for inclusion in future issues.

### An Internet Success Story

## Discovering the Magic of the Internet

By Gerald Born

While surfing the Internet Family Tree Maker's Indiana Gen Forum site the following query caught my attention Graves 1850-1877- Need any information on George A. Graves, birth date unknown, has a son (my G father) Augustus Graves b. 1877. All I know is that Grandpa was born in Indiana, then he went to Texas around the Brownfield, Tahoka, Seagroves area and married Cora Hattie Barnett(e) or Bennett. They also used to visit relatives in Oklahoma, but don't know if they were his or hers. They moved to Southern California around 1940 and finally settled in Brooks, Imperial County, CA. Their children were George, Bud, Clare, Marie, Wm., "Jack," Presley and Cora Buleah, who m (1) Lawrence Seagroves and (2) Marvin Disher. Eugenie Balentine

I responded that my grandfather once bought a farm from a man by the name of George A. Graves, and as I recall he had a son by the name of Augustus and that I would search through my papers and see what I could find. The following exchange took place.

Hi Gerald, You posted a response to GenForum re: George A. Graves, selling land to your relative, have you found anything out? My grandfather Augustus Graves was born in 1877, in Indiana and moved to Texas, his father was George A. Graves. This is all find them or anything on them. . E. B

Hi Eugenie, I think I have good news for you, for appears that we are talking about the same George A. Graves. I made a few notes, for my grandmother's maiden name was Graves, but not related. The information I have comes from the 1910 Census of Newton County, Beaver Township, as well as from an abstract I had access to some years ago. George A. Graves b ca 1856 in VT. He was a farmer. His parents came from Mass. He died 5 Sept 1930 at Morocco, Indiana. He married Lilly A., who was born 1868 in Indiana and whose parents came from Ohio. I have two children listed, though there may be more. They are Augustus A. Graves, who married Cora and had: Cora Lucille Clara Bula, Bud, Marie, Bug, and Flossie and were living in Lawton, Oklahoma. Albert T/N. Graves was born ca 1903 in IN and married Etta M. and had children Leroy Calvin Graves and Alberta Catherine Graves. I think I saw an obit for him in the Morocco Courier, but I lent my book of abstracts to the Newton County Historical Society and do not have it at hand to check. I will ask my mother tomorrow what she remembers of him. G.B.

Thanks so much for the information that you sent me on my grandfather and g grandfather its is greatly appreciated as I thought I'd never find out anything about them. I have been able to find out about my Dad's side of the family but this is the first I've been able to find on my Mother's side. E.B.

Hi Eugenie, When you have had a chance to track down some of the leads I gave you and that you will find in your search, you might want to contact the Graves Family Association, which Ken Graves of Wrentham, Mass. operates. He has published several Graves histories and I think he did one on a Mass. Graves family. Might even have your Augustus Graves listed. He also has a web page.

Your family covers quite a span of time, and should provide a very interesting history. You might be interested in the centennial history of Morocco, which was published in 1951.. Isn't the Internet wonderful? We would never have made contact without it. I have located a dozen cousins who are working on various families in my tree and I have accomplished more in the past 6 months than I have in the past six years. G.B.

Hi Eugenie, Had a little surprise for when looking for your grandfather, I also found the obit. of Mrs. George Graves: Mrs. George Graves obit. Lillie Anna Graves, daughter of Eli and Sarah Willis b. Henry co. near Rushville, In, 21 Feb 1871 d. 14 Nov 1930 age 59y. She moved with her parents to Rainsville, IN in Warren County, coming to Newton County in 1881. She married Clarence Cummings, when a young woman, and married George Graves in 1891, residing at Roselawn and Morocco for the past 40 years. One son, Albert Graves of Roselawn and one brother, Charles P. Lewis of Hammond and a half brother, Emory Purdy of Morocco. Twelve children preceded her in death. Buried at the Roselawn Cemetery. The following is the obit. of George Augustus Graves, son of Augustus and Anna (Durant) Graves, who was born 3 Jul 1855 near VT. At the age of seventeen he came to Indiana and lived in Lafayette for seven years. From there he moved to a farm near Lake Village, where he resided for thirty years. On 28 Feb 1883 he married Sarah E. Williamson and had three children, Augustus, Eugene and Babe. The last two passed away early in life. In 1891 he married Miss Lilly A. Cunningham. Thirteen children were born to this union, only one of which, Albert Graves survived his father. For the past eighteen years George Graves has resided in Morocco. He died 5 Sept 1930. Interment was at the Roselawn Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, two sons and eight grandchildren. This should open your mother's line for you. I may have some more information on the Williamson family, but will have to search for that. G.B.

Hi, The Roselawn Cemetery is under the care of the Lincoln Township Trustee, and I'm not sure who that is at the present. Kyle Conrad, the County Clerk, whose office is at the Newton County Courthouse in Kentland, Also they may have been living at Morocco when many of the children were born. Do you know Albert Graves? He may have the family Bible. Also death certificates are available from Indianapolis and perhaps from the health department in Morocco. Kyle will know these details. I asked my mother if she remembered George Graves and she said she did. He was short of stature, and of a normal build. She reported that many people found him "hard to get along with" but that her father did not. she also set me straight about the farm. My grandfather rented from him for only one year, and then bought a 120 acre farm over the hill from the Graves place. He and his wife lived in Morocco and rented the farm out. I have yet to learn where he lived in town. Mother never met his wife. George's farm was located east of the now ghost town of Conrad, Indiana in McClellan Township, or perhaps Lake, not sure about the township, but on a plat book when I return home Oh, yes, one of the Williamson girls married a

Gordon, and her brother Frank, went to California about the same time as my mother's aunt, Mary Ann (Nichols) Teeter. That was in 1905. Frank settled at Pomona, California and had two sons, who were close friends of the Nichols who went to California. My grandfather rented the farm when mother was 10 years old (1910). so perhaps these dates may come in handy at some time. G.B.

I will call Kyle this morning and find out what I have to do to have a records search. E.B.

Hi Eugenie, Just discovered an old abstract that has the will of George A. Graves. Would you be interested in having a copy? G.B.

Gerald, That would be GREAT!! Like I said before it's wonderful to know that there is more of my family out there and that Grandpa Graves wasn't an only child. E.B.

*The preceding correspondence show how the magic of the Internet can work. Not all of the stories are as fruitful as this one, but many are. The abstract I alluded to above was prepared for the Allen Jessen estate and concerns the house located on lots 9 and 10 of Carpenter's addition to the town of Morocco. The house is located just east of the Ernie Norris property and adjoined my property before I sold the lot to the Norrises. These old time abstracts are important, for not only did it have the information on George Graves, but it told all of his grandchildren as he had set up a trust for them, administered by Charles Russell. The children listed were, Leroy Calvin Graves and Alberta Catherine Graves, children of Albert Graves and Cora Lucille Graves, Clara Buleah Graves, Bud Graves, Marie Graves, Bug Graves, and Flossie Graves, being the children of my son Augustus Graves, living at Lawton, Oklaboma. George Graves must have had an inkling that his son Augustus might have more children, for he made a provision in the trust that any unborn or to be born children of his son should share equally in the estate. It was a limited trust and expired in 1938. And it appears that the distribution of the estate was done in a timely fashion and the property after some brief litigation was purchased by Jesse and Jessie (Russell) Hunter. They in turn ~ Elmer and Hulda Smart, who were living there in my memory. In 1952, after the death of Elmer Smart, the property passed to his three sons, William Francis Smart and Dorothy, his wife, Willard Fay Smart and Arthur Benjamin Smart. I was amazed that all of the above correspondence took place in less than a month's time and that the history of Morocco was so enriched by finding this one descendant of George A. Graves.*

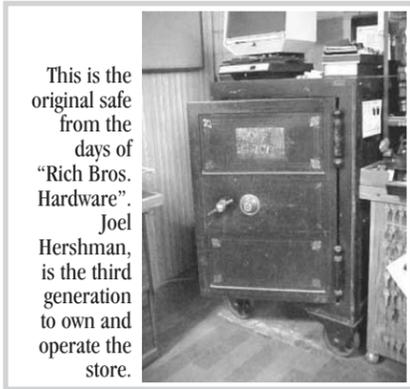
[www.rootsweb.com/~innewton](http://www.rootsweb.com/~innewton)

### WEB SITE DIRECTORY

- [Newton County Census Records: 1860 & 1870](#)
- [Jasper County Census Records: 1850](#)
- [Enter & View Newton County Queries](#)
- [Newton County Look-Ups](#)
- [Newton County Biographies Project](#)
- [Sites Related To Newton County Genealogy](#)

## Hershman's Hardware-Downtown Brook More Than Just A Local Meeting House Since 1895

In the early 1900's, Dick Hershman's Hardware store was more than just a convenient spot to buy hardware and implements. Although it wasn't an official "meeting house", it was the spot where many of the men would gather daily to exchange the



This is the original safe from the days of "Rich Bros. Hardware". Joel Hershman, is the third generation to own and operate the store.

news of the day. Deaths, births, and weddings were discussed as they gathered round the pot-bellied stove in the center of the store. Cast-off chairs circled the stove and a spittoon was near by. A blackboard hung from the ceiling listing the notices of importance. Anyone with something to buy or sell or barter could use the space for free advertising.

Styles in merchandising have changed with the years, but the hardware has kept pace with the changes. The camaraderie could never be recaptured today as it was in 1895 when people had more time to visit, but the "Hershman Hardware" has remained a family owned store and is now serving fifth and sixth generations of the early settlers.

The genesis of the Dick Hershman and Son's, Inc was in 1895.

The lot of the original building was purchased by J.D. Rich and his brother Frank from Schuyler Jones. The building was a two story frame. The business was called "Rich Bros. Hardware" and was managed by Frank Rich.

The Rich Bros. operated the hardware until 1897 when Luther Lyons bought the J.D. Rich interest. Four years later, Mr. Lyons' cousin, Ray E. Hershman bought the Frank Rich interest and the firm became "Lyons and Hershman".

In the early days the store was headquarters for fishing tackle, hunting and fishing licenses, wagons, buggies, carriages, buggy whips and lap robes. The store handled the first electric washers in the county, the King washer, made in Wolcott, Indiana. Many farm implements and tools were also sold.

This partnership lasted for 35 years. Within this time the firm built a large implement shed at the rear of the store for housing their large stock of farm equipment.

For many years, they operated a harness shop within the hardware. Two of the harness makers employed through the years were Jacob Fink and Walter Vergin. Among the clerks employed through the years were Ben Leavett, Allen Harms, R.E. Ricker,

Paul Weston, Abe Dewees, Emmett Snyder, and John Connell.

Mr. Lyons withdrew from active partnership in 1932. Mr. Hershman then operated the store for Mr. Lyons and himself until 1935 when the partnership was dissolved and Ray E. Hershman became sole owner of the business.

When "Hershman's Hardware" began its operation, Claude Warr, a close friend of Mr. Hershman's joined the staff and worked as a clerk for the next 11 years. In 1938 Mr. Hershman's health began to fail. His oldest son, John E. Hershman moved to Brook from Lima, Ohio to assist his father in the store. John took over management of the store at the time of his father's death in 1942. General Electric appliances were added to the hardware line in 1945. Alvie Bullis was the first GE serviceman. He worked for 10 years before retiring. At the time of Mr. Bullis' retirement, Richard (Dick) Burton joined the firm as the General Electric serviceman in October, 1957.

In 1947 the old two story location was torn down and the stock moved to an empty building while a new facility was erected on the original site.

John Hershman retired from active participation in 1955 because of failing health.

In 1963 the building just west of the hardware was purchased and the hardware store was enlarged to encompass both structures. A new brick store front was added to complete the new store as it stands today.

Richard Hershman assumed full ownership of the stock in the store when he purchased John Hershman's interests from his heirs in 1972.

As the appliance business needed more space, the General Electric Appliances were moved to a building across the street where a G.E. Appliance store was established. This building had been purchased earlier by Richard Hershman and had at one time been the Lloyd Hershman Variety and funeral parlor.

The store changed its image, somewhat, when it took on the True Value line of hardware in 1974 and was remodeled to accommodate the new line.

In 1981, Richard Hershman incorporated the business under the name of "Dick Hershman and Sons's, Inc.". The two sons of Richard and Margaret G. Hershman are Scott Harris Hershman and Joel Ray Hershman.

Joel R. Hershman, grandson of Ray E. Hershman and son of Richard R. Hershman took over active management of the store at the time of his father's death in February, 1982. Joel had been active full time in the store as Assistant Manager for ten years prior to that.

In the year 2001, Hershman's hardware will celebrate 100 years as owned and operated by Hershmans.

**Editors Note:** Thanks to Joel Hershman for permission to reprint this article from their advertisement in the book, "The History of Newton County", published in 1985.

## Local Library Research Resources

The Goodland-Grant Twp. Public Library have copies of old Goodland Herald's dating back to the late 1800's up to 1954. There is a collection of old scrap books with obits, old photographs, and an Indiana Room which has the hardbound biographies of Newton and surrounding counties. Goodland's cemetery records at Richard's Law Office.

## FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION UPDATES

The first priority of the Family History Division this year has been the completion of the cemetery records for Newton County. With the publication of the first volume, the townships of Lake, McClellan, Beaver and Washington are complete and have met with great success. Copies have been sent to all corners of the US.

The status of the rest of the county is as follows: **Pleasant Grove**, the material is compiled, proofread, and maiden names added where known. Janet Miller is in charge. **Kentland Cemeteries**, the data supplied to us by the heirs of Lowell Ford has been transferred to the computer and hard copies prepared to be proofed against the tombstones. Bob Williamson and Janet Miller as working on adapting the database to fit the needs of publication. **Goodland Cemetery** data entered into the computer, and hard copy being prepared to proof it against the tombstones. Velma Dart is copying death certificates to be used in checking against data. **Brook Cemetery** data, collected and Kyle Conrad is checking against the plats to see who owns the lots of the Riverside Cemetery. **Roselawn Cemetery**, the cemetery has been walked. Still needs to be proofed and compared with original owners of the plots. **Lone Star, Kennedy, Hostettler or Amish, Ames or Oak Ridge**, all have been read, still need to be proofed.

The Family History Division wishes to thank all of the volunteers who have worked on this project and those who have worked at the Resource Center doing abstract work and making materials available to the citizens of Newton County and the guests who have come there to do research.

Bob Williamson continues to transcribe the census records onto the Internet for Newton County. This valuable service is making data available to people around the world who have roots in the county.

New to the Division will be a column in the Newcomer called Focus on Families. It will be the responsibility of the Division to provide material for this column and anyone wanting to write about their family is encouraged to do so. Also pictures will be included. Help will be available for those who request it.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINDOW DISPLAYS



"Our current window is Women's Fashions."

If you have visited the Historical Society's Resource Center located at 224 North Third Street in Kentland, you have noticed the different displays in the windows throughout the year. Janet Miller explains how such displays are determined. "By guess and by gosh! Barbara Wilfong and I are the window display persons. We just try to think of the season and what materials we have available to us to do the window. We rented the building in the spring of 1998 and our first window display was done in May. It was a "school setting" incorporating Kentland Alumni materials. July & Aug we had a general "Fair" window with Newton County and State Fair items included. We next had a Victorian living room and then at Christmas added a tree and toys. In February, our theme was "Woman's Work is Never Done". Spring, 1999, we had a patriotic window that we used for Memorial Day through July 4th. Contributed by Janet Miller.

## NCHS General Information New Officers Elected for 2000

Meet the A few of the Board of Directors of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.

**President: Yvonne Kay.** P.O. Box 188, Morocco, IN 47963. Phone 219-285-2749. Yvonne Allen Kay was born in Galivants Ferry Township, Horry County, South Carolina to Jasper Lennis and Eitha Nola (Graham) Allen. She grew up with her nine sisters and three brothers. She graduated from Aynor High School and was voted wittiest of her senior class. She met this wonderful guy from Morocco, In. They were married in 1955 and have two children, Joyce and John Jr. During John Sr.'s years in the Air Force, they lived in S.C., Indiana, Texas and Arkansas. While in Arkansas she attended Arkansas Business College. Yvonne was always collecting family history. At family reunions, she could be found visiting around gathering news from everyone present. In 1987, her daughter started researching her family tree, which made her even more involved! During that time they visited cemeteries, courthouses, and research libraries in Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, and South Carolina. Researching increased her interest in history as she wanted to discover what was happening during the lives of her ancestors.

**Vice President:** Denise Miller. 506 N. 100 E. Lake Village, IN 46349. Phone 219-394-2365. .

**Secretary:** Betty Risley, 604 E. Dorsey, Kentland, IN 47951. 219-474-5369.

**Treasurer:** Kay Babcock. 113 N. Harrison Street, Goodland, IN 47948. Phone 219-297-3035. Kay Babcock and her husband, Bill, live in Goodland. Kay works at Sigman's Sales & Service, Inc. as the bookkeeper. Bill is a rural mail carrier. They have 2 sons, Mike and Greg. Kay has always enjoyed historical stuff and likes to visit old cemeteries. Bill officates baseball and football.

**Past President:** Sue Humphrey, Ex Officio. Sue has been an active member since the Newton County Historical Society was reorganized (1991). She has served as Program Chairman, Vice President and President, and resides in Kentland.

**Family History Division: Director and Ex Officio:** Gerald Born, 27 Elizabeth St. Hammond, IN 46320. 219-931-2616.

**Meet the Officers of the Family History Division:**

**Gerald Born, Director** Gerald M. Born was educated in Morocco Schools. Attended Purdue, Butler, and Indiana Universities. BA in History & Political Science and Religion. MA in Library Science with minor in History of Fine Arts. Minister at Alaska Christian Church, in southern Indiana, Director of Libraries, Columbus, Indiana, Building Consultant, Illinois State Library, Resources Coordinator, North Suburban Library System (Illinois) Executive Secretary for American Library Association. Owner of Celadon Press. In antique business since 1976 and unofficial historian of Morocco, Indiana. Member of the new Newton County Historical Society since its inception and now director of the Family History Division. Member of numerous family, cultural, and historical groups.

**Janet Miller, Treasurer.** Since the reorganization of the Newton County Historical Society Janet has served as its Vice President and Treasurer. She currently serves the Family History Division as treasurer. She and her husband Rich live on a farm located on Punkin Vine Road in Washington Township, across the road from the Newton County Fairgrounds. This farm has been in her family since 1875. They have two daughters and one granddaughter. Her interest in Newton County history and genealogy comes from her long time family roots in Newton County. She also happily served as co-editor of the "History of Newton County, Indiana 1985".

**The Newcomer Newsletter**

**Editor:** Beth Bassett, 1681 East, 1100 South, Brook, IN 47922. 219-275-5741. Researching my family genealogy introduced me to the NCHS. My background is in the newspaper industry, and I have always enjoyed graphic design and layout. By editing *the Newcomer*, it brings my work and hobby together to a full circle. I was born and raised in Morocco, and have resided in the country near Brook for the past 18 years. I am currently an advertising representative for Indiana Agri News, a weekly farming publication.

**Contributing Editors:** John Yost, Yvonne Kay, Kyle Conrad, Gerald Born, Robert Williamson, Sue Humphrey and Janet Miller.

## RESEARCH RESOURCES IN NEWTON COUNTY



## Courthouse Research

by Kyle D. Conrad

The county courthouse is probably one of the most popular of all genealogical research stops in Indiana. That is, of course, because of the myriad of records that have been kept by various offices over the years and the valuable information they contain. Over the next several issues of the Newcomer we will explore a few of these records and what information can be gleaned from them. We will pay particular attention to our own Newton County courthouse, but keep in mind many of these records were kept throughout Indiana's counties. We will begin with a few of the records of the Recorder's office.

Many people know that the recorder records various documents, including deeds and mortgages. What many people may not know is that these are permanent records and must be maintained forever. Therefore it is possible to locate a land transfer involving one's ancestors if they owned property at one time. The deed records are cross indexed by grantor and grantee, show the date of the transfer, and will give the legal description of the land. This legal description should allow the researcher the ability to pinpoint where in Newton County this property is located. A very useful tool in locating an ancestor's homestead.

Another useful book in the recorder's office is the cemetery record book. Although all cemetery plots that are recorded today are done so in the regular deed records, many years ago they were recorded in this cemetery record. This is a point of reference in determining where one's ancestors may be buried as it should list the cemetery and lot number of the owner. Unfortunately, the recording of cemetery plots in Newton County was never stressed, any many have gone unrecorded over the years.

And finally for this issue, a tremendous tool in researching not only genealogy but local history as well, is the bound copies of the Newton County Enterprise located in the vault of the recorder's office. I have found that using these rather than the microfilmed issues is much easier as you can look at the entire page at one time and scan it easily. If useful information is found it can either be copied from the book or the issue and page number can be used to locate the same information on microfilm at the Kentland-Jefferson Public Library. The Newton County Recorder's office has the years 1861 to 1991 inclusive of the Enterprise for the researcher's use. In the next issue, we will continue exploring the recorder's office as well as touch on a few other records located throughout the courthouse.

**Editors Note:** Kyle D. Conrad is the Clerk of the Newton Circuit Court, past president of the Newton County Historical Society and past editor of the Newcomer.

Watch this location for more resource locations in upcoming newsletters.