

The Newcomer

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Indiana's YOUNGEST County

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Kentland Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Celebrate their 100th Anniversary On October 25, 2011

By Janet Miller

The 100th anniversary of the Kentland Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution was celebrated by holding an open house at the Newton County Historical Society Resource Center on October 28, 2011. Among the honored guests was the Indiana State Regent, Mrs. Martha Barnhart.

The Chapter was organized on October 25, 1911. *The Newton County Enterprise*, October 26, 1911 reports the following:

“Revolutionary Daughters Chapter Of Patriotic Society Organized in Kentland

“A Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Kentland yesterday with twelve charter members. Mrs. J. L. Dinwiddie of Fowler, retiring State Regent, organized the chapter and the following officers were elected: Regent: Mrs. Jira Skinner; Vice-Regent: Mrs. Oscar Phelps; Secretary: Miss Adah E. Bush; Treasurer: Miss Annie McCray; Registrar: Mrs. Theodore Bush; Historian: Mrs. Elbert R. Kessler. This is the first chapter of this patriotic society in Newton County. Only those can join who can trace their ancestors back to and participating in the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Dinwiddie was accompanied by Mr. Dinwiddie and Mrs. J. T. Saunderson. Mrs. Phelps served refreshments.”

The twelve charter members at this time were: Florence Antoinette Buell, Bessie Builta, Adah Elizabeth Bush, Charlotte Arney Bush, Daisy Alberta Harrison, Edna Virginia Kessler, Emma H. Kessler, Mary Love Kessler, Annie Eliza McCray, Isabelle Phelps, Sally Skinner and Margaret Kessler Spitler.

When the charter was issued on November 18, 1912, in addition to the above twelve members, the following four charter members were listed: Florence Gertrude Ellis, Mamie Irene Ellis, Blanche Violet Harris and Ethel Kennedy.

Mary O’Neil McDowell, Patriot, was the DAR ancestor of six of the original sixteen charter members. Eight of the original members were from Morocco, five from Kentland, one from Winamac, one from Goodland and one from Washington D.C. There have been 115 members in the Kentland Chapter since its inception in 1911.

The current membership totals eleven. These eleven ladies have accumulated 279 years in the work of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mary Susan Blaney Blakely is the only current member related to a charter member.

Current members are Kathryn Arbuckle, Mary Susan Blakely, Cynthia Clingaman, Rose Ferguson, Mary Jeane Gray, Fannie Sue Henry, Melinda Henry, Margaret Lah, Janet Miller, Marilyn Whaley and Sharon Yates.

Kentland Chapter has honored the goals of the National Society by promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. The national motto is “God, Home and Country.”

To promote historic preservation the chapter has placed two historic markers in our county. In 1976 to honor our nation’s Bicentennial, a marker was placed in Washington Township designating the first church of Newton County. Many years ago a marker was placed on the courthouse lawn in memory

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Kentland Daughters of American Revolution Celebrate 100 Years

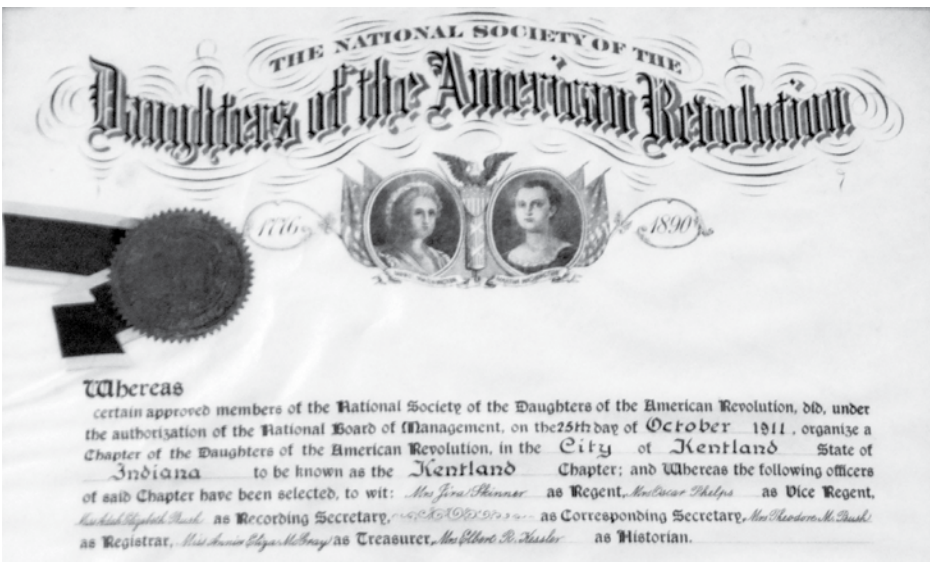
Lake Village Mule Race

Excerpts of Ongoing History Projects
History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships
The Yost Project
The History of Goodland

The Civil War Letters of the John T. Harris Family

The Coshaw Family

The First Brook Kindergarten Class



The original charter of the Kentland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has found a permanent home at the Resource Center of the Newton County Historical Society.

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Above, Members of the Kentland DAR Chapter pose for a photo during the 100th Anniversary party. Left to right, Kathryn Arbuckle, Margaret Lah, Marilyn Whaley, Fannie Sue Henry, Regent, Kentland Chapter, Martha Barnhart, Indiana State Regent, Mary Jeane Gray, Janet Miller, Melinda Henry; right, historical markers placed by the D.A.R., top, Civil War Monument and bottom, the First Church of Newton County. Photos by Beth Bassett

Kentland D.A.R. Celebrate 100 Years

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of the soldiers of the Civil War.

Education has been promoted by the Kentland Chapter in sponsoring 8th grade American history essay contests and by sending money, clothing, labels and supplies to the six nationally supported DAR Schools.

Kentland Chapter's love of country is evident in the patriotic endeavors they have provided to the community by volunteering time and funds to veterans in VA hospitals; sponsoring special displays promoting the Constitution during its official celebration week of September 17-23; and sponsoring and presenting patriotic awards to high school DAR Good Citizens.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTY OF NEWTON?

by Janet Miller, Answers on page fifteen

1. What state adjacent to Indiana also has county government relating to Newton and Jasper?
2. What year, where, and what was the cost of dues of the Newton County Farm Bureau when it was organized in Newton County?
3. In 1960 in Lincoln Township Naked City came into being. What was the name of this establishment before it became Naked City? Who was the founder? And, what year was it founded?
4. In 1856 Morocco's first doctor arrived. Can you name him?
5. In the Kentland Centennial Book there is an autobiography of a Brigadier General, Army. Can you name this man?

Mule Race in Downtown Lake Village

Published from the Lake Village Old Picture Page on Facebook.com



The facebook members of the Lake Village Old Photo page are not certain as to a date and time of this photograph, but speculate that it could have been a mule race, and it looks like the chicken in front of them is leading the pack. We do know that on the right hand side in the background is the Southeast corner of what is today the four way stop in Lake Village; next to the electric pole was Henry Stoner's store, later known as Hogans; the two story bulding was built of cement blocks from the Jennie Conrad block factory, and still stands today, the former Christenson Chevrolet Showroom.

PAGES OF THE PAST

Submitted by Janet Miller

Excerpts were taken from
The Newton County Enterprise, Fall, 1911

Kentland

New Bakery for Kentland. Kentland people will soon be feasting on their own bakery goods. W. J. Merica is installing the latest pattern of portable oven, and expects to turn out the first batch of homemade bread, cake and pies tomorrow or Saturday. The oven weighs eighteen tons and has a baking capacity of eighty square feet. Mr. Merica is an experienced baker and promises the people of Kentland bakery goods like mother used to make.

Everton Tremaine resigned last week as director of the Kentland Band, and left for Beardstown, Ill. Prof. Gott of West Lebanon has been engaged as director. Prof. Gott has three sons who will play in the band.

A new dipping vat has just been installed at Orchard Lake Farm, and was given a tryout a few evenings ago. The vat is built of cement, 30 feet long, four feet wide and seven feet deep, and is the only one of the kind in Indiana. Seventy head of cattle and about one hundred hogs, were run through, and got a bath that covered them from nose to fetlock. The liquid is a preparation to kill lice and cure the skin affections animals are heir to, and the dipping vat simplifies the method of application.

Chester Loughridge has purchased the McConnaughay barber shop and will continue the business at the old stand. Mr. McConnaughay pulled stakes as soon as the deal was closed and will go in a shop with his father at Fowler.

The three latest additions to three residences of Kentland are of stucco design. Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Ross have moved into their bungalow on Lincoln street. The foundation is of cement blocks and a base band and upper section are of stucco, making a catchy combination. The exterior of A. D. Washburn's new home is about completed. This is of solid white stucco and very pretty, the architectural design of the house showing off the stucco work to good advantage. Dr. VanKirk's new home is being similarly finished, the handsome pressed brick porch adding beauty in contrast.

Twenty-two Automobiles Carry Big Crowd of Horse Fair Advertisers. About 11 o'clock Friday a string of automobiles came rolling into Kentland from the north, and anchored along Court Park. The aggregation was the Rensselaer Horse Show

boosters, and a band and some seventy-five or eighty followers unloaded and took possession of the town. The band played a number of selections, the boosters hunted up their friends and invited them over to the best Horse Show in Indiana, and the entire party took dinner here, remaining for a couple of hours. The Rensselaer Horse Show is the last four days of this week, and promises to be sufficiently entertaining for any from this county who may find it convenient to attend.

Mt. Ayr

A barn on the Charles Battleday farm, tenanted by Frank Elijah, was struck by lightning and burned at an early hour Tuesday morning. Two horses, all the harness, implements and hay burned. Frank had a little insurance on the horses. We were unable to learn if the barn was insured or not.

Town Marshal Frank Burns has declared that he will not permit any stock to run at large within the corporation limits. He has given evidence of his sincerity and taken up several horses recently.

Roselawn

George Hurst and Will Boyle took 40 stands of bees to Roselawn Saturday to add to Mr. Boyle's apiary. George is fond of music but the enraged prisoners kept up a song of protest that was not any too pleasing to his thoughts of what might happen if those few million bees should escape from their screened cage.

Morocco

A. D. Peck was among the Morocco visitors at the Court House Monday. Mr. Peck located at Morocco in 1872, and claims that there is not a person there now who was a resident of the town at the time he set down his grip and registered. The people of Morocco should elect him Mayor.

A son was born last week to Editor and Mrs. Builta of the Morocco Courier. May the young heir inherit the scholarly attainments of its father and charming personality of its gifted mother.

Lake Village

Joe Wells was down from the Village yesterday. While here the Col. made the discovery that he was president of the Old Soldiers Association of Newton County, and that Lake Village had been designated as the place for holding the annual reunion. Mr. Wells will get busy at once and have

the program ready for announcement in a short time.

Goodland

The Goodland Hotel is closed until after the assembly at Fountain Park. Mrs. Hopkins has charge of the hotel at the park.

Al Gravel has the carpenter work on his new opera house almost completed and will soon commence work on the inside decorations.

Colfax Township

The Lawler ranch, one mile and a half west of Fair Oaks, was visited by a destructive fire Friday evening at about 7 o'clock, and a loss estimated at \$8,500 resulted. The ranch is being managed by a farmer named George Williams. He was milking in the barn lot when he saw the fire and ran into the barn and tried to save the horses and mules. He cut a number of the halters, but most of the animals refused to leave the barn, and it was so hot that Mr. Williams was compelled to give up his attempted rescue. Of 19 head that were in the barn, all but three were killed by the fire. The barn was a large one and contained 5,000 bushels of oats and a quantity of hay, all of which was lost, as also was the harness. Mr. Lawler was in Rensselaer and was notified by telephone soon after the fire started. He procured Mike Kuboske to take him to the scene of the fire. When they arrived there the barn was in ruins.

Enos and McClellan Township

The Embroidery Club will meet Saturday at the home of Mrs. Haban for an afternoon session. All club members are requested to be present. Mrs. J. C. Hodgson will be an honorary guest of the club and will furnish several readings.

Brook

Miss Winquest went to Chicago Monday to buy a new and larger assortment of hats for her millinery store.

The safe for the new post office came last week and the office will be ready for use the first of next month.

Visit our Resource Center

310 E. Seymour Street Kentland, Indiana
219-474-6944 - Open to the public

NEW HOURS:

Monday and Friday 11:00 - 3:00

Second & Fourth Thursday 11:00 - 3:00

Or by appointment/newtonhs@ffni.com

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Three major historical compilations are underway in our county. Two under the auspice of the Family History Division: the History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships and The Yost Project. The other project is the History of Goodland which is being lead by Anne Meyer and Karen Schuette. We present here just a sample from each project.

The History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Township

The committee working together on this project is headed by Donna LaCrosse. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month to compare notes and share a bit of neighborhood history. A deadline of May 31st has been set to have the book ready for publishing, so there is still adequate time to get your family history to the group. Contact them through the historical society.

Just His Luck

Morocco Courier, January 17, 1913

"Sid Schanlaub, the Sage of Cleveland Park, Jackson Township, was in town Saturday. He drove old Dobbin as far as O. A. Brown's place whereupon he found the hard road too icy for an unshod horse and set out on foot for town, hoping that some passerby would have room and invite him to ride.

"But he says it was just his luck that while he was driving several rigs headed for town passed him or he passed them, as the case might be, but just as soon as he set out on foot the whole course of travel changed and every rig was headed east instead of west and as a consequence he walked to town and for all we know he had to walk back where he left his horse.

"Sid said he believes that if he were to walk from coast to coast he would not strike one chance to ride in the entire journey."

Mt. Ayr Blind Tiger Raided Plan Tipped Off to Keeper

**Who Escaped - Much Liquor Found
Morocco Courier, September 5, 1913
Submitted by Larry "Doc" Schanlaub**

"Prosecuting attorney Fred Longwell of Brook in company with Frank Ross and Sheriff Dowling of Kentland raided the Blind Tiger at Mt. Ayr August 23.

"The onslaught on the menace to our neighboring town was successfully tipped off to the keeper in due time so that when the officers appeared the doors were locked and no "Pat" Miller was to be found in charge as he had been for many months. However, they broke in and found plenty of wet goods and evidence enough to keep

the former proprietor out of the county for some years.

"Later-on hearing that "Pat" Miller had returned to Mt. Ayr, Prosecutor Longwell got out a warrant for his arrest and Henry Deardurff was sent over there Tuesday to make the arrest. He came back in a short time with his man who was taken before Squire Hawkins and put under bonds of \$1,000 to appear at the Newton Circuit Court at the beginning of the October term. His bond was signed by Jap Wright and Hiram Ashby."

Mt. Ayr Bootleggers Taken Eight Barrels of Bottled Beer Confiscated by the Sheriff Morocco Courier, April 24, 1914

"Sheriff Dowling and assistant prosecutor Ross drove to Mt. Ayr Tuesday and arrested three men and confiscated eight barrels of bottled beer.

"The men are Pat Miller, Geo. Eggleston and August Buck. The former was said to have been so intoxicated that he was disinclined to accompany the party after a good was made toward Kentland and it became necessary to stop at a farm house and secure a rope with which to manacle the obstreperous offender of the law, the other two arrested parties assisting in subduing their comrade.

"There was said to be a fourth party implicated but a search for him proved futile.

"Six barrels of the goods were located in the Pat Miller room which is undergoing repairs to fit it up for what was no doubt expected a future flourishing business. The other wet goods were found at Buck's house. A thorough search of every available place about the house from cellar to garret was made to find some whiskey that was thot to be there but only an empty barrel rewarded the efforts.

"Dowling humorously said he was satisfied when they found the beer, mostly Pabst Blue Ribbon and LaFayette products, for he does not like whiskey, but that Ross was very anxious to locate some of the stronger liquor.

"The men after a night with the sheriff gave bail and were released.

"Pat Miller was already under a similar indictment, a change of venue having been taken to Jasper county where it will come up for trial next week.

"The liquor was shipped to Kentland to be kept pending the outcome of the trial and the order of the court. Sheriff Dowling is overwhelmed with offers to assistance both from Morocco and Kentland in de-

stroying (?) the goods and should the judge make such an order. The matter of safely keeping the liquor until such a time in worrying the Sheriff not a little. His wife, he said, would not permit its storage in the kitchen and he was afraid to leave it in the barn and a neighbor refused when being offered high rent, to have it on the premises. Mr. Dowling was already the custodian of two barrels taken in a previous raid.

"It had been known that an open and notorious place was conducted at Mt. Ayr for some time, much to the disgust of the majority of the people of that town and vicinity. A similar search in other towns of the county would not doubt be an eye opener."

The Yost Project

For lack of a better title at this time, members of the Family History Division have dubbed the compilation of John J. Yost's newspaper columns throughout his lifetime, "The Yost Project." Here is an example of the variety of news that John included in his columns, whch spanned from his early school days to his passing in February, 2007.

June 25, 1981, Newton County Enterprise Early Century Festival Recalled The Kentland Horse Show, 1903

"EDITOR'S NOTE: The eighth edition of the annual Kentland Corn Festival will be held this weekend. We thought on this festival weekend our readers would enjoy a glimpse of a Kentland festival of long ago. We went back to the 1903 volume of the *Newton County Enterprise* for a look at the Kentland Horse Show of that year. Our thanks to Librarian Kay Ford and her staff at the Kentland Public Library, and Newton County Recorder Mel Fisher for their assistance and to Steve Schwenn who supplied the photo used in the article. Most of the information used in this article was taken from articles written at the time by Harry A. Strohm, then editor of the *Enterprise*.

By Harry A. Strohm & John Yost

"They were held in September between 1903 and 1908. They brought thousands of people together for socializing, entertainment and the judging of the best horseflesh in the area. They were the Kentland Horse Shows.

"It was a simpler time. Teddy Roosevelt was in the White House. Ragtime was the music of the day. Few autos were seen on the town's dirt streets. Getting into town was a much rarer occasion than it is today for rural residents, and an event like the Kentland Horse Show provided an ex-

cellent opportunity to visit with family and friends.

"The idea for the Horse Show was developed by the Kentland Commercial Club. A forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, the event was planned and carried out by the 40 members of the club. Among the businessmen behind the organization of the Kentland Horse Show were Warren T. McCray, Will K. McCray, T.B. Cunningham, A.J. Thompson, Will H. Ade, Clermont Rider, and Dr. Bert Hess.

Those in charge of the Horse Show made every effort to see to it that the entertainments offered during the show were both wholesome and on the up and up. As the *Enterprise* noted the week prior to the Horse Show:

"No gambling or fake street fair attractions of the snake eating variety are to be permitted. An offer of \$300 was made the committee for gambling privileges but was promptly turned down. Nothing of

the sort will be in evidence. A good, clean programme from start to finish, with all objectionable features of every description eliminated, (will be presented.)"

"The Horse Show committee made special arrangements with the railroad for extra train service between Kentland and Monticello "and all intermediate points." In addition, a special train was added leaving at 10:00 p.m. for Monticello after the final night of the Show.

"Concession stands of all sorts were set up along Third Street on the Courtyard. One of the attractions in the Courtyard was a merry - go - round. The *Enterprise* published the week of the festival took the following note of this attraction;

"The first evidence of the Horse Show showed up Monday night when Reese and Callum of Watseka set up their big steam merry - go - round in Court Park. They had a nice outfit and the little folks have found their Elysium. This is one supreme pleasure that should not be denied the little tots; they

can't resist that mystic music of the merry - go - round. Shell out a few nickels and let them enjoy the occasion in their own sweet way."

"The first Horse Show ran on Thursday and Friday, September 24th and 25th. A full "Programme" was planned. On Thursday the horse judging ran from 9:00

evening, and among the musical numbers offered by the musicians were the march "Waving Plumes," "The Goddess of Liberty," "The Cows in the Cotton," "The Blue and Grey Patrol," a medley of "Southern Plantation Songs," "An American Fantasia - Gems of Stephen Foster," "The Gay Tally Ho March," "Hail, Columbia," and "The

Star Spangled Banner."

"Over the two days of the Horse Show nearly \$500 in premiums were awarded to horses in five classes, French Draft and Percheron Norman Class; English Draft, Shire and Clydesdale Class; Roadster Class; Sweepstake Class; and Miscellaneous, consisting of teams, draft, carriage, delivery and mule.

"A total of 270 entries were judged. Horses were entered in the show by Will H. Ade, George Clark, Clermont Rider, E.R. Settle,

Budd Weldon, Charles Martin, Jr., W.L. Remsburg, A.J. Schuh, James Couch, and Thomas Mulligan, all of Kentland; and Charles Eastburn of Sheldon, Illinois; Joe Crawford of Woodland, Illinois; Albert Herriman of Brook; and Truman Kirkpatrick of Raub, among other. Up to 130 of the horses were housed at Boatman's livery and feed barn during the exhibition.

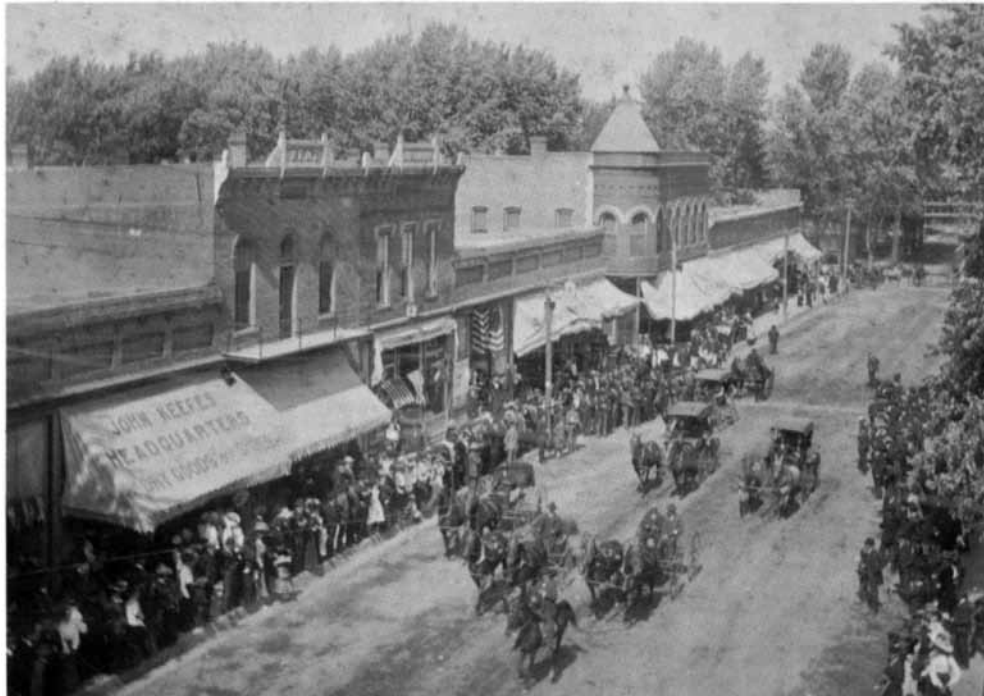
A Big Success

All the events at the Horse Show were free except the baseball games for which 25 cents admission was charged. An estimated 700 attended the ball games each day.

The baseball games, played in the area which is now Dixon Field at the Kentland Elementary School, were also successful. They were played for a \$100 prize offered by the Commercial Club. As the *Enterprise* reported:

"The game Thursday between Brook and Wolcott was a big surprise. Both teams

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A view of the 1903 Horse Show in Kentland. This event was sponsored by the Community Club, and this is the first parade of the gala affair. Reprinted from the *Kentland Centennial Book, 1960.*

a.m. until noon. It was followed by a 100 - yard dash foot race, the "Liberation of the Greased Pig" (prize, the pig), a keg race, a baseball game between Brook and Wolcott, a Fat Baby Show at Woodruff's Photography Studio, and a slow mule race (prize, 200 Justin Cigars.)

"On Friday the Horse Show offered the following attractions, horse judging 9:00 a.m. until noon again, followed by the Grand Parade of all premium horses, a delivery cart race, the Fat Men's Bicycle Race, the Ladies' Foot Race, and Baseball with Attica against the previous day winner for the \$100 purse.

"On both days a balloon ascent was made by Prof. W.M. Morton of the Morton Balloon Company of Marion. The balloon ascension went to 7,000 feet, which is the limit of human daring," followed by a drop to earth in a parachute.

"On both evenings a band concert was presented by the Monticello Band. The band offered a different program each

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Jackson Township

Harris Family Civil War Letters

By Beth Bassett

When I first received scanned copies of the Civil War correspondence of the John T. Harris family of Mt. Ayr, I was positive that this would be an excellent article for the Newcomer, and I was right. My only problem being, what to include and what to leave out. Deciphering the handwriting of John and Louisa Harris, friends and family is a daunting task, but very rewarding. The letters capture life as a soldier, his wife and family during the Civil War.

I have broken some of the Harris letters into particular groups, explaining along the way the information known about the named individuals, as well as tracking the days of the Civil War during this same period of time, in particular the movement of Company B., 51st Volunteer Infantry. Transcription of some of the letters appear on pages eight and nine of this edition.

The first set of letters contain general social and family correspondence. Farm news, crop prices, illness in the family, religious comments and the news of the death of the son of Elizabeth and Henry Kessler, James W., and the passing of a Landis girl. This first group helped establish the relationship of those writing the letters to the Coshaw and Harris families.

The Civil War correspondence begins with a letter dated October 6, 1861. It is from Thomas Jefferson (T.J.) Coshaw, brother to Louisa (Coshaw) Harris, to his Uncle. Unfortunately, we do not know which one. T.J. Coshaw enlisted in Company G of the 9th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was reorganized at LaPorte in Aug. 1861, and was mustered in Sept. 5, for three years. It left the state soon afterward for western Virginia, went into quarters at Cheat Mountain, and was engaged at Green River and Camp Alleghany. His letter discusses the battle at Cheat Mountain. (See letter A407-1.8., page 8)

September 12-15, 1861

The Battle of Cheat Mountain

General Robert E. Lee directed his first offensive of the war against Brigadier General Joseph Reynolds's entrenchments on the summit of Cheat Mountain and in the Tygart Valley. The Confederate attacks were uncoordinated, however, and the Federal defense was so stubborn that Col. Albert Rust (leading the attacks) was convinced that he confronted an overwhelming force. He actually faced only about 300 determined Federals. Lee called off the attack and, after maneuvering in the vicinity, withdrew to Valley Head on September 17. It was considered a Union victory. Estimated

ed Casualties: 170 total (US 80; CS 90).

John T. Harris Letters, December 24, 1861-March, 1862; A407-1.9, 1.12, 1.14

John enlisted in Company B, 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry. This regiment was organized at Indianapolis in the fall of 1861 and was mustered in Dec. 14. Company B consisted entirely of Newton County recruits. It moved at once to Bardstown, Ky., and with Buell's army in Feb., 1862, towards Nashville, reaching the Tennessee River too late to participate in the battle of Shiloh.

April 1862, The Battle of Shiloh

On April 6, Confederate forces attacked Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant at Shiloh, Tennessee. By the end of the day, the federal troops were almost defeated. Yet, during the night, reinforcements arrived, and by the next morning the Union commanded the field. When Confederate forces retreated, the exhausted federal forces did not follow. Casualties were heavy, 13,000 out of 63,000 Union soldiers died, and 11,000 of 40,000 Confederate troops were killed.

We learn about the death of Henry Howey, who died of measles and Wm. Board, who died of quick consumption; he gives descriptions of camp food, the land and trees in the area as he passes through Kentucky into Tennessee. He describes his first weeks in the regiment, and the Negro quarters he passes, "I saw the Negro dance, and Old Popcorn (the Lieutenant Colonel's groom/stableman), played the accordion for them. He is one smart Negro and thinks a great deal of the 51st boys."

Movement of the 51st

It took an active part in the siege of Corinth and moved from there with Wood's division of the Army of the Ohio through Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. It moved for Murfreesboro in December and participated in the three days' battle at Stone's River, losing 5 killed, 36 wounded, and 8 missing. It remained near Murfreesboro until April, 1863, when it joined a force under Col. Streight for a raid in the rear of Bragg's army at Tullahoma.

Stone River

December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863

After General Braxton Bragg's defeat at Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862, he and his Confederate Army of the Mississippi retreated, reorganized, and were re-designated as the Army of Tennessee. They then advanced to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and prepared to go into winter quarters. Major General William S. Rosecrans's Union Army

of the Cumberland followed Bragg from Kentucky to Nashville. Rosecrans left Nashville on December 26, with about 44,000 men, to defeat Bragg's army of more than 37,000. He found Bragg's army on December 29 and went into camp that night, within hearing distance of the Rebels.

At dawn on the 31st, Bragg's men attacked the Union right flank. The Confederates had driven the Union line back to the Nashville Pike by 10:00 am but there it held. Union reinforcements arrived from Rosecrans's left in the late forenoon to bolster the stand, and before fighting stopped that day the Federals had established a new, strong line.

On New Year's Day, both armies marked time. Bragg surmised that Rosecrans would now withdraw, but the next morning he was still in position. In late afternoon, Bragg hurled a division at a Union division that, on January 1, had crossed Stones River and had taken up a strong position on the bluff east of the river. The Confederates drove most of the Federals back across McFadden's Ford, but with the assistance of artillery, the Federals repulsed the attack, compelling the Rebels to retire to their original position.

Bragg left the field on January 4-5, retreating to Shelbyville and Tullahoma, Tennessee. Rosecrans did not pursue, but as the Confederates retired, he claimed the victory. Stones River boosted Union morale.

The Confederates had been thrown back in the east, west, and in the Trans-Mississippi. Union victory Estimated Casualties: 23,515 total (US 13,249; CS 10,266)

John T. Harris Letters, May, 1862 to March, 1863: A407-1.19, 1.23, 1.32, 1.34

With a letter dated July 8, 1862, from John to Louisa, John writes, "I hope you really do not want a divorce, but you can have one unless she wants to marry a Democrat." At this time, Louisa is staying with family in Carroll County. John writes of guard duty, and mentions in the August 3, 1862 letter that Company B is separated from the Regiment, as they are guarding the Memphis and Charleston Railroad; wishes he could see Oscar, their firstborn son on his 2nd birthday, and sends \$80.00 home to Louisa; there were no letters from November, 1862 until January, 1863, John mentioned that there was difficulty in mailing a letter, and predicts that there would be fighting at Murfreesboro.

There is a gap again between letters, and the consequences of the war may have caused the lack of correspondence, or perhaps letters were not written, or saved. He receives news of the death of John Coshaw, great nephew to Louisa, son of Joshua, and

the death of Ephriam Ham, a friend and neighbor, who died at the Battle at Day's Gap in Alabama. John had sent money to Louisa through Coshaw and Ham, posted in a letter March 17, 1863, via Indianapolis and Kent Station. It is not known if the money was delivered.

*The Battle of Day's Gap
April 30, 1863*

This was the first in a series of skirmishes in Cullman County, Alabama, that lasted until May 2, known as Streight's Raid. Commanding the Union forces was Col. Abel Streight; Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest led the Confederate forces. The goal of Streight's raid was to cut off the Western and Atlantic Railroad, which supplied General Braxton Bragg's Confederate army in Middle Tennessee. Starting in Nashville, Tennessee, Streight and his men first traveled to Eastport, Mississippi, and then eastward to Tusculumbia, Alabama.

On April 26, 1863, Streight left Tusculumbia and marched southeastward. Streight's initial movements were screened by Union Brig. Gen. Grenville Dodge's troops. On April 30 at Day's Gap on Sand Mountain, Forrest caught up with Streight's expedition and attacked his rear guard. Streight's men managed to repulse this attack and as a result they continued their march to avoid any further delays and envelopments caused by the Confederate troops. This battle set off a chain of skirmishes and engagements at Crooked Creek (April 30), Hog Mountain (April 30), Blountsville (May 1), Black Creek/Gadsden (May 2), and Blount's Plantation (May 2). Finally, on May 3, Forrest surrounded Streight's exhausted men three miles east of Cedar Bluff, Alabama, and forced their surrender. They all were sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. Only the officers were kept as prisoners. Streight and some of his men escaped on February 9, 1864.

John T. Harris was one of the soliders taken at Cedar Bluff. It is thought he took several furloughs after his release.

John T. Harris Letters, June, 1863 to July, 1864: A407-1.40, 1.42, 1.49, 1.52

Movement of the 51st

The regiment joined the army at Nashville in November and was assigned to the duty of guarding the communications between Nashville and Chattanooga. It was sent into eastern Tennessee and in the winter of 1863 a portion of the regiment re-enlisted and was sent home on furlough in March. The regiment was on duty at Chattanooga during the summer of 1864 going to Atlanta after its occupation, and with the 1st brigade, 3rd division 4th corps, took part in the campaign against Hood in Tennessee.



John T. Harris is buried at Weston Cemetery, Rensselaer.. The inscriptions upon tombstone reflect his dedication to his country and faith. Along with the inscription below is "He That Is Faithful In That Which Is Least Is Faithful Also In Much."

John talks of the furlough that some men of the 99th, (paroled from Libby Prison). He states in a July 21st, 1863 letter written from Camp Morton, (Indianapolis), that he hasn't been sick since he's been home. He is assigned to guard boats, railroad trains and forage wagons in Nashville; his group is on 2/3rds rations, but do pretty well.

In February, 1864, he is now with the 15th Indiana Regiment, Veteran Services; he describes his attempts to re-enlist men, and wishes his son Oscar was there to play with him; March 10, 1864, his address is now the 100th Illinois Regiment, Co. B, and he states that writing paper is expensive, i.e. six sheets cost 20 cents.

A letter from Pilot Grove, April 2, 1864, from his uncle William Buchanon, says his new baby weighs 9 pounds and that Oscar thinks the baby is ok, who himself is full of mischief; William longs for the time when John and Jefferson (T.J. Coshaw), come home; he says there are not enough workers at home to get all the land

planted this spring; Louisa writes in May, 1864, and thinks she will name the baby Harrison Grant.

John's letters reflect the movement of the 51st, as his letters are posted from Chattanooga, Knoxville and Athens TN; a letter from William Buchanon dated April 30, 1864, states that Jefferson (T.J.) was at Blue Springs, TN on April 12; later, John writes Louisa on May 29th, from Chattanooga, that Jefferson is at a convalescent camp nearby, and that he may have liver problems, rumors of 15,000 prisoners nearby. June 20, 1864, he writes to Louisa that they are retreating and describes conditions on retreat; Louisa writes of news at home and that her aunt and uncle Joshua Coshaw want to move to Battle Ground or buy a sorghum mill and make molasses.

John T. Harris Letters: August, 1864 to January 26, 1865: A407-1.57, 1.59, 1.62, 1.69

Movement of the 51st

The regiment was on duty at Chattanooga during the summer of 1864 going to Atlanta after its occupation, and with the 1st brigade, 3rd division 4th corps, they took part in the campaign against Hood in Tennessee. The regiment participated in the battle of Nashville, Dec. 15, and then joined in the pursuit of Hood to Huntsville, Ala., remaining there until March 1865, when it moved into east Tennessee. It returned to Nashville about May 1, where a number of recruits, remaining in service after the muster-out of the 78th regiment, were transferred to the 51st. The regiment was sent to Texas in June, and was mustered out Dec. 13, 1865, the non-veterans having been mustered out Dec. 14, 1864.

John writes that he has seen Jefferson, and thinks he will be home by early September; then had more rain and were in a slight skirmish, some men were wounded. Louisa writes on September 5, 1864, that John's brother William has sold his farm to a Mr. Applegate: \$170 for the prairie, \$300 for the woodland; October 22, 1864, John writes that he is still in Tennessee, but the regiment has moved to Huntsville, AL; John writes that the Rebs are between where he is and Nashville, so the roads were closed for 10 days, he doesn't know where they will live when he returns, but suggests he can bring home his pup tent. T.J. writes to John and sends news from home, and hopes that Sherman will burn everything in Georgia and South Carolina; William Buchanon has moved north of Logansport; John is home and receives a letter from a friend describing news of the war.

Information presented here regarding the movement of the 51st Regiment can be found at www.civilwardata.com.

Civil War Correspondence Between John T. Harris and His Wife Louisa J. Harris, Their Family and Friends

By Beth Bassett

“we was the first in the fight and the last to leave”

From T.J. Coshaw to his Uncle Henry Coshaw, Gandalf County Virginia, October 6, 1861

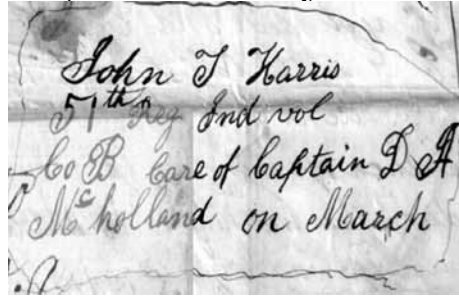
“Dear Uncle, I take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well. I wrote to you about five days ago when I was at Cheat Mountain Summit. We have got back to the old camp Waggoner. We had a fight the other day, the third of this month. We started about midnight and traveled about 10 miles against daylight when we struck the heights. Then shooting commenced, then skirmishing continued. For four miles we drove them inside of their breast works and then commenced on them with a cannons which lasted about five hours. The balls whistle pretty. There was a large force there and they was well fortified their loss was great and our loss was but few. We lost about 30 men there was about 30 killed and wounded. There was but one man in our company hurt and he had two of his fingers shot off. We was the first in the fight and the last to leave the field. The next time we attack them we will take possession of the place and that won’t be long. You could not tell the feelings that it puts on a person that do not think of getting shot. We just went to see how them was situated. We really only about 500 men and they had about 20,000 men. The second Virginia Regiment just started out to meet the Rebels there is a rumor in camp that the rebels is advancing on ours but do not think it; but if they are let them come, we are ready for them. When you write direct your letters to T. J. Coshaw Company G. Ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteer.” (A407-1.8)

“John Coshaw has just burned Abe Lyons’ whiskey”

From John T. Harris to Louisa J. Harris, December 29, 1861

“... I am well at present and E. G. Ham is complaining of the back, but he is up and about. John Coshaw has just burned Abe Lyons whiskey. I like camp life very well, Samuel Yeoman is our cook, there is plenty of good tame pasture here and some turnips in the patch yet.

“... there was one of our soldiers died this morning at 9 a.m. at Beardstown Hospital. He came from Newton County,



Washington Township, Henry Howey, he took cold after the measles. The most of our company is from Newton County we are camped on a Cedar Hill and have plenty of dry cedar wood to burn. We have beef, bacon, hominy or rice sometimes potatoes or crackers, plenty of coffee and sugar molasses once a week.

“... I am writing on my knapsack by the side of J. D. Morgan. There is not a deck of cards in our bunk that I know anything about, there is some of the boys swear in our bunk, Bully for Bunk, we have the best mess in the B.

“... thoughtfully direct letter to John T. Harris 51st Regiment Indiana Volunteer Company B. care of Capt. McHolland and on March. E. G. Ham, J. H. Thomas and Jasper, J. Yeoman, Sam Yeoman, George Smith, W. S Wilcox, G. W. Hartman, Ab Lyons, Sam Lyons, J. D. Morgan, J. Coshaw, John Lowe, John T. Harris.” (A407-1.9)

From John T. Harris, Nelson County,

“the civilians talk of burning it”

Beardstown, Kentucky, to his brother, January 5, 1862

“... I left home 12 December. I told you that I expected to go to the battlefield before you left, and I am as good as my words so far. Our company was made up in Newton County, Capt. McHolland from Kent Station. There is 83 in Company B and 800 in the Regiment of 51st Indiana volunteer. There was one of our company was buried the 25th. Ephriam and I help to do it. His name was Henry Howey.

“... We marched from Louisville to Beardstown in three days its 49 miles. We marched 22 miles one day, we was tired boys. Next day 14 miles. We drew our tents yesterday. There is 15 regiments within one half mile camped. We have the enfield rifle in four companys. The rest is a smooth bore muskets. We don’t drill on Sunday. Inspection at 1 o’clock and dress parade at four o’clock. Roll Call at 8:00.

I was on guard yesterday. We have some pickets to guard, a bridge. The civilians talk of burning it.

“... our friend as ever, J. T. Harris direct to John T Harris. Signed S. B. Yeoman S. Lyons A. Lyons J. B. Lyons, G. W. Smith, G. W. Hartman, Ira Yeoman, W. S. Wilcox, J. T. Harris, E. G. Ham, Leroy Kelley, Jery Hurst, William McHolland, J. Thomas, John Lowe, John Coshaw, John P. Morgan.” (A407-1.12)

From John T. Harris, Camp Near Bowl-

“stock has been drove in the pond and shot down to spoil the water”

ing Green, Kentucky, March 2, 1862, to his wife Louisa.

“... I take the present Sabbath morning to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still in Kentucky, but can’t tell how long I shall be. We have marching orders for Nashville, Tennessee. Before we get this far we left Munfordsville last Sunday after sundown and traveled 1 1/2 miles. The Regiment got there at 10 o’clock, the teams at 12. Monday we came 6 miles, Tuesday 4 miles, then we got on the pike, we came 14 miles. We are closest to the 15th Regiment. Aaron Reed has been to see us twice and several of the boys has been over to see us. I haven’t been over there yet. We will leave as soon as we can cross the river. There is so many troops ahead of us they are crossing day and night with two ferry boats. It’s raining today as usual. The people think it is hard times in Indiana they ought to come to the Kentucky where their stock has been drove in the pond and shot down to spoil the water so our troops could not use it. They tore up the pike and the railroad and burnt up several thousand bushel of corn as they went from Green River to Bowling Green.

“... You need not send the Gazette to me there is one come about every week to the bunk. Capt. gets the current Chronotype once and a while. Well there has been six of us of our company died, Walter Hawkins, Eli Jackson, there is about 18 that is left behind.” (A407-1.14)

From John T. Harris to his Uncle,

“3 bullet holes in his clothes and one just grazed his cheekbone”

July 16, 1862

“Dear Uncle, I take the opportunity

to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well except sore feet from scouting our position 30 miles from here. I wrote Louisa a bit before I left camp while I was on picket and the Colonel sent for us to come in on double-quick. The Regiment was going to Decatur to fight the guerrillas. We stayed there three days and then some of the union man came from the mountains. And if we would go out there we could get a good many more to volunteer so Col. telegraphed to General Buell and got the privilege to go. So we started with four days rations of crackers, we went along night until noon. We halted for two hours rest. We charged upon a blackberry patch of about 2 acres and took the most of them prisoners. Then we marched until about six o'clock and the rearguard was fired on. We wheeled in and waited for an attack, they fired three shots but they all overshot. This was Company A. Company B. was in advance we started on and went 1/2 mile and the word came that our Calvary was fired upon and they was coming on to us. Half our company was ordered to deploy out into skirmishing but we was too late the Calvary was too far ahead of us and stopped and was eating supper when the guerrillas came on them. There was 16 of the Calvary and there was 44 guerrillas and there is two of our men gone. One was wounded the other they caught and murdered. One was shot at several times but not hurt much. Three bullets holes in his clothes and one just grazed his cheekbone. And he swears vengeance on them if he ever gets to see them again. They shot his horse from under him, then he took to the timbers and got in a swamp. He buried his carbine and they got bloodhounds after him. Then he clum a tree and the next day our men found him. The guerrillas report 4 killed of them. We stayed at Col. Davises'. He was a Col. in the Mexican war. We got there at eight o'clock and he was hid up in the mountains. He came in next morning you never saw a gladder set and then they, they are all union man and we was the first set ever was in the neighborhood." (A407-1.19)

From John to Louisa, Bowling Green

"he is well, but looks like the rest of us, that is pretty hard"

Kentucky, September 12, 1862

"Wife, once more I will try and send a few lines to let you know I am well and hope you and Oscar is the same. We have marched from Stevenson in 21 days and we have rested three. We got here yesterday evening. I got four letters last Sunday,

one from you, mailed August 30, one from William and Ben, and from Uncle William, Ben and Dock. Have gone to the 48th Regiment. I got that paper you sent me last night I saw Jefferson yesterday for the first time since I left home. He is well but looks like the rest of us, that is pretty hard. John Coshaw is well but his feet is very sore from the hard march. My feet is not much sore. I can't write with ink this time for it is in my knapsack and it is in their wagon and it is two miles from here on the other side of the river. We are expecting marching orders any minute, don't know where but suppose supposedly to Louisville or Lexington. We are camped on Buckner's campground almost two miles from one of his forts."(A407-1.23)

From John to Louisa, Loudon, East

"much obliged for the thread you just sent and needle"

Tennessee, February 23, 1864

"Dear companion, Once again I sit myself in the parlor to pen you a few lines. I received a letter from you a few days ago with some thread and needle. When I wrote for it I was where I could not get any such thanks, but we can get them here now. There is a government store here in town now.

". . . Well I must tell you something about our parlor it is well furnished swept clean and everything is in good order clean and tidy with a good brick fireplace in the cupboard or on the shelf rather is our grub and dishes such as fresh beef, bacon, light bread, sugar, coffee, tea, salt, pepper, other things to tedious to mention. We have eat at the beans and taters. I am well pleased with our home it is. Four logs high and covered with our dog tents it is 11 feet long and 6 1/2 wide. We have a good bed three good blankets and four woolen blankets and two overlets. We have a fine time and plenty to eat and well satisfied but I often think if I had Oscar here to play with to pass the lonesome hours it would be fine fun. Well it is getting almost dinnertime and I will have to cook it. John Bridgeman is in picket and Daniel Doty has gone to town to get a some gingerbread.

". . . J.T. Harris detachment of the 51st Regiment Indiana Loudon, East Tennessee P. S. I am very much obliged to you for that thread you just sent me and needle."(A407 - 1.40)

From Lousia to John, Newton County,

"oats is ripe enough to cut and is tolerably good"

Indiana, July 18, 1864

"Kind Husband, I have not received a letter from you for over two weeks but I thought I would write you a letter this evening anyhow. We are all well and I hope this will find you the same. Uncle William has got all his wheat cut and is helping Mr. Putman cut his this afternoon. It rained so last night and this morning that they couldn't cut until after dinner most in the neighborhood is cut. Those that have machinery got a dollar in cash for cutting wheat and then got one and a half dollar a day for working in the harvest field. I heard today that good wheat was selling at \$.90 a bushel. Oats is ripe enough to cut and is tolerably good. The corn looks nice. I never saw corn grow faster in my life than it has in the last two weeks, we have lots of corn that is in still.

". . . I wrote you a letter about two months ago and put a silver three cent piece in it for you to get John Bridgeman to make me a black finger ring with silver sets in it. You never wrote whether you got it or not Mary Brown has one that he made so I thought if you had to write his letters that he might make one make me a ring." (A407-1.52)

From Benjamin Harris to John T. Harris,

"on the porch herding sheep"

September 11, 1864

"Brother John, I will pen you a few lines in answer to you and yours of 1 August. This may inform you that I am writing on the porch herding sheep and thought I would have time to write you a few lines. It is quite warm and the sheep are lying in the shade of the apple trees. We have sold our cattle and bought 1300 sheep, eight or 900 of them on land. They are worth about four dollars per head. When you come home I want you to bring two or three curly heads to attend to them. (A407 - 1.60)

From John to Louisa, Sanitary Gardens, October 16, 1864

"Louisa, I want to know where you are. Uncles and Doc and if they are going to leave Newton. You must try to put together a home for yourself and the boys and I the best you ever can until I get home. If Jim Wiseman has rented that house I don't know what we will do for a house unless I bring home my pup tent." (A407-1.62)

Editor's note: Most of these letters were written without punctuation or capitalization, these were added from time to time to clarify the meanings of the letters. They are typed as they were written to convey the true character of the individuals. Many thanks to Sue Hurlbut, San Bernardino County Museum of Redlands, California for emailing digital scans of the letters that I used in this article.

HOME IS WHERE YOUR STORY BEGINS

*The Coshaw Family
Jackson Township
By Beth Bassett*

The Coshaw Family

The Coshaw and Harris families are at the heart of this collection of letters. Why they came to Newton County by 1860 is not known. The research revealed several ways to spell the surnames, so I am using what was shown in the research. You can find detailed Harris family history in the Spring/Summer, 2011 edition of *The Newcomer*. In Letters of Administration recorded in the Carroll County Court, dated October 23, 1851, to James H. Coshaw for the Estate of William W. Coshaw, deceased, of Fayette County, Indiana, to his heirs, Henry, John, Elizabeth and Louisa Jane Coshaw. James H. being the brother to William W. The estate was settled and recorded August 15, 1854. This record validated the relationship of the family members to other information.

After viewing several years of census records (Indiana 1850-1880), that include the counties of Howard, Carroll, Cass, Jasper and Newton, we have established a family tree for the Coshaws. In 1850, the families of the first Coshaw were William W., Sarah E., Joshua, and James H. Coshaw.

Sarah E., married William Buchanon, from the census records, I do not find any children, however, her brother William's sons Thomas J. and Henry H. would reside with them upon the move to Newton County in 1860. It is believed that Louisa Jane also resided with the Buchanons, it's quite possibly where she met John T. Harris. William and Sarah would live a long and prosperous life, we find them at last in the 1880 census of Fulton County, Liberty township at the ages of 75 and 68 respectively, William stating that he had Rheumatism;

Joshua is listed in 1850 Carroll County and in 1860, Newton County, Jackson Township Census. He and his wife Elizabeth had five children, Mary, Sarah A., Margaret, John and Charlotte. Henry Harrison was living with his Aunt and Uncle in 1850, Joshua would ultimately move his family to Cass County, living out his days there. Their son John, enlisted with Company B, 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry on December 14, 1861, at the age of 17. He would die on April 30, 1863 at Days Gap, Alabama;

James H. is enumerated in the 1850 census of Howard County, along with his

wife Susanna, and children William, Frederick, and Winfield, at that time, his niece Elizabeth, 15, was residing with them. In 1860, James is not enumerated with Susanna and the family. Any reference that Louisa makes in her letters to "Aunt Susan" would be to James' wife, Susannah (Lan-dis).

William W. Coshaw. William was born between 1800-1810 and died between February and April 1844. He married Catherine Buckley, born August 3, 1811, and died on January 31, 1849. They had four children: Elizabeth Abigail, Henry H., Thomas J. and Louisa Jane.

Elizabeth Abigail, born 1835, died 1869. She is listed living with her Uncle James Coshaw in the 1850 census of Howard County. She married Henry H. Kessler. They had two children, Martha and James W., both of them passing at early ages. After her death, Henry married Elizabeth Edging. The children from his second marriage include Joseph, born 1870 and Clara, born 1878.

Henry Harrison, born 1837, died on September 5, 1863 in Camp Sherman, MS. At the age of 13, he was living with his Uncle Joshua, and at 23, he is residing with his Aunt Sarah, the sister to William, and wife of William Buchanon, as he is enumerated in that household in the 1860 Census of Jackson Township, Newton County, at the age of 23. In the same letter dated September 11, 1859, Henry mentions the boarding fees he is paying while attending school, the letter posted from Burnettsville, White County, Indiana. Henry enlisted on August 11, 1862 into Company D, of the Indiana 12th Volunteer Infantry. On September 5, 1863, he died in Camp Sherman, MS, of typhoid fever. Elizabeth referred to him as "Harrison" in the letters.

Thomas Jefferson Coshaw, born 1839, died February 15, 1907, and is buried in Jasper, Illinois. He enlisted as a member of Company G of the 9th Indiana Volunteer Infantry on September 5, 1861, and mustered out on September 19, 1864. He is referred in the letters by his aunts as Jefferson. In 1870, he is enumerated in the household of William and Sarah Buchanon, and later, in 1900, he is found in Jasper County, Illinois. When he left Indiana for Illinois is not known, but his remains were buried there, and it is possible he married

and had a family there.

Louisa Jane Coshaw, born 1841, died Oct 22, 1884. In a letter dated February 15, 1859 from R. J. Lemmon, the pastor of the church the Buchanon's attended in Dale, Spencer County, Indiana, the comment is made, "wonder if John (Harris) and Louisa (Coshaw) will soon be married. Louisa Jane and John T. Harris are found in the 1860 census in Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana. Louisa would have been 19 years of age, where she resided prior to coming to Newton County is not known at this time. On December 14, 1861, John enlisted in service with Company B of the 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and would muster out on December 14, 1864. At the age of 21, Louisa was left to care for their first born child, Oscar William, born October 14, 1860, in Newton County with only her Aunt Sarah Buchanon, Aunt Elizabeth "Betsy", wife of her Uncle Joshua, and John's brothers' family, William F. and Ruth Harris. Her brother Henry would have been off to school, and her sister Elizabeth was residing in Cass County.

This explains the vastness of the letters that were saved over a period spanning 1858-1892. Letters were the only means of communication, and the fact that letters from the war front actually arrived and were sent is an amazing feat. "My Companion, Dear Husband" often started the letters between the newlyweds. Only once did I sense a bit of doubt in the relationship between John and Louisa, but doubt was erased quickly with the signing of the letters, "forever yours"

John was taken prisoner during the last of "Streight's Raids", but was released. The paroled soldiers were not allowed to return to combat for six months. They were assigned guard duty at a northern POW prison at Camp Morton. Their second son, Grant D. was born in 1864. There is a gap in the letters between the two of them from August of 1863 until November 1863, when he is at Camp Morton in Indianapolis. Grant died on November 28, 1892 in Redlands, San Bernardino, California, at age 28. The cause of his death was Consumption; Bruce T., born 1866, died Feb 9, 1886 in California, about age 19; Detmer E. Harris, b. 1869, died September 16, 1870, age 1, buried at the Harris Cemetery, Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana.

Louisa passes away in Newton County on October 22, 1884 and is interred at Harris Cemetery, Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana. John would remarry Nel-

lie Jackson and live a full and interesting life. He is interred at Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer, Indiana.

Branch Added to the John T. Harris Family Tree

We received a wonderful letter from Leslie Hall, a member of our society regarding the Harris family history the Spring/Summer, 2011 edition of the *Newcomer*, which has added a bit of more family history to the Harris family story. This has expanded a branch of their tree, finding a brother to John, Benjamin.

Leslie also included a photograph of the Benjamin Harris family, and I am happy to include Benjamin's obituary. Thanks Leslie, for sending along your information. "Dear Newton County Historical Society:

"I just spent an enjoyable afternoon reading the latest edition of *The Newcomer*" which arrived in the mail today and was pleasantly surprised to see the article on the Harris Family. One of Benjamin T. and Elizabeth Faulk Harris' sons was Benjamin Harris who married one of my great grand aunts, Emily Jane Crisler (a second marriage for Ben). Ben was married first to Catherine A. Wood, but I have no further information regarding her.

"Ben Harris, known to my grandfather as "ol' Uncle Ben" was a philanthropist whose will made provisions for the Benjamin Harris Home for Widows and Orphans in Rensselaer when he died in 1916. He and Emily Jane are both buried in Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer. They had an only daughter, Flora Ellen Harris who married at age 40 the organist and choir director of Rensselaer Methodist Church (and later a Presbyterian Church), Charles Edward Prior, a native of England. Flora died in 1931. She and Charles had no children.

"I am attaching a genealogy report which outlines the information I have gathered on the Benjamin Harris family. I am also attaching a photo of Benjamin and Emily Jane Harris with their daughter Flora Ellen taken probably between 1890 and 1900. (Shown above right) Regards, Leslie Hall, Waynesboro, Virginia."

Death of Well Known Citizen, Rensselaer Republican, December 8, 1916

"Uncle Benjamin Harris Dies at His Home in Rensselaer Today-Funeral Sunday. Benjamin Harris, of this city, died today at 11:00 a.m. He had been sick for the past four months. Mr. Harris was one of the eldest residents of Jasper County, having spent most of his life of seventy-eight years here. He was born in Tippecanoe County,

April 2, 1838.

When a small lad, he with his widowed mother moved to a home about a mile west of Mt. Ayr. He later moved to Brook, Ind., and owned and operated a mill. He was surveyor of Jasper County from 1876-1878. He moved to a farm near Julian and some twenty-two years ago moved to this city. He has made this city his home since that time. He was twice married. His first wife was Catherine Wood. His second wife to whom he has been married over forty years, was Emily Crisler. She and her only child, Mrs. C. E. Prior, survive him. The funeral services will be held at the Church of God Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. At his request there will be no flowers. Mr. Harris was a quiet, unassuming man but of splendid character. He was a careful business-



Benjamin, Emily and Ellen Harris

man and had accumulated a large estate. He was a member of the Church of God and his life was thoroughly consistent with that belief. A life, such as Uncle Ben has lived among us, will leave an influence for good that will long be felt."



Harris Cemetery, 2005



Harris Cemetery, 2011

Blankenbaker Family Funds Harris Cemetery Restoration

Descendants of Joel and Susanna (House) Blankenbaker, who are buried in the Harris Cemetery north of Mt. Ayr, commissioned the Graveyard Groomers out of Connersville, IN to restore this cemetery. The restoration began on Monday, October 10, 2011 and was completed Wednesday, October 12, 2011.

During the restoration, bases for two headstones were found. The headstones themselves were not located. However, they did uncover a foot stone with the initials MCR carved on it. This foot stone was located immediately to the south of the Thomas Reed burial location. We assume this to be the burial location of his daughter, Mahala C. Reed. However a Mahala Reed does show up in 1870 (different age) with a Stewart family, so more research should be done to verify this assumption.

The Blankenbaker family greatly appreciates Randy Ames giving permission for them to have access to the cemetery, which is located on his farm. When a cemetery is located on private property, it is the owner's decision as to the upkeep and preservation of the area. The other cemeteries in Jackson Township are under the jurisdiction of the trustee, Sharen Clark, who has done an excellent job in maintaining them. *Submitted and photos by Beth Bassett*

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<continued from page five>

seemed to go up in the air the first inning, and when they landed on terra firm at the close a score of 26 to 11 was marked down in favor of Wolcott. It was a good grand stand game, however, for those who enjoy seeing hot grounders, sky scrapers, and home runs. Our neighboring town of Brook has a good ball team, and a loyal lot of supporters. A crowd of good looking ladies from that town rooted vociferously for their club on the Kentland ground Thursday. They were a jolly good crowd and gave the boys about the only encouragement they received. Wolcott and Attica played Friday, the former winning on a score of 8 to 5."

"The First Kentland Horse Show was a big success. According to the *Enterprise*, "The attendance on Thursday was variously estimated between 2,500 and 3,000 people. On Friday it was fully double that of the first day and between five and six thousand would not be far out of the way."

"Judging (on Friday) began at nine o'clock and continued without a break until half after three in the afternoon, at which time the grand parade was made. No adjournment was taken for dinner. It was conservatively estimated that during these six hours and a half not less than 2,000 people stood on the street so absorbed in the matchless display of fine horses that they missed the noonday meal. Others grabbed a bun or chicken leg from a lunch counter and were back on the street before the last mouthful could be gulped down."

"While the show of horses was the principle featured of both days-and this alone was all any visitor might reasonably have asked for - there were other things going on for the entertainment of our guests. The balloon went up on schedule on both days, the greased pig made his dash for liberty, the fat men sprinkled the dust of the bicycle track with the sweat of their brow, the ladies foot race, the gentlemen's foot race, the cart race, the keg race and other light sports were pulled off to the manifest delight of those who were fortunate enough to get in line for the events. The baseball games were a big drawing card to a certain class. The Monticello Band worked in around the edges and filled in every spare moment with a good lively tune, and made the nights merry with their open air concerts."

"Arthur Dick marched five daughters all under sixteen years of age, down to the McCray telephone office and won the prize offered by Mr. McCray for the largest family of daughters within the age limit, in at-

tendance at the Horse Show. The prize was six month's telephone rent. A similar prize was gobbled up by W.A. Smith for the largest load of children. When Mr. Smith goes after a prize he generally wins. Leading the Raub and Flemming schools on a hay rack he came sailing into town with fifty three youngsters singing the national airs. Mr. Smith and Mr. Dick are each rock ribbed, Republicans and have long been perched on the Roosevelt plank favoring large families."

"The business men of Kentland have reason to be proud of their efforts at window dressing. Many very fine and praiseworthy displays were made. The business street never presented a better appearance in the history of the town, and many flattering comments were made by visitors. A display in the Ade and McCray Bank windows of war relics and trophies collected in the Philippines and South Africa by John T. McCutcheon, attracted a great deal of attention, and were carefully scrutinized by hundreds of people. And the Albino and Arabian colts were also here, notwithstanding the many doubts previously expressed as to their genuiness, became popular pets. The displays were all worthy of praise."

Dramatic Conclusion

Though the well planned Horse Show provided two days of entertainment for thousands of people, it was an unplanned event in the closing moments of the festival which gave the Kentland Horse Show of 1903 its dramatic conclusion.

As the *Enterprise* of October 1, 1903 reported:

"Last Friday night just as the din of the big Horse Show had reached its highest pitch, when everybody was putting the finishing touches on a day of supreme pleasure, when the blasts of a thousand horns were echoing the merriment of the jolly throng of people, and when the town was ready to bid farewell to its thousands of guests, a most appalling accident occurred that came near resulting in the death of Louis Keefer, and which will at the best probably leave him a cripple for life.

"Young Keefer is in the employ of Will K. McCray, working as lineman and general help at the telephone office. During the evening the light wires became crossed with the telephone wires in front of Gauthier's restaurant. The whole telephone system had become charged and the bells were ringing all over town, and on the toll lines as far as Effner, Sheldon and Iroquois. For the safety of the people Mr. McCray lent every effort to right the wrong. Anyone

using a phone at the time would have been given a shock and several did not escape.

The nearest pole stood in front of the Bank of Kentland and Mr. McCray had himself twice ascended it in an effort to dislodge the conflicting wires. The third time he sent Keefer up but warned him to be careful and touch no wires, at the same time handing him a stick with which to knock the cross out. He had scarcely reached the top, when without warning he fell to the cement walk below, a distance of some twenty five feet. For a moment it was thought the boy had been killed instantly. He was hurriedly carried to his home and a doctor summoned."

Burn marks on Keefer's neck and fingers indicated that he had contacted the electric wire which caused him to fall. Keefer spent several weeks in a Lafayette hospital, and later editions of the paper indicated that he was on the road to recovery from the broken leg and injured kneecap in the last report we could find.

An unusual event also marked the 1904 Kentland Horse Show, Charles Eastburn, who owned a stock farm between Sheldon and Watseka in Illinois, entered a team of horses in the 1904 judging. One of the horses in the team was nervous and did not perform well before the judges, and the team took a second place. Later that year Eastburn entered that same team at the St. Louis World's Fair and took a first place. Eastburn explained that the long train ride to St. Louis calmed the horses, enabling them to make a normal showing.

The Kentland Horse Show was held for six years ending in 1908. It was an event which provided much entertainment for the people of the area, but it was also an event whose days were numbered. The arrival of tractors and the growing popularity of the horseless carriage meant that the supply of good show horses was bound to dwindle.

Goodland History Book

Local historians Anne Meyer and Karen Schuette, and several of their friends and neighbors are working together to produce a history of the town of Goodland. The articles that follow are just an example of the fine research and development this group has accomplished.

The James Family of Goodland

The James family came to Goodland just prior to the Civil War. Joseph McAlister, aka Joseph McJames, had been taking some family members out of Pulaski County, Kentucky, two new settlement lands where the growing family might continue

to prosper.

Pioneering in America is a James tradition. John James, the original immigrant arrived from Caernarvonshire, Wales sometime prior to 1650. He settled swamplands along the Rappahannock River in today's Virginia. The James family traces their lineage back through the kings of England and Scotland all the way to Clovis, the founder of the city of Paris. In America, the James were among the country's founding families. They were, and are, champions of religion and individual liberty.

After the Revolutionary war, John M. James migrated into Indian territory in the land called Kentucke. Settling on 5000 acres, he was one of the founders of the County of Pulaski, and the town of Somerset. He served in the State Legislature. Many of his descendants became governors, senators, mayors, sheriffs and public servants. Others became educators. Many in the family were Baptist ministers who founded churches still in active ministry 200 years later.

Goodland was one of several plantations owned by Joseph McJames. Others were located in Douglas and Champaign counties in Illinois. These were operated by other family members. Mack had already proven himself as an able farmer, hotel builder, a financier back in Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky. The development of the Logansport-Peoria Railroad was likely the key attraction in bring Mack James to Goodland.

Mack built the first hotel in Goodland. The Central Hotel was built of wood and subsequently burned. Mack replaced it with a brick built hotel, like the brick structures his family built in Kentucky and Virginia. The hotel had a "sample room" on the ground level. This was noted in the local newspaper. One of Mack's former slaves, James Piddigon, operated a barber shop there. Piddigon knew everyone in town, and by the end of the 19th century, was recognized himself as one of the pioneer founders of Goodland.

Prior to the Civil War, Mack had been freeing James family slaves and setting them up in their own plantations and farms. Mack brought former family slaves from Kentucky to Goodland to operate the farm together with his son, Frances Marion James, who was known in Goodland as Marion James.

Marion James arrived in Goodland after serving in the Confederate army in the Civil War. James family members had fought on both sides. Marion settled into a



These early photographs of buildings in Goodland were found at the Goodland Library. The top photograph was the Griggs and Weishaar Building and Bringham Brothers. The second photo is of the Jacobs building, which housed a Dry Goods Store owned by Rufus Jacobs called the F. Z. Little Store, who was a partner with Jacobs in the store. It also housed the Masonic Temple and gentleman's quarters for Jacobs.

log cabin. The cabin still exists in Goodland at 102 Prairie Avenue. Marion built a new home completely encasing the original log cabin. Family lore has it that there had once been a statue of Marion James erected in Goodland, recognizing him as the only Confederate veteran of the Civil War. His Confederate war pistols were donated to the Goodland Historical Society. The location of those pistols is unknown today.

Mack and Marion bought land east of Goodland and annexed it to the town. James Street was named for the family. They built homes on the east side of town

up to the creek and sold them to migrating settlers.

Marion's wife, Nancy Angeline Logan Wood James, was one of the founding members of the First Baptist Church of Goodland. Nancy was born on the Oregon Trail.

Mack also brought a brother Daniel Morgan to Goodland. It is believed Morgan operated a lumber business in Goodland, but this has not been verified.

Marion James, Nancy Angeline, three
< continued on page fourteen > < continued from page thirteen >

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of their children, together with Morgan James are all buried in Goodland Cemetery. Mack migrated further west to Coffeyville, Kansas. There he engaged in cattle ranching. Presumably, Mack had changed his name from Joseph McAlister James to Joseph McJames to avoid the embarrassment and notoriety of his cousins, outlaws Jessie and Frank James. In Coffeyville, Kansas, Mack's son, D. Ephraim James, was caught in the middle of the Dalton gang raid on the Condon Bank in Coffeyville. Ironically, Mack was buried within 75 feet of Frank Dalton and within 200 feet of the rest of the gang who were killed in the robbery attempt.

The son of Marion and Nancy Angeline Logan Wood James, Francis Marion, "Frank" James, Jr., is also buried in Goodland Cemetery with his parents. Frank ran away from his Goodland home at age 14. He tried mining in Choride, Arizona, but settled in the small town of Westmont, Illinois, outside of Chicago. There he married Anna Emalia Knaff and raised seven children. Among them was Harry Frances "Buddy" James, Jr. aka Eric James. Bud often visited Goodland in his lifetime. His father, Frank, died at the age of 53 from tuberculosis and alcoholism. Regardless, Frank proved himself a kind, generous, and considerate father and husband. He is also buried at Goodland Cemetery.

Recently, the sole surviving daughter of Frank and Ann James passed away. Elizabeth Bernadine James, known as Deanie. Shortly before passing, Deanie James expressed her wish to be buried beside her father.

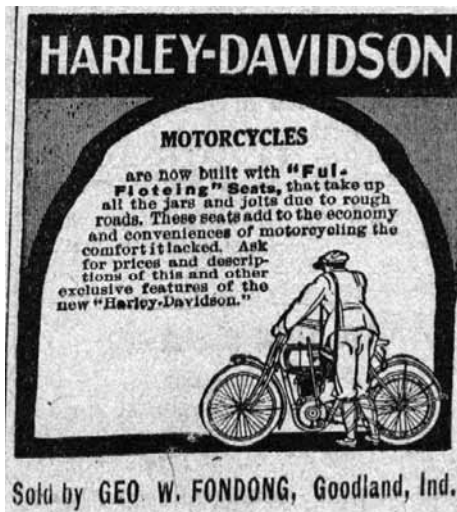
Today the James family numbers over 4500 known ancestors and descendants. Recently, Sam Walton, founder of WalMart and Sam's Club, was found to be a descendant in this James line. The James inhabit the breadth of America. Many are active in their communities. The James family, after 350 years in America, remains a family of preachers, teachers, planters, politicians, writers and real estate professionals.

Jessie James/Goodland Connection

Jesse James and his gang were more than likely never near Goodland, Indiana, but relatives of Frank and Jessie left a big mark in the founding and history of the town.

A cousin of the famous pair, Joseph McAlister James (1818-1905), moved here prior to the Civil War and changed his name to Joseph McJames to mask the fact that he had such well-known relatives.

Joseph's son, Frank Marion James



Motorcycles are now built with "Full-Floteing" Seats . . . This small advertisement for Harley-Davidson Motorcycles appeared in the 1915 edition of the Newton County Enterprise. They were sold by George W. Fondong of Goodland.

(1843-1910), arrived after serving in the Confederate army and worked with his father in his enterprises. Part of Marion's home is still at 102 E. Prairie Avenue.

In their dealings, the James family owned a good portion of what is the east half of the town. They sold lots and parcels off as the town grew, due to the railroad passing directly through the new community incorporated in 1861.

Marion's wife, the former Nancy Angeline Logan (1851-1934), was one of the founders of the Baptist Church in 1895 at the corner of James and Union Streets. The church is still active today now in its 116th year. James Street was named for the family.

Joseph built the St. James Hotel on Newton Street next to the railroad and rebuilt it after it burned. After it closed, the building was primarily used as a grocery store and tavern.

The Goodland Cemetery is the site of the graves of several James family members, as well as a former slave's wife, Mary Piddigon, (1842-1899).

The former slave, James Piddigon, (probably Pettyjohn), (1838-1910?), was a barber in Goodland and was well known. He held a patent for a washboard improvement.

Several James family members owned businesses in the town and were active in local affairs. Many well-known people are related to the James family. Sources: Eric James, Stray Leaves, 1880 US Census, An-

cestry.com, Newton County Historical Society, Illinois Statewide Death Index, pre-1916.

Newspaper Articles

The First Hotel

From an unidentified newspaper article, found in the Goodland, Indiana, Public Library.

"Joseph M. James (Joseph McAlister James), a resident of Kentucky and father of Marion F. James, built the Central Hotel, which was burned in the fire of 1844. It was built in 1869 and was the first building of any consequence to be built in the town of Goodland. It was a large two-story frame and occupied the site of the present Commercial hotel building. It was quite modern for those times and had about 30 rooms with a commodious office and adjoining sample room. Mr. James also purchased considerable land adjoining the town and laid out all of the lots on East James Street from Union to Benton Streets and south to the site of the old tile factory, and James Street was named for him. Several years ago, Mr. James, who was a fine old Kentucky gentleman, visited Goodland and sat with the writer at his home beneath the shade of a great oak and walnut trees that decorate our front yard, and remarked that he had planted those trees, having dug them up when small saplings near the Iroquois River. He had been a slave owner, but freed them all at the outbreak of the war. He said they did not want to leave him, so he sent a number of them here to work his land. Among them was James Piddigon, a barber, and well-known character here for years."

From the Newton County Enterprise, September 5, 1901, by William W. Gilman

"There was in 1867 about ten houses in what is now Goodland. Garry Hopkins, Wm. Foster, Andrew J. Ball, Ziba Wood, Thomas Shively, Isaac Atkins, Amos Cridler, O. W. Church and two others; one store and warehouse combined, one blacksmith shop, one school house. There was one other in the township and school was open for three months in the year.

"From 1868, settlers came with a rush. A hotel was built by Jos. McJames in 1869, and had N. I. Dike for the first landlord. From thence, Goodland began to put on civilized airs. Its population came from all directions, and were of all kinds. One from further south in the state when asked of his cross said he "raised a pile, sold a heap, and had a right smart left." Another from old Kentucky was seen with an open knife in hand, and a "jag on" racing down the place

where the sidewalks were not, calling down anything but blessings on the head of a former citizen of Illinois who by "strenuous exertion" managed to keep out of the reach of the knife. A few hours after, that same knife was used by its owner to cut large chunks of "plug tobaker" to put where twould do the most service, the breach of etiquette he had been healed. And later a colored gent administered punishment on a wild Irishman who had insinuated his veracity was not A. 1."

NOW YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTY OF NEWTON

by Janet Miller, Questions on page 2

1. The state adjacent to Indiana with county government relating to Newton and Jasper is Illinois. Jasper County IL was formed in 1831 from Clay and Crawford Counties. It was named after American Revolutionary War hero Sergeant William Jasper. Newton is the largest and oldest town in Jasper County. It was named the county seat in 1835. It was named after Sergeant Newton, also a Revolutionary War hero and a comrade of Sgt. Jasper.
2. The Newton County Farm Bureau was organized in Brook, IN on March 18, 1919 with about 450 of the county's leading farmers in attendance. Dues were \$5.00.
3. The establishment in Lincoln Township known as Naked City was formerly called Zoro Nature Park and was formed in 1933 by Alois Knapp who came to this country from Austria.
4. In 1856 Morocco's first doctor arrived in the village upon a white horse. His name was Dr. Charles E. Triplett. Dr. Triplett was born in Kentucky and was left as an orphan at five days old. He was reared on a plantation and later was taken under the guiding hand of Dr. John Shelton and was sent through Louisville Medical College.
5. The autobiography of a Brigadier General, Army that is found in the Kentland Centennial Book is that of George Ade Davis. He was born in Kentland in 1884 and graduated from Purdue in 1906 where he was one of the two first members of the School of Forestry. During the summer vacations he worked on the Newton County farms of Bluford Light and Charles Roe. He retired from the Army after 34 years of service to his country.

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS by Bernie Murphy

I write this little column the day after our annual Christmas Open House, which was a great success; we had over sixty guests attending. The Resource Center was decorated beautifully and the holiday treats were delicious and inviting. All this reminds me how truly blessed we are to have the resources and volunteers to keep the history of our county

alive and very well! Our guests enjoyed seeing our displays and information sources as well as a preview of the progress of the upcoming documentary, "Everglades of the North, The Grand Kankakee Marsh." The Izaak Walton League-Diana Chapter and National Board are the sponsors of this project. Jeff Manes, Brian Kallies, Tom Desch and Patty Wisniewski are writing, editing, photographing, and producing this important documentation of the marsh, its history and important contributions to our environment and way of life in Newton County. Our society and its members have provided historical background for the project, including re-enactments and financial assistance. Lakeshore Public Television of Merrillville, Indiana, will be the host station to air this documentary which is anticipated to be released in 2012. Watch this newsletter and local newspapers for time and dates. This production promises to be a wonderful addition to the history of our area.

Our annual membership drive is underway and renewals are coming in but we need new memberships as well. I encourage all who see this column to help "sell" memberships to friends and acquaintances so we can continue the good work your Society has accomplished over the years. As always, we need new volunteers to help keep our history alive and growing!

I want to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year!

Just a note of thanks . . .

Another year is about to pass into the pages of history, it is hard to believe 2011 is coming to an end. I hope that you have enjoyed *The Newcomer* editions, and invite you to contribute to the content of upcoming editions. This year was the 200th anniversary of the Civil War and we featured several articles on the subject. Thanks to Kyle Conrad for his contributions to this effort. Also, I'd like to say a special thanks to Janet Miller for her contributions of our standing features of the publication. We certainly *know* much more about the *pages of our past* with each edition. Accolades and thanks to Jeff Manes with his fresh approach to recording history through his weekly newspaper column, "Salt." - Beth Bassett



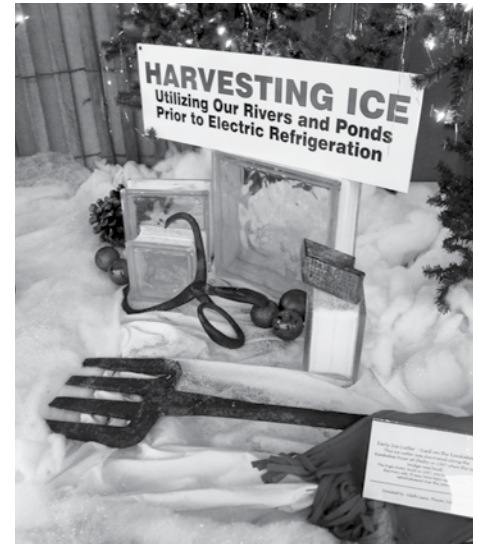
Society members and the public gathered again for their 5th annual Holiday Open House at the Resource Center in Kentland on December 9th. Photo by Beth Bassett



Lake Village students visited the Resource Center this fall. They were captivated by "Mr. Bones," and delighted with Larry Lyons' presentation on local history. Photo by Beth Bassett

Are these members of your family?

Society member Gary Clifton, of California, recently purchased this Kentland cabinet photo, right, at ebay.com. He sent it to us to post on our web site, in hopes that someone can identify the family and the photo will return to the family. Thanks Gary for sending this along to us!



The winter window display at the Resource Center in Kentland features "Outdoor Winter Activities in Newton County." A history of the Brook Ice Houses by John Connell, photographs of ice harvesting on the Kankakee River, and many items that were used back in the day for everyday living and recreation are on display. Stop by and reminisce with us.



1955 Brook Kindergarten Class

These bright, eager faces belong to the first Kindergarten class of the Brook schools in 1955. They met in the basement of the Brook Library along with their teacher, Choice Bartlett.

First row, l-r, Joel Hershman, Jim Miller, ?, Chuck Danruther, Joyce Ackors, B. Weishaar?, Ron Lyons, Gary Sanders; second row: ?, Jack Thompson, ? Hollingsworth, Bruce Herriman, Linda Kindig, Bonnie Spangler, ?, Carl Kleinkort, Jim Bower; back, Choice Bartlett. This photo was placed on facebook.com by Bruce Herriman.

Join Our Membership!

Annual dues are valid Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Must be a member of the general society to join the Family History Division.

General Society: \$17.00

Family History: \$5.00

Total for both: \$22.00

Lifetime General Society: \$125.00

Lifetime Family History

Division: \$50.00

Total for both \$175.00

Membership includes free copies of *The Newcomer*; monthly notification of meeting programs.

The Newcomer

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