

The Resource Center Window Display

A patriotic theme seemed an appropriate way to extend our thank you to our local veterans for their service to our country and our community.

The window display committee and the society would like to thank our members and the Hedrick Brandt Post #23 of the American Legion and the Auxiliary for contributing items for this wonderful display.



The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. Published 4 times a year, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Articles for submission are encouraged and may be sent to the editor, Beth A. Bassett, 1681 East, 1100 South, Brook, Indiana 47922. Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the second month of each quarter.

Officers of the Newton County Historical Society

- President, Yvonne Kay, Morocco
- V. President, Denise Miller, Lake Village
- Secretary, Betty Risley, Kentland
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The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951

POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT
NUMBER 35
Rensselaer, Indiana
47978

What's On Our Agenda . . .

The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month, on the same day, the Family History Division meets at 3:00 at the Resource Center at 224 N. Third Street in Kentland and the Society general meetings are held in different locations in the County at 7:00 p.m. All members are notified of the place and time each month. Don't Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!

We'd Like Your Input!! We are looking for suggestions for stories, articles and pictures for our next edition of The Newcomer. 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, contact the editor or a member of our society.

Visit our web site at www.rootsweb.com/~innewton

The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County
FALL 2001 • \$2.25

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When she was only 35 years of age!

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Kyle Conrad gives us a glimpse of this cemetery.

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• Do You Know Your County of Newton?

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• McCray Scholarships

South Newton Winner's look at "The Historical Punkin Vine Fair"

The History of Kentland

Reprinted from The Kentland Enterprise, Woman's Edition, Saturday, May 18, 1895. Volume V, No. 20. Submitted by Gerald Born

The Town was Platted Thirty-five Years Ago. Sketch of It's Founders, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Kent

As we pass along the streets of our little city today, and notice her comfortable homes, well kept lawns, tall stately shade trees, beautiful groves, the many sidewalks, the improved streets, we wonder how this picture would compare with the picture of our town thirty-five years ago this May morning. Doubtless some of our readers remember just how it looked, when they came to make their home here.

The proposition to make the village of Kent, which existed only on paper, the county seat of Newton county, was officially fixed in March, 1860. The railroad had been completed the preceding December, and the sole occupants were a few track hands.

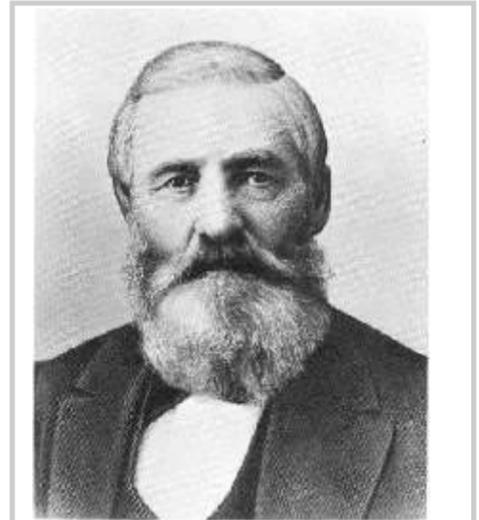
Fortunate men! Sweet freedom, for there was not a woman around to bother him.

William Service erected the first shanty, William Ross the first building and Sylvester Root opened the first boarding house, which was a much needed place, in a building which Mr. Kent had erected. So there is our picture a few buildings down on Seymour street, which passes north of the railroad. Plenty of prairie grass but no shade trees; a few men and scarcely a woman. No station here, no grain elevators, no electric lights. I am glad we are living in Kentland in 1895 and not 1860.

A county seat is not complete without it's Court House, so in 1861 the present building was erected, which is the pride of our hearts, not because of its usefulness, not because of the noble deeds transacted there, but because it appeals to the esthetically tastes of mankind and stirs the artist's soul to its depth. Neither is a town complete without a church, so in that same year, the United Brethren built their church edifice here.

In 1868, the village was incorporated with A.J. Kent, Sylvester Root and George W. Arnout as trustees; J.Z. Johnston, assessor and clerk, and Joseph Blessing, marshal and treasurer. Were there more offices than men that one man held two offices, or could one man easily perform the duties of the two officers?

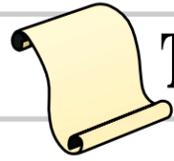
The town, like some women, changed
Continued On Page Three



Alexander James Kent



Rosamond (Chesebrough) Kent



The President's Corner

Time passes so quickly. It seems only yesterday that we prepared the budget for last year, and here it is time for the new annual budget for 2001-2002, which was approved at our July 23, 2001 meeting. The new budget was explained line by line by Gerald Born. as Kay Babcock, Chair of the Finance Committee could not attend. We are trying very hard to justify our expenditures, so the committee reviewed last year's expenditures and used them as a basis for the new budget. Rent, \$4,500; Utilities, \$2,500; Telephone, \$700; Resource Center Maintenance, \$500; Office Supplies, \$300; Public Relations, \$1,000; Postage, \$500; Insurance, \$850; Capitol Purchases, \$1,000; Speakers & Tapes, \$150; Oral History, \$250; Newcomer, \$1,500; Miscellaneous, \$1,475; Total-\$15,225.

A minority request was submitted by Born, who said that another \$10,000 would be needed if the Society got title to the Scott-Lucas House Museum by next year.

I am going to take this opportunity of presenting the official list of the committees for the coming year. After reviewing the by-laws and the minutes for the past several years, these are the committees that are sanctioned in the by-laws. As with any committee

structure, new members may be added, as volunteers are found willing to take on the responsibilities. I am very appreciative of all who have consented to help us in our work and thank all of those who have contributed so much in the past.

Membership: Kay Babcock, Chair, Betty and Harold Risley; Newsletter: Gerald Born, Chair, Beth Bassett, Janet Miller, Donna LaCosse; Budget & Finance: Kay Babcock, Chair, Alan Sparks, Russell Collins, Gerald Born, Jim Robbins; Projects: (Current Projects): McCray Scholarship, Barbara Gerbracht, Chair, Donna LaCosse; Oral History, Nancy Prue, Chair; Museum: Gerald Born, Chair, Barbara Gerbracht, Barbara Wilfong, Jeanette Hall, Bethel Kendall, Marian Strosinski, Laurel Allis; Public Relations: Donna LaCosse, Chair, Lydia Atkinson, Sub-Committee Fair: Jim Robbins, Chair, Marian Strosinski, Bill Phillips, Jean Phillips, Janet Burton, Laurel Allis; Historic Sites, Mike Haste, Chair, Larry Holderly, George Dye; Refreshments: Laurel Allis, Chair.

The regular meeting for December has been cancelled so that everyone can enjoy the holidays. We look forward to the coming year and the many new and exciting things it will bring for the Society.

Newton County Historical Society By Yvonne Kay

Family History Division

Update By Gerald Born, Director

This has been a period of great activity for the division. Work is progressing nicely on the *Morocco Sesquicentennial Historic Collection*.

A brief delay was encountered when we installed a new program, Picture It, on our computer, which enables us to enhance and correct photos that will be used in the book. This entailed redoing most of the photos that will appear in the book. Work is progressing nicely on the index. Janet Miller has entered over 2,000 names from just the early history alone.

Yvonne Kay, Jeanette Hall, Bethel Kendall, Velma Dart, and Gerald Born are busy with a yellow marker, going through the text and highlighting the names that need to be included in the index. Sometimes it appears to be a daunting task, but having an every name index will make the book more useful for our readers.

If you have not ordered a copy of the Morocco Sesquicentennial Historic Collection, now is the perfect time to do so. Prior to publication copies may be purchased for \$60.00, by **prepaying** for the book. After publication, copies will be sold for \$75.00. Indiana residents will need to add \$3.00 for sales tax, and an additional \$10.00 for shipping and handling, unless you make arrangements to pick up the copy at the Resource Center at Kentland. Never before has so much history about Morocco and Beaver Township been presented in this book with sturdy paper covering.

Also as a result of the Morocco Sesquicentennial celebration the Family History Division published an historic record of the Morocco Centennial, held in 1951. Wayne Kay mastered a CD which included the Morocco Centennial book and a new book which includes all of documents that the Executive Committee of the Centennial Days used in putting on the celebration fifty years ago. On the pages of the book, accessible on your own personal computer, will be found images of the parade, the pageant, and the committees who worked on the project, as well as the winners of the

parade floats and the losers at the Kangaroo Kourt, with appropriate punishments. The purchase price of this CD is \$20.00. Again Indiana residents need to add 5% or \$1.00. This is a perfect Christmas gift for that student in your life, who wants to know more about Morocco's past.

Copes of the Newton County Coloring Book and Ralph; the Story of Bogus Island are still available for \$5.00 each. Tax amounts to \$.25 for each book. Make checks payable to the Family History Division (NCHS) or visit us at the Resource Center at Kentland. It is always wise to give a call before making the trip (219) 474-6944.

Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. Newton County has how many townships? Can you name them?
2. What township had the first motorized school hacks?
3. Newton County and Kentland celebrated their Centennial year in the summer of 1960. What was the name of the historical pageant they presented?
4. A contest was held for designing a seal depicting the Centennial celebration. What Kentland person designed the winning entry?
5. How many square miles are there in Newton County? (See answers on Page Thirteen).

McCray Scholarship Winners 2001

One might think that Newton County is a little on the uninteresting side. However, if you take a closer look you don't come up empty handed. Although there aren't numerous shopping malls or skating rinks, Newton County is full of country time charm and sunny relaxation sitting on your front porch. Instead of searching for a local hangout I broke open the history books to find out what the residents of Newton County do for fun. It seems that

tradition names the Newton County Pun'kin Vine Fair the lucky winner. Since the county was and still is the home site for agricultural development it seemed only natural to focus the fair on such events as: 4H, FFA, livestock, and the working environment of farmers and land owners.

Tradition of the Pun'kin Vine Fair has stayed the same for the most part. Events at the fair are annual. This allows hundreds of spectators the enjoyment of walking through the fair grounds year after year. Even though the purpose of the fair hasn't changed the location and name haven't been so lucky.

The first fair was held in a livery stable in the familiar town of Brook. The name of the fair was known as the "Newton County Stock Show." The first fair was held in 1921 and it was two years later when Newton County and its seven committee members decided to change the location of the fair. The committee agreed to have the fair take place at the County Home site and also decided to call the fair the Newton County Fair Association.

Many years have passed since the beginning of the fair days and the amusing gathering is now known as the Newton County Pun'kin Vine Fair. Residents have different theories on the issue of where the name Pun'kin Vine originated. Older individuals in the community say that there were pumpkin vines on the gates of the entrance; others say the land was only good enough to grow pumpkins. There are many different ideas and it is kind of nice to listen to generations pass down the historical stories.

The fair has been formed on the basis of one specific purpose. Although tradition has an agricultural background organizers have taken the liberty of bringing some of the best entertainment to the shining stage. Performances by various comedians, the Radio City Rocketts, and hundreds of teen beauty pageant contestants have made excitement a great benefactor for shops and food courts during the fair.

There are many memories that have been formed because of the fair. Some of these memories are good and others, let's just say that

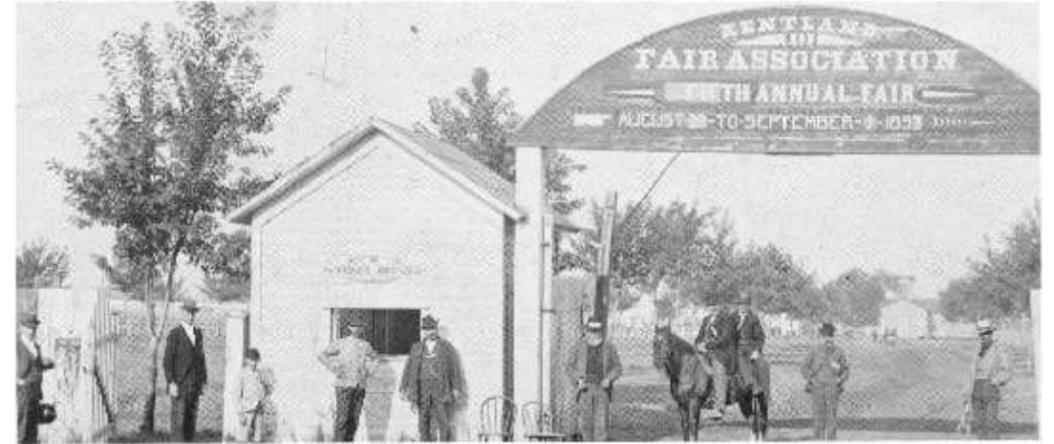
The Historical Newton County Punk'in Vine Fair By South Newton Student Brandelyn Nicole Tarter

they will never be forgotten. In 1926, large amounts of rain caused wagons and vehicles to get caught in mud. Nothing that was stuck could be moved until weather warmed up in the spring. In 1981, once again a similar occurrence took place when rain caused carnival goers to get stuck in the mass quantities of mud in the parking lots. Tractors worked together with the county highway department in order to free everyone. Tons of stone had to be hauled

in to make moving possible. Many large storms have ripped through the fair property destroying close to 75% of buildings and landscaping. Organizers never gave up; instead they rebuilt and actually ended up

improving the grounds.

There are so many things to look for in our community of Newton County. This land is rich with historical aspects. For me it has been a great experience finding information on the yearly tradition of the county fair. I hope that tradition continues and many more memories are made. Who knows, in a couple years the fair might change its location or name?



At the gates of the fairground location in 1893. From the Kentland Centennial Book, 1960.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Dues (Check One) Yearly (July 1- June 30)
Student (\$2) ___ Individual (\$6) ___ Individual Life (\$100) ___ Family (\$9)
___ Family Life (\$175) ___ Institutional (\$25) ___ Contributing (\$50.00)

With society membership you may also join the
FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION NEWTON
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Dues (Check One) Yearly (July 1- June 30)
Student (\$1) ___ Individual (\$3) ___ Individual Life (\$50) ___ Family (\$5) ___
Family Life (\$75) ___ Institutional (\$15) ___ Contributing (\$30) ___

As a member, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, THE NEWCOMER free! You will also receive notification of our monthly meetings for each division. Dues are payable yearly (July 1-June 30), check your mailing label for status of membership. Back issues of the Newcomer are available upon request for \$2.25 each.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send Payment to:
Newton County Historical Society, Inc.
Treasurer, PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951
219-474-6944

*The History Of Kentland, 1895
Continued From Page Three*

A prominent M.E. pastor recently stated from the pulpit, that no greater fallacy exists than an entire belief in the above statement. To make his argument of more force, he referred his congregation to the downfall of Rome, and the decline of ancient Greece, the inhabitants of both places having reached high state of culture, as far as the cultivation of the powers of the intellect went. This minister failed to recognize the vast difference between the aim of the present common school system and the culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Furthermore, he failed to recognize the fact that the church having primarily for its aim the emancipation of the whole human race, through the teachings of the gospel, has its strongest ally in the institution known as the public school.

The early settlers of this country seemed to lay hold of this truth and use it in their practical advancement toward the high state of civilization which they aspired to reach. One branch of the church has termed the public school "a Godless institution". No statement was ever made that was more unjust and untrue. The public school does not claim to be a teacher of creeds, but, a teacher of morality based upon the life of the humble Nazarene. Why cannot the church and school clasp hands and each to the other acknowledge its uplifting power?

The Common Schools of Kentland

Kentland has kept pace with the progress of time in the development of her schools. All records of the early history of the school have been lost. The memory of one of the oldest citizens of Kentland, tells us that the first school taught here was a private one, and held in the store room of Ross & Peacock, in 1860. The pupils numbered eleven. In the year 1863, the new school house was built on the lot now occupied by the residence of Mr. Porter. I think Mr. and Mrs. John Cunningham were the first teachers in this building.

Having those qualifications which fitted her so well for teaching, Mrs. Cunningham began in the profession at the early age of seventeen. She taught her first school in what was designated as the old Salem school house, there in Jasper but now in Newton county. It was in the good old days of subscription schools, where the teachers not only performed the duty of instructor, but that of solicitor, collector of revenues, and even for gentle exercise had

the office of janitor. Boarding around was the custom of those days.

Although we feel indebted to all teachers of true merit, yet when we consider the neat and commodious building, the improved apparatus, the sure pay of the teachers today, we say give the laurels to such as Mrs. Cunningham, who struggled with difficulties, contending with the inconvenience of high branches in poor buildings, few books, no apparatus, and worst of all, poor compensation.

In the year 1871, the Kentland schools were moved to the new brick building, no used, and Mrs. Cunningham as the first primary teacher, conducted her works for twelve years, resigning her position in 1882, to the sincere regret of the parents and the grief of the children.

Mrs. Cunningham has devoted the best years of her life to her profession, inculcating hundreds of young minds insured to her care, lessons of ready obedience, kindness of heart, thoughtfulness of others, and reverence for holy things, teaching them to love the pure, the good and the beautiful, until their young lives took on something of the characters she taught them to admire, and all around us we see those same children grown up to noble manhood and womanhood.

For thirty years, Mrs. Cunningham has been closely identified with all those organizations in Kentland which have for their object of uplifting the spirits of mankind. In the Sunday School, Church, she has worked with heart and soul for the accomplishment of their great aims.

To say that her efforts as a teacher were appreciated would but faintly express the esteem in which she is held by our citizens.

During the past year about two hundred have been enrolled in the common school department. The present teachers of this department are Anna Pitts, Jessie Dickson, Margaret Ferrick, O.P. West, with E. H. Drake as Superintendent. The common school course consists of eight years work in the common branches. A diploma from this department entitles the pupil to enter the high school of the same institution.

The High School

At the present time, the High School course consists of but two years work. A diploma from this department entitles the holder to no privileges from the different State institutions. It has been thought best to lengthen the course and obtain a commission for the school. The School

Board will employ another teacher who will act as principal of the High School, the present principal acting as Superintendent. With the new course, additional apparatus, and an assistant teacher, much more thorough work will begin in the fall term of 1895. A diploma granted at the completion of the four year course will entitle the holder to enter any of the colleges without examination.

Mr. Neisz, while principal, first graded the school, and Wm. Sinclair issued the first catalogue. In all there have been about 75 graduated from the school.

Industrial Interests

Corn and Oats are the Two Leading Products. Corn, 1,348,480 bushels produced, Oats 1,520,760 bushels.

Our Many Enterprising and Successful Business Houses.

This county, having but a limited supply of good timber or building stone, but little water power and no coal or gas, can not, like some of her sister counties, boast of great manufacturing enterprises. Good limestone is found in the southern part, about two miles east of Kentland. The stone crops out in several places, and various theories have been advanced by geologists to account for its peculiar position, as it lies on edge at an angle of some 55 degrees, and about 60 feet above the rocks below. Crushers are in operation at these quarries and the crushed stone is being used with great benefit upon our streets and highways. In many parts of the county the clay is particularly adapted to the manufacture of brick and drain tile, and nearly every town has its tile factory, some having more than one.

Within the last quarter of a century, great changes have been wrought, and what appeared to the early settlers a dead level of prairie and swamp is now a pleasant area of thrifty farms. This transformation has been achieved, not so much by physical changes, as by the natural effect of tile drainage. But while having comparatively few manufacturing industries, our county stands well to the front in production of grain.

The total production of corn in this county in 1894 was 1,348,480 bushels, bringing an average of 28 bushels per acre, and worth \$539,392.00. Of oats in the same year, 1,520,760 bushels were produced, averaging 46 bushels per acre, which was larger than that of any other county in the state, and reaching in value the sum of \$456,228.00. In the same year, we raised 30,217 bushels of wheat, being 22 bushels

Historically yours . . .

This is my first term of serving as Newton County Historian and I am really not sure I know what I am doing. However, you are "stuck" with me for the next three years and I plan to make this office a fun-learning experience.

On September 10, we were in Valparaiso where we attended a gathering of County Historians with Indiana State Historical Society's Assistant, Katherine Dill. She is a delightful lady and I look forward to working with her for a long time. There were four of us attending, Fern Eddy Schultz, LaPorte County; Beulah Arnett, Jasper County; Melba Shilling, Stark County and me. Also present were Jim Shilling, President of the Stark County Historical Society, Emily Nesius, friend of Beulah Arnett and my husband.

During the round-table chat, I asked Katherine for a copy of the guidelines for County Historians and discovered there none available! When I told her how "blind" I felt about my duties, she assured me she would start making a list of our duties and in the near future we would have a guideline to follow. I can hardly wait!

I was also told there were many workshops available for County Historians. These are conducted by Indianapolis College students, who also receive credit for their services. These are workshops we can take advantage of as an organization-students can attend a monthly meeting and speak about anything we want them to talk about.

This is where I learned County Historians are elected every three years-this should give me time to learn about half of what I should know! Beulah Arnett has been Jasper County Historian since day one-does Jasper County have longer years than other counties? After returning home, I was notified I had received a scholarship to attend the Cornelius O'Brian Conference on Historic Preservation. I was not sure I was ready for this, but thought I might as well give it a try! The conference took place September 27, 28 and 29 at the Marriott Convention Center in South Bend. Since I could not attend Thursday evening, which included early registration and a speakers reception, Harold and I left early on Friday morning so I could attend the first workshop at 9 a.m.

My goodness! What a mind-boggling experience this was! We did have a choice as

to what lectures we could attend and I chose as my first lecture, The Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology with Director Jon C. Smith; The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and The New Urbanism, with Norman Crowe, Director of Graduate Studies, School of Architecture, University of Notre Dame; Carroll William Westfall, Chairman of the School of Architecture, University of Notre Dame, and John Sandor, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Later Friday afternoon, Patrick I. Furlong, Chairman, Department of History, Indiana University, South Bend presented Historic Industrial Resources and Environmental Problems. He gave a very interesting lecture on Studebaker: The World's Largest Vehicle Factory. Mark Souder, U.S. Congressman, was the guest lecturer at the banquet Friday night. Following this, we were allowed to "flop into bed," and hope we wouldn't have a re-run of the Friday activities during our dreaming hours!

Saturday morning found us up bright and early so we wouldn't miss anything! Let me assure you, not one minute is wasted at these conventions!

Saving Our Historic School Buildings lecture, held at the Second St. Joseph County Court House, was conducted by W. Robert Bates, Mansur Group, Inc; William Latoza, Baurer-Latoza Studio, Chicago, and John Oxian, Channan, Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend and St. Joseph County.

The last session, What Do We Do With Those Grand Old Churches? was presented by Sarah Peveler, Director of Special Projects, Partners For Sacred Places; Andria Neal, Editor of the Editorial Pages, Indianapolis Star, and Sue Livers, Madison, Indiana, who told The Story Of Saving St. Stephen's AME Church in Hanover, Indiana.

At the end of this session, Harold and I headed back to Newton County -I was so full of information I couldn't decide whether or not I was smart or stupid, and Harold had toured the city of South Bend for about as many hours as he could stand! I opted to not attend the final luncheon and a walking tour of the Notre Dame Campus, or second choice, a bus tour of South Bend's Revitalization Projects.

I have never experienced such a busy

*By Donna LaCosse
County Historian*

two days in my life, but you know what? I would do it again -but not right now!

In the next issue of *The Newcomer*, I will list the publication information I came home with and hope some of "stuff" will be just what you need to know. Until then, pray for Harold that he will be able to with stand the vigors of having a wife who is attempting to serve you to the best of her ability.

Web site directory

- Cemetery Records
- Newton County Census Records: 1860 & 1870, 1880, 1900 (Beaver Twp)
- Jasper County Census Records: 1850-Index
- Enter & View Newton County Queries
- Newton County Look-Ups
- Newton County Biographies Project
- Newton County Marriage Records thru 1971
- Obituaries of Past Residents
- Biographies of Past Residents
- Links To Other State & Local Sites
- Index of "The Newcomer" Articles
- "The Newcomer" Fall 1999 to Present
- . . . And much more!

www.rootsweb.com/~innewton



Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

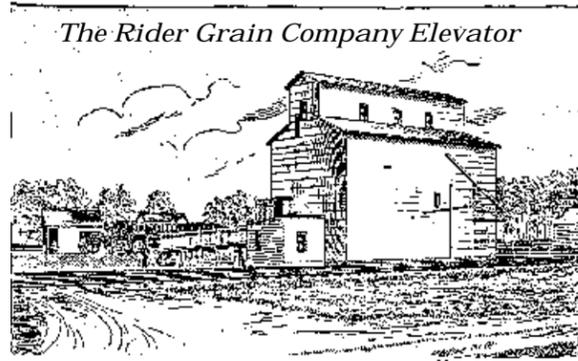
1. Newton County has ten townships. They are: Beaver, Colfax, Grant, Iroquois, Jackson, Jefferson, Lake, Lincoln, McClellan and Washington.
2. Colfax Township.
3. The pageant name was Cent-o-rama, with 18 episodes. Eight current Historical Society members participated. They were: Mary Dye, John Yost, Gary Webster, Fanny Kessler Collins, Jim and Nancy Shenberger, and Rich and Janet Miller.
4. The designer was Jerry L. Carlson. The seal, pictured here, is on display at the Kentland Town Hall.
5. Newton County consists of 402 square miles.



History Of Kentland, 1895, Continued From Page Five

England with his father when but a lad of 12 years, settling near Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the first Recorder of Newton county, holding that office four years, when he was elected auditor and held that office also four years. When the Discount and Deposit Bank of Kentland was organized, Mr Ade accepted the position of cashier. He became a partner in 1875, and at the present time is engaged in this bank. he is one of those genial, even tempered men and is possessed of all those qualities which go to make him a favorite among men. He is ever ready to help the poor and oppressed, and no two persons in Kentland are more widely known and loved than he and his estimable wife.

The Bank of Kentland was organized in January, 1892, with Isaac Smart as president, and Geo. D. Rider as Cashier. This bank



The Rider Grain Company Elevator

from the war he was elected Treasurer of Newton County, holding the office two terms. He has been in the banking business since 1891. Mr. Smart is a man of noble qualities, upright principles and industrious habits. He is one of the many citizens of which Kentland may be proud.

Our two leading grocers are Frank Ross and Willis Kirkpatrick, each of whom is always found at his post, ready to supply his numerous customers. Mr. Ross began business in 1880, carries a stock of about \$3,500; and Mr. Kirkpatrick's stock amounts to about \$2,500 and his annual sales reach about \$25,000.

Dodson Brothers who have been in business since 1883, and removed to their present large and elegant store building about Oct 1st, 1894, where they carry on an extensive trade. The firm is composed of L.S. and S.M. and J.V. Dodson, and constitutes nearly twenty linear feet of genial, jolly old bachelorhood. Their stock amounts to from \$3,500 to \$5,000 and their annual sales aggregate \$12,000 to \$15,000.

L.W. Ross, who has recently embarked in this business, has a good trade, and we would judge from his pleasant countenance that his sales are satisfactory to himself and his patrons. He carries a select and varied stock of all goods in his line.

And lastly, Hugh Gaynor, successor to Eph. Sell, who keeps a large and complete assortment.

F. M. Oswalt, furniture dealer and undertaker, carries a select and first class stock, which for beauty and quality cannot be excelled. He is especially noted for his low prices.

One of the oldest business establishments of the place is that of Wm. Perry, who began 32 years ago. His goods occupy several rooms and consists of harness, wagons, carriages, agricultural implements and machinery. About nine

years ago, he formed a copartnership with his son Harry, since which time their trade has greatly increased. T. R. Bergin also keeps a fine assortment of harness and all goods of that kind, and also sells buggies and carriages.

Our town can boast of no less than four restaurants, viz., those of S. E. Conklin, John B. Howe, Gauthier and Bro, and Heilman & Justin; each of whom caters to the needs of the hungry public.

Our list would be incomplete should we fail to refer to our three drug stores, owned respectively by A. E. Brown, Willard & McCain, and E. S. Steele. Each of these gentlemen keeps a full supply of everything usually found in a first class drug store.

Our town meat markets, owned by J. D. Schneider and J. H. Gather, are open early and late to supply the wants of all. Mr. Schneider has had long experience and his shop is a model of neatness and cleanliness which cannot fail to satisfy the most fastidious.

Another reliable firm is that of Arendt & Senior, dealer in boots, shoes, ready made clothing and gent's furnishing goods. The senior member of this firm is one of our oldest citizens, and has long been noted for his unswerving integrity and fair dealing. Mr. Senior, though a young man, in his brief residence here has also made many friends.

Among other necessities of our town we cannot fail to mention our three millinery establishments which furnish our fair feminine friends with the latest, loveliest, daintiest hats and bonnets. The oldest and best known of these stores is that of Mrs. S.E. Cunningham, which was opened in 1883.

An achievement of which our citizens are justly proud is the erection of the machine shop of William Bros. and Co., where work of a quality excelled by none in the state is turned out, in wood, tin or steel.

Of our three blacksmith shops, perhaps the oldest is that of J.J. Schuh, who also deals in agricultural implements, harness, etc. D.S. Fletcher, who in addition to his other work, makes and sells each year a large number of the celebrated Hooper & Fletcher Gophers.

J.D. Conklin, our only lumber and coal dealer, is still found at his office ready to supply the wants of all who call.

Continued On Page Fourteen

NEWTON'S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

The A.J. Kent Home



The grand estate of A.J. Kent has always been a favorite icon to the residents of Newton County. The beautiful estate may have been built upon Kent's arrival in 1859, where he resided until his death in 1882. It is quite possible that this structure was not their first home, but information is not available to confirm that it is not.

The picture at the left is a rare view of the east side of the home with a resident Funk perched upon the rock in the front lawn. At that time it was the home of C. C. Kent.

Many trees lined the driveway which extended west from the home to Dunlap street, and a beautiful pond was also located on the

LAKE	LINCOLN
MCCLELLAN	COLFAX
BEAVER	JACKSON
WASHINGTON	IROQUOIS
	GRANT

Jefferson Township

estate.

After the destruction of the NuJoy Restaurant by fire in 1945, it located in the home temporarily, and finally opened permanently there after

remodeling, depicted in the photo on left center and bottom, in 1954. The restaurant closed it's doors permanently in the mid 1980's.

In the year 2000, Don Funk purchased the home and grounds. Even though the exterior of the home has changed to meet the needs of his company, residents still regard the building as the home of A.J. Kent, the



A collection Of a Lifetime



In the country home of Russell and Sharon Collins of Kentland, at Christmas time you will find a beautiful collection of Nativity Scenes.

Sharon's collection began with the wooden set pictured at the far right, bottom, while visiting Haiti. In 1984, she visited the Holy Land, and acquired the olive wood set above left, and in 1985 the set from Mexico, above center. The coconut set, bottom center, came from a visit to Hawaii.

On the far upper right is a gift from Sharon's family, an animated "Christmas In Bethlehem", where wise men and shepherds walk around and greet the newborn king.

Sharon feels that setting up her nativities and collecting them is a way to recreate the day that Jesus was born, which is the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you for



The Dodson Brothers Store

also does a large business, and its officers are among our best known and most highly respected citizens, and command the confidence of the entire community.

Isaac Smart, President of the Bank of Kentland was born in 1838, in the State of Ohio. He came to Jasper county, Indiana now Newton county, in 1852. He was a valiant soldier serving three years in the 9th Ind. Inf. Vol. Regiment. After returning



Focus on Families

Family History Division • Gerald Born, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

John & Adeline Ade

Submitted By Gerald Born

The Ade Family in Newton County

Introduction by Gerald Born

While collecting information for the Morocco Sesquicentennial book, I wanted to pay special attention to the time John Ade and his wife Adaline spent in Morocco before moving to Kentland, when he was elected to a county office in 1860, the year the county was formed. Even though they lived at Morocco for only seven years, it was a formative period in John Ade's life and many of his experiences and the friends he made there are reflected in his book, *A History of Newton County*.

The following article and photographs come from the collection of Kathryn Sprinkle, a granddaughter of Bill Ade, George's brother. The article written for *Hearst's International* for March, 1926 tells of George Ade's parents and is quoted in its entirety. Further information, including liberal quotes of this article, can be found in *The Ade Family and Newton County* by James H. McKee in the *Indiana History Bulletin* for February, 1962, Vol. 39, No. 1. Published Monthly by the Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis.

My Mother and Father

By George Ade

"I cannot continue to write about people I have known and experiences I have met without making some reference to the topnotchers--meaning my father and mother. I am going to brag about them, candidly and without apologies. With the intervening years pushed away, so that I can look at them in prospective, they seem very definitely graven against the horizon as the most admirable people I ever knew.

"Because I was born in a little Indiana town framed with corn-fields and showed a criminal reference for the Mid-west vernacular and the homely types blooming in outer townships, those who took the trouble to write about me when I was busy as a playwright and storyteller always assumed that I came of the most abandoned and confirmed Hoosier stock.

"Only when I was home on a visit, and the publicity experts had been unusually active in manufacturing yarns about my early career in the jungle, father took me to the back part of the bank and told me that he



Adaline (Bush) and John Ade, parents of George Ade.

"On May 20, 1851, Squire Thomas Wells of Cheviot performed the marriage ceremony uniting John Ade and Adaline Bush. My mother was then only eighteen. From the old-fashioned glass daguerreotypes, which had to be looked at from an angle and had lids on them, we succeeded in getting some modern photographs when the golden wedding was celebrated in 1901. - George Ade.

wanted the newspaper men to stop printing stories about him, especially such as the one in which was supposed to say, "George, I wuz up in Chicago last week and seen you 7r play andit, you're just the same as stealin' thatmoney!"

"Father was the mainstay of the local Christian Church and filled the pulpit on occasions. He hadn't used a cuss-word for fifty years and his grammar was Massachusettsian. Of course, I sympathized with him. But I had to tell him that I had no control over what was printed in newspapers. No one had. I told him that in order to get the royalty checks with which we were buying the farms we had to submit to much friendly guying from the boys on the press.

"My father was born in Lewes, England, September 18, 1828. Lewes in an old town in the rolling downs of Sussex, only six miles from the Channel. The place is everything an English town should be, with an ancient castle, a good race-track and a hotel almost as venerable as the waiters.

'According to the genealogists who can become excited over the various kinds of

fruit hanging on family trees, the names of Ade, Adee, Adie, Adey, Aiode, Ader, kYde, Ide and others of phonetic similarity are all variations of the Scotch name of Adair. It seems that about six hundred years ago a lot of Adairs came down into England, probably to get some money. The name became variously twisted and abbreviated because no one, not even the authors, knew how to spell. The maiden name of my father's mother was Esther Wood. Another family name was Hazleton and some of the relatives were named Inglis.

"Inasmuch as my father was a total abstainer, one of the early blue-ribboners, and a most active enemy of the Demon Rum, I had great difficulty in wringing from him the information that his father, while residing in Lewes, had been a maltster. Father always insisted that Grandfather Ade had been connected with the grain business rather than the brewing industry.

"The Ades in Lewes were of a Baptist persuasion and it seems that grandfather resisted a tax laid upon the local residents to repair and restore the old castle because the program was being carried out under the

auspices of the Church of England. That's the story as we got it. At any rate, he and my grandmother and the five boys went up to London in 1840 and boarded a sailing vessel and followed the Thames down to Portsmouth and rode through storms for six weeks in getting to New York.

"My father was the eldest of the boys but he was only twelve when he landed in America. The family spent a week in New York, making inquiries as to the inland cities, and during that time father was very busy sizing up the town--which reminds me of a story about him.

"Along in 1912, after we had induced him to retire from the bank and take things easy, he went to Washington to visit my sister Annie. While he was in Washington the relatives there talked him into going up to New York on a visit. He stopped at the Herald Square Hotel. The head clerk at the Herald Square was an old friend of mine.

"The clerk became friendly with father and on the day after his arrival the two were watching the traffic. The clerk wanted to know if this was father's first visit to New York.

"No," replied father, "I was here once before--stayed a whole week. It was some time ago."

"Do you notice any changes?" asked the friendly hotel man.

"Oh yes," replied father, "yes, indeed!" The town is considerably larger. Quite a number of new buildings have been put up. As I go around I observe ever so many improvements. There's no question about it, the town has changed."

"How long since you were here before, Mr. Ade?"

"Seventy-two years."

"I have it on good authority that the hotel man never quite recovered; it gave him a great satisfaction to make the Rip Van Winkle performance seem like a mere sprint.

"After a week in New York the family decided that Cincinnati was to be the future metropolis of the world, so the whole tribe went by rail to Philadelphia and then rode on a canal-boat to the foot of the mountains and then took a train to Pittsburgh and after that floated on a flatboat down to Cincinnati. They settled in the little suburb of Cheviot. Father went to school for a while and then learned to be a blacksmith.

"In 1849 he took a boat trip down the Ohio, peeling potatoes in the kitchen to pay for his passage. From Cairo he went up the Mississippi to Galena, traveled overland to Chicago and spent the summer of 1849 in a very turbulent settlement which was just warming up to become a metropolis. He worked his way back to the little town outside of Cincinnati and not only worked at his trade, but also kept toll-gate.

"On May 20, 1851, Squire Thomas Wells of

Cheviot performed the marriage ceremony uniting John Ade and Adaline Bush. My mother was then only eighteen. From the old-fashioned glass daguerreotypes, which had to be looked at from an angle and had lids on them, we succeeded in getting some modern photographs when the golden wedding was celebrated in 1901.

"Perhaps I am prejudiced in their favor but it strikes me that father and mother made a fine-looking couple. I like the velvet collar and the knotted cravat and the three gold studs father wore and I am sure that modern fashions have devised no more fetching combination than mother's flowered gown with the white neck-piece and the brooch, to say nothing of the ear bobs and that simple style of looping down the hair, which was raven black and most abundant.

"My mother's mother was Adair, so I get back to that name tracing in two directions. The only celebrity I have been able to spot in the general ancestry is the Robin Adair about whom the old ballad was written. Away back in the eighteenth century he was a social favorite. I hope that Robin was a relative.

"The Buses and Adairs had come across to Ohio from Kentucky. They were a part of the migration over the mountains and into the Daniel Boone country that occurred soon after the Revolution.

"The ancestry is all British. That is why I have always felt that I had a right to take liberties with the English language.

"My father had four brothers. My mother had two sisters and three brothers. We had seven in our family, four girls and three boys.

"I was the youngest boy and next to the youngest of the seven, of whom five are still

living. One of the girls died before I was born and after that we didn't have a death in our family for nearly fifty years, until my mother passed on in 1907.

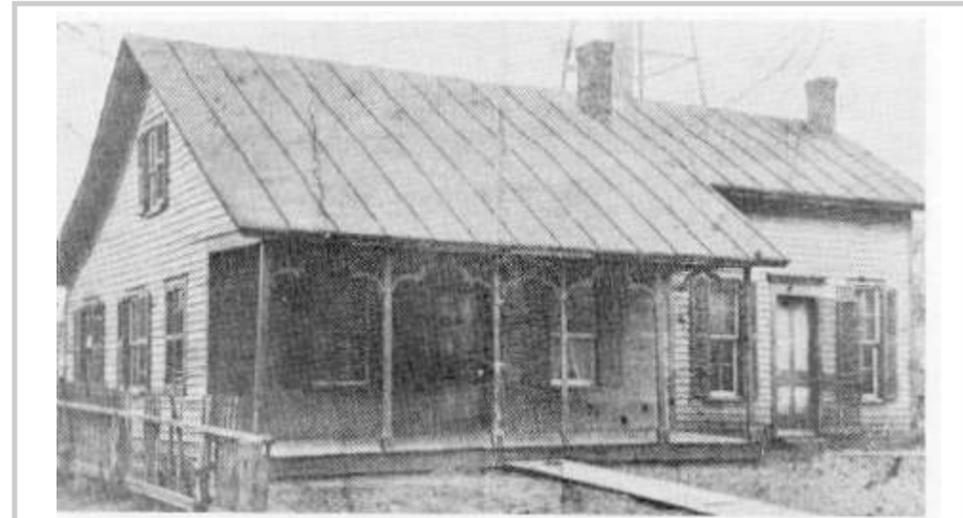
"It was in 1853 that my parents went down the river to Madison and by rail up to Lafayette and by wagon far out into the chills-and-fever wilderness of northwestern Indiana. Father went out to take charge of a store and fur-trading station. Mother took with her a "store bonnet" from Cincinnati and was regarded for a while as an invading aristocrat.

"The region to which they migrated was a vast expanse of virgin prairie, riotous with every form of wild bloom. The few wagon trains wound around wide and shallow sloughs which were surrounded by reeds and cattails. A sluggish river and tributary creeks were bordered with forest trees. The early log-cabin clearings were within the shelter of the woods, but houses were ten miles apart. The mail came once a week on horseback.

"Deer were plentiful, prairie-chickens abounded and water-fowl such as ducks, geese and brant paraded north and south in such myriads that they obscured the sky.

"Father and mother remained in Newton County all their lives and father wrote a book about it, after he was past eighty years of age. I met them on February 9, 1866 at Kentland, Indiana, in a little fram house south of the Court House Square.

"I might have known that I couldn't even get started on this story in a single chapter. I would take at least one chapter for father's record as a horseshoe pitcher with J. M. Studebaker. That will come later."



The birthplace of George Ade, Kentland, Indiana. The home was located across the street, on the southeast corner of the present courthouse square.

Continued From Page Seven
retain their color and remain so for all time." What a great sales pitch that must have been in 1912! However, in 1938 the condition of the mausoleum became so troubling that some families actually had the remains of their loved ones moved from the abbey to the cemetery. Even today names remain on crypts in the mausoleum for those who have grave stones marking their burial in the cemetery. In March of that year, a delegation consisting of Luther Lyons, Victor Borklund and John Foresman met with the Sheets family, who contended they could not afford to keep their part of the contract to maintain the building, and secured their interest in the building at no cost. Additional crypts from Mr. Tucker were acquired and the local crypt owners proceeded to make plans to repair the roof, doors, and windows. These repairs were completed in May of 1940, and the Brook Abbey continued to be governed by a separate mausoleum association until 1994 when the building was turned over to the Riverside Cemetery Association.

In 1926 the need for improvements to the cemetery became obvious. The driveways were no longer adequate now that automobiles were in use and the grounds were at capacity. Committees were formed and a fund drive started to improve the cemetery and purchase additional land to the north. In August of that year a new cemetery association was formed, known as the Riverside Cemetery Association. James Montgomery was elected President, John Stonehill Vice President, L.L. Hershman as Secretary, and J. Bennett Lowe as Treasurer. Trustees were C.A. Warr, Harry Gerrich, and Alva Herriman. While the Riverside Cemetery Association



The Brook Abbey, completed in 1940, still stands today at Riverside Cemetery. Photo By Beth Bassett.

had plans for expansion of the cemetery grounds, it did distinguish itself from the original cemetery, which remained under the control of the township as it had been since 1908. Even today, no record exists showing that Iroquois Township ever deeded the original cemetery to the Riverside Cemetery Association. Later that

month, Laban and Laura Lyons deeded 3.4 acres to the new association and by November, 1927 the new lots had been surveyed and drives and fences built around the new grounds. This expansion is known as blocks 1 and 2, and consists of 237 lots containing six graves each, with the exception of a few end lots that contain only two or four graves each. In 1936 a caretaker's shed made of stone was built, replacing a delapidated wooden structure located at the same location. In 1947, an additional 3 acres was obtained from the heirs of J.J. McCabe, and 7 more acres were bought in 1960 from Samuel and Winnie Lyons, bringing the total acreage of the cemetery to approximately 20 acres. Block 3 was platted in the early 1960's, adding 119 lots and then increased to 161 lots in December of 1975. The most recent addition, Block 4, was platted in 1980 and added 118 more lots.

A history of any cemetery would not be complete without some research in to the history of the undertakers in the community. The earliest known undertaker in Brook was Frank T. Hawkins, known as "Squire"

Hawkins for being a Justice of the Peace as well. Hawkins was in the furniture and undertaking business as early as 1889 and continued until October of 1918. Morton Ulrey and Moses Sawyer were in the furniture and undertaking business at the turn of the century until about 1909 and Bernard B. Gragg was undertaking in the

early 1900's but turned his attention to being a jeweler and merchant with his brother in 1912. In 1913 we find Lloyd L. Hershman setting up shop in the furniture and undertaking business, having bought the Ulrey Furniture Store and the Gragg funeral business. Hershman was a partner in the Washburn and Hershman furniture and undertaking parlors at Kentland

for a brief time in the teens, but sold out of that establishment after a few short years. In the 1930's, Hershman's son-in-law, Paul Weston, came on board and continued the business after Hershman's death in 1936, later changing the name to Hershman and Weston. Around 1953 Paul's son, Jim Weston, joined the family business and continued to operate the Weston Funeral Home after Paul's death in 1966. Jim chose to leave the business in 1975 when it was purchased by Richard E. Gerts, who has operated the establishment under the Weston-Gerts and Gerts names since that time.

Today, Riverside Cemetery is still governed by a volunteer board of directors and funded through the sale of burial lots and a stipend from Iroquois Township. Over the years several different caretakers have taken great pride in keeping the grounds manicured and maintained, keeping it one of the most beautiful settings in Newton County. A fitting tribute to those pioneers who settled the land and for all those who have followed.

The History of The Riverside Cemetery

By Kyle Conrad

As researchers, historians, and genealogists, we many times recognize the historical value a cemetery holds by being the final resting place for the pioneers of our community. However, a cemetery can have a history of it's own, many times due to it being a focal point of a community. Such is the case with Riverside Cemetery.

Riverside Cemetery is located east of Brook on State Road 16. Situated in section 20, it is the only organized cemetery in Iroquois Township. We can trace the beginning of the cemetery to the years prior to 1850, when a 14 year old daughter of pioneers who were traveling west, died and was buried along the Iroquois River. According to an account written for the 1985 *Newton County History* by Gladys (Hershman) Weston, the grave was marked by a boulder and fenced in by small timbers. The story of the first burial had been passed down by J. Bennet Lyons from his father, Samuel Lyons, one of the area's first settlers. A monument was placed at the site of the grave by the community in 1976.

Little more recorded information exists on the cemetery from this time until 1895. Obviously, the dates on the grave markers indicate the area continued to be used as a cemetery from the 1850's on, but who owned and maintained the ground on which the original section is located is sketchy. Several grave stones and field stones mark these early graves. On May 31, 1895, however, the Brook Cemetery Association was established for the purpose of providing a cemetery for the citizens of Brook and Iroquois Township. Elected officers included Schuyler Jones, President; Lewis Blankenbaker, Secretary; Edward Hess, Treasurer; and Charles Waling and David Hess, members. Approximately 4.5 acres of land was made available to the new association by John J. McCabe, Quinton Lyons, and Samuel Lyons. One hundred sixty lots were originally platted, but sales must have been sluggish or expenses too high, because in December, 1908 the Brook Cemetery Association deeded the cemetery to Iroquois Township trustee, John J. McCabe. An article appearing in the May 7, 1909

Brook Cemetery's First Grave. This monument was erected in 1976 in honor of the first grave at Brook Cemetery, now known as Riverside Cemetery, located along State Road 16, east of Brook, Indiana. It is inscribed "Burial Prior to 1850. A 14 Yr. Old Daughter of Pioneers Moving West". Photo by Beth Bassett



Brook Reporter calls for the restoration of the cemetery, citing numerous problems, including the road leading from the highway to the cemetery. The August 12, 1910 *Brook Reporter* then complements the cemetery association for it's work in putting the cemetery back in shape. We also learn in this article that the cemetery was added on to, increasing the 160 lots to 250.

One of the most interesting facets of Riverside Cemetery is the Brook Abbey. In January of 1912, Laban and Mary Lyons sold a half acre of land just north of the Brook Cemetery to the Newton County Mausoleum Association. Little is known

about this association, but we find out in later news events that a majority of the stock was controlled by the Sheets family in Lowell, Indiana and a Mr. Tucker in Havana, Illinois. Later that year construction began on the 200 crypt mausoleum and the sale of crypts began. An article describing the construction of the building appeared in an edition of the *Brook Reporter* and stated "Bodies deposited in the mausoleum do not decay, but are fully preserved...where they retain their identity... Flowers placed on the casket will

Continued On Page Ten

The History of Riverside Cemetery

Newton County Queries

In an attempt to locate missing persons and places in Newton County we have instituted this column on Newton County Queries. Basically these are recent unanswered queries that we have received on our web site. They have been referred to members from the locale, who were not successful in finding a reply. We are now appealing to our wider readership for help. If you know any of the persons or places involved, write to the editor or the Family History Division, or e-mail us at newtonhs@fni.com and one or the other will reply to the query. Thank you in advance for helping.

1. Looking for Georgia Humberd (1894-1945)--Goodland. She had a brother Roy.--Peter Kamp.
2. Looking for record of great aunt, Lillie Belle (Swartz) Jacobs. In a nursing home near Morocco--Linda Mankowski
3. Looking for descendants of John W. Toyne married Mary J. Short (1877) in Newton County--Sharon Bope
4. Looking for Nancy Alice Freeland, dau of Charles & Nancy Lane Freeland Brown, Jackson Township--Sandy Freeland
5. Need clarification on the spelling of Clara McIlwain. Son Joseph Henry or James Henry born 1899--Dave Reid
6. Seeking information on a Brook Restaurant owned by the Swartz or Spitler family around 1900--Linda Mankowski
7. Seeking descendants and ancestors of Melvin Abbaduska and Mildred Lacock, married May 4, 1929, Newton Co. A (Abbaduska) Lutz
8. Looking for burial site of John Sorel and wife, Elizabeth Peter Robidon. He was born 1800 and she 1810. Came from Quebec by way of Kankakee--Charlene
9. Need information on Wallabe Troup. In 1860 census had a daughter Elen--Shela Light
10. Old tintypes of Blankenbaker, Childs, Porter families of Newton County. May be claimed by interested relative--Gary Clifton

Letters To The Editor . . . Letters to the editor . . . Letters to the editor . . .

This column will be a new feature that I hope will inspire our members and others to submit inquires, tales and history of their families and of course local history. Please send your information to the editor. Pictures are always welcome and will be returned to their owner! This idea was submitted to me by member Col. Jack Williamson in a letter he sent to me in September 2001. His experience in publishing a newsletter for an Association secured considerable material by utilizing this type of column. Thank you Jack for the wonderful suggestion! Beth Bassett, editor.

And, What About Those Out Houses?!

My occupation as a salesperson for *Indiana AgriNews* and *Country News* gives me the opportunity to travel Northern Indiana, and occasionally my mother, Lorene (Zoborosky) Bassett rides along with me so that we can catch up with each other, and enjoy the Indiana countryside. Her interest in our family history and having lived her entire 80 years in this county, qualifies her as an expert in my eyes about many, many things, and this "drive time" makes her a captive audience to my questions and observances, and vice versa.

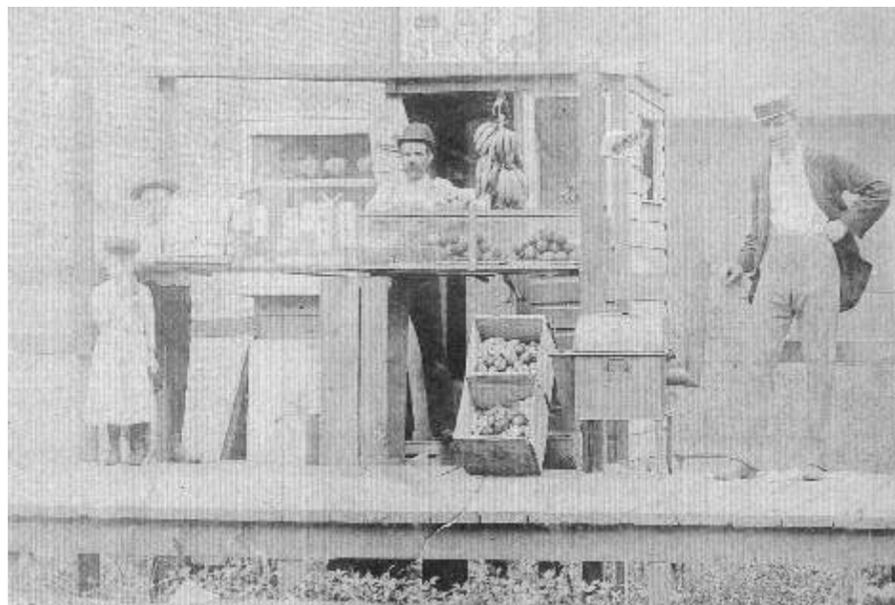
Fortunately, one aspect of *Country News* is selling advertising space to Antique dealers and so forth. (This is a killer job, really). So, on this day with Mom, we stopped at a place that had a re-built outhouse for sale. Since I enjoy and collect primitives, this naturally caught my eye, so I glanced at the price of \$180.00. On the way out (after making my sales call and leaving my information of course), I told Mom that I thought that would be kind of neat sitting in my backyard - great for tool storage, like she does with the one that sits in her backyard. She asked how much they wanted for it, which I told her, and she replied, "Well, isn't that something, the WPA put the one up for Mom and Dad (the one at her house) for \$20.00." Needless to say, we got a chuckle out of that, and proceeded down the highway, on the road again. Submitted by Beth Bassett.

Fresh Produce Here - 1898-1900

Dear Beth, Here is a photograph of my great-grandfather William A. Jackson. The children in the picture are his children, Frank A. "Jack" Jackson, and my grandmother Stella May Jackson-Wilkinson. This was taken somewhere around 1898-1900 in Kentland, In. William was killed in 1903 on the railroad tracks somewhere near Kentland. I found out that he is buried at the Fairlawn Cemetery. I wish I could tell you more about him, but that's all I know at this point.

My grandma later married Hubert Wilkinson, and helped him run a restaurant in Milford, Illinois.

Sincerely, Cheryl Sutliff, 16451 Ranch Lane, Spring Lake, MI 49456, jimsut@novagate.com. Submitted October 2000.



Lavanche Woodruff-West Knows her County of Newton!

Everyone is reading Janet Miller's "Do You Know?" The following response was received on the definition of crokinole from the question in our last Newcomer. Thanks LaVanche!- Janet Miller.

Dear Janet,

I want you to know how very much we enjoy reading "The Newcomer", since my grandparents were Newton County residents and we visited the area all the years I was growing up.

Someone has probably told you about "crokinole". That was the name the older folk used to call the game we call "Carom". It had a large square board with net pockets on each corner. The round caroms were shot against each other toward the pockets for points. Shooting was similar to shooting in a marble game or pool where you use a cue ball as the "shooter". *Sincerely, LaVanche Woodruff West, Valparaiso, IN.*

Where Was Water Valley?

Historical Society member, Jim Robbins, told me about Water Valley, a settlement across the Kankakee River bridge on State Road 55 in Lake County. This is where Shelby is now, however, Shelby was once located northwest of its present location.

Water Valley consisted of Ahlgrim Park, a collection of houses, perhaps a store and a dance hall. Ahlgrim Park was known for its large Fourth of July celebrations and was used for rallies, community gatherings and picnics. Jim recalls going there for a school picnic when he attended Colfax School. A Water Valley road sign stood there as late as 1954. *Thanks, Jim, for informing the readers of Water Valley. - Janet Miller.*

From The Internet E-mail . . .

From: <leslie_hall@merck.com>
To: "beth@brook.ffni.com"
Subject: Thanks

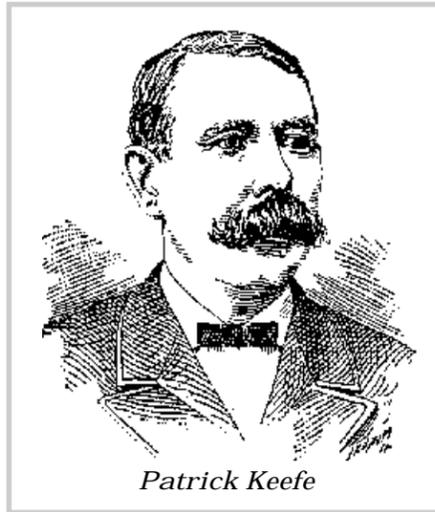
Beth:

I have only been working in genealogy for a few months but have been impressed with the contents of your website and wanted to pass on my sincere thanks to you and those who make the Newton County Web site possible. What a wonderful resource. It is, by far, the best one that I've encountered. It is easy to navigate and it just doesn't provide more links but actual information that is useful and searchable. Bravo!!! Keep up the good work!

Leslie Hall Waynesboro, Virginia hallf@cfw.com

per acre and aggregating \$15,136.00. Last summer being an extremely dry one the yield of corn was below that of ordinary years, but in quality it was never surpassed.

Having just briefly mentioned some of



Patrick Keefe

the advantages and resources of our county, we proceed to notice some of the business enterprises of our own locality.

The enterprising firm of Keefe Brothers commenced in 1867. Their store is stocked with a complete assortment of dry goods of every description and of the best quality; also hats, caps, shoes and ready made clothing of the latest and best styles. In addition to their immense stock of dry goods they also carry a full line of groceries. Having been in business for so long a time, this firm has established themselves in the esteem and confidence of the general public. They and their clerks will always be found pleasant and obliging. They carry a large stock, amounting to about \$25,000.00; and their annual sales aggregate nearly \$100,000.00.

Patrick Keefe is the senior partner of the firm of the Keefe Brothers. He is one of those businessmen whose stock of energy is never exhausted. He is an enterprising business man, alive not only to his own business interests but to the general welfare of the community. He is a speaker of no mean ability, often spoken of as our "silver tongued orator". He is a champion of the Democrat party and belongs to the Catholic Church.

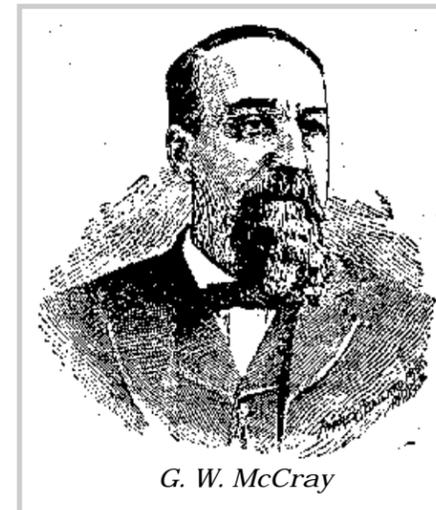
Another dry goods store that has lately come into prominence is that of John W. Randall. This is distinguished as the "Popular Dry Goods Store of Kentland",

because it is regarded as one of the finest in the county. It was established March 14, 1893. Mr. Randall has just reason to feel proud of the success he has achieved in establishing himself in such a prominent position in connection with the dry goods trade of this locality. The store, which is large and commodious, is stocked with a large, attractive and varied assortment of the best goods, and the stock is replenished with frequent importation of the newest patterns and latest novelties in dress goods, woolens, hats, caps, ribbons, laces, notions, etc. of excellent quality and latest styles.

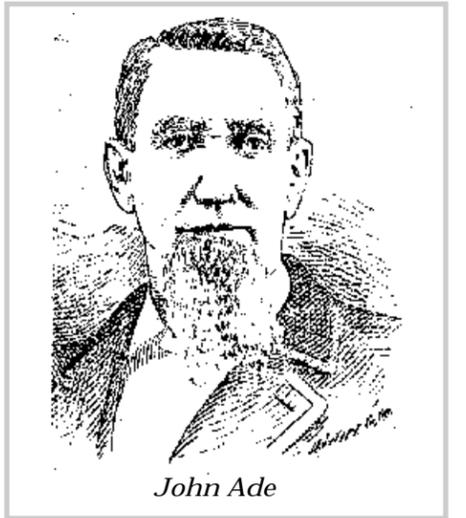
The careful manner in which the goods are selected speaks volumes for the good taste and high application of the advantages to be derived from an attractive and well selected stock of goods, which embraces a wide range in the varied departments of textile fabrics, and affording an opportunity for selections rarely attainable outside of the great markets of the country. Mr. Randall has jumped into prominence and attained a large trade as the just results of equitable methods and low prices, and employing help that is polite and accommodating.

S.M. Noble also carries a full line of dry goods and notions and his patrons will always meet with fair treatment and complete stock of jewelry, watches, silverware, etc. on the east side of the street, opposite his dry goods.

Among our merchants who deserves an especial mention is Mr. Christian Rettinger. A native of Germany, he came to the United States when he was 15 years old. He learned the shoemaker's trade at Columbus, Ohio,



G. W. McCray



John Ade

and came to Kentland in 1861, where he opened the first boot and shoe shop in town, and built the first pair of boots ever manufactured in Kentland. Being competent, steady and industrious, his business prospered until he now carries a large stock of first class goods.

About six years ago, he added clothing and gent's furnishing goods, and now has in his store room a stock worth \$10,000 of good, serviceable and fashionable goods. Mr. Rettinger has suffered by disastrous fires, but has always rebuilt and continued in business.

G.W. McCray, who is a Hoosier by birth, and a resident of Newton County since October, 1861, has been a partner in the Discount and Deposit Bank of Kentland since 1875. He has been a farmer, stock raiser and banker, and in each has been very successful, amassing a fortune of which to be proud. He is a man of temperate habits, of marked integrity, and owes his financial success to the observance of the rules of industry, energy and close personal application of his own interests. He is a staunch Republican and member of the Presbyterian Church.

The Discount and Deposit Bank of Kentland, the first Bank of Newton county, was organized in 1870 by C. B. Cones, as President, and John Ade as cashier. In 1875, this bank was reorganized, John Ade, G. W. McCray and E. L. Urmson purchasing C. B. Cones interests. Since that time there has been no change in the management of the bank. The business done last year amount to \$8,590,776.00.

John Ade came to America from
Continued On Page Six

Pages Of The Past

The following excerpts are from *The Kentland Enterprise* during the Fall of 1900, transcribed by Janet Miller

Kentland

Prof. F. A. Herrington, with his family and household effects, arrived in Kentland the first of the week from Hebron, their former home, and are now busily engaged ensconcing themselves in the T. W. Beckner property. Mr. Herrington is the new high school principal, and he and his family are welcomed to Kentland.

The Rider Grain Co. is preparing to put into its elevator at an early date a new oats clipper, much larger in capacity than the one now in use, and also a new steam engine in addition to the gasoline engine now doing service.

Mr. and Mrs. James White, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Thompson, Patrick Keefe, Dr. K. L. Myers, T. B. Cunningham, Miss Alice Smart, Miss Theresa Fitzgerald and Miss Lizzie Boyle are members of a camping party from this place spending the week on the banks of the placid Tippecanoe near Monticello.

October 28th has been designated by Gov. Mount as prison Sunday, and all ministers of the gospel are urged to direct their discourses on that day to the subject of prison reform and matters relating hereto.

The great coal strike in the anthracite district will not cause much trouble in Kentland. A representative of the *Enterprise* visited the local yards yesterday and made inquiries of W. T. McCray, of McCray, Morrison & Co., C. Rider of the Rider Grain Co. and A. L. Smart, representing Isaac Smart, and they were all of the opinion that every person using hard coal would be taken care of. The Rider Grain Co. has 150 tons in bin, Isaac Smart has about 160 tons, and McCray & Co. a large stock in bin and several cars on the road. It is unlikely therefore that the people of Kentland and vicinity will go without coals this winter, unless a few more put in hot water systems, which would speedily cause a coal famine.

A prairie schooner from Earl Park sailed through town on Monday morning enroute to the Kankakee river, on a fishing expedition.

Saturday Charles Prue placed on exhibition at Keefe & Ryan's store a stalk of corn seventeen feet tall. Nine feet from the ground hung two well developed ears of

corn measuring sixteen inches long.

Mt. Ayr

Saturday, Sept. 8th, beginning at two o'clock p.m. Mt. Ayr will hold a balloon ascension, high wire walking, ball game between Sweeney and Mt. Ayr, both Mt. Ayr and Brook bands, also a horse shoe pitching contest between Mr. Butts of this place and Mr. Carmichael of Rensselaer. A programme will be given in the evening. A 15 cent supper will be served by the M. W. A. order. This programme is gotten up by the Woodmen boys, so the people of Mt. Ayr and vicinity can have a half holiday. All of the programme is free

J. B. Ashby is having an addition built to his house, John Baker has also added a two story addition to his town residence, Ned Barker is building a new house, Cornelius Saylor a kitchen over a good cellar, and Cyrus Brunton, Ed Stohl, B. Miller and Mrs. Guildenzoph are each making improvements on their residences. This shows that the people in and around Mt. Ayr are prospering.

Brook

The public schools opened Monday (Sept. 10). The first year high school course has been added and the room above the Bank of Brook has been leased and the grammar grade transferred to it.

Senator G. W. Knapp of Brook was in Kentland Tuesday on court business. Mr. Knapp voted for John C. Fremont in 1856 and every republican candidate for president since, and is justly proud of the fact. He has been an untiring party worker for nearly half a century and says he has no fears as to the result of the election next month.

Goodland

Ray Cummings and wife of Kentland and Fred Inman and wife of Chicago were in Goodland last Thursday and picnicked in the park.

John Bowers sold his land, once part of the Streight farm, and the farm purchased of Anthony Dehner, and bought 600 acres of the old Adkinson estate southeast of Fowler. Thayer

Harve Nelson, the hustling blacksmith and inventor of Thayer, Ind., was a pleasant caller in Wolcott on Monday morning. He invented a new fangled buggy spindle some

time ago which is destined to win favor with the public as it makes the vehicle lighter draught, protects the boxing from dust and sand and takes up all the wear on the axle. His invention has been considered worthy of notice from large wholesale houses who only await the manufacture of the article.

Rose Lawn

Bert Armstrong of Rose Lawn while out hunting last Sunday had one eye shot out and the other injured. Arthur Aliss, another of the crowd, received a shot through his nose and several in his arm and side, but none were serious. The shooting was accidental.

Morocco

It is claimed that Uncle Ward Anderson, of Morocco, has been a member of the F. & A. M. Lodge longer than any other man in the State of Indiana.

James McKeever of Sheldon has established a tailor shop at this place. He is located in rooms over the Citizens Bank.

D. M. Williams of Beaver township arrived in Kentland Monday noon on his bicycle, the register on which indicated that he had traveled 1,136 miles. Mr. William's left Morocco six weeks ago and traveled through a part of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. He made the trip from southern Tennessee to Kentland in one week, and from Lafayette to Kentland in five hours.

The History of Kentland

Continued From Page Six.

Our two local papers, the *Newton County Enterprise* and *Kentland Democrat*, are two well known to require commendation from us, and should be read by every citizen of our county.

We have five practicing physicians and as many attorneys.

Last, but not least, we mention our electric light plant, which renders efficient service upon our streets, and brightens and beautifies our homes.

The Newton County Historical Society and Family History Division would like to wish every one a safe and joyous holiday season!



The History of Kentland

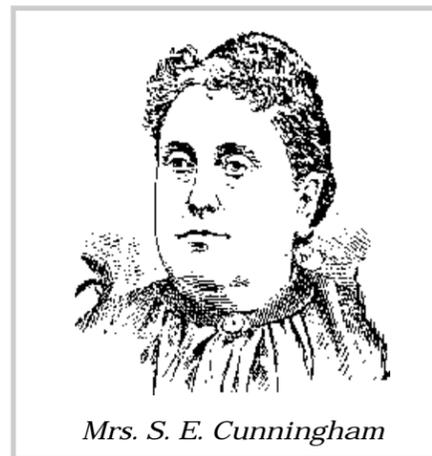
Continued From Page One

its name often. First being known as Kent, then Kent Station, then Adriance, then Kentville; but none of these proved satisfactory as the name was so easily confused with towns of similar names. The Gazette, which was the first newspaper here, called upon some genius to help the town to settle the perplexing question, and Hon. Schuyler Colfax was the genius, giving the village the name of Kentland.

Do you think that our town has had one perpetual stream of posterity, and that we have reached our present state without obstacles?

Many times the fire fiend has visited us and taken each time the business portion of our town. The first fire occurred in 1870 with a loss of \$100,000.00 and no insurance. In 1880, another very destructive fire occurred, the loss of which is not known. Happily, most of the property was insured, and the business portion was immediately replaced with new and commodious structures. Many other times have the seething flames caused general ruin, the last time in the spring of 1894.

It has taken some time for the town to recover from the disasters which it has had to meet. They could not help but have depressing effects, yet there is shown renewed energy in the rebuilding of burned property and the construction of several elegant residences in the north part of town, besides remodeling and repairing the old residences, which gives our town a



Mrs. S. E. Cunningham

decidedly modern look.

One of the most noticeable improvements of our town is our electric light plant, which furnishes sufficient light for both streets and residences. The plant is supplied with the very best machinery and is a paying business for the operators and a satisfaction to the town.

The main street of town has been macadamized with crushed rock, in a most satisfactory manner. Today Kentland is in a better condition than it has ever been. Its population is increasing, its wealth is greater each year, and its trade is ever extending.

The people of Kentland are loyal to Newton county. They take pride in the growth and advancement of the whole county. There is no local jealousy of surrounding towns or of sections; but with malice toward none and charity for all, our people are ready and willing to aid in any work which will tend to advance the welfare of the whole community.

Alexander James Kent, founder of Kentland, was born in Whiteston, N.Y., springing from puritan stock. His ancestors came from England to Connecticut in 1628. He possessed the principles of that sturdy race, though whose energies this great

country has developed. Coming to Indiana in 1854, he invested largely in lands. Living for a few years in New Albany, Indiana where he owned large business interests, but he came to this county in 1859 where he resided until his death in 1882.

In 1860, our town of Kentland was laid out and named in his honor. Possessing neither physical nor mental indolence, his mind was busy from early morning until late at night, reading everything and studying the great social and political problems of the day. A rare faculty was his of interesting men of all conditions in life, for in his sentences might be found much shrewd observation and wisdom. It was his fortune to be associated with many prominent men during his life, knowing intimately Horatio Seymour, Roscoe Conkling, Thomas Hendricks and many others.

Public spirited and ever interested in the progress of our town, he lent substantial aid to all enterprises calculated to benefit Newton county and Kentland.

Mrs. A. J. Kent nee Rosamond Chesebrough, belonged to a family of ancient lineage. One of their ancestors, William Chesebrough, settling in Boston in 1630 and afterward in the quaint old town of Stoughton, Conn. She was born in Whitesboro, N.Y., and after the elementary education of the academic school at Whitesboro, she entered the State Normal school at Albany, N.Y., and was graduated there with honors.

She possess definite tact executive ability, keen intelligence and above all a nobility of nature, supplemented by deep religious inspiration, all persons cherished for her love and respect. In the training of her family, she exercised the greatest care and though a woman of strongly developed domestic tastes.

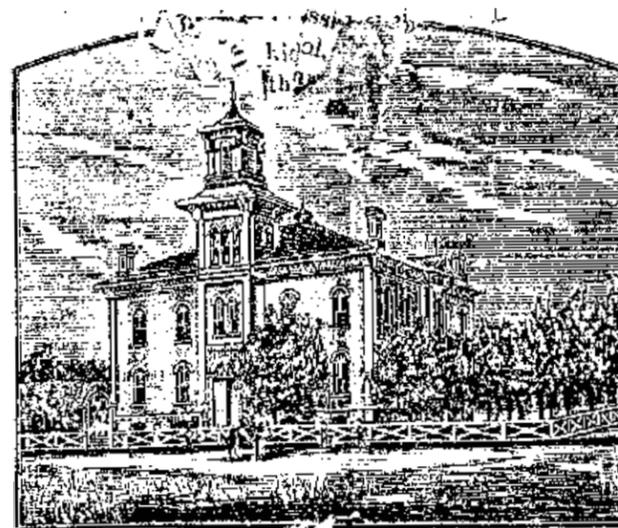
Barring the first few years spent in New Albany, Indiana, she lived during her married life in Kentland where she died in 1886.

Our Public Schools

Aims at an all Around Development of the Child. Our present fine school building completed in 1871. The Course will be lengthened and another teacher employed.

Upon every license that is issued to the teachers of Indiana are the words "Common Schools, the Hope of Our Country".

Continued On Page Four



Kentland Public School