

THE RESOURCE CENTER'S WINDOW DISPLAY



South Newton Production Company Memorabilia



Once again, the NCHS Window display committee has put together a marvelous collection of memorabilia of the South Newton Production Company. 35 Productions were held on the South Newton Stage from 1967-1999 directed by Mr. Morris Cornell. Community members, students and teachers worked together to create some of the most outstanding productions of these famous musical and dramas staged. Members of the production company contributed items, and Janet Miller

and Jenny Washburn arranged the display. *Photos by Beth Bassett*

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.

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A publication of the NEWDN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
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The Newcomer

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Augustus Dwight Babcock

By Beth Bassett

Gathering information to put together an article sometimes can turn into a nightmare. However, in this instance, information and pictures seemed to appear right before my eyes. With the help of the Goodland Library, articles from the 1915 Darroch-Hamilton Newton County History Book, The Goodland Herald, The Newton County Enterprise, and files from the Newton County Historical Society I was able to bring to you this glimpse of Augustus Dwight Babcock, known to many as "the old man" as well as A. D., and his Open Door Museum. It is a fascinating look at an individual who lived as he believed, "As man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

"Known as one of the scholarly members of the Newton County bar, Augustus Dwight Babcock, lawyer and author, had a most varied experience, and was not only known as a lawyer, author and student of literature, but also in the more prosaic field of business, having one of the largest farm insurance agencies in this section, located at Goodland. Mr. Babcock was born September 28, 1852, on a farm three miles south of Rensselaer, in Marion Township, Jasper County, Indiana, and is a son of Augustus Door and Abigail (Liff) Babcock.

"The Babcock family originated in England, and its first American progenitor, one James Babcock, is found in the annals of Rhode Island prior to the Revolutionary war. From him have descended men who have achieved prominence and eminence in the various walks of life. Men bearing the name have fought in every American war, and particularly in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Nathan Babcock, the grandfather of Augustus D. Babcock, was born in New York State, from whence he came to Indiana, settling during the '40s in Carroll County, near Delphi. About the year 1848 the family moved to Jasper County and settled in Marion Township, near Rensselaer, where Nathan Babcock died August 14, 1874, being laid to rest in Crockett Cemetery, four miles southeast of Rensselaer. Augustus Dorr Babcock was born in New York and accompanied his father to Indiana, where he passed his short career in farming, his death occurring October 11, 1858, when he was but twenty-six years, eleven months of age. Like his father, he was buried in Crockett Cemetery. He married Abigail Liff, a daughter of William and Hannah Liff, natives of Preble County, Ohio, of English descent, and they became the parents of three children: Augustus Dwight; Ruby Alice, who married White A. Harbison and lived at Kentland; and Addie Bell, the wife of Charles Lamson.

"Augustus Dwight Babcock was six years of age when his father died, and following that event he was taken to Rensselaer by his mother, who three years later married Mount Etna Jordan, the family then moving to near Remington and settling on a farm. While working on farms in Carpenter and Jordan townships, Mr. Babcock secured a common school education, but his ambitions were beyond the humdrum life of the agriculturist, and when he reached his majority, he began to teach school, a vocation which occupied his energies for ten years, six years of this time being passed in Grant Township, Newton County. In this period, when he could find the leisure, he applied himself earnestly

"As A Man Thinketh In His Heart, So Is He"

and eagerly to the study of law, and in 1885 he was admitted to the bar at Kentland and at once entered practice. He built up a good professional business and has an excellent standing among his fellow practitioners. Mr. Babcock's energetic nature carried him into other fields of endeavor, and for some years he has been the representative at Goodland of the Home Insurance Company of New York, and he has developed the largest farm insurance business in this part of the state. He also holds stock in one of the leading financial institutions of Newton County.

"His hobby was the building of a museum which he desired to hand down to future generations, and the Open Door Museum, located in Goodland stood as a monument to his courage and energy. In it are housed relics and curios from all parts of the world. Thousands of visitors annually. No admission fee was charged and Mr. Babcock took great pleasure in conducting visitors through his museum, answering all their questions and giving the history of each exhibit which might arouse the curiosity of his callers. This museum was started by Mr. Babcock over 50 years ago when John Charles Fremont Dutton of Jasper County gave Mr. Babcock a stone ax which he found on his farm suggesting that he start a museum. Mr. Babcock did start a collection, and as time went on, he grew more and more deeply interested in relics and curios, and the Open Door Museum was the fruit of his endeavor.

"Mr. Babcock was a colorful character. He was devoted to the town of Goodland and interests for the betterment of the entire county, and it was this profound ambition for the betterment and education of children that prompted him to found a museum. For years, Mr.

Babcock strove earnestly to reach every remote corner of the world, by letter, asking for articles, trinkets, pictures, etc. for display in his museum. Many times he visited the newspaper offices expressing a desire for a building adequate to house his collection. At last it occurred to him that he would ask publicly for bricks to erect a building. His idea was scoffed by many persons and the task was difficult one to accomplish, but by perseverance the building was completed. Years wore on, and suddenly, as it were by magic, people from all parts of the United States visited Goodland to inspect the Open Door Museum. It was one of the finest collections in the United States at that time, and many flattering offers had been made Mr. Babcock.

"In politics Mr. Babcock was a democrat, and on two occasions was a candidate for prosecuting attorney, but owing to political conditions was met with defeat. His fraternal connection was with Goodland Lodge, Free and

Continued On Page Three



Augustus Dwight Babcock



A.D.'s collection included items from Newton County, and all over the world. Photo contributed by the Goodland-Grant Twp. Library.

What's On Our Agenda . . .

The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month. 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 areas of 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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Yvonne Kay

This past year has been rewarding and challenging but I am going forward with a vision of things to come. We have several projects started for this year and we will continue to gather Newton County's history. We will use today's technology to make our county's history available around the world. If you have not visited our website please do so at www.rootsweb.com/~innewton.

Beth Bassett co-ordinates the data on our web site and is doing an outstanding job. Census records, marriage records, an index to articles of "The Newcomer", obituaries of Newton County residents are all searchable on the web. Gerald Born has contributed many biographies to the web site from the 1885 History of Newton, Benton and Warren Counties, and you may do so as well! The site itself tells you how to contribute your information to the site, or e-mail Beth at beth@ffni.com with your questions and queries.

Special note for Morocco persons, a compilation of Morocco history is to be published next year during their Sesquicentennial, (150th year celebration. If you have material you would like included, please contact Gerald Born, Director of the Family History Division.

Dave Miller of Lake Village was the winner of the one year membership drawing from the fair booth. Congratulations Dave, and welcome!



Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. What Newton County town was home to an Overall Factory?
2. What was the Akkiki?
3. Kentland, at one time, was the home of the Greyhound Post House on US. 41. Where in Kentland was the Greyhound bus stop prior to the building of the Post House?
4. What Newton County author wrote the juvenile novel, "Andy's Dan'l Boone Rifle"?
5. On August 30, 1927, what major league Chicago baseball team played a game against the Kentland White Sox in Kentland at Strole Field?

Answers on Page 9.

WEB SITE DIRECTORY

- [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](#)
- [Index of "The Newcomer" Articles](#)
- [Newton County Marriage Records thru 1971](#)
- [Obituaries of Past Residents of Newton County](#)

PAGES OF THE PAST

The following excerpts are from The Kentland Gazette during the summer of 1886, transcribed by Janet Miller



Kentland

J. B. Howe, the fancy poultry dealer of this place, received an order by telegraph from Oldenburg, Germany, for some eggs, last week.

According to the report of the assessor there are 1,453 polls in this county.

Persons from Goodland and Remington attending the celebration here Saturday, (July 4th) can return to their homes, leaving here at 10:50 p.m. The night train will return east for this purpose.

A street sprinkler is Kentland's latest improvement. Israel Humes manages the enterprise.

Mr. Rice, assistant engineer of the C. St. L. & P. R. R. was at this place on last Tuesday and selected the site for the new depot. The building will stand midway between second and third streets, in front of Capt. Warren's residence. The building is to be 46x18 and will contain commodious freight and waiting rooms.

Washington Township

The German Reformed congregation received their new chapel organ. It is pronounced to be an instrument of excellent tune and workmanship, made by the Miller Organ Co., Lebanon, pa. The organ will be dedicated to the service of God on June 6th at 2:00 p.m.

A few days ago as Mr. John Whaley and sons were driving down a steep hill near the residence of J. J. Timmons, the horses became frightened and dashed away at full speed, upsetting the wagon and throwing the occupants out. one of the boys received a severe blow on the head which rendered him insensible for some time. Take it all in all it was a narrow escape from death.

We are informed that G. W. Clark on the Bank farm in Washington Township, has seventy acres of as fine corn as there is in the county.

Morocco

We would suggest to those young men who go to church and cannot remain during the services that they take seats near the door so that they may pass out quietly.

Peck & co. have their tile shed full of tile and brick and had to stop work on account of not having enough room in their dry shed. They will build fifty feet more shed room at once.

The births in this vicinity since our last report are as follows: To Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Brunton, twin

boys, Mr. & Mrs. D. W. Roadruck, a son, Mr. & Mrs. George Thompson, a son, Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Archibald, a son, Mr. & Mrs. James R. Kay, a daughter. Mothers and children all doing well and the fathers happy.

Mt. Airy

Misses Jennie and Jessie Harris returned last week from Franklin where they have attended school the past year.

Rumor says Garret Brown has sold his stock of drugs and will leave town soon. Mr. McDonnel, of East Lynn, Ill., being the purchaser.

The railway company laid piping underground from W. J. Young's well to the stock yards whereby stock are furnished water while waiting on trains.

Mr. Lemon Ham went to Kansas last spring, spent the summer there in looking up a homestead and returned last week. On Thursday evening he was married to Miss Addie Jenkins, at Goodland, Ind. Mr. Ham and his estimable bride will visit friends and relatives here during the "honeymoon" after which they will go on a tour in the west, through Missouri, and finally settle down in Kansas as their future home.

Roselawn

A subscription paper, to put a bell on the church, is being circulated with fair success.

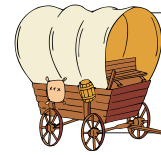
The whortleberry season is here but the hot dry weather will probably cut it short.

All our people that want to celebrate the Fourth, will have to go visiting as there will be no celebration here.

Goodland

Prof. Eckman, for several years principal of the Goodland schools, has secured the nomination for county Superintendent of the schools of Iroquois county, Ill. In that state the superintendent is elected by the people instead of the trustees, as in this State.

We now have three saloons in running order, which ought to be sufficient to supply us with all the "bottled hardware" we may need. In one block we have two saloons, one undertaker, one church and a tombstone factory. And there is still room to start a graveyard. The same block we might add, has one doctor, one attorney, a Justice of the Peace and a constable. And still some contend that we are born free and equal! There is not another business block in the country with an equal number of "blessings" in it.



FOCUS ON FAMILIES

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

By Brad Chissom

My search started with a 100 year old letter from John McCarthy to his daughter Mary. The letter was dated February 18, 1889, and was written from Beaver City, Indiana. John McCarthy was my gr-gr-grandfather, and the letter had been in my family for three generations. It was eventually transcribed and typed by the secretary of Dr. John McCarthy (John's grandson) who was a dentist in LaPorte, IN for many years, and my great uncle. Even after a typed version was available to the family, no one wanted to use it to trace John McCarthy's life. The wording was clear, and as I found out later, very accurate, considering he was writing from recall at 76 years of age. The letter was in the form of an autobiography, and was written, it seems from the tone, as a response to a request from his daughter, Mary, to summarize his life's experiences. It was dated less than four months before his death in June, 1889. John had studied for the ministry at Western Reserve College in Ohio, and had been a newspaper editor and publisher at various times during his life. So he did a good job expressing himself. This was fortunate for me when I set out to trace his footsteps.

John McCarthy started his life in Pittsburgh, PA, the son of Johnsey and Eleanor (Campbell) McCarthy. When he was still a child, his father moved to Detroit, MI to operate a bakery that supplied bread to soldiers and



Mary McCarthy, daughter of J. W. McCarthy

friendly Indians around the Detroit area. John and his mother stayed behind until his uncle came to take them to join his father. This involved a trip over the Allegheny Mountains in a wagon to the shores of Lake Erie where they boarded a schooner for Detroit. In his words: "At this time, Detroit was little else than a military post, and the residents, outside the fort, were primarily French." His mother died when he was nine years old and his father's business went to his mother's brother. He writes of the period following his mother's death:

"My father provided for me and kept me in school, but my home was part of the time with one uncle, and part of the time with the other." He was the only son and his two sisters had died young. He was virtually an orphan.

He was employed, even at a young age, by several individuals and grew quite rapidly to what he described as: "A good- sized boy." At that time he met a Mr. Gillet with whose family he lived and who seemed to have a major influence on his life. He describes the family: "At this time I knew nothing of his family (Mr. Gillet's) which consisted of his wife and infant daughter, his wife's two sisters and a brother about my age." Mrs. Gillet received most of his praise. He wrote of her: "Mrs. Gillet was everything to me; friend, sister, and mother. I do not speak disparagingly of others when I say I have never met her equal. Her earnest and consistent piety - her intelligence, superior judgment and kind disposition qualified her for any position to which a noble woman may attain. She was not without personal charms, but her great adornments were her moral and intellectual endowments." He adds further: "In connection with the other members of the family, I was required to attend church regularly and be always at the Sabbath School. This treatment, more than anything else perhaps, has shaped the character of my life."

Over the next several years, he described the influence of his religious activities on his life, which resulted in his studying for the ministry. Part of this religious awakening was supported by his experience with soldiers who were fighting in the "Black Hawk War", and had come down with Cholera. He worked with, and cared for, some of the victims of the dreaded disease and escaped unscathed.

That event and others, firmed his decision to be a minister. He describes his feelings: "At this time my heart was aglow with love for that Savior who had so graciously shed His blood for my redemption, and designed to do what I could for the advancement of His Kingdom. I was urged by my friends to study for the ministry." However, his studies ended after three years due to a lack of funds, and he moved back to Detroit.

He engaged in several forms of employment, one of which was mapping townships in the northern territory of the state, while another involved military service during the Canadian Rebellion. The next major event in his life was his marriage, at twenty-six, to Harriet Davis, who had come with her family to Detroit from Albany, New York. After marriage, he settled down to life as a business man. He owned and operated small stores in Redfield and Farmington, MI, which were small communities just outside the Detroit area. Three of their seven children were born during that time; Louisa in 1841, Mary in 1842, and John Henry in 1845. About that time the Wabash canal was opened, and in

J.W. McCarthy
"Submitted For Your Keeping"

the spring of 1845 John and his family left Detroit by steamer for Toledo, OH, then made the 242 mile, 56 hour trip to Lafayette, IN by canal boat. He had been informed that there was a good opening for business in Lafayette. Success was limited, but thanks to his earlier employment with a newspaper, the Detroit Courier, he managed to overcome his problems. He describes his first year in Lafayette: "After continuing in business for about a year, became painfully sensible that my business adventure was likely to prove a failure. I had simply made a mistake in two or three particulars and the result was disastrous. My failure, however, did not involve any creditors in any great loss, but it swept away all my former earnings. I wound up my business as speedily as possible and found my way into a printing office - a place to which I had been a stranger for more than fifteen years. I was soon promoted to the foremanship of a job office."

During the five or so years in Tippecanoe County, sons George (my gr-grandfather) and Franklin were born in 1847 and 1853.

Next, he started work in a drug store where his knowledge of Latin helped him learn the business rapidly. He accepted a position in another drug store in Delphi, which called for still another family move. This position turned into a dual one. He also worked his way into the newspaper business with an additional job at the Delphi Times. At this time, (about 1850) John received a land patent from the U. S. Government for one hundred and sixty acres as a reward for his military service with the U. S. Army during the Canadian Rebellion. He selected the land in Section 2, Washington Township, in Newton County, which, at the time, was still Jasper County.

John and his family moved to Rensselaer where, in 1853, he began publication of the Jasper Banner, the county's first newspaper. He stayed with the Banner for four years, disposed of it and was appoint postmaster.

After about one year, he resigned and moved back to Delphi. He made two more rapid moves, first to Pittsburgh in Carrol County where he was again the postmaster, and lastly, in the fall of 1860, he moved to the 160 acres in Newton County. During this series of moves, his last two daughters were born, Harriet in 1858 and Eleanor in 1859. He built a log cabin on the land, improved it, and lived there until his death. He was appointed postmaster of Beaver City in 1875, a position he held for the rest of his life. Upon his death, his wife, Harriet, became postmistress until her death in 1893.

Most of the facts about his eventful life, I was able to verify during my search. The events, places, and dates were very close to what was written in the letter, and my admiration for his memory grew as I progressed. I felt a slight sadness when I completed my sojourn with my adventurous, versatile, well traveled and colorful ancestor. I wish I could have known more.

The closing of the letter to his daughter Mary seems a fitting one for this summary of his life. It reads as follows: "Here ends the narrative of which I have endeavored to make as concise as possible. To relate all the incidents in detail of a life extending over a period of seventy-six years would require a good sized volume. Hoping that it may not prove entirely devoid of interest, I submit it to your keeping, and subscribe myself your affectionate father." -- J. W. McCarthy

Continued From Page Seven

Leaning against a tree, and, seemingly admiring the cosmos beauties: "It's a fine evenin'," remarked the shade, grabbing his beard with one hand and slaving an oak stump with a shower of tobacco juice. Now, it may have been a fine evening-local history doesn't say-but if it was, Hellenhouse did not notice the fact, being engaged at that particular moment in making a noise like a man breaking the world's sprinting record in a pair of No. 10 boots and over ground strewn with dead timer and wild grapevines.

"Schemer's ghost next appeared to Jehonadab Hackberry, who, at the time, was out on Beegum Ridge looking for his horse. On this occasion, Mr. Hackberry asserted, the ghost walked with him from near Gimlet creek to Ox Bow, a distance of two miles, where the shad suddenly disappeared.

"Doc" Rittenhouse, who had been happily converted at the last winter revival was going home from a prayer meeting, when Shafer's ghost stepped from a clump of cotton woods, threw its arms around him and to use the exact words of the personage, "tuck me to his buzzum with all the wa'mth of a young mother embracin' her fust bo'n" Natives along the Kankakee river for years afterward, pointed with pride to the running record made by "Doc" on that occasion.

"If credence may be placed in history, the disembodied Schafer appeared to others at diverse times but as time passed, these ghostly visitations became fewer and fewer and farther between and finally ceased altogether.

Rangers Freed Country of Gang of Bad Men

"No little credit for freeing the Kankakee river country of early-day outlaws was due, it is said, to the activities of the "Jasper County Rangers", an organization that came into existence in 1868, and operated under an act authorizing the formation of companies for the detection and apprehension of horse thieves and other felons, and defining their powers. However, northern Newton county, although sparsely settled at the time contributed materially to the good work and to citizens of this part of the county alone is due the credit for having driven the outlaws from their Bogus Island stronghold.

"Among the old timers who at one time who engaged in single combat with the jungle bandits may be mentioned the name of the late highly esteemed Jack Goudy at one time sheriff of Jasper County and who in after years attained the high and honorable position of United States consul general to Paris.

"Mr. Goudy, it is stated on good authority, once pursued a band of outlaws to the vicinity of Bogus Island, and in an interchange of shots which followed, he suffered a bullet wound in the leg, while another missile from an outlaw's rifle cut a swath through his abundant locks. It was only with the aid of a swift horse that he escaped with his life.

"But the early history of the Bogus island country affords nothing so strange and interesting as the changes that have taken place here in the last twenty-five years. The actual beginning of the reclamation of the region dates from the completion of the "Big Ditch" in 1872 which drained the waters of Beaver lake, at that time covering 25,000 acres into the Kankakee river. The thousands of acres added to the tillable area of northern Newton county by this enterprise soon attracted the attention of home seekers, and in a comparatively short time so-called "worthless marsh and quagmires" were producing fine grain and hay crops while real estate, for the first time, began to have an actual money value. Missionary Society, farmers, clubs and institutes, lyceum courses, suppers, motion picture shows and various other activities in connection with the social uplift of a community are regular features. This school conducts annually a corn show the exhibits comparing favorably with those of other shows of the kind in older farming communities. Plans are being worked out to

make the site of this building more home-like by planting trees and shrubbery.

Bogus' Reputation Slowly Fades From Area

"Formerly citizens of adjoining counties were in the habit of indulging in cheap witticisms at the expense of Newton county, but they do so no more for the simple reason that there is no longer occasion for such levity if it ever really existed. The average citizen of this narrow bit of land bordering Illinois is proud to claim it as his home. He will point with pride to the fact that "It" old Newton is the home of Indiana's present Governor, and the home of George Ade, author and playwright. Utilizing mother earth as a blackboard and his index finger as a crayon, he will "Figure" to his own satisfaction at least, that Newton County produces more corn and oats to the acre than any of the western Indiana counties, has more and better white-faced cattle, more fine hogs, more thorough bred horses; more big school house and everything, area considered, than is true of any other county in Indiana."

Second Article-A More Serious Aspect of Bogus

The second article did not have an author's name or a title. However, it was a more serious aspect of the happenings surround Bogus Island, and the concern that the settler's felt regarding presence of it's inhabitants.

Extracted from scrapbook found at the Goodland library. Written possibly in the 30's for The Goodland Herald. Noted in the first paragraph that it is written when the final reclamation of Bogus Island was being made.

"Gone is the glamour of the outlaw from Bogus Island. A new story must be written of this historic spot in the Kankakee land, once the almost inaccessible rendezvous of as desperate a gang of outlaws as ever terrorized the hardy settlers in any state, fifty years ago. Where once the criminal sought his lair in the knowledge of security from pursuit the prosperous farmer tills his fields. Vast stretches of dismal swamp land have been replaced by meadows and fields of grain as if by magic. This spring the final step in the reclamation of Bogus Island is being made. The home of the bandit, the most desolate of the Kankakee "jungles," as become a monument to the progressiveness of the Hoosier farmer.

"MOROCCO, IND. May 1, (Year Unknown). Few of the older residents of Indiana have not heard of Bogus Island in northern Newton County, once the stronghold of the counterfeiter and horse thief, and for years pointed out to strangers as one of western Indiana's most interesting landmarks.

"Those who visit Bogus island today in the expectation of finding romantic caves, subterranean passages and other traces of its former lawless inhabitants will be disappointed. The broad expanse of water with which the island was at one time surrounded has disappeared, the fine old oaks which crown its summit are being felled, the underbrush cleared preparatory to placing the land under cultivation and in a short time the old landmark will have been shorn of practically all of its original features.

"The saying, "Give a dog a bad name and hang him," was peculiarly applicable to Bogus Island and the surrounding country in the early days, with the result that, owing to the unenviable notoriety given the locality by the presence of outlaws, its progress was greatly retarded, even for a number of years after the lawless

element had been driven out. And, even in recent years, proof that memories of Bogus Island were still kept alive in distant communities has been shown on more than one occasion by strangers in search of stolen horses, arriving at the historic spot all weary and travel-stained, their minds thoroughly imbued with the idea that they would find their property hidden away in the "dark recesses" of the island or in the adjacent "everglades." Residents of that vicinity formerly resented the numerous disparaging stories circulated about the Bogus Island country, but since the locality has become thoroughly settled they have as a rule, come to regard these stories with the utmost good humor, knowing that their power to harm is at an end.

Island Surrounded by Marsh

"Bogus Island proper comprises about eighty acres and it's soil is exceptionally rich. Fifty years ago the extreme eastern portion extended to a height of seventy-five feet and gave a wide outlook to the rising sun and a grand view of the noted Beaver Lake, in its early day dimensions. When occupied by the outlaws the island was entirely surrounded by an almost impenetrable marsh three miles wide and covered with water the greater part of the year to an average of

three feet. "Owing to the island isolated location the outlaws found it admirably suited to their purpose. Here the making of counterfeit money was carried on with no fear of the prying eye of the law, and here stolen horses were brought for concealment for a time, the outlaws knowing that the reputation of the place would be a sufficient safeguard against being followed from the mainland other than by a strong and well equipped force of men.

"The outlaws were men of desperate character. Emboldened by their success in counterfeiting, highway robbery and horse stealing were added to the list, and isolated settlers, who could give evidence against them were terrorized into keeping silent by threats of dire punishment.

"A method much practiced by the outlaws was to steal the lighter horses of one state and sell them in another, making the return trip with a heavier class of horses, which were in demand in the timber country of Iowa and Michigan. For a number of years these operations were carried on even in the open day, the perfect acquaintance of the outlaws with the country and the terror created by their names enabling them to elude pursuit.

"With the coming of the settlers to the locality in considerable numbers, the first efforts were made to bring the outlaws to justice. These early attempts at law enforcement, however, were made too often by an insufficient force of men without the necessary organization, and invariably resulted in failure. When once involved in the meshes of the law so complete was the organization of the outlaws that sufficient

**Historical Landmark Update
Newton County's First Courthouse**

Much to my delight, the discovery of a picture of the first courthouse was made in a drawer at the Goodland Library. The first courthouse was featured as the Historical Marker last month. The structure also served as the home of George Spittler, first judge of the court. Apparently this was an advertisement for the Old Settler's Meeting to be held in Brook in the year 1899. The photo was on the top half of the ad.

- Beth Bassett



Where first court was held. Photographed by Miss Ella Griggs.

**OLD SETTLERS' MEETING,
And Soldiers' 11th Annual Reunion,
AT BROOK, IND.
Thursday and Friday Aug. 24-25, '99**

Program for 24th.
All Ex-Soldiers will meet promptly at 9:30 a. m. August 24th at Post Hall. Soldiers will form in line in front of Post Hall and march to grove south of town.
Prayer Music by Brook Band. Rev. Shagley.
Welcome address Geo. W. Knapp.
Music by choir "Auld Lang Syne."
Response A. W. Bebout, Morocco.
..... Music by Glee Club.
Speech John Ade, Kentland, 1st Recorder of Newton Co.
Basket Dinner and Register.
AFTERNOON.
..... Music by Band.
Address Geo. Hardy, Goodland.
Address Rev. J. W. Hogan, Morocco.
..... Music by Glee Club.
Speech W. W. Gilman, Goodland.

A COLLECTION OF A LIFETIME!

Butch Tilton of Goodland has been collecting post cards of the Goodland-Kentland area for about 8 years. His daughter Natalie has begun searching the internet for her dad's pastime, while his wife Linda continues to collect milk bottles from the Twin City Dairies of French Lick and West Baden, Indiana. Thanks Butch, for sharing your collection of lifetime with us!



Known to many as Spinney's Motel which was located on the north side of 24 between Garfield and Harrison Streets.



Looking today directly west of the Mitten Memorial Library Building, you see the site of the old Goodland Grain Elevator.

A Bit of History on the Town of Tivola-Goodland

This information was taken from articles found in a scrapbook at the Goodland Library. Publication dates of these articles is not known. The explanation of the railroads being a direct connection with the great coal fields of Indiana on the south and the city of Chicago on the north sheds light on the abundance of picture post cards that were produced by a local printer, Carpenter and Sister Company. Some of those can be seen in the Collection of a Lifetime.

Tivola Was First Name of This Busy Metropolis - A Board Carried Sign

Goodland in 1861 was known as Tivola when it was a railroad station of two shacks just across the bridge east of the present site with that name in large letters on a board nailed to a post.

Businesses in 1888 were: J.W. Sapp & Son, livery and sale stable; V.B. Jenks, coal, wood and lumber; Monagle's Restaurant; Peter Brook, harness; A.J. Potter, J.P.; A.O. Skiff, farm machinery; H. Butler, butcher; Goodland Bank; Brigham Bros. & Co., Groceries and dry goods; A.D. Babcock, real estate; H. Burgess, druggist; Dr. M.L. Humston, physician and surgeon; J.B. Wescott; M.G. Traugh, dentist;

E.C. Monty, Milliner; Hugh Robues, J.P.; A. R. Colburn & Co., Lumber; J.W. Oswald, attorney; F. A. Woodin, hedge plants; Pratt & Pratt, physicians and surgeons; A. D. Scott, clothier; R. Jacobs, building & loan, Blue Front Store; J.M. Carver, auctioneer; J.L. Powles, auctioneer; Peter Buch, meat market; A. T. McCurry, furniture and undertaking; E. A. Perkins, windmills; J. A. Patton, poultry; Wilson & Son, contractors; H. I. Currens, slat wire fencing; Wm. Banes, general merchandise.

The land in which the ground was owned by Timothy Foster. The name was changed to Goodland because of the rich prairie soil surrounding the town.

It was the only railway junction in the county. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois was completed through Goodland in 1885, giving the town direct connection with the reat coal fields of Indiana and the city of Chicago to the north. The Logansport and Effner division of the Pennsylvania gives a direct line to the Mississippi on the west and the Atlantic seabord on the east. These shipping facilities have given Goodland an advantage over the other towns of the county. *Complete articles can be found at the Goodland-Grant Twp. Library.*

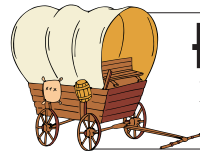
Post Cards Of Goodland



Looking north from the south at the northeast corner of Newton Street. Do you know which storefront houses Doren's today?



Newton Street, looking from the north at the southwest corner. Anyone remember the businesses that were located here?



FOCUS ON FAMILIES

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

The James family came to Goodland just prior to the Civil War. Joseph McAlister James, aka Joseph McJames, had been taking some family members out of Pulaski County Kentucky to 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 swamp lands along the Rappahannock River in today's Virginia. The James trace their lineage back through the kings of England & 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 today.

Goodland was one of several plantations owned by Joseph McJames. Others were located in Douglas & Champaign counties in Illinois. These were operated by other family members. Mack had already proven himself 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 bringing 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 had built in Kentucky and Virginia. The hotel had a "sample room" on the ground level 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 Francis 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 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 today is unknown.

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 LoganWoodJames, was one of the founding members of the First Baptist Church of Goodland. Nancy had been 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 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 Jesse and Frank James. In Coffeyville, Kansas, Mack's son, D. Ephriam 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 LoganWoodJames, 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 Chicago. There he married Anna Emalia Knaff, and raised 7 children. Among them was Harry Francis "Bud" James Sr., the father of this author, Harry Francis "Buddy" James Jr., aka Eric James. Bud often visited Goodland in his lifetime. Hi father, Frank, died at age 53 from tuberculosis and alcoholism. Regardless, Frank proved himself a kind, generous, and considerate Father and husband. He is also buried in Goodland Cemetery.

Recently the sole surviving daughter of Frank and Anna James passed away. Elizabeth Bernadine James, known as Deanie. Shortly before passing Deanie James expressed her wish to be buried in Goodland 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 year in America, remains a family of preachers, teachers, planters, politicians, writers, and real estate professionals.

Newspaper Articles

The First Hotel (in Goodland, Indiana) Taken from an unidentified newspaper article, found in the Goodland, Indiana Public Library: Joseph M. James, (Joseph MacCalister James) a resident of Kentucky and father of

The James Family of Goodland

By Eric James

Marion F. James so well known to our residents, built the Central Hotel, which was burned down in the fire of 1884. It was built in 1869 and was the first building of any consequence to be built in the town. 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 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 after 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 the great oak and walnut trees that decorate our front yard, and remarked that he had planted those trees, having dug them up when small sapplings 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 Pittigin, a barber, and a well known character here for years.

From Newton County Enterprise, September 5, 1901, by William W. Gilman: There was in '67 about ten houses in what is now Goodland. Garry Hopkins, Wm. Foster, Andrew J. Ball, Ziba Wood, Thomas Shively, Isaac Atkins, Amos Crider, O. W. Church, and I think 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 '68 settlers came with a rush. A hotel was built by Jos. McJames in '69 and had N.L. DIKE for first landlord. From thence Goodland began to put on citified airs. Its population came from all directions, and were of all kinds. One from further south in the state whe asked of his cross said he "raised a pile, sold a heap, and had a right smart left." Another from old Kentuck 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 condign punish menton a wild Irishman who had insinuated his veracity was not A.1.



The Open Door Museum Began with A Single Ax

Continued From Page One

Accepted Masons, No. 445, and he held a membership in the National Geographic Association. A close student of literature all of his life, Mr. Babcock was possessed of no little talent as author and poet, his "The Silver Oar and Other Poems," published in 1914, having met with great success. The success of "The Silver Oar" prompted him to begin another book, "The End of the Trail." Unfortunately, his failing health unabled him to finish and publish his work.

"He was a constant and energetic friend of education and did much to elevate the stand of the Goodland public schools system.

"Mr. Babcock was married July 5, 1888, in Benton County, Indiana to Miss Maggie A. Watt, daughter of James E. and Lydia (Hagenbuck) Watt, who were of Scotch-German descent, good substantial farming people who came to Benton County, Indiana, from Illinois about the year 1870 and here passed the remainder of their lives in agricultural pursuits, being honored and respected in their community. Mr. and Mrs. Babcock are the parents of four children: Lucille, who died during infancy; as of 1915, James E., who attended Lake Forest College for a time, a graduate of the Logansport Business College, and of the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis, who had inherited much of his father's ability and is now successfully engaged in the practice of law at Indianapolis; Augustus Dorr, who is attending Hanover College; and Charles Dwight, a student at the Goodland High School.

"His thoughts were always for others and his life can be no better portrayed than by quoting one of the poems which he wrote during his lifetime, which exemplified and personified his thoughts.

"He passed to his great reward on the afternoon of August 2, 1934, funeral services were conducted from the Hufty-Crane funeral home in Goodland with Hervy A. Henderson, a lifelong friend of the deceased, conducted the services. Larson Cooke, John Cooke, Mrs. Carl Tedford and Mrs. Mary Anderson sang to the accompaniment of Mrs. John Cooke.

"The active pall bearers were Burke Walker of Lafayette, T. B. Cunningham, Theodore Hameson, Albert Rolf and Harry R. Hopkins, of Goodland. Interment in the Goodland Cemetery. All business houses of Goodland were closed during the service in honor of Mr. Babcock.

"Out of town persons attending were Judge Mose Leopold, Judge Charles Hanley, Mr. and Mrs. James Babcock, George Illif and Charles Halleck, of Rensselaer; Judge George Sammons, Gov. Warren T. McCray, Robert P. Hiestand, Ralph Ortner, Amos Morris, Reuben Hess of Kentland, Mr. and Mrs. Harrson F. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, Mr. and Mrs. Bell and Judge Hill of Chicago, Mrs. Austin Ausperger and daughter of Peoria Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Morton Villinski, Amos Hagenbuck of Fowler, Miss Lucille Villinski, Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Mount, Chas. Mount, Indianapolis."

After A.D.'s death, the town held a community club meeting regarding the Open Door Museum. Here is the news note that appeared in the Goodland Herald:

"The second matter of business to come before the club and one of great importance to this community was the discussion of the Open Door Museum, founded and built by the late attorney, A.D. Babcock. It was Mr. Babcock's wish that the fine museum stand as a permanent institution for the young generations of Goodland and community and it is desired by his family that these wishes be carried out. The club appointed a committee of five Dr. C. C. Bassett, A. G. Mitten, G. D.

Clymer, Mrs. J. S. McCury and Miss Fannie Schultz to assist in working out a program that the Open Door Museum may coninue to be available to visitors and remain in Goodland."

Items of Interest Held At Museum



A.D. Enjoyed exchanging stores about his collection with visitors to the Open Door Museum.

Photo submitted by the Goodland-Grant Tup. Library.

According to a list that was made by a W.P.A. project, there were 401 items in the inventory of the Open Door Museum owned and operated by A. D. Babcock during the 20's and 30's. A.D. traveled all over the world to collect items of interest for future generations, and many of his friends and neighbors also contributed to his collection over the years. Here is but a sampling of the items that were on display for the public's perusal. A pen holder and ink well that may have been carried when Christ was on earth; Three sacks of salt from the Garden of Gethsemane where Christ was arrested; An ear of corn that had turned to stone; A little hatchet that was manufactured by the government of the United States out of Green-back money, that the Government desired to withdraw from circulation. It contains \$2500 and was sold for 25 cents; Several items from the Battleship Maine, from his own collecting and from donations from B.C. Kent; A gavel made out of a log of wood that at one time was part of the first court house in Newton County; Sand from Bogus Island; A small bank at one time the property of the Home Bank of Goodland, Indiana; The pen which ex-governor signed the bill legalizing the boundary lines of Newton County; A penny with spread eagle wings-said to be worth \$2.25; A knife and fork made by the Justice of Peace at Kentland; An anvil made by a blacksmith in Brook, In; A key to the courtroom of the old courthouse in Kentland, Indiana; A \$4.00 bill; A duplicate key that will open Independence Hall at Philadelphia; A turn key used by an old time dental surgeon which will pull teeth.

Here is a list of the names of other individuals who added to his collection: Mrs. Anna Horner, Harvey A. Henderson, George Ade, G.C. Kent, Geo. A. Bruck, Frank Foresman, John L. Cooke, Robert Cochrane, Mrs.

Roberts of Foresman, In, E.C. Collier, Mrs. Silas Shelland, A. D. Babcock, Jr., B.P Davidson, Rev. T. J. Bassett, Dr. C. C. Bassett, Mrs. James E. Watt, Bernard Gerrick, Phillip Stonehill, Mrs. Ethel Sidor, Mrs. Kate Griffin, Hon. Will R. Wood, Thomas Brittan, O. B.

Stonehill, Peter Brook, James E. Babcock, Col. Sockwell, Dr. David Snider, Dr. L.M. Humston, William McCurry, W. H. Hershman, N. V. McClellan, Dr. E. Bresser, Dorr and Chas. Babcock, Dr. Frank Kennedy, A.J. Goldsberry.

According to the 1985 Newton County History Book, "many of the finest Indian artifacts found when the prairies were first broken in this county were in the museum. Mr. Babcock's main idea was to preserve these articles for the school boys and girls of Newton County. As no building was available for its housing, it was given to the Children's Museum in Indianapolis by



The name plate on the building, remains there today. The bricks surrounding the plate possibly were those that were donated by members of the community. Photo by Beth Bassett.

Mr. Babcock's three sons."

A complete list of the items may be found in the Goodland history files at the Society's Resource Center. in Kentland.

Newspaper Articles Depict the Life and Times of Bogus Island

By Beth Bassett

Over the years, there have been a variety of tales that were spun from the early settlers' experiences, then passed along from generation to generation regarding counterfeiters, horse thieves and other occupants of the "jungle" area along the Kankakee River and Beaver Lake. I fondly refer to them as "the tales of Bogus Island", whether these stories are true, is left entirely up to the reader.

In a recent trip to the Goodland-Grant Twp. Library, I discovered several scrapbooks compiled by early librarians that contained articles about Bogus Island and the surrounding areas. Just when these articles were published could not be verified, however, references throughout each article gave me a reasonable time frame of their publication.

The first article, "**Bogus Island - Home of A Bandit Gang in Newton County's Early Days,**" was written by Sidney Schanlaub. His reference about the county at present time being governed by Newton County's own W.T. McCray, would be between the years 1921-1924. The photos that appeared with this article are reproduced here for your enjoyment.

Sidney Schanlaub was owner and editor of the Morocco Courier from 1843 to 1905. In an article written by Gerald Born in 1997 that appeared in the Morocco Courier described Sid as "a writer of marked ability, humor being one of his long suits. The circulation of the Courier grew during his vigilance of the newspaper." This statement accurately describes the direction that he took with his story of Bogus Island. Sit back and enjoy . . .

Bogus Island - Home of a Bandit Gang in Newton County's Early Days, By Sidney Schanlaub

"The evil that men do lives after them - Shakespeare. This is particularly true of the Bogus Island regions in northwestern Newton County. There are people living in Indiana and adjoining states at the present time, no doubt, who believe that this locality is still a jungle, inhabited mainly by wild beasts and wild men. And all because a band of outlaws, in the extreme early history of Newton county, operated in the region, with Bogus island as their stronghold.

"Generally, these erroneous ideas prevail. The "evil" has survived the years since the organization of Newton County. I was in an eastern Illinois city last summer and

was approached by a sportsman who expressed a desire to visit the Bogus island country for a few days on a fishing trip, but had been denying himself that pleasure through fear of falling into the hands of some of the desperate characters of this locality.

"About two years ago, a man living along the Kankakee river died. A Chicago newspaper published a lengthy article concerning the death. According to the newspaper the man had lived in a cave, ate raw flesh, dressed in the skins of wild animals, spoke a jargon unknown to civilized man and altogether was a most unlovely as well as a most undesirable citizen. This citizen, aside from a few minor peculiarities, was what was termed to be an average man. He was mild mannered, a good conversationalist and was what is commonly known as a "good dresser."

Counties Finally Separated in 1859

"Newton county lies just north of the hydrographic basin of the Wabash river and comprises a little more than 401 square miles.

"The final action in connection with the separation of Newton from Jasper county was taken by the board of Commissioners December 8, 1859, when a decision handed down by the Supreme court resulted in the defeat of those opposed to the separation and put an end to a bitter and long-drawn-out wrangle in the territory involved in the action.

"In the interval between the actual possession of the Indians and the coming of permanent settlers, a transient and nondescript class of whites took possession of the northern part of Newton country. Owing to its endless supply of game, fish and fur-bearing animals, professional hunters and trappers found this territory a congenial location, many of them living here for the greater part of the year.

"Under cover of this practice, a class of outlaws found their way to the northern part of the county, and from the jungle along the Kankakee river, plied their vocation to the no small detriment of Newton county's fair name. Bogus Island, in the northwestern part of the county, through having one been the stronghold of these outlaws, has been exploited until it has gained an almost nation-wide reputation. Writers have made known the wonders of the historic spot in song and story, in prose and poetry, and a search through the files in the newspaper offices within a

radius of fifty miles of the island will invariably disclose numbers literary productions about "Bogus", many of them wonderfully and fearfully constructed. So often have old-timers regaled audiences with instances of personal adventures and hair-breadth escapes on the scene of the landmark that the narrators of these improbable happening shave themselves come to regard them as being strictly true. And each succeeding year new and more ambitious writers enter the field and discover (?) facts about the Bogus island outlaws that are amusing even to the oldest settlers.

Island Consists of Forty Acres of Land

"Bogus Island comprises forty acres and formerly was densely overgrown with oak trees. In the early days it was entirely surrounded by an almost bottomless marsh, making the task of reaching it from the main land extremely difficult as well as dangerous. It is said there was only one passage leading to and from the island, through which trips could be made back and forth on foot or on horseback. This passage was known only to the outlaws who kept it strongly guarded day and night.

"Not only did the island afford a safe hiding place for livestock and stolen plunder; it was here that the outlaws made bogus money and passed it off on the unsuspecting settlers for corn, hogs, poultry - in fact, for anything they desired and could not readily steal. It is to this particular species of outlawry that the island owes its name at the present time.

"The leader of the outlaws, according to Newton County history, was a man of powerful build and of phenomenal strength. Tradition has it that he could carry a horse on his shoulders and could fell an ox with a blow from his ham-like fist. Lige Marley, an early settler and bully of the Kankakee river country, so the story goes, once met the outlaw chieftain at a dance. Lige, it seemed, had partaken largely of malt, vinous and other intoxicating liquors, and as a consequence, courted trouble. Thoroughly disgusted at his failure to precipitate a fight, Lige proceeded to indulge in loud, boisterous language, which was cut short by the outlaw chieftain throwing an arm around him and dragging him outside. Here the outlaw, after obtaining a hickory stick to his liking, gave the bully the drubbing of his life, concluding with the admonition: "Go home and stay there until you learn how to conduct yourself in the presence of ladies."

Farmers Always Felt Horses Stolen By Gang

"Seemingly in the minds of the early day horse thief of western Indiana, southern Michigan and Eastern Illinois, all roads led to Bogus Island. Pursuing parties also, as a rule, acted on this theory. If a horse had been stolen within fifty miles of the island the owner and his neighbors would at once set out for "old Bogus" and if they failed to overtake their man before reaching the dense timber surrounding the island, they invariably turned back, mindful of that wise adage about "discretion being the better part of valor." Their tactics in this respect recalls the anecdote of the Kentucky boy, who when ordered by a revenue officer to hold his horses while the officer went over to a nearby valley to investigate a suspicious looking smoke, asked: "And what will I do with the hoss, mister, ef'n yu don't come back?"

"A good old circuit rider, at the time living in Morocco, was on his way home from filling an appointment in Tippecanoe county when he came in sight of two men ahead of him and traveling in the same direction. Being of a sociable disposition, the minister concluded to spur up a little and overtake the travelers, but as soon as the men perceived his intention they began plying the lash to their horses, with the evident intention of keeping as much space between them and the man behind possible. Somewhat irritated by their evident disinclination to be neighborly, coupled with a desire to find out who the horsemen were, the minister, who was mounted on a speeding chestnut, urged the horse to his best effort, and soon the distance between pursuer and pursued was materially lessened. And then the man of God met with a surprise. Just as he was pulling in his horse under the impression that the race was over, the two men leaped from their mounts and disappeared in the woods. The preacher hunted for them for more than an hour, and finally not knowing what to do, he took the horses back on the road, a mile or so and turned them over to a farmer. It was leaned subsequently that the horses had been stolen from a farmer living in Warren County.

One Man Put Whole Gang To Flight

"Jared Bonestell, an early day trapper and fur buyer, claimed distinction for having put to ignominious flight a "hull passel" of Bogus Island outlaws one night in the early 60's.

"When I war trappin' and buyin' fur," Jared said, "I traveled in a sort of house on wheels that I'd made mostly myself out of odds and ends. It was a humly thing, but as

comfortable as you please. I pulled my shack around with a old gray mule - Zac'rias, I called him - and we'd been together so long that by heck, we war like two brothers.

"I war campin' one night on the west rim of Beaver lake, 'bout three miilds frum Bogus Island, and while I war gittin' supper I could see lights flicerin' on the island as if sompin' onusual war goin' on. It was a fine night fer sleepin' and I war poundin' of my year like a drunk trampin. When oll to onct I woke up to find Zac'rias wit his head in the little winder of the back of the shack and snortin' like a blame loonatick. I lay thar wonderin' how the critter got his head in sich a small hole, fer, I swan, his head looked to be twice as big as the openin'. Jist then a painter (panther) rips out a yell in the bresh, not more'n thirty yards away and then by Jeems, they was somethin' doin'. Zac'rias lets loose of a beller that you could have hear'n two milds and begins to pull bac'ards to'rds the lake, and as he couldn't git his head out'n that hole, of co'se my shack went with him.

"Boys, I war scairt stiff. I fairly got down on my knees to that blame mule, begged him to ca'm dawn and do nuthin' rash, but the more I extorted the more obstreperous he got. Fin'ly thinkin' to save my own skelp, enyway, I grabbed my gun and lep out'n the door. Jist then one of the wheels struck a log, stoppin' my shack 'bout fifteen feet from the aidge of the lake. I started back to reason with Zac'rias, but jist as I rech fer his halter out cum the back of my shack slick and clean, the hull durn thing hengin' to the critter's neck like a yoke on a goose. Fer about two seconds Zac'rias looked at me as if to say, "Am I mistook, fer is this Jared Bonesteel of Bunkum, Illinoy". And then, and with the rear of my shack still hengin' to his neck, that thar critter preceeds to streak it fer tall timber as if all the furies of pardishun war puruin' of him.

Mule Headed Straight For Bandits

"Now it chain't to happen that on that p'ticlar occashun them thar bandits war drivin' a bunch of hosses to the outfit as straight as a beeline, belleren' like a buffaler calf all the while. The hosses had been stole over on Grand pra'ry and they was wild as deers. Tharfore when Zac'rias come in sight, wearin' that thar wooden necklase and squallin' like a plum loonatick, them critters stampeded sompin' awful and never stopped runnin'. I hear'n say afterwards ontill they rech their old stompin' ground, fo'ty miles away. The drivers, b'leevin' Zac'rias to be some sort of a hant, put the last to

their hosses and dug out fer the island like to h-----a-beatin' tanbark.

"The next mornin', " said Jared, "the boss outlaw and six of his men cum over from the island to whar I war camped and when I told 'me what had happened - not knowin' at the time that my mule had fiddled 'em out of clost to \$3,000 wuth of hoss flesh -- a madder bunch of hombers you never see! Swear! Gemently and six hands round! Boys, it made me shudder, and I've hear'n some mighty purty perfanity in my day and generashun, if I do say it as shouldn't.

"Wa'al, jist as them pesky outlaws had about cussed 'emselves to the p'int of committin' salt and batter on me and my outfit, that blame Zac'rias comes strollin' out of the woods, still connected with the rear po'tion of my habitashun, and he looked so komical that them ther thievin' whelps rolled on the round and laughed like a passel of poo'house eediot. Fin'ly, when they couldn't laugh no more, they got up and the capting told me to git out'n thar mighty sudden, befo' he changed his mind and made wolf meat of me and Zac'rias both.

"B'l'eve me," the old ex-fur buyer would usually close this narrative, "I was dum'd glad to git away with a whole hide, and I didn't calcutate in that regun ag'in ontill the outlaws war chased out, some ten years later."

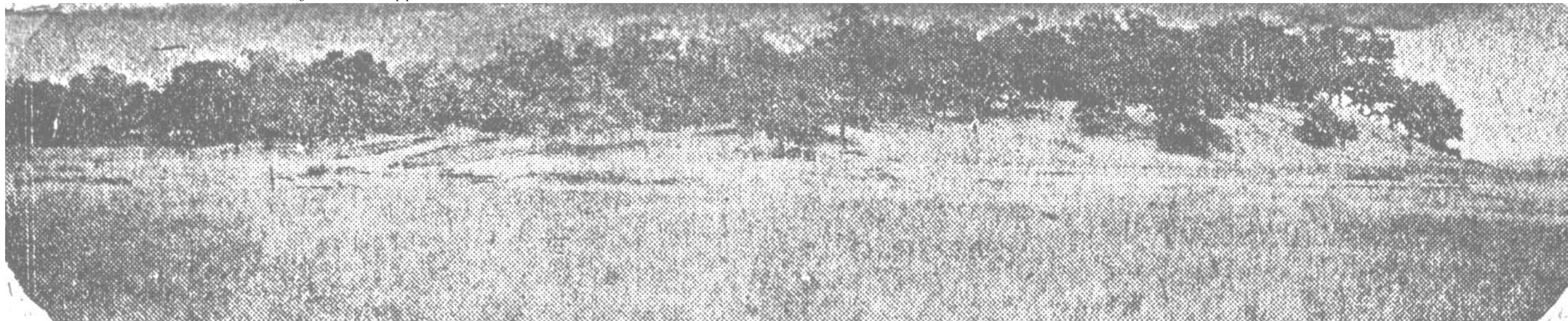
Member of Gang Slain in Cabin

"A man by the name of Schafer and who was generally believed to be a member of the Bogus island outlaw gang, was shot to death in his cabin, near Beaver lake, one night in 1864, and it was the commonly accepted theory at the time that the outlaws for some unknown reason, committed the murder. Schafer lived alone, was an all-round bad man, it is said, and his violent death caused no particular grief among the honest settlers of this locality.

"But the death of this noted character, it would seem, did not entirely eliminate him as a disturbing factor in the community. His ghost, tradition has it, formed the habit of appearing in the vicinity of his old home on the most unexpected and inopportune occasions with the result that men seldom left their homes after nightfall, while women became hysterical and haggard through fear.

"Bige Hellenhouse, an honest settler, was wont to testify that he came upon Schafer's ghost one evening,

Continued On Page Eight



NEWTON'S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS The First Church

A Dedication Program of a the historical marker placed at the site of the first church in Newton County was held on July 4, 1976, and was sponsored by the Newton County Bicentennial Committee and Mt. Zion United Methodist Church with the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicating the marker.

People of the county gathered parking their cars in the meadow behind chairs and benches that had been set up for the occasion in front of a hayrack which housed the pulpit made from logs and a cross also made from logs, by the men of the church.

Ernest Collins was there with his truck that carries loud speakers so that the minister, the Rev. David A. Moore, dressed as a circuit rider, could be heard. On another hayrack was a piano and the choir of the Mt. Zion Church, all dressed in Colonial costumes as was most of the congregation. The following is information contained within the program.

Religious activities in Indiana date back to 1808 when the first missionary, John G. Pfrimmer, came to the far west, for Indiana was thus called in the early days. He located in Harrison County and began gathering families together, which proved to be the nucleus of the early church.

The first bishop, Christian Newcomer, trudged through the pathless wilderness and across the swamps and stagnant water on horseback as early as 1817. His coming helped encourage and instructed the pioneer preachers and followers.

There is no doubt that as early as the late 1820's or early 30's United Brethren missionaries and pioneer preachers held services in Newton County, but the real grip of the denomination dates back to the year 1836 when there came from Harrison County, Indiana, a young man by the name of Jacob Kenoyer. He settled near Spidler's Creek, a northern tributary of the Iroquois River. Here he erected a pioneer sawmill and corn cracker as a means of livelihood.

Frederick Kenoyer, brother to Jacob, together with other members of his family arrived soon afterwards and settled just north of the Iroquois River near what is now the County Farm. The Indians were still camped along the river and the territory had trails that followed the high ground. The sloughs and streams were unbridged and horseback was the best means of travel.

Closely associated with the Kenoyer family was the John Myers family and the neighborhood became known as the Kenoyer/Myers settlement. Both families had religious convictions and around these two names may be gathered the beginning of the religious work in the county. As more families arrived in the Settlement, the religious convictions of Jacob A. Kenoyer and his father Frederick became stronger than their business instincts and they became widely known in Northwestern Indiana as preachers and exhorters of the United Brethren Church.

The first church built in the county, probably in the late 1830's, was on the farm of Frederick Kenoyer north of the Iroquois River. The location of the church building was on the north side of the present road about 110 rods due east of the Merle Murphy residence. Previous to the building of the church, services were held among the homes of the community and it appears from the reminiscence of some that an old log school house was used at times. It is also stated that upon completion of the log church it was also used as a school building. The structure was of logs and described as "being about 20 ft. by 30 ft. with 8 ft. ceiling, faced to the south, with one window in the north, two in the west, two in the east and a door in the south. The seats were benches made of split logs and the pulpit was rather high. In this log church was held many a gracious revival. Many times the meetings lasted until the late hours of the night and people were glad to stay, to shout and sing... Camp meetings became a great feature of the early church and were held in the grove nearby. It is recorded that large crowds attended, many traveling for miles and remaining for several days.

Frederick Kenoyer had three sons who became preachers. Jeremiah, who went west and was one of the pioneer missionaries in Oregon and Washington. He was also a doctor and as he went he preached the gospel and cured the sick. Jacob A., who was mentioned before, was one of the first preachers licensed to preach in the county.

Just when the last service was held in the old church and when the same was torn down we are unable to learn, but from its altars have gone many to bless the world.

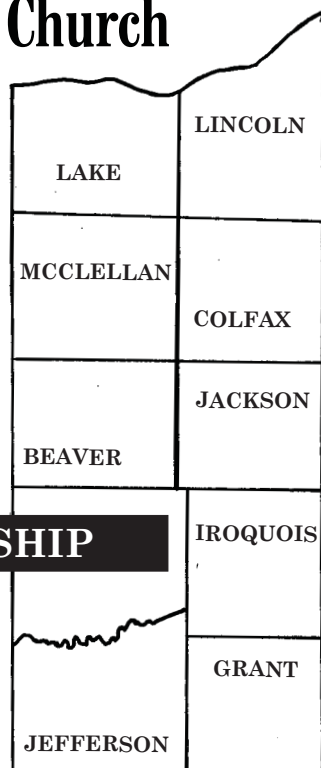
"It is with deep humility and gratitude we remember the Old Log Church and are proud to commemorate our Christian heritage this Bicentennial year of 1976."

The Kentland Chapter NSDAR headed the project of the procurement and final placement of the stone marker for the first church in Newton County. Esta Stevens, president of the chapter headed this unforgettable project.



The stone marker for the first church in Newton County is located on CR 1150 South, just west of 41, and to the north after the old railroad tracks.

Photos by Beth Bassett.



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION UPDATE

The past few months have been busy ones for the Family History Division. The microfilming of The Old Gold and Black, the Morocco High School paper, and some back issues of The Blue and White, the Kentland High School paper has been completed. It has been the goal of the Division to microfilm as many of the original papers as possible to supplement research on those people who have lived in Newton County at one time or another.

Quotes have also been received for the microfilming of the Kankakee Valley Review, published variously at Thayer, Roselawn, Shelby and Wheatfield. This weekly newspaper is the only one in existence for the years 1899-1918, covering news of the northern part of the county. They are in very delicate condition, having been printed on acid paper, and must be microfilmed before they disintegrate. Gerald Born bought the back issues of the newspaper at the Milford Bingham sale.

Work is progressing on a compilation of the History of Morocco to be published by the Society for Morocco's Sesquicentennial, which occurs in 2001. The work will include history, biographies, and a special chapter on the Centennial celebration that occurred in 1951. Old photos are being sought to illustrate the work. If you know of any that should be included, please contact the editor or Gerald Born.

Plans are being made to assist Kyle Conrad on the final proofreading of the Riverside Cemetery at Brook. His work is in the final stages of checking against obituaries and other records that contain information on burials.

Quite a bit of time has been spent by members of the division answering queries from people who live outside Indiana, but have roots in Newton County. Two articles in the current newsletter are the result of this involvement the James family of Goodland and the McCarthy family of Beaver City.

Also being investigated are shelves to hold the back issues of the Morocco Courier and the Newton County Enterprise. The recorder's office has placed the issues once found in their vault in the Resource Center on permanent loan, as have other volumes of court records that have been microfilmed and are no longer mandated to be kept these include order books, mortgage records, etc.

Many items, too numerous to mention, have been donated to the Society and are now being processed so they will be available to the public. We feel that we are saving much of the history of the county that other wise might have been lost.

Submitted by Gerald Born.

Island Surrounded By Marsh Occupied By Lawbreakers

evidence was always forthcoming to clear them of the charge, whereupon they would laugh in the faces of the officials.

"Counterfeiting was closely allied to horse stealing. The stolen horse was frequently traded for a better one and the difference paid in counterfeit money. The animal then rapidly changed hands by means of accomplices, and usually in a short time no trace of either man or animal could be found. Occasionally when small pursuing parties came close upon the thieves discretion seemed the better part of valor and the chase was given up, or as it not infrequently happened, the pursuer became the pursued, this reversal of conditions sometimes assuming features which, to a disinterested onlooker, would doubtless have appeared ludicrous, to say the least.

"The bandits met their first organized opposition in the spring of 1858. So prevalent had become the practice of horse stealing, not only in northwestern Indiana but in various other parts of the state, that the Legislature passed "an act authorizing the formation of companies for the detection and apprehension of horse thieves and other felons, and defining their powers." Under this act a company was formed in February, 1858 to drive out or bring to justice the outlaws of Bogus Island, as well as other lawless characters, which, at that time, infested the jungles along the Kankakee River farther north. The company consisted of a captain and two men from each township. Their proceedings were extra judicial and partook somewhat of the nature of a vigilance committee.

"The men were volunteers and served without pay. Their discipline was one of the strictest and implicit obedience was the rule. This company aided by the settlers living in the vicinity of Bogus Island, succeeded in a little more than a year, and after several exciting encounters, in driving the outlaws from the county and destroying their caves on the island in which were found guns, a large store of ammunition, saddles, bridles, counterfeit money, dies, provisions and a large supply of liquors. Reports of this particular and last encounter with the outlaws vary considerably. Some of the old settlers assert that several of the bandits were killed, while others assert that, after making a slight show of resistance, the outlaws fled to the western part of the island and all escaped to the main land by boat. Among the pioneers of

the county who were instrumental in ridding the island of its lawless band was John Ade, father of George Ade, the playwright." End of second article.

Descriptions Vary of Bogus' Size

So, there you have it, 2 very different views of the area. Very little factual documentation, if any, can be found to verify the stories that were published in local and area newspapers over the years. Local writers have put to pen their versions of stories told to them, meant to amuse the reader more than inform. However, to a reader who is curious about the lore of the area, and the life and times of it's citizens of that era, these accounts of

the county paint a vivid picture of life in northern Newton County in the beginning of it's settlement

Mr. Schanlaub described Bogus

Island comprising of 40 acres, and in the second article, the author as "about 80 acres" with one portion extending to height of 75' which gave a grand view of the Beaver Lake in it's early day.

In our 1985 History of Newton County, an article written by Jack Alkire of the Lafayette Journal and Courier stated that, "Bogus Island, about 50 acres in size and one of largest in the lake, was the main headquarters for the gang."

And, still another description of the island was made in the book "Ralph", written by Jethro Hatch:

"Beaver Lake, the largest in the region, was a beautiful sheet of water, about 8 miles long and about 4 miles wide, with nothing to obstruct the view except an island that was situated well towards the northern shore. The island was simply a large hill of sand, with a few

stunted oaks and some underbrush upon it's surface. The north, east and west sides of the island gradually sloped to the water's edge, but the south side rose almost abruptly from the water to the height of fifty feet and being white sand, when seen from a distance, looked like the side of a rock standing on the waters of the lake."

In 1995, the Historical Society's newsletter "the Newcomer" published "Ned Barker Remembers Beaver Lake," written by Gerald Born, t described "the chief landmarks of this vast body of water, which was at the time the largest lake contained within the

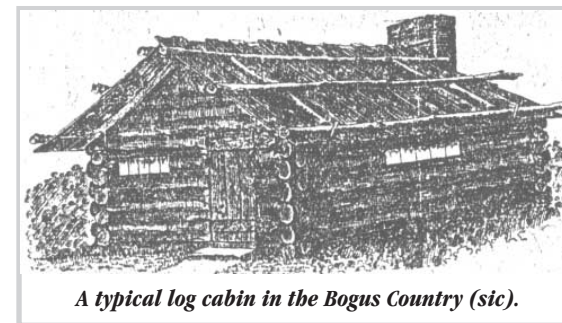
boundaries of the state, was a great sand dune which rose some 75-feet above the level of the lake and known to the settlers as Bogus Island. It occupied the central portion of Section 16. Little Bogus Island and Cherry Island to the north and Squawk Island to the east also were familiar landmarks. "Highway 41 runs through the old lake bed, and when it was made into a limited access highway tons of the sand from the island were mixed with concrete reducing the island

to a low lying protrusion of sand, which is barely visible from the highway.

"If by some magical process Beaver Lake could be restored, one could go to a point about three miles north of Morocco, obtain a boat at the shoreline, and travel in a straight line the rest of the distance through McClellan Township and for a mile into Lake Township before disembarking."

Recently, Mr. Jim Robbins, a member of the historical society suggested that perhaps the water level at the time may have contributed to the physical description of the island.

So, it seems that a variety of descriptions and stories have held together over the years, unfortunately, this would not be true for our cherished islands. Long live the tales of Bogus Island.



A typical log cabin in the Bogus Country (sic).

ANSWERS DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTY OF NEWTON?

1. In 1907, Brook was the site of "the overall factory", started by Chicago clothing manufacturers Lewin and Son. A brick building was built and during its eight years of operation it employed over 50 women. For more information see: "And They Named Her Brook" by John M. Connell.
2. This is one of the Indian names for the Kankakee River Before the name of Kankakee was settled upon, the river once carried the Indian names Tiahkekink, Kienkiki, Aukiki, Theaskiki, Auequeque, and Quinquiqui.
3. The Interstate NuJoy Restaurant on old US 41 and US 24. It's ad boasted "Where travelers from all parts of the country stop and enjoy good food and beverages at reasonable budget prices. Our charcoal broiled chicken, steaks and chops will leave with you a memory of NuJoy never to be forgotten". This building burned Sunday, September 9, 1945.
4. Dorothy Fry Arbuckle of Lake Village was the author. She was also the author of "The After Harvest Festival". The locale of both these novels was the "Great Marsh" country of northern Indiana. Dorothy helped found the Lake Village Memorial Library and served as its librarian for more than 20 years. These books may be viewed at the NCHS research center in Kentland.
5. The Chicago White Sox who won the game 175. For more information see John J. Yost's book, "Second Helping".

FOCUS ON FAMILIES

The James Family of Goodland By Eric James

The man with the beard is Rev. Joseph Martin James, father of Joseph McCalister James, aka Jos. McJames. Mack's name change was further triggered by the embarrassment caused by his father. Joe Martin was pastor of Flat Lick Baptist Church, Shopville, Pulaski Co., KY. He fathered bout 24 children through 2 marriages and a 3rd bigamous marriage to a 15 year old parishioner. Joe Martin continued to have annual sequential children - one year by the girl, next year by the wife, and son for about 5 children. For this and his alcoholism he was defrocked. This embarrassment, combined with cousins Jesse and Frank it is presumed, cause Mack to alter his name to Joseph McJames. Under this name, Mack built a sterling reputation.

Editor's Note: The story of the James family has been compiled by Eric James, great-great grandson of Marion "Mack" James of Goodland. His family story can be found on page 9, which is part of our Focus On Families Section of this edition of "The Newcomer".

