

# The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

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## The Invisible Empire and Newton County

*Compiled and written by Beth Bassett*

Warren T. McCray of Kentland served as Indiana's Governor from 1920-1924. The head of the Republican Central Committee at the time was Brook resident Lawrence Lyons. It was the year 1923 when McCray began a financial downfall and Lyons would publicly denounce the Klan by resigning from the organization. The Secretary of State during this time was Ed Jackson, an acquaintance of D. C. Stephenson, who at the time was the Grand Dragon of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan. Together Jackson and Stephenson attempted to gain control of Indiana politics by bribing McCray and publicly harassing Lyons in the Klan newspaper "*The Fiery Cross*". Both McCray and Lyons were well-respected residents of Newton County, and the Klan's attempts did not dampen the reputations of these men in the eyes of their hometowns.

From the book, "*Grand Dragon, D. C. Stephenson and the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana*", M. William Lutholtz:

"Ed Jackson, born on a farm in Howard County near Kokomo, Indiana, began to study law at an early age. In 1893 he opened his own law practice in Kennard, Indiana. Within a few years he developed a reputation as a good lawyer, and he ran successfully for the office of prosecuting attorney in Henry County. After a term as prosecutor, he went on to be elected circuit court judge of the County.

"Then in 1916, Jackson announced that he was a candidate for Indiana Secretary of State on the Republican ticket. He took office in 1917, but he only held the position a year before resigning his office to enlist in the Army. He returned after the war and opened a law office in Lafayette, Indiana. In 1920, Jackson ran again for Secretary of State, this time as an incumbent sharing the ticket with gubernatorial candidate Warren T. McCray, a cattleman from Kentland, Indiana. Jackson would serve three terms as Secretary of State; it was generally acknowledged that Jackson would be the front-runner for governor in 1924.

"Jackson must have met D. C. Stephenson sometime in 1921 during the second term as Secretary of State. It was Jackson who signed an incorporation charter for the Ku Klux Klan on August 13, 1921. In fact, it was this action of the Klan that first began to drive a wedge of mistrust between newly elected Gov. McCray and Secretary of State Jackson. Since the Klan was a secret society the applicants for the charter refused to sign their names to the document. McCray who had no doubt heard of the trouble the Klan was causing in other states, decided that a charter with no names was not legal. Jackson, though, ruled against McCray and said that in this instance the charter was perfectly all right. To settle the dispute, the matter was turned over to the state attorney general, who finally decided that since the Klan was a fraternal order, no signatures on the charter would be necessary.

While pursuing this argument, however, McCray galvanized his position against the Klan. He announced that Klansman could not parade in public streets while wearing disguises. A few of Indiana's mayors agreed with McCray, but most ignored the governor's advice. Soon the Klan was parading through cities and towns all over > *continued on page 2*



*The Indianapolis Times, July 25, 1927*

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Indiana, thanks to Jackson.

The battle over the charter for the Klan instantly cast Jackson and McCray into the roles they would play throughout the days of the Klan in Indiana. McCray was the Klan's steadfast enemy, and Jackson was its benevolent supporter and ally. This relationship was to have a lasting effect on the political careers of both men.

For some time, the issues surrounding Jackson and the Klan subsided. But in the spring of 1923, the whole business came roaring back to life. The American Unity League (AUL) became the voice of the anti-Klan movement through the use of their publication *Tolerance*. It was created in response to the Klan's newspaper, *The Fiery Cross*, which flaunted the movements and causes of their organization.

"The formation of the AUL chapter in Indianapolis raised the ire of the Klan. But on April 1, 1923, the league pulled off a trick that would spell war with the Klan. On Easter Sunday, someone broke into the offices of the Indianapolis Klan on the third floor of Buschmann Hall. They found a list of 12,208 names of local Klansmen, which they raced off to Chicago to the publishers of *Tolerance*. The robbery must have been carefully planned and well timed. On the afternoon of the same day, *Tolerance* hit the streets of Indianapolis with wildly jubilant headlines touting the Klan and a list of seventy-four Klansmen who were prominent politicians and businessmen—along with the promise of more to come in future installments.

In that same issue, next to the list of names, appeared an article consisting solely of a copy of a telegram and letter, both from Lawrence E. Lyons Chairman of the Republican



**Warren T. McCray, a photograph he used in his campaigns. Society file photo.**

State Committee. The telegram, dated March 27, was addressed to "Freeman or Stewart", two of the Indianapolis Klan recruiters and read: "Some thirty days ago, I was induced to join the Ku Klux Klan through misrepresentations. Since my action I am convinced that your organization is wrong and un-American in its principals and purposes. Accept this as resignation from this un-American organization and I demand you take my name from your Roster at once." The telegram and a letter with the same date was sent to the AUL with the announcement that Lyons wished to make public his renunciation of the Klan."

We learn that Lawrence Lyons resigned as Republican Central Committee Chairman, from an article that appeared in the June 1, 1923 *Goodland Herald*. It states that the new head of the Republican Central Committee is Clyde A. Walb of Lagrange, Indiana. A meeting had just been held by the Republicans to

organize for the upcoming campaigns, and part of the program included a mention regarding Lyons:

"Mr. Walb succeeds Lawrence Lyons of Brook as Chairman, whose resignation was marked by the state committee, adopting a resolution praising Mr. Lyons' services. The resolution, extending a voice of thanks pointed out that while Mr. Lyons was chairman he conducted the campaign of 1922 resulting in the election of a large majority of the Republican candidates for state offices, a Republican Legislature and eight of the thirteen Republican congressional candidates at a time when dependable Republican states returned Democratic majorities at an expense less than the cost of conducting campaigns; paid a debt of the State Committee of \$22,000 which had existed in part for more than a decade and after the payment of all bills and expenses left a surplus of \$2,000 in the hands of the treasurer."

With the publication of the third installment of names from the Indianapolis Klan roster, the *Tolerance* ran a banner headline on page one: "Secretary of State on Roll! Interesting Klux news for Indiana!" On page two another banner headline read: "Indiana Secretary of State!" A two column photograph of Jackson ran underneath the headline: "Welcome Klansman!" The caption read: "We rather say, goodbye Klansman! Mr. Lawrence E. Lyons has set Ed Jackson a very good example—an example to be followed by every man whom the people have honored with their confidence and have entrusted with office—when he is caught in company with reformers whose uniform is the eye hole mask of the highwayman. Will Ed Jackson likewise get out? If not, the honest people of Indiana—who are in the majority—know exactly what to do with Ku

## Time Line of The Ku Klux Klan . . .

**December 24, 1865**—Six Ex-Confederate Soldiers decide to form an organization that would give them a diversion from the broken homes and fortunes, desolate fields and depression that surrounded their homeland of Pulaski, Tennessee. The only object of the group at first was fun by means of farcical initiations and ceremonies attending the reception of newly inducted members.

**Second Gathering**—Adopted by-laws and rituals for the group and named the group, Ku Klux Klan; "Kuklos", a Greek word meaning "Circle", and added "Klan", for the Scottish clans from which they were descended. A burning cross, the old Scottish call to arms was adopted, along with a battery of mystic rignarole, including a circle of fire lit during ceremonies.

**1869-1872**—The Klan flourishes and initiates Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest as the Klan's first

Grand Wizard; group grows to over a half million members; they enforced their will and authority with beatings, kidnapping, murder, lynching and intimidation with their favorite targets being blacks, white liberals and carpetbaggers. They create titles for the leaders within the ranks of their group.

**1869**—A Congressional Committee convenes hearings through the southern states to investigate the Klan. Testimonies were heard from individuals who had experienced first-hand the dealings of the group. The federal government shuts them down, and Forrest gives the order to do so. Several arrests and crackdowns entailed, and the group declined to only a handful of diehards and ceased to exist as a powerful political organization.

**1905**—The publication of two books written by popular writer Thomas Dixon, Jr., "The Clansman" and "The

Leopard's Spots" romanticized the hooded history and depicted Klansmen fighting for a just cause.

**1915**—D. W. Griffith uses Dixon's novels as the basis for his film "Birth of a Nation". It depicted Klansmen saving a white woman from an attacking negro, honoring the South and damning the North. President Woodrow Wilson watched and responded publicly that "It is how it really was," literally endorsing the film.

**Thanksgiving Eve, 1915**—William Joseph Simmons, leads fifteen friends up Stone Mountain in Georgia where they vowed to recreate the secret society. They initiated the group by building an altar and burning a cross on top of it.

**The New Clan of 1915**—Expands their animosities to Jews, Roman Catholics, immigrants and any white person disagreeing with the Klan's policies. The Jewish and Catholic religious practices were different than those of the white,

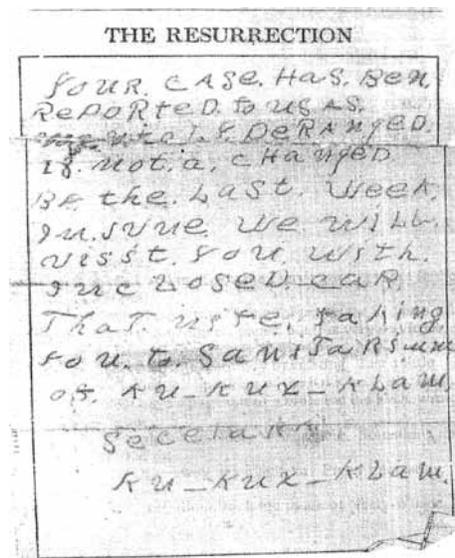
Klux Klansman in public office. If Lawrence E Lyons is compelled to resign, why not Ed Jackson?"

"Judging by the results of the 1924 elections, Jackson scrape with *Tolerance* did nothing to hurt his voter appeal. If anything it may have helped him with the Klan and its sympathizers.

"If any of the *Tolerance* furor caused Jackson to worry, at least he was not the only Republican with a summer full of bad news. McCray was also having his share of problems. The governor owned a 2000 acre farm in Newton County, where he raised some of the finest cattle in Indiana. He routinely came away from the Indiana State Fair with impressive piles of trophies and ribbons. On his inauguration day, McCray was said to be worth three-million, one of Indiana's wealthiest farmers.

"But McCray's fortunes soon reversed. Before taking office, he bought cattle and property aggressively, expanding his operations rapidly. As a result, he was seriously overextended when prices fell out of the cattle market in the farm depression of 1921. Like many other farmers, McCray was caught in a tight money squeeze. He had plenty of capital, but no one could afford to buy them. After a time, prices began to plummet, and with them went McCray's fortune.

"The governor began to borrow money in a wild gamble to save his farm. He borrowed from banks until they refused to lend him any more money. Then he began to borrow against cattle sales that had never happened, (he forged the promissory notes that he used as collateral). In a last desperate move, he borrowed \$155,000 from the state's agricultural board and put the money in his own personal account.



**This note was left on the windshield of Neely Wilson's car in Brook. There isn't a date or explanation for it, but just another trace of evidence of the KKK's presence in our county. It reads "Your case has been reported to us as mentally deranged. If not a changed by the last week assume we will visit you in a closed car that nite, taking you to sanitarium of Ku-Kux-Klan Secretary, Ku-Kux-Klan."**

"By the summer of 1923, McCray had a debt of more than \$2 million hanging over him. And then it happened: someone started stories flying about how the governor was in serious financial trouble, with rumors of embezzlement and bankruptcy. Who started the rumors? Was it Jackson? Was it Stephenson? No one knows.

"McCray called a meeting of his creditors in Indianapolis on August 31 to announce that he would be willing to turn over everything he owned to them except his home to satisfy his debts. Three weeks later, a group of Republican leaders met to discuss McCray's

fate. The new head of the Republican State committee, Clyde Walb, pushed to have McCray resign immediately. The others decided it was too soon for that. They decided to wait.

"But they did not wait long. In early October, a Marion County grand jury began to investigate some of the charges that were being made about McCray's unusual methods of obtaining money from the state. On October 6, the federal bankruptcy court became involved with three Ft. Wayne banks who asked to have the governor declared bankrupt. The walls began to crumble around McCray.

"Ironically, McCray's son-in-law, William P. Evans, was also the Marion County prosecutor. In that role he was responsible for the grand jury that was now investigating his wife's father. Evans had a reputation as a flawlessly honest man, so he requested the courts to appoint a special prosecutor on the case. The judge named Judge James A. Collins whose name and photograph had recently been featured in an issue of *Tolerance* as a member of the Klan. Judge Collins appointed two special prosecuting attorneys, Clarence W. Nichols and Eph Inman. The latter of whom became Stephenson's own attorney two years later.

"Less than two months after Collins picked the special prosecutors, the grand jury returned an indictment against McCray for embezzling money from the state. The indictment was handed down November 30. A week later, Evans gave a letter of resignation to his father-in-law. In McCray's darkest hour, Stephenson arrived to attempt him with an offer of money and a miracle: immunity from prosecution. It sounded too good to be true and of course, it was. The offer came with a price tag and a question: could the governor of Indiana be bought for a mere \$10,000 in cash?

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## Time Line of The Ku Klux Klan . . .

American Protestants, and most of them were second and third generation immigrants, speaking with thick accents in their own languages. This, the Klan thought was suspicious behavior and white America needed to be protected from their influence.

**1920**-Edward Young Clarke, Imperial Kleagle, (aka National Membership Chairman), launches a massive recruiting drive; Local Kleagles receive \$4.00 commission for every \$10.00 initiation fee they collect. These new initiates were called Knights.

**1921**-A woman's division of the Klan is created, the W. K. K. K., under the direction of their Grand Chief, Elizabeth Tyler. They followed the same by-laws and rituals as the K. K. K.

**1924**-The Klan has grown to over five million members, with 350,000 in the State of Indiana. D. C. Stephen-

son is appointed the Grand Dragon of the Indiana Klan, headquartered within Buschman Hall in Indianapolis. The bickering amongst the higher echelon of the organization ends with the elimination of Simmons and the firing of Clarke by the new leader Hiram Wesley Evans. He attempts to build a new non-violent reputation, and with its million members and constant demonstrations, it become a power base in state and local politics. Avowed members were elected as county officials, city mayors, state and federal legislators, governors and convention delegates.

**1925**-The Klan's popularity and reputation begins to deteriorate after the arrest of D. C. Stephenson on April 18th for second degree murder of Madge Oberholtzer, a secretary at the Indiana State House. He was eventually convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Prosecuting Attorney Will Remy had been appointed by Warren T. Mc-

Cray at the end of his term, in spite of heated requests by Stephenson for a different candidate.

**1928**-Only a few thousand diehards remained in scattered areas of the deep south. One new powerful force was the new labor unions which were preaching the necessity of black-white unity helped lead to the Klan's demise.

**1934-World War II**-Underground, the Klan continued their night raids and animosities toward others.

**1944**-The United States destroys the remnants of the Klan in the same way it destroyed Al Capone's Chicago empire. The Internal Revenue Service slapped the organization with a lawsuit for \$685,000. The Klan goes into limbo.

**Mid 1950s**-The civil rights movement comes into being in the south and brings about a resurgence of the Klan and a step up in its violence.

# President's Thoughts

By Bernie Murphy

On August 26, 2013 your Newton County Historical Society visited "Wally's World" in Lake Village – it was a fascinating day enjoyed by over 40 members and guests. Our host was Walter Rich, thus "Wally". On his sprawling five acres were an array of very interesting items; his home was loaded with antiques and collectibles ranging from Civil War memorabilia, old working telephones, a collection of Benedictine Monk's items including clothing, books and religious ware, a John Wayne collection filling an entire bedroom as well as a wealth of other interesting collectibles. Wally is very a knowledgeable and enthusiastic host with stories about most of his collection.

Every room in Wally's immaculate house is filled and displayed with much thought and care. His shed was divided into two rooms with more interesting displays of old items with a very wide range of subjects; in the second room Wally has built an entire landscape of HO railroads traversing local areas as well as mountains, lakes and tunnels all properly lighted with sound; the ceiling contains astrological displays including spacecraft and astronauts.

Wally has been collecting all these treasures for the past 18 years, he has purchased as much as he can and continues to use his limited funds to add to the collection; much of his collections have been given to him by friends and acquaintances. Member John Morgin planned the day and also arranged a wonderful meal including slowly cooked chili over an open fire and barbequed beef brisket & pork. We all owe Wally and John our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for a most enjoyable experience.

The September monthly meeting of the Society visited the Rogers Group Newton County Stone quarry just east of Kentland on US 24. Over 35 members and guests were in attendance at this unique geological site. The group first received a briefing by Susan Daniel who gave us the history and nature of the site as well as the business aspects of the quarry.

This unique site, formed over 65 million years ago, was formed by a one mile wide meteorite (rock) or comet (ice) – this is the theory held by most geologists rather than a volcanic event. The force of the collision was so tremendous it up heaved large sections of bedrock nearly from 2000 feet below ground surface and stood the bedrock formations to a new nearly vertical position. Thanks to Susan for the tour and information and Larry Lyons for setting up the program.



At the quarry: front row: left to right, Terry Dieter, Steve Dye, Larry Lyons, Kay Babcock, Janice Schuette, Janet Miller, Becky Lyons, Judy Kanne, Sandy Daniel, Lewis Daniel. Second row: L to R: Karen Schuette, Leona Bowman, Diana Elijah, Rich Miller, Rogers Group representative; Verna Marcum, Bob McCoy, Lois Delay, David Schuette, Nancy Prue, Sharon Collins, Suzie Johnson. Back Row: L to R: Sig Boezeman, William Robertson, Russell Collins, Tom Larson, ?, Rick Gerts, Barbara Wilfong, Jerry Johnson, Rich Miller, Chuck Simons. People not pictured are: Bernie Murphy, Janet Burton, Georgia Robertson, Esther Barten, Lynn Wilfong.

# Salt

By Jeff Manes

## W. W. Rich

*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. - Jesus of Nazareth*

Walter Rich, 71, of Lake Village is a likeable cuss who goes by W.W. He's a native Alabaman who has raised four children. And, he's a 32nd- degree Mason who portrays Kris Kringle at nursing homes, churches and schools.

But the delightful old scalawag's main claim to fame is the unique tourist attraction he's been creating on his 5-acre spread. Wally's World has been a work in progress since 1977.

\* \* \*

*How long have you lived in Indiana?*

"I moved to Hammond in 1959," he said. "I worked on gondola cars at Standard Railway Corp. on Columbia Ave. for about 20 years, until it shut down, and then hired in at Thrall Car."

*W.W., how about the dime tour of Wally's World?*

"Yes, sir. Let's take a look at Scottsboro Depot first; it's inside this building."

*Are you from that neck of the woods? That's where the notorious "Scottsboro Boys" trial took place.*

"My grandfather sat at the trial. I never did believe none of them was guilty. They was exonerated after several years. One of the women eventually admitted she wasn't raped..."

"Here we are: Welcome to Wally's World."

*Oh my goodness. It's a microcosm of southern Lake, Jasper and Newton counties with a railroad running through it all.*

"It's H.O. scale. I never had a train in my life until Carl Ferro gave me one. He runs Midtown Hardware in Lowell. Carl is like my brother; he ended up giving me all of his trains.

"Every scene tells a story: Here's a farmer slopping the hogs. This is a young girl selling lemonade on the corner. Here's a lady putting flowers on a grave. And here's a young couple in the back seat of a convertible. This dog just jumped up on the grill and stole somebody's steak.

"Here's kids swimming and jumping off

the railroad bridge. And these kids are playing basketball. See the one hanging on the rim after he dunked the ball?"

*The detail is incredible.*

"I have street lights that come on at dusk. The window of that machine shop lights up whenever the guy welding strikes an arc. I just put up these big windmills like you see near Fowler off of Interstate 65."

*This is very educational.*

"Jeff, I try to incorporate a little bit of everything; 50 years from now, kids might not know how we lived."

*So much detail. You hand-paint all these Lilliputian folks?*

"Yes, sir. The inch-long fishin' poles those boys are using were made from individual hairs of a paint brush."

*You use the names of real businesses on the storefronts. This area is obviously Lowell: Anco Appliance, the Cornerstone Mansion, Lowell Healthcare...*

"I believe in goin' home with who I brought to the dance."

*Hub?*

"I trade with local merchants whenever possible. Lowell Healthcare was the nursing home that took care of my mama; she just passed. Over there is Norm's Pumpkin Patch in Creston. This here is Imperial Waste, they pick up my garbage—good people. This is Bruce Septic loading up Porta-Potties. And here's Sander's Cycle in Rensselaer."

"This is Hanford's Packing Co. in Thayer; Hans Kroll's body and paint shop in Lake Village; Studer's Corner Marathon station in Schneider ...."

*What's that attached to the ceiling?*

"The Enterprise from Star Trek; they're coming down to check on us. Since 1996, I've had people from all over the world sign my guest book."

*Really? Let see .... England, New Zealand, The Netherlands, South Korea, Costa Rica, Belgium .... Amazing.*

"Brother, wait 'til I finish the park portion of Wally's World. Everything will be G-gauge outdoors. Follow me."

*Wow! Where did you pick her up, Ellis Island?*

"Not only will I showcase the Statue of Liberty, I plan on building the Eiffel Tower, Leaning Tower of Pisa, The Sphinx, Mount Rushmore, the Grand Canyon .... When the train meanders through all of it, the sign will say: 'See the Seven Wonders of Wally's World.'"

*Do you have investors?*

"Yes, sir. A lot of friends who have invested time, material and workmanship. Without friends, I'd have nothing."

"Let's have a seat in these wooden lawn chairs; they rock real nice. Jeff, I'm still in wonder of a good cloud, a soft rain, a sunset."

*Before our interview began, you mentioned our mutual friend, the Rev. Stephen Snoich. Do you attend Mass regularly at St. Augusta Catholic Church?*

"No; I need to go. Father Steve is after me, but he don't pressure. I have a lamp in my bedroom that he made in seminary school. I love that man; he's good people. Want a beer?"

*No, thanks; I'm working.*

"Well, I do believe I will. Jeff, my mother's grandmother was full-blooded Cherokee. Some of my family wouldn't come to my great-grandfather's house after he married her. He was considered a 'squaw man.'"

"But my immediate family told me my Cherokee great-grandmother was good people. I remember when her daughter, my grandmother, knocked a chicken hawk out the sky with a rifle. My grandfather, who was of Irish stock, looked at me and winked, 'Don't ever mess with your grandma.'"

"My grandma taught me, 'Always treat people like you want to be treated.'"

*The golden rule.*

"I had a man call me up and say, 'I need a favor.' I said, 'You got it.' He said, 'But you don't know what it is.' I said, 'I don't care; you're my friend.' He said, 'Lord, I've never had a friend.' I told him he probably had a lot of friends, but they didn't know what he needed."

*W.W., I could listen to your delightful stories and southern drawl all day.*

"Brother, there's probably some people who don't like me, but I ain't met too many of 'em yet. We all live on this little bitty planet, and it ain't getting no bigger. We gotta learn to get along with one another."

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*W.W. Rich is rich; he has a wealth of friends.*

*He's good people.*

*—Jeff Manes*



**A portion of Wally's World is filled with cities, towns, people, railroads, and even waterfalls. Cheri Shelhart, Newton County Enterprise photo.**

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"The scheme had been hatched between Jackson, Stephenson, and some of the other top Klan officials. With Evans resigning as prosecutor, the Klan wanted to fill the vacant spot with their own hand-picked attorney. Since the prosecutor had some discretionary powers in choosing which crimes to prosecute, it would be helpful if the post was occupied by someone considered friendly to the Klan.

"The offer to McCray was this: accept a briefcase containing \$10,000 to help ease his financial problems, then name Klan-supported attorney James E. McDonald to the prosecutor's job. The new prosecutor would take over the grand jury investigation in the embezzlement charge, the prosecution would slowly grind to a halt with delaying motions, and McCray would eventually be given immunity from prosecution or conviction.

Stephenson and Jackson picked Fred B.

Robinson, a state purchasing agent to serve as their messenger to McCray. It was about 10 AM on Saturday, December 8. Robinson was called by Jackson to meet with him immediately about an important matter. Robinson went to the Secretary of State's office, where he found Jackson waiting with three other men. They briefly explained the plan to Robinson handed him the satchel with \$10,000 in cash, and told them to deliver it with their message to McCray in the governor's office next door.

"Robinson did exactly as he was told. He presented the briefcase to McCray along with the offer of immunity in exchange for McCray's agreement to name McDonald prosecutor. Then as Robinson later recalled, "Gov. McCray turned in his chair to face me and said, "Under no circumstances will I entertain such a proposition, Fred. I have already decided to appoint William H. Remy, the chief deputy." This was particularly bad news for

the Klan, since Remy had a reputation as a tough, young and scrupulous lawyer with absolutely no soft spot in his heart for the Klan.

"Robinson carried McCray's refusal back to the Secretary of State's office and the waiting party. Jackson was furious. Robinson later claimed Jackson said, "You didn't put it to him like you should, or like I would. I will take it myself." Then Jackson picked up the satchel and went to see McCray himself.

"Face to face with the man who had the greatest motive to put him in prison, McCray turned on Jackson and his pile of money in a rage: "You can take your money back to your office, Ed. I'm astounded! My fortune I struggled so hard to accumulate and to preserve and my good name may be in ruins, but I will never surrender my integrity. Take your money and get out!"

McCray's legal problems opened a kind of Indiana Watergate period in Hoosier poli-

### The Newton County Klan No. 73 Charter Reads: "Imperial Palace, Invisible Empire

## Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Incorporated To All Who Read and Respect These Lines, Greeting:

Whereas, The Imperial Wizard has received a petition from the following named citizens of the Invisible Empire, Jos. Martin, Exalted Cyclops; Bernon R. Hedrick, Klaliff; Rev. Robinson, Klokard; Rev. Dunkleberger, Kludd; Ernest Clarkson, Kligrapp; G. A. Adamson, Klabee; Chester Dixon, Kladd; Joseph Best, Klarogo; Wm. Murfitt, Klexer; Raymond Mashino, Night Hawk; A. J. Reams, Peter Stine and Chas. Robertson, Klokann; et al., praying for themselves and others and their successors to be instituted a Klan of the Order under the name and number of Newton County Klan No. 73, Realm of Indiana, and same to be located at Morocco, in the County of Newton, State of Indiana, United States of America, and they having given assurance of their fidelity to the order and their competency to render the service required, and their ready willingness to take upon themselves and their successors the duties and responsibilities thereof, and their serious determined purpose, to rightly use and not abuse the powers, privileges and prerogatives conferred on them as such, and be faithful and true in all things committed to them;

Now Know Ye, that I, the Imperial Wizard of the Kings of the Ku Klux Klan, on this the Fourth day of the Seventh Month of the Year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-three, and on the Doleful day of the Woeful week of the Hideous Month of the Year of the Klan, LVII and in the Eighth Cycle of the third Reign of our Reincarnation, under the authority possessed by me, do issue this Charter to the aforesaid petitioners, their associates and successors, under the name and number aforesaid from the day and date hereon, and same is effective from the date of its acceptance by said Klan as certified below. By his Lordship, H. W. Evans, Imperial Wizard, of the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan; Attested by H. H. Ramsey, Imperial Kligrapp. (This is only a partial transcription of the Newton County Klan Number 73's Charter.)

Here is the glossary of the titles listed on the Charter: Exalted Cyclops: Maintained the Control and Government of the Den; Klaliff: Vice President; Kludd: Chaplain; Kligrapp: Secretary; Klabee: Treasurer; Kladd: in charge of initiating new members; Klarogo: Sergeant-at-arms; Night Hawk: Couriers; Klokann: Advisory Board; Imperial Wizard: Commander in Chief; Imperial Kligrapp: Secretary In Chief.

Doleful: Stands for 4th day of the month; Woeful: Stands for 1st week of the month; Hideous: 3rd month of the year. Reign of our Reincarnation and Eight Cycle: Years were reckoned according to reigns and cycles: the Reign of Incarnation was all time up to the American Revolutionary War; the First Reign of our Incarnation was between the Revolution and the establishment of the original Klan in 1866; The Reign of our Second Incarnation was between 1866 and 1872; Reign of the Third Incarnation began in 1915. The Klan year began in May of each year and the cycle was reckoned from December of each calendar year.



The original Charter for the Morocco Knights of the KKK is in storage at the Newton County Historical Society Resource Center.

tics. Branch, the lieutenant governor, served only the remainder of McCray's last year and left politics. Jackson was elected Governor in 1924, but went on trial while in office, charged with conspiring to commit a felony in the McCray bribery attempt. It was pretty much an open and shut case against Gov. Jackson but he was excused at the last minute because of a legal technicality. Special Judge McCabe ordered an acquittal for Jackson because Indiana's statute of limitations said a bribe conspiracy charge must be prosecuted within two years unless it can be shown that the crime was concealed. The charge against Gov. Jackson was made by Stephenson, who was then serving a life sentence for the slaying of a Statehouse stenographer. Jackson's administration coincided with the climax and downfall of the Klan's political dominance in Indiana. It was McCray's appointee, Remy, who had successfully prosecuted Stephenson. There is a possibility that McCray's own conviction of mail fraud stemmed from evidence backed by the Klan because of its displeasure at the appointment of Remy. There followed a hue and cry throughout Indiana for Jackson's resignation because the state apparently had proved the bribery attempt. Jackson refused to tender his resignation and hung on through 1929, the end of his term.

"The case proceeded against McCray. On February 25, 1924, a federal grand jury in the U. S. District Court in Indianapolis returned an indictment against McCray on charges of using the mails for fraud—since he had mailed the forged promissory notes to his bankers—and for violations of federal banking laws. He was tried not once but twice in 1924. First came the trial in Marion County criminal court. After three weeks, the trial ended in a hung jury, and the charges were dismissed on April 11.

"Next came the federal court trial. Where a long parade of witnesses took the stand to show how McCray's inept financial transactions had resulted in his multimillion dollar debt. Bankers came to testify how the governor had duped them with his phony promissory notes. Finally, on April 28, the case was turned over to the jury, which took only 15 minutes to find McCray guilty. Two days later, on April 30, Judge Albert B. Anderson sentenced McCray to 10 years in the federal prison in Atlanta and a \$10,000 fine. The day before his sentencing, McCray made his last trip to the governor's office under the guard

of a U. S. Marshall. There, he sent his written resignation from the governorship to Secretary of State Ed Jackson. The next day, while McCray was being sentenced by Judge Anderson, Emmett F. Branch, the Lt. Gov., was sworn in to finish the rest of McCray's term as governor.

"Throughout his trial, McCray steadfastly declared his innocence. He was a farmer, not a lawyer, and he had not realized that his financial dealings had been in violation of the law. Most of McCray's political friends agreed;

the governor may have broken the law, but he was not a crook. Just the same, McCray got on the afternoon train the very day he was sentenced and left Indianapolis to begin serving his term in Atlanta. McCray's departure from the statehouse cleared the way for Jackson and the real crooks, who would come later.

In 1930, President Hoover granted a full pardon to McCray, who quietly returned home to Kentland. *Find more information at our Resource Center in Kentland.*

## The Newspaper Articles in 1923 Regarding The KKK

*Kentland Gazette, September, 1, 1899.* "**The Kuklux Klan. The Original White Caps are Soon to Hold a Reunion.**" The article announces the fact that "the famous Kuklux Klan will hold a reunion in Atlanta, Ga. Only the members of the organization know the exact date of the meeting. A bit of the reputation of the Klan of 1869 is mentioned and the article's conclusion suggests that by 1899, the deeds of those members have not been forgotten.

*The Brook Reporter, March 23, 1923.* "**Lady Ku Kluxers at Attica.** The organization of a lodge of Lady Ku Klux in Attica, noted as a very prosperous order of the male Klan in that vicinity. Rumor has it that Indiana has taken second rank in the U. S. in this rapidly growing organization. Newton County ranks are as follows: Morocco, Kentland, Goodland, Brook." A report was then given regarding the Mer Rouge Affair in Bastrop, LA.

*Goodland Herald, March 30, 1923.* "The Birth of a Nation" the most talked of picture will be at the Kentland Theatre next week, Friday, April 6th. Special seven piece orchestra has been engaged to play this big picture at night only. Matinee 2:30, the admission is 20 cents and 40 cents; night 28 cents and 55 cents."

*The Brook Reporter, April 13, 1923.* "**Another Fiery Cross on Friday Night. Greets Theater Goes after "Birth of a Nation."** The theatre goers on Friday evening were greeted as they made their exit from the Temple Theatre with a fiery spectacle. To the southwest in full view on the J. A. Sell lot, just west of the elevator, was one of the new famous Fiery Crosses supposed to represent the local Klan organization. Whoever placed it had due regard to the time and place where it would attract the most attention. Various rumors are afloat as to why another one has been burned in this community. Some say one is burned with each additional 50 members and others attribute it to different causes. As usual no one outside of Klan circles has any information concerning it. As one prominent businessman said it is an awesome spectacle. He says the crowd had little to say and walked home in silence. The real question when it comes to Conference is 'does the fellow I'm talking to belong?'"

*The Morocco Courier, April 23, 1923.* "**Three Crosses Burned On Business Street.** Saturday night about 8:00 two fiery crosses were burned on the main business street, one at the corner where Smart's Service Station is located and another at Gorman's corner. About an hour later another fiery cross was burned opposite C. J. Wright's. No one seems to know who put them up or just when they were lighted but there they were in plain view of the big crowd of Saturday night shoppers, blazing forth in all their glory and in full defiance of all earthly elements. The crosses stood about 10 feet high and were well constructed from 2x4s with a substantial base. What the meaning of these three crosses is to Morocco has caused no end of speculation. Some think it is a sign that an organization of 200 has been completed. Others claim an organization is about to be launched while still others say it is a sign that someone had better beware or they will be called to account. Whatever the meaning of these crosses it seems that Morocco is more favored than any other surrounding towns, in this as well as other things, for we are getting just a little the best of the game."

*The Goodland Herald, May 25, 1923.* "**Klansmen Hold Mammoth Meet. Congregate in Cory's Grove Under large Tent to Hear National Head Speak.** A mammoth Klan meeting was held in Cory's Grove east of town Wednesday night when it was estimated that about 1500 automobiles conveyed the members to this ideal spot for the occasion. The speaker, we are informed, was Mr. Stevenson, a national executive of Dayton, Ohio, < continued on page 8

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< continued from page 9 > who delivered a masterful address for the occasion. Members came from hundreds of miles to hear him. Machines began to arrive during the early evening and by dark a large tent pavilion had been raised and an electric lighting system installed which made the affair a spectacular one that created a great deal of interest in the community. There was no demonstration, the members came quietly and returned to their homes the same way, which would lead one to believe that real, red-blooded men are waking up."

*The Morocco Courier, July 6, 1923.* "**Ku Klux Klan Holds Monster Demonstration.** Morocco was treated to a real Klan demonstration Monday night when a crowd estimated to anywhere from 400 to 1000 men gathered out at W. D. Martin's pasture northwest of Morocco where a meeting was held. On top of the highest point of the field a cross had been erected and it was at the foot of this flaming symbol that the great crowd had gathered to carry on their program. It is rumored that a class of nearly 100 was initiated into the mysterious Ku Klux Klan at this meeting and the enthusiasm ran high. The meeting was opened by singing "America" which was evidently joined in by every man on the ground as the words and music were plainly heard on the highway a considerable distance from the gathering. Early in the evening word was passed around the streets of Morocco that a big meeting was to be held and as soon as a long string of autos had headed westward a crowd of curiosity seekers had gathered at the edge of town and along the road to witness the ceremonies. A string of automobiles reaching around a circle of several hundred feet with their lights all on, was turned toward the road and made a gruesome sight to those who could see them from the road and town. At the entrance in the pasture a sentinel was on guard clothed in the robes of the Klan who challenged all those who made effort to go in. None were admitted unless given consent by this watchman at the gate. Where the immense crowd came from is cause for much speculation but at the close of the meeting eighty-six automobiles were counted as they passed down State Street and on their way to their various destinations. There seems to be no doubt at this time there is a Ku Klux organization in Newton County and from the numbers who were present at Monday night's meeting it looks as though the county was going nearly 100 percent."

*The Morocco Courier, July 20, 1923.* "**Robed Klansmen Make Call at Union Service.** The largest congregation that has ever gathered at any one religious meeting in Morocco was in evidence at the Christian Church Sunday night when union services of the four churches was held. The meeting had been arranged as an open air service and just as the meeting was about to start rain began to fall and the large crowd was asked to go to the Christian Church just across the way. The church soon filled to capacity and many were turned away who could not find seats. Following prayer, two men robed in the regalia of the Ku Klux Klan marched down the aisle and presented to Rev. White, who was about to deliver his sermon, an envelope containing \$100 and a note signed Ku Klux Klan stating that the money was to be used to help in the repairing of the Christian Church. The robed Knights left as quietly as they had entered while everyone sat in attention and expectation as the men marched in and out of the church."

*The Morocco Courier, August 17, 1923.* "**Ku Klux Klan Holds Big Meeting.** What was perhaps the biggest meeting held thus far in Morocco by the Ku Klux Klan was held last Friday night in Morocco. The meeting was first held in W. D. Martin's pasture west of town, but owing to a rain storm coming just as a big fiery cross was lighted the

crowd adjourned to the basement of the Methodist Church where the meeting was continued. It is estimated that more than 500 were present from all parts of the county. Much speculation has been made as to the growth of this organization in Newton County and one of the men about town who seems to know about everything there is to be known says he bets there are close to 2000 members in the county. Whether that is true or not no one seems to know or be willing to tell. We noticed a statement in the *Fiery Cross* of last week that the membership in the state had gone over 450,000. There must something of merit in an organization which can grow at the rate this one has. "The article continues with a statement from Rev. Charles Curtis, pastor of the First Christian Church in another state.

*The Morocco Courier, September 14, 1923.* "**Big K. K. K. Meeting at Mt. Ayr Friday.** Bills are out announcing a big open meeting of the Ku Klux Klan to held at Mt Ayr Friday night, September 14. One of the state speakers will deliver the address and give the principles upon which the Klan has laid its foundation for righting the evils of the present day. Everyone is invited to this meeting and those who have been unfortunate in not hearing previous speakers will now have the opportunity of hearing the why fore of the Ku Klux Klan. Don't miss it.

*The Morocco Courier, October 4, 1923.* "**Ku Klux Klan At Mount Zion.** The Ku Klux Klan made its appearance Sunday night at Mount Zion in the beginning of the services while the congregation was singing. Two persons dressed in the garbs of the Klan walked quietly up the aisle and presented the pastor, H. W. White with an envelope containing one hundred dollars and a letter explaining that the money was to be used for purchasing fuel and keeping the church in order. The pastor stopped the singing and in a few words thanked the Klan for the offering but the audience desired to express their appreciation and was given the opportunity by a rising vote which was unanimous. The song was then continued after which Dr. J. A. Groves, district superintendent preached an able and powerful sermon on "Faith."

*The Morocco Courier, December 14, 1923.* "**K.K.K Women Burn Fiery Cross.** On Monday night of this week the Women of the Ku Klux Klan held a county meeting in the school house at Foresman. That the organization is making rapid growth in this section is shown by the large number of enthusiastic, 100 percent ladies present. It was judged that every point of Newton County was represented by a goodly number of ladies. A large class was naturalized at which time the recently appointed county officers got their first work-out. At the close of the initiation ceremony a large fiery cross was lighted. this was the first cross to be burned by the Women's organization and the first fiery cross to be burned in Foresman."

*The Morocco Courier, April 11, 1924.* The **obituary for Mrs. E. H. Hamilton** held this information regarding the Klan: "At the cemetery the body was met at the gates by two long lines composed of sixty members of the Ladies of the Ku Klux Klan, through whose columns the mourners passed on their way to the grave. Dressed in their full regalia with long white robes with visors lowered, this organization presented a most imposing spectacle. As a tribute these robed women gathered about the grave and offered up prayer for their dear departed sister and proceeded with their last ritual services of the dead. As silently as they appeared they departed and no one knew from whence they came nor to where they went." Her husband, Edwin Hamilton's obit in 1936 did not mention the KKK. (*This item discovered by Harold Smith Martin*).

# Historian's Corner

Submitted by Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian

## The Day the Russians Came to Newton County

Darrel Elijah, my brother-in-law, was a Caterpillar Executive living in Moscow, Russia, in 1996. He had told us several weeks before June, 1996, that he was bringing a team of Russians to the states to tour the CAT Plant in Lafayette and Peoria, IL; they were flying into Chicago. I asked if they would be stopping by the farm where we lived and where Darrel was raised. He didn't know, but I offered to feed them a meal-he wanted to do a snack. Several days before the date, he called and said they would just stop briefly for a coffee break and a snack; he then called later saying they could come for lunch.

We were having a bumper strawberry crop and I suggested fixing pork and a huge pasta salad, plus strawberry shortcake. he approved the menu, and set the date for a Sunday morning in June. It seems when the group found out they would be stopping by the farm, they wanted to spend more time here.

There were Russians, Siberians, two Hungarians and one Mongolian; two of the visitors were interpreters. My son Rick and family Rhonda and Rae, along with myself and Paul hosted the event. They had questions about everything! Darrel is now retired and the following information is what he sent to me along with the pictures included with the article. I appreciated his help, as I thought that we had a mini UN meeting going on!

### Russian Technical Team Visits the Farm of Paul and Diana Elijah

In June of 1996, Darrel Elijah, working for Caterpillar, Inc., brought a team of Russians to the United States from Moscow, Russia. They were technical experts working for GazProm, who, at the time was a monopolizing super company in the production and transporting of natural gas to all of Russia and the Ukraine.

The team, after arriving at O'Hare Airport, was to drive south to visit the Caterpillar plant in Lafayette. The team stopped at the farm of Paul and Diana Elijah around noon for a farm lunch, and to discuss

farming in the United States. Several of the Russians were familiar with farming practices, as they had grown up on farms in the black prairie areas of Russia and the Ukraine, prior to attending universities and working for GazProm.

They were amazed with the hospitality shown as they enjoyed a barbeque lunch with all the fixings. Even more interesting was what they learned of US farming techniques and crop yields. It was unbelievable to them that a father-son team could farm 1,000 acres, plus raise hogs and cattle. Needless to say, our Newton County farm stop was a great start for their two week trip to the United States.

The visit here was to demonstrate Caterpillar's capabilities for building large engine products and packaging complex gas compression packages. Darrel and his technical team quoted a \$17.5 million dollar package to GazProm and won the deal. He is still convinced that the farm visit was the winning edge. - *Diana Elijah, County Historian.*



On steps, Rhonda Elijah, Diana Elijah, visitor, Rick Elijah, Hungarian husband and wife. Other visitors in the picture were Korean, Russians, Siberian, and Mongolian. Diana doesn't recall the names. Rae (Elijah) Misora is pictured at right with Diana's family dog. *Elijah photo.*



In chairs, first row, Paul, Diana and granddaughter Rae; second row, a visitor, Darrel Elijah, Mongolian visitor, the others are Russian and Siberian visitors. *Elijah photos.*

Newton County Historical  
Society Resource Center  
Open Monday, Thursday and Friday

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM CST

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[newtoncountyhistoricalsociety@embarqmail.com](mailto:newtoncountyhistoricalsociety@embarqmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

For January-December, 2014

are a separate insert in this edition!

Contact us if you have not received one.

# Home is Where Your Story Begins

William Henry Burton - Lake Township, Lake Village, Indiana ~ Submitted by Beth Bassett

*Newton County Enterprise, March 10, 1921*

## An Old Timer

"William Henry Burton, a resident of Kentland, an honored citizen of Newton County for over a half century, had a birthday Monday. Mr. Burton is more familiarly known by his middle name, Henry, and his life in this county, spanning as it does the years from the time the county was almost exclusively a wild waste of prairie land to the present time of advanced development, prompts a few words concerning him.

"Mr. Burton was born March 7, 1841, near Irvin, Estill County, Kentucky, near the head waters of the Kentucky River. The family home was near Spout Springs and four miles from the old Red River Forge and Iron Works, now called Clay City. What education he had was secured in an old log school house with large fireplace in one end, puncheon seats, and a log cut out of one side for a window. A wide board placed under the improvised window was used to write on.

"In the fall of 1855 five families of that section started for Kankakee, Illinois. Young Burton was then just past fourteen years old, and remembers the trip well. The families were those of William Burton, Dwane Hall, Enoch Spry, Mart Burton and Zachariah Shrirer. Frank Todd, single, Mrs. Hall's brother also accompanied. The trip was made in covered wagons, and the caravan was eight days on the road.

"The only stopping places, and in fact about the only habitation between Lafayette and Kankakee, was the Sumner home, Parish Grove, and Buckhorn Tavern. There were not laid out roads and the trail was across the unbroken prairie. The Burton family stopped on the VanMeter lands north of and adjoining the city limits of Kankakee.

"In 1861, Henry Burton then being twenty years old, heard the call of Lincoln and enlisted in Co. K. 4th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, under Captain Phil Wocester, and served throughout the war.

"In 1862 the senior Mr. Burton and Alga Dean went east twenty-five miles in what was then called the old Beaver Lake country. This was the advent of the family in Newton

County. Beaver Lake was a body of water about ten miles square and was the habitation of all kinds of water fowls and fish. The last deer Mr. Burton remembers seeing was a herd of eight, in about 1871, on the black marsh.

"Burton and Dean took up the lands later known as Milk's ranch, and were the first men in there to farm after the state ditch of four miles had been dug from the Kankakee River south to tap the lake. It was a wilderness of a place, settled largely by trappers and hunters, and a good hiding place for horse thieves and bad characters. The land included Bogus Island, where it was said bogus money was made. There were three outlaws shot there in the early days, and Mr. Burton personally knew two of them, Isaac Wardell and Michael Shafer.

"After his discharge from the army in 1864, young Burton returned to Kankakee, the family still residing there, and run his father's farm a year or two, and then came to the Beaver Lake country, and lived there until 1911, when he was elected County Recorder and moved to Kentland. He still owns the farm on which he lived for forty years, and reared an estimable family. The farm is located one mile west of Lake Village, a business center that sprang up in his day, and can boast a brick school house, a nice little stone church, some good business and dwelling houses, on a macadam road, and on the New York Central railroad, with a branch road just across the river. There are splendid improvements to have been worked out of the reclamation of the old Beaver Lake wilderness. And in the improvement of that section of country Mr. Burton had a part.

"Mr. Burton's first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln, and he has since been a staunch and loyal supporter of the Republican party. Since retiring from office he is taking life easy, but has lost none of his interest in county, state or national affairs, and is facing the sunset with a host of good friends.

"Our old pioneer fathers, such as Mr. Burton, are few, but they link us to a wonderful past, and it was through their efforts that we are enjoying the advantages and improvements of this age."

## Burton's Life and Times

William Henry Burton, known locally as Henry Burton, was the son of William and Eliza (Walters) Burton, born in Estill County, Kentucky, on March 7, 1841. His siblings were Benjamin, b. 1850; Mantius, b. 1853; Elizabeth, b. 1857; Emma, b. 1859; Wid, b. 1862 and Nancy, b. 1862 (possible twins).

Soon after he was born, his parents moved to Louisville, Kentucky, for about a year, then moved to Fayette, where they lived a few years, and then returned to Estill County, Kentucky, where all of his family resided. They bought a nice hewn log house and cleared the land located about a half mile from what was known as the "sprout spring", where travelers could drink and water their stock year round. It was never known to go dry; the water came from a big rocky hill about 15 miles from the road, then emptied in a large trough dug out of a log. One of Henry's uncles, Valentine Ward, owned the land.

Henry and his family farmed there, but also ran a woodwork and blacksmith shop. They kept one team of 4-6 horses, that pulled a stiff tongue wagon, driven with one line with the driver sitting near the wheel horse; they hauled coal and pig iron to what was then called Red River Iron Works. Located there was a rolling mill for making iron, and also a saw mill, grist mill and more. The name would change to Clay City when the railroad came to Lexington, Kentucky, and ran through the Cumberland Gap.

The family remained there for a few years and then relocated to a new farm three miles east, called Hardick's Creek. They cleared the land there and called it the Sylba Place, where they ran another woodwork and blacksmith shop as well as having a working team of horses on the road.

In the fall of 1855, they sold out and with four other families started with teams and wagons for Kankakee, Illinois. In one of Henry's narratives regarding his life, he states, "we were eight days on the road and surely all enjoyed the trip, all greener than grass, but you never saw a happier crowd. We settled for the winter in the corner of Dan Vanmeeter's Orchard on the road from Kankakee to Bourbon Grove. Father and I teamed that winter,

we was out every day but one, and it proved to be the coldest winter up till then ever known in that part; a fine fall until the night before Christmas when it began to get cold and snow; we didn't see the ground until very late in the spring."

The family stayed at Vanmeeter's Orchard for a few years, farming about 200 acres, but they had moved to a home located a mile east of the recently built Illinois Central Railroad tracks. They would add more acreage to their farming efforts, and Henry would continue farming until his enlistment in the Cavalry in 1861.

In a history of Lake Village published in *The Brook Reporter* in 1949, there is note regarding Henry's father: "Old Bill Burton", father of Henry Burton, lived in what was the Lloyd Arbuckle farm; he patented a ditching machine to clean ditches where a cable was used to pull the plow, a long pole was put from bank to bank, and a four horse team on both sides accomplished the job." The term, "necessity is the mother of invention" applies here, as Bill moved from Illinois into the old Beaver Lake bed area-still filled with marshes and muck land.

During his service Henry drilled along the Illinois River at Camp Hunter for two months, then traveled on horseback through the country to Centralia, Illinois and from there loaded onto cars for Cairo, Illinois. Henry did picket duty along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. His next move was to Fort Donelson, Tennessee, where he remained four days. His first battle was around Pittsburg Landing. He then guarded the rail line from Corinth to Memphis, Tennessee for nine months, then went to Vicksburg and camped fifteen miles from the Black River. on October 18, 1863. while scouting thirty miles out toward Jackson, he was wounded, shot through the neck, and knocked from his horse. From the Black River, went to Natchez, Mississippi, where he stayed the last nine months of his three years of service.

His narrative also mentions that a "fine brass band was with our regiment. They were fine looking fellows, thirteen Germans. They were all mounted on cream colored horses and when we were on dress parade, they marched in front from one end of the line to the other on horseback, playing some of the old time war songs, "Hail Columbia," "Rally Around the Flag," "Dixie," etc. It made our breasts swell some and was a sight never to forget."

He returned to Springfield, Illinois, where he was honorably discharged October 3, 1864, with the rank of sergeant, in command of what there was left out of his company. It is noted that he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, second term.

Upon his return in the fall of 1864, he returned and found that his father and Alga Dean had moved into Indiana, twenty miles east of Kankakee and taken up a lot of land. For the first three years he came to Newton County, he herded cattle on the wide range of swamp land his father had bought years previously, after which, as conditions improved, primarily through his own efforts, he embarked in farming and stock raising and continued through his entire life. He was actively identified with the material development of Lake Township, and was one of the first trustees of the Lake Village Cemetery.

In 1871, he married Mary J. Watson, (1852-1886), and is buried at the Lake Village Cemetery. Henry's obituary states that they had six children, but I could only locate the names of five, Infant, 1872-1872; Ada, 1874-1874; Neil Watson, b. 1875; Emery Marion, b. 1877; and Gailand Garfield, 1879-1888. Neil was the only living child upon his death

## A Walk through Thayer

*By Jim Hockney*

Shortly after the railroad came through Thayer, my great-grandfather, John O. DeFries and his wife Annie (Bakker) DeFries, opened a grocery store on the main north south road through the village. They moved to Thayer from Chicago where they had been living. This was in 1883. The store was located on the west side of the road and they lived in the rear portion of the building, which was later split in two and the rear portion moved across the street and incorporated into an existing house, which then became their home. After John O. DeFries' death, his wife ran the store for a while and later moved back to Chicago, only to return to Thayer in 1903.

My grandfather, Henry DeFries, continued in the business along with his wife, the former Stella Gundy. Henry also became postmaster and operated the post office out of the store. This is where they were located when gas lights were installed along the main thoroughfare. Their daughter, Esther DeFries married my father, Harold Hockney, and together with her brother, William DeFries operated a store. I learned the trade of meat cutting and butchering and continued the tradition, operating the store until it was sold.

The following account is not intended to be a chronological history, only some of my impressions of the village drawn from my long association with the store and the town.

Starting at the south end of the town I will take you on a leisurely walk down Highway 55, which is Thayer's main drag.

The first house on the west side belonged to the Spitlers. It was a two-story house and the Spitlers were long gone. Jim Black from Lowell lived there around 1937. He owned some 200 acres of land and as a child gave me old keys to add to my ring. When he died they had his wake in the house and my dad took his body to Orchard Grove to be buried. The Blacks came from that area. "Jep" Stowell was living there, along with daughters, Dora June and "Lolly" when the house burned down about 1941. Their sister, Etta Mae Stowell kept house for the three Struble brothers, who were George, John, and Scott before her marriage to Darren Spitler. Etta Mae's son, Phillip Morris, got the nickname "Buckshot"

Proceeding north, just over the railroad tracks, was Bonstra's Shoe Shop. Simon Bonstra repaired shoes at this location. He had an overhead line shaft driven by a gas engine that ran all

in 1924, living in North Dakota.

On February 24, 1889, he remarried to Sophia Fredrice Steinke, (1870-1926), at Chicago, Illinois. They had five children, all living but one in 1914, Bonnie F., 1907-1909. She is buried at Lake Village Cemetery. Their other children were Bealah Lynn, 1890-1984; Ora Gwendylon, 1892-1950; Calvin Roscoe, b. 1893; Cecil Leona, b. 1894. Sophia and some of the children are also buried at the Lake Village Cemetery.

In the fall of 1864, Henry moved to Newton County and settled near Lake Village. His 80 acre farm was located in Lake Township, Section 17. He continued to work the farm until 1910, his obituary states, when he was elected Recorder of Newton County, which office he held in an efficient manner for two terms, or eight years, retiring from office in 1918. He lived out his final days taking great interest in his garden, and the upkeep of his home; he was a great lover of flowers.

"Henry Burton was a kind-hearted man, always treating people as he would like to be treated. He was a good conversationalist, always enjoyed talking about his experience in the army, a model of politeness," his obituary stated.

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of the tools he used. A belt was run to the shaft and connected to each of his tools when in use—the tacker and nailer, the buffing brushes, etc. Jake (Jacob) Bonstra, Simon's son, lived in the same house and was a plumber. Simon made a leather driver's wallet for my dad.

Next came Dr. Tate's house. He came to Thayer about 1907 or so. Dr. Wilson was there before him. Doc Tate delivered my Uncle, William DeFries, and my mother, Esther, who was born in 1907, was delivered by Dr. Wilson.

Roy Granger's house, formerly owned by Mr. Swart, was next in line. He operated an illicit alcohol business during prohibition and was known far and wide as a bootlegger. His father Hank Granger, who was also in the business, got his federal license, but not the state one. Roy "Spooney" Granger on the other hand got neither as by then it was illegal. Roy and sister, "Bun" Granger resided there for a number of years. Numerous people lived there after that until the 1960's when it was sold to Eugene Pritchett. He in turn sold it to his sister, Phyllis (Pritchett) Wilson. They were the ones who tore down the old house and built a new one at that location.

The house where my granddad, Henry DeFries, lived was next. As mentioned part of the original store had been moved across the street to the east side and that is where they lived, having previously lived in the upstairs of the new store.

Across the street was the general store, which was built next to the east west street. The first building north of the store was a Montgomery Ward kit building delivered on the Monon Railroad and erected for the post office with living quarters upstairs. This was about 1904.

Granddad's brother, Johnnie DeFries, bought one just like it and had it erected a mile west of town. Granddad bought 20 acres of land just to hunt on near Johnnie's house, which still stands today, but has been extensively remodeled. Johnnie's first wife was Myrtle Granger. He went back to Chicago and is buried just off Roosevelt Road with his second wife.

A vacant lot to the south of the store is found next on our walk. Across the street on the corner was a Phillips 66 gas station. Walter Small was the distributor from Kentland, but the station was owned by Don Sutton in 1940. He lived in the same building. He mar-



**Thayer's Cash Store, owned by DeFries and Hockney. Third from left is William DeFries, next right, Jim Hockney and his father, Harold Hockney. Reprinted from "Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby - The First 100 Years."**

ried late in life in his 60's to Lula Mae Bailey from DeMotte. They had a son born in 1941 and another in 1949. The station was located on the east side of the street, and it became a residence in the 1960's, and burned down in the 1980's, after which it became Greer's used car lot.

Just north of the gas station on the east side of the road the Pritchett family lived with a bunch of kids. It was a large two-story house. The senior Pritchett tore down a barn and built the just mentioned gas station. Then the war came and one of the sons, James went to the army. James and Eugene "Gene" were part of the softball team that was organized after the war, and they were Cracker Jack players. I was ten years younger when I played with the Boosters and learned a great deal from them.

Next came the store built in 1933 by my father, Harold Hockney, and his brother-in-law, William DeFries. It was a grocery and meat store, later expanded when they built an addition to include hardware, dry goods, and feed. They also bought hides, poultry, eggs and cream. It had a reach-in cooler and also a walk-in cooler for the fresh meat. They slaughtered their own hogs and beef. I learned the business starting to cut meat at the age of ten. Also I had to boil water and pluck the chickens. Besides the locals from Thayer, Shelby and Roselawn, most of the trade was from DeMotte and Lowell. Home killed meat was

the draw.

In 1948 the family built a building to the north of the store for the post office. They had to furnish their own stove and it had no facilities. They rented it for \$ 10.00 a month as it was a good draw for the store. Milton Cobb, the son of Henry Cobb, who drove a school bus as well, ran the post office until he died in 1950. It was then taken over by Beulah "Bude" Cobb. Several others were associated with the post office, such as Jeannie Roadruck, "Spooney" Granger's daughter. Sandra Benson was there for 40 years. It is still being used today. It was sold in 1959 and went together as a package with the Thayer Cash Store.

The Frank Fuller house stood on the corner of the next lot. This was the home of Frank and Rose Fuller. After Frank died, Rose lived there as a widow with her sons, Chester, "Chet" and Charles Fuller. Frank and Rose are buried in unmarked graves in the Lake Village Cemetery.

The next building on the west side of the street was Bob Boswinkle's store. My mother, Esther, worked there early on. It was gone by 1930. It was replaced by BiJo's Dance Hall and was constructed for that purpose. They held dances there for some time. And then it became a grocery store and later Pritchett's tavern. They had a good business and it prospered till about 1948 when it was sold to Harry Martin of Morocco. After a series of owners



**DeFries Grocery Store, left, John O. and Anna DeFries. Reprinted from “Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby - The First 100 Years.”**

it was torn down in the 1970's. Harry Matheson bought the corner lot from my mother and built a new tavern called Poppa's.

On the west side of Road 1200 (formerly 1st street) and two lots north of Pritchetts stood Lizz Crocker's establishment, a large structure, which included a meat market, a bakery, and an ice house. A hotel was located upstairs. Better known as “Rattle Snake Lizz,” she and Rose Fuller vied for the position of grand dame of Thayer. Some wags suggested that Rose was the one who set fire to the building. Whatever happened the building caught on fire and it burned so intensely that it blew out the bay window in Rose's house. Granddad was living in the Montgomery Ward house, which was close by and my mother and uncle handed up pails of water so their building's roof would not catch on fire. This took place in the early teens and the lots stood vacant for many years. No one seems to know what happened to Lizz Crocker. I think the Vandersydes bought the land as they had lots all over town.

For awhile the post office was run out of the front room of the Fuller house. My folks kept chickens in their chicken house to be used for the store.

Mary (Brady) Fuller and her sister, Emma, lived in the next house. Mary Fuller's husband hanged himself. His father was from Shelby and he became deranged after having

been struck by lightning while in the barber shop.

On the west Vestrick's had a feed store which faced West Street. It became a ramshackle building and I guess it burned down. A saw mill was located there for a while and Hicks Gas came in the 1960's.

Across the road between the railroad and 1st street is where Hank Granger lived. His buildings fronted on 1st street. The saloon was long gone, but it was located east of the house. It stood vacant for many years and changed hands many times. They were the only structures in Thayer that had a three foot wide concrete walk with curbs. This provided some 200 feet for the kids to roller skate as there was no business there at the time.

Freels owned a nice house and two rentals on what was originally Granger property. The next generation of Freels lived in the house and Mrs. Freel's daughter, Mrs. Cable built a single story house. Transients lived in the rentals and they eventually burned down during a period when there were many suspicious fires in Thayer.

The last property on that side of the road stood the depot right behind the Freel house. There was only one way in and one way out of the depot. Brady let them go on his property so that there would be a road for easier access. A railroad car house is where the section gang lived. Only later was it fenced in. The

depot was torn down by Dewey Wicker for the wood, which was used to build a house in Shelby. It still stands today.

The photo of Matt Boswinkle beside his cart was the store that stood across the street (before it was known as the Dickey Dry Goods store). It faced Crocker's Hotel. In later times a guy by the name of Barryman had a store there.

Matt Boswinkle and wife lived in the next house which is still there. His wife lived there as a widow.

The next house is where Al Fehlman lived with his siblings, Mayme and Myrtle. Al was a painter and did odd jobs.

Across the street, north of Fullers, Charlie Zimmer built the building that was Cyphers Gas Station. It was the loafing place in town. “Oct” Cyphers later sold it and it was moved to a location a mile and a half south of Thayer, which was later run by Les Thompson. Charlie Zimmer, as a joke, was a radio buff and cut into the radio at the Cypher's gas station while Barryman was there announced that President Hoover had been assassinated. Barryman waited anxiously for the next day's paper for details.

Bessie Potuchek built a pole building to the north, which was used as a salvage and second-hand store. She lived with one of the Mattocks. It was an improvement from the saw mill that stood there at one time.

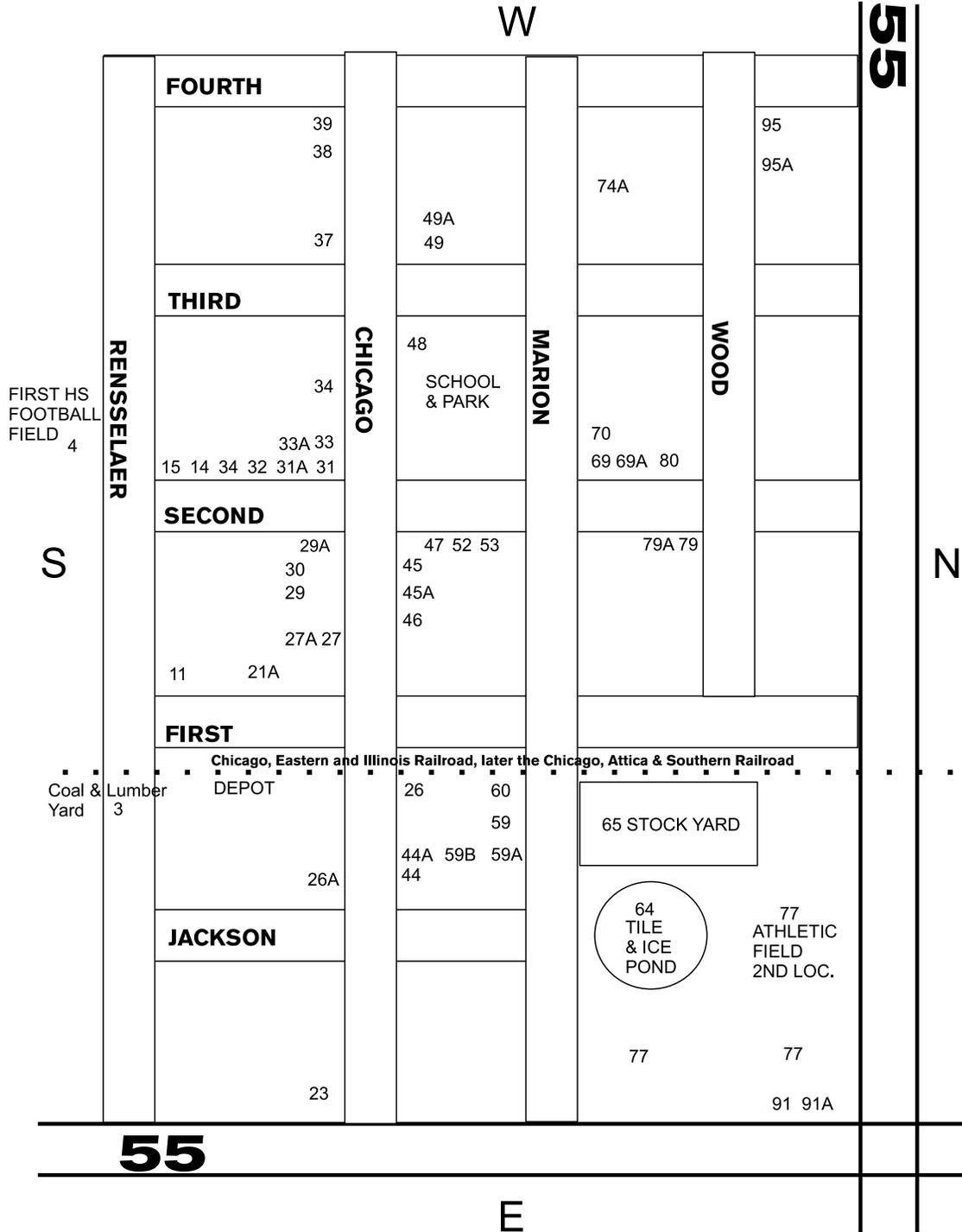
The Mattocks house came next. Old man Mattocks lived there as did his son, Lee Mattocks, who married Betty White.

Then came the Meeter Sauerkraut Factory in the far east part of town. It was located on the last street in the most easterly part of town on the east side of the street. It was long gone by 1920.

The Claussen Pickle Factory was in the most westerly part of town across the track from the depot beyond the Section Hand's Car House. Kids used to go there for pickles and to play around the pickle factory. A shaker sorted the pickles into 3 sizes. Charles “Jack” Cobb managed the pickle factory. He was able to hire extra help during the busy time when the cucumbers would ripen. The factory contracted with farmers to raise them. A card table was set up in the DeFries store for the farmers to sign up and get their seeds.

Much more could be said of Thayer's main street, but this brief walk around town will give you some flavor of Thayer's past. *Reprinted from the Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby - The First 100 Years.*

Compilation of businesses in Mt. Ayr, March 12, 1998 by Bud Brunton, Don and Betty Kennedy, Dotty Fellmy, Joe Brunton, Miriam Steinkamp, Don Hoon, and Jeanie Potter. Updates provided by Norma Turner. This also includes information taken from the recollections of Donna (Schanlaub) LaCosse. Excerpts from Sharon Leichty's *History of the Jasper-Newton County, Indiana Amish Settlement and the Miller Amish Cemetery* and the *History of Newton County, 1985*. The key to the map is located on next page.



The information found here is reprinted from "The History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships". You will find over 850 pages of history on the area in this newly published book. Get your copy now ... only \$35.00. Contact the Resource Center at Kentland, 219-474-6944.

## History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships

School	City block dedicated for school and park when town was platted by Marion.
Depot	Full time station agent was A. J. Hufty. He handled the telegraph business and freight (1908-10). Two railroad crews each 2-4 men working every day.
3	S. B. Coen Lumber, lime, coal, grain (1883); Coal and Lumberyard Bill Shindler; Virgil Coovert
4	Football Field; Three Gables Tavern; Coach Lite Inn; Mt. Ayr Community Center; Mt. Ayr Library
11	George Hufty Hotel (1883)
14	Evangelical United Brethren Church
15	Standish Barber Shop(1930s-40s)
21A	Post Office Trailer
23	Donna LaCosse Beauty Box; Jean Rater Beauty Shop; Swede Olson Tavern and Gas, Oil, Pool Table
26	Lumberyard, Paint and Feed, Les Peters, Mgr., Jim Gerline Mgr., when Farm Bureau
26A	Grain Elevator/Offices
27	IOOF Hall 1st floor: Lawson (Bunny) Ponsler Restaurant; Frank DeWees Grocery; Yarrow Kriz Grocery; Storage of grain by elevator;
27A	IOOF Hall; Royal Neighbors Lodge; Dance Hall utilized on Saturday Nights (1930s-40s);
29	Mt. Ayr Bank; Mt. Ayr State Bank
29A	Mt. Ayr School First Gym; Roller Rink, later Bill Herre Gas Station on the empty lot.
30	Willey, Sigler and Wishard General Merchandise (1883); W. R. Lee, Bank moved into an adjacent room); Bill Lyons, built the cellar; J. W. Toyne;
31	JJ Brenner and Son Drugs, grocery, implements and Post Office (1883); Drug Store and Dr. Merry's Office; Telephone (first one) switchboard upstairs; Carl Sinks Grocery Store; Rosie and Ed Hiestand Restaurant
31A	Post Office (1883); Post Office (1930s-40s)
32	Ted and Edna Werre Restaurant; Hiestand Restaurant
33	Dr. Merry's residence; Dr. Martin's Office
33A	Buddy Hickman Trucking Company
34	Branham Trucking Company
37	Lollie's Beauty Shop; New Post Office
38	Poultry and Produce in building in back - W. O. Brown
39	Katy Yoder's Nursing Home
44	George Corbin Blacksmith Shop; Eli Chupp Blacksmith Shop
44A	Cobbler Shop
45	Billy Little, Elmer and/or Frank Stucker and Barber shop; Hotel
45A	Hamlin Smith's Butcher Shop; Tom Inkley's Butcher Shop; Funeral Home; Millinery Shop; Harry Hufty's Meat Market
46	Creamery, run by Burdette Hoon; Ice House; Beauty Shop and Jean Rater Residence; Pool Hall, run by Walter and Dorothy Brunton all attached
47	JB Ashby Blacksmith Shop (1883); Job Ashby's Hardware Store (1908-mid 1930s); Ken Blankenbaker's Railroad Salvage (1932); upstairs Mt. Ayr Pilot, Henry Jenkins (1910); Blankenbaker Grocery and Pool Hall; Kissinger Grocery (Cement); Yoder's Grocery and Restaurant;
48	Bandstand; Park
49	Methodist Church
49A	M. E. Parsonage (moved to 219 N Wood)
52	Gene Parigo Dry Goods and Grocery (1908-10); George Lynch Grocery Store; Coffel's Grocery; Bethel (Hickman) Kendall Restaurant; Jim Kriz Grocery next door. Merged two buildings and added Post Office and residence; Church of God; Lucy Elliott Grocery, Restaurant; part rented to Jean Rater for Beauty Shop with apartment behind. Old Post Office made into Library.
53	Doan's Pool Hall
59/59A	John M. Hufty Grist and Feed Mill; New Telephone Office
59B	Jasper Wright Livery Stable; Tom Inkly Livery; Smith and Bebout and/or Haskel and Son Livery Barn (1890);
60	Pickle Factory
64	Tile Pond - Ice Pond in winter
65	Stock Yards
69	Opera House
69A	Joe Witcher Blacksmith Shop; Jim Hoon Garage; Milligan Garage; Clifford Brown Garage; Dean Elijah Garage
70	Hotel owned by Daisy Cropper; teachers boarded here in WWII
74A	Mt. Ayr Cabinet Shop, Bob McCartney
77	Athletic Field
79/79A	Baptist Church; Assembly of God; Pentecostal Church;
80	Telephone Office - bought from Dr. Merry by Jim and Bessie Hoon, and Walter Brunton
91/91A	Clifford Brown Auto Repair; Billy Brown Gas Station/Cecil Shaw Auto Repair
95/95A	Candy Stucker Tile and Brick Factory and Yards - some forms still there

## 16 The Newcomer

### Picnic Outing June 12 - Jasper County Historical Society Will Visit Beaver Lake Country

*Evening Republican, June 1, 1923.*

An investigating and sightseeing tour will be made on June 12th, under the auspices of the Jasper County Historical Society to the Beaver Lake country in Newton County.

"A study will be made of the Indian mounds, the old trails, the old lake beach and other landmarks left by the pioneers of northern Indiana, together with the flora and fauna of this interesting land which once formed a part of Jasper County.

"Stops are scheduled at Mt. Ayr, Morocco, and Fair Oaks at 10 a.m.; the Hillis ranch at 10:30; Dan Odle's at 11:00; the old Collins Ranch at 11:30 and at 12:00 lunch will be spread among the violets and huckleberry bushes on Bogus Island.

"After dinner, speeches, toasts and readings will form the program.

"The expedition will be made under the direction of J. E. Alter and will leave Rensselaer promptly at 8:30 a.m. Everybody welcome. Bring lunch, knife, fork, spoon and Kodak. - Committee on Program.

### About That JCHS Visit

*Morocco Courier, June, 22, 1923*

Editor Courier:

We see that the Jasper County Historical Society made a pilgrimage to Bogus Island recently with a view to locating and marking some of our old landmarks.

From reading an account of the affair in the Rensselaer papers, we gather that the Society lost much of this occasion by not having a competent guide. For instance, there was no mention made of that depression in the earth on the south base of the island, just the length and width of a rude pioneer. It is here that Joel Armitage, a poor but honest settler, sleeps the eternal sleep. Joel, y'un'er'stan', swam over to the island one day in the early '60s to look for a horse which he believed had been stolen. A blow from a p-elm club in the hands of an outlaw ended Joel's earthly career and incidentally reduced the Republican majority in McClellan Township to the extent of one vote.

In the newspaper account of this pilgrimage, not a word did we see about the cleared space through the chaparral leading north from the island. This marks the scene of a

desperate hand to hand struggle between Nehemiah Sproul, of new Ox-Bow and the chief of the outlaw band. In this memorable fight, hazel brush and bull grass were torn up by the roots and saplings six inches in diameter were snapped off like pipe stems. Nehemiah escaped by leaping from the apex of the island - two hundred and thirty-three feet - into the waters of Beaver Lake, which at that time flowed and ebbed at the foot of the island.

Not a cheep from the Jasper County Historical Society about them fourteen faintly defined graves at the west ridge of the island, and which marks the last resting place of the outlaw chieftain, who was killed at divers and sundry times, between 1859 and 1865 by natives. According to newspaper reports Phil Sheridan's war horse died eight times and in as many different places, but in this respect the Bogus Island outlaw chieftain had Sheridan's horse beaten by a city block.

The Jasper County Historical Society seems to have utterly ignored that oblong mound near the spreading oak, a hundred yards east of Goose Pond. Here rests all that is mortal of Bige Flak. One night Bige filled up with vinous, malt and other intoxicating liquors, and then rowed over to the Island with the expressed determination to clean up on the outlaws single handed and alone. The next day the tempestuous Beaver Lake vomited up on its sandy beach all that was mortal

of Bige, his face wearing a frozen smile, while his hip pocket held a pint flask containing just enough for a good drink for an uncompromising Democrat.

We are glad to have the Jasper County Historical Society visit our domain, but when the members ignore our oldest and most cherished landmarks, we naturally feel hurt. - S. S. (Sidney Schanlaub).

*Editor's note: Mr. Schanlaub would probably get a good chuckle at the fact that I actually took time to look up the names in cemetery and census records for Newton County. But, believe it or not, there are Sproul-Sprouls buried at Fairlawn Cemetery in Kentland and Armitages in the Goodland Cemetery - so was S. S. spinning a yarn, or recording history - I'll leave that decision up to you!*

### Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller- Answers on Page 19

1. What is the oldest town in Newton County?
2. Who was William H. Foster?
3. How many courthouses have been located in Newton County?
4. Name the main Indian tribe that lived in Newton County.
5. How many square miles are there in Newton County?

### Looking for your Newton County Ancestors?

Check out our web site:  
[www.ingenweb.org/innewton](http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton)

Census Records  
Cemetery Records  
Marriage Records Index  
Death Records Index  
Landowners, 1904  
Newton County/Indiana Maps  
Past editions of *The Newcomer*  
Obituary Indexes  
Biographies  
Society News  
Military Information  
School Information  
Family Surname Helpers

Stop by our  
Resource Center  
Local History Books  
Individual Family Histories  
General County History  
Hardbound Newspapers of  
*The Morocco Courier*  
*The Kentland Gazette*  
*Newton County Enterprise*  
Plat Books, Early Maps  
1916 Atlas of Newton County  
Microfilm of  
*The Goodland Herald and*  
*The Lake Village Villager*  
*MHS Old Gold and Black*

## Interview Gives Outline Story of Kankakee Valley Bird Life

The following is an excerpt from an article that appeared in a 1934 *Morocco Courier*, of an interview of Ned Barker at his Sumava cabin. Amos Butler, who served as chairman of the Indiana Academy of Science Committee, a recognized authority of birdlife at the time, chose Ned Barker as his informant for his data and writings on present and past bird life in the Kankakee Valley. I asked "The Kankakee Kid", aka Jeff Manes who resides at Camp Aukiki on the Kankakee River to update and add to Mr. Barker's comments.

<b>Birds of the Kankakee Region</b>	<b>Barker, 1924</b>	<b>Manes, 2013</b>
Sandhill Crane	In 1932, saw two old cranes feeding their young.	Numerous in spring. Should be showing up again soon.
White (Red Headed Crane)	Common 30 years ago, some still going through.	None identified.
Wood Duck, Mallard and Blue Winged Teal	Still nest here.	A few.
Hooded Merganser	Common to find their nests in trees.	Have sighted three or four.
Green Winged (Red Headed) Teal	Also nests here, reported in 1923 or 24 by S. E. Perkins.	Less commonly sighted than Mallards or Wood Ducks.
Widgeon	Are seen here, do not know of their nesting.	None identified.
Buffle Head or Butter Ball	Found here.	Saw a few in the spring.
Black Duck and Black Mallard	Plenty, suppose have both kinds, but have not noticed both.	None identified, but we have some.
Pintail	Many, most common duck we have.	Have sighted a few. Still fairly common, though.
Canada Goose	Do not nest here now. Last nest seen here about 1895.	Plentiful.
Brant (white fronted goose)	We have them.	Don't come through here any-more.
Blue Goose and Snow Goose	I have winged all of them geese and when they recovered kept them and bred them.	None sighted here, but they have come back to the area.
Swans (Whistling)	Do not know the trumpet swan, but am well acquainted with whistling swan.	None sighted here, but there are a few still around.
Bald Eagle	Formerly nested here. Last nest found in 1890.	Have sighted eagles here four or five times since February.
Raven	Never saw it here.	None sighted. Not in area.
Wild Turkey	None here now.	Have spotted a few. Common in area now.
Osprey	Nest now down the Kankakee two or three miles near Illinois.	Have sighted two.
Wild Pigeons	Formerly abundant.	Passenger Pigeon, extinct.
Prairie Chickens	Have plenty of them. Nest here.	Extirpated.
Hawks (Red Tails)	I attract them by live owls and kill them for bounty.	Commonly sighted.
Owls (Horned, barn)	I kill owls too.	Barred sighted.
Marsh Hawks	I killed 188 marsh hawks in June, 1934.	None sighted.
Pileated Woodpecker or Log Cock	Have seen one.	Eight or ten sightings.
Great Blue Heron	A little colony two miles from here.	Commonly sighted.
Egret (large white Heron)	Quite a few nest east of here.	Great Egret, commonly sighted.
Snowy Heron, Little Blue Heron	Have seen no small white Herons.	Or aka Little Blue Heron, none sighted.
Black Crowned Night Heron	Formerly nested in numbers. Some still do.	Have identified a few.
Garden Plover	See thousands of them in spring.	None sighted.
Black Bellied Plover	See them, but not so many.	None sighted.

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Birds of the Kankakee	Barker, 1924	Manes, 2013
Field Plover	Nest here.	None sighted.
Eave Swallow	Nested under eaves of Spindler's barn in 1933, large colony.	Not sure about this terminology.

## Birds Identified At \*Camp Aukiki From Feb. thru Sept. of 2013 Not On Barker's List

(\*My quarter-acre Eden on the south bank of the Kankakee River in Jasper Cty.)

By Jeff "The Kankakee Kid" Manes

Robin	Extremely common.
Cardinal	Extremely common.
Blue Jay	Extremely noisy.
Common Grackle	The name says it all.
Red-Winged Blackbird	Extremely common.
Crow	Extremely common.
Turkey Vulture	Extremely common.
Cooper's Hawk	Fairly common here.
Broad-Winged Hawk	Have seen one here.
Northern Harrier	Have two or three here.
Belted Kingfisher	Common.
Green Heron	Common.
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	Plentiful from May thru Aug.
Indigo Bunting	Plentiful from May thru Aug.
Baltimore Oriole	Plentiful from May thru Aug.
Orchard Oriole	Identified one here.
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Common from May thru Sept.
Scarlet Tanager	Rarely seen here.
Common Yellow Throat	Not so common here.
Common Redpoll	Not so common here.
Rufous-Sided Towhee	Occasionally.
Brown Creeper	Rarely seen here.
Pie-Billed Grebe	Rarely seen here
American Coot	Occasionally.
Barn Swallow	Common.
Tree Swallow	Common.
Bank Swallow	Common.
Rough-Winged Swallow	Common.
Hermit Thrush	Occasionally.
Brown Thrasher	Occasionally.
Vireo	Occasionally.
Veery	Occasionally.
Eastern Phoebe	Fairly common.
Eastern Peewee	Fairly common.
Cedar Waxwing	Occasionally.
Spotted Sandpiper	Common.

Solitary Sandpiper	Common.
Starling	Extremely common.
Mourning Dove	Extremely common.
House Finch	Extremely common.
Purple Finch	Rarely sighted here.
Cowbird	Common.
Catbird	Common.
Tufted Titmouse	Extremely common.
Black-Capped Chickadee	Extremely common
White Breasted Nuthatch	Extremely common
Carolina Wren	Common.
American Goldfinch	Extremely common.
Downy Woodpecker	Extremely common.
Hairy Woodpecker	Common.
Red-Headed Woodpecker	Common.
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common.
Yellow-Shafted Flicker	Common.
Slate-Colored Junco	Common in winter.
American Tree Sparrow	Common.
House Sparrow	Extremely common.
Chipping Sparrow	Extremely common.
Song Sparrow	Common.
White-Throated Sparrow	Fairly common.
White-Crowned Sparrow	Fairly common.
Vesper Sparrow	Rarely seen here.
Savannah Sparrow	Rarely seen here.
Lincoln Sparrow	Rarely seen here.
Fox Sparrow	Rarely seen here.
Swamp Sparrow	Fairly common.
Black-and-White Warbler	Migratory passerby.
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	Migratory passerby.
Yellow-Throated Warbler	Migratory passerby.
Yellow Warbler	Common.
Bluebird	Rarely seen here, too swampy.
Kildeer	Rarely seen here, too swampy.

# Now You Know Your County of Newton!

By Janet Miller -  
Questions on page 16

1. Morocco is the oldest town in Newton County and was laid out by John Murphey on January 28, 1851.
2. William H. Foster (1813-1901) was a pioneer in the days of railroading. He helped finance the Toledo, Logansport and Burlington Railroad from Logansport to the Indiana-Illinois State Line. He had traveled the prairies and with the low land prices decided to buy 1,000 acres in the Goodland area. In 1861, with his brother, Timothy, he established the town of Goodland.
3. Three courthouses have been located in Newton County. The first one was located in Iroquois Township south of Brook. The other two have been located on the present site in Kentland.
4. The main Indian tribe that lived in Newton County was the Potawatomi.
5. Newton County consists of 402 square miles.

### Local Republished History Books On Sale at the Resource Center

**Just Arrived!**  
The History of Mt. Ayr,  
Jackson and Colfax Townships

“Ralph, The Story of Bogus Island”  
“Hoosier Hunting Ground”  
“Newton County Landmarks”  
“Beaver Lake,  
Land of Enchantment”  
Past editions of the *Newcomer*  
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We are looking for volunteers  
to work at our Resource Center.  
One day a month is all that is required,  
but more would be greatly appreciated.

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Send us an email if you can help  
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An early photograph of the Newton County Stone Quarry at Kentland. Contributed by David Dye.



Threshing day at the Jon Murfitt farm in Jackson Township. Reprinted from the History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships.



Ethel and Olive Murfitt of Jackson Township, out for a ride with their dog. Reprinted from the History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships.

## School No. 10, Jefferson Township, Taught by Samuel E. Molter, Holds Enviably Record For Attendance

*Newton County Enterprise, 1915:* The photo at the upper right is a picture of the twenty-five pupils enrolled in the school in district No. 10, Jefferson township, and the teacher, Mr. Samuel Molter. The majority of these pupils live more than a mile and one-half from the school. Twenty-one of them had perfect attendance last school year. The percent of attendance of all was 99.7. During the past four years, this school has averaged above 99% in attendance. The school has not had a single case of tardiness in three years and one-half. Mr. Molter has taught No. 10 during the past four years. He is proud of the fact that he has issued eight-two rolls of honor to the pupils for attendance.



Hilda (Taylor) Wildrick-Yoder's Aunt Mary, in her kitchen in her Colfax Township home. Reprinted from "History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships."

### Congratulations to For Goodness Sake Productions, Inc. Producers of "Everglades of the North, The Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh" for their recent Emmy nomination:

Chicago/Midwest Chapter/National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Category #6-B Outstanding Achievement for Documentary Programs - Historical Nominees: "Bottoms Up: Wisconsin's Historic Bars and Breweries" (Wisc. Pub. TV); "Skokie: Invaded But Not Conquered" (WTTW); "Boxcar People" (WTVF); "WYON: 50 years of Impact" (Media Process Group); "Everglades of the North: The Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh" (For Goodness Sake Productions) Exec. Producer Pat Wisniewski, Producers Brain Kallies, Tom Desch, Jeff Manes.

The Awards Ceremony is November 3rd.

# The Newcomer

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