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The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. Published four times a year. Articles for submission are encouraged and may be sent to the editor, Beth A. Bassett, 1681 East, 1100 South, Brook, Indiana 47922.

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County Historical Society

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The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

What's On Our Agenda . . .

The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month, on the same day, the Family History Division meets at 2:00 at the Resource Center at 224 N. Third Street in Kentland and the Society general meetings are held in different locations in the County at 7:00 p.m. Local members are notified of the place and time each month. Don't Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!

We'd Like Your Input!! We are looking for suggestions for stories, articles and pictures for our next edition of The Newcomer. We know that there are many stories of our past ancestors and their way of life that are just waiting to be told! This newsletter is designed to do just that!! If you would like to write an article, submit a photo, contact the editor or a member of our society.

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

The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County
Volume 8, Issue Three • \$2.25

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Early County Manufacturers**

**History of the Brook
Terra Cotta Tile and
Brick Company
John Connell's History, 1979**

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William Woodward Pfrimmer**

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“Pull an’ Haul” and many others**

**Focus on Families
The Pfrimmer Family**

**Do You Know Your
County of Newton
Test your knowledge!**

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Summer of 1903**

**Collection of a Lifetime
Mrs. Mingle's Burr Oak School**

**Letters to the Editor
Members respond to last issue**

**Publications For Sale
Great Christmas Ideas**

We are seeking help to “man” the Resource Center at Kentland a few hours each day. We also have many on-going projects such as census transcription and obituary extractions that can be done from your home. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Beth Bassett at 219-275-5741, Janet Miller at 219-474-5380, or Sue Humphrey at 219-474-6081.

The Clay Industries of Newton County

By Beth Bassett

It has been stated that “necessity is the mother of invention”. With the clearing of the lands for agriculture, the need for draining the fields became a necessity. The discovery of the use of clay for manufacturing products to meet these needs, created a stir amongst the residents of our state and our own county.

The tile, brick, and terra cotta lumber used for construction and fire proofing that was produced in our county, was utilized in all aspects by our ancestors, in the towns, and in the fields of the farms. The factories provided employment, as well as adding to economy of their communities, and established a sense of prosperity for all involved in their endeavors. Opportunity was at hand, and Newton County was able to capitalize and fulfill the needs of not only her residents, but of growing societies throughout the nation.

It was soon known that since 1877, there was no more durable material for the making of pavements than vitrified brick, provided that the foundation was sufficient. It was low cost in maintenance and easy to repair; durable under heavy traffic, with reasonable freedom from noise and dust; free from decay, water proof and non-absorptive; of low tractive resistance and furnished a good foothold for horses.

In 1897, Indiana was in it's infancy of making paved brick, but it was believed that before many years all of the streets of the towns would be paved, as well as the countryside roads that were devoid of gravel and other road material.

Although no material was suitable for the best grades of vitrified ware or pottery were discovered in our area, much of the clay could be used in the making of pressed front brick, hollow brick, terra cotta lumber and fire-proof products. The largest pressed brick factory in the State at that time was located at Porter in Porter County.

Obviously, the powers that be in the State of Indiana, felt that there would be a huge demand for vitrified brick and other products derived from clay, and sensing the profit that could be obtained, sent the State Geologist, W. S. Blatchley, to examine for the first time the clays and clay factories in eight of the northwestern counties of the state. After the completion of the factories in Lake and Porter County in the remainder of 1897, Mr. Blatchley spent that time examining their clays and the clay factories. Fom that, *The State of Indiana's Department of Geology and Natural Resources, 23rd Annual Report*, written by W.S. Blatchley, State Geologist, 1897, was created, and it revealed many aspects of history regarding the clay factories in our county. Excerpts of this report follow, revealing much about this industry.

Local newspapers make note of John Shoefield opening his brick yard, and John Haynes of Brook beginning work at his plant in the spring of 1892. The newspaper didn't identify Mr. Shoefield's location, but chances are, it was in Goodland, operating as the Goodland Tile Company, which began in 1872. In Blatchley's report, we can deduce that it may have been the oldest brick and tile factory in the county. There is also a mention of clay deposits at the Kent farm and on the public square in Kentland, and a brick yard northwest of

Continued on page two



Mt. Ayr Tile Factory, owned by Coovert and Stucker.



Pages Of The Past

transcribed by Janet Miller

The following excerpts are from *The Kentland Enterprise* during the Summer of 1903.

KENTLAND - A camp of Royal Neighbors was instituted in Kentland Monday night, with sixty charter members. The Royal Neighbors is an auxiliary to the Modern Woodmen, and offers insurance as well as social features.

A little paint, paper and Sapolio has transformed the appearance of the Recorder's office. During the absence of Recorder Boyle last week the lady deputies rolled up their sleeves and--bossed the job.

A horse was found Sunday evening tied to the rack near the Catholic Church, supposed to have been left there the night before, and was taken to the Webber livery barn. It was terribly famished for feed and water. It was afterward claimed by Thomas Martin of near Brook, and is believed to have been a case of theft, or a means of rapid transit for someone who was in haste to reach Kentland.

George Ade was out from Chicago Saturday and Sunday. The Sultan will close at Manhattan Beach on Saturday night after a six month's run in New York City, and will be put on at Philadelphia in September. Peggy will remain in Boston until August and then go to New York. George's new play, "The County Chairman", a drama laid in the rural districts of Indiana, will go on in September at the Studebaker in Chicago.

A sort of Ferris wheel contraption was stationed in Court Park a few days. Bill Dowling took an aerial flight Sunday night and speedily put it out of business. The multiplicity of parts have been shipped to Indianapolis for repairs.

Bert Pruett yesterday sold his 80 acre farm, one mile and a quarter north of Kentland, to Chas. Hatch, consideration \$11,000. This is \$137.50 an acre, the highest price ever paid for a Newton county farm.

BROOK - The election held in Brook Saturday to determine whether the town should issue bonds for the purpose of building a new school house, resulted almost unanimously in favor of the project, 112 for and 9 against. Only one-half of the voters of the town voted at all. They have reserved their kicks for the future.

Philip McCabe, popularly known as "Phip" is visiting home folks this week. "Phip" is manager of a branch house of Swift & Co., and is located in Elkhorn, West Virginia, in the heart of the coal mining region.

Joseph Park was high gun at the shoot last week, missing 35 targets out of a total of 350. Charles Peck won the five county medal breaking 23 out of 25. James Head, with the N. M. C. Cart Co., and Boa with the Winchester Arms Co., succeeded in showing the spectators what professional shooting really was.

ROSELAWN - Recorder Boyle returned Sunday night from a week's stay at Rose Lawn, and from this time on will divide his time between that place and this. He has accepted a position in the Bank of Rose Lawn, and has left the recorder's office in charge of his sister, Mrs. Lizzie Cunningham. Will is also interesting himself in a fruit farm up north and has planted out some three hundred trees thereon.

GOODLAND - The Goodland Herald and the Newton County Star have consolidated, and will hereafter be issued under the name of the Herald. J. Pierp. Kitt perfected the merger, taking Mr. Shepard of the Star into full partnership. Mr. Henderson retires from the newspaper field.

The Glorious Fourth - Saturday is the day of red lemonade, jollification and soiled tempers. A very large portion of the people

of Kentland are planning to spend the day in Goodland, although some will go to Fowler, Momence and other neighboring towns, while still others will form private picnicking parties and enjoy the day quietly at home. At Goodland the programme will include music by the Brook and Goodland Bands, exhibition of high diving horses, interscholastic field meet, speaking by Hon. Henry Warrum, base ball game between Logansport and Goodland, boat racing and swimming contests, and terminating with the usual display of fireworks. The committee in charge extends an invitation through the Enterprise asking our people to participate with them in the celebration of the day. A special train is advertised to leave Goodland for the west at 9:15 p.m.

The new Catholic Church at Goodland is to be dedicated on Sunday, July 19th.

MT. AYR - Mt. Ayr band furnished the music at Fair Oaks the Fourth.

Lyons & Esson purchased the Mt. Ayr elevator of W. D. Foresman last week.

MOROCCO - It is reported that Sidney Schanlaub has sold the Morocco Courier to H. J. Bartoo, although no statement confirming the report has been made in the Courier. Might as well attempt to divide the waters of the Red Sea as to sever the heart strings that binds Sidney to the Courier. If he sells he will do the feline act before snow flies.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - BEAVER CITY - The big storm that circled around Kentland yesterday noon worked havoc in other parts of the county. At Beaver City two people were killed by lightning and several others more or less affected by the shock. The storm seemed to center over the tile mill where several were at work. The laborers sought shelter in the kilns and George Hooks and a boy by the name of John Clark were struck by the same flash and both instantly killed. Hooks was a single man an employee at the mill. The boy was a son of the village blacksmith and had stepped in with the men to escape the storm. Six men were standing close together near the door and two were picked out by the lightning, and the remaining four were but little effected.

MCCLELLAN TOWNSHIP - Elmer Skinner, of McClellan township, was in Kentland Monday, bearing a load of sweets and his words were like honey. In fact, it was honey that he brought to market, and while here, placed three hundred pounds in the hands of our grocery men for sale. The Skinner honey is famous for its excellence, and always finds a ready sale in Kentland.

Advertisement:

'WHAT SHALL WE EAT' - Every day the same old question. What shall we eat for breakfast, for luncheon, for dinner? assails with monotonous regularity the patient housewife who seeks to provide good living for the family in agreeable variety at a moderate cost. There is a daily department in the *Chicago Record-Herald* which is intended to answer this question satisfactorily every day in the year. It is entitled "Meals for a Day," and provides menus for the three meals every day, with the necessary receipts. These menus and receipts are carefully selected by the *Record-Heralds* household editor and cash prizes are awarded to the best that are received. Housewives everywhere are invited to participate in the competition. For full particulars see the "Meals for the Day" department in the *Chicago Record-Herald*.

The Clay Industries of Newton County, continued from page four

inch thick and the hollow portion has two partitions to give the structure additional strength. At the present time, the brick are dried in sheds for six to eight days but a tunnel dryer will soon be constructed. After drying, they are burned for 36 hours, and, the sawdust being consumed, leaves the product very light and porous, but at the same time strong enough for all purposes for which it is used.

"On account of the porosity, this "clay lumber" can readily be sawed to any desired shape, and a nail can be driven into it with as much ease as into pine board. It is used mainly for partition walls in fire-proof buildings, and is rapidly taking the place of ordinary brick and solid fire-proofing for that purpose. Its advantages over the latter are obvious. On account of a grooved outer surface, plaster is spread over it without the use of intervening laths. Any wood finish can be nailed directly to it; while with a saw or trowel it can be quickly cut into any desired shape. The prices at which it was sold in 1896 were 3 inch -\$27.50, 4 inch-\$30.00 and 6 inch-\$35.00 in the Chicago markets.

"From the blue clay, flue linings, solid fireproofing, furring brick and foundation brick are made. This clay, as well the gray, drab marly clay burn to a cream color on account of the large percentage of lime which they contain. With a better system of drying their wares, and with a few additional kilns, this company will have their plant in excellent condition to meet almost any demand. Their trade is constantly increasing, as they aim to make all their products of the best quality and sell them at reasonable prices.

"The Goodland Tile Company has been making brick and tile at Goodland, in the southwest corner of Newton County for 12 years. The clay which is mostly used is peculiar for this region of the State, in that it is pinkish-red in color. It resembles closely the clay of the same color found near Freedom, Owen County, which is quite largely used in the making of encaustic tile and terra cotta. Both are

very fine-grained, free from grit and pebbles, and exceedingly tough and plastic. The clay of Goodland effervesces rather freely with muriatic acid, showing that it contains several percent of lime carbonate, while on that from Owen County has no effect.

"The section of the clay pit at Goodland is as follows, soil, 1 foot; grayish pebbly hard pan, or drift clay, 2 to 3.5 feet; pink clay, 4 to 10 feet; blue clay merging into shale, 5 to 8 feet.

"The pink clay covers a large area southeast of Goodland, southwest quarter of section 25 (27 north, 8 west), on the land of W. J. Stewart. Burned by itself, it produces ware of a dark-red color. Mixed with the overlying grayish clay, it burns brown. Drain tile made from it are very hard and ring when struck, as though composed of iron. On account of its tough, plastic condition it is apt to twist and shrink under the influence of great heat. It must be thoroughly moistened in a pug mill, as it is too tough to work dry. When properly tempered or weathered it does not air-crack in drying. It possesses all the properties of an excellent modeling clay, and is of too high a grade to used only for brick and drain tile, as it is at present.

"The Goodland Company have a very well equipped plant, but in the past have made many poor tile from upper pebbly clay, and have thousands of them on their yard. Besides drain tile and ordinary brick, they make solid fireproofing, hollow brick and foundation brick. Of ordinary brick their output is only about 100,000 per year, which they sell for \$8.00 per thousand at the yard. In 1896, they made 55 kilns of drain tile, but in 1897, the long strike among the coal miners shortened their season and they produced less than half as many.

"From what has been stated it will be seen that the clays of Newton County are more varied in character and of better average grade than those of Benton. Good deposits of marly clay, suitable for terra cotta lumber, doubtless occur *Continued on page five*

<p><i>Newton County Clay Industries In 1897</i></p> <p><i>From the report of W.S. Blatchley, Indiana State Geologist, 1897 on the Clay Industries of Northwest Indiana</i></p>	Name of Firm	Location	Capital Invested	Products	
	Darroch Bros.	Morocco	\$3,000	Drain Tile	
	M. E. Hanley	Beaver City	\$4,000	Drain Tile & Brick	
	Stucker & Covert	Mt. Ayr	\$3,000	Drain Tile	
	J.H. Haynes Co.	Brook	\$16,000	Terre Cotta Lumber, Flue Lining	
	Goodland Tile Co	Goodland.	\$5,000	Fire-proofing, Drain Tile, Ordinary Brick	
				Drain Tile, Hollow Brick, Ordinary Brick	
	Name of Firm	How Dried	Value of Output 1897	Number Employed	Avg. Daily Wage
	Darroch Brothers	In sheds by air	\$1,500	8	\$1.25
	M.E. Hanley	In sheds by air	\$2,550	9	\$1.25
Stucker & Covert	In sheds by air	\$3,750	6	\$1.25	
J.H Haynes Co.	In sheds by air	\$15,000	16	\$1.50	
Goodland Tile Co.	In sheds by air	\$3,000	12	\$1.35	
Name of Firm	Machinery Used	Months Worked			
Darroch Brothers	Crusher, Pug Mill "Little Wonder" Brick & Tile Machine	7			
M.E. Hanley	Frankfort Crusher, Hoosier Brick & Tile Machine	6			
Stucker & Covert	Freese Brick & Tile Machine	6			
J.H Haynes Co.	Crusher, Pug Mill, Adrian Brick & Tile Machine	7.5			
Goodland Tile Co	Crusher, Pug Mill, Adrian Brick & Tile Machine	7			

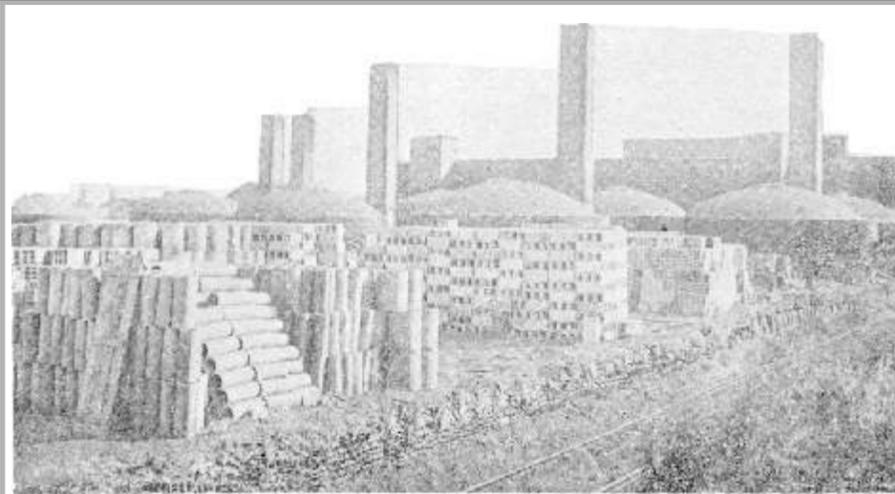
The Clay Industries of Newton County

Continued from page five

along the Iroquois River, east and west of Brook. Three railways pass through the county and its proximity of the coal fields of both Indiana and Illinois renders cheap fuel a certainty. There isn't a reason why larger clay industries should not start up and flourish, especially at Goodland and Brook."

Editor's Note: Researching this subject has not been an easy task. Before the discovery of the publication of Blatchely's report by Barbara Gerbracht, the details of the aforementioned factories were not readily available. Donna LaCrosse's grandson, Damian Iseminger, further helped my cause by looking into and copying additional geological reports by the State. Unfortunately, they did not reveal any more than the 1897 report. There are tidbits throughout the local history books, and John Connell's history of the Brook Terra Cotta Brick and Tile Factory, we can sense the actual 'everyday' workings of the factory. Janet Miller's family notes from the 1881-1882 Newton County News brought to first light events regarding the Herriman and Swanson Brick Yard.

As in any history, there could possibly be many things that I have missed, and hope that any additional information will be brought to my attention for future publication.



A view of the Terra Cotta Tile & Brick Company at Brook, Indiana, depicts the different types of products made at their plant. At the front you will see the field tile, and behind that the terra cotta lumber, used for flues and fireproofing. Reprinted from John Connell's history of the Brook Terra Cotta Tile and Brick Company, 1979.

History of the Brook Terra Cotta, Tile, and Brick Company

By John Connell Excerpts from his book - and They Named Her Brook

As the author has already mentioned, the railroad played an important part in Brook's history. Perhaps there was no one industry that depended on the railroad as much as did the Brook Terra Cotta and Tile Co. Much of the early history of Brook and its citizens was connected to this factory.

In the early part of 1902, a group of Brook business men and farmers decided, after much deliberation, to form a company which would engage in the manufacture of articles of clay such as farm tile, bricks and building tile. A thorough investigation had been made in regard to the availability of clay, a market for the finished product and transportation for shipment of the product. A search was made for the best clay from the Brook area. This was done by taking the raw clay to other brick and tile factories for further testing. Clay was tested and two or three areas were found to have clay of high quality. A decision was made at once to proceed with the forming of a company and to incorporate. The best clay was found to be from an area one half mile north of the Brook corporation line.

On January 20, 1902, a corporate company was formed by the following persons in attendance: John H. Haynes, William Shearer, Edward Hess, John B. Lyons and Hugh H. Light.

It was voted by those in attendance that 300 shares of capital stock be issued with a par value of one hundred dollars or a total stock issue of thirty thousand dollars. It was also voted that the number of directors to manage the affairs of the company be five. The new directors elected were John H. Haynes, Lawrence E. Lyons, Edward Hess, William H. Shearer and John B. Lyons.

Two weeks later, John H. Haynes was elected President; Lawrence E. Lyons, Secretary; and John B. Lyons, Treasurer. The President's salary was to be one thousand dollars and the Secretary's salary eight hundred dollars; each for a one year period.

The following year preferred stock in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars was issued. The money was to be used to proceed with the manufacture of clay products. Buildings were to be constructed, kilns built and equipment purchased.

A parcel of ground just south of Brook on what is known as the Murt Harrington farm was purchased. The manufactured clay products were poor quality so another location was to be purchased. Incidentally, the small ponds and pits on the Harrington property were created by the digging of the clay. These pits can still be seen.

The land selected for the new factory was just north of Brook on the C.E.I. railroad. The company was now ready to enlarge its operations.

By 1905, the company had prospered and grown enough that a 30% dividend was paid on each one hundred dollars of common stock. In September 1905, the stockholders voted to increase the facilities of the plant. In order to take action, the stockholders voted to increase the common stock from \$30,000 to \$75,000. The new issue was at once fully subscribed. The inventory of the finished clay products at the time, showed the following: 31000 Clay Flues ranging in size from 8" by 8N to 12" by 18N, 35580 drain tile in size 6" by 18N, 20650 partition tile and 11045 arch tile, 98000 common brick, and 27000 hollow building tile. Common brick were valued at \$6.00 per thousand and 7N drain tile at \$32.00 per thousand.

Continued on page seven

Mrs. Mingle's Magic - continued from page fourteen

When she first brought the school room to the library, she said, the children read the name tags of the little acorn children and talked to them like real people.

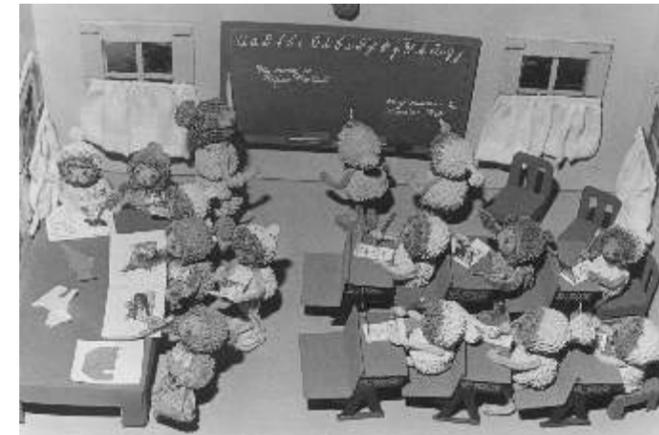
Photographs do not do justice to the intricacy of Mrs. Mingle's work. Tiny pencils or scissors are clasped in each student's hand. The trick or treat sacks have handles like shopping bags and fold up or open up. Some children are smiling, some are frowning, each has a name. The visiting kindergarteners all have name tags and are busily copying pictures from those hanging on the wall (postage stamps). There are even erasers and chalk on the blackboard ledge. The furniture was all hand made, and in the Thanksgiving



scene, we see a turkey, pies and all the trimmings!

In 1970, when her husband became critically injured and bed-ridden, a friend introduced her to working on seed pictures, and that, Mrs. Mingle said, is what helped her through the trying days. The Burr Oak School eventually became part of her world, as well as the students of Goodland Elementary.

Today, in 2003, if you have not had the pleasure of viewing the Burr Oak School, you may now do so at the Brook-Iroquois Public Library. Mrs. Gene Hershman, who acquired the collection, has donated them to the library. The Halloween scene, as well as the Burr Oak School Building and Church are on display in the main lobby. For our enjoyment, Mrs. Hershman plans to change the scenes as the



Above left-when Mrs. Gene Hershman retired after 18 years as librarian at the Goodland School, Mrs. Mingle attended a reception in her honor. Center- the intricate detail is reflected here in one of the children. Bottom-everyone has something to do! The visiting kindergarten students on the left are busy creating works of art from the pictures on the wall (postage stamps), while the students have a writing lesson on the blackboard. Not unlike the old one-room school house of days gone by.



Society Opens Lucas House As Meeting Place
The Scott Lucas House is available for meetings, gatherings, weddings, parties etc. Please call (219-285-2008) to schedule when you would like to use the house. There are tables and chairs available.

Down Aroun' the Depo'

By W.W. Pfrimmer
From "The Legend of Grape Island and Other Poems"

*Down aroun' the depo' when the keers come in!
With its hustle an' its bustle an' its clatter an' its din,
Engine Kind o' puffin' and' a blowin' off its steam,
Drayman sort o' fussin' an' a cussin' at his team,
Boy a sellin' papers, an' a shoutin' out the noos,
'Nother on a -wantin' fer to blacken up your shoes;
'tain like any other place 'at I have ever bin,
Down arun' the depo' when the keers come in!*

*Down aroun' the depo' when the keers come in;
People there a meetin' an' a gretin' of their kin,
Some are disappointed like, and feelin sort o' glum,
Some a-sort o' wishiin' their relations hadn't come.
The joyful, the sorrowful, the sober, an' the gay,
Kind o' sort o' mixin' up in ever' sort o' way;
Lots of folks 'ats been away a gittin' back ag'in;
Down aroun' the depo' when the keers come in.*

*Down aroun' the depo' when the keers come in;
Folks 'at never crack a smile an' some 'at allus grin
A settin' there, a waitin' to hear the whistle blow,
Some a-wishin they could stay an' some 'at they could go,
A woman dressed in mournin', another as a bride,
A banker an' a begger a settin' side by side!
Some 'at never looses, an' a lot that never win;
Down aroun' the depo' when the keers come in!*

*Down aroun' the depo' when the keers come in-
Did ye ever stir a lot 'o ants, an' see 'em all begin
A runnin' here an' ever' where ez if they didn't know,
Which way they thought they orter or hadn't orter go?
Well, that's the way the people is, for purt nigh ever' day
I go down there an' see 'em doin' that a way.
It ain't like any other place, 'at I have ever bin
Down aroun' the depo' when the keers come in.*

*The Clay Industries of Newton County
Continued from page one*

Kentland, just across the Iroquois River.

In his 1897 report, Blatchley wrote, "with the exception of about 25,000 acres, formerly comprising Beaver Lake, the surface of the four northern townships of Newton County is covered with loose sand. Up to the present this sandy area has been deemed comparatively worthless for agricultural purposes, but the time will soon come when, by proper cultivation, it will be made to yield handsome returns in small fruits and certain vegetables.

"The clays of Newton County are, all of them, drift clays or marly clays. They were deposited either by melting ice or by the still water of the numerous shallow lakes which for centuries immediately following the glacial period covered the greater portion of the county. In many places they cover the uppermost rocks to a depth of 120 to 140 feet, and in but a few known places are they less than 10 feet in thickness. The northern third of the county was not visited since it is so covered with sand and lacking in railway facilities for transporting clay products. The fine-grained blue clay common to the region will doubtless be found to underlie all of this sandy area to a great depth.

"In the vicinity of Kentland there are no clay factories, and no openings where the strata of underlying clay are exposed. The record of the well in the public square shows the blue glacial clay to be 146 feet in thickness. At Kent's warehouse it was 80 feet, and on Kent's farm, two miles southwest of Kentland, section 29 (27 north, 9 west), 50 feet in thickness.

"A brick yard was for some time located on the north side of the Iroquois River, where the road running north from Kentland crosses that stream, southwest quarter of section 34 (28 north, 9 west). The clay is yet exposed in a cut by the roadside to a depth of five feet. It is a fine grained, reddish, loamy clay, free from pebbles and lime, and will withstand much heat when burned. It should make excellent ordinary brick, but is not suited for drain tile on account of the large amount of free silica which it contains."

Newspaper items from the *Newton County News*, February 3, 1881, refers to the above mentioned brick yard. Mr. George Herriman was contemplating erecting a tile mill on his newly acquired farm located on the north side of the Iroquois River. He had just "exchanged" farms with Oliver McIlvaine, trading farms and residences. The newspaper continues to encourage the brick enterprise by stating, "tile can be furnished to Newton county so cheap that they will certainly drain their farms so that a few big rains during crop time will not drown them out."

The next mention in the *Newton County News* is on the front page of the March 9, 1882 issue. "We have purchased machinery for making tile and wish to secure the services of a good man to take charge of and operate it for us, we furnishing everything necessary to carry on the business. We want some practical workman to call at our farms four miles north of Kentland, examine the quality of clay and if practicable, arrange for manufacturing. - Herriman and Swanson.

From the information gathered, the Herriman and Swanson



Workers at the Brook Plant. Reprinted from John Connell's history of the Brook Terra Cotta Tile and Brick Company, 1979.

brickyard was gone by 1897. Just when brick and tile making ceased at Herriman and Swanson is not known. Reports of their progress was written throughout the issues of *The Newton County News* in 1882:

"Brick making began in mid-June, 1882-65,000 of them produced by July 27, 1882; 84,000 by August 3rd, and stating that on August 10, they made 4,542 brick in one day! On August 17th, the 100,000th brick was done, and they reported in September that all the brick that they had made had been sold, with none to spare. At that time, they had decided to erect a tile shed that would be 19 feet wide and 196 feet long, which was finished by the end of September. They proceeded to make 170 tile, and the first load was taken in with three cheers from Mr. Herriman, the good old greenbacker, who is one of the proprietors of the business."

On December 7, 1882, news from the brick yard stated: We have labored long and faithfully preparing to make tile and succeeded in getting the first kiln burned. They claimed that their tile was worthy of being compared to any tile in the market. The success of their tile making is not known, but if Mr. Blatchley's report is correct, their brick was excellent, yet their tile would not be suited for draining.

"At Morocco, in the south half of section 21 (29 north, 9 west), Darroch Bros. have been operating a brick and tile yard for four years. The firm have their plant very well fitted with machinery, but are unfortunate in the selection of their clay. Seven inches of soil is stripped and three feet of brownish drift clay is utilized. It is very full of lime pebbles and for that reason the tile and brick are

Can't on page four

"We want a good job at which we can stick . . . If we can't plow corn - we will surely make brick!"

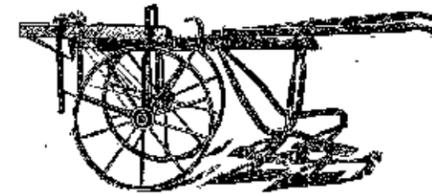
This brick is from the home of Lorene Bassett. It came from the Hanley Company in Beaver City. William Bassett, uncle to Raymond, Lorene's husband, worked there at one time. Perhaps it was hand delivered!



Letters To The Editor

*Our members are reading
"Do You Know" -
Yes . . . They Know!*

In our last issue of *The Newcomer*, the question was asked: What was "the best tool on earth" for working corn? It was called "The Hooper Gopher". We had two responses to this question, both from local people. Kyle Conrad, Brook, wrote: "From the May 31, 1912 *Brook Reporter* we find the obituary of one John H. Hooper, who is buried in the Brook Riverside Cemetery." From the obit: He then went to Kentland, Ind., and engaged in the manufacture of the Hooper gopher. From there he moved to Brook, Ind. and from



there to Sheldon, Ill., from there to Swanton, Ind. where he remained until death, which occurred Saturday afternoon, May 25, 1912".

Kyle also states that John Hooper's children were Laura Weston of Brook, Mrs. C. A. Miller of Kansas, Mrs. D. S. Fletcher of Kentland and Eugene Hooper of Swanton. Also interesting is that he was a musician in the Civil War and was in the Morgan Raid in Ohio in 1863.

The second response was from Jim Shenberger, Jefferson Township, who told me that his grandfather, Clint Shenberger, owned a tower Gopher. The gopher was a one-row cultivator or hoe and was pulled by horses. The farmer walked behind the gopher steering it to the left or right when needed to hoe out a weed. When coming to the end of a row the cultivator was put on a bracket on the carrier to go on to the next row. This is also the way it was brought from the farm to the field. The cultivator weighed approximately 40 to 60 pounds. Jim's father, Lester Shenberger, donated this implement to the Purdue Ag Alumni Association in the 1960's. The Shenberger gopher is now at home in the Pioneer Museum at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

Thanks to Kyle and Jim for responding to our question. Submitted by Janet Miller.

S/S Ade's Yeoman Duty

FEW persons realize that a World War II Liberty ship was christened the S/S George Ade in honor of Indiana's humorist playwright.

A photograph of the vessel and accompanying data will be placed in the Newton County Historical Museum housed on the second floor of the restored Ade home at Hazelton.

The ship, posthumously named for the humorist who died May 23, 1946, was launched Aug. 9, 1944. William F. Kurfess, Santa Barbara, Calif., husband of Ade's niece, Ardis Ade, explains how the ship received her name: "I was in the Navy in Washington in 1944 and a friend in the Maritime Commission arranged for the name of the ship."

Under an agreement with the U.S. War Shipping Administration, the S/S Ade was operated by the West African Line from Aug. 25, 1944, to July '8, 1946, when she was returned to the Maritime Commission. For almost a year afterwards she was under a barge contract to the Parry

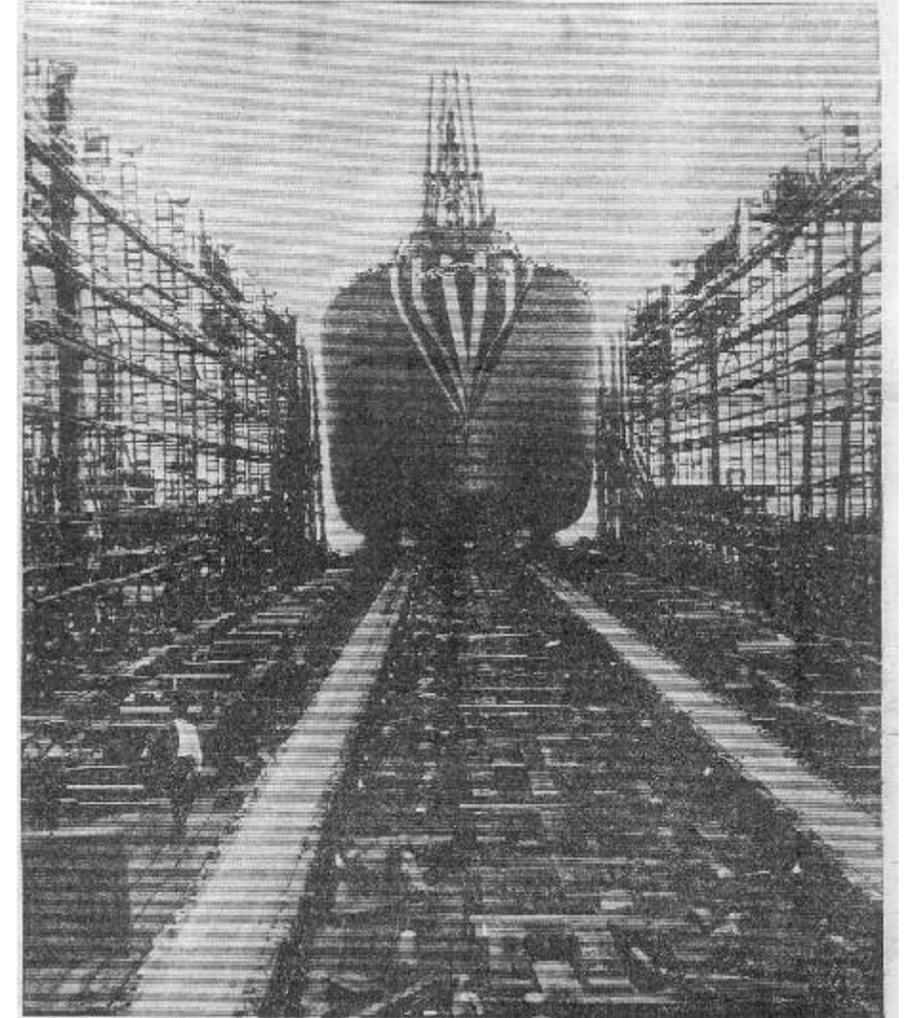
Navigation Company. Since 1947 she has remained in the reserve fleet, currently at Mobile, Ala.

Less than a month after her launching, while on her maiden voyage, the S/S George Ade was hit by a midnight torpedo strike. Most of her rudder was carried away, the propeller shaft alley was flooded and the Naval armed guard injured.

She was found by a Navy tug which attempted to tow her to port. An anchor chain was used after the tow line parted. Still under tow, a hurricane struck, blowing away two lifeboats, damaging two others. Although the S/S George Ade was brought into an Atlantic port for repairs by another tug, two Coast Guard vessels which were sent to her rescue were lost with heavy casualties.

It was the third torpedoing for her master, Norwegian-born Capt. Torleif C. Selness. There is a record of one other voyage. After extensive repairs were made at Norfolk, Va., the S/S George Ade carried a cargo of explosives to Italy.

Correspondence which established the present location of the S/S George Ade was conducted by John R. Funk, president of the George Ade Memorial Association, Inc.



NCHS member Damon Howell, responded to the question regarding the S/S George Ade. "This is an article dated November 27, 1965. I'm fairly certain that this was part of an insert to the Lafayette Journal and Courier . . ." Thanks Damon, for sharing this with us!

The Clay Industries of Newton County
Continued from page two

of poor quality. One hundred yards north of their plant the blue clay comes within five feet of the surface and will make much better tile, but they will be yellowish-white in color. Two well sections at Morocco show this blue clay to be 113 and 120 feet in thickness, very fine grained and very plastic.

“A much better clay for tile and brick-making occurs at Beaver City, and has been worked by M.E. Hanley since 1893.

“Wares from the above yellowish clay air crack in drying, especially exposed to the wind. When the yellow clay is mixed with the blue that is prevented. The blue clay has been proven by a bore to be 140 feet in thickness. But little trouble is had with lime pebbles, as comparatively few are present. The clay is thoroughly moistened, pugged and crushed before entering the machine. The mixture burns red, and the owner claims that the red tile sell much better than white, as they stand freezing better. Tile from 3.5” to 12 inches in size are made and more were sold in 1897 than any year since the factory was started. The brick made are of fair quality and bring \$8.00 per thousand at the yard, but the local demand is small.

“At Mt. Ayr, on the LaCrosse Branch of the C. & E. I. Railway, a grayish-blue clay comes close to the surface in a marshy field in the eastern outskirts of the town, and is worked into brick and clay by Stucker and Covert. It is a fine-grained and tough, but contains occasional botryoidal masses of pure amorphous carbonate of lime the size of a marble or smaller. No true pebbles of lime are found in the clay, and similar occurrence of amorphous lime was noted nowhere else in northwestern Indiana. The clay itself possesses scarcely enough lime in its composition to cause an effervescence with acids, and burns a bright red. Four to six feet of it are used, the deeper portions burning to wares of a lighter color. About 25 kilns of a good quality of tile are made at this factory besides enough brick to supply local demand. If the lime above mentioned were absent, the clay would be of most excellent quality for drain tile, flue linings and fire-proofing.

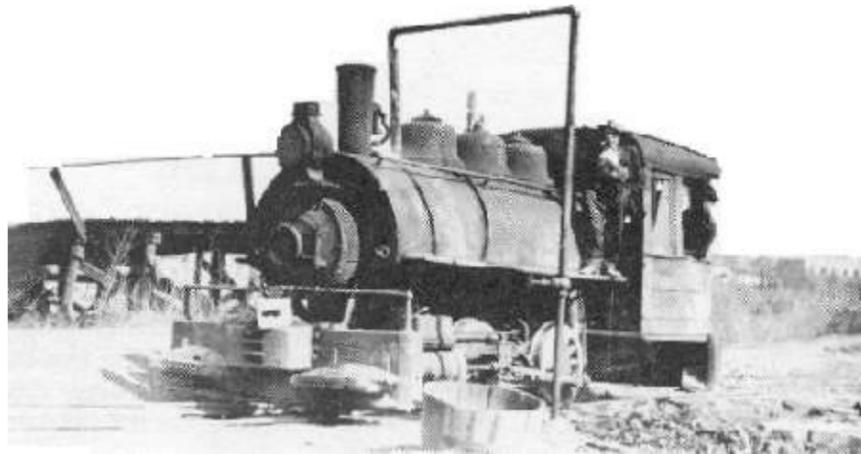
“The J.H. Haynes Company, of Brook, have the largest and best equipped clay factory in Newton County. Their clays are also excellently suited for the wares which they are making. A section of their pit, northwest quarter of section 20 (28 north, 8 west), showed 1 ft. black soil, 2 feet yellowish loamy clay; 3 to 6 feet of grayish, or drab marly clay; 2 to 5 feet of tough blue, marly clay; and unknown amounts of gravel and sand.

“The entire deposit was evidently laid down in still water instead of being dropped by melting ice. As a consequence, but little

trouble, is experienced with lime pebbles. From a portion of the soil and the loamy clay, ordinary red brick and drain tile were made for a number of years. In 1895, the company begun to utilize the upper marly clay in making terra cotta lumber for the Chicago market. This clay is a silt, the lower part of the stratum being in thin layers with a coating of sand between them. An incomplete analysis shows that it contains about 10% of magnesium ad lime carbonates. In the making of terra cotta lumber, three parts of clay are mixed with one part of sawdust. The mixture is passed through a pugmill and crushed, and then through an Adrian tile machine fitted with dies of the proper pattern for the product desired. The so-called lumber is in reality a hollow brick, 12x12 inches square and 3, 4 or 6 inches thick. The walls are three-fourths of an *Continued on page five*



Some of the kilns at the Brook Terra Cotta factory.



The “dinky” taking on water at the Terra Cotta factory.



A view of the Terra Cotta Tile & Brick Company at Brook, Indiana. Notice the railroad tracks coming into the factory. This was a spur of the C. & E. I. railroad which ran through Brook from Brazil, Indiana to Chicago, Illinois. All photos are reprinted from John Connell's history of the Brook Terra Cotta Tile and Brick Company, 1979.

Historically Yours

*By Donna LaCrosse
Newton County Historian*

I am beginning to think I am a historical figure!! I delayed writing this column because I thought the Newton County Historical Society would be having an election to replace me as the County Historian really soon and I could write my farewell column in this issue of the Newcomer, but it didn't work that way!

I received a letter from Katherine Dill at the State Historical Society telling me my three-year term was over and they would need to find a county historian. However, she was checking to see if I wanted to continue in this office, before making any other decisions. I answered her that I would continue only if I was doing what I was suppose to be doing in this capacity. She said I was indeed doing that, so I emailed Beth Bassett and told her that I had heard from Katherine and when would the NC Society be deciding who to name to that position so I could write my column.

Was my face red when Beth replied! She informed me I had been elected in June and had been serving as the historian, both county and state, all this time! I hate to tell you this but it is fess-up time. I was at the June meeting - I agreed to keep this job - I forgot that this took place! Now that this has been said, are you sure you picked the right person to represent this county??? Maybe I need a keeper!!

The LaCrosse family has made a bit of history recently. Our granddaughter, Brandy and Ryan Davenport presented us with our first great-grandchild on September 15. Clay Avery weighed seven pounds-eleven ounces and was 20 inches tall. He also is the first great-grandchild for Lydia and Bill Atkinson of Lincoln Township, who are also members of the Newton County Historical Society. He is a doll and we thank God for sending us a healthy bundle of love and joy. Becoming grandparents was special - becoming great-grandparents was the whipped cream on top of the richest dessert you could think of!!

Today we were in Lafayette to attend the Home Hospital Holiday Tea and on the way home, stopped at the WalMart Store on the West Side and found some more county history. I went back to the fabric section and asked if they had a remnant box so I could get a small piece of fall fabric with which to make a turkey. This really nice clerk said just around the corner in the next aisle and you are Donna LaCrosse, aren't you? I was and she told me her grandparents were Perry and Aggie Bailey, who lived across the street from us so many years ago.

Remembering back to the Perry-Aggie days, I remember them sitting on their front porch and watching our new house being built on land that had always been a garbage heap! This was back in 1952. They became very special people in our lives - we moved into our new home the day before Thanksgiving 1952 and the following February our second little boy was born. He is now the grandfather of little Clay. Our oldest son, Roger, spent many hours talking to grandpa Bailey and later, when Ron was learning to walk, he would run away from home and I would find him across the street on the Bailey's front porch.

When Gina came along in January 1957, she was the highlight of grandma Aggie's life - I think because she was a girl and this was someone Aggie could spend time with like Perry had with the boys. I am not sure when Perry died, but we kinda watched after Aggie in her later years until she could no longer live alone, and I can't remember when she passed on, but we lost some mighty fine neighbors when the Bailey's were no longer in the neighborhood.

I am still collecting information on Mount Ayr History and have talked to several people but we have not had any meetings as yet. I hope to have a lot of meetings when we get this winter over. I will continue to contact people in that area as well as Colfax Township and then begin to have meetings so the others on the committee will know what has been done and what still needs to be done. Janet Burton is getting antsy to get started and I keep telling her we are going to meet but I would like to not be so rushed when we start. Hopefully, I will find a time when I am not so rushed. In the meantime, when you see someone from Mount Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships, please remind them we are going to do a book and need their in-put. Answering questions about your family does not hurt!! And, someday your children and/or grandchildren will thank you for taking the time to *Continued on page eighteen*

Fishin'

By W.W. Pfrimmer

Reprinted from “*The Legend of Grape Island and Other Poems*”

Photo of J.C. Murphey Lake, Willow Slough Game Preserve by Beth Bassett

Spring hung off so long that we,
That is to say, Lee Ross an' me,
Got most tired out a wishin'
Fer the time to go a fishin'
But at last the weather got
Middlin' warm, most summer hot;
An' the robins all broke loose,
An' the bluebirds. Warn't no use;
We jest had to go, an' went.
Tuck the west road north frum Kent
'Fore day for the Iroquois,
Most as happy as two boys.
Now there's somethin' 'bout a ride
In the mornin', I have tried
To explain an' put into words,
But can't do it. How the birds
Start in dreamy like; an' then
Jest about the time'at when
The old sun comes pepin' through
Mornin' mists an' sets the dew
All a glisterin' then they start
In tuen they know by heart;
Sleeping winds 'at kiss yer cheek
Whisper sort o'low an' speak
Uv the orchards they come through
'Fore they come a courtin' you.
Got down by the rive there;
Woods a' greenin' ever'where;
Ole woodpecker on a limb
Darin' us to look at him;
Ole kingfisher, all the while,
Dressed up in grand army style,

Kept a jawin' us; but we,
That is to say, Lee Ross an' me,
Jest unwound our lines an' tried
Our luck o'fishin', satisfied.

Talk o' fishin. Ever feel
That queer feelin' when yer reel
Hummin' like a warm o'bees
Let's ye know that one o'these
Big black bass has taken holt,
Pullin' like a yerlin' colt?
Set your drag an' let him pull
Till yer very bones is full
Uv excitement. Reel him in
Jest to let him run agin,
An' sometimes ye see him break
Frum the water an' jest shak
Hissel' like that, an' sir, you
Find yourself a-shakin', too.
Fer soul stirrin' occupation,
Fishin' it jest beats the nation.
Courtin', hoss racin' an' baseball,
They aint in it, not at tall.

“Git some fish?”, Well, now I guess!
Allus git some, more or less.
Got one sixteen inches long!
Sixteen inches, good an' strong.
Leastwise it was on that day.
Next year I can't hardly say;
That fish, like as not, 'il be
Two feet long, or mebbe three.

William Woodward Pfrimmer, "The Kankakee Poet"

By Beth Bassett

Having read Mr. Pfrimmer's book of poetry, "Driftwood", published in 1890, and his second book, "The Legend of Grape Island and Other Poems", published in 1907, I have come to know a man from our county that loved the landscape, appreciated its easy paced life, and admired the citizens that filled his days.

His poetry and prose reveal him sitting 'neath a lazy linden tree, along the banks of the Iroquois or the Kankakee, listening to the symphony that surrounded him, provided by the natural inhabitants of the creek banks and riverbeds. I can taste the sweet sugar from the sugar camps; smell the sweet fragrance of the meadow flowers and experience the wonder and awe of floating down the

Kankakee under the glow of a full moon. Fact or fiction, he challenged his readers to match his imagination, face reality of life, and left a message throughout his poetry regarding life, love and happiness. After all, he was a teacher, and to quote "... it is not only the lessons I teach, but that the learners learn!"

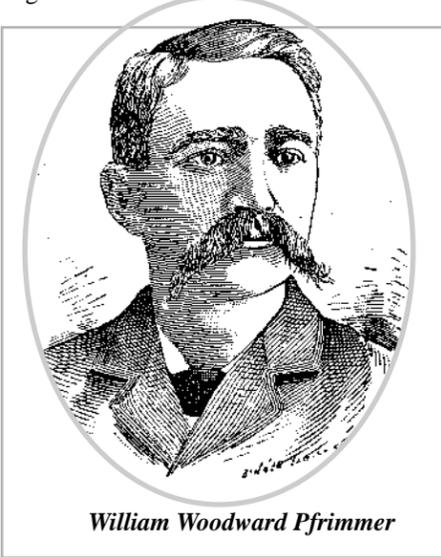
I am enchanted by the dialect that is used to deliver his message to us all that life is not always what

it seems, and that if you take a few minutes to examine what is really in front of you, you may be delightfully surprised at what you find, and about yourself. I am told by those who would know, that Mr. Pfrimmer, was a well known orator throughout the area. His delivery in person of his poetry had to be memorable and entertaining. Notations are made on several of his writings as to this fact, and also of dedications and inspirations for his words.

Unfortunately, copies of his poetry books, "Driftwood", published in 1890 and "The Legends of Grape Island and Other Poems" in 1927 are out of circulation, but can be found in the libraries of local historians and a few of our county libraries. I hope to be involved with the reprinting of both volumes in the near future.

His first book, "Driftwood", is a variety of poems that indicate his love for the country life, his boyhood adventures in southern Indiana on "Injun Creek", his days of teaching, and his admiration of locals and the surrounding environment. Known as the Kankakee Poet, likened to James Whitcomb Riley, he depicts Northwestern Indiana with style and grace, and brings to life the lore of the prairies and life after the Civil War. His teaching and political days are noted in a variety of poems, such as the locally famous "Pull 'an Haul".

"The Legend of Grape Island and Other Poems," begins with a series of poems that take you along on a trip down the river, encountering old trappers, boating songs, characters known along the



William Woodward Pfrimmer

Kankakee such as Zeke Hardy and Old Richard, sitting around the camp, listening to stories of old which all lead up to his poem "The Legend of Grape Island".

The poem immediately following this tale is entitled "A Confession" - where he professes that all that you read may, or may not be true!

I hope you will allow me to take a few lines of ink to

give you a bit of background on the once "elusive" Mr. Pfrimmer. The acquisition of my copy of "Driftwood" came by the way of my cousin Don Morton. Although shelved for a couple of years, the recent activity of reprinting books by the Family History Division, brought it down and to a recent meeting for consideration.

Janet Miller's immediate interest in the book spurred my interest, and after a bit of discussion, I felt that we really didn't know much about Mr. Pfrimmer. Needless to say, my research began, and so goes the hunt.

Come to find out, William Woodward Pfrimmer is not the only story that was discovered in my research. Local history books barely mention Pfrimmer, the poet. Research on other stories for the newsletter lead me to a newspaper article that appeared

in the Newton County Enterprise in 1912, revealing a picture, and just a bit of history. At that time, they felt that not much needed to be published, due to the fact that he was so well known, but it did state that he was born January 17, 1856 in Massac County, Illinois, and also revealed that he moved to Southern Indiana, in the Indian Creek Valley, when he was at the age of four upon the death of his mother, Melinda (Conrad) Pfrimmer, to live with his paternal grandfather.

At least I knew that by 1860, he was in southern Indiana, and I might be able to locate other Pfrimmers through marriage and death records. I found several Pfrimmers referenced to Harrison County, Corydon, Indiana. I found him in census records, living with his grandfather and grandmother, Samuel and Elizabeth (Lopp) Pfrimmer. Elizabeth was not his natural grandmother, but she is the person that his first book of poetry, "Driftwood", was dedicated. They were living in Harrison County, Franklin Township, with the local community noted as Lanesville Post Office.

He remained here until the death of his grandfather, in 1869, at the age of thirteen. He then returned to Massac County, Illinois, to his birthplace of Egypt, Illinois. In his locally famous poem "Pull-an'-Haul", the first stanza tells us a bit about our poet:

"Nearly every place has its local name, and some of them grow to wider fame. It's rather strange how name will stick-to a man or neighborhood, like a tick. The place, for instance, where I was born-is known as Egypt - the land of corn. By the natives; but outsiders said, from the cloud of ignorance that overspread. The men and women and girls and boys - of the whole south end of Illinois"

At the age of 17, he came to Newton County to live with his father, Daniel A. Pfrimmer. Here he began teaching in the year of 1877 at various schools throughout the county. Local history states that he taught at the Norway School, the Pfrimmer School and the Pull an' Haul. He remained teaching for eight years in winter, and farming in summer for himself. He eventually left farming, due to an injury sustained from the bursting of an emory wheel while working with his father.

He studied law for one year in Indianapolis, under the Hon. S. A. Huff. In 1878, he married Mary E. Webster, also a teacher. Even though he had studied law, he drifted back to *Continued on page nine*

Fried Chicken, Yeast Rolls & Dutch Apple Pie By Lana Lyons Wallpe

This is an account of the life of my grandmother, Ida Florence Floyd Lyons. Happily, it is a story of success but only because of the determination and strength of this woman. Orphaned at the age of nine, she had the responsibility of providing a way of life for herself. Grandma worked as a hired girl and attended elementary school (Duffy's College), finishing the 6th grade. She was married at sixteen to Orpheus Lyons. She was a farmer's wife, a cook for George Ade, the owner and cook for Brook Hotel, and raised nine children to adulthood. Although she was comfortable in many rooms of her house, the kitchen was Grandma's home. Her fingers seemed to fly as she was cooking. The bigger the meal, the more she enjoyed the challenge. Family members and friends often helped, but there was never any doubt; Grandma Lyons was in charge of the meals and enjoyed every minute of it. The biggest reason for her success in the kitchen transferred to her success in life: it is all about how one follows the recipe.

As a young woman, Grandma became involved in area events. This included plays put on by a group of young people from the Brook community. It was through these practices and performances that she met her future husband, Orpheus Lyons. Their relationship grew. On November 18, 1914 they were married in the home of Isaiah and Laura Lyons, Orpheus' parents.

The biggest part of Grandma's life was devoted to her family. She gave birth to nine children, but she did not let that slow down her work. Right before her time of delivery, she would clean her house from top to bottom. This included painting all the floors that were not carpeted. All her children were born at home, under the supervision of a doctor and/or friend, with two exceptions. Her eighth child was born before any help could arrive, and her ninth child, my father, was born in Jasper County Hospital. Through the years, my grandmother raised nine healthy children, not one even experiencing a broken bone, with all the love she and Grandpa had.

Discipline was a key part of life in a house with nine children, and Grandma had her own method of dispensing it. The guilty person had to go out and cut his own switch, making sure to take off all the leaves. If there were disputes as to who was telling the truth, both groups in question would be punished. Her children grew up learning that if they took something that did not belong to them, God would come back and take twice as much from them. When the kids wanted to do something special, they had to get her permission. Grandma always said "No" at first. This gave her time to think the request over. If she thought that there was just cause, she later told the children "Yes." The Golden Rule was enforced in my grandmother's home. Grandma Lyons set her example by never turning away a tramp.

She would always take them in and feed each one an egg sandwich. Being responsible and looking out for others with less than yourself were two rules Grandma passed along to her children.

Modernization was sometimes a challenge for Grandma and Grandpa. In 1933, Grandpa received an inheritance of \$300 from his father. My Grandpa wanted to buy a new Model T, but Grandma put her foot down. She did not think it was necessary to buy the car. They bought some cows instead. Just a little later the family went on a picnic. A lunch was packed, and the family piled into the old Model T. Everyone had great fun, but they thought they were never going to get back home. The old Model T had four flat tires on the trip. In those days, you patched the tire yourself if you had a flat. Maybe buying the new car would have been a better choice or at least purchasing four new tires.

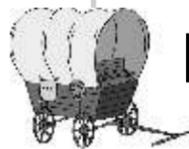
At the beginning of the Great Depression, my grandparents were living northwest of Brook, raising turkeys. Grandma, Grandpa, and the children old enough to help, dressed and sold six barrels of turkeys - 18 turkeys to a barrel. Also, during this time, my Grandmother killed some of her geese *Continued on page eighteen*

Resource Window Display Boy Scouts of Newton County



Boy Scouting was honored recently in the Newton County Resource Center window display. Everything from clothing to cooking utensils were featured. Thanks to Kentland Boy Scout Troop #91 we found lots of scout memorabilia. We had badges, cooking utensils, flags, uniforms, scrapbooks, Eagle Scout awards and bedrolls to name a few of the items shown in the window. One of the interesting things featured were many hand carved neckerchief holders. These were made by scouts as they whittled around the campfire. Scout leaders, George Dye and Lloyd Molter, of Kentland loaned us many objects. Both of these men have been honored with The Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to boyhood. Thanks also to Mike and Josh Molter, Alan Washburn and Chas. and Vicki Triplett and the Brook Cub Scouts for their items of interest. Remember the Boy Scout Motto: Be Prepared! *Submitted by Janet Miller*





Focus on Families

Family History Division • Jim Robbins, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

The uncommon name of Pfrimmer could have been developed from the German word, "Fremde" or "Fremdling", either one meaning "stranger". Like any other old name coming down out of the mists of time legends gather around its head. It is told that the first Pfrimmer was an infant, found under a "pfrimmer" bush. There is no "pfrimmer" bush known to horticulture, but there is a "Primel", German for primrose, or sometimes loosestrife. As the loosestrife in Europe grows into a bush four or five feet tall, the loosestrife is possibly the bush.

The infant was named Michael. He grew up to have a son named Samuel. From this time on, both names appear in the genealogies to the present day.

The first Pfrimmer known to modern history was named Samuel. He married Alsace Lorraine, and had two sons. Both lines of the sons have descendents throughout America. This information and research focuses on the lines that would eventually move to Newton County, Indiana.

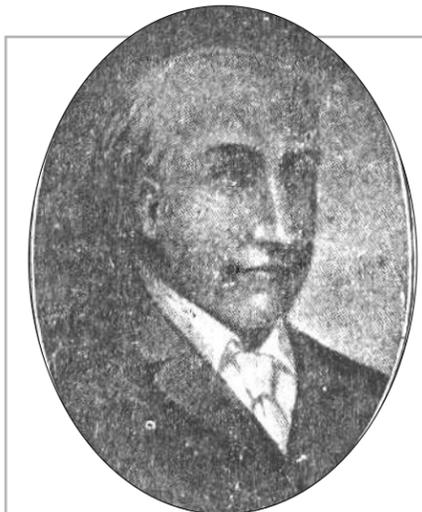
S a m u e l Pfrimmer, son of Michael, married Alsace Lorraine, they had two children. John George, born July 24, 1762, died September 5, 1825, who married Elizabeth Senn, born in 1762 and died in 1829, a daughter of a Switzerland silk merchant. John George, born in Bischeim or possibly Nevers, France, is said to have been educated at Strassburg University and was qualified as a physician and a

surgeon, became a minister, and later an Associate Judge sitting on the bench in Indiana. At the age of 18, he served in the French Navy. On April 12, 1782, in the Battle of Dominican, English Admiral Rodney attacked the French, and Dr. Pfrimmer suffered a saber cut across the

face, the scar of which was visible the rest of his life. It was also stated that when DeGrasse blockaded the British Navy at Yorktown, contributing to the end of the Revolutionary War, the Jacques Framier who served as surgeon on his flagship was Dr. Pfrimmer.

After the war, he settled in eastern Pennsylvania, lived for a time in Harrisburg, and became converted to religion in 1790. He was one of the original 13 men who, in the year of 1800, met in Frederick, Maryland, and formed the church which came to be known as the United Brethren in Christ, now merged with the United Methodist Church.

He appeared in western Pennsylvania at the close of the Revolution as one of the founders of the United Brethren Church in that section of the country. Tradition states that he and his family were three months crossing the Atlantic, during which time two of their young children died and one was born. Other histories report that he and his wife came to America at the age of 24.



Dr. John George Pfrimmer

In the year 1807, Dr. Pfrimmer came to Indiana, by way of the Ohio River, and settled in what is now Corydon, in Harrison County. Part of the town occupies part of his original 160 acre tract.

While Indiana was still a territory, the Governor of the Territory, Gen. William Henry Harrison, appointed Pfrimmer as an associate justice in the First Court of Common Pleas.

This court had vast powers in those formative years of overseeing the building of new roads, establishing statehood, and setting up the new State Capitol in the little village of Corydon. His land was adjacent to a tract owned by Gen. Harrison and the two were good friends for many years. They

The Pfrimmer Family

By Beth Bassett

even formed a partnership in operating a grist mill on the Blue River, about six miles west of Corydon.

Unfortunately, the business venture of the "Harrison and Pfrimmer" firm found itself frequently in financial straits. One of their notes had to go to protest, and, though it finally was paid in full with accumulated costs and interests, it required several years credits written on the back of the note indicating small payments from time to time – rather pathetic evidence of a prolonged financial struggle, however, giving full proof of their integrity and honest purpose.

Perhaps the lack of opportunity, due to the sparsely settled condition of the country, was more to blame for this than any lack of business acumen upon his part. He had to turn his hand to various things in order to fortify his household against adverse winds, and the fortifications, all together, sometimes failed to prove adequate. Practicing medicine, farming, business, politics, trading, preaching and music, were lines of activity that claimed his time and energy, and yet when he died, his debts were greater than his assets.

Dr. Pfrimmer had powers and talents, first being a physician, then a preacher. He wrote music and was an accomplished musician, owning one of the first pianos in Indiana. His self portrait, as told by a later descendant, Miss Jane Miller, hangs currently at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Indianapolis. Miss Miller remembers seeing the portrait hanging in his son's home. In it, he was wearing a surgeon's coat, which he wore when he painted, but later seeing the picture in the church, the portrait had been modernized and he was wearing a coat and collar.

One interesting note involving these two gentlemen was a situation which tended to save Gen. Harrison from a scandal, but which slightly tarnished Dr. Pfrimmer's reputation. Most of the reference books either ignore the incident, or pass over it without any detail, but the facts of the story have been handed down within the family and present interesting insight into the period.

A Negro slave who had been Harrison's "mammy" was being sold, and Harrison wanted to obtain her and care for

her in her old age. For reasons we do not know, but possibly to avoid any repercussions a public figure such as Gen. Harrison might endure, he asked his friend Dr. Pfrimmer to help out. Dr. Pfrimmer did obtain the woman and apparently she lived out her days with Gen. Harrison. The history mentions that Pfrimmer obtained her deed and assigned her to Harrison, that's all we know. However, it never came into the records that Harrison was a slave holder, therefore not affecting his career.

Dr. Pfrimmer, from 1812 until his death in 1825, became a leader in the Church, and founded 15 congregations of the United Brethren Church throughout the Indiana Territory and State. He preached, ministered to, and doctored those in the territory. He is generally credited with being the founder of the U.B. Church in the state. He also is credited with starting the first Sunday school for children and insisting that they be taught the word of God, before this practice became accepted throughout the Christian faith. The Pfrimmer Chapel and Church and cemetery, just outside Corydon, were named for him, and he and most of his family are buried there.

His sons, seemingly were more provident than their father. They secured real estate, evidently on a rather large scale. It was his son Samuel who owned the land on which the Pfrimmer Church in Corydon, Indiana stood, and who gave the site for the church and cemetery. John George Jr., evidently owned a good sized tract and joined with his brother, later sold out and moved to Illinois, Massac County, where their step-brother, Samuel Hamilton resided in the town of Metropolis.

The Pfrimmer relationship in southern Indiana is quite extensive, representing a substantial and influential group of people. The names of George, John, Jacob, Samuel and Michael seem to have been favorites among them. Other members of his family are also found in Harrison County, Indiana. His cousin, George Pfrimmer, also a native of France, was born August 18, 1801; died September 2, 1861. He is also noted in the Washington County, PA tax records prior to 1808 with Dr. Pfrimmer. Together, they would establish the Pfrimmer name throughout the rest of America.

John George and Elizabeth were the parents of 6 children. John George Jr., married Sarah Friedly, having three boys and one girl; Christine married an Ely Wright, and second, a Newbanks, having

two boys and two girls; Ely, married Elizabeth Felmy, having five girls and one boy; Mary, married George McCown, having one daughter; Magdalene, who married Fredrick Kenoyer, and had four girls and three boys; Samuel, who married (1) Rebecca Wright, (2) Flora McRae, (3) Elizabeth Lopp.

Magdalene and her husband Fredrick, would eventually establish the Kenoyer settlement in Newton County. Among the

The Pfrimmer Chapel, as pictured in 1925, Corydon Indiana.



many descendants of the first Pfrimmers, we find physicians, writers, ministers, veterans of the Civil War, judges and artists.

Editor's Note: Much of this information is gleaned from a report given in the November 14, 1925 issue of the "Religious Telescope", a publication edited by the Church of the United Brethren, as well as an application in 1991 made by Daniel A. Miller to the Hoosier Founder's Association, and genealogical reports from a publication printed and distributed to family members in 1955. This material was obtained from John Yost, who acquired them from Gerald Born.

Samuel Pfrimmer

January, 1870 – "I, Samuel Pfrimmer was born on the 29 Day of June in the old State of Pennsylvania in the year of 1791. Rite in the old fashion times, and was brought up in the same as to eating and wearing and works, Came to Indiana in the Spring 1808, I was married to Rebecka Wright by Dennis Pennington Esqr on the 15th of April 1815 in old stile. Rebecka died February 17th 1825.

I was married the second time to Flora Mcrae, the 8th day of June 1827 by Rev. Henry Bonebrake in the old fashioned stile. She died on the 30th day of April 1838. I was married the third time to Elizabeth Lopp on the 21st day of April 1839, by the Rev. Henry Bonebrake in the good old way. I never did

believe in a marriage ceremony to be one in 15, 20 or 25 words.

"I joint the Methodist Church in the year 1821 and have been a member of the same to this day and intent to be one as long as I am permitted to remain here.

"And now the way that I want and I hope will be buried it is in a lane walnut or cherry coffon and lined insite but no ornaments on the outside of nay kind wot so ever with a box in the shape of the coffon my clothes to put on me I have all rety maid a shirt pants and winding sheet and that is all. Now this is the old fashion way to bury.

"As soon as convianant put a head and foot stone to my grave the same pattern as Rebecka has as near as it convianant and as I never had my likeness taken I will soon be forgotten.

"And if any of you would wish to have a funeral preacht have it preacht to the living an not to the dead as the tree falleth so it lieth, all is well, all is well.

"Let some one read this at my burial – Samuel Pfrimmer, with my own hand."

This is a copy of an original held by Edonia Pfrimmer of Denver, Colorado, a granddaughter of Samuel Pfrimmer.

Samuel's first marriage to Rebecca Wright produced two children, Phebe Elizabeth, who married John Wesley Walker and Samuel Hamilton, born in Indiana in 1821, died in Illinios in 1874, and served many years as Chief Magistrate of Metropolis, Illinois, Massac County.

It is Samuel's second marriage in 1826 to Flora McRae, born in 1797, died 1838, that would produce the line of Pfrimmers that would join the Kenoyers later in Newton County. They would have five children, Daniel Alexander, Jacob Strange, Lydianne, King David, who died unmarried, and William Henry.

Samuel's third marriage to Elizabeth Lopp, did not produce any children, yet they raised the sons of Daniel Alexander after the death of their mother at an early age and another set of orphaned children.

Daniel Alexander Pfrimmer

Daniel was the first son of the second marriage of Samuel Pfrimmer to Flora McRae. He was born in 1827, and married Malinda Conrad on January, 27, 1846, who died March 1860. They had three children. Flora, married Joseph Benton, they had six children; Lizzie, married George Rider, and had four children. George and Lizzie Rider deeded the Doran Cemetery to Washington Township in 1915, in Newton

Continued on page twelve

Continued from page eleven

County, Indiana; William Woodward, later to be known as the "Kankakee Poet", married Mary Ellen Webster in 1878, they had four children. Daniel's second marriage to Harriet Jemison of Illinois in 1862, produced six children. His third marriage after Harriet's death, was to Elizabeth Crawn. There were notany children.

In the biography in the "*History of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, 1883*", Daniel's son, Will provides a picture of his father that could not be found in any other written material. At that time, Daniel, aged 57, and his wife Elizabeth were living in Cowley County, Kansas.

Daniel enlisted in 1861, in Company E., Thirty-eighth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served until July, 1864. He received a shot in the battle of Peach Tree Creek, which was the cause of his discharge. He was Lieutenant, and promoted to be Captain, and was in every battle in which his regiment took part from 1861 to June 1864. In whatever position he held, he was never known to shrink from duty, whether in field, in camp, or on scout.

In 1883, three of his nine children were still living. He served as the Newton County Treasurer from 1872 to 1876, and after owing money to Newton County, he deeded 100 acres of his land to the county, where the County Home would be built. He was a member of the United Brethren Church.

Answers To Do You Know? By Janet Miller

1. The dimensions of Newton County are: length: 33 1/4 miles, width: 13 1/4 miles



2. The following students took part in the "School Time" radio demonstration in 1939: ENOS: Elizabeth Rodman; THAYER: Louise Andis, Robert Rex Binge, Florence Dutton, Anna Sue Rose; FORESMAN: Joyce Cain, Roy Cooper, Kenneth Honn, Billy Stath, Ralph Barten, Winifred Dewees; ROSELAWN: Gerald Iliff, Josephine Speechley, Allegra Knapp, Lydia Knapp, Jean Haidacher; COLFAX CENTER: Gretta Lintner, Marjorie Weaver, Lois Studer, Jack Robbins; LAKE VILLAGE: Shirley Boyd, Dorothy Flatt, Marion Brown, Evelyn Barblinicht, Robert Christenson, Kenneth Klein, Michael Manes, Jimmie Rainford, Hildah Carroll; ADE: Thelma Whaley, Maurice Whaley, Barbara Myers, Catherine Whaley, Harold Myers, Joanne Whaley, Maxine Strole. Teachers from all parts of the county observed Mrs. Hester's preparation of the pupils for the broadcast, which was a transcribed program and given over a special phonograph and the "follow up" at the conclusion of it.

3. The Wash-O-Quois Festival owes its existence to the 1976 Bicentennial. A group of persons from all the organizations in Iroquois and Washington Townships gathered to make plans for the 1976 Bicentennial. After this year was over they decided to continue to promote the history of the area by having a local festival each year. The Wash-O-Quois Festival was born combining the names of the two townships, Iroquois and Washington.

4. One of our readers asked me this question. Can anyone help us out with an answer?

5. When the present courthouse was erected in 1906 the old frame building was sold at auction for \$170 to John Simons, who moved it to his farm east of Kentland. The old courthouse contained four offices on the first floor and two rooms for the court on the upper floor. This building served the needs of Newton County for 45 years.

"Pap's Come Back To Indiany"

By. William W. Pfrimmer
Reprinted from "Driftwood"

Pap's come back ter Indiany!
-Guess he's come back, now, ter stay.
-Do n't remember jest how many
Times it is he's been away.
-Moved ter Illenoy in 'fifty-
Ma-be late as 'fifty-two;
Settled down in Massac County,
Kentry then was kind o' new;
Ager'peared to hold persession,
Long with chiggers, ticks an' fleas,
But pap's grit, an' he stuck to it,
Till he, sort o' by degrees,
Larned the custom o' the kentry
(Which is still the same, down there)
O' takin' quinine mixed with whisky,
'Stead o' sayin' mornin' prayer;
-Stayed there till the spring o' 'sixty
(Sesesh talk was purty hot);
What with pore luck an' with trouble,
Pap he just got up an' got,
Back agin to Indiany.
Then he kin o' sort o' lowed
If they had ter be a racket
He was goin' with the crowd;
Se he went an' tuck his chances
Till along in 'sixty-four;
Then he up an' reinlisted,
Said he'd try it three years more.
-Like ter got his everlastin'
down in Georgy; recollect
How a letter from a doctor
Sed we need n't ter expect
Ter see him back to Indiany.
Pap he thought the chances thin,
But he tuck another notion-
Arter while come back again.
-Went out West along in 'eighty;
but we children didn't go,
So I guess he sort o' felt like
Part o' him war n't there, you know.
Me an' Lizzie kep' a coaxin';
George he kind o' sided in
Back ag'in ter Indiany!
-Begins ter show the wear an' tear
O' his sixty years an' over
In his whiskers an' his hair.
Lines aroun' the eyes are deeper,
Figger's little out o' plumb;
But it's pap! An', ye jest bet ye,
We are might glad he's come!

William Woodward Pfrimmer, continued from page eight

teaching and became the superintendent of Newton County Schools from 1888-1889. He was the Jefferson Township Trustee in 1882, which was the youngest trustee elected.

Will and Mary had four children, Mabel, Conrad, Lillie and Lowell. They lived on Carroll Street in Kentland in 1900.

In 1910, Will retired and he and Mary lived for a few years in Arkansas, and later in Missouri, where Mary died in 1926.

A report in the *Morocco Courier* of his death appeared in March, 1936, that he had died in Florida while vacationing with his friend E. A. Perkins of Goodland. However, his listing in the book "Indiana Authors and Their Books, 1816-1916", it was reported by his daughter, Mabel (Pfrimmer) Hollister, that he died in her home in Washington, D.C. on December 24, 1935. Where he was laid to

rest is still to be determined. Mabel married ?? Hollister, the curator of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. More than likely he is buried in Missouri with his wife Mary, or with his daughter Mabel in Washington, D.C.

Selected poems are reprinted throughout the pages of this newsletter for your enjoyment – if anyone recognizes characters, places or happenings, additional information regarding Mr. William Woodward Pfrimmer is welcome by this author!

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The Poet's Corner

Nearly every place has its local name,
And some of them grow to a wider fame.
It's rather strange how a name will stick
To a man or neighborhood, like a tick.
The place, for instance, where I was born,
Is known as Egypt-the land of corn,
By natives; but outsiders said,
From the cloud of ignorance that overspread
The men and women and girls and boys
Of the whole south end of Illinois.

But the place of which I was going to speak,
Was called to my mind the other week,
By seeing in court about forty, in all,
From the neighborhood known as Pull-an'-Haul.
Just how it happened to get the name,
What was the trouble, and who was to blame,
Traditions differ; but I think I am right
When I say it began with the school-house site.
Just where to put it they could not agree,
So instead of one place they fixed on three.
They pulled the lumber to number one;
And the work of building had fairly begun,
When they hauled it over to number two;
And then decided that wouldn't do.

And they pulled and hauled it to number three,
And all parties agreed to disagree.
The opposing factions caused to contend,
And it seemed the trouble was at an end;
And it might have been, I since have learned,
But the house took fire, one night, and burned.
Then the old trouble broke out anew,
And from that time on it steadily grew.
They built a house where the old one stood;
But that didn't seem to do any good.
They moved it again; and when that was done;

"Pull an' Haul"

By W.W. Pfrimmer
Reprinted from "Driftwood"

Photo of the Pull an' Haul School, from the 1985 History of Newton County

Next year moved back to site number one.
Thus they pulled and hauled it about,
Till the poor old house was about worn out.
And I have been told a petition was read
To the trustee, to build a mammoth sled
And put the house on it, for it was plain
They soon would want to move it again.
But the opposition went on to prove
That the house wouldn't stand another move.
Here the case rested; but when it was found
They couldn't haul the school-house around
Someone discovered he was badly in need
Of a public highway. And his friends agreed.
That such was the case; and it may be true
(But that doesn't matter to me or to you).
Others opposed, with such firmness and zeal,
That it landed in court upon an appeal
From the court below, and you have been there
At the trial, and heard how men will swear,-
Good, honest men as ever we see,
Most of them Christians, - or claim to be-
You'd have learned how easy the mark we miss,
When reason is doubled by prejudice;-
How the best of judgments will sometimes fail
When self-interest rests in the other scale.
With me you'd thought it passing strange
That truth could have so wide a range.
The law-suit is over, but the trouble still grows;
Where it will end, there's nobody knows.
Like the burdock-root, you may grab it out,
But the troublesome thing is sure to sprout;
And in years to come our children will
Find of this trouble some traces still.
When those now living shall pass away,
When their little children are old and gray,
When their children's children their children call,
That place will be known as "Pull-an'-Haul".

Collections Of A Lifetime

Mrs. Mingle's Magic World Now At Brook-Iroquois Twp. Library

by Beth Bassett

Beginning in 1977, the Burr Oak School existed in the Goodland Grade School Library. I'm sure a bit of explanation would be necessary for those of you who are not aware of the Burr Oak School. You see, the little children who are part of the Burr Oak School, were lovingly created by Mrs. Ethel Mingle. Their heads and bodies were made from acorns, and pipe cleaners were shaped into arms and legs.

The little figures were so popular, that Mrs. Mingle created the little one-room school house for them, complete with desks, a blackboard and curtains on the windows.

In 1978, Mrs. Gene Hershman, then Goodland Elementary Librarian, invited Mrs. Mingle back to decorate the Burr Oak School for Halloween.

When Mrs. Mingle sat down to work, the children in the

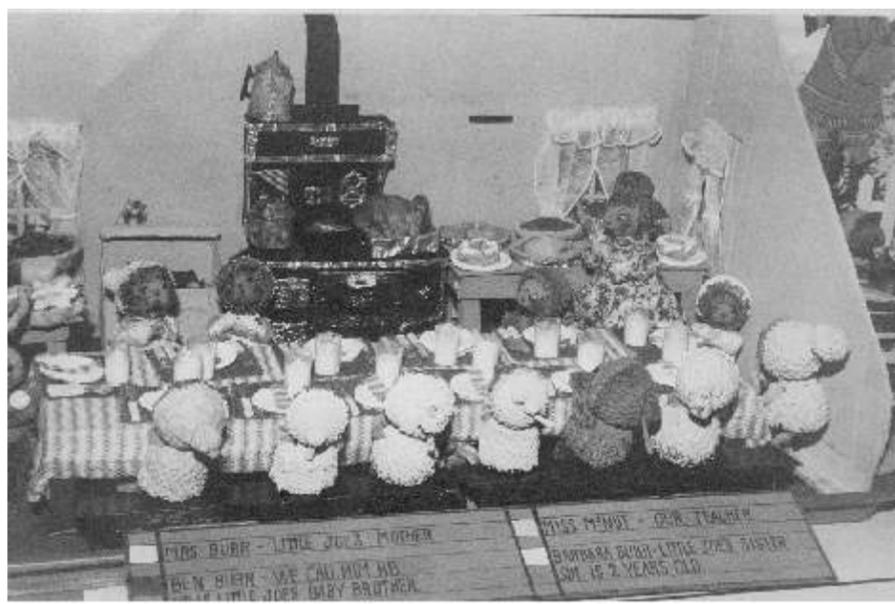
library couldn't seem to get close enough to her and her project. "Hands-off" was difficult for them when Mrs. Mingle opened her magic box of tiny-tiny masks (with elastic to hold them on the little acorn heads) and jack-o-lanterns and trick or treat bags.

"Little Joe" is the pet of the Burr Oak School children. He's one of the visiting kindergarteners and always has his sack lunch clasped tightly in his pipe-cleaner hand. His Halloween mask, of course, a brown paper sack over his head. The children loved it!

Mrs. Mingle said that she was "over paid" for her efforts. The children's delight at her creations is her reward. **Continued on page fifteen**



Left and below- the kids at Goodland Elementary in 1978, didn't get much studying done when Mrs. Mingle came to transform the Burr Oak classroom to a Halloween party. They all huddled together and helped her decide which "child" should have which Halloween mask. Right-the Halloween party at Burr Oak School. Below right, Thanksgiving with all the trimmings, below left, the Burr Oak Church.



Continued from page six

In 1909, another stock issue was made with the proceeds to be used to increase the drying capacity of the plant and the purchase of a steam shovel for the digging of clay at the pits.

An interesting note in the annual report of 1912, stated that an employee by the name of Cos Weaver was to be given a bonus of a new ten dollar suit of clothes for the fine work he was doing. At this time about sixty men were employed in the manufacture of the clay products.

Because of the increased business, the directors started looking for another source of clay. A new pit was leased from an adjoining farm directly east of the factory. About eighty percent of the products manufactured came from this pit area. At the present time, Tom and David Wilson have constructed beautiful new homes on the ground which surrounds the pit area. The pit has been landscaped, deepened and made into a very beautiful and attractive lake.

Because of the distance of the pit from the factory, it was necessary to construct a narrow gauge railroad which ran from the factory down into the pit area. It was a familiar sight years ago to see the little steam engine which was often referred to as the "dinky" complete with a steam whistle, pulling fifteen or twenty small iron hopper cars across the highway at the north edge of Brook: All traffic stopped for the train. The engineer delighted in pulling the cord on the steam whistle about the time some farmer pulled up with his team of horses.

After the hopper cars arrived at the factory with their load of wet clay, the contents were dumped into a huge vat by tipping the cars on their sides. The clay was tested for its moisture content and if it was too wet it was allowed to dry some and if it was too dry water was added until it was the required consistency for the shaping of the clay products. A large auger ran the length of the vat into which the clay had been dumped. The auger was driven by steam power and the turning of the auger forced the clay from the vats into the molds. The clay which was just dry enough to be handled after being shaped into tile, brick and other products

was then ready to be fired in the kilns. The bricks were made by a large press which could turn out hundreds per hour. After leaving the molds, the tile and brick were placed on hand trucks which were pulled into the kilns. There the damp tile and bricks were placed on wood platforms. These platforms were placed on top of each other until they were almost as high as the interior of the kiln. Heat generated by a ring of coal fires which surrounded the base of each kiln and which entered the kiln by ducts, started the long drying and baking process. Employees kept the fire burning continuously by adding coal during the several days of firing. Each kiln had an opening at the top from which the smoke and fumes escaped. The moderate heat over a period of several days baked the tile to required hardness. After the kiln had reached this stage, the fires were allowed to burn themselves out so that the kilns could be entered by the employees and the finished products removed. Upon

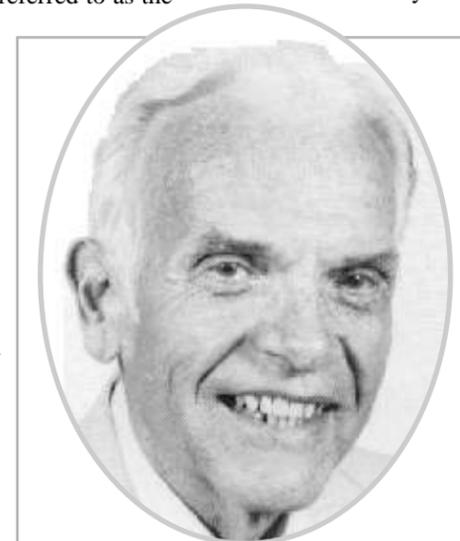
their removal, the clay products were stacked in huge storage areas by sizes and types. This storage area took up several acres of the factory's land.

About 1913, the Brook Terra Cotta Tile & Brick Company affiliated itself with the Brazil Tile and Brick Factory at Brazil, Indiana. Both companies were located on the same railroad the C.E.I., which was great help in the merger. The Brazil company was much larger and was noted for its paving bricks which were sold all over the U.S.A. Some of these bricks can be found in Brook. The driveway of the Harry Lane Gas Station and Gibson Mfg. Co. are paved with these bricks. The clay that was used in these bricks is a different type and they were fired until they were "reddish-black". They were much harder than the common clay bricks made in the Brook plant.

At the time of the merger of the two companies, unions were starting to make in-roads in various industries. The Brazil plant became unionized but the local factory did not.

In fact, no attempt was made to unionize the Brook factory. Almost immediately, the sales of the Brook plant began to decline.

Since many of the brick and building tile were shipped to the



John Connell, author of The History of Brook Terra Cotta, Tile & Brick Co., 1979

Chicago Fire Brick Co. for construction purposes in Chicago, the unions of the bricklayers refused to use the bricks from the Brook factory. Since the Chicago Fire Brick Company was one of the Brook's best customers, the plant began a slow decline. There was much speculation after the Brook plant closed, all had been planned by the Brazil plant so they would only have to operate one plant. About the only sales the Brook factory was making was to local farmers and a few contractors. World War I came along about this time and the use of clay products almost came to an end. Rumors were also circulating at this time there was a possibility that the C.E.I. railroad was about to cease operations through Brook. This actually did not happen until 1922 and then the C.A.S. railroad took over the operation of trains through Brook until 1944.

When the factory closed in 1923, the town of Brook suffered a big blow. Not only did the closing put over sixty men out of work, but the town and community suffered a blow to its economy because it halted the construction of many homes which were being built for the factory workers at the tile company.

These homes were being erected by the company for its employees. All of the homes were on the same plan, usually four or five rooms, with a front porch. All were square and one story construction. Several homes had already been constructed when the closing occurred.

For many years, many of the old buildings, kilns and smokestacks stood deserted. There were many stacks of old brick and tile which were sold off piece-meal. The old iron was sold during World War II. In 1941 the ground to the east, consisting of twenty-eight acres, was sold to E. D. Hess at a tax sale. Later this ground and on which the factory stood was sold to the town of Brook who in turn sold it to the Wilson Brothers the present owners.

Yeast Rolls, continued from page thirteen
to sell for their meat and feathers. Before she and Grandpa could travel to Brook to put the money into their bank account, the bank closed. It was on this money and what my grandpa earned driving a school bus that my grandparents lived during the first winter of the Great Depression. They survived the rest of the Depression by raising their own livestock and planting a one-acre garden. They also knew how to preserve food. Meat, fruit, vegetables, and jams were canned. Their supply of eggs, milk, cream, and meat came from their own livestock. To this day, my aunts and uncles stress the importance of the soil and gardening.

In 1936, George Ade entered my grandparents' lives. He hired Grandpa to run the golf course and Grandma to cook for him and cook for the parties he had at his home called Hazelden. This was where my Grandmother was at her best; my aunts would set tables, wait tables, and wash dishes while Grandma cooked. She was famous around the county for her fried chicken, yeast rolls, creamed peas, and Dutch apple pie. Through this opportunity, Grandma started her many years of cooking for others. George Ade loved to entertain. Mr. Ade was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity while going to college at Purdue. He would hold yearly reunions for the graduated members of Sigma Chi at Hazelden. The average attendance for these gatherings was around 200, and my Grandmother served them both lunch and supper. One year a group came late for lunch. Grandma had run out of food because the first bunch came back so many times for seconds. She did have her laying hens out back, but they were young chickens that had just begun to lay eggs. Nevertheless, she fried these eggs to make sandwiches for the late arrivals. The eggs from young laying hens are very small, and the alumni jokingly accused her of robbing the birds' nests around the cabin. The men had a good laugh and an even better meal.

The work that my family did for Mr. Ade did not go unappreciated. Mr. Ade best proved this in 1939. At the age of 41, Grandma discovered she was pregnant with her ninth child. Feeling that being in her condition and working for George Ade made for an awkward situation, she requested that she be let go from her job. Mr. Ade would not hear of it, his reply was, "Mrs. Lyons, those little girls of yours, in their little white aprons, will get along fine. You continue your cooking, and everyone in the club will get along just fine." She did. My father was

born July 15, 1939, and the club kept right on running. In 1942, Mr. Ade requested that my Grandmother become his personal cook. She agreed and held this position until his death in 1944. During her eight years under the employment of Mr. Ade, Grandma came into contact with a wide range of people. No matter their station in society, she met each guest with a smile and engaged them all in lively conversations. She was not hampered by her limited education; she had a flair for getting along with everyone and feeding each a fine meal.

My grandparents bought the Brook Hotel in 1945. The building, located on Main Street, was the only boarding house in the town. Grandpa Lyons was in charge of bookkeeping and the maintenance of the rooms while Grandma was in the kitchen area where, once again, her excellent cooking became the center of attention. For her permanent boarders, meals were provided three times a day, seven days a week, except for Sunday evening meal. Monday through Saturday she would serve 15-20 people for lunch. Her patrons included local farmers and businessmen.

The Sunday noon meal was served by reservation only. As many as 200 reservations would be filled by Tuesday of that week. Her customers from the Hazelden Club, family members (the number was always growing), people from Chicago, Lafayette, Monticello, and Danville, Illinois, were just a few who came to sample Grandma Lyons's cooking. Along with her fried chicken, icebox yeast rolls, creamed peas, and Dutch apple pie, she added baked steak, cinnamon rolls, and German chocolate cake to her list of specialties. As if serving these meals was not enough, Grandma also catered banquets, receptions, and wedding rehearsal dinners. Despite her love of cooking for others, Grandpa and Grandma Lyons had other dreams, so in 1962 my grandparents sold the Brook Hotel and went into retirement.

With 46 years of work behind them, Grandma & Grandpa were finally able to enjoy some of the pleasures that they had not had time to do while working. They visited the Rocky Mountains, the West Coast of

Historically Yours, continued from page seventeen write down your history so it could be printed as a "forever" memory. Every family in those areas needs to be represented in the publication, so let's get busy people! And, Brook needs help with their book, so don't let that committee down - do your part by reporting what you know and even things you think you know but would like verified. This is a good winter project - maybe it will help speed winter into spring and then summer will be here before you know it.

Until next time, keep on making history.

California, both coasts of Florida, and many lakes in Minnesota. They traveled with friends and family members.

Grandma Lyons enjoyed her retirement in many ways. Three of her favorite things to do were fishing, playing cards, and going out to eat. My grandparents both loved to fish and both loved to play Euchre and Canasta. Grandpa liked to play Rummy with the boys, and Grandma enjoyed bridge with the ladies. They both liked to go out to eat, and Grandma especially enjoyed experiencing new foods. If she really liked the meal, she marched right out in the kitchen to trade recipes with the cook. She added these new recipes to her family cookbook, one that is still passed around among her daughters and granddaughters to this day.

In November of 1964, my grandparents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. All nine children were there with their own growing families, along with their many friends to help with the celebration. That Christmas I have a vague recollection of sitting on my grandfather's knee eating popcorn balls. They were his favorite. On February 19, 1965, Grandpa died of cancer. It was a great loss to the family, especially for my grandmother. Grandma lived another twenty-five years, with eleven good years traveling places and doing things with friends and family. Strokes and senility slowed her down mentally but not physically in her later years. Ida Florence Floyd Lyons passed away in September of 1989.

When she cooked, Grandma followed the recipe. She added all of the basic ingredients as told, but she always seasoned her food by taste. It was her seasoning that made her cooking stand out from all the others, and this process can be used as a recipe to create her outlook on life. We all have a basic path to follow, but it is the extras, the give and take, the sacrifices that we make, that give our lives spice and flavor.

Ida Florence Floyd Lyons' life has been a large spice rack. The labels on her bottles read: Hard Work, Family, Respect, Determination, and the biggest bottle is marked "LOVE." Through our memories of her, this bottle will always be filled.



The Officer's Corner

Newton County Historical Society Update By President, Sue Humphrey

The Newton County Historical Society Officers would like to thank all of the members for electing us as your leaders.

We have a few new projects & committees we would like to implement for the coming year and encourage your support of all the old and new ideas.

The Officers would like to encourage everyone to become involved with the Scott Lucas House in Morocco & the Resource Center in Kentland. Volunteers are needed to help supervise, arrange items and helpful hints. The Scott Lucas House is available

for meetings, gatherings, weddings, parties etc. Please call (219-285-2008) to schedule when you would like to use the house. There are tables and chairs available.

Thank you for all your support.

Sue Humphrey, President
Mike Haste, Vice President
Becky Lyons, Secretary
Kay Babcock, Treasurer
Donna LaCosse, Historian



Family History Division

Update By Beth Bassett

With the 2003 activities behind us, we look forward to next year and accomplishing many new goals set by our Director, Jim Robbins and the members of the Division. We are considering other local writers' out of print books for reprinting next year, and any suggestions from our membership are welcome.

A 100% backing was given to the Publicity Committee from our group in support of the planned Cemetery Tour in 2004. Many ideas were discussed, and members are committed to writing and researching individuals who may be portrayed at the different tours throughout the county. This is an excellent way to combine local history and family histories in a presentation that will delight and enlighten those who attend this event. Watch this column for more details as they are released by the Publicity Committee. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Jim Robbins, chairman of the Publicity Committee. You can find him every

Monday afternoon at the Resource Center in Kentland from 1:00 - 5:00.

The fourth grade classes of the Newton County Schools have received their copies of the Newton County Historical Coloring Book by the Publicity Committee in October. The Family History Division worked together with the society in producing Volume One, and a Volume Two will be needed in a year or two. This has been a wonderful way to educate the youth of our community of their local history.

The Brook, Iroquois and Washington Township Book Committee, and the Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Township coordinator Donna LaCosse are feverishly working on their publications, due after 2006. Contact Donna at 219-285-2861 for more info. The Brook book committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Brook-Iroquois Twp. Public Library at 2:30.

Do You Know Your County of Newton



By Janet Miller

1. Do you know the dimensions of Newton County in miles? How long is the county? How wide is the county?
2. In 1939, the boys and girls from the seven township grade schools took part in a "School Time" radio demonstration given in the Kentland grade building courtesy of Mrs. Harriet H. Hester, Educational Director, Station WLS, Chicago. Were you there? Or do you know anyone that was there?
3. In the fall of the year a primitive festival is held near Lake Kenoyer south of Brook. This festival is called "Wash-O-Quois"? Do you know why the festival was named Wash-O-Quois?
4. In Washington Township, the corner of county roads 900S and 500W is often referred to as Cox's corner. Can anyone tell us why?
5. The current Newton County Courthouse was built in 1906. Do you know what happened to the old courthouse building that was on the courthouse square?

(answers on page 12)

- Web site directory -

- Cemetery Records •
- Newton County Census Records: 1860 & 1870, 1880, 1900 (Beaver Twp)
- Jasper County Census Records: 1850-Index
- Enter & View Newton County Queries
- Newton County Look-Ups
- Obituaries of Past Residents
- New! Complete Brook Alumni List!***
- Newton County Biographies Project
- Morocco and Goodland Alumni Lists
- Newton County Marriage Records thru 1971
- Links To Other State & Local Sites
- Index of "The Newcomer" Articles

Post your inquiries regarding your family surnames, and help others visiting our site with information your may have for them!

www.rootsweb.com/~innewton