

Visit our Resource Center!

Here, you will find a variety of research tools for the history buff and those seeking family history. Microfilm of census records, from 1790 to 1910, 2 readers are available, and plenty of room to sit down and spend some time going through our other books about the county, family histories, maps and plat books.

We try to have volunteers at the building at a regular basis: Monday, Jim Robbins from 1:00 until 4:30; Wednesday, Janet Miller from 10:00 until Noon; Nev Carlson from 1:00 until 3:30; Friday, Gerald Born from 1:00 until 4:30. Please call first (219-474-6944), to ensure the building being open.

The county courthouse is just across the street within walking distance, enabling a researcher to access county records, and we also have a computer with internet access for other research. We give tours of the center as well, just give us a call!

The Newcomer

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

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

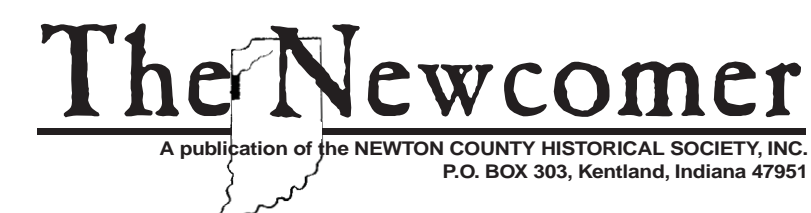
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As a member, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, THE NEWCOMER free!

You will also receive notification of our monthly meetings for each division. Dues are payable yearly (July 1-June 3), check your mailing label for status of membership. Back issues of the Newcomer are available upon request for \$2.25 each.

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What's On Our Agenda...

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

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

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

The Newcomer

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

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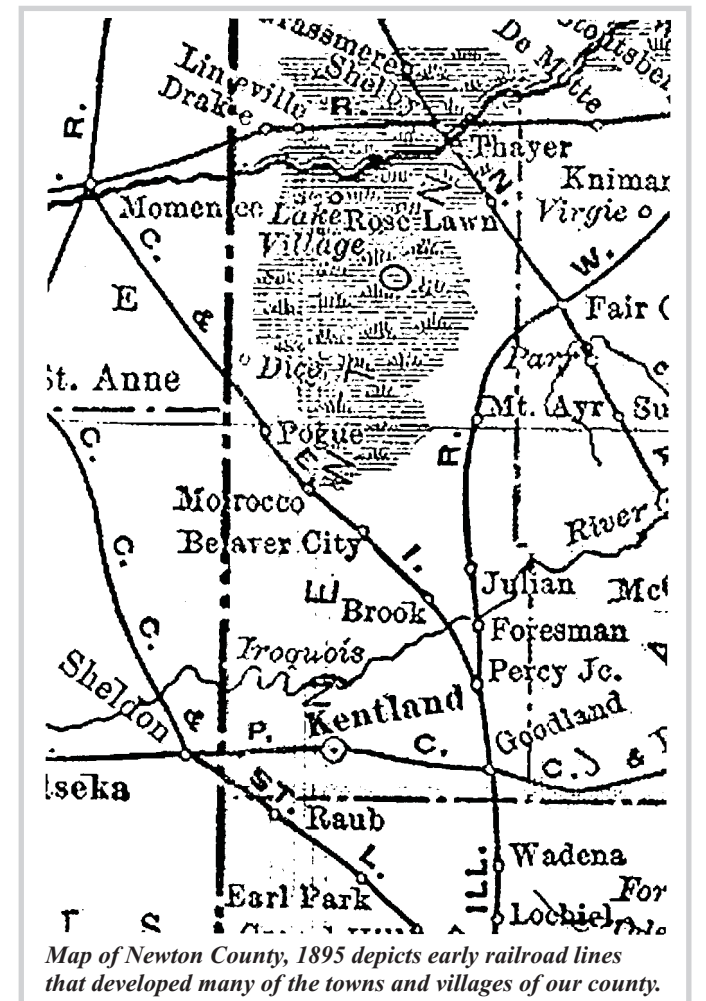
A Glimpse of Newton County Settlements, Towns and Villages By Beth Bassett

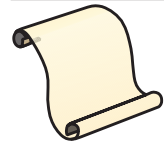
When our county was established in 1860, it contained only one town proper, that being the Town of Morocco, platted on January 28, 1851 by John Murphey. However, there were many settlements throughout the county named for families, churches, and geographic features such as Myers, Kenoyer, Pilot Grove, Whites Grove, and Pleasant Grove, Blue Grass, and many more I'm sure, that eventually became the towns of today's Newton County. Most generally, the land that the towns were platted was owned by individuals, and some subsequently named after them. Many interesting stories have been recorded as to how their names were acquired, as you will read further in my article.

With the coming of the railroads in the early 1880's, many "railroad towns" sprung up as stations and switches all over the county. Some of these stations have remained strong and prosperous, others have become only a collection of dwellings of homes and churches, an occasional grain elevator, and several have simply become abandoned memories. The only township that has never had a town or village is that of Colfax. Since most of the land was privately owned and contained in large ranches, there were no settlements as in other parts of the county. The same held true for McClellan township, which not only had ranches, but also was particularly covered by Beaver Lake. The railroads simply bypassed these townships and veered east into Jasper County, and west into Illinois. There may be other explanations as well.

The following information is collected from the history books of our county. Those being "Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, Indiana; 1833"; John Ade's "Newton County 1853-1911"; the 1915 "Jasper and Newton Counties" by Hamilton-Darroch; "And They Named Her Brook", written by John M. Connell; the "History of Newton County, Indiana, 1985", and an article from the Morocco Courier written by Gerald Born and Clay Blaney entitled "Area Railroadng" which appeared in February, 1990. Also references were made to the 1895

Continued On Page 3





The President's Corner

By Yvonne Kay

It is always good to stop and reflect on the past year and think about where our Society has been and where it is going. It has been a very busy and productive time. We have had some very interesting programs covering a wide variety of subjects. We have heard about the Dredging of the Rivers and Marshes of Newton County, an interesting talk on Funeral Customs, from the Egyptian to the Present, A Show and Tell of Favorite Antique Objects owned by our members, How Marijuana Got Started in Newton County, The Madras Fault and Earthquakes, the Kankakee Sands Project, A Peek into the Happening of 1924, Photographs and How to Preserve Them, and Who was Ann (Lucas) Scott. Obviously they have been interesting enough to keep our members coming back, judging by the interest and attendance. If you missed any of them, tape recordings are available at the Resource Center in Kentland.

More and more people are learning about the Resource Center at Kentland and its use has increased, not only from out of town patrons, but by our members as well. Beth Bassett has coordinated the work of the volunteers who faithfully keep the doors open. Among the faithful are Jim Robbins, Marlowe Davis, Janet Miller, Genevera Carlson, Nancy Prue, and Gerald Born. Not in Beth's job description was mopping up the water from the melting snow, when the roof sprang a leak.

The Newcomer, under the chairmanship of Gerald Born, has grown from a four page xerox copy to a sixteen page printed newsletter, which would do any Historical Society proud. Beth has been responsible for the wonderful design work and has kept the presses rolling, as well as researching and writing articles. We have had many contributing editors, including, John Yost, Janet Miller, Kyle Conrad, and others. Thank you one and all. We could not have done it without you.

An exceptional effort has been put forth by Janet Miller and her volunteers, Barbara Wiltfong, Jennie Washburn and other contributors and helpers who have so ably decorated the window of the Resource Center, from Ladies Hats, to Musical Production, to Seed Corn to a One Room School, decorated for Christmas and for President's Birthdays. Thank you, Ladies.

This past year saw the culmination of many years work making a coloring book of Newton County History a reality. On November second a grand open house was given to preview the book and honor the artists. You saw a picture of them in our last issue. Special thanks to Greta Taylor and Janet Miller, whose idea sparked the book and who worked so tirelessly in bringing it to fruition.

Work on the Scott/Lucas House, which will house a museum, is almost complete. Through the generosity of Ann (Lucas) Scott the Society will soon be the proud owners of the property and all of the contents of the house to be used to promote history throughout the county and northwest Indiana. Dan Blaney, Chair, of the House Committee, with the able assistance of Sue Humphrey (and we can't forget their husbands and wives) have worked tirelessly in cleaning, remodeling, refinishing and buying rugs and curtains for the house making it ready for the Society. Anyone who has visited the house can see what a meticulous job they have done.

Learning of the above gift made it imperative to apply for a not for profit status to be able to accept the gift. I am proud to announce that we have received the 501 (c) 3 status for the Society and are able to receive tax deductible gifts. The Coloring Book also prompted us

to apply for a registered retail license, in order to collect Indiana sales tax on items sold for profit, either by the Society or by the Museum. We now have this license.

Much of my tenure has been spent striving for more businesslike basis for the Society. We now have a Finance Committee, who have projected a budget for the past two years, Thank you Russ Collins and Kay Babcock for putting this into action. We received a tipping fee grant of approximately \$5,000. Thank you Kay and Sue. I think you were responsible. We also are indebted to the County Commissioners, who have allotted us approximately \$10,000 for our budget. Memberships alone do not cover all of the expenses of such a dynamic organization.

The Newton County Web Page, which Beth Bassett also oversees, has been very successful. Each week several requests for information are received. Again Society members have volunteered to serve as resource people for different townships where they have knowledge of the families. Anyone having a computer and is on the Internet should visit the site, for there you will find census, marriage, and biographical data that is of interest to those who have Newton County roots. The page was the dream of the late, Bob Williamson and Beth has carried on in the same tradition. Good job, Beth.

The Oral History Project, which is the main focus of Nancy Jo Prue, continues to take shape. Nancy, with the help of Joan Triplett, has interviewed many older citizens and is putting these into written form. We look forward to the finished product.

The Fair Committee, chaired by Jim Robbins, had a wonderful week at the Punkin' Vine Fair, promoting the Society and making a statement that we are here and should be noticed. Marian Strosinski, Laurel Allis, William and Jean Phillips, Kathryn Sprinkle, and others added an air of class and charm to the booth.

Gerald Born's Museum Committee is at work on a before and after scrapbook of the Scott/Lucas House. They also are preparing a mission statement for the museum and making plans for the future.

I cannot forget a thank you to Gerald Born and Mike Haste who revised the Bylaws, an important job, but one which no-one wants to do.

Many significant gifts of artifacts and documents have been received by the society, from a silver high school trophy donated by Don Morton to back issues of the New England Genealogical and Historical Journal, donated by Gerald Born, to pictures and documents donated by Fannie and Maurice Collins, to the most recent, two scrapbooks of World War II soldiers donated by Diana McCartney Bell. Space does not allow a full record of the wonderful gifts we have received, but stop by the center and take a look. You will be impressed by the number and the quality.

We cannot close without a special thank you to all of our members who have served refreshments to the Society. Your contribution has made our monthly meetings very special. A big Thank You to Sharon Collins, who has coordinated the effort. Awesome.

And finally (its beginning to sound like the Academy Awards isn't it), I want to express my appreciation to the Board, who work tirelessly to make it all happen. Kay Babcock, who keeps the books, Betty Risley who keeps the notes, Denise Miller, who has had to fill in for me a couple of times, and Gerald Born, who heads the Family History Division, and newly elected member at large, Mike Haste, and Jim Robbins, the County Historian, as well as the outgoing officers, who have been so gracious in helping out with their advice and counsel. Thank you one and all. I look forward to an even more exciting year.

Morocco To Celebrate 150 Years August 24-26th Submitted by Donna LaCrosse

The town of Morocco will be celebrating 150 years of "growth" on August 24, 25, and 26. Committees have been meeting and members are planning events to take place on that special weekend this summer. A fun-filled celebration is being planned for your three-day visit to Morocco. Mark the days on your calendar so you won't miss the festivities!

Attention - Special Book To Be Published!

The Family History Division is planning to issue a compilation of *Morocco History* for the sesquicentennial. If you have Beaver Township roots, now is the time to prepare copy about your family. Deadline is April 1st, 2001. Contact Gerald Born, or call the Resource Center at 219-474-6944.



Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. The State of Indiana. See page 29.
2. The teacher's salary was paid by the parents according to the number of children they had attending school that year. See page 14.
3. Warren T. McCray of Kentland served as Governor of Indiana from 1921-1924. See page 32.
4. Morocco. As the story goes men were clearing timber to form the west edge of Morocco, and a stranger rode up on horseback inquiring about directions to Kankakee, Illinois. The stranger was wearing a pair of leather boots topped with shiny red Morocco leather. After he had gone, the men decided to name the town after the boots the stranger was wearing. See page 17.
5. Potawatomi. See page 3.

J. B. Foresman, Newton County Patriarch, Founder of Foresman

From the Goodland Library archives . . . most likely the Goodland Herald.

"Uncle John", as he was generally known, started farming when 23 years old on the Parker farm in Tippecanoe County. In 1860, he bought a farm near Dayton, which he operated until 1863, when he moved to a 2,000 acre cattle ranch in Warren county owned by John Purdue, who was later to found Purdue University.

In 1865, he moved back to the Dayton farm, which in 1871 he traded for a large tract of land in Iroquois township, Newton county, on which the village of Foresman, named for him, is now situated. Here he pursued general farming and stock raising, and was eminently successful. At one time he owned 700 acres of land; much of this was given to his children. At the time of his death he still owned 380 acres. He continued farming until 1903, when he moved to Brook, where he had since resided. A daughter, Miss Alice Foresman lived here with him.

Mr. Foresman was one of the few original republicans still living. His first vote for president was cast in 1856 for John Fremont., his father was a Whig.

In 1880, he established on his farm the first tile factory in this section of the state. he was ridiculed by his friends and neighbors but continued making tile for about 10 years, using them to drain and improve his land.

For four years, from 1876 to 1880, he served as trustee of Iroquois township and in this capacity again demonstrated his progressive ideas. He increased the annual school term from three to seven months, a revolutionary move; in addition, he built three new school building and remodeled eight others. He was regarded among the best cattle men in the section of the country, and retained this interest even in recent years. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and of the Methodist church. Among his intimate friends was George Ade, humorist and playwright.

Surviving are seven children: John B., Jr. and Mrs. Jeanette Sunderland, of Foresman; Mrs. Martha Sunderland and Miss Alice Foresman, Brook; Frank, Tulsa, Okla; William D., Gate, Okla, and Mrs. Mary Gwaltney, Pasadena and two brothers, Joseph of Tulsa, Okla., and George of Pasadena, Cal. and a half-brother, Seth Foresman, of Dayton.

From a Tippecanoe County Paper, December 18, 1929

December 17, Brook, Indiana - John B. Foresman, patriarch of Newton County and long ago a resident of Tippecanoe county, died at 9:15 o'clock this morning at his home here. He was 97 years old. Mr. Foresman had been ill but a short time and bedfast for two weeks, from infirmities of age.

His life went back to a day far different from that of the present. In 1840 - 89 years ago- he was awarded a silver cup at the first Tippecanoe county agricultural fair ever held in Lafayette, for showing the "best and fattest" hog. This cup, incidently, is now on display in the museum of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association. He remembered the Mexican war and recalled many incidents of those stirring days. Mr. Foresman was a successful farmer and stock raiser, and was a large landowner in Newton County.

He was born in Circleville, Pikaway county, Ohio in 1832, a son of Robert and Vera (Baer) Foresman. In 1833 the family moved to Tippecanoe county. He grew to manhood there, and in 1855 was married to Minerva B. Davis, of Attica who has since died.

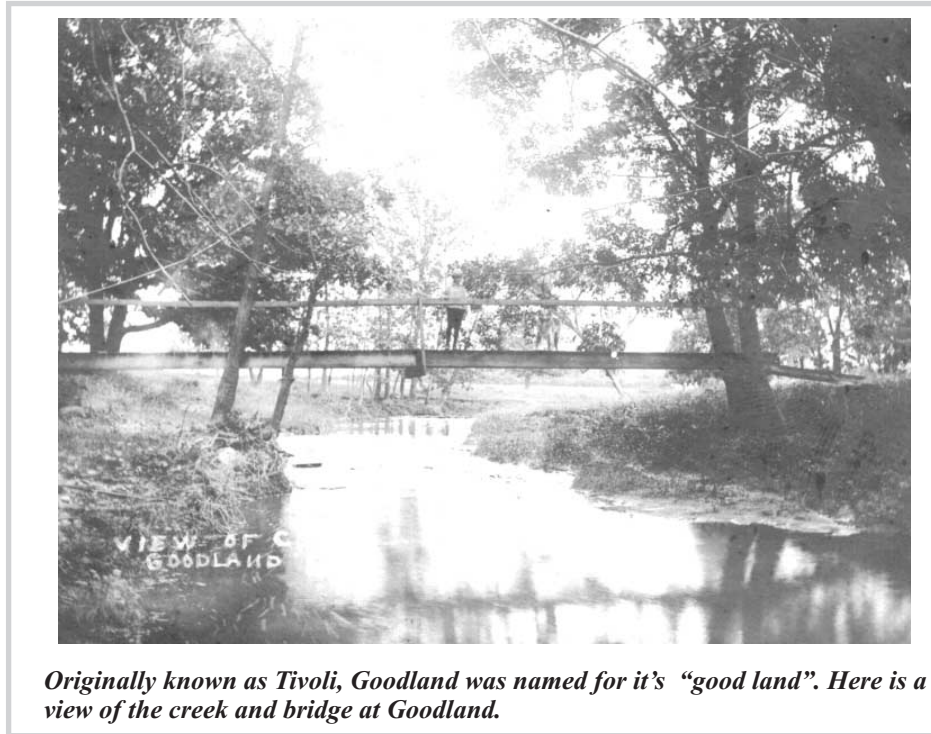
Mr. Foresman died in his 98th year Tuesday at his home in Brook. He cast his first vote for Fremont when republican party was born in 1856. Eighty-nine years ago he won a cup for a prize hog at the first Tippecanoe County Fair. At 97, he still drove his own automobile.

Submitted by Beth Bassett



J. B. Foresman

small town known as **Julian**. It was platted on October 21, 1882 by Jacob and Martha Julian, and was located on the C. & E.I. railroad. It was located 2 miles north of State Road 16 and 1 mile east of State Road 55. The population was 10, and was also called Julian Station. **Foresman** was laid out by John B. Foresman on December 1, 1882. Eventually, with the construction of the new branch of the C. & E.I. railroad through Brook and Morocco, Foresman's businesses abandoned the town for Brook. The town proper of **Brook** was platted on June 26, 1856 by Samuel Benjamin. However, it was first a settlement that was located 2 miles southwest of the present town in about 1836. According to the an article by Aaron Lyons, that appeared in the Brook Reporter on July 5, 1901 this is how the town acquired it's name. "Now there were two creeks of about the same size two or three miles south of the town of Brook. Where these two brooks met it was only logical the location of the settlement would help with the selection of a name." Mr. Lyons adds, "I have no desire to excite the minds of people of Brook and have them make pilgrimages to see those two dirty little creeks, but if you look closely at them you can see the origin of the name of the town of Brook". **Weishaar Switch** was named in a 1903 train schedule for the C. &



Originally known as Tivoli, Goodland was named for it's "good land". Here is a view of the creek and bridge at Goodland.

E. I. railroad. The schedule stated that the train left the main track at Percy Junction, north of Goodland and the next stop was Weishaar Switch, then Brook, Beaver City, Morocco, and Pogue Ranch. It was located 2 1/2 miles southeast of Brook, and is still

listed on many current Indiana maps, and probably named for the Weishaar family who lived nearby.

Jackson Township - Pilot Grove was eventually established in an area of dense oak trees that was considered a land mark for early pioneers as they traveled through the prairie. Located 2 miles west, 1/4 miles south and 3/4 west of the present town of Mt. Ayr. In 1854 it was the location of one of the first post offices in our county. It was abandoned to Mt. Airy after the railroad station was established there. **Mount Ayr** was originally called Mount Airy. This name could be obtained from the fact that it was said to be the highest point in the county, or it might be after Lewis Marion, who laid out the town on October 18, 1882. He owned a 250 acre farm and set aside 40 acres for the town.

Jefferson Township - The town of **Kentland** was platted on April 23, 1860 by A. J. Kent. It was first called **Kent**; **Kent Station** on October 25, 1860; **Adriance** on February 9, 1864, and finally **Kentland** on July 20, 1868. The railroad station of **Effner**, located 3 miles west of Kentland on today's US 24, was originally known as Effner, Indiana. Today it a part of Illinois, still located at the junction of two railroads.

Lake Township - Perhaps because this settlement was situated near the banks of the old Beaver Lake it was called **Lake Village**. The name was retained when the railroad went through in 1908, even though the lake

route pointed out to him by one of the tribe, where he alleged the first Indian came out of the water after transformation and Conner was of the opinion it was Beaver Lake. I find no corroborative conformation of this legend but tattooing was common among the tribes of this area.

In the digging of a well on one of the edges of the lake, in a section reclaimed by draining pre black swamp muck twenty foot in depth, chiefly made up of decaying and decayed vegetable matter, leaves, ferns and mosses was encountered. There were many places about the lake where such muck appeared solid but was so soft that man and beast became mired sank to a depth of six or eight feet in a twinkling at times leading to fatalities, because the muck clung and prevented swimming out.

It was as early as 1853 that the first drain ditch was dug extending from the lake through five or six miles of prairie northward to the Kankakee River. The Kankakee was about eighty feet below the Beaver Lake level according to Richard Owen who calculated it by barometer in 1859.

Owen says of his 1859 trip, "Few, if any, bolders were observed after leaving Morocco on the route toward Beaver Lake; the country here is rather sparsely settled, yet some fine low prairies exhibit an extensive growth of grass, which we could scarcely distinguish from tame redtop. Ferns and mimosa bushes were common as we approached the sand ridges, with scrubby timber. We disturbed several flocks of cranes and a few fine white specimens of the genus Ardea, probably the A. leuce." (These are known today as American Egrets.)

"We have been gradually descending," continues Owne's narrative, "as we pass near Beaver Lake being now at least a hundred feet below the level of Morocco, until finally at the Kankakee crossing in Illinois (there being no suitable bridge or ferry short of Momence on the west, four or five miles west of the Indiana line) or St. Joseph County on the east. The barometer made the bed of the river 180 feet below the steam mill at Morocco."

Owen seems not to have known that one Sawyer ran a Ferry at Eaton's crossing, almost due north in Jasper County, for three of four years beginning in 1857.

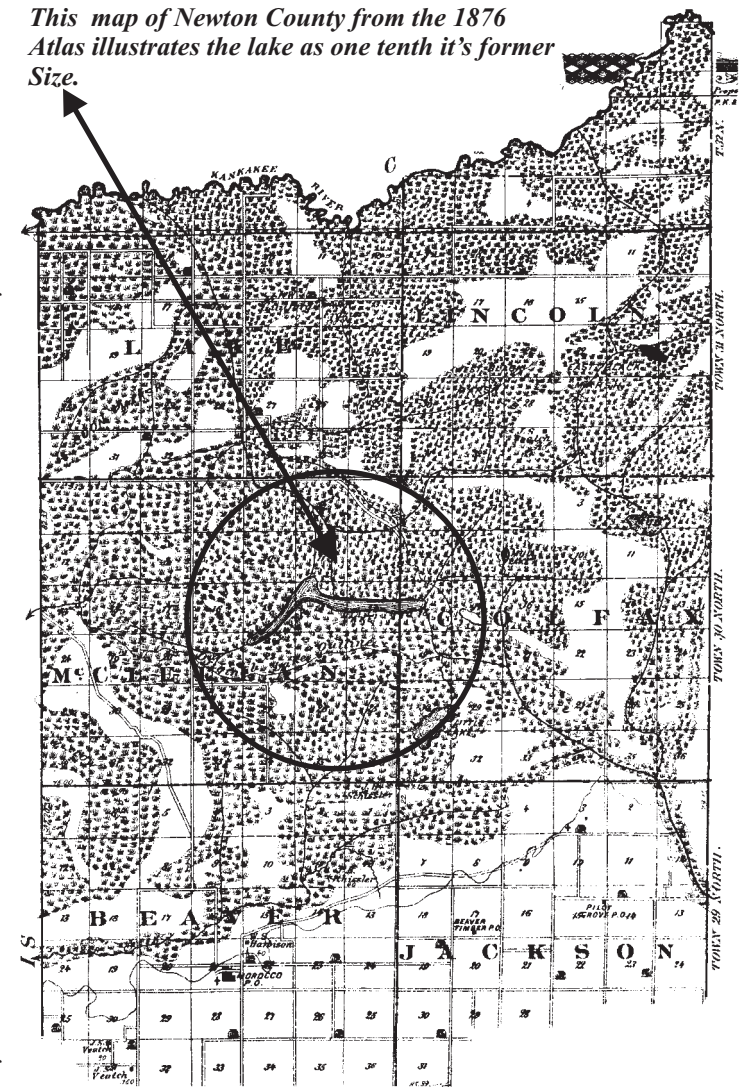
The ditch above referred to was one of the first projects in Indiana for the draining of water covered muck areas to release ground for agriculture. A company was even then forming to extensively drain the whole Kankakee Region.

It was found that this first crude ditch of 1853, when completed, soon caused the shore line of the lake to recede about one hundred yards. Between 8,000 and 9,000 acres were thus reclaimed from the water.

Ditching continued during the next fifty years by laterals and new ditches so that as time went on the water level was lowered and lowered. In 1876 a county map illustrates the lake as one tenth its former size. An old resident tells me it entirely ceased to exist about 1900. A writer in 1911 notes the fact that there was then no lake to be seen in the vicinity. So while man made Wawasee has increased in size, Beaver Lake, a natural body of water covering once 20 1/2 square miles, has, through a period of fifty years after the white man found it, gradually declined to naught. It was man destroyed.

Cultivation of the portion of the land at the lake began before 1859, reports Owen. But today wild grass, much like our cultivated hay, has been allowed to take much of the level old lake bed. Contrary to results obtained in many other swamp reclamation projects, this old lake bed and its environs raise good cultivated farm

This map of Newton County from the 1876 Atlas illustrates the lake as one tenth it's former Size.

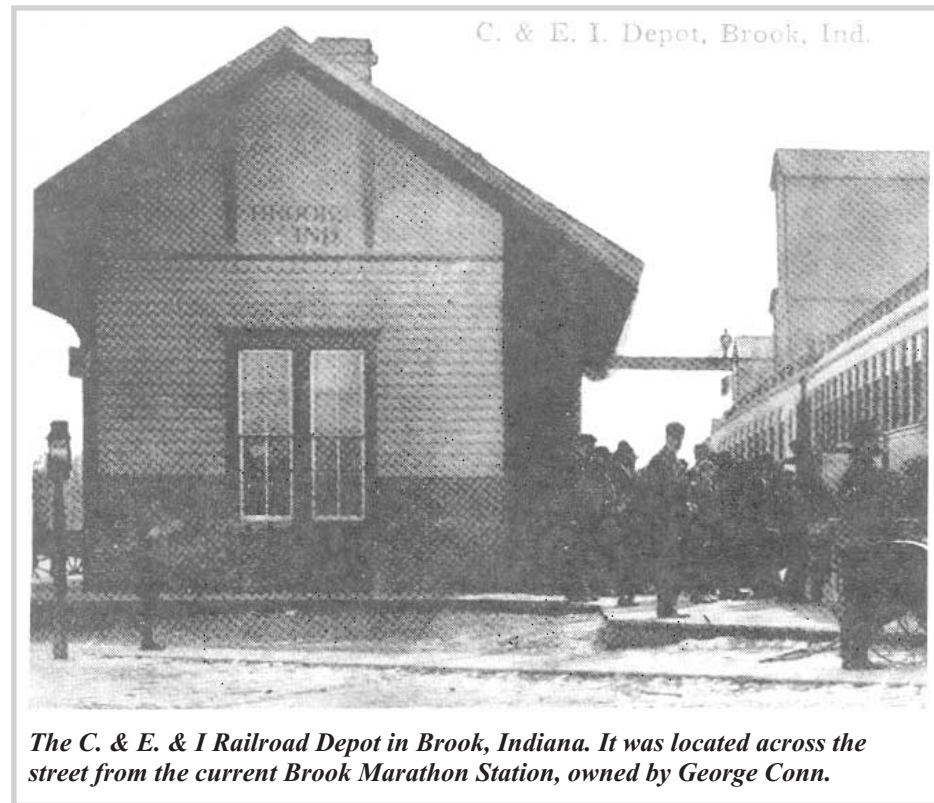


crops.

An early traveler through that country (1859) described Bogus Island, which then stood in the west center of the lake, (so called because of its having been before his time a resort of a gang of counterfeiters who were captured in 1860) stating that it was covered with a fine stand of wild black cherry trees. In the 1830's it was inhabited by Indians. Today the little hill appears as a mound still tree covered surrounded by an ocean of waving grass as far as an eye can see a sight somewhat comparable to the rippled water around it in the early 1800's.

In the extremely cold winter of 1838 a deer hunt on this same island resulted in the killing of 65 deer while as many escaped on the glassy ice. Seven wolves and some foxes also were taken. Other island similar knolls standing in the water between the lake and the Kankakee River, each with an Indian's or hunter's lodge upon it, in those three quarter century ago days are Indian, French and Deserter's islands. *From Newton County Enterprise, June 1, 1939*

Do you have any old pictures of businesses, people, places of our county - not only would we like to preserve a copy of them at our Resource Center in Kentland, but we would also like to publish them in the Newcomer! We'll take very good care of them!



The C. & E. & I Railroad Depot in Brook, Indiana. It was located across the street from the current Brook Marathon Station, owned by George Conn.

A Collection of A Lifetime Rich Miller's License Plate Collection

Rich Miller, member of our society and resident of Washington Township, Kentland acquired a collection of license plates from his uncle John Miller Jr. John lived in Tippecanoe and Benton Counties and passed his unique collection along to Rich in the mid 80's. The earliest plate that he owns is from 1915, measuring 15" x 5 1/2", and



Just a sampling of Rich's collection.

ends with a 1999 plate with the letters and numbers 56R25. Some years are missing, but only a few. Early plates of 1927, 1932, and 1949 are still on Rich's wish list.

A quick visit to the internet tells us that the first license plate for Indiana was in 1913, and from Rich's collection we can see



"Add-on" plates from the early 50's and a slogan plate from 1957

how the plates changed in size and identification over the years. For example, during war years, the 1943 plate measured 7" x 2", and the 1944 plate measured 10 1/2" x 3 1/2". In 1951, during the Korean War period, the plates were designed for "add-on" plates for the following years of 1952 and 1953. Repeat use of plates was once again revived in 1970, by incorporating the use of stickers that were placed in the upper right hand corner with the new plate number for each year. This practice remains in place today, with new metal plates being re-issued about every 2-4 years. Until 1992, a county name sticker was placed in the lower right hand corner.

Early plates carried 2 letters, which stood for each county. The letters ME, followed by up to 4 numbers represented Newton County. This practice stopped in 1962, and the numbering began as we see it today. Each county was given an identification number (Newton County is 56), followed by a letter depicting the district, followed by up to 4 numbers. Most



Rich's oldest plate from 1915, and one from the year he and his wife Janet were born - 1938

of us know that the earlier we get to the license branch, the lower the number we will obtain. Rich decided in 1990 that the plate 56 R 25 would be perfect for his license plate identification.

In 1956 mottos began appearing on the plates. In 1956-1957, "Drive Safely"; 1959 was "Lincoln's Year"; 1960-1962, "Safety Pays"; 1966 was the 150th year of Statehood; 1976, "The Heritage State"; 1980 commemorated George Rogers Clark; 1982-1984 "Hoosier State"; 1985-1987 "Wander" appeared, following the state's theme of Wander Indiana; 1988-1990 "Back

Home Again!"; 1991-1993, "Hoosier Hospitality"; 1994-1998, "Amber Waves of Grain"; 1998-today, "Crossroads of America".

Today, a variety of logos, colors and slogans are available for an additional price, and usually, that additional money is donated to that university, organization or society that is represented on these personalized, sometimes called "vanity" plates, such as FFA, D.A.R.E, Boy Scouts and more.

Thanks Rich, for sharing this wonderful collection with us! Submitted by Beth Bassett

Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

These questions were taken from the Newton County Historical Coloring Book Vol. 1, dedicated to the children of Newton County by the Newton County Historical Society.

1. George Ade's garden was designed in what shape?
2. Newton County had subscription schools in the early years. What is a subscription school?
3. Who was the only Indiana governor to be born in Newton County?
4. What town in Newton County was named after a pair of boots?
5. Name the main Indian tribe that lived in Newton County?

See answers on Page 15.

Do you have your copy of the Newton County Historical Coloring Book? Why Not? 219-474-6944

Maryland.

There is a lapse of time here, Elizabeth had died in the spring of 1775. John then moved his family, including his second wife, Mary some 70 miles in Virginia to an English settlement in 1779. Nothing more is said about their travels, but we found in the year 1780, (a leap year), and in a tavern, sons of John Padgett. John, John Jr., William and Thomas were having an unfriendly conversation with others. According to the history of the County, the Great Revolutionary War was in full swing. Here, we found a paycheck #630, State of North Carolina, paid to Thomas Padgett (my 3rd great grandfather)! I was elated, now I could belong to the D.A.R.

In the meantime, the Padgett families had joined the Moravian Church and attended regularly, holding meetings in their home. John had never approved of his mother's English church teachings. (here is when I wrote to England and obtained the Padgett Crest).

Rev. Rights invited us to attend his church on Sunday, which we did. It was an interesting service and at the end, coffee was served to everyone seated and a long basket of rolls was past and all were to take one, children had coffee and rolls too. All ate them at once as the blessing was repeated. That evening, all were invited to a watermelon feast. Everyone got a bob and stood on the church grounds next to a big wagon load of melons. As they were cut, everyone took a slice, eating and spitting the seeds on the ground. It was a fun time for everyone.

To go on with the story, we had spent about a week, so it was time for us to move on toward Indiana. The families had migrated to Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. John's death is listed as June 2, 1811, having lived with this daughter Mary, (from his second wife), at the time of his death.

We had learned Thomas and his family had moved to Indiana, purchasing land in Washington County on Lost River. We drove on our way home to Salem, Indiana. here we found in the court house there that Nathan Padgett (son of Thomas) and his wife, Sara Vest had purchased 80 acres. By 1820, the had three children according to the U.S. Census of that year. School houses in these days were scarce, so called because of no teachers. However, Nathan sent his children part time, helping with the farming and a saw mill.

Here, my great grandfather, John Padgett was born, named for great grandfather, on May 19, 1825 Nathan and wife Sally, as she

was called. died at the age of 51 years, leaving her husband and their seven children, John, (my great grandfather), Moses, Samuel, Richard, Sarah, Lewis and Rachel, (from the US Census, 1840). She was buried in the Bethel Cemetery at West 52nd Street, Indianapolis. We visited this cemetery and also found Nathan's stone marked August 2, 1850.

In the Marion County marriage records of the Indiana State Library, we found that John Padgett (my great grandfather), had married Mary Magdaline Bower on September 2, 1847. They were both 22 years old. Mary was born in Virginia on June 7, 1825, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Hiner) Bowers. She was brought by her parents to Marion County. They started their home in Marion County, farming 250 acres until 1850. They then moved to Washington Township, Newton County, Indiana, purchasing 160 acres of prairie from the USA, on January 10, 1853, located Southwest of Morocco now. The deed was signed by Alex McCormick, Asst. Secretary of President Millard Fillmore. They improved the land and built a comfortable home.

Here, they reared their nine children. Sarah E., deceased in infancy, John, Lewis, Elizabeth, Mary A., Micheal J., James Ambrose (my grandfather), Rachel C., Ida and Clara.

When the Prairie Vine Church was organized this family was loyal to the church and it's principals of faith. John and Mary are buried in this cemetery, know as Prairie Vine Cemetery, the church is long gone, however, other Padgetts and relatives are buried there.

James (my grandfather), their youngest son, worked on the farm until his father's death, January 20, 1891. John was independent in politics, a good Baptist, Master Mason, belonging to Morocco Lodge #372. (I thought now I could belong to the Eastern Star).

James had been married 17 years when his wife died, February 11, 1901 at the age of 75 years. They are both at rest in Prairie Vine Cemetery.

I have heard my father talk about his father, and I can remember my grandfather, (we called him Grandpa Jim). He married at the age of 25 and his wife Flora Jennie Peterson was just 18, February 22, 1884.

They raised eight children on the home farm, (where Vic Padgett is living), four girls, four boys Laura Markley, a teacher, Hershel, a farmer, Ross Mark (my father), Harley, a farmer, Denver, Beulah Corbin,

Vivian Billings and Dorthy Rich, who was reared by her aunt following her mother's early death.

Grandmother Flora Padgett died suddenly of Peritonitis on March 20, 1906, and was buried in Buswell Cemetery. I have many happy memories of Grandpa Jim, for he came to our house a lot. He'd call my mother, Addie Elizabeth Montgomery Padgett, asking what was cooking he loved my mother's cooking and would say "I'll be coming along". Pretty soon, his old Veilly car would drive into the lane. He died of cancer, May 22, 1922 and is buried beside Grandma Flora in the Buswell cemetery, and at this date both of my parents, Ross and Addie and several other Padgetts are buried there too. Also, my beloved husband, Sherwood E. Carlson, who passed on October 5th, 1975.

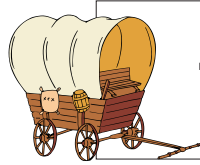
Now you know who I am . . . Genevera Flora Padgett Carlson.

Editor's note: Nev Carlson is an active member of our society, and her adventures along the way of tracing her family roots is not unlike many other's stories. The excitement of discovery only makes you journey on, and on, and on. Nev published a book on her family entitled "We Padgetts", which illustrates in more detail the information contained within this article. We welcome others to submit their family histories and adventures in the pursuit of preserving our heritage.

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Research your Newton County Families, from the comfort of your home by using our web site!

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- [Index of "The Newcomer" Articles](#)
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- [Obituaries of Past Residents](#)
- [Biographies of Past Residents](#)



FOCUS ON FAMILIES *The Stowell Connection*

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

By Gerald Born

It is a mysterious serendipity that allows connections of families to be made. While volunteering at the NCHS Resource Center in Kentland I was talking with my brother, Dr. Gordon Born, who had stopped by at closing time to see if I was interested in dinner. During the course of the conversation I mentioned to him a description of the house of our ggggrandfather, Dr. Oliver Stowell as described by his grandson, William Rufus Rogers Stowell in his autobiography.

I had always been interested in WRR Stowell, for he, and his father, Artimus Oliver Augustus Stowell, a brother to Dr. Oliver Stowell had early joined the Mormon church. AOA Stowell became disillusioned with them and returned to New York, where he practiced law and sat on the Supreme Court in that state. William Rufus Rogers Stowell, however, not only stayed with the church, but led them from Nauvoo to Salt Lake and participated in many of the Indian hostilities on their journey. He eventually rose to the position of Patriarch in the Church of Latter Day Saints and married, had four wives, and some twenty eight children. When the government cracked down on polygamy, he moved to Mexico and that is where he wrote his autobiography.

WRR Stowell had been on a trip in the 1880's to gather family information, He started from Springfield, Mass. and went to Stafford, Connecticut, where his grandfather had raised his family, I remained there until June 30th, then went to Stafford, Conn. I looked over the gravestones in the cemetery and took dinner at a Mr. Fisk's. He was related to the Stowell family by marriage as my uncle, Jonathan Stowell, married Mary Fisk. He treated me very kindly and introduced me to a Presbyterian Deacon. He showed me a small book in which was a record of the infant baptism of my father. (AOA Stowell) I went into an old fashioned house called the Stowell House, where my father was born. The rafters that supported the roof were hand hewn timber six inches square. The frame of the house was also of heavy, hewn timbers. the weather boarding was put on with wrought nails; the chimney was in the center of the house and the foundation of the chimney was in the cellar and of rock work about 10 feet square. That

afternoon I walked several miles and crossed the State line into Massachusetts to Cousin Zeno Farrington's. Two cemeteries were in sight from his house. I spent the next day in taking names from the tombstones. In the afternoon I again went to Starford Street where the Stowell House before spoken of was located. This street was laid out in the early settlement of the county with the expectation that it would be the main street of a city, but time did not develop expectations. It is one mile long, twenty rods wide, with a good stone wall on each side four or five feet high. In the old house before mentioned, my father, and Uncles and Aunts were born." (From the Biography of William Rufus Rogers Stowell, by James Little, 1893 Colonial Juarez, Mexico)

I was explaining to my brother that I had just been sent this item on the Internet by a distant cousin in California. Marlowe Davis was also there doing some research on his family and he piped up with, "I have a Stowell in my tree." I am sure we were both surprised by this chance happening, but we started then and there trying to find the connection. He didn't have his data at hand but said he would get it to me, which he did.

His ancestress was one Surlina Stowell who married his ancestor, Hiram Davis. I immediately checked the Stowell Genealogy, a large book with a thousand or so of the Stowells listed. No luck. But Marlowe had the following letters and on careful study, her name was spelled, Selina. But still I could not find her in the genealogy. However one of the letters contained the name of her father, Seth Stowell. And I was sure I knew who Seth Stowell was, for my ggggrandfather had a first cousin by that name, and he was listed in the book, the son of Dr. Oliver Stowell's oldest brother, Ephraim Stowell. On comparison of the birth dates, we found that Seth had a daughter listed in the book as Mary or May, which may have been her middle name, for the date of birth matched exactly.

Having made the connection, a touching story emerged about the life and times of Selina(Stowell) Davis. From another source on the Internet I found that the couple had been members of the Presbyterian Church at Binghamton, Broome County, New York and had transferred their

membership to Lisle in 1828. Shortly thereafter, Hiram Davis died and Selina was faced with the task of raising two sons without her husband, and obviously without the means to do so, which was not an uncommon occurrence in those days.. This letter from her father, Seth Stowell, dated clearly shows her dilemma. South New Berlin (NY), May 5, 1833

I received yours of the 26th of April. You informed me that you wist me to take Dan and you to put Sylvester to Smiths. As for advising you I am not prepared to do it. You must counsel with them that are better acquainted with the family and then to act your judgment. I can take Dan and schoole him this summer and perhaps you can find a place in the fall where he can better learn than here, but if we live till then, we can see about it. I think likely Smith may do well by him. He has made good proficiency in school the winter past and it is for you now to act as you think best. I can give no further counsel at present. We are in comfortable health at present time. I hope you enjoy the same blessing. Remember us to all inquiring friends. Tell Iden, that rake, I will be wanted in this place. I have nothing more at present as I suppose you will receive one not long since. I remain your father and friend. (To) Selina Davis (From) Seth Stowell.

From the following letter it appears that Selina placed Sylvester with the Smith family who lived not far from Athens, New York Mrs. Smith also appears to be a friend of Selina's sister Marilla, for Mrs. Smith asks to be remembered to her. Sylvester Davis is Marlowe's ancestor. This letter is headed: Ulster Mills (NY) August 20th 1837.

Dear Madam: Yours of July 3rd was rec'd soon after date. We were much satisfied to hear from you. I must confess I have neglected to write for which I must beg your pardon. One excuse is I wished Alanson to write or commit first, but I find it is of no use to wait for him. You requested Alanson or May Smith to write last fall, but I could not get them about it.

I will now undertake to write myself as I consider it more of a pleasure than a task after I once get about it. We are all in usual health. Sylvester enjoys better health this

summer than common. His health was very poor through the Spring. I was afraid he was going into a consumption. He has had the chicken pox, but he did not have it the same time when the rest of the children had it. He thinks he got it when he lived with you.

We have had one misfortune to fall. Our little Adam Foster Bush. He died the 12th of February. He was 15 months and 8 days old. He was a very large and healthy child. He was sick but three days. I think we doated too much upon him. He was a very smart child. It was hard to part with him and I have this consolation. I believe he is happier than he could possibly be upon this earth. I have taken a girl 7 years old. Her mother is dead. She had one brother. We are much pleased with her. She is of a good family and has been living with an uncle. He is wealthy but has large family of girls. We concluded it would be best to have her bound which her father agreed to. Sylvester, Matilda Ellen and Andrew have attended school this summer. They have a mile and a quarter to go. We shall have our new schoolhouse soon. Jane Smith was down in June and staid three weeks. Andrew went home with her and staid 8 weeks. Major Smith and wife went up last week and brought Andrew home. Aunt Hannah Brookline (?) died the 24th of July of consumption. I understand Mr. Lee's people are going to the west in a few weeks. You spoke of seeing Alanson. You thought in NY, you were mistaken as he was not there.

On Thursday last we had the largest carivan of wild animals exhibited at Athens 4 miles above here that was ever in the United States. Alanson and myself attended with the three children and hired folk, eleven in number of us all. There was the largest collection of people that ever was known in the country and country village. I hope you will visit us when you come to these parts. Give my respects to Marilla if you see her. Please write on the rec'pt of this and give me the news if you have any. This from your friend. Yours with respect, (To) Selina (Stowell) Davis, (From) Matilda J. Smith Appended to the same letter was one from Sylvester to his mother. He appears to be wise beyond his years. He was 12 at the time.

Dear Mother, I now will try to write to you for the first time. I was very glad to hear from you. You said Dan was contented. I am too. You can tell him I wished to see him and that I think I have got a good home. Tell him I had a good show of animals last Thursday on Tiger Point. I have studied with Mattie and geography this summer and wrote some.

I want to see you and think I shall live with you when I get to be a man. I want you to come and see me when you come back from Connecticut. So now good by. Give my love to Dan. Tell him I wont forget him. I send my love to you too. (To) Selina Davis, (From) Sylvester Davis

Hiram Davis may have died at Lisle, New York, a town some twenty miles northwest of Binghamton, for in 1828, both he and his wife transferred their membership from the First Presbyterian Church of Binghamton to Lisle. Records also show that in 1849 Selina transferred her membership to Oxford, thus providing a clue to her whereabouts before her marriage to a Mr. Woodley. Marlowe has a copy of a photograph of Selina taken (judging from the costume and format) in the early 1870s by a photographer in Binghamton, so it appears that she may have remained in the same general area after Hiram's death. These details have yet to be researched.

From the Stowell Genealogy we learn that Seth moved to North Plato, Kane County, Illinois and that Selina's son, Daniel Dimmick Davis lived at a later date in Elgin, Illinois. (It is interesting to note that Selina's sister, Fanny married a Dimmick and that may explain Dan's middle name). Seth must have moved to New York from Hartford, Connecticut, for only his youngest daughter, Marilla was born in New Berlin, the other five having been born in Hartford. In 1806 Seth was living in Norwich, Chenango County, New York, as he quits to his mother Elizabeth Stowell of Pomfret, Connecticut, for love of her more comfortable support, all his rights to estate of his father, Ephraim. Seth was the son of Ephraim Stowell and Elizabeth Cutler. Ephraim's parents were Nathaniel Stowell and Margaret Trowbridge. Elizabeth's parents were Seth and Elizabeth (Babcock) Cutler.

So from this poignant story of a widow and her two sons emerges the clues to help construct a family history. Sylvester J. Stowell Davis eventually married Loretta M. Marsh and had five children, one of whom Hiram Arthur Davis married Ella Chenoweth. and had Marlowe's father, Miles Victor Davis, b in Pennville, Jay County, Indiana. The family lived for a time in Wells County but not a lot is presently known of why the family came to Indiana or when. The rest is, as they say, is history.

Marlowe Davis started his career with the Soil Conservation Service after a stint in the South Pacific during World War II and saw a lot of the territory of that region. Marlowe

learned surveying on his own assisted by Don Heaton, Jim Cory and John Collins. He laid out the Ray Street Addition, the Holly Addition of Kentland and is widely known throughout the county. His first wife was Dorothy Lucille Hoover whom he married in 1947 and his second wife is Mrs. Norma Jean (Winkle) Hambly, whom he married in 1962.

Putting it all in the cousins' chart I find that Marlowe and I are fifth cousins, once removed. True it is not a very close relationship, but it does mean that we share in a lot of the same history, starting in Connecticut with the family of Nathaniel and Margaret (Trowbridge) Stowell. I have traveled back to Connecticut to see the Trowbridge house and visit the Pomfret cemeteries. I have gone to England to visit the Stowell and Trowbridge ancestral homes and have traced the wool route from the Highlands of Scotland to Exeter, England that was started by the Trowbridge ancestor for which King Henry VIII knighted him. It is a rich heritage encompassing much of southern England.

The history covers quite a swath in US history as well, from the time young Samuel Stowell landed in Hingham, Massachusetts in 1635 through the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 when the Stowell and Davis families were moving into New York where they took part in the western expansion as that part of the state was opened for settlement. The families moved to Ohio and on to Indiana, his locating first in Wells County, and mine in Porter County. Strange that fate would have our paths cross in Kentland, Indiana, but that is what makes the study of family history so interesting. We may have met a cousin without realizing it.

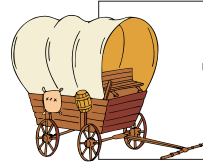
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FOCUS ON FAMILIES

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

I am thinking that persons like me, should never, never, look backward, but always ahead, but why ahead

I'm sitting here thinking of the days when this wonderful country was first settled; thinking of the wonderful things that are happening and will happen, yet I look backwards.

Has it ever occurred to you that you might be someone else you grow up, knowing what you learned and what has been told to you, yet who are you?

I believe I have always wondered about things of this nature and why no one likes to take the time to write things down. There was at one time "family Bibles" in which everything of interest to that family was written down. How I would like to read one of these! I can only imagine what fun it would be to remember Old Uncle John, Aunt Bertha, and all their children.

With this in mind, I had to go to North Carolina.

To start our trip, after convincing my mother, Addie to go with me along with my eight year old son, Jerry Lee, we decided to go.

I had my car serviced, so I thought. We started out at 4:00 a.m., on a dark night. My mother always started early, no use to waste part of the day! We were riding along with Jerry asleep on the back seat of the car, had gone through Lafayette on US 24 past Wabash Valley and a couple of miles when the car stopped. "Out of Gas". They had serviced the car but forgot to fill it with gas. Well, I decided I'd walk back about a half of a mile to a farm house where I had seen some lights, for it was pitch dark. I walked down a long lane and knocked on the door. The door opened quickly with the lady jerking me inside, asking me "how did you get here"? We have two bad dogs. She was still shaking when she called her husband. To make a long story short, he got some gas and I thanked her, the he drove me back to my car. He refused to take any money, but told me to stop at the first filling station which was about two miles farther on south. I thanked him for his kindness and we were on our way again, south.

The rest of the trip was uneventful with the exception of my mother asking "Do you think you can drive through these

mountains"? I assured her I could. We covered the 700 miles in 2 1/2 days, enjoying the scenery, arriving in Winston Salem, N.C. in mid afternoon. I walked into the Robert E. Lee Hotel, being a little car happy, I said "Do you allow Yankees"? The clerk laughed and assigned us to a beautiful room on the third floor. That night my mother suffered an asthma attack. The cigarette factor was just down the street from the hotel and they were processing the tobacco. The smell was terrible. We closed all the windows, no air conditioning. I went for coffee for mother that always helped her breathing. Finally we all got some sleep.

The next day, August 31, I called Rev. Douglas LaTell Rights, president of the Wachovia Historical Society on Salem Square. I had written him several letters and had found out he was married to a lady of Newton County, Lake Village, Adelaide L. Fries, called Cecile, and that her father had worked in Newton County Courthouse. We were heartily welcomed.

We met Rev. Rights at the museum where he showed us around and told us that most of the Moravian archives were written in German. Here, I had some luck! His secretary was a German War Bride and she volunteered to do translations, so the search began. There was a great storehouse of genealogical information here in the museum.

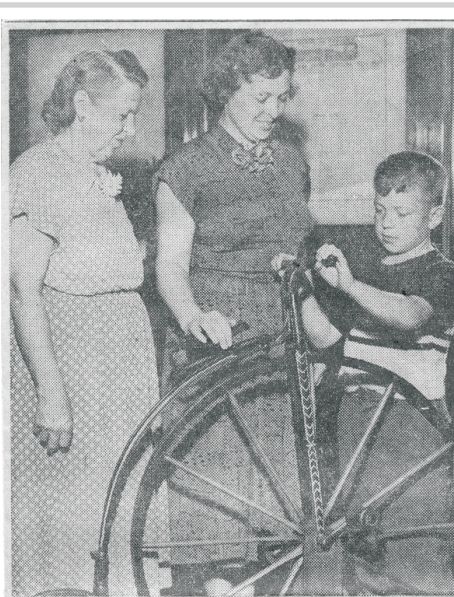
We found my fourth great grandfather, John Padgett in the tax listing of Wachovia 17751783, page 1925 in the Hope Diary. He was born in Maryland, September 9, 1723 and his second wife, Mary was listed. We found we were descendants of John and his first wife, Elizabeth Canwood. Their son, Thomas (my 3rd great grandfather) had been born in Maryland and had traveled with his wife, Sarah Ann Mathews and family to Winston Salem, N.C., and had located on land between two creeks Muddy Creek and Salem Creek, a short distance from the old Hope Church.

At this point, I want to tell you we found John's will and learned more about the Moravians. We were sent to an old cemetery near the Old Hope Church. This was quite an experience. The cemetery had not been kept up, but we waded through the weeds and bush coming to a tree. Here we

were told the tree marked the center of the cemetery. It was divided into four quarters. Married men in one quarter, the first to die in the year, got the first grave near the tree., a flat slab with name and date. The next quarter, the married ladies, with the same treatment, the third quarter, the single ladies and the 4th quarter the single men. In one corner was the baby plat. The old church was gone.

But first, I want to tell you the "first family" of the Padgetts. We found and located them in Charles County, Maryland. John's father was Benjamin and his wife was Mary. Benjamin died when John was three years old and his mother reared him in the English church. This is about all I can tell you about Benjamin and Mary, however, my aunt, wrote me we are descendants of the Huguenots. John spoke and wrote German or Austrian languages, and his wife Mary was English or French, decended of Mrs. George Washington.

To continue the story, John lived with his mother until he was 20, then he married his first wife, Elizabeth and in 1743, they moved to their new home in Carroll Manor,



This photo was taken of Nev, her mother Addie and son Jerry Lee when they were visiting the Wachovia Museum. From the Winston-Salem Journal, Friday Morning, August 31, 1951

Who Am I?

By Genevera Carlson

Family History Division Update

By Gerald Born

Due to inclement weather the planned walk of Riverside Cemetery, Brook, to proof the data that has been compiled by Kyle Conrad was postponed until a later date.

The family history division participated in the original checking of tombstone dates that had been done by Joyce and Yvonne Kay a number of years ago. Kyle has been busy since then putting together a plot map of the cemetery, reentering the data to match the way the rows were laid out, and has checked over 500 obituaries from the Brook Reporter to verify the data. In this way he has found many graves that were not marked.

There has been discussion at the Family History Division meetings on the best way to make the cemetery data available for the remaining townships of Newton County (cemetery records for Lake, McClellan, Beaver, and Washington townships have already been published) However due to the lengthy process involved in verifying the material it was decided that as soon as a cemetery is complete that it should be put on our web site, so that it will be more readily available and so that the general public could correct and update the material before it is put in book form. A few of the smaller cemeteries are ready to be put on the web after the holidays are over.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found ordering information on the Newton County Historical Coloring Book. The Family History Division provided one half of the seed money needed for printing of the coloring book. It is anticipated that it will be distributed to the fourth grade classes of Newton County schools for the next two years thus providing a valuable aid to understanding the history of the county. Division members, Greta Taylor, the Art Director, and Janet Miller, Editor, and Beth Bassett, Production Manager, were moving forces in bringing the publication to fruition. Greta contributed a number of illustrations, Janet wrote the captions, and Beth was in charge of production and printing.

Work progresses on the Morocco Sesquicentennial History. Biographies from the 1883 History of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton Counties and from the 1916 Standard History of Jasper and Newton Counties have been placed on Newton County's web page by Gerald Born with the help of Kathy Huish of Lake County, who oversees that project on our web page.. These will be used as a basis of the biography section of the planned history. Nancy Coats is busy typing newspaper articles written by Born to be used in the narrative section of the history. Susie Hall, Janette Hall's granddaughter (and both members of the Society and Division) is typing material from other sources to be included and Donna LaCrosse is typing articles she did for the Morocco Courier on local Morocco businessmen that also will be included.

Gerald Born attended the October 19th committee meeting of the Morocco Sesquicentennial Committee to explain the contribution the Society and its Family History Division is making to the Morocco effort. We have earmarked \$2,000.00 to be used as seed money for the publication of the work. Born also said that advertising may also be needed to help finance such an ambitious undertaking. He is also providing periodic articles to the Morocco Courier to help publicize the work the Family History Division of NCHS is doing. Gerald was also able to furnish the committee a script of Morocco Centennial's Celebration Pageant held fifty years ago. It was among the materials Katherine Robinson had



Gerald Born, Director of the Family History Division of the Society, answers questions from Morocco 4th Grade Students regarding the Town of Morocco. Photo Submitted

provided for a chapter on the Centennial celebration that will also be included in the book. Who says a pack rat is a bad thing?

Bad weather interfered with the November 9th annual tour of Morocco's downtown for the fourth grade class given by Mr. Born. Instead he took them on a virtual tour using their own imaginations with the aid of a map supplied by Mrs. Eason and Mrs. Gregory, the fourth grade teachers. He also told them about a family tree and how to start one. The many questions that followed proved again that fourth graders are eager to learn.

Janet Miller and Beth Bassett have been busy distributing the Coloring Book to the fourth grade classes of Newton County. They and Greta Taylor have met with schools in North and South Newton to represent the Society and the Family History Division.

The Division also hopes to have a workshop in the near future on post cards of Newton County in which the proper care and organization of photographic materials will be discussed. Marlowe Davis recently donated a scanner to our Society in order to record photographic images that will emerge from the workshop. So during these long winter months unpack the old photos and see what post cards you can uncover.

NCHS Resource Center

Window Display

The current Window Display depicts a one room school. In December, it featured Christmas, January featured winter weather, and February reflects the many holidays. Did you know that the first ground hog day was celebrated Feb. 2, 1864 and the American version of the lore states, If the sun shines on Ground Hog Day, Half the Fuel, Half the Hay!



NEWTON'S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

Beaver Lake

By S. E. Perkins, III
Fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science

I find the history of the physiographic and faunal changes of a part of northern Indiana so replete with such fascinating happenings that I would share the story of it.

In times of the far remote past there is shown by geological evidence that a very large body of water covered most of what is now Newton and Jasper counties from the Kankakee River south as far as Kentland to the south of the Iroquois River. It was known as Lake Kankakee. It disappeared through natural causes thousands of years ago.

Beaver Lake, the largest body of water ever to be known within the confines of the State of Indiana in modern times, is now also a thing of the past. Lake Wawasee, formerly known as Turkey Lake, Indiana's present largest lake, amounted to little more than a pond before 1828, when a dam creating it was first placed by early settlers, and has acquire its present size of five and a half by one and a half miles, only through a series of succeeding dams.

Apparently few people living now are aware of the fact that before 1849 in Barker Township, Jasper County, Indiana, as it was laid out in the early days of the state, there was and had been so long that the mind of man, both of the white and Indian race, ran not to the contrary, a natural water area seven miles by five miles in extent placid lake of 16,000 acres six miles south of the Kankakee River, that it was a muck bottomed, and quite shallow with the exception of a narrow twelve foot deep channel through it. Few are aware that reeds, grasses and pond lillies grew rank in most of this primitive water area; that a dozen "oak openings" called islands thrived there; that wild life concentrated at that lake in greatest profusion thousands of pristinely white swans, ducks and geese by myriads along with cranes and herons of many kinds that dozens of these varieties of birds bred thereabouts; that this sheet of water was known as Beaver Lake.

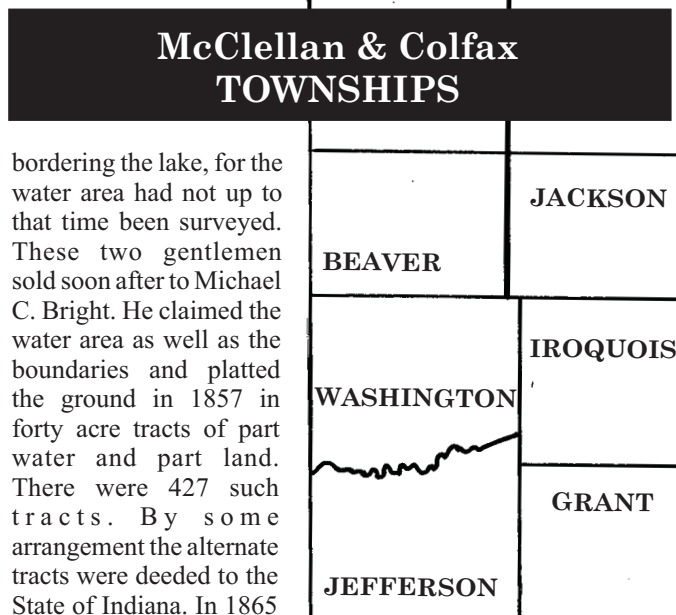
When George Culp and Thomas Randall of Virginia came by way of Gray's; Tavern on the Tippecanoe in September, 1834 seeking a homestead near the rapids of the Iroquois River in Jasper County, they reported no white settlements west of what is now Pulaski County line. There were but few white persons in the whole region then for it was mostly water and prairie and swamp with a paucity of habitable ground.

Beaver Lake's location was between the present towns of Morocco and Lake Village, both of which were non-existent in 1849 but sprang up soon thereafter. They were both recorded as settlements in 1859. When the first officers of the newly formed Newton County, at the direction of Thomas R. Barker, sheriff and official county organizer, met in Kent, now Kentland, on April 21, 1860, there were but two buildings in that place.

A dike road (U.S. Road No. 41) today runs north and south between Morocco and Lake Village, formerly on opposite side of the east end of Beaver Lake. The elevation of the dike on which the road runs is only a couple of feet above the former bed of the lake. Two ditches carrying a small amount of water through the old lake bed are today bridged by the roadway between the above named towns, and all the rest is dry.

During 1859 the present Newton County was carved out of the west side of Jasper County and contained all of Beaver Lake. Barker Township was not renamed.

Beaver Lake was purchased from the U.S. Government in 1853 by John P. Dunn and Amzie B. Condit. When I say they bought it, I mean that they bought the ground surrounding and



bordering the lake, for the water area had not up to that time been surveyed. These two gentlemen sold soon after to Michael C. Bright. He claimed the water area as well as the boundaries and platted the ground in 1857 in forty acre tracts of part water and part land. There were 427 such tracts. By some arrangement the alternate tracts were deeded to the State of Indiana. In 1865 the records show the state disposed of its tracts.

Old residents in Newton County and travelers in the vicinity of this prairie country remember the many beaver dams which were to be seen in various parts of the lake. Richard Owen while State Geologist, saw remains of beaver dams about the lake in 1859, while he passed that way on a surveying expedition. A pioneer of Marshall County reports the fact that one dam, which he specially observed in Beaver Lake, was more than a mile in length, the longest dam made by beavers that he had ever seen. Our native beaver (Castor canadensis) for which the lake was named, once so numerous in the waters of Beaver Lake, is known only by pairs in that county (and in fact in the whole state today), instead of by hundreds of individuals, as formerly. Dr. Marcus W. Lyon, Jr. of South Bend, Indiana, a mammalogist of note, has had no records at all of wild beavers within the state in recent years.

Beaver Lake was well known in those early days in spite of the difficulties of travel. The Indian tribes constantly visited it for hunting and fishing. On their wanderings they carried news of its wild life abundance. The late Judge Fabias M. Finch of Indianapolis, many years ago wrote that the Shawnees claimed to be descended from fish and they used to have a fish tattooed on them. These Indians said the transformation took place in a lake in northern Indiana. Judge Finch learned from William Conner, a fur dealer who lived near Finch's farm on White River below Noblesville, that he had seen the lake many times and had had the

had been drained by that time. It was platted in January of 1876 by Richard Malone. **Sumava Resorts** was the last town platted in Newton county. Originally known as Sumava Forest Resorts, Inc., it was platted on August 18, 1927 by James Koutney. It is located east of 41 on the Kankakee. Its settlement was directed to the Bohemians of Chicago, who came on excursion trains run by the developers. **Conrad** was platted in 1905 by Jennie Conrad. All of the streets were named after family members, as well as a park for her son Platt. The entrance was 1/4 mile north of the Conrad ditch and George Street (Old 41). In 1827, an early trading post was established east of Lake Village on the Kankakee river known as **Trader's Point or Blue Grass Fur Depot**, operated by Gurdon S. Hubbard, which makes it the oldest settlement in Newton County.

Lincoln Township - Platted on January 17, 1882, Roselawn was the dream of 3 men, Lon Craig, Orlando Rose and Jacob Keller. Craig and Rose gave tracts of land to people who wished to build a dwelling or business, and stated that it was to be known as Roselawn. Principally a resort town, Thayer was platted on September 21, 1882 by the Atherton and Stratton firm. Wintergreen Island is where the Cox and David families lived before the Kankakee was straightened.

McClellan Township -Robert Bartlett and Lodicie Bartlett and his wife, of Binghamton, County of Broome and State of New York, do hereby lay out the town of



These postcard of Mount Ayr were acquired through a donation from the Leming Estate of Goodland. This depicts Chicago Street, looking east.

Enos in Newton County, State of Indiana, October 3rd, 1907 at 4:00 o'clock P.M." So were the beginnings of this small hamlet. Known as a crossroads town (SR 14 and US 41), the New York Central railroad also ran through the town. It has also been called **Oaks Grove**. **Elmer** was located 3 miles east of Enos and was located on the C. & E. I. railroad. History books refer to it as something like Pogue Station, for there were stockyards located just north of Elmer. On our map, we see another town named **Dice**. There isn't any information available regarding this location, we can only

speculate that it was a settlement not far from Beaver Lake. Also found on a map from the 1955 Pictorial History of Newton County, we find a small burg named **Kents**. Possibly this was a stockyard as well.

Washington Township - Weldon's Corner was also a crossroads town, (US 41 and SR 16). It came into existence in the early 1900's by Ridgley and Millie Weldon who had purchased a farm at this junction. They built a filling station, a few cabins and when US 41 was widened, added a restaurant. **Ade** was laid out by W.T. McCray on May 21, 1906. It was the home of a post office in 1904 and is located 1/2 mile west of the junction of US 41 and SR 16. According to an article that appeared in the Rensselaer Union in 1876, **Beaver City** was never officially laid out as a town, but was located 3 miles north of Ade and one mile east. the Chicago, Attica and Southern Railroad may have originally created the town, and at one time, the name **Jessen City** was considered due to the number of Jessens that lived there. In 1890, on the western edge of the present fairground racetrack, there was a grouping of 7-8 homes that was known as **Stringtown**, also known as **Jerseyville**, this hamlet produced a town newsletter that can be read in the History Newton County Book, 1985



A scene from Lake Village, looking west from the main intersection of town. Submitted by Gerald Born

We can use your help! Do you have some history about our county that others would love to know - Call us! 219-474-6944

PAGES OF THE PAST

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



Kentland

January 4 The time for the beginning of the twentieth century remains an unsettled problem and likely always will. The question has been thoroughly discussed by the wise men and the unwise, the learned and unlearned and many leading newspapers and magazines have treated on the subject. Still there seems to be a diversion of opinions, with each so positive in their belief that the question will probably never be settled, so we will go on for the next twelve months, some living in the nineteenth while others are living in the twentieth.

C. C. Kent commenced this morning to refill his mammoth ice house. But little over one half of the last winters crop was used this season. The ice is of a superior quality being free from any snow and 8 to 9 inches in thickness.

While out exercising his horse the other day, the hind axle of the buggy very suddenly gave way and let the driver drop to the ground, and at the same time the front part became disconnected leaving the driver sitting in the middle of the road. He said "the horse went on at a breakneck speed and he just set there and watched 'er go." This was the fate of Charles Schneider.

We are informed that George Ade will soon leave for Manila, and in company with John T. McCutcheon, make a tour of Japan and surrounding countries.

Washington Township

The machinery of the Herriman saw mill was loaded on cars here yesterday and will be shipped to Kokomo to be used in a foundry.

Colfax Township

The interior of the school house in Sec. 36, Colfax tp., Newton county, was destroyed by fire last Saturday night, supposedly the result of tramps stopping in the building. Loss about \$200, insured in C. B. Steward's agency of this city. The school building was practically new, having been built in 1898. Jasper County Democrat

Brook

As a stock center Brook leads all other towns in the county. Our stock dealers, during the year just closed, marketed over two hundred car loads of cattle and hogs and the prospects for the coming year are even

brighter than the past.

Sunday the third fine new brick church was dedicated in Brook. It is a beautiful structure and will be the home of the Methodists. The building is of modern architecture and would be a credit to a town far greater size than this. The interior is seated with opera chairs, heated by hot air, and lighted by its own acetylene gas plant. The dedicatory address was delivered by Dr. Halstead of Frankfort, who also preached a splendid sermon at night. Presiding Elder Beck was present and assisted with the love feast, which preceded the exercises proper. The congregation has erected this beautiful edifice and paid for it in advance, and no collection was taken at any of the services Sunday.

Goodland

Miss Hauk has moved her millinery store to the rooms east of Butler's meat market.

There is another case of small pox in the home of David Colston, but like the first it is very mild. As a precautionary measure against the further spread of the disease, there was no services at either of the churches last Sunday.

Goodland physicians have vaccinated eight hundred people since the small pox scare opened.

Mt. Ayr

Elmer Stucker now flourishes the razor with artistic skill in our barber shop. He is genial and obliging.

Jas. Haskell, who has been suffering with rheumatism for the past two weeks, went to the mineral springs at Attica Monday. Mrs. Haskell accompanied him.

Sam Barker now has a dugout on his farm six miles northwest of here, and is intending to spend a share of his time clearing up his farm and getting it ready for farming.

Angus Washburn and wife spent a few days the past week with Mr. Washburn's parents southeast of Kentland. While there Angus also made a trip to Lafayette and closed a bargain in a farm that he had just bought.

Lake Village

The box supper and entertainment given here Saturday evening for the benefit of the school library was a grand success. The

house was filled to the doors. Something over \$14.00 was netted.

Sham lawsuits are becoming quite popular here. Another one was held Friday night and the school house was crowded full. Mae Conklin sued Reub Hess for damages his horse did to her buggy. Reub was fined 10 cents and costs.

Roselawn

James Halleck was buried at Fair Oaks Monday of last week. Mr. Halleck settled in Lake Township in the early '60's, on the bank of the Beaver lake ditch. He was engaged in fruit raising, and for many years hauled his products to Manteno, Ill., on the Illinois Central railway, which at that time was the nearest railway station to his farm. Deceased was several times elected trustee of Lake township, and served one term as commissioner of Newton County. Mr. Halleck bought a tract of land near Fair Oaks some years ago and raised one of the best fruit orchards in Jasper county, on the Monon route, two miles north of Fair Oaks. Many of his old Lake and Lincoln township friends attended the funeral. Deceased was in his life a man of great energy and industry, a faithful friend, an accommodating neighbor, an affectionate and indulgent husband and father, and a man that will be greatly missed in the community.

What are Whortleberries Anyway?

As I read the item on page 2 of the Summer 2000 issue of the *Newcomer*, included in the "Pages of the Past" under Roselawn, I wondered what a Whortleberry was. My dictionary says it is a small European shrub yielding edible blackish berries. Does this plant exist today? Is it known by another name today? Does anyone have any information of this berry? In what way did they use this berry, pie, jelly, jam, as a sauce? Is anyone else interested in finding information about this berry? Perhaps it interests me because anything edible is important to me! *Donna LaCosse, Morocco*

Comments? Questions? We'd love to hear from you! 219-474-6944

Continued From Page 1

map of Newton County, showing the railroad lines and stations in our county. Copies of these books are available at various libraries in the county for those who are interested in more detailed information.

In order to understand the beginnings of these towns and villages, a picture of the railroad lines helps explain their locations, as shown on this map of 1895. In 1859, a railroad was built between Logansport and Peoria, which ran through Kentland and Goodland and was originally called the Logansport and Peoria Railroad. The first train ran on this track on December 25, 1859. The "Big Four" built a railroad through the southwest corner of the county in 1871. The Monon railroad was built through Roselawn and the northern part of the county in 1878. In 1882, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, known as the C. & E. I. built a railroad through Goodland, Foresman, Julian and Mount Air. The railroad known as the Three "I" railroad was built through the northern part of Lincoln Township in 1883. It ran from Iowa to Illinois and on through Indiana. In 1888, a branch of the C.&E.I. was built through Brook and Morocco, and later extended to Momence, Illinois. As these railroads were being constructed, our many towns and villages sprang into existence.

Beaver Township - In the northwest quarter of the county, **Pogue Station** was created to ship the cattle of Americus Pogue, who owned Pogue Ranch, to the Chicago markets. A number of buildings were constructed around the stock yards. Eventually the Pogue Ranch was sold to John L. Lawler, and it is presently encompassed in the Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife area. In the northwest quarter, in section 11, the Indiana Colonization Company was formed consisting of almost a whole section. A town called **Tripoli** was platted in the southwest corner. It was hoped that it would appeal to Italian immigrants, however, nothing ever came of it. The town of **Morocco**, laid out by John Murphy on January 28, 1851, was named after a pair of Morocco leather boots. While clearing the brush from the west side of the newly platted town, a man seeking information walked up to the men doing the work and ask directions. They were so struck by the beautiful Morocco red leather trim of his boots, that they decided to name the town Morocco. And,



Looking north and west from the town square in Morocco. Note the sidewalks located over the streets themselves. Submitted by Gerald Born

the story goes that because of the long strides the stranger made, the street that he approached them would be called Walker Street. It would be great to know just who was this stranger. One theory is that the man with the long and rapid strides was none other than Long John Wentworth, who

township. **Percy Junction** was located 2 1/2 miles north of Goodland, situated next to the C. & E.I. railroad. **Perkins Switch** was 3 miles west of Goodland and located on the Pennsylvania Railroad and State Road 24. The flag stop known as **Tivoli** for the T.P. & B railroad eventually became the town of



This photo simply said street scene, Morocco, Indiana Submitted by Gerald Born

traveled this area on his way to Chicago. His gait and quickness of pace was legendary.

Grant Township - Two railroad stations sprung up after the arrival of the railroads in the last quarter of the 19th century in this

Goodland, platted in 1866 by William and Timothy Foster. The town was obviously named for the "good land" which surrounded the original flag stop.

Iroquois Township - Located in the northeast part of Iroquois township was the