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NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Individual (\$3) ____ Individual Life (\$50) Family (\$5) _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.

Articles for submission are encouraged and may be sent to the editor, Beth A. Bassett, 1681E 1100S, Brook, Indiana 47922. bethbassett@direcway.com

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The Newcomer

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

The Newcomer

Volume 10, Issue One
Winter/Spring 2005 • \$2.25

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County

Lillian Holley and Dorothea Strole

Women Sheriffs from Newton County

by Kyle Conrad

Women law enforcement officers have become more and more common over the past three decades throughout the United States. Today it is estimated that 12% of police officers in departments with 100 or more officers are women. However, women only enjoy a 7% share of positions of authority in this profession. And while it's doubtful that two Newton County women have ever been cited as role models for today's female law enforcement officers, they were, without a doubt, strong and brave for their willingness to serve at a time when men ruled in a majority of county elected offices, especially Sheriff. While statistics for the number of women who have served as county sheriff in Indiana are non-existent, even today it is an uncommon occurrence. One must wonder how it was accepted in Lake County in 1933.

Lillian Mae Hatch was born in Kentland on August 11, 1890, the daughter of Charles E. and Flora (Kenoyer) Hatch. She was educated in Kentland, and graduated from A.J. Kent High School in 1908. On November 6, 1912, she married Morocco native Roy F. Holley, the son of Charles B. and Alice E. (Smith) Holley. Twin daughters Janet and Janis were born in 1916. Roy was a dentist and had established his dental practice in Hammond and Gary by the early 1920's. In 1928 Roy Holley decided to delve into politics and was elected Lake County Sheriff. He was successfully re-elected in 1932. Only 17 days into his second term, Roy Holley was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call in Lake County's Ross Township where he attempted to apprehend farmer Michael Lantare. Within days, Lillian Holley was appointed by the Lake County Commissioners to serve the remaining years of her husband's term of office. It was during this time, in 1934 to be exact, that Lillian Holley would gain national attention.

In the early 1930's another Indiana native was making a name for himself. John Dillinger was considered the FBI's public enemy number 1, and was wanted in Lake County on charges of murdering East Chicago police officer William Patrick O'Malley. In January, 1934 Dillinger was captured in Tucson, Arizona and extradited back to Lake County. By this time, Dillinger was somewhat of a celebrity and his arrival and incarceration in the Lake County jail in Crown Point was met with both fanfare and tight security. During one of the more lighter moments of Dillinger's arrival in Crown Point, he posed with county prosecutor Robert Estill and Sheriff Holley for a newspaper photographer. This picture was printed in newspapers around the country causing a tremendous backlash toward Estill and Holley. Even FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was cited as saying no picture had ever angered him more.

In Holley's defense, she had prepared herself and her jail for Dillinger's arrival and incarceration. One move involved recruiting members of the local Farmer's Protective Association and the National Guard and arming them with weapons to surround the exterior of the county jail. Floodlights were also installed to illuminate the entire jail grounds and she also refused to allow witnesses access to Dillinger. At prosecutor Estill's urging, Holley was prepared to move Dillinger

In this issue . . .

Holley and Strole

Women from Newton County who were in law enforcement

Newton County

Stone Quarry - Mt. Newton

Meteorite or Paul Bunyan?

Focus On Families

The Recher Family of Morocco

Morocco's Physician

A glimpse at his first years in practice

Land Owners, 1904

Lake Township

An Indian Trail

Allen Kenoyer's Recollection

Newton County Landmarks

A questionnaire for you to fill out for us



John Dillinger, in vest, poses with Lake County Sheriff Lillian Holley in 1934 at the Crown Point Jail, Crown Point, Indiana

Continued from page 1 >

to a more secure facility in February of 1934. In fact, Sheriff Holley was called to the criminal courts building to sign the transfer papers but was talked out of it by Judge Murray. His argument was that it would show weakness on the part of the sheriff and Lake County. With all of these precautions, the Lake County jail was considered escape proof.

That was all proven wrong on March 3, 1934. In one of the most famous jail breaks of all time, Dillinger took two hostages, a fellow inmate and a gun and jumped in a car and sped away to Illinois. To add insult to injury, the car that Dillinger took was that of Sheriff Holley, even though she was not at the jail when the escape occurred. Following the escape, Sheriff Holley took full responsibility for the escape from her jail, but refused calls for her resignation by other government officials, including the three county commissioners who had appointed her. Even Governor Paul V. McNutt became involved in the matter by instituting a comprehensive jail break investigation. But Lillian Holley persevered and served out the remaining years of her term as sheriff.

Following her years of service to the county, Lillian Holley became involved in several community projects in Crown Point. One such project was the restoration of the old clock tower atop the Lake County Courthouse in downtown Crown Point. Another was the preservation of the oldest existing structure in Crown Point, called the Old Homestead. Lillian lived out the rest of her life in Crown Point, unwilling to reflect, at least publicly, on her famed term as Lake County Sheriff. She died on June 12, 1994, at the age of 103 and was buried next to her husband at the Holley Cemetery in Newton County's Beaver Township.

Lillian Holley, however, was not the only Newton County woman to serve as sheriff. The second person to hold this distinction was Dorotha Strole. Dorotha

Mae Todd was born in Rensselaer, Indiana, on April 1, 1897, to Edward F. and Lillie M. (Bushey) Todd. She was raised and educated in Goodland and was married to W. Leslie Strole on November 2, 1915. Leslie Strole was the son of William and Nellie (Dawson) Strole and was a graduate of Culver Military Academy and had served as an instructor there as well. He later



Reprinted from the Lafayette Journal & Courier, Dorotha Strole poses with her birds and in the cell area of the Newton County Jail.



when on May 19, 1957, he died of an apparent heart attack while sitting at the radio desk in the county jail. A few short days later, his wife was appointed to finish his term by the Newton County Commissioners.

Unlike the tenure of Lillian Holley, Mrs. Strole's term as sheriff was basically uneventful. An article in the January 12, 1958 Indianapolis Star described the sheriff as "a kindly, understanding mother and grandmother, a wise counselor and, of course, a good cook." At the time of the article, Mrs. Strole had one deputy sheriff, Joseph Mullen, and about 60 special deputies that could be called upon if needed. Dorotha continued living in the sheriff's residence in the jail during the almost two years she served in office. She declined the opportunity to run for sheriff in 1958, citing that it was 'a man's job'. Instead, she was elected county recorder, serving from 1959 until 1966. After leaving the sheriff's office, she returned to her home in Brook where she lived until her death on April 19, 1974. Leslie and Dorotha are buried in the Goodland Cemetery.

The people of Newton County can be proud of the fact that these two dedicated, strong-willed women stepped up to the task of fulfilling their husbands' duties as sheriff at a time when women were not considered proper for such roles. Lillian Holley and Dorotha Strole each made their mark in the law enforcement community. May they both be remembered as pioneers for men and women alike who aspire to be law enforcement professionals today. ■

W.W.W.
WHO.WHEN.Where

DICK FAMILY

James Dick (1892-1958) and Jessie Atkinson Dick (1896-1983). Looking for their daughters. Jenny Hendrick-West, Dublin, Ireland. jennyd@eircom.net

Post a reply to their query at our web site, or if you do not have a computer, please contact me and I will forward your contact information to them. - Beth Bassett

worked as a store license inspector and a vehicle inspector for the State of Indiana. Locally, the Strole's operated a meat market in Brook for 18 years. In November, 1954, Leslie was elected Newton County Sheriff. At that time, his wife Dorotha became matron of the county jail and they moved into the sheriff's residence in Kentland. Leslie's term as sheriff ended suddenly

Newton County Landmarks

We are compiling a list and the locations of Newton County places and things that have historical significance to our heritage. For example, an item from an old school; something significant happened at a location; early settlement information, anything that you feel needs to be preserved for future generations.

It is our hope that we can put together a "driving tour" for visitors to our county, and our residents to give them a sense of our Newton County heritage. We plan on including the well-known

landmarks, such as the first church in Newton County, the Jasper-Newton Courthouse, and more. But, we are searching for those little known items and places that have been handed down to generations, or collected by individuals in the area.

Please fill out the form below as complete as possible, send it to Newton County Historical Society, P. O. Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951, or e-mail your information to bethbassett@direcway.com Thank you.

Description of landmark, historical artifact:

Directions to location of landmark/artifact:

History, family tradition of item/place:

May we include your item/location on a "driving tour" of the county? We will specify on the tour whether visitors may stop by or just drive by the above mentioned item. _____

May we place a marker at the above mentioned location? _____

Your name and contact information, please. _____

Please use additional paper if necessary.



North Star School, ca 1903

Sharon Leichty is seeking identification of these North Star School pupils

She hopes that someone else may have this same photograph, possibly relatives to the students or to the teachers. She had a few names on her copy, and asked if it were possible that Conaway and Greenlee were teachers too. There are no descendants for Amanda and Noah Anderson, and all of her siblings are gone. She does have an older picture of Noah when he attended Mt. Ayr School in ca 1908-1909. Some of these children, no doubt are in that picture also.

If you can help Sharon out, please contact her at sleichty@hoosierlink.net, or contact the editor with your information. Front row, L-R, 2) Amanda Anderson, 3) Unknown, 4) Noah Anderson. Back row, 4) Mabel Conaway, 5) Hattie Barton, 7) Bertha Geenlee.

This is an example of just how important it is to identify your photographs!! Take a moment to do this with your collection of photographs, whether they are related to local history, or to your family. Someone, someday, will want to know who the individuals are in the photographs.

from page 17 Dr. Recher's Journal > 1885

Proudy, Lewis
Pulver, Tell
Purdy, F.E.
Purkey, Alonzo E.
Rice, H.
Richardson, Harvey
Rife, Chas.
Roadruck, Daniel
Roadruck, Etta
Robertson, James
Rolls, Jethro
Runnion, F. S.
Rush, Mat
Russell, Sol
Russell, Will C.
Russell, Wilson
Schanlaub, George
Shafer, Nat
Smart, Wm.
Smith, David
Smith, Sheldon
Spitler, Henry
Stoner, Daniel
Stoner, Oliver
Swiggert, Rora
Swiggert, Ralph
Tetter, Joseph
Webb, Will
Webb, William
Webb, William
Wilson, Sam'l H.
Wortley, George

1886

Abbot, Rev. Jas
Anderson, Ward
Archibald, J. R.
Archibald, Jasper
Archibald, Pierce
Archibald, Silas
Atkinson, Elias
Atkinson, John
Bailey, Dr.
Baker, Ben
Baldwin, Parker
Bartholomew, James
Bartholomew, John
Bassett, Ira
Bassett, Isaac
Baugman, Adam
Beckwith, George
Bell, George
Bell, George (south)
Bemenderfer, I.W.
Best, Frank
Best, Mrs. Jas.
Best, Wm. Jas.
Betsinger, John
Betts, John
Bowers, Joel
Brady, Michael
Brewer, Wm.
Bridgeman, Alonzo
Brown, Geo.
Brunton, Cyrus
Brunton, Henry
Brunton, Joseph
Camblin, Mary, Mrs.

1886

Carpenter, Mac
Chizum, H. B.
Clark, Scott
Clark, Theodore
Cook, J.H.
Coverly, James
Cox, John
Darroch, J. Malcomb
Davis, Henry
Dearduff, George W.
Dearduff, D. W. Jr
Dearduff, Henry
Denton, Benj.
Dewey, Joseph
Don, Jon
Edmondson, W. F.
Elijah, Frank
Ensfield, George
Enslen, Chas. E.
Ewan, Chas. Sr.
Ewan, Nettie
Ewan, Sam'l
Fredreckson, Peat
French, John
Frog, Frank
Goddard, Harvey
Gorman, Michael
Gorman, Michael, Sr.
Gorman, Patrick
Hagan, John
Heron, D. E.
Holloway, J.P.
Holmes, C. D.
Hoover, Sam'l

1886

Hope, Pete V.
Hopkins, Francis
Hosier, Jacob
Jacobson, Mrs.
Johnson, Allen
Johnson, Chris
Kaufman, Aaron
Kay, James Jr.
Kennedy, John
Kessler, Elbert
Lampshire, Fayette
Lane, Sam'l
Lowe, C. E.
Martin, Edgar L.
Martin, William D.
Martin, William H.
Mauk, James
McCabe, J. J.
McCabe, Miss Carrie
McClatchey, Benj.
McConnahay, A. E.
Morse, Grant
Moses, St. Peter
Murphy, George (west)
Padgett, Lewis
Parks, Byron
Parks, Joseph
Perkins
Plott, John
Pulver, Tell
Purdy, F. E.
Reddy, Peter
Richardson, John
Roadruck, Frank

1886

Robertson, James
Rodgers, Anthony
Rush, Mat
Russell, Sol
Russell, Will C.
Shafer, Finley
Shafer, Miranda Sr.
Smart, Alonzo
Smart, Alonzo
Smart, John
Smart, Wm.
Smith, David
Smitherman, Will
Spitler, George
Spitler, Henry
Spitler, Wesley
Stoner, Oliver
Swiggert, Ralph S.
Thomas, S. W.
Thomas, Samuel
Thompson, George W.
Thompson, Will O.
Vannatta, Claude
Waling, Chas.
Warren, Pierce Ferd.
Whaley, John
Wills, Charles H.
Wilson, Sam'l H.
Wolfe, J. H.
Wright, Joseph

Note: these names were transcribed as they were noted in the journal. ■

Historically Yours

By Newton County Historian
Donna LaCrosse

This time this column is the hardest thing I have ever had to write! I seem to have so many ideas and thoughts going around inside my head, and that doesn't leave a whole lot of space left in there to put anything else. Have you ever felt as though you were brain dead? Let me tell you, it is not the most pleasant experience to have.

The one topic I was going to cover in this issue was my day at the Roundtable in Indianapolis – well those plans fell through when my back decided to hurt no matter which way I turned, sat or laid! I really enjoy attending those events so was disappointed when I couldn't go. Hopefully next year will see me taking part in the sessions.

Since I last wrote for *The Newcomer*, I have been busy asking questions and jotting down answers for family histories that will hopefully fit nicely into the Mount Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Township book. I seem to have more school information than family histories at this time in point, but maybe as time goes on, people will begin to realize there really is going to be a book and they had better be in it!

It would help if the people out there who receive and read this publication would send me anything they remember about the

town or the townships. Every little bit helps.

We were in Baltimore, Maryland over the New Year and experienced temperatures between 60 and 68 degrees, with sunshine every day and moonshine – no, no, moonlight every night. I had never been that far east so it was a treat for me.

We traveled through tunnels of piled-up snow as we made our way east but the roads were clear and after leaving Ohio, we had very little snow along the roadway and finally we ran out of snow altogether.

We had to go see our grandson and our new granddaughter-in-law being married. They couldn't have gone through the ceremony had we not been there to see that it was done correctly. The 6 p.m., double-ring ceremony took place on New Year's Day. They are now living in Indianapolis where he is an associate pastor at the Bethel Memorial Church in Southport. It is so nice to have family close enough to visit, yet far enough away so we all can live our own lives.

During the past two and half years I have been the fact-record-keeping person for the veterans of World War II who served with the 63rd Infantry Division. It is my job to keep addresses current of all the men who

served in that Division. I also record deaths and am to be available to answer questions for which any of the "mass of men" might need an answer. It is a fun thing to do, very educational, very time consuming, and I love every minute of it. I meet the nicest people over the telephone, through email and personally when we attend the reunions.

I know that aspect of my life is not Newton County, but it is history in the making, and it so important for someone to keep records up-dated so the sacrifice those men suffered will long be remembered and from which family can gather material for their family histories.

I have also been providing Morocco history to a reporter from one of our northern newspapers who is working on a "history of small communities" as a special feature for their paper.

So, I have been busy. If, by chance, you should stop by our house one day at four o'clock in the afternoon and I am still in my nightgown, don't ask questions – just assume it has been one of those days!

In the meantime, keep on keeping on – making history so future generations will know what happened back all those years ago is what we are all about. ■

Answers To Do You Know?

By Janet Miller
Questions on page 4

☛1. The three flouring mills in Newton County in 1876 were located in Goodland, Brook and Kentland. The owners were Goodland: M. A. Dewey; Brook: Henry Barnhouse; Kentland: A. J. Kent.

☛2. The first house in Kentland was built by John Peacock. The first shanty in Kentland was built by William Servies. The first dwelling built in Kentland belonged to Mike Coffelt.

☛3. The lands in Newton County in 1876 were priced from \$5.00 to \$75.00 per acre. The former undrained and the latter well improved and lying contiguous to town.

☛4. The first deed filed for record in the Newton County Courthouse was done on May 3, 1860. The deed was from A. J. Kent to D. A. McHolland. Mr. McHolland paid \$120.00 for Lots 10 & 11, Block 9 of the Original Plat of Kentland.

☛5. The first special election held in Newton County was on April 2, 1860. There were six voting precincts. Beaver, Jackson, Iroquois, and Lake Townships had one voting place each and Washington Township had two. The two in Washington Township

were at Smith's saw mill and Mr. Kent's residence. The number of votes cast was 492. Remember at this time Newton County consisted of only five townships. Also, all voters were men. ■

Does anybody have . . .

We have someone looking for a copy of the centennial book published on the Town of Goodland.

Our Resource Center does not have any copies of the North Newton or Morocco High School yearbooks. If anyone has them sitting around and would like to donate them, future researchers and present society members would be very grateful! Someone is looking for the NNHS 1975 Olympian.

We also appreciate donations of old plat books, maps, and any significant historical items for our resource center. So, if you are spring cleaning - think about us - we might need something you are going to toss for our library!

- the Keepers of the Resource Center

NCHS News and Reports

by Beth Bassett

The Family History Division of the Newton County Historical Society meets the same day as the general society meeting, which is always on the 4th Monday of the month. They gather together at the Resource Center located in the old LeBeau Jewelry Store in Kentland at 2:00 p.m.

As usual, many projects are in the making with this active group. Led by Jim Robbins, the meetings usually center around family history and discussing projects that would benefit the society as well as preserving our local history.

Do you remember the hey day of postcards? If you are an avid e-bayer - then you are seeing many of the old cards that were once sold at the depots in our towns, coming up for auction. A post card depicting the corner in Brook where the library now stands and McKinley Park went for over \$56.00!

The Family History Division thought that it would be a good idea to have post cards for sale today for visitors to our town, or just for the history buffs in our area - so why not reprint some of the old ones. A discussion was held, and each incorporated town in the county would be represented. Complete sets would be sold, or individual cards. The FHD will decide at the next meeting which post cards they will have reprinted - so if anyone has a suggestion, or a possible card that we could scan and reprint - please let us know! We would like to find some unusual scenes from throughout the county - events, people, places and things are all welcome.

Jim reported that the Public Relations Committee has completed the task of selecting a winner of the annual coloring contest. Fourth grade students in the county were asked to submit a colored page from

our Historical Coloring Book. There were many participants once again this year, and the decision to pick individual class winners and then an overall winner was not an easy one. Presentations to the winners will be done in May and June at the school's awards day banquets. Thanks so much to the hard working Public Relations Committee for their on-going dedication to our society.

Sales of our publications are on-going. There is a complete list on the back page of this newsletter of what we have for sale - take a look - do you have a copy of all of them?

Just a reminder that our annual meeting will be held at Sig Bozeman's again this year on June 27th. Members will be receiving a notice in the mail - please join us for a pot luck supper and an always delightful evening at the home of Sig and Rhoda Bozeman in Thayer, Indiana. ■

Landowners- Lake Twp. 1904

Transcribed by
Janet Miller

Township 31 - Range 9:

Section 1: Charles D. Wilson, Fred K. O. Waltham, I. W. Burton; **Section 2:** A. G. Danforth, Cornelius King, Garner Kleen; **Section 3:** Garner Kleen; **Section 4:** John H. Spindler; **Section 5:** Nona Light, Stephen Wells, C. J. Blair, William Young; **Section 6:** C. J. Blair.

Section 7: Chancy J. Blair, C. H. & R. F. Tanlon, Wm. Young, Samuel D. Roush; **Section 8:** Chancy J. Blair, Samuel D. Roush, C. H. & R. F. Tanlon, Lida Conger Prentis, Jonah G. Marshall; **Section 9:** John H. Spindler, A. H. Maxwell; **Section 10:** Garner Kleen; **Section 11:** Almon G. Danforth, Orlando Gibbs, John Bingham, Thomas Burton; **Section 12:** Joseph Adams, Ada C. Franklin, Almon G. Danforth.

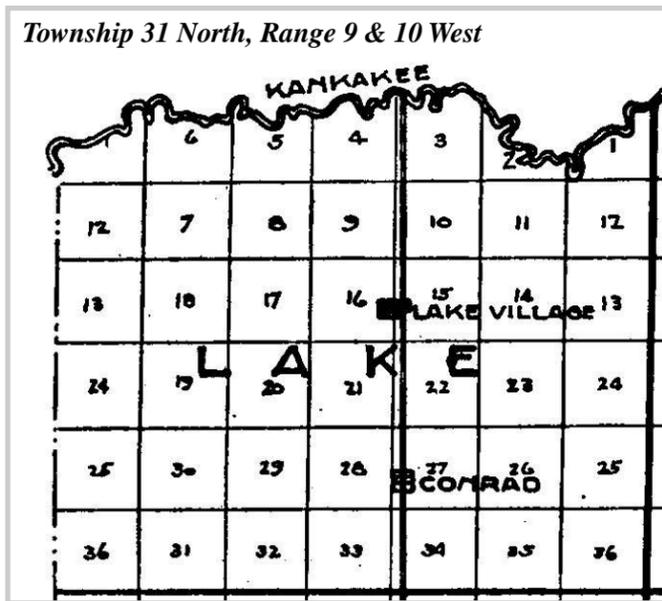
Section 13: Joseph Adams, Almon G. Danforth, George M. Clark; **Section 14:** Thomas Burton, Almon G. Danforth; School No. 1 - North Star, John Schauch (?), Annie E. Guilford; **Section 15:** Annie E. Guilford, John Schauch (?), Oliver Stoner, C. B. Lanbaugh, Garner Kleen, C. & J. Hess, Linnie Ransford, C & W, C. B. Lambaugh, Betz (?) Vicoly (?), Mary E. Bryant, George C. A. Bryant; **Section 16:** Julius C. Zecharias, Henry C. Stoner, Alexander B. Cook, Jennie M. Conrad, John S. Geno, School No. 2 - Lake Village, Town of Lake Village, O. I. William, George C. A. Bryant; **Section 17:** Jonah G. Marshall, Cross in a Circle (is this a cemetery?), Joseph Wells, Thomas Christianson, Abrm. Snyder, B. F. & Luella Davis, Sophie Burton; **Section 18:** C. H. & R. F. Tanton, Gasper Allen, Thomas Christianson, Fred Maskinoni (?), Thomas Boyd, John Ameheim, Charles Hansen, Simon Wachiuska.

Section 19: William B. Austin, Gasper Allen, V. T. Brassard, R. N. Sch---(?), Hans Hanson Est., George H. Ross, Ira H. Drake, W. O. Davis, George Steele; **Section 20:** Lemuel Milk, Emily L. Talge, Arthur E. Rogers; **Section 21:** Lemuel Milk, Jennie M. Conrad; **Section 22:** Jennie M. Conrad, Martin L. Fitzgerald, Sarah A. Bly, Edwd. Jergens. **Section 23:** Danforth & Rupert, Annie E. Guilford, Asil. O. McColly, Adelbert McColly, A. G. Danforth; **Section 24:** Danforth & Rupert, Wm. Ross.

Section 25: Niles A. Miller, W. T. Miller, A. G. Mills, Ezra B. Jones, Ira H. Drake, Florence A. Miller; **Section 26:** W. T. Miller, A. G. Danforth, Henry Howard, Florence A. Miller, George A. Graves, W. H. Leathers, Lida A. Hammond; **Section 27:** Henry Howard, Martin L. Fitzgerald, Jennie M. Conrad, Allen R. Towles, School No. 5 - Lake; **Section 28:** Jennie M. Conrad; **Section 29:** Arthur E. Rogers, Julius Christianson, Jens M. Anderson, C. L. Brandt; **Section 30:** Julius Christianson, W. O. Davis, Harris & Francis Fairchild.

Section 31: Victor T. Brassard, W. O. Davis, Mary K. Rasmissen, Jens M. Anderson, Jacob Nichols, W. B. Wolfe, T. P. Hansan, Margnos (?) Hanson, Hubly & Wiget, Davis H. Waller; **Section 32:** Antena Myers, School No. 4 - Parson, W. O. Davis, John Kean;

Section 33: Jennie M. Conrad; **Section 34:** Jennie M. Conrad; **Section 35:** Lida A. Hammond, George A. Graves, Ezra B. Jones, Samuel H. Ostrander, J. W. Speicher, John Makeever, Leroy Templeton, Nathaniel Ring, Lawler & Thompson; **Section 36:** Alonzo G. Howard, Mary Mitchell.



Township 31 - Range 10:

Section 1: Alber Beckwith, Edwin Alden; **Section 12:** Albert Beckwith, C. C. Ainsworth, H. Ainsworth, Florence Ross, G. L. Work, Walter Sorensen, Wm. Young;

Section 13: Wm. Young, G. L. Work, J. H. Fedde, School No. 3 - State Line, George L. Work, Fidela Mashina, Alfred Brandt, John Ameheim, Thos. Boyd.

Section 24: C. Christianson, S. C. Christianson, Geo. L. Work, Alfred Brandt, Hans R. Geiss, Fred Mashino, V. T. Brassard;

Section 25: W. O. Davis, Levi C. Davlin, William Nelson, V. T. Brassard, John Reif, F. A. Tyler; **Section 36:** W. O. Davis, James Lovell, Martin Madsen, Charles D. Wilson, Bryan & Cornelius, Fred Smith, Samuel Hansan, Margnos (?) Hanson. ■

Do You Know?

By Janet Miller Answers on Page 18

These questions were taken from *The Kentland Gazette*, February 24, 1876. Newton County was celebrating with the nation on its 100th anniversary or centennial year.

1. There were three flouring mills in Newton County in 1876. Do you know where they were located and their owners?
2. Do you know who built in Kentland, the first house, the first shanty, and the first dwelling?
3. Do you know the price of land per acre in Newton County in 1876?
4. Do you know who filed for record the first deed in the Newton County Courthouse and what year this took place?
5. When was the first special election held in Newton County?

1883

Thompson, Will
Thomson, Josiah R.
Tincher, Henry
Tweedy, Ezra
Tweedy, John
Warren, Pierce Ferd
Weaver, Abe
Webb, William
Williams, Sylvester
Williamson, Hugh
Wills, Charles H.
Wilson, Sam'l H.
Wolfe
Wright, Joseph
Yoder, Eli
Young, Lib
Zoborosky, John

1884

Allam, Perry
Anderson, Ward
Archibald, Jasper
Archibald, Pierce
Archibald, Wm. Jr.
Archibald, Wm. Sr.
Ash, James
Atkinson, Cornelius
Atkinson, John
Babbit
Bachelor, Amos
Bailey, Dr.
Baker, William
Barker, Charles
Barkhurst, Jennie
Bartholomew, Emma
Bartholomew, James
Bartholomew, Sammy
Baughman, Adam
Bell, John
Bemenderfer, I.W.
Benton, A. J.
Best, James
Betsinger, William
Biesicker, Joseph A.
Bigley, Thorp
Bjourklandt, Charles
Black, Thomas
Botty, Thomas
Bridgeman, Ephriam
Bridgeman, Sam'l Jr.
Brooks, Louis
Brown, John
Bull, James
Burns, Ed
Camblin, James
Camblin, Mary, Mrs.
Carmichael, Warren
Clark, Joshua
Clark, K. B.
Clark, Philander

1884

Clark, Theodore
Collins, Charles
Coons, David
Corkins, D. S.
Cox, John
Craig, Zebidee
D'Armond, Mrs.
Darroch, J. Malcomb
Darroch, John
Deardurff, C.C.
Deardurff, Daniel
Deardurff, Henry
Deardurff, John S.
Decker, Jacob
Don, Jon
Doty, Andrew
Dowling, Thomas
Elijah, Orrin
Enslen, Chas. E.
Ewan, John
Ewan, Miss Ella
Ewan, Ollie
Ewan, Sam'l
Fagan, David
Fagan, Lawrence
Geraldman, Stephen
Girard, Henry H.
Goats (Geo Schanlaub)
Goddard, Geo. W.
Goddard, John D.
Gorman, Michael
Gorman, Michael Sr.
Gorman, Patrick
Graves, W. L.
Grooms, J. W.
Gulding, George
Ham, Lemon
Harland, John M.
Harris, John
Harwood, Riley
Hickman, R. W.
Hickman, R. W.
Higgins, John
Holly, Charles
Holmes, C. D.
Hooks, Joseph
Hope, Pete V.
Hopkins, Francis F.
Hopkins, George
Hurst, James
Hutton, Wm.
Jacobson, Mrs. M.
Jessen, Jno
Jestin, Chris
Johnson, Jno. F.
Kay, Mrs. Mary A.
Kennedy, John
Kessler, John L.
Kessler, John. Jr.

1884

Kite, Charles
Knauf, Oliver
Kuhns, Geo. W.
Lane, Sam'l
Leilzou, Adof
Light, George F.
Light, Lincoln George
Lowe, C. E.
Lyons, Newton
Manly, John
Martin, Edgar
McCarthy, Frank Jr.
McClain, Hiram
McClatchey, Mrs.
McKinisler, Jos. E.
Merchant, G. F.
Merisett, Eli
Morgan, James
Myers, J. K.
Norton, Emmor
Parks, Joseph
Partlow, Edwin
Peck, Al
Perigo, Warren
Peterson, Chris
Peterzin, Chris
Plummer, Wm.
Potter, Robt.
Proutzman, Stephen
Purkey, Mrs.
Purdy, F. E.
Purdy, Isaac
Purkey, Wm.
Reddy, Manson
Rich, Albert
Ritter, Mrs.
Roadruck, Etta
Robertson, James
Rolls, Jethro
Rush, Mat
Rusk, Harvey
Russell, Sol
Russell, Will C.
Schanlaub, Sidney
Shafer, James
Shafer, Miranda Sr.
Shafer, Nat
Smart, John
Smart, Wm.
Smith, David
Smith, M. Mrs.
Smith, Sheldon
Spitler, Henry
Spitler, Wesley
Spohr, John
Stoner, Mrs. Nancy
Stoner, Oliver
Sullivan, Nellie
Tetter, Joseph

1884

Timmons, Isaac
Tweedy, Ezra
Vaughan, B. W.
Warren, A.
Warren, Pierce Ferd.
Williams, D. M.
Wilson, Sam'l H.
Wolcott, Cas.
Wolfe, J.H.
Wright, Joseph
Zoborosky, George
Zoborosky, Joseph

Doty, Andrew

1885

Ensfield, George
Enslen, Chas E.
Enslen, W. F.
Ewan, John
Ewan, Sam'l
Fagan, Lawrence
Flowers, A.J.
Frakes, Nathan
Freel, Edward
Gingerlick, Elias
Girard, French
Goddard, Harvey
Gorman, Michael
Gorman, Michael, Sr.
Gorman, Patrick
Graves, Harvey
Graves, Thomas
Hamm, Mrs.
Handley, William R.
Hanley, Wm.
Harston, John
Heron, Mrs. Sam'l
Holloway, J.P.
Holmes, C. D.
Hoover, Anna
Hoover, Sam'l
Hope, Pete V.
Hopkins, Francis F.
Httton, David
Jacobson, Mrs.
Jestin, Chris
Johnson, Andrew
Johnson, Jno F.
Kessler, Elbert
Lampshere, Fayette
Lane, Daniel
Laughlin, Jas.
Law, Joseph
LePage, Charles
Bowers, Joel
Brown, Geo.
Brown, Joseph
Burns, John
Cheever, Sterling
Clark, George
Clark, Joshua
Clark, Theodore
Coons, David
Coverly, James
Darroch, J. Malcomb
Deardurff, C. C.
Deardurff, D. W. Jr.
Deardurff, Daniel
Deardurff, G. W.
Deardurff, Henry
Deardurff, John S.
Doctor, Oliver
Don, Jon
Doty, Andrew

Continued on page 18 >

**1882 Lawson Recher,
M.D. Patient Journal**

Ackerson, Corneal
Anderson, Ward
Archibald, J. R.
Bartholomew, Emma
Baughman, Adam
Bell, George
Bell, Jay
Bell, John
Bemenderfer, I.W.
Broadrick, John
Brooks, Johnny
Brown, Geo.
Brown, Jas.
Call, Elijah
Camblin, Mrs. Mary
Carpenter, Mac
Clark, Joshua
Clark, Theodore
Cole, John
Coverly, James
Darroch, Abe
Darroch, J. Malcomb
Deardurff, C.C.
Deardurff, Geo. W.
Dexter, David
Don, John
Ellis, Andrew
Enslin, Chas. E.
Ewan, John
Fagan, Lawrence
French, Mrs. E.
Goddard, Harvey
Gorman, James
Gorman, Michael Sr.
Graves, Harvey
Graves, Jas. W.
Grooms, J.W.
Heaston, Gid Jr.
Higgins, John
Hilliard, William
Hoover, Mrs. Anna
Hope, V. Peter
Johnson, Allen
Kay, Mrs. Mary A.
Kennedy, Wm.
Kinney, Milton
Lane, Saml
Louden, R. D.
Martin, William H.
McCullugh, Wood
Morris, Isaih
Murphy, Andrew J.
Murphy, George (west)
Murphy, Nate
Partlow, Edwin
Potts, Joseph
Purdy, Isaac
Purkey, David/Claude L.

1882

Richardson, Nelson
Roadruck, Daniel
Roadruck, Etta
Rush, Mat
Russell, Zadoc
Sarver, Cal
Schanlaub, George
Schneckinberger, Jim
Smart, Wm.
Smith, Lewis
Tetter, Joseph
Wilson, Samuel H.
Wofe, J. H.
Wolcott, Chas.
1883
Ackerson, Corneal
Akers, C. P.
Anderson, Andrew
Anderson, Gustave
Anderson, Ward
Archibald, Benj. A.
Archibald, J. R.
Archibald, Jasper
Archibald, Marcellus
Archibald, Pierce
Archibald, Silas
Ash, Daniel
Atkinson, Cornelius
Atkinson, Elias
Atkinson, John
Bailey, Dr.
Baker, Geo.
Baldwin, G. W. Sr.
Baldwin, Harvey
Baldwin, Parkey
Bangston, Otto
Barker, Charles
Bartholomew, Eliza
Bartholomew, Emma
Bartholomew, James
Bartholomew, John
Bartholomew, Lannie
Bartholomew, Sammy
Bassett, Isaac
Baughman, Adam
Beckwith, William Jr.
Beckwith, William Sr.
Bell, Abe
Bell, Jay
Bemenderfer, I. W.
Best, John P.
Best, Wm. Jas.
Betts
Brenner, J. J.
Breseeker, J. A.
Bridgeman, Eli
Bridgeman, John
Bridgeman, Michael
Bridgeman, Samuel Sr.

1883

Brown, Geo.
Brown, Jas.
Brown, Joseph
Brown, Wm.
Brunton, Cyrus
Brunton, D. W.
Burns, John
Call, Elijah
Carmichael, Wm. H.
Carpenter, Mac
Chase, Huk
Chizum, Wes
Clark, John
Clark, Joshua
Clark, Theodore
Cole, John
Collins, Joseph
Conn, George
Cook, Rebecca
Coons, David
Coverly, James
Cox, John
Cox, Rev. Wm.
Craig, Zebidee
Cutler, Matilda
Darroch, Abe
Darroch, Benj.
Davis, Branson
Deardurff, Daniel
Deardurff, Henry
Deardurff, Samuel
Denton, Charles
Don, Jon
Draggoe, Andrew
Edmondson, Solomon
Edmondson, W. F.
Ensfield, George
Enslin, Chas. E.
Ewan, Eli
Ewan, John
Ewan, Nettie
Ewan, Sam'l
Fagan, Charles
Fagen, David
Flowers, Andrew J.
Force, B. F.
Fragge, Milton
French, John
French, Mrs. E.
Frog, Frank
Fry, Warren
Gains, Joseph
Gingerlick, Elias
Girard, Henry H.
Goddard, Harvey
Gorman, Michael
Gorman, Michael Sr.
Gorman, Patrick
Grooms, J. W.

1883

Gulding, George
Guthrie, Lewis
Hammond, Oc
Hanley, E. G.
Hanley, Wm.
Harwood, Riley
Heaston, Gideon
Heron, D. E.
Heron, Mrs. Sam'l
Higgins, John
Hildreth, Chris
Hilliard, Wm.
Holly, Charles
Hoover, Anna, Mrs.
Hope, Pete V.
Hostettler, Mish
Hufty, Geo. G.
Humbolt, Phillip
Hunter, Thomas
Hutton, David
Jackson, Phillip
James, George
Jestin, Chris
Johnson, Andrew
Johnson, D.M.
Johnson, Jas.
Johnson, Jno. F.
Kemp, C.
Kennedy, John
Kennedy, Joseph
Kennedy, Wm.
Kessler, Will
Ketcham, D. E.
Kinney, Milton
Kite, Milton
Lampshire, Fayette
Lawrenson, Richard
Light, M.
Malady, John
Martin, Joseph
Martin, William D.
Martin, William H.
Mauk, James
McCabe, J. J.
McClatchey, Benj.
McClatchey, Miss
McConnahay, A. E.
McGee
McKinisler, Jos. E.
Mellen, Alfred
Mercer
Merchant, G. F.
Miller, Benj.
Miller, James
Miller, Uriah
Morris, Isaiah
Murphy, George
Murphy, Malinda
Murphy, Mrs. Nancy

1883

Murphy, Nat
Nelson, Dane (Rice
Hand)
Norton, Emmor
Padgett, John
Padgett, Lewis
Padgett, Michael
Parr, Robert
Parr, Wm. Sr.
Partlow, Edwin
Penwright, Fred
Peterson, Chris
Plott, Chris
Plott, John
Porter, Lewis
Potts, Al
Proutzman, Dan'l
Proutzman, Stephen
Puett, John
Pulver, D. M.
Purdy, Tell
Purdy, F.E.
Purdy, Isaac
Purkey, Alonzo E.
Rice, Frank
Rimer, Henry A.
Roadruck, Etta
Roadruck, Frank
Robertson, James
Rolls, Jethro
Rolls, Reuben
Royster, S. A.
Runkle, Frank
Rush, Mat.
Russell, Sol
Russell, Will C.
Russell, Wm.
Schamms, Nickelos
Schanlaub, John
Seirle, Henry
Shafer, Miranda Sr.
Shafer, Nat
Shue, Chris
Simpson, Jesse L.
Skinner, Alonzo
Smart, Geo.
Smart, John
Smart, Otho
Smart, Wm.
Smith, David
Smith, Del
Smith, George
Smith, George (cousin)
Smith, Sheldon
Sorrenzen, Chris
Stie, Mrs. Chris
Stoner, Daniel
Stoner, Oliver
Tetter, Joseph

Pages of The Past

The following excerpts are from the Kentland Gazette
Winter, 1882
Transcribed by Janet Miller

Kentland

January 5, 1882. The Fire Fiend. In Kentland. At about 3:30 o'clock this (Thursday) morning Bela Kent's Restaurant located in the Occidental Hotel building was discovered to be on fire by W. D. Holden who had just opened his meat market, and who gave the alarm. The town was soon aroused, but the flames could not be subdued and soon the whole Hotel, C. C. Brown, proprietor, and the one-story frame adjoining occupied by the Jewelry store of I.H. Coulter, were a solid sheet of flame. Soon the tongues of flame leaped across the alley southward and fired the residence part--second story--of Gilbert Goff's brick block and his barn just in the rear, but the progress of the fire was stayed after the best efforts the people, yet his building was badly damaged. At the same time the destruction of the Bank building and that of Mr. Blain, occupied by Frank Ross' grocery store and the Postoffice, was most imminent. But being brick structures, they were saved by the rapid application of water of the faithful work of the bucket-brigade. The rear window of the bank and the south windows of the Blain building were burned in spite of the hard work done. Fortunately, almost a dead calm prevailed, else the destruction of that part of town just south must have been complete.

Losses: C. C. Brown, proprietor of Hotel; E. L. Urmston's law office and the county library located in rear of the Bank sustained some damage; Gilbert Goff, loss on business house and residence, some barn damage; I. H. Coulter, Jeweler, loss considerable, but his big safe went through the flames; Poole & Bro. were damaged some; Bela Kent's losses are large both on restaurant stock and the hotel building. Ade, McCray & Co. were damaged. The citizens worked nobly to save both movable property and buildings, and even many ladies braved the cold night air and lent a helping hand.

Small-pox is "played-out" in Kentland. Clark, the small-pox patient is about well.

Some of the girls made search for Dime Novels in one of the rooms of our public school the other day, and we are reliably informed that the girls captured ten or twelve of these delectable novels from the

desks of the boys. We doubt if the teacher knew of the presence of this most infamous and obnoxious literature in the school room, or it would certainly not have been permitted.

Brook

Mr. Edward Evans and family, of Iroquois Township, started for Walnut, Kansas, Monday to live. We furnished them with tickets. Mr. Evans orders the Gazette to be sent him. We recommend Mr. Evans to the people where he shall reside, as a worthy and excellent citizen.

Washington Township

Charley Doherty, of the poor farm bought four cochon roosters, Saturday, for the farm, and the four weighed 24 1/2 pounds. They were last June chickens. John Franklin raised them.

James Mofitt was in town last week boasting of the purity of his township. He cited the fact that they had seven churches and no saloons, and that the office of Road Superintendent was hunting the man, and could not find him. We agree with friend Moffitt--Washington has a right to feel proud of her churches and people.

Julian Items

Health good. Roads are becoming better. Corn hauling has been a lively business in these parts lately.

Our blacksmith shop has changed hands, Wibirt Bros. retiring. Ed. E. Erwin, of Rensselaer, now swings the hammer in the shop and makes the anvil ring. Mr. Wibirt moved from here last week; gone to try his luck in other parts.

A good many sore arms, and great many funny stories concerning the same. Which is the worst, to be poisoned four or five times by vaccination, or to have the small-pox once?

Roselawn

It takes courage, energy and enterprise, as well as money to make a town, and Rose Lawn now stands well to the front. To-day work has begun here for a side-track; it is to be 1,500 feet long. There will also be one of the nicest depots on the line, here; there will be in connection with the side-track, stock pens for the accommodation of shippers. At present, arrangements are made to have the telegraph office in Keller, Craig & Co.'s store. The R. R. Co. is building a double car house here.

The future of Rose Lawn is no longer in doubt; people are swarming in like bees to a hive. Come on, there's room here to spare.

Lake Township

Lake township has prospects of a railroad--running east from Momence via Lake Village, thence to Rose Lawn and on to Plymouth, Ind.

A number of our citizens are talking of going to Rose Lawn to live.

Morocco

Died--Miss Hady Triplett, daughter of Dr. Triplett of Morocco, on Friday morning, Feb. 10th, 1882, of typhoid fever. Aged 23 years.

Mess. Eds: Would a few chips and scraps of news from this village be acceptable to you? If so, please to receive some from us, and reject what you might call worthless.

There is but little to ruffle the even tenor of our ways here in this ancient hamlet. Oh that we might have a dog fight or something else to break the monotony. Once more our community is made glad by the humming of the Smart Bros. mill which has been undergoing repairs for some time.

Uncle Thos. Barker of Jackson township, smiled upon our people last Saturday. Uncle Thomas was a pioneer of the pioneers, and can eclipse any man in America on early reminiscences.

The expedition into the north woods after the highwayman, returned unsuccessful.

Morocco changes merchants so frequently, that only the most observant citizens can keep pace with the changes.

Thayer

Mr. Kenney's new store at Thayer, will soon be completed.

Thayer still flourishes. It has a new hub factory. Mr. A. M. Boyle has a contract for getting out hub lumber for it.

Mr. Little from Delphi is putting up a very nice residence in Thayer. He has the hub factory here.

A large ice-house is being erected at the river.■

For Your Information -

John Ade's History of Newton County 1853-1911 is available as a reprint from the Higginson Book Company.

You can place your order at
www.higginsonbooks.com

People, Places & Things

*The Newton County
Stone Quarry
by Beth Bassett*

Driving across our beautiful county through the most southeastern corner of Jefferson Township, you would not expect to find the wildly tilted and contorted rocks that are exposed in the Newton County Stone Quarry. Located at the junction of CR 50W and U.S. 24, you can view Mt. Newton County from the road. How Mt. Newton, also known as the Kentland Dome was formed, has been the topic of discussion of geologists from around the world since its discovery.

The quarrying history began when early settlers used pieces of the exposed bedrock for foundations for the homes and businesses. Two pioneers, Samuel Means and John McKee, migrated from Pennsylvania and settled in Newton County, Indiana. In February, 1865, they purchased the land, and eventually divided it into the McKee and Means farms. John McKee opened his quarry on the east side, which was located on the present Ross McKee farm, and Samuel on what is now the northwestern edge of the present quarry. A map of the township dated 1873, shows one quarry named "McKee and Means Quarry". By 1906, a third quarry was operating between Means and McKee and was owned by Warren T. McCray, and operated by Vanetta and Evans. When McCray became governor of Indiana in 1928, his quarry sold to George Hart. Prior to this, the Means and McKee quarries closed down. In 1946, the George Hart quarry was purchased by Ralph Rogers and Co., Inc.

Ralph Rogers purchased the original Vanetta and Evans quarry and named it Newton County Stone. It would eventually expand to include both the McKee and Means properties.

R. Dee Rarick, in March of 1967, wrote an article regarding the Kentland Dome. It was published in *Outdoor Indiana*, a publication of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Rarick was the head of the Education Services Section of the Indiana Geological Survey at Indiana



Samuel Means & John McKee

University at that time. His report gave a detailed look at the quarry that many of us pass by frequently in our travels through the county on US 24.

"This area, like most of the northern three-fourths of the State, was covered by vast continental glaciers during the Ice Age, which began about a million years ago. A thick mantle of unconsolidated material - rocks, gravel, sand, silt and mud left behind by the melting ice now covers the underlying bedrock. And so the bedrock is



Right, beds of dark, gray Cincinnati shale and massive Trenton dolomite in the quarry are almost vertical. Right, A huge stone truck, laboring up hill, passes under steeply tilted beds of limestone. Reprinted from Outdoor Indiana Magazine, March, 1967.

exposed at ground surface in only a few places in Northern Indiana.

"The Newton County Stone quarry is one of these places. Here ancient rocks of Ordovician age - 360 to 440 million years old - are exposed at the surface and have been quarried for many years.

"This in itself would surprise a geologist and merit some explanation for its occurrence because the bedrock, which normally crops out under the blanket of glacial debris in this area belongs to the more recent Mississippian Period of geologic time, (more than 240 million years old). And even more surprising is the fact that the bedding of the rocks is not level as it was when the sediments that comprise the rocks were laid down.

"Nor do the rocks slope slightly to the southwest as they normally do in Northern Indiana. These beds dip randomly at very steep angles and even stand vertically. They have been crushed in places and bent into folds and broken by faults in the rock. Even small grains of quartz - one of the strongest of the common minerals - in the bedrock have fractured and show evidence of great stress. Nowhere else in Indiana are rocks known to be deformed to this degree.

"How did a small area, probably less than two miles across, become so intensely folded, faulted and deformed, and raised



vertically at 1,500 feet more than Ordovician rocks are usually found in this part of Indiana? Even if the area of disturbance is somewhat larger - which we cannot know for certain because of the thick mantle of glacial debris covering the bedrock for miles away from the quarry site

Dr. Recher's Office - 1882-1941, Morocco, Indiana

Lawson H. Recher practiced medicine in Morocco in July of 1882 until his final days. His office was located on the second floor of the building that housed People's Drug Store, on the corner of State and Main Streets. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, as well as a world traveler. He showcased his collections at his office, where he spent the majority of his time, when not at home with his family, or on the road visiting patients.

Some of the records from his practice have survived over the years, giving us an insight to not only the people he treated, but the economy at the time as well. A photocopy of his Day Book from 1899, given to the society by Bonnie Wagner and Doug Boyd, revealed that he often time took oats, corn, coal, wood, seeds, vegetables and chickens in lieu of payment for services rendered. His charge for extracting a tooth was 75 cents and he dispensed medicine for as low as 25 cents. Laura, his wife, also practiced medicine from his office, but wasn't a separation of accounts. Only notations regarding her consulting with him on some special cases.

A debit/credit journal for 1882-1886, gives us a record of the citizens of the area who used his services. Perhaps your ancestors are listed on the pages that follow! See page 16-18.

Right, is a photograph of Dr. Recher relaxing amongst his collection of wildlife trophies in his office. Receipts from a taxidermist indicate that he hunted and caught them himself. Below right is a photo of the original sign that hung outside the building.

The Doctor is in!

Most of the physicians from the late 1800's to the mid 1900's carried their office with them - yes, they made house calls! One hundred plus years later, contents of Dr. Recher's bag have survived. Including pills for what ails you, a stethoscope, flashlight, needles, syringes, reflective head piece, tonsil removal instrument, measuring cup, a brace, scalpels and scissors, powders and tonics. When he came calling, he was prepared!



Continued from page 13 >

Goodland, Indiana, till her marriage to Lawson. This happy couple had one daughter, Frieda, born on July 18, 1892.

Dr. Recher passed away at the age of 85 on October 11, 1941. On August 4, 1944, Laura also passed away. They were laid to rest at Oaklawn Cemetery, Morocco, Indiana.

Researching Frieda became quite a challenge. Discovery of photographs of her with her mother, and friends from Morocco, known as "the Happy Six in Morocco", indicates that she had a childhood that was filled with love and laughter. From entries in Dr. Recher's diary of 1933, at the age of 41, she traveled frequently to visit with friends throughout Indiana and Illinois. She was active in the Christian Church and along with her mother, participated in many social and community events. Her father saw to it that she had her driver's license, which would have been a luxury for a girl in 1933.

Betty Kessler recalls, "She was a quiet, unassuming person. Fair and rather fragile who cared for her ailing mother. She graduated from Morocco High School, and was a close friend to Ethel Sheppard, a high school teacher who roomed with the Recher. Ethel later was the mother of the well known Sam. In later years she married Bill Burns, who worked for the railroad. She enjoyed traveling."

It is known that in 1945 she married Bill Burns, a brakeman for the railroad. His family may have been from Worth, Illinois, for upon her death on April 17, 1979, she was buried in the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery there. Little else can be found regarding her life and times.

The home that was built and cared for by two generations of the Recher family on the corner of State and College Avenue, was purchased in 1981 by Dorothy Johnson, who would restore and modernize the home. The home now has different owners, but it remains one of the landmarks in the town of Morocco.

The life of the Recher brothers makes an interesting and inspiring story, and also includes a large part of the history of Morocco and Newton County. They entered our community with a constructive attitude and held to that determination through the long years of their lives in our County. ■

Editor's note: The 1933 dairy in this article was one of three kept by Dr. Recher beginning in 1931. Where the other two is not known. It gives us an interesting insight to our community during the height of the



Frieda (Recher) Burns and Friends - The Happy Six of Morocco

The friends of Frieda posed for the camera several times over the years in Morocco. Top left is Bethel Kessler, left, and Frieda. The upper right and center picture was taken at the same time, indicated by their clothing. Take a close look at the one in the upper right. Frieda is holding an envelope, gesturing to her head, Frances Hix is holding an open letter, and the other girls seem to be contemplating something . . . what is the message of this photograph? We may never know! Back row, left to right, Bethel Kessler, Inez Baker, Freida Burns. Front, Lorena Kessler, Frances Hix and Anna Carpenter. Center photo: left to right, Frances, Bethel, Lorena, Inez, Freida and Anna. Bottom photo: On the back it reads, *Sunday, May 19, 1907 - Did we? Well, I guess, So did zip! Fritz, "der scribe". Goodbye to the Freshie Class. Hurrah for the blue, Hurrah for the white, Hurrah for the Freshies, They're all right. They are - They are - They are all right! They're lulus, they're lala's - and they get there everytime! H-a-H-a! Ha! Ha!* Left to right: Frieda, "Fat" Kessler, Laura Ewan, Lorena Smart, Ella Lobb and Edith Fuller.

depression and how a drought affected the individuals of our community. I will write a report of it's content in an upcoming issue of the Newcomer.

– it is difficult to explain what did happen.

The Volcano Theory

The first written reference about the origin of the rock structure at Kentland was a vague suggestion that it was a dome similar to those along the Upper Wabash River. The dome-like structures of the Wabash Valley later were found to be reef deposits, built up in the shallow, warm marine waters that covered most of the Midwestern United States many millions of years ago. The Newton County quarry is not at all reef-like, so that idea was abandoned. But the name Kentland Dome remained, perhaps because of the up-thrust of bedrock.

In the early 1930's, a geologist named Robert R. Shrock became interested in the area. He believed that the forces which caused this upheaval of rock came from well under the surface of the earth. He felt that at one time the rocks deep within the crust gave way under the stresses of the earth, and either a block of these rocks rose above the rest to relieve the pressure or a small plug of molten rock was squeezed upward like toothpaste into the overlying rock.

Neither the movements could have been strong enough to reach the surface, but they raised the rocks above them with almost explosive force and caused the shattering found at the surface near Kentland.

The Meteorite Theory

No reference was given to Kentland, but Boon and Albritton, (other geologists), suggested in 1936 that some of the so-called "cryptovolcanic" structures – the Kentland Dome having been called that by some authors – represent areas where rocks have been disturbed by the impact of a meteor. They pointed out that after a large meteorite strikes the earth the suddenly compressed rocks will expand with explosive violence and the consequent disruption will shatter them.

Shrock's ideas about the Kentland quarry remained unchallenged until the 1950's. Charles Dietz, after studying the

area, suggested another alternative, saying the forces at work in Shrock's conception were not really violent enough to account for the Kentland Dome upheaval. Dietz based this belief on the occurrence of a large number of shatter cones in the area.

A shatter cone is a cone-shaped piece of rock with grooves running down the sides. It results from a large force suddenly



Kentland Shatter Cones

When the meteorite hit Mt. Newton, studies suggest that it was 1/2 to 1 mile in diameter. The rock being mined there today should be 2,000 ft. below the surface, but the impact blasted the rock to the surface, standing on its end. The entire event probably occurred within a time span of 2 to 3 minutes. Shatter Cones, called *astrolema*s (from Greek *astron*, *blema*, meaning "star wound"), are a type of meteorite impactite, found only around large impact craters. They have a distinctively patterned structure that are formed in the rock by a large impacting object. Often conically-shaped, these rocks have close-spaced "grooves" or lines" that radiate outward from the apex. The apex, or point of the stone points towards the impact area. These are actual shatter cones found at the Newton County Stone Quarry. This information and pictures were located at www.meteoritearticles.com/colkentlandshattercone.html

being applied to an object. If the blow is hard enough, the rock fractures and a small cone, apex pointing toward the blow, results. Very poorly formed shatter cones have been found at sites of dynamite explosions, but more perfect shatter cones are found at the sites of more powerful explosions. Those found at Kentland are almost perfect.

Dietz, looking for a possible origin of these shatter cones, suggested a meteorite. He believed that a large meteorite traveling at high speed could have caused the explosive kind of impact needed to produce the cones. He also found that many of the

cones pointed upward and that very few of them pointed downward, a fact supporting his belief that the force came from above. Furthermore, he believed that a meteorite origin would explain why there are no traces of vulcanism in the area.

Although this theory explains some of the features at the quarry, it was not satisfactory for Rarick. He still questioned why 400 feet of rock was raised 1,500 feet to the surface of the ground. Dietz admitted that well-developed shatter cones had not been found around known meteorite craters, but he thought they should be there. Later studies at Kentland found as many cones pointing downward as those pointing upward.

The Fault Line Theory

In 1953, Robert Boyer wrote his masters thesis on the structure. He felt that there might be a fault-or break in the rocks-under the area and that movement along the fault caused the beds to become disrupted. This, he proposed, would account for the vertical displacement and the fracturing. The major drawback to this idea is that evidence of such a fault has yet to be found in the area.

One thing is for certain, the Newton County Stone quarry has been a great asset to our community, as well as adding to the history of Newton County. The theory of the meteorite is the accepted one today, and had that not happened, the quarry would not exist. This site is very rare, from a geographic point of view, and visitors from all over the world continue stop by our county to take a look at this "field laboratory".

But, next time you pass by Mt. Newton on U.S. 24, 3 miles east of Kentland, consider this theory –

Paul Bunyan Theory

As acceptable as many suggestions is the theory that Paul Bunyan tripped over the Great Lakes, and where his knee landed at Kentland, the rocks were greatly jarred. If that is possible, where are Babe, the blue ox's footprints? ■

Sources: NCHS Program presented by Greg Gould and Ross McKee, August 25, 1997; The History of Newton County, 1985; Outdoor Indiana, Vol. 32, No. 5, March, 1967.

An Old Indian Trail

by Allen Kenoyer, *Newton County Enterprise*, January 28, 1927

This story which I am now about to relate, may seem strange and unreal to those who shall hear it. But I hope to be able to introduce sufficient data and well known facts pertaining to it, to convince the unbiased mind that it is at least founded on fact.

Now in order to get a proper understanding of this story, it is necessary to go back a good many hundreds of years (we don't know just how many) to the time when the Aboriginal man inhabited this country.

We don't really know who or what race the first inhabitants were, but for convenience we will call them all Indian. It is in the very nature of things that mankind, no matter where, would have roads on which to travel in going from place to place on business or pleasure, and the Indian was no exception to the rule. When the Indian had need to travel in the long ages ago, perhaps the most desirable mode was to paddle his bark canoe when he could find a water route available. But when he traveled across the land, he traveled on the trail, and only a few hundred years ago, when traveling on the trail, he must have traveled altogether on foot, for there was not a horse on this continent at the time Columbus discovered America. In the laying out or establishing of these trails, the Indian naturally held to the ridges and morains and higher elevations, for the land over which they crossed was often very wet and marshy, much of it was under water a good portion of the year, much of it overgrown at times with rank vegetation through which it would have been difficult to walk when following the trail. Besides, the Indian had to be on the constant look-out for enemies as well as for the wild game on which he depended for food. So by traveling on the higher elevations, it afforded him a safer and better view of the country through which he was

passing. Years ago when the Indians were quite numerous, in what is now northwestern Indiana, they had extensive settlements on the shores of lake Michigan, and coming south to the Kankakee river would have revealed many wigwams and villages. For that was the Indians' paradise. Game and fish and fur abounded in unlimited quantity.

Going south to the Wabash river found

the Shawnees, a powerful tribe living in permanent towns and villages. Now these various settlements did have barter and trade and commercial relations with one another. They frequently exchanged corn and dried meat and arrow heads and axes and other commodities which they possess. So then it was absolutely necessary to have a direct highway or trail on which to travel, connecting these places of which I have



which he dearly loved.

The last two years of his life, Silas was practically confined to his room, in the home he shared with his mother until her death, and was cared for to the last by his family members. There was no indication that Silas married in any of the documentation used for this article.

Lawson H. Recher was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, near Dayton on September 19, 1856. He came with his family to Indiana in 1866 at the age of ten, and here assisted on the home farm and attended school at Francesville. Early in life, he learned the value of time and was not afraid to work. At the early age of seventeen he began teaching public school, and continued in that profession three terms in the graded schools of Francesville, and while teaching he also studied medicine under the professional guidance of Drs. Robert Mattingly and D.J. Loring; then, entering the medical department of the University of Michigan, he completed the prescribed course there, and was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1879, being a member of the first class to take the extended course of that thorough institution of learning. To begin the practice of his chosen profession, he first located at Medaryville, Indiana. On July 6, 1882, he came to Morocco where he soon had a large and lucrative practice.

Being, however, also an able businessman as well as a physician, he saw, in his extensive rides over the country, a great opportunity of improving the vast acreage of wetland existing within the bounds of his travel. After much thought devoted to the problem of the best manner of

immediate personal supervision of Mr. Wilson, and this continued for three years. In 1890, the doctor associated himself in business partnership with Ralph S. Paxton, under the name of Recher, Paxton and Company, and organized the Citizen's Bank of Morocco, which they managed, meanwhile continuing to carry on the drug



Probably the best-known photograph of Dr. and Mrs. Recher, taken when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1940.

draining and reducing to cultivation this extended waste, he decided upon the tile system; and, accordingly, in 1886, he associated himself with A.D. Peck and built the first tile manufactory in Morocco. This institution, however, was soon afterward destroyed by fire; but the proprietors rebuilt, and successfully conducted their business for two years, when they sold out.

When the railroad was completed to Mount Ayr, Dr. Recher united in partnership with Samuel Wilson and established a drug business at that place, to be under the



Both Doc Recher and Silas were avid hunters and fishermen. Silas holds up quite a catfish on the Kankakee River. They belonged to the "Afternoon Off Club". This picture was described by Doc Recher as "Fishing On The Kankakee", which was displayed in his office. The Newcomer published this picture in conjunction with the Morton/Ketcham Family history thinking at the time that it may have been individuals from that family, or staff of the Gaff Ranch. We now know it's true identity.

Ohio, August 21, 1856, and was educated at Johnstown high school, and attended Columbus Medical College, where she obtained her degree of M.D. After graduating from Columbus, she took a special course of study in New York City. She practiced her profession in

business. A year later, Lewis S. Recher purchased the interest of Mr. Paxton, and the firm style became Recher Brothers, bankers and druggists. Lewis S., being the cashier of the bank.

But Dr. Recher did not confine all of his time and attention to his private affairs, but was also a public servant. When the town of Morocco was incorporated, the doctor was chosen as it's first treasurer. Subsequently, he served five years as trustee of Beaver Township, being elected as a Democrat in a strong Republican township. During his term of office in this relation the first two miles of gravel road was built, new roads laid out, drainage ditches constructed and many other improvements made or inaugurated all to the entire satisfaction of the tax-payers, as all the work was done economically and honestly.

In 1899, he was a member of the school board. He also served as a county commissioner, and for many years he was president of the Newton County Chapter of the American Red Cross, receiving a citation for its organization during World War I. He was active in organizing the Morocco Lions Club and served as its president the first three years of its life, where it is a fact that he never missed a meeting, even during the last few months of his life.

He belonged to the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges and the Jasper-Newton County Medical Association. Many worthwhile projects to improve Morocco were led by Doc Recher; many others received his active support.

Dr. Recher was married twice. First, December 29, 1882, he was united with Lizzie Conner, who died in 1887, leaving no children. In 1890, he was united in marriage with Laura Pratt, M. D., daughter of Dr. Benjamin W. and Jane M. (Bean) Pratt. She was born at Johnstown,

Ohio, August 21, 1856, and was educated at Johnstown high school, and attended Columbus Medical College, where she obtained her degree of M.D. After graduating from Columbus, she took a special course of study in New York City. She practiced her profession in

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beauty spot may be ever maintained as a haven for the weary, for the playful, and for seekers of beauty in the great outdoors.”

Both brothers would be very pleased with the continued effort given to keep Recher Park a beauty spot in the town of Morocco. Congratulations to the

town officials and community residents who continue to be vigilant of this historic landmark.

In early life, Silas was affiliated with the German Reform Church of which his parents were lifetime members, but he was religiously liberal minded and always contributed to the support of all church

organizations.

Silas was a charter member of Morocco Lodge No. 492, Knights of Pythias, and was one of five members that were instrumental in organizing and instituting the lodge, and he always took great pleasure in contemplating it's wonderful growth and the principles of

spoken, and that such a trail did exist, passing right across Newton County, we are quite certain.

And now I shall attempt to trace its exact location for a few miles at least. I am aware of the fact that by doing so I lay myself open for criticism by those who may doubt the accuracy of my statements and conclusions, but until they can produce evidence and proof showing that I am materially wrong I shall be content. In following the line of this trail I shall start at a point southeast of here and travel northwestward. I shall not go to the place of beginning at the south end for I do not know its location there. But starting at Mt. Gilboa, a high elevation about eight or ten miles south of Remington, we find that the old trail ran directly across its summit. I crossed there in 1858, with my father and he told me we were following the Indian trail. Coming on, I will not attempt to trace it entirely, but will just touch some of the higher places, until we get to the Iroquois river and from that point on across Washington township, I shall try to locate its entire route. For this is the part of the trail in which we are directly interested in this story.

The trail crossed the high ridge about three miles east of Kentland, where the stone quarry now is, thence striking in a northwesterly direction and crossing the sand ridge at a point not far from where J. B. Staton now lives. From there the objective point was the fording place at the Pinkamink, which is what the Indians called the Iroquois. This fording place was about seventy or eight rods up stream and nearly due east from where the Roberts bridge now stands on State Road 10, about four miles north of Kentland. Years before the road where the bridge now stands was even laid out, this ford of which I am describing, was the neighborhood crossing place. It was the safest and most used of any ford anywhere near. But was it really on the Indian trail? I can state positively that it was so called and so recognized to be by the early settlers, and I think there is no reason to doubt it. I know that it was sometimes called the Lewis ford, in honor of a Mr. Lewis who once owned a tract of land on the north side of the river. Leaving the fording place, from the river bank the trail led out through the heavy timber on the bottom land onto higher ground where it emerged from the timber near the place where now stands the Drake-Roberts farm house, on the Roberts estate. From here the trail ran a short distance northwest where it struck the high sand

ridge which it followed almost across what is now Washington Township. The place where the trail struck the sand ridge is, only a few rods from where I was born seventy-six years ago, and where I spent the first twenty-three years of my life.

Straggling bands of Indians were occasionally seen on this trail not more than twelve or fifteen years before I was born. Going north a few rods from the place where the trail first strikes the ridge, brings us to the site of what must at one time have been an Indian village, for one of my earliest recollections is of following in the furrow behind the plowman and picking up the flint arrowheads that the plow turned out which were usually plentiful here. Here must have been the home of the arrow maker, for on a very small area there were thousands of small sprawls or chips of flint that he had evidently broken off when he fashioned his darts. Near by at the hill side was a spring of water. But why did the Indian erect his wigwam out in the open prairie, when there was the shelter and shade of the timber so near by? Maybe to get away from malaria and mosquitoes which were much worse in the timber and maybe this was a sort of watering place and summer resort. I'm sure I don't know. Taking up the trail again and following a well-worn path on the top of the ridge northwest about one and a half miles, brings us to a high elevation years ago known as the Davis hill. Here flowing out at the east side near its base was a splendid spring of water at which I often drank when a small boy. There was abundant evidence that this spot was well known by the Indians.

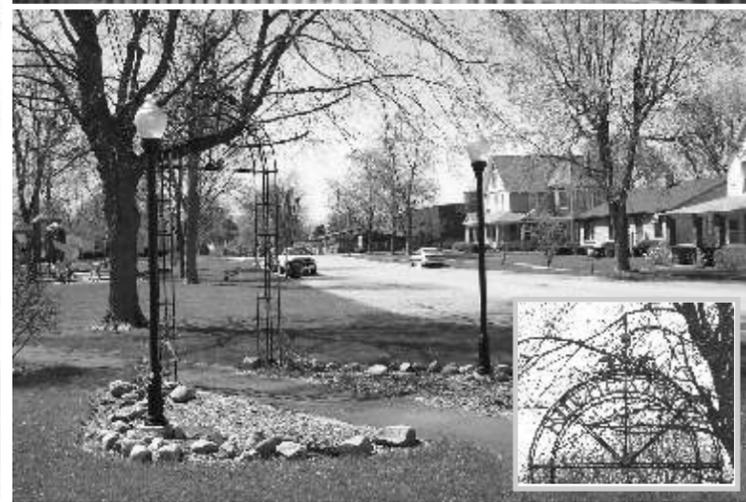
Going on now nearly straight north about one-half mile brings us to the place perhaps the most important of any location in this story. If you are interested, please keep this location in mind, for I shall surely refer to it again later on. The place I am now describing was a grove on the south line or margin of what was known as the North Timber, it was the first timber on the trail after leaving the timber near the fording place. And here in this grove, when I was a small boy, lived William Shetler, who was a shoe-maker and did the neighborhood shoe cobbling. To his place we older children of our family would go annually to leave our measures for the correct sizes of our boots and shoes that he made for us, and many times during the year, to get them mended. And we almost invariably went on foot. We always followed the old Indian trail, for there was no other direct road.

Now, turning abruptly to the northeast

and going on through the oak grove a short distance, brings us to the highest elevation on this part of the trail. Perhaps not the highest above sea level, but as compared with the country nearby. This place was known as the High Point. It is directly west of the town of Ade on the farm of B. W. Burton. Here in an early day was abundant evidence that this place had been much frequented by the Indians. Flint arrow heads, tomahawks and stone axes as well as other relics have been found here. Following closely on the trail for a distance of a mile or more brings us to a very interesting spot. Here we come to the shore or edge of what was once a miry slough or morain. It was apparently the spill-way through which the water of the Black marsh filtered across and escaped at high times. It must have been exceedingly boggy and treacherous years ago. And right here, at a very dry time, the Indians had thrown up a complete levee or ridge extending on a straight line from shore to shore on which they might go across without miring during the wet time. Some folks thought it might be the work of the beaver, building his dam. I hardly think so. But at any rate it bore evidence of having been straightened and improved by the hand of man. I have not seen it for more than 30 years. I do not know if it is visible or not. The place of its location has likely been entirely obliterated. From here the trail struck generally northward to the open prairie and passing through the grove where the famous Chief Turkeyfoot once lived. But as we have now gone far enough to embrace all that is needed to illustrate this story, for fear of seeming tedious, we will go no further on the trail, and you will have time to take a short rest while I change the focus of my camera and put in another reel.

Hit the road and find this trail! Janet Miller and I recently followed the old Indian trail, use the map we have included with this story, and you too, will be able to track Mr. Kenoyer's recollection!

Please look on page 19 of this issue for a questionnaire that we would like for you to consider. We are contemplating putting together a brochure that would provide a guide to driving tours in our county. Any landmark will be considered - whether it's a creek, a house, a field, whatever- we need your input! Thanks!



Recher Park and The Recher Home

In Dr. Recher's diary of 1933, he stated that the family was very honored to have such a beautiful park carry their namesake. They enjoyed watching the people come and go, particularly the family reunions. Often times they would join in on the celebrations of old friends and neighbors. Upper left is a post card that reads, "The Park, Fairview-Morocco, Ind." Note the bell tower is still on the Christian Church, and that the huge shade trees were young saplings. You can also see the homes located next to Dr. Recher's home, which have been replaced with newer ones today. The middle left picture, taken in winter of the pool, was later filled and used for flower planting. The bottom left postcard had two photos, top reads "Fairview Park, opposite Dr. Recher's Home. Bottom reads "Looking East and South from Delmar Law's Residence - Morocco, Ind."

The top right picture of the Recher home has a label that reads "The Recher Home - 45 Years Ago". Unfortunately, there wasn't any indication as to the year the photo was taken. Note the windmill in the upper right hand corner of the photo, just above the child in the photo, probably Frieda. All that remains today of the windmill is the cement slab that was the foundation. Lower right, Recher Park as it is today. The newly installed iron entrance gate located on the northeast corner of the park, carries the name. You can see the Recher home in the upper right hand corner of this photo. Note the changes in the area.

HOME *is where your story begins*

The Recher Family

In 1882, with the arrival of Dr. Lawson Henry Recher, and later in 1893, when he was joined by his brother Lewis Silas, and their recently widowed mother Nancy Ann (Whitmer), later known as grandmother Recher to the town folk, Morocco's growth would be on the up-swing. Two new businesses, the Citizen's Bank and Recher Brothers, a thriving medical practice, a town park, social and civic organizations, as well as county and township improvements were among the many contributions this family made to Newton County. These brothers actively participated in the growth and development of the town of Morocco and helped establish the quality of life Newton County residents experience today.

From a biographical sketch published in 1899 and LDS records, we know that the Recher family was of German ancestry, but settled in America during colonial times. Their paternal grandfather, Peter Recher, was a native of Maryland, and in the early years of the 19th century, he immigrated to Ohio, settling near Dayton. He was independent financially, as he brought eight thousand dollars with him, and he was soon recognized as a leading factor in the development of his part of the state, building mills and distilleries, and carrying on a freighting business with teams and wagons between Cincinnati and Dayton. In every business line he was successful. He was born in Frederick County, Maryland on August 1, 1763, and died on June 3, 1833. He is buried at the Ellerton Cemetery located in Montgomery County, Ohio. His wife, Elizabeth (Protzman), was born about 1767 in Maryland, and died on February 1, 1836. She is buried alongside her husband in Montgomery County, Ohio. Peter lived to the age of three-score years and ten (70 years of age). He had eight sons and two daughters.

Peter Recher's sons, John, born 1767, died at an early age is buried alongside his parents and Joseph, born 1801, who was a farmer, married Catharine Stiver on December 20, 1832. Peter was a farmer near Dayton, and was born in 1803. He married Elizabeth Miller on September 7, 1826. One of their daughters, name unknown, died unmarried, and Mary Susan, born 1804, married Rev. David Winters. D.D. on September 15, 1822. Rev. Winters performed more marriage ceremonies than

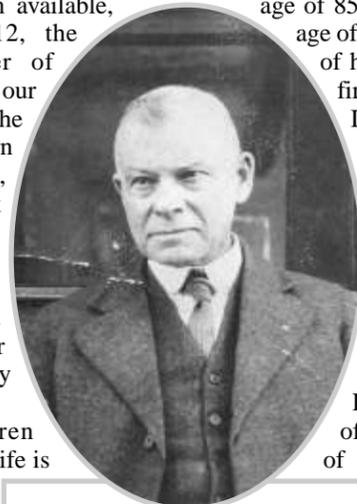
any other clergyman in the state. Elias, born about 1808, was a farmer and capitalist. Jacob was born about 1805, no other information available. Frederick, born about 1810, no other information available, and Lewis born in 1812, the youngest and the father of Lawson H. and Lewis Silas, our Newton County pioneers. The six eldest children were born in Frederick County, Maryland. Elias, Frederick and Lewis were born in Montgomery County, Ohio. Marriage records indicate that Peter, Elias, Joseph and Mary Susan all married their spouses in Montgomery County, Ohio.

Where these children landed in their journeys of life is not known at this writing. Perhaps one day we will be able to finish the genealogy of the early aunts and uncles of our Recher brothers.

Lewis Recher, Lawson and Silas' father, and was about 10 years old when his father died. He was reared a farmer, and in 1839, married Nancy Whitmer. He tilled the soil in Ohio until 1866, when he immigrated to Indiana, settling upon a tract of land near Francesville, where he pursued farming and stock raising. His death occurred in 1889. He was a kind-hearted, liberal man, never had a lawsuit in his life, and always observed the golden rule. He brought up his children in the principles of industry, economy and probity, accumulated a competency, and set a good example of citizenship. At the time of this sketch (1899), Nancy (Whitmer) Recher was residing in Morocco. Their six children: Martha J., born near Dayton, Ohio, in 1845, married David Ridenour, an iron-worker, and resided in Galva, Illinois; James D., unmarried, was engaged in the lumber trade in Texas; Lewis Silas, partner in business with brother Lawson H.; and two died in early life. Mr. and Mrs.

Lewis Recher were members of the German Reformed Church.

Nancy (Whitmer) Recher was born in 1817, and died on October 24, 1902 at the age of 85. Married to Lewis at the age of 22, she had lived 50 years of her life with her husband, first in Ohio and then in Indiana. After his death in 1889, she and her son Silas moved from the farm to the town of Francesville, where they resided for four years. In 1893, they moved to Morocco where her other son, Lawson H., had resided since 1882. For the remaining 9 years of her life she had the luxury of seeing her two children mature and contribute to society.



Lawson Henry Recher, M.D.

A notation regarding her illness in the October 7, 1902, *Newton County Enterprise* under the Morocco Locals states that "Grandmother Recher is in poor health", no death notice appeared in later issues. The burial place of Lewis and Nancy Recher is not known at the time of this writing.

Lewis Silas Recher was born at Dayton Ohio, on July 5, 1851, and died at Morocco on May 17, 1937, at the age of eighty-five years, ten months and twelve days. He is buried in Oaklawn Cemetery, Morocco, Indiana.



Lewis Silas Recher

He was fifteen years of age when the family settled near Francesville, Indiana. He resided with his parents throughout their entire lives, and from all indication was a confirmed bachelor. Upon moving to Morocco, he formed a partnership with his younger brother, Dr. L.

H. Recher, under the firm name of Recher Brothers, that continued until 1913, when the store was sold to Padgett and

Williamson, whose descendents would continue to conduct business of this type and location through the late 1980's. Silas was also the cashier of the brother's bank, the Citizen's Bank of Morocco.

Silas was known as a quiet man and held a retired disposition, but was considered a public spirited man, and was ever ready to assist and contribute to any enterprise that he thought added to the welfare of the community. At the time that Morocco was doubtfully debating the advisability of the purchase of barren ground for a park site, he made a guarantee to the Town Board that if they bought the ground and then found that the majority of the citizens opposed the measure, he would purchase the park site and retain it himself, and true to this promise, the purchase was made by majority vote of the Board. in 1895.

Early postcards indicate the park was known as "Fair View Park". (see pg. 12). As it truly was located on ground near the then platted ground for the fair, it was a befitting name. In years to follow, naming the park became a community project, and at that time it was discovered that the park had yet another name.

In 1932, the *Morocco Courier* announced that in conjunction with the Morocco Woman's Club, and sanctioned by the Town Board, a name would be officially given to the town park. They were apparently unaware of the parks given name. The club asked the members of the Morocco High School sophomore class to submit an essay suggesting a name for the park. The names submitted through the essays would be printed on a ballot that would appear for three weeks in the *Morocco Courier*. Readers were asked to cast their ballot by bringing it to the *Courier* office, and a new name would be selected by popular vote from those ballots.

From the *Morocco Courier*, January, 1932:

"In connection with the present undertaking of the Woman's Club to name the town park by popular

vote of the public. It was brought to the attention of the editor the other day that the park had once been named.

"When Sidney Schanlaub was editor of the *Courier*, and shortly after the tract on which the park now stands was bought for park purposes, that being around 1895, Editor Schanlaub named the park "Cleveland Park". This fact, known to but few present day residents, was related to us by Silas Recher, who was at that time a neighbor of editor Schanlaub, and an ardent booster for the park.

"Mr. (Silas) Recher, who was one of the men responsible for establishing the park, believes it is a valuable asset to the

town today, and urges the people to maintain it. One thing which should be done, he believes, is to fertilize the shade trees, which are suffering from want of fertilizer. This is especially noticeable in the spring. When the park was bought, Mr. Recher cites, there were no shade trees on it and the beautiful little park today bears no resemblance to the barren land purchased in the '90s."

The park ballot voting ended on January 30, 1932, and held eleven names that were submitted for the public's popular vote. They were: The Morocco Park; Wm. Chizum Park; Recher Park; Green Gardens; Wm. Chizum Memorial Park; Publicus Park of Morocco; The Recher Memorial Park; Memorial Park; Beautiland Park; Pleasant Park; and Gold Rule

Park. On February 4, 1932, it was announced that nearly 300 ballots came from Morocco, vicinity and former residents participated in the voting.

"Recher Park is the name of Morocco's town park. Catherine Redden was awarded the prize for her essay. The second favorite was "Morocco Park", submitted by Grace Hagen.

"The result of naming the park, Recher Park, is a fitting tribute to two brothers who have spent the greater part of their lives in this community and given many years of effort and service to projects of a public nature. Although Dr. L. H. Recher is now the more active of the two and takes an active part in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, particularly the Lions Club, there was a time when he could not out do his brother in public spirited service. Silas Recher, whose activities have been hampered by age, was a booster of this community when we of the present generation were still rocking in our cradles. He has performed a long life of usefulness in the community.

"In the autumn of his life, his achievement having borne fruit, the park was nearest his heart, and wishes that this civic

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Laura (Pratt) Recher, M.D.



Left, Laura and Frieda pose together, and right, Frieda at a very young age.



This is the home where Laura (Pratt) Recher was born in Johnstown, Ohio in 1856. Her father, Benjamin W. Pratt, M.D., right, was the first physician in Goodland, Indiana.

