

THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

Landmarks *of Newton County*

Indiana's Youngest County, Established 1860

Welcome to Newton County

Discover specific areas that have influenced the people, places and events that have determined the growth, integrity and prosperity of our way of life in Newton County for the past 150 years.

Featuring landmarks from each township, beginning with Lake, going south to Jefferson, east to Grant and north to Lincoln.

This project is dedicated to those individuals who took on the responsibility of ensuring the preservation of our county history, by committing a portion of their lives to that effort - we owe a huge debt of gratitude - for without their observations and documentation of the every day events, this publication would not have been possible.

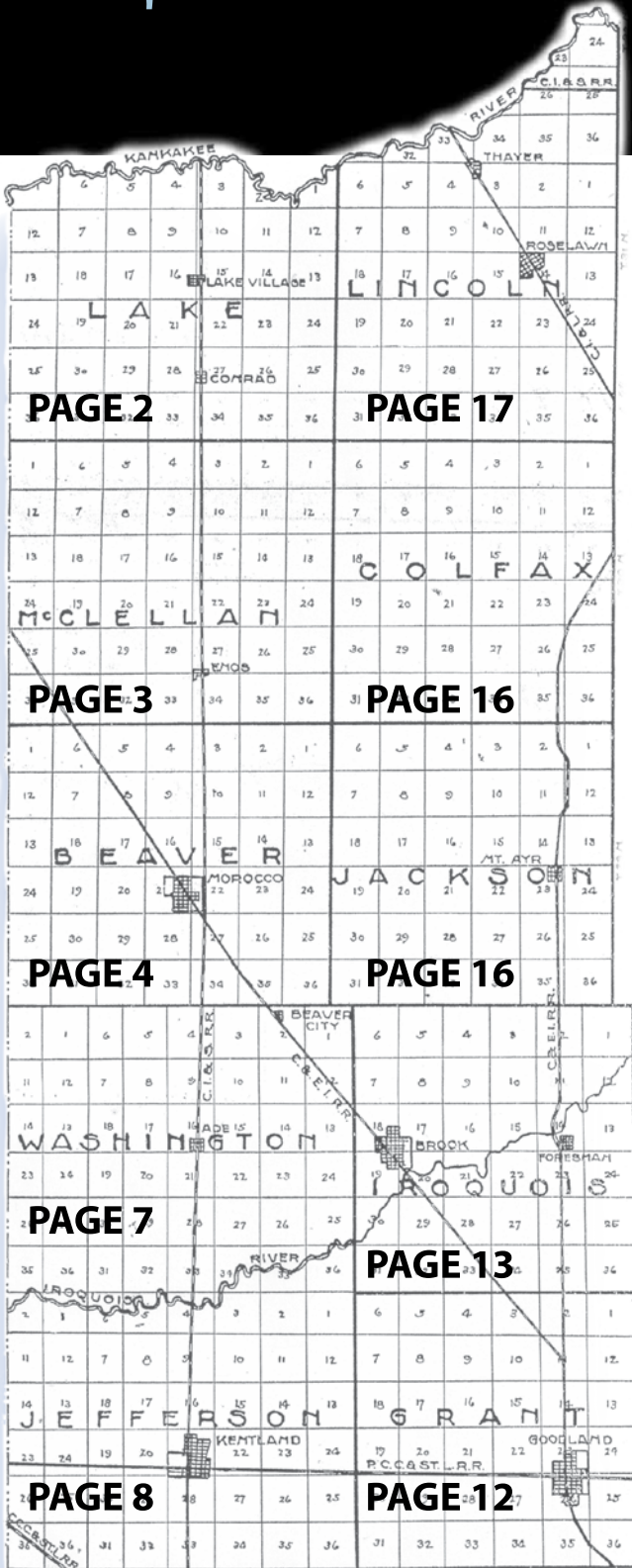
Newton County Historical Society

Post Office Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951

newtonhs@ffni.com - www.ingenweb.org/innewton

Resource Center located at 310 E. Seymour in Kentland - 219-474-6944

Many of these landmarks are located on private property today, and we ask that visitors to these sites not violate the privacy of these individuals. We ask that the landmarks be viewed via roadside access, and understand that this document does not give anyone permission to access the property where the landmarks are sited.



Lake Township

The Big Ditch - "Beaver Lake Ditch"



The Swamp Act of 1852 provided funding for the digging or dredging of ditches to drain the vast swamp lands of the State of Indiana. In Newton County, 36,000 acres of land were covered with marshes filled with water and tall grass. Within this acreage was Beaver Lake, which covered 16,000 acres. In 1853, Austin M. Puett was awarded a contract to cut a drainage ditch to drain Beaver Lake into the Kankakee River. The lake was 35' higher in elevation than the river and about 4.5 miles from the river. Puett began digging on the Northwest corner, lowering the lake and leaving a band of shoreline about 100 yards around the lake. After heavy rains and flooding in 1869, the ditch was enlarged to expedite the draining. It took 27 years, but by 1880 the lake was gone. You can cross the Beaver Lake Ditch via five bridges.

The Conrad Bridge



Bridge #57, and locally referred to as The Upside Down Bridge, spans the Beaver Lake Ditch, and it appears to have been built upside-down. The road led into and out of the town of Conrad. Built in 1916 and restored in 2003, it is a single span Warren deck truss bridge built by the Elkhart Bridge and Iron Company with a clear span of 80 feet. It was entered into the State Register of Historic Places in April, 1999.

Sumava

Reprinted from the Morocco Courier, August 10, 1935.

On the northern border of Newton County stands the beautiful little summer village of Sumava with its tall trees; its carefully platted shrubbery and rock gardens; its stone streets; its miniature lakes; its beaches on the river, that stands today as a monument to the Bohemian people who live there. Forty-three families that live there the year around and comprise permanent population of Newton County were first attracted to the resort by its opportunity for rest and recreation.

They came from Chicago to play to relax, but found themselves in love with their recreation abode to an extent which has made them work and develop permanent homes.

In 1926, a retired real estate man in Chicago, James Koatney, came out to the Kankakee Valley for a rest. He fell in with John Senia, an old resident of the valley, who provided quarters for Koatney and his family during a camping trip and rest. Koatney liked the place and bought a tract of five acres and then began to see the possibilities of the valley as a summer resort for Chicago people.

In 1927, Sumava Forest Resorts, Inc. was organized



with a capital of \$100,000.00; the land was bought, platted with roads, parks, beaches, etc., and lots began to sell. Cottages sprang up, public improvements were made. The multitude of weekend visitors sometimes ran as high as 5,000 people. Thus Sumava sprang up. Public improvements, which were put in by the company include, the Sumava River (a canal built through the village), three public bathing beaches on the Kankakee, four artificial lakes, 23 public wells, Masaryk Park, the community hall, and an adequate draining system. Seven miles of rock road were built and deeded over to the county as public highways. Although the sale of lots slowed up following the advent of 1929 and '30s and the corporation's funds for further public improvements became exhausted, the enterprise of the people themselves has continued to make Sumava grow in beauty with each year of age. Some of the modern homes would be a credit to the residential districts of any metropolis. The business district and the residential district of this modern summer village are separated by platted bounds. Many small business houses catering to the needs of residents and visitors are operated by permanent residents of the village.

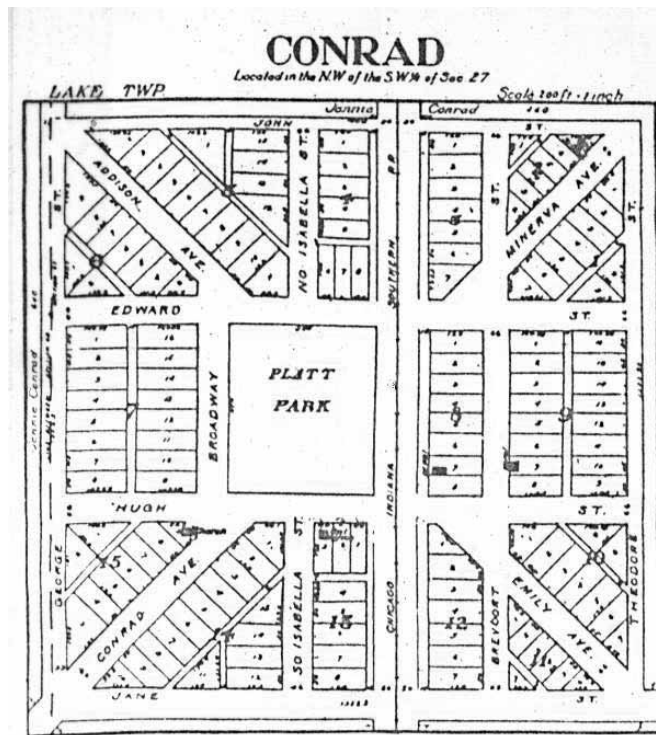
Sumava presents an inviting situation for a summer home. Its people are law-abiding citizens, friendly and progressive. The corporation has about 250 acres of land in addition to the platted lots.

Conrad

The dream of Jennie (Milk) Conrad was to build up a thriving town she named for her family. She named the park she platted after her son, and streets for herself, her mother, her husband and other unidentified persons. In 1885 her father, Lemuel Milk, deeded 4400 acres of the lake bed land to his only daughter, Jennie M., for one dollar. Jennie, born in 1855, married George Conrad in 1878, and they soon divided the property into smaller units of 160 acres to 320 acres, which were rented out to share croppers.

The big farm was called "Oak Dene" with three-quarters of the acreage under cultivation.

George Conrad died suddenly in 1896, leaving Jennie a widow at age 41 when son Platt was 16. Determined to run the business, in 1905, Jennie M. Conrad had ne-



gotiated with the Chicago, Indiana, & Southern (later New York Central) Railroad to come through the town of Conrad that she was planning, because she needed a place for shipping cattle and produce. Her livestock had been driven to Roselawn and shipped to the city on the Monon Line in previous years. Her dream of the Town of Conrad became a reality by 1905 when she presented plans to the county. Soon there was a stockyard with a capacity of 5,000 head of cattle, a block plant, hotel, a railroad station, a combination general store and post office, church, school, a central park and cottages for employees.

Many reasons, including the Great Depression, caused the fall of her little empire and by the early 1930's her village was a ghost town. Jennie M. (Milk) Conrad, called eccentric, elegant and determined, died in 1939

when very little was left of the Town of Conrad.

Once part of a 7,000-acre tract, the remains of the village of Conrad are a ghost town two miles south of Lake Village. Today it is known as Conrad Station Preserve, which stretches two miles east to west, is a large, high-quality black oak sand savanna. Currently, it is managed as two nature preserves; Conrad Station, east of U.S. 41, managed by The Nature Conservancy, and Conrad Savanna, west of U.S. 41, managed by Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves.

McClellan Township

The Morgan-Tracy Cemetery

The Morgan-Tracy Cemetery, Newton County's only African American cemetery, is located in section 24 of McClellan Township. The history of the family that owned the ground where this cemetery is located is sketchy. From the cemetery records made in 1997, there were 58 burials noted by the Newton County Historical Society. From those records we see that the first burial was in 1905, that being Stephen W. Morgan, born in 1879. A 1904 map indicates that Stephen Morgan owned the ground where the cemetery is located; later a map of 1916 shows ownership of 80 acres in that section by Emma Morgan. Emma Pontice (1851-1922) married George Morgan (1856-1911) on January 10, 1870. The 1870 Census shows us that George and Emma were living here in 1870, with other members of their family. George was buried there in 1911 and another Morgan by the name of John that same year.

Also in the cemetery is Cora (Morgan) Tracy (1875-1940) and her husband Walter Tracy. Cora is the daughter of George and Emma. It was traditional for families to be buried on their own properties, thus the names of the cemeteries usually carried the landowner's name. The land may have transferred to Cora Tracy eventually, therefore the name Morgan-Tracy.



Beaver Lake

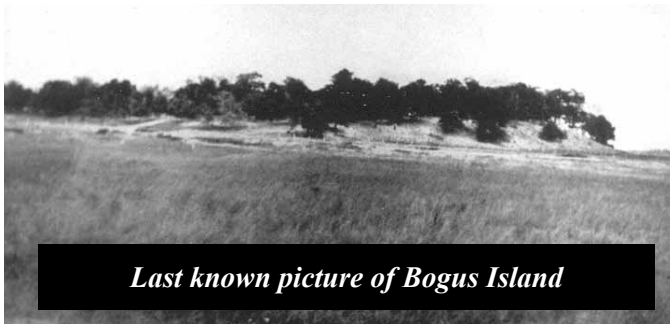
The lake's southern extremity was just north of the Oakland Cemetery in Morocco. It continued north passing over the lakebed 7.5 miles to the former Conrad Station. Approximately 10 miles wide, it's most-westward point in McClellan Township was in the east portion of Section 13; and most-eastward point in Colfax Township was in the east portion of Section 18; most northward point was in Lake Township, Sections 33 and 34; most southward



point was in McClellan Township, Section 22. Total Beaver Lake country was 36,000 acres of land.

Beaver Lake (also referred to as Big Lake) was an area of open water encompassing 16,000 acres, free of rush and reeds, 8-9 ft. deep at the most with clear waters. The southern line was indented with numerous arms and inlets. At the time, it was the largest lake in Indiana. The only overflow for the lake was Beaver Creek.

It took 27 years for the natural draining of Beaver Lake. The first attempt began in 1853, with "The Big Ditch" dug at the Northwest corner of the lake, 4.5 miles in length to the Kankakee River. Since the lake was 35' higher than the river, this ditch lowered the lake and left a band of shoreline about 100 yards wide as the lake receded. In 1869, heavy rains and flooding resulted in the enlarging of the original ditch; by 1871, three-quarters of the lakebed had drained, from 16,000 acres to 4,000; by 1880, the lake was gone.



Bogus Island

The largest island on Beaver Lake was called Bogus Island. The island obtained its name by its occupation of horse thieves and counterfeiters.

Located in McClellan Township, Section 16, 2.10 miles north of Enos, ½ mile west of 41, it faced southeast. Formed by the waves and winds of Beaver Lake, it covered 40-50 acres. The perpendicular southeast precipice was 75' high.

The cave of the horse thieves and counterfeiters was located on the northwest end of the island, which was 13 acres; 25' to 35' high on the north-northeast end and sloped south to the southwest. It could be approached from the northwest via sandbars.

Stolen horses were brought here for preparation to sell. Hair dye and paint was used to disguise their coats. The heavier horses were shipped to the north to Michigan and Wisconsin; smaller faster horses were sent to the East.

Thieves began using the island in the 1830's, and

began passing Bogus coins in the vicinity of Iroquois (Bunkum), Illinois, and points south in 1839.

The first attempt to clear the island of its inhabitants began about 1839, with the capture of three men. They and their equipment were taken to the home of Jacob Troup, and tried by Wesley Spittler, the Justice of the Peace. They were bound over to the court, which was in Williamsport, one man, Crane, managed to escape; the other two were taken by sheriff's posse but were never tried. After this raid, they began to use the island again until 1858.

In 1857, a group of vigilantes called The Jasper County Rangers made a plan to eradicate the bandits, but the plans were not carried out.

A horse that was stolen from Milford, Illinois was found at a house a little east of what is now known as Conrad Station. It was the home of William Schaffer, a well-known thief of the area. He ran from the posse, and attempted to jump the ditch between Beaver Lake and the Kankakee River near Lake Village where he was shot and killed.

This action struck terror into the Bogus Island thieves and they left the island. This was discovered soon after Schaffer's death by another raid on the island. The thieves had left guns, saddles, ammo, bogus coins and equipment behind.

In the 1960's, with the expansion of US 41 to a four lane highway, the sand from Bogus and the other islands in the Beaver Lake area were used as filler for the road-way.

Beaver Township

The Government Center, Morocco

The facility was built in 2004, and houses many offices of Newton County government.

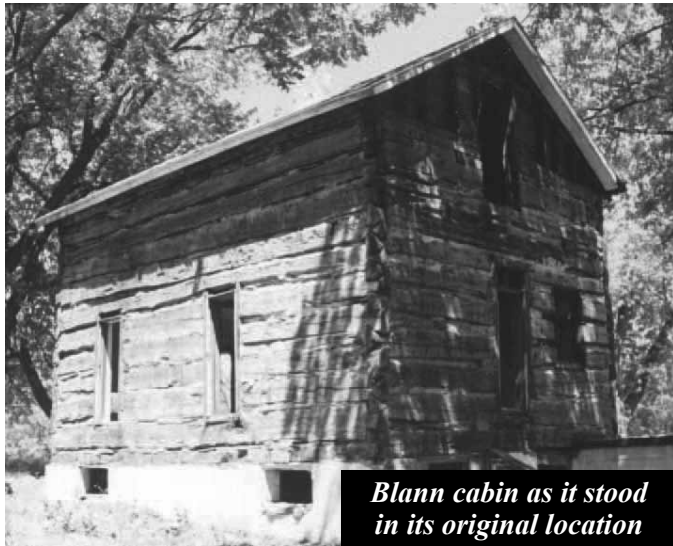
It offers three conference rooms and a twenty-five station computer lab. The twenty-five station computer lab is available for corporate classes, lifelong learning courses, computer training and much more. The Executive Conference Room can seat up to 14 people. The room is equipped with a projection screen, white board, podium, speaker phone and wireless computer networking. The Learning Center and/or Conference Room are perfect for casual meetings or small learning groups. Used as a conference room it will accommodate a capacity of up to 20 people. There are also eight computer terminals which are an ideal setting for adult learning or as a small class-



room. The instruction and conference room is the largest the facility offers with seating of up to 150 people and a room capacity of 300. The room can be divided in half providing two facilities in one.

The Blann Cabin

According to a deed recorded in 1857, the land for the Blann cabin was purchased from the U. S. Marshall in 1856, as the result of a railroad lawsuit, by John and Julia Dimmitt. Records indicate that they sold the property in 1877. We know that the Blann family obtained ownership in the early 1900s, selling the property in 2004 to a land developer.



Blann cabin as it stood in its original location

Upon dismantling the house that stood on the purchased property, the developer discovered that part of the house was originally a log cabin. The 1.5 story home was completely hand hewn and in excellent condition.

Working together with the county, the developer agreed to have the cabin moved to its present location, on the grounds of the Newton County Government Center in Morocco.

Turkey Foot and Bull Foot Grove

These were two natural groves that were surrounded by trees at the time untouched by the woodman’s axe. Here was a retreat from the heat of summer and from the storms of winter. The Iroquois River to the south, and the Kankakee to the north swarmed with fish, timber and prairie supplied the deer. Beaver Lake attracted tens of thousands of aquatic birds, while the marshes yielded rich harvests of fur. It was a goodly country for the Indian as it has been since for the white man.



Bull Foot Grove, 2010



Turkey Foot Grove, 2010

This is the tale of two Indian chiefs; Turkey Foot and Bull Foot. One account of this story (and there are several) is that Turkey Foot made a visit to Bull Foot, which resulted in a quarrel with Turkey Foot killing Bull Foot. Then, for revenge, Bull Foot’s son killed Turkey Foot. The bodies of the chiefs were then tied to two trees, relatively close to one another, with the bodies facing each other. A pen of logs was built around them to keep out the wolves. The bodies would remain there for several years as they were placed, until years later it was known that Dr. Charles E. Triplett came into possession of the bones. From these he learned that one was taller than the other. Sol McCulloch, who had known both of them, identified Turkey Foot as the taller of the two.

The Scott-Lucas Home

In 2002, the Scott-Lucas house and grounds were listed on the State of Indiana Register of Historic Places. The home, designed by Kentland, Indiana architect C. H. Hall, was recognized as an outstanding example of the Arts and Crafts Bungalow style architecture.

From 1912-1998, it was the residence of three generations of the Lucas family. Ross Wells and Laura Louise (Peterson) Lucas resided there from 1912-1930; they had a son, Willard, born March 31, 1904; Laura passed in 1930; Ross then married Ruby Gardner Smith, residing there from 1930-1950. Ross died in 1950. Ruby remained in the home until her passing in 1956; Willard Lucas married Gladys Stockton, living in the home from 1956-1964. They had two daughters, Virginia Ann, (1936-1998) and Laura Louise, born in 1937. Gladys Lucas died in 1964. Willard remained in the home until his passing in 1983; Ann Lucas married Gordon Stuart Thompson Scott in 1968, and moved to the home at Willard’s death in 1983. Gordon passed in 1985, and Ann remained in the home



The Ross and Laura Lucas home 1912-1930

until her passing in 1998.

From 1998 to the present day, the house has served as a museum for the community. From 1998-2001, it was handled by the Ann and Gordon Scott Trust; in 2001 to the present, it has been maintained and handled by the Newton County Historical Society.

The historic uses of the home were as a single family residential property, and as a boarding house for one or more single borders. The new use as a house museum will remain compatible with the property's use from 1912-1998.

The Scott-Lucas House (1912) was restored by the Ann and Gordon Scott Trust, 1998-2000. The house museum is open to the public for community events, meetings and other events.

The historic character of the property has been retained and will continue to be preserved. All of the features in the yard built by Ross Lucas are distinctive and are examples of features made by hand, 1912-1950. These features characterize the landscape structures developed in the yard over a 38-year period of Ross Lucas' lifetime.

The garden beds developed in the northeast yard by Ruby Lucas are significant because they reflect her deep love of gardens and plants. Ruby and her stepson Willard were charter members of the Morocco Garden Club, established in 1947. Information from the Treatment Plan for the Scott-Lucas Property, prepared for the Ann and Gordon Scott Trust, March 27, 2005.

The Cowichan Matrimonial Totem Pole

In 1967, brothers Elmer and Earl Rix built a weekend retreat for themselves; a place where they could relax and enjoy the benefits offered by Mother Nature. After traveling to Victoria Island, British Columbia, they returned home to anxiously await the arrival of their recently purchased totem pole, hand-carved by Cowichan Chief, Simon Charlie. When it arrived, it was broken, but Simon Charlie sent another, and together with the help of the Newton County REMC, they erected the grand pole in their backyard, held up by a 13' steel I-beam. It was restored in the early 1980's when Denny and Shirley Deardurff purchased the property. The 24' matrimonial pole stands vigilant today, under the ownership of Heyden Krueger.

The Carved Symbols

The Thunderbird is the most powerful supernatural creature. He lived in the mountains and fed on whales. When he flapped his wings, thunder rolled; when he blinked his eyes, lightening occurred. He was a hero in the legends of the Coast Salish Legends, part of the culture of the Cowichan tribe.

The Salmon is known as the provider of life, he is a symbol of the abundance of prosperity. Salmon was,

and still is one of the main sources of diets for many Salish people.

The Watchman is a small human wearing a conical rain hat. They are said to guard the village and give warning when unwelcome people or spirits approach.

The Killer Whale is the manifestation of Wolf; it is held in great awe for its size and power. Note his curled tail at the top, just below the salmon.

The Frog is a symbol of a new beginning to all things, though very small the frog plays a great role in Cowichan culture, he lets them know when it is time to put away winter activities and prepare for the new season.

The Bear symbolizes consistency and stability of action, has the ability to discover the inner truth about oneself, and has great self awareness, with a desire to deliberate about choices and actions.

The Killer Whale's Mask he assumes when he comes to man's world, also worn by the tribesmen of the Cowichan Tribe.

Some of the additional signs that indicate this is a Salish tribe carving are the arrows and ovals that appear, as well as the outlining of the lips – all common symbols used by Salish carvers.

Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area

The area is comprised of 8100 acres of land and 1500 acres of open water and marshes. The area has traditionally attracted large numbers of waterfowl since the completion of J.C. Murphey Lake in 1951. The property supports a broad diversity of fauna including furbearers, waterfowl, upland game birds, shore birds, song birds, and whitetail deer.



Murphey Lake, looking west



Murphey Lake, looking east

Formerly an area of high sandy hills and poorly drained lowlands, the property was started with the purchase of 7800 acres in 1949. Since that time, the acquisition of 1810 additional acres has raised the total size of the area to 9610 acres. The land was purchased with money received from the sale of hunting licenses and funds received from the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration act of 1937.

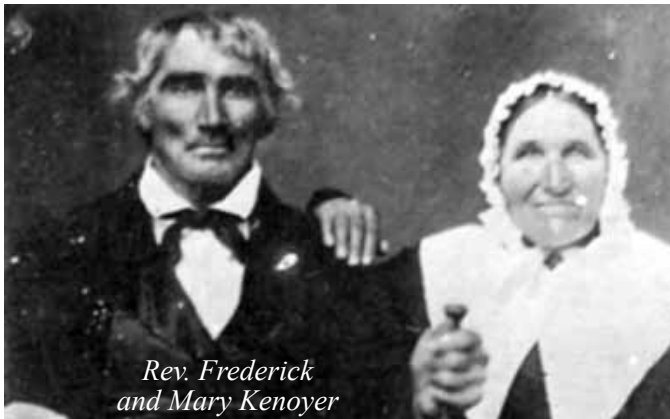
Murphey Lake was named after J.C. Murphey, an attorney in Morocco instrumental in making much of the land which is now Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area become Indiana's first Department of Conservation Fish and Game Area that was purchased with funds from the Federal Aid to Fish and Wildlife Funds. As a tribute to his dedication and interests in conservation, the lake bears his name.

Washington Township

The Old Log Church



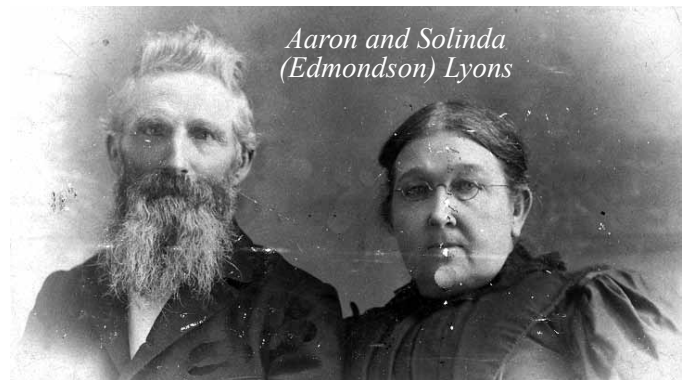
The fieldstone marker was placed by the Kentland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1976. This was the location of the first church in Newton County, erected in 1838 – Rev. Frederick Kenoyer, United Brethren minister, pictured here with his wife, Mary.



*Rev. Frederick
and Mary Kenoyer*

Birthplace of First White Child

Aaron Lyons, the first non-native American child, was born February 5, 1832, in the pioneer cabin of his parents which stood about 300 feet on the high ground southwest of this stone. His parents, John and Anna Lyons were natives of Ross County, Ohio, and they came to Newton County in 1831. He grew to manhood in a typical frontier settlement, and as a boy he frequently played with Indians as comrades. Most of his career was spent as a farmer. However, in 1855, he established the first store ever conducted in Brook. He was in business as a merchant six years, and he also served as Postmaster at Brook from 1856 to 1862. In 1862 he resumed farming and in 1899, Mr. Lyons moved into Brook and lived retired until his death, which occurred February 28, 1915. The stone was erected through the courtesy of Al Lyons.



*Aaron and Solinda
(Edmondson) Lyons*

The County Home

"The Poor Farm," of Newton County comprised about 300 acres in Section 33 of Washington Township, on the northern banks of the Iroquois River. At the time of the location of the county seat at Kentland, A. J. Kent donated 160 acres of land to the county, which was designed for a poor farm in Section 23. The tract was never used for the purpose indicated, and the land was sold.

On January 28, 1878, in settling a debt with D. A. Pfrimmer, a former treasurer, over 100 acres of the original poor farm was taken, in part settlement of his indebtedness to the county. Additional acres were purchased between 1886 and 1892.

For some time, the county used an ordinary farm dwelling to care for its few inmates, but in 1891, a 32 room building was erected for that purpose at a cost of \$4100. These plans included private quarters for the superintendent and family. There were a few other farm buildings on the property, plus a jail located near the pump station.

At the turn of the century, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were the caretakers, and Elam Hooker and family beginning in 1904. On the night of January 17, 1910, a large fire completely destroyed the large frame house and the pump house.



Mr. Hooker fixed up a home for his family in a shop building; a few of the inmates were sent to friends for care; the remaining were housed in makeshift quarters in an old house leased from George Herriman on the fairground property.

The following May, the commissioners contracted to erect a 40 room brick building for nearly \$23,000. The cornerstone was laid by the Masonic Lodge of Kentland in August, 1910. At that time, there were ten inmates as charges of the county, it was more than self-supporting.

Other caretakers were: late 1920's, Mr. Garritette; 1930's Michael Murphy; 1943, William Haynes and family. In 1947 when Mr. Haynes died, Mrs. Haynes was appointed Superintendent and their son Jack was named farm manager, and he and his family remained as caretakers until 1983, when the county closed the home. There were seven residents who were moved to other facilities. The home was destroyed by the county in 1983. The marker located near the north entrance to the fairgrounds is where the home was located. The marker was placed by the Iroquois-Washington Township Preservation Committee in 2010.

The cornerstone was placed on the Newton County Fair grounds, located next to the John Connell Building.

Jefferson Township

Home of John and Adaline Ade, the Birthplace of George Ade

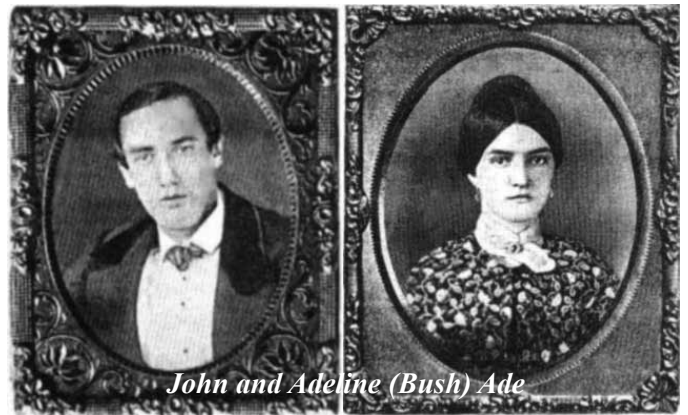
In quoting George Ade, "... father and mother remained in Newton County all of their lives and father wrote a book about it, after he was past eighty years of age. I met them on February 9, 1866, at Kentland, Indiana, in a little frame house south of the Court House Square."

George's parents were John and Adaline (Bush) Ade.



They located to Newton County in 1853 at Morocco, and at the first organization of the county in 1860, Mr. Ade was elected the first county recorder, whereupon he removed to Kentland. He remained in office until 1864 when he was elected county auditor, and served until 1868. Soon after, the Discount and Deposit Bank of Kentland was organized, and he accepted the position of cashier, one that he held until 1875, at which time he became one of the interested principals or stockholders of the institution.

Mr. and Mrs. Ade were the parents of seven children: Anna, William, Alice, Joseph, Emma, George and Ella. In his biography, published in his book, the "History of Newton County, 1916", Mr. Ade describes his son George as occupying a high vantage-place and "told the people a lot of things," his fame as an author and dramatist being such that mere words in this connection would be superfluous.



John and Adaline (Bush) Ade

The residence of the Ades changed in later years to a home located on the southwest corner of 3rd and Lincoln streets in Kentland.

The town of Kentland had 600 residents. George was known to be a bookish boy who found farm work not to his liking. After graduating from Kentland High School, he attended Purdue University in 1883. Two hundred students and four buildings comprised the university. Ade graduated in 1887, one of eight and said he stood at the top of his class when ranked alphabetically. Following graduation, he held several jobs in the Lafayette area, working at a couple of newspapers. He was a manager and publicist for a patent medicine company which made the popular laxative Cascarets, for which he created the slogan, "It works while you sleep."

In 1890, George Ade went to Chicago and obtained a job at the Chicago Record. His big break came when the World's Fair came to Chicago, and was asked to write a regular feature entitled "Stories of the Streets and the Town." This feature became very popular and remained so long after the Fair had left town. From these articles, the stock personalities of "Artie"; "Pink Marsh"; and "Doc Horne" emerged creating more readership of the columns. The columns were eagerly read, and then edited and printed in book form, in which they became national best sellers.

In 1897, the idea for something different for his columns appeared in a fable format, with a parable followed

by an appropriate moral. These too were very popular and in 1900 were published in book form.

In 1901 he was asked to write a vaudeville sketch for a popular comedienne of the day, May Irwin. This was just the beginning of his spectacular career on Broadway.

Ade eventually had three hits running on Broadway at the same time, and throughout his lifetime he enjoyed a phenomenal measure of celebrity. Whom else do you know that has had a town, a soft drink, a cigar, a hospital, a country club, a college football stadium, a highway, an Interstate Oasis, and a World War II Liberty Ship named after him?

More information regarding George Ade can be found at local libraries. Much of the information provided here was from local historian John J. Yost's writings.

The Second Newton County Courthouse

Kentland was laid out by Alexander J. Kent in April, 1860; during the month following, the Logansport and Peoria Railroad was opened for business, and on June 18th, the county commissioners proceeded to select the site for the courthouse to be occupied by the new set of officials who had been sworn in about two months before. After viewing the different tracts they selected Block 16, containing 30 lots. It was also ordered by the Commissioners' Court that Rueben White be appointed agent to



Second courthouse, 1861-1905

receive the donations for the county seat from A. J. Kent, according to the proposition made by him.

"This arrangement continued until 1867," says John Ade (who was auditor at the time), "when the small building, located north of the courthouse, was erected, containing two rooms. When first built it was the intention to use these rooms as jury rooms. However, objections were raised on account of their being on the ground floor. Being abandoned for that purpose, the clerk soon after appropriated the west room, the recorder taking the east one. The auditor's office was then enlarged by taking in all the south side of the courthouse on the first floor. The sheriff then took possession of the room deserted by the recorder, this being the first time he had been able to secure a separate office.

"This arrangement continued until August, 1906, when the new and present courthouse was completed. The old building was abandoned after a continuous use of forty-five years and was, on November 5, 1906, sold to John Simons for the sum of \$170.00. The original

cost of the building had been \$1,000.00. Deducting the amount for which it sold, made the real cost to the county only \$830.00 for 45 years' service, or an annual rental of \$18.50 per year. I doubt if any other county in the state can show such an illustration of economy." – "History of Newton County, 1916."

The Third and Present Courthouse

The courthouse is a handsome structure of brick and stone, two stories and basement in height, with large and convenient county offices and accommodations for the judiciary, the lawyers and the public. It was completed in 1906, at a cost of over \$30,000. At the commencement of work in the spring of 1905, the commissioners were David Hess, Elmer Skinner and James A. Whaley; the county council comprised of James Chancellor, John R. Hershman, Charles Hartley, George M. Herriman, R. L. Ewan, Felix Tyler and Edward Roush.

At the term of the Commissioner's Court, held April 3, 1905, its members made a contract with Eric Lund, of Hammond, Indiana, to furnish all the material and complete a courthouse on the public square at Kentland for \$26,195, according to the plans furnished by Joseph T. Hutton, architect and superintendent of construction. Previous to the letting of the contract to Mr. Lund, proceedings were instituted in the Circuit Court to enjoin the commissioners and councilmen from taking such action. In April, 1905, the case came up for trial and went against the plaintiffs, who were ordered to pay the costs of the trial. On appeal to the State Supreme Court, the Newton County Circuit Court was overruled, on the ground that the county council, in making the appropriation to build the courthouse, had done so by motion and not by ordinance, as required by law. During the pendency of the case, Mr. Lund had constructed the foundation and side walls of the courthouse up to the top of the first story, for which he had been paid \$12,000, guaranteed by an indemnifying bond signed by various citizens of Jefferson Township.

The decision of the Supreme Court brought the work upon the courthouse to a standstill, and the owners of the bonds which had been issued to meet the cost of its construction brought suit to recover their value from the county. The county council then met and made an ap-



Current courthouse, erected 1906

propriation for the completion of the courthouse, by ordinance instead of by motion, and in September, 1905, the commissioners placed upon record the report of that body authorizing them to issue bonds and borrow \$24,500 for completing and furnishing the courthouse and to meet the legal expenses incurred by the county. In the following month, the commissioners appropriated \$28,500 to meet the judgment obtained by the bondholders. In January, 1906, new bonds were issued amounting to \$23,000 to complete the courthouse. Mr. Lunds' bid for his work (\$18,525) being accepted. The building was completed in August, 1906, and all books, records and available furniture were moved from the old to the new courthouse. The final cost of the courthouse was represented by the liquidation of the two Lund contracts, \$12,000 and \$18,525, respectively.

The Home of Former Governor William T. McCray

The neo-classic home located at 501 North Third Street in Kentland was the home of former Governor Warren T. McCray, the 30th Governor of Indiana, 1921-1924. He built the home in 1892.

Mr. McCray was born near Brook, Indiana, in 1865. After a common school education in Kentland, he became a bookkeeper in the Discount and Deposit Bank there, of which he later came to be owner. He left his bank position to start a grocery firm with his friend Kirkpatrick in Kentland that grew into a large grain dealership.

McCray, who was president of the National Grain Dealers Association, lost the 1916 Republican Governor nomination to James Goodrich. After McCray won the 1920 election, he sponsored 13 amendments to the state constitution in a special election. Only one amendment, incorporating women's suffrage and limiting suffrage to citizens was adopted.

The first governor to occupy the mansion at Fall Creek Boulevard and Pennsylvania St. in Indianapolis, McCray had the teachers' pension law rewritten after he made unannounced visits to rural schools to investigate educational problems.

During his administration 87 public buildings were erected, including many at the State Fair Grounds. The 1923 General Assembly passed the state's first gasoline tax to provide money for highway construction, one of



The McCray home

McCray's pet projects. He also called a special one-day legislative session to move the Indiana Reformatory from Jeffersonville to Pendleton.

Mr. McCray also owned a large tract of quality farmland surrounding a large pond outside of Kentland which he named Orchard Lake Stock Farm. He married Ella Ade, daughter of John Ade, sister of George Ade, and raised



Warren Terry McCray, Indiana's 30th Governor

four children, one dying in infancy. His reputation in the cattle community grew rapidly after he established Orchard Lake, acquiring the infamous "Perfection Fairfax". Orchard Lake would grow to 2000 acres with 600 head of Hereford cattle; in it's heyday, 1910-1920, it was a national showplace with a baronial mansion and more than a dozen outbuildings.

Warren Terry McCray (1865-1938). He came into conflict with the growing influence of the Indiana Klu Klux Klan after vetoing legislation they supported. His personal estate was threatened with bankruptcy during his term and he solicited loans via the mail in order to help maintain his home and took a questionable loan from the state department of agriculture. The Indiana Attorney General was a Klan member and used this opportunity to bring a suit against the governor for embezzlement, for which he was found not guilty. Immediately after this failed, a new case was launched in federal court claiming he had solicited private loans in a fraudulent way. He resigned from office following his conviction for mail fraud and served three years in federal prison before being paroled in 1927 and pardoned by President Herbert Hoover in 1930.

In 1969, the home was bestowed to the Newton County Historical Society for use as a community center by the last living relative of McCray, Lucille (McCray) Evans. Two children of Warren T. McCray, George McCray and his sister Marion, occupied the home up until George's death. In later years, the society sold the home and established a McCray Scholarship with the monies from the sale of the home.

Arlan T. "Tom" Gott

It is worthy to mention a local Kentland man, who in the 1900s-1910s before radio and later forms of amusement, was a member of the town band, an important source of local entertainment. The town band played for important civic celebrations, and gave occasional concerts during the winter months at the opera house.

Tom Gott's forte was the trumpet. Learning from his father Samuel A. "Pop" Gott, leader of the Kentland town band, he polished his skills while performing with the Kentland town band for seven years. Tom took his horn with him when he went to France as a doughboy in World

War I. Following the Armistice, Tom was discharged from the Army in France and promptly joined the Goby Peslys Review and toured throughout Europe. The following year he returned to the United States where his trumpeting brilliance earned him a 30-week contract with the B. F. Keith vaudeville circuit, which included an extended run at the premiere vaudeville theatre, the Palace in New York.



Gott's career continued to skyrocket throughout the Roaring Twenties. In 1922, he signed on with the King of Jazz, Paul Whiteman, playing for them for some time. He followed this with a period of a much sought after lead trumpet in Broadway musical pit orchestras. He was also a featured soloist on many New York radio broadcasts.

In the 1930s, serious dental problems interfered with his playing. He eventually gave it up all together and returned home to Kentland. It was here that fate, in the form of another former musician forced an end to his jazz career prematurely, stepped in. Otto Boone had been a jazz musician for many years in the 1920s, however, gum disease forced him to give up show business and he settled in Kentland in the late 1920s and operated a drug store. Boonie worked with Tom to develop a technique which overcame his dental problems. His tough regime worked and Tom was able to return to the music world. He eventually settled in California, where he worked for years as a studio musician.

The musical excellence of all of the Gott family has not been forgotten by their home community. The highly prized annual awards for excellence in the South Newton Production Company plays are called the Gott Awards in their memory. From John J. Yost's *Second Helping*.

The Newton County Stone Quarry

Driving across 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. As early as 1865, Newton County has had quarries.

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

The Newton County Stone Quarry is one of these places. Here ancient rocks of the Ordovician age – 360

to 440 million years old – are exposed at the surfaces and have been quarried for many years. Normally, bedrock crops out under the blanket of glacial debris in this area belong to more recent Mississippian Period of geologic time, (more than 240 million years old.) The bedding of the rocks here are not level as it was when the sediments that comprise the rocks were laid down. The rocks do not 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? There are several theories as to how this happened.

The Volcano Theory. Early reports about the rock structure were that it was a dome similar to those along the Upper Wabash River. Those structures were found to be reef deposits; the Newton County quarry is not at all reef-like. That theory was dismissed, but the name remained, the Kentland Dome.



The Meteorite Theory. In 1936, geologists suggested that some of the so-called “crypto volcanic” structures – 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. In 1950, with the discovery of shatter cones in the areas of dynamiting, another geologist confirmed the meteorite theory, as it explains some of the features of the quarry, however, this geologist still questioned why 400 feet of rock were raised 1500 feet to the surface of the ground.

The Fault Line Theory. In 1953, Robert Boyer wrote his master's 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 purposed would account for the verti-

cal displacement and the fracturing. The major drawback to this theory is that there is no evidence found of a fault line.

The 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? Source: *The Newcomer*, Winter/Spring 2005.

Grant Township

Orchard Lake Stock Farm

Warren T. McCray was a farmer and livestock breeder long before he even thought of becoming governor of his native state. A small tract of land evolved into 2000 acres and eleven complete sets of buildings, including a baronial mansion, employing thirty persons. It supported a herd of more than 600 Hereford cattle, and was the home for many years of "Perfection Fairfax," the "King of Hereford Sires."

McCray originally purchased 258 acres in 1890. The land was then unimproved and undesirable. Large sums were invested for its drainage and improvement.

In 1920, the entire farm was insured for \$750,000.00; a figure that doesn't seem so large when in one year, the sale of Hereford cattle paid out \$565,000.00. One-fourth of the farm acreage was devoted to pasture; another 500 acres produced the corn and ensilage used on the farm; 200 acres were in wheat; 500 acres in oats and 200 acres in hay. The buildings and barn yards cover 100 acres.

McCray's first venture with cattle was with feeders, but after five years, he gave it up. During those five years, McCray learned something about Herefords, and that was, that they invariably did better than the other animals in his feed lot.

This fact determined McCray to get into the Hereford business and in 1904 he started, his first purchase being five cows. The following year he added seven cows and a bull, the next 18 more cows. Year by year Orchard Lake Stock Farm's herd was built up. But the greatest move McCray made was purchasing A. C. Huxley's entire herd to secure "Perfection Fairfax," then five years old.

Year after year "Perfection Fairfax" carried off blue ribbons at the state fairs and International shows. His sons and daughters have been distributed to all parts of

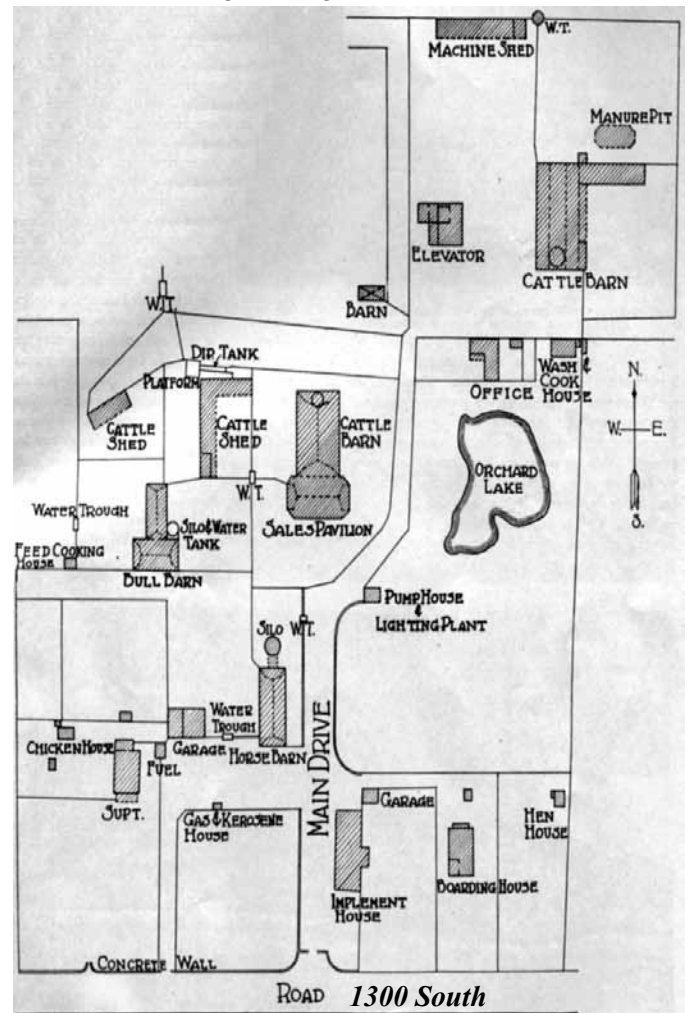
the world, and have brought great fame and prosperity to Orchard Lake Stock Farm and its owner. Cattle from his herds were sold to every part of North America, to South America and to Australia.

Mr. McCray stated in an article that Orchard Lake Stock Farm, with its famous herd of Herefords, was the greatest achievement of his life.

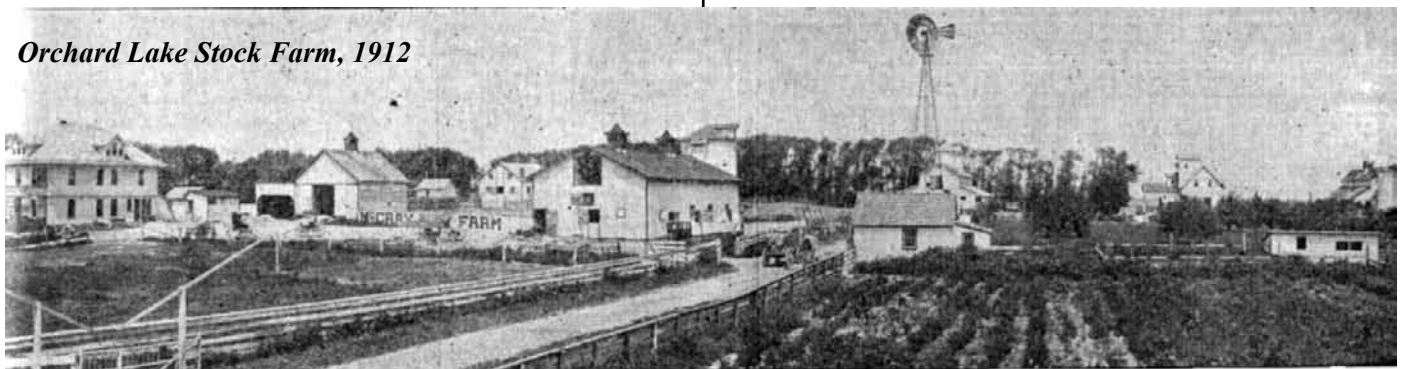
In the 1990s, the Show Arena was dismantled and reassembled on the Wagner Farm in White County. It still stands today, but under different ownership.

McCray's "King of the Herefordshire" Perfection Fairfax

Perfection was calved on October 10, 1903. His sire was "Perfection," himself a famous bull, and his dam was "Imported Berna," a daughter of "Fairfax," who sprung from some of the great English Herefords.

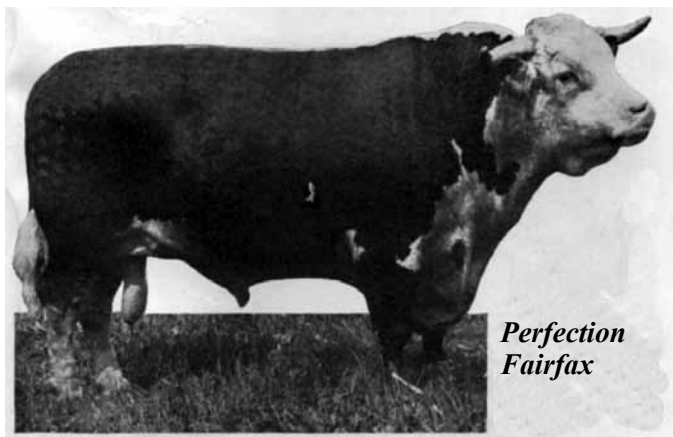


Orchard Lake Stock Farm, 1912



Upon the passing of Perfection Fairfax on September 26, 1920, at the age of 17 years, Governor McCray stated, "The Old King is dead, but the blood of this illustrious sire will carry on and on."

They erected a monument to this famous bull, but Perfection Fairfax left numerous sons and daughters,



many of whom remained at Orchard Lake for years, while hundreds of others could be found scattered through the notable herds of Herefords of this and other countries.

It is said that Perfection Fairfax was buried in a coffin draped in the American Flag that had always been displayed on the wall of his stall in McCray's cattle barn.

The death of the prize bull seemed to mark the turning point in McCray's financial fortunes. It was four years later when he was convicted of mail fraud by a federal jury, while serving as Indiana's 30th Governor.

Information on Orchard Lake Stock Farm and Perfection Fairfax was taken from Farm Mechanics Magazine, 1922.

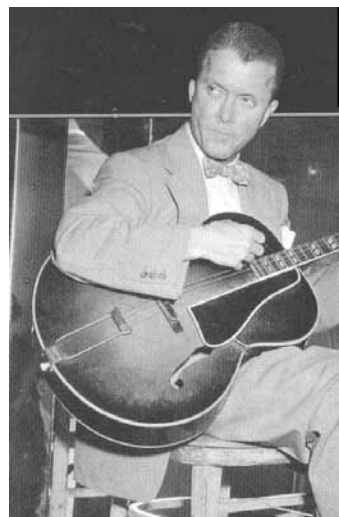


Eddie Condon

Eddie Condon was born in 1906 in Goodland, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Condon. His father ran a boarding house and tavern in Goodland. When Eddie was a boy, he moved with his family to the Chicago area. Eddie

was a musician. Starting out on the ukulele, he graduated to the banjo and guitar, from whence he rode to glory. He played with greats including Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbeck, Jack Teagarden, James P. Johnson, and Gene Krupa.

Beyond just playing jazz, he was also something of an impresario. In the 1940s he organized jazz concerts at New York's Town Hall, that were broadcast to the servicemen fighting the war. One of his pioneering activities was the organization of the first television broadcast of jazz which occurred in 1942. After the war he founded the first of his nightclubs which were devoted to the preservation of traditional jazz.



He continued to operate nightclubs until 1967. He played jazz into the early 1970s. *From John J. Yost's Second Helping.*

Iroquois Township

Birthplace of Warren T. McCray

The name of Warren T. McCray is usually associated with the Kentland community, or his Orchard Lake Stock Farm in Grant Township, as those were the places of his residence during his adult life. But McCray, Indiana's 30th Governor, was born northeast of Brook in Section 9 of Iroquois Township on February 4, 1865 on the farm for many years that had been known as the Brook Farm, where county roads 325E and 750S intersects. He was the son of Greenberry and Martha Jane (Galey) McCray. The farm is also known as the Herriman Farm as Alva Herriman, and later his son George, farmed this ground for the McCray family.

He was born east of where the old farm house used to stand in what was then pasture. In later years, George tilled this ground for the first time, and discovered the foundations to the old home, and an old school that was once there. In 1870, at the age of four, McCray's family moved to Kentland to pursue business interests there.

The First Courthouse in the County – 1839

At this time, 1839, the present Benton, Jasper and Newton Counties were one. The county seat was fixed at Pine Township, and the first board of commissioners was elected in 1837. They met in Parish Grove in January of 1838, with members being Amos White, Joseph Smith and Frederick Kenoyer. At the first session it was ordered that the Circuit Court and Probate Court and Commissioner's Court be held hereafter at the house of George W. Spittler. A petition was taken to the citizens of Pine

Township that returned in favor of the meeting place.

The explanation of this transfer of the county seat to a smaller settlement in the northern edge of the territory to be accommodated is that George W. Spitler, who had been elected clerk, refused to act unless the place of business was brought nearer to his residence. The commissioners made the desired concession, and in March, 1839, met at Mr. Spitler's house, about half a mile south of Lyon's Mill, in Iroquois Township, Newton County.

On July 4, 1974, a dedication ceremony placing the landmark at this location was held. Located approximately 2 miles south of Brook on CR 1100S, about ¼ miles east of CR 175E, The marker reads: "First courthouse of



First courthouse, photo taken by Ella T. Griggs, 1899

the original Benton-Jasper-Newton County. There hundred feet north of this marker was located the first courthouse in Newton County serving in that capacity from 1839 to 1840. The hewed log structure with a clapboard shingle roof was owned by G. W. Spitler. Mr. Spitler held the position of County Clerk, Auditor, Recorder and Treasurer, all at the same time. The house was used both as his residence and courthouse. One of the first cases to be tried was an assault and battery against a Jonathan Hunt."

The limestone boulder erected at the site was donated by the Newton County Stone Company and the bronze plaque affixed to it was the gift of the Community State Bank. *Reprinted from The Newcomer Spring, 2000.*

51st Memorial Tablet

Hanging on the south wall of the Brook-Iroquois-Washington Township Public Library is a memorial plaque for Company B, 51st Indiana Volunteers, the first Company enrolled in Newton County for the War of the Rebellion (Civil War) from 1861 to 1865.

The original members of this Company met at Brook on the 12th day of October, 1861, to organize their Company by electing officers. The school house, where they met, stood on the same plot of ground on which the library now stands. The school house was built in the summer of 1854, in Iroquois Township, at that time the township embraced a territory that is now included in Washington, Jefferson, Grant and Iroquois townships.

This tablet was presented to the Brook Public Library by John Bennett Lyons on September 18, 1915, as a memoriam to the veterans of this volunteer infantry company.

A re-dedication ceremony was conducted in 2006



This memorial tablet is located inside the Brook Iroquois-Washington Township Public Library

after restoration of the library and the cleaning of the tablet was completed. Commander Dick Lyons of the Brook American Legion Post addressed those gathered for the ceremony.

"In the name of the Brook Post #364 Department of Indiana, the American Legion, dedicated the tablet to the memory of those who fell in the service of our country. It was dedicated in name of those who offered their lives so justice, freedom, and democracy might survive to the victorious ideals of the peoples of the world. The lives of those who have made the supreme sacrifice are glorious before us; their deeds are an inspiration. As they served America in time of war, yielding their last full measure of devotion, may we serve America in peace?"

"I dedicate this table to them, and with it, I dedicate this to the faithful service of our country and to preservation of the memory of those who died then and since in the service of our great country, that liberty and freedom might live."

Hazelden – The Home of George Ade

It started out to be a "little shack in the woods" where the writer could get away from the hustle and bustle of the city to enjoy the quiet of the countryside and work. It became a Tudor-style mansion which welcomed four Presidents of the United States beneath its gabled roof. It is Hazelden, the beautiful country home of the playwright, author and humorist George Ade.

In 1904 he decided to build a small shack in the grove, and he commissioned Chicago architect, and fellow Purdue alumnus, Billy Mann to design the bungalow, placing a \$2,500 ceiling on the cost of the structure. Mann suggested that on Ade's weekends in the country he might like to have a few guests, so additional rooms were added. By the time the architect completed his suggestions the price tag had jumped ten times to a cost of \$25,000.

The structure was completed during the summer of 1904. By then Ade had retired from newspapering and had become the nation's leading playwright. Shortly after Ade moved into his new home, he sat down at the desk in his study, and with his favorite writing tools, a carpenter's pencil and yellow tablet, he wrote in three weeks what was to become his most popular play, "The College Widow."

With the construction of the home, additional struc-



Hazelden

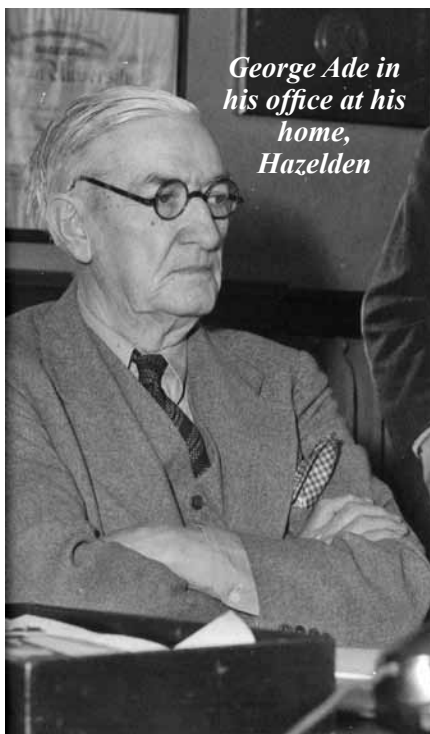
tures were soon built, including the carriage house with a second-floor apartment, a guest house and well tower, all designed in the same Tudor theme. He also brought in landscape designers who created the elaborate formal gardens, south of the main house. These gardens, with their grape and rose arbors were designed in the shape of the State of Indiana.

Ade named his new home "Hazelden," a derivation from his mother's maiden name. This was his first real home since he left Kentland for Purdue in 1883. He soon gave up his suite at the Chicago Athletic Club and made Hazelden his permanent summer home. Ade wintered in Miami Beach, Florida.

The humorist believed that a home such as his was made to be enjoyed, and he loved sharing the enjoyment with others. Fourth of July parties were a regular feature at Hazelden. His children's parties which featured clowns, games, magicians, prizes and all the ice cream anyone could eat are among the fondest memories of the children who grew up in Newton County during the 1920s and 1930s.

Ade loved the challenge of hosting major events in his home. Some included kicking off the presidential campaign of William Howard Taft in 1908, hosting a crowd

of 25,000; World War One golf benefit for the Red Cross which was attended by 5,000; the Homecoming celebration July 4, 1919, for the soldiers and sailors of the Great War, attended by nearly 10,000; picnics for the Indiana Society of Chicago, the Purdue Alumni Association, and the Sigma Chi fraternity; and the closing event of the 1942 Presidential campaign, a rally for Vice Presidential candidate Charles



George Ade in his office at his home, Hazelden

Dawes attended by 24,000.

Dignitaries who enjoyed private parties include Theodore Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Douglas MacArthur, Will Rogers, Elsie Janis, Richard, Joan, Barbara and Constance Bennett, and golf greats Gene Sarazen and Tommy Armour, and Ade's friend James Whitcomb Riley.

Following the death of the playwright in 1944, the house became vacant, and its future disposition was in doubt. Following the construction of the hospital which bears his name, it was decided by a group of area residents to launch a campaign to renovate the deteriorated Ade home. In the fall of 1962, the monumental job of restoring Hazelden began. By 1964, the major portion of the renovation had been accomplished, but restorations are an ongoing project. In 1976, the site was formally recognized and designated as a National Historic Landmark. *Source: John J. Yost's Second Helping.*

George Ade's Golf Course

In 1903, when the royalties from "The County Chairman," and "The College Widow," began rolling in so fast that the poor author had to engage an accountant to record his revenues, George Ade rented a house in Highland Park, Illinois, and joined the Exmoor Golf Club. Before long he purchased a set of golf clubs and began talking about his long drives and occasional hole in bogey.

The next summer, he moved out to Hazelden, his country home, and temporarily had to abandon the ancient and royal game. Always he was dreaming of his pleasant summer on the north shore, and secretly harboring a desire to have a course in his own back yard.

One day he mobilized his caretakers and gardeners and begun laying out patches of the lawn to be cropped. In the center of each plot a tomato can was sunk. It developed that the master of Hazelden was going to have an approaching and putting golf course. The holes averaged about sixty yards in length, but it is the short game in golf where matches are won and lost.

The more Ade played around his toy course, the more he longed to get out and play some real shots. He approached his brother Joseph, manager-in-chief of the Hazelden farm. Brother Joe, however, could not see turning fifty acres of perfectly good grazing land into a golf course.

In 1913 he suggested to his brother Joe to take a short vacation and see what wonders could be accomplished with a new tractor plow in Moline, IL. As soon as his agriculture advisor left, he sent a hurry-up call to Tom Bendelow, Chicago's golf course architect, to come down and see what could be done. Bendelow remained for two days, and when he finished his work, the safe at Hazelden contained numerous pages of instruction for the making of greens and designs of the very latest in hazards.

Work on the course began immediately, and when Brother Joe returned he was greeted by a score of workmen busily engaged in raking out the dead grass, digging large pits and turning over the future greens. With utter disregard to quantity or price, the men were instructed to literally cover the ground with grass seed. After the seed

was sown, every inch of the ground was top-dressed with a mixture of soil, sand and fertilizer. A motor mower, three putting green mowers, rollers of varied weights and all the implements seen around a regular course were purchased.

All records were broken in obtaining a playable course, and the fine temporary greens were opened within three months after work commenced.

Ade soon found that it was not very exciting to be the only player, so he invited fifty friends from the neighboring towns to join in the Hazelden Golf Club. When the first meeting was called practically every invited man was present to answer the roll call.

Steel lockers were installed in the dancing pavilion and express shipments of clubs and balls began arriving almost daily. The club handicapped because it had no professional to give instruction, but Mr. Ade, first president and absolute ruler taught them the rudiments of the game.

By the beginning of the second season, Hazelden Golf Club boasted a fine course with a total distance of 3,500 yards, nice greens and several bogey players. *Reprinted from The Newcomer, Fall, 2004.*



Jackson Township

Pilot Grove

In 1854, Newton County succeeded in getting a Post Office at Morocco, on condition that the citizens would agree to carry the mail once a week to Rensselaer and back; also keeping the Post would not be an expense to the government. A few months after it was established, an office was opened in Jackson Township, called Pilot Grove. Stephen Elliott was appointed postmaster.

It was located at 325S, west of the Amish Cemetery, or 2 miles west, .25 mile south and .75 mile west of the present town of Mt. Ayr.

It was a grove of oak trees, that became a landmark for prairie schooners who were passing through the prairie as they traveled west.

At times, they camped at this location, under the trees. It had been told that in 1935, you could still see the trail of the wagon wheels through the grove and nails were still in the trees where they hung things on their overnight stay. This grove of trees was the southernmost point of timber land that lay north of the Iroquois River.

Later, businesses were started one mile west and .75 miles north (225S and 400E) of the present town of Mt.

Ayr and the Post Office was moved there. *Reprinted from The Newcomer, Fall 2000.*

The Amish Cemetery

The Amish settled in Newton County in the 1870s near Mt. Ayr, Indiana, living there for nearly eighty years, from 1873 until February, 1955. At its peak existence, nearly 100 Amish families lived at this settlement.

The Amish Cemetery is located in Section 21 of Jackson Township, about two miles west of Mt. Ayr on the south side of 325S. At one time, it was on the farm of David B. Miller and was once called the Miller Cemetery.



Several of the inscriptions are made on crude stones by hand. The oldest burial is Forest Chupp, born October, 1874, died December, 1876, the son of Simon Chupp. *Reprinted from The Newcomer, Spring 2006.*

Colfax Township

Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure

The Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure is a remarkable, up close, fulfilled experience for the whole family. Visitors will see how Fair Oaks Farms care for their dairy herd through every step of the dairy production process. Fair Oaks Farms is known world-wide for their award winning cheese and fine ice cream.

Fair Oaks Farms is a family owned, heartland dairy and is one of the largest in the country. Fair Oaks Farms is home



to 30,000 dairy cows located on ten separate dairy sites. To grow silage, corn and alfalfa to feed these 30,000 cows, it takes approximately 17,000 acres – that is an extraordinary 1.7 billion square feet or the equivalent of 56,000 football fields.

Environmentally sound farming practices are used to protect the soil and water for future generations; and, more than 3,000 acres are set aside to protect the streams and watersheds, and to provide habitat for wildlife. Each of the 30,000 cows is milked three times per day, and more than 80,000 milkings are performed every day, in a 24 hour, 365 day-a-year dairy farm that never shuts down.

To care for these cows, a staff of veterinarians, nutritionists, and herdsmen are available 24 hours a day to attend to any cow's health needs. This highly trained team also cares for an average of 80 calves that are born on Fair Oaks Farms every day. Each of the cows produces almost 10 gallons of milk per day, and in total, Fair Oaks Farms produces enough fluid milk to supply all the citizens of Chicago with milk each year.

Lincoln Township

The American Chestnut Tree

One day in the summer of 2006, a squirrel hunter by the name of Bob Hoycus, made his way through a stand of trees



2010, Bob Hoycus stands next to his discovery: the largest American Chestnut tree in Indiana

located along the north side of State Road 10, in Roselawn and discovered four American Chestnut trees. At that time, there was only one other American Chestnut tree in Indiana, it being located in Seymour, Indiana. The species suffered through many years of infestation, and the once abundant tree was all but gone from the landscape. Private Forester and volunteer with the American Chestnut Foundation, Bruce Wakeland helped identify the tree. One of the trees measures 26.5 feet in circumference and is the largest in the state. Later, in 2010, another small grove of Chestnuts were found just east of the first location.

In the early 1900's, the land on which the trees stand was owned by Fred Otis, and known locally as the Otis Ranch. He, along with his sons, Charles and Lucius, owned 10,000 acres in Newton and Jasper County. This spot was said to hold a nursery, where just about every type of tree was grown.

Purdue University was called to the site, and over the past few years have cross-pollinated the Chestnut with an Elm tree and have developed new American Chestnut, resistant to infestations.

American Eagle Flight 4184 Crash Site

On Halloween night 1994, Flight 4184, an American Eagle commuter plane, enroute from Indianapolis to Chicago, crashed in a field located in Section 34 at the intersection of 700N and 400E, south of Roselawn, during a rain-storm, killing all 68 people on-board. The devastating crash left debris and body parts strewn over a wide area, reviving memories of a similar scene following the 1969 Allegheny crash in Shelby County. It was determined that a ridge of ice had built up on the wings of the plane while it was in a holding pattern waiting to land in Chicago.

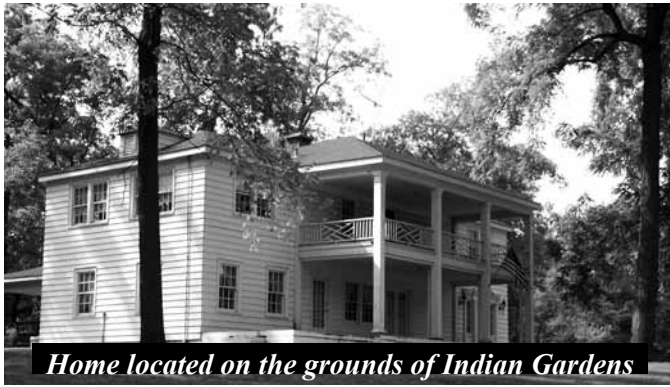
The ice buildup caused the autopilot to disengage which caused the plane to bank to the right and roll over.

Nearly two years after the crash, an NTSB report completely absolved the flight crew, blaming ATR, the French builder of the turboprop ATR-72, and French Aviation authorities. The FAA also received some of the blame for its lack of coordination with the French. The French disputed the findings, laying the brunt of the blame on the flight crew. Following the crash, the FAA began prohibiting ATR aircraft from flying in icing conditions.



Indian Gardens

Located in the SE ¼ of Section 23 and SW ¼ of Section 24 T32N and R8W, along 600E, Indian Gardens was purchased in 1905 by William Cameron in one parcel from the previous owner. It consists of 1300 acres of marsh land lying along a 2 mile stretch of the Kankakee River. It is generally thought it was used as a garden site by the native Indians and also as a burial ground by them. Some human remains were found when the dredging took place, but it is not known for sure whose bones



Home located on the grounds of Indian Gardens

they were. The name, however, is commonly used and little has changed since the disruption of construction of Interstate 65 through the general area. The Cameron family built a house on the grounds and the whole complex is now known as Indian Gardens.

Original Site of the First Thayer Post Office

Originally known as the Kenney Post Office, it was established September 7, 1880, with William M. Kenney as postmaster. The name was changed to Thayer Post Office on November 18, 1881. Downtown Thayer brimmed with many successful business ventures in the early stages of its existence. The mail came twice a day by rail, making the Post Office the hub of activity for the town. A new building stands today on the same site as the original structure.



Thayer's first post office, note the gas light in the front left

Natural Gas Wells

While drilling for oil west of Thayer in 1902, a natural gas pocket was discovered. The gas was piped into the town and used to power the lights in the homes, businesses and street lamps. Note the lamp in front of the original post office of Thayer in the photo above. In about 1916, Thayer had natural gas street lights, which burned 24 hours a day. Thayer had natural gas lights and gas heat for about two years. Gas burners were put in cook stoves and coal heating stoves.

The gas was from a natural gas well a mile west of Thayer which was piped into Thayer.

Jim Hockney, whose grandfather, Henry DeFries,

was the postmaster at that time, tells us more about it.

“Three con men from Chicago came to Thayer and piped the gas into Thayer. They took pictures of the gas lights and had drawings and illustrations of a proposed oil field which the con men sent all over the country asking for money to invest in the enterprise.”

“The word proposed was written in small letters.”

“The con men’s mailings and responses were so great that the Thayer Post Office went from a fourth class to a third class post office.

“When the con men had amassed a sizable amount of money they left town and were never seen or heard of again. After the con men left there was no one to maintain the gas well and the distribution system and the gas service ended.”

Crude Oil Wells

In August of 1902, oil drilling had been going on for about four months in the Kankakee River Valley at Water Valley (Shelby). On August 5, 1902, W. A. Saxton of the Empire and American Glycerin Co. of Bluffton, Indiana, arrived with 250 quarts of nitro glycerin for the purpose of shooting the well at a depth of 1,000 feet. A few days later, the glycerin was placed and detonated. The concussion could be heard for 20 miles. Oil, rock, water and dirt exploded into the air and all over the curious onlookers and investors in the venture. Needless to say, the well failed to produce enough to be profitable, and the project was abandoned.



Oil strike in 1902, Water Valley, (Shelby), Indiana

Diana Hunt Club

The Kankakee River drew hunters, fishermen and many sightseers to the area. Daily trains and special weekend expeditions brought the many salesmen and vacationers to enjoy the bounty of the area. The hunters enjoyed the abundance of the fur bearing animals, as well as the many different types of fowl that inhabited the area. Vacationers appreciated the quiet and serene surroundings the river and countryside provided for picnics and family gatherings.



The Diana Hunt Club, 1907

The Diana Hunt Club was a member's only organization, organized on December 12, 1881. The purpose of the organization was for the purpose of hunting, fishing and similar sports and amusements and for the protection of fish and game and the enforcement of the fish and game laws. It consisted of a beautiful club house, which still stands today, as well as a boat house and some 80 acres of land.

The club house contains 26 rooms, with 14 bedrooms on the second floor. It is divided into two parts, the front portion housed the members and their guests, and the back part of the house contained a living quarters for the caretaker, consisting of a living room, three bedrooms and a kitchen. The dining table could seat 32 people.

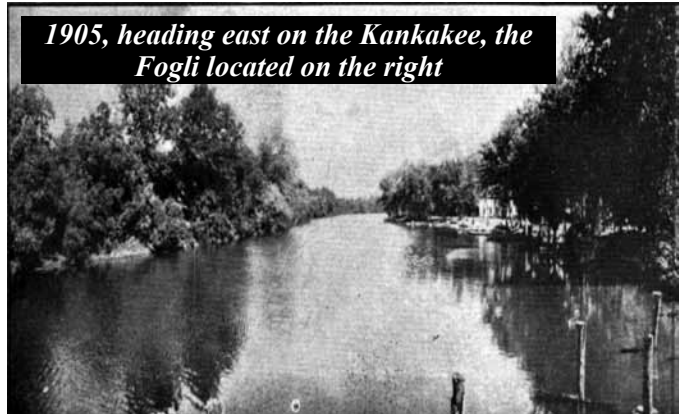
The Fogli Hotel

West of the Diana Club, on the south side of the river, stands the old Fogli Hotel, built by Ben Fogli in 1898 with twelve sleeping rooms. Guests from all over the United States and many foreign countries enjoyed Fogli's fine hospitality, along with delicious food served in a dining room that sat 85 diners at one time. In more recent years, the building has been remodeled into a private home.



The Fogli Hotel on the left

1905, heading east on the Kankakee, the Fogli located on the right



The Founding of the Towns in Newton County

- 1851 - Morocco, founded by John Murphey
- 1860 - Kentland, founded by A. J. Kent (County Seat)
- 1861 - Goodland, founded by Timothy Foster
- 1866 - Brook, founded by S. H. Benjamin
- 1876 - Lake Village, founded by Richard Malone
- 1882 - Roselawn, founded by Craig and Rose
- 1882 - Thayer, founded by Atherton and Stratton
- 1882 - Julian, founded by J. B. Julian
- 1882 - Foresman, founded by J. B. Foresman
- 1905 - Conrad, founded by Jennie M. (Milk) Conrad
- 1906 - Ade, founded by Warren T. McCray
- 1907 - Enos, founded by R. and L. Bartlett

Selecting the locations began with those that perhaps had the most influence upon the county's development.

History of the landmarks came from previously published history books of the county and individual townships, as well as information gleaned from the columns and publications of John Yost and the Society's newsletter, The Newcomer. We also tapped into the knowledge of our society members for their "first hand" information regarding the landmarks.

Newton County Genealogical Records can be found at: www.ingenweb.org/innewton

Newton County - Indiana's Youngest County

The legislature of 1834-35 formed out of the unorganized area of the Northwest Territory, 14 new counties. Included in this number were Newton and Jasper Counties.

The boundaries of Jasper were defined, which embraced all of what is now Benton County, 12 miles off the south side of the present Newton County, and also a portion of the territory of the present Jasper County.

The county of Newton was described to embrace all of the present counties of Newton and Jasper lying north of the line dividing townships 28 and 29, and also a portion of the territory now included in the counties of Lake and Porter.

In 1836, Porter County was organized, and Lake County in 1837, taking from Newton all territory north of the Kankakee River.

By an act of the general assembly, approved January 29, 1839, Newton and Jasper Counties were consolidated, and the original county of Newton passed out of existence, and remained so for 20 years.

In 1857, it became known that there was an effort being made to form a new county out of Jasper with a county seat on the Kankakee River. The citizens of Jasper County living west of Range 7, at once called a meeting at Morocco and petitioned the commissioners of Jasper County to set off a new county to be known as Beaver. Afterward, but at the same meeting, on motion of Thomas R. Barker, the name was changed to Newton, in honor of a Revolutionary hero, Sergeant John Newton, who was an inseparable comrade in arms and adventure, of Sergeant Jasper, both attached to Gen. Marion's historic band of South Carolina.

The citizens of the other half of the county protested against the division of the county and two days after, the petition was dismissed. Nothing more was done until December 7, 1857, when the Kankakee people presented a counter petition to organize a county, with the county seat on the Kankakee River. Their petition was dismissed and the Newton County petition granted. An appeal was taken to the circuit court, then to the Supreme Court. This decision was handed down in November, 1859, and on December 8, 1859, the commissioners of Jasper County made the final order on their records defining the boundaries of the new county.

In March, 1860, Thomas R. Barker was appointed by Governor Willard as organizing sheriff. In accordance with his call, about April 10, 1860, the following officials were elected: Zechariah Spitler, Clerk; Alexander Sharp, Auditor; Samuel McCullough, Treasurer; John Ade, Recorder; Adam Shideler, Surveyor; Elijah Shriver, Sheriff; Wm. Russell, Michael Coffelt and Thomas R. Barker, Commissioners. On April 21, 1860, the organizing sheriff of Newton County met with the elected men at the town of Kent, which had been selected as the county seat, and after administering the oath of office to them, declared them qualified to transact any business which should come before them.

Through the official notes of the Commissioners, the clerk of the court and the sheriff, the machinery of Newton County was set in motion on that day, April 21, 1860.

Other Newton County Points of Interest

LAKE TOWNSHIP: Lake Village Community Park; Lake Village Cemetery; Veteran's Memorial at Lake Village Cemetery; Newton County Public Library, Lake Village Branch; Martz-Wilson Memorial Park, Sumava Resorts; Sumava Improvement Club.

MCLELLAN TOWNSHIP: The Nature Conservancy; Betz Cemetery; Morgan-Tracy Cemetery; Skinner or McClellan Cemetery; Ernie Collins Center, Veteran's Memorial.

BEAVER TOWNSHIP: Murphey Cemetery; Oakland Cemetery; Bell Cemetery; Smith-Holley Cemetery; Newton County Public Library, Morocco Branch; Recher Park, Veteran's Memorial; Buzzy Stoner Skateboard Park; Betty Kessler Park; Sam Rice Memorial Park.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP: Buswell Cemetery; Doran Cemetery; Prairie Vine Cemetery; Porter Cemetery; Russell Chapel Cemetery; Sell Cemetery; Newton County Fairgrounds.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP: Pleasant Grove Cemetery; Fairlawn Cemetery; St. Joseph Cemetery; Kentland Library – Designated as a Carnegie Library; Court House Square: World War I cannon on front lawn of courthouse; Stone on front lawn commemorates Kentland-Newton County Centennial 1860-1960; Bench monument for Honorable Robert Smart; Bench monument for State Trooper Todd Burman; D.A.R. monument in memory of Newton County Civil War Veterans; Batton Park, Al Cast Park, location of the former Pennsylvania Railroad Depot; Kentland Community Center.

GRANT TOWNSHIP: Mt. Calvary Cemetery; Goodland Cemetery; Foster Park; Veteran's Memorial in Foster Park; Goodland-Grant Township Public Library.

IROQUOIS TOWNSHIP: Riverside Cemetery; McKinley Park; Veteran's Memorial in McKinley Park; Wash-O-Quois Museum; Brook-Iroquois-Washington Public Library – Designated as a Carnegie Library; Lake Kenoyer, cabin of the Brook Conservation Club.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP: North Star Cemetery; Kennedy Cemetery; Ames aka Harris Cemetery (private property); Amish Cemetery.

COLFAX TOWNSHIP: No cemeteries in Colfax Township.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP: Roselawn Cemetery; Roselawn Little League Park, Patrick Callahan Soccer Field, Thayer.