

# The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

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2013 McCray Scholarship Winner  
Ricky Montemayer: Sam Rice

Jeff Manes' Salt: Ralph Knapp

Newton County Teachers, 1887

## "Old Coalie" . . . aka

## The Chicago, Attica and Southern Railroad

by Beth Bassett

You are standing alongside the railroad tracks on a bright, warm, sunny day. The rail line is not a high speed main line, but it is the life source of the area. As you are standing there, suddenly, in the distance, you hear a whistle; not any whistle, this is the familiar sound of a steam locomotive, or in later years that of a diesel-powered engine. It slowly creeps towards you, careful not to reach too high of speed. In what seems like forever, the engine and its' train of fifteen cars, finally reaches the depot. The engineer waves as they slowly creep to a halt, steam explodes from the machine, metal wheels and gears grinding to a halt. You then look down to the side of the locomotive, to see three letters painted on, C. A. & S . . . the Chicago, Attica, and Southern.

The railroad was the lifeline to the outside world for the rural towns of Newton County. There was the only one line in Jackson and Colfax townships. It would bring freight such as coal, grain, dry goods, fruit and vegetables; groceries, livestock, lumber, cement and the mail; family members would arrive at the depot for holidays and special occasions; newlyweds would depart on their honeymoon; an entire group of Amish would depart from Jackson township to new lives in Mississippi. From its beginnings in 1880 through the 1920s, the railroad was the only link to the outside world for Jackson and Colfax townships.

With the invention of the gas powered automobiles, access to the world, families and goods became an easier task. No longer was there only one source to carry goods in and out of a town. Trucks and automobiles were steadily taking the place of the old iron horse. This would affect the profitability of the railroads in a huge way, as it did with the C. A. & S. Soon "Old Coalie" would just be a memory.

The first in the generous collection of lines that was to evolve eventually as the Coal Road was the Indiana North & South (IN&S), which incorporated in 1869. Over two hundred miles of line were projected, extending from Newburgh on the Ohio River to Oxford on the north. But only the 15 miles between Attica and Veedersburg were completed, the little locomotive puffing its way between the terminals before the end of 1874. Receivership came to pass and in 1879 the IN&S was conveyed to the newly organized Chicago & Block

Coal Railroad (C&BC), which in 1882, extended the line seven miles south to Yeddo. The life of the C&BC was brief, for in the following year it was consolidated with the Chicago and Great Southern Railway Company, (C&GS).

The C&GS in 1883 completed the 57 mile segment between Attica and Fair Oaks, making a junction with the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago (Monon) at Fair Oaks.

As time passed, the C&GS were seeing red income figures. Finally, in 1886, the railroad was sold to Henry H. Porter of Chicago for \$501,000. Meanwhile, in 1885, Porter had organized the Lake Michigan and Ohio River Railroad, and during the same year the 42 miles from Yeddo to Brazil were completed. In October the name of the Lake Michigan and Ohio was changed to Chicago and Indi-

*Continued on page 2 >*



Most, if not all of the #15 and #24 Series of the C&I Railway, predecessors of the CA&S, were equipped with Wootten fireboxes which necessitated placing the engineer's cab in front of the firebox. This Baldwin machine of 1886 vintage and bearing road number 16 was later modified into the more conventional arrangement. John B. Allen photo, reprinted from "Ghost Railroads of Indiana" by Sluzer-Jones.

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ana Coal Railway, (C&IC).

Porter then organized the Indiana Railway Company which took the title to the properties of the C&GS, purchased at foreclosure for \$907,596, and the same year the Indiana Railway was consolidated with the C&BC to form the Chicago and Indiana Coal Railway (second organization). The line now blossomed into its greatest activity. Through traffic between Brazil and Chicago was initiated on May 24, 1886.

For a year or more, the trains of the C&IC used the tracks of the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railway from Fair Oaks to Chicago. In the meantime, work was progressing on the extension from Fair Oaks to LaCrosse, a 26-mile section that was completed in January, 1887. This made possible the interchange between a number of railroads entering LaCrosse.

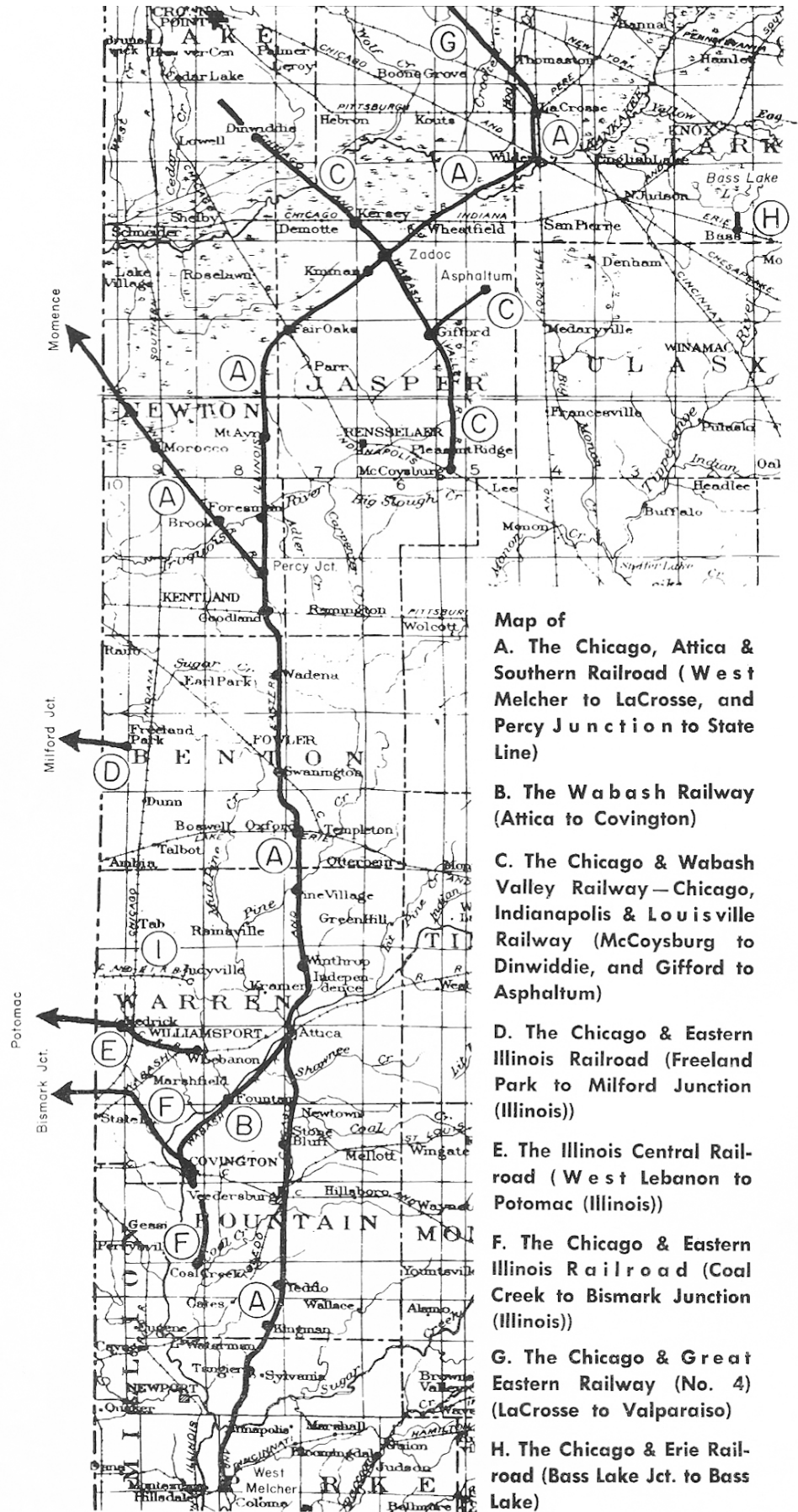
More expansion of the Coal Road was in sight. Porter and his associates acquired controlling interest in the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, (C&EI). Thus, two approximately parallel lines came under one management, but with only one connection between the two at the south end. So, plans were made to make a physical connection north of the coal fields.

From a point a short distance north of Goodland to be known as Percy Junction, approximately 20 miles of track were built through Morocco to the state line by the C&IC. From the state line, the track was continued 11 more miles to a junction with the main line of the C&EI at Momence Junction. All of this new construction was opened in September, 1888.

The completion of the line was a gala occasion for many towns along the right-of-way. Citizens of Morocco and Goodland were given complimentary rides to Goodland and back, being conveyed on flat cars equipped with temporary sides to provide a certain degree of security.

In March, 1889, the C&EI acquired all the outstanding stock of the C&IC; and on June 1, 1892, the C&IC formerly leased its property to the C&EI for 999 years.

Meanwhile, the business was booming. Substantial freight and passenger traffic moved in their own trains from Chicago to Brazil via Momence and Attica. In 1890, a passenger train would leave Chicago around 9 a.m. and reach Brazil at 5 p.m., and it's op-



**Map of**  
**A. The Chicago, Attica & Southern Railroad ( West Melcher to LaCrosse, and Percy Junction to State Line)**  
**B. The Wabash Railway (Attica to Covington)**  
**C. The Chicago & Wabash Valley Railway—Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville Railway (McCoysburg to Dinwiddie, and Gifford to Asphaltum)**  
**D. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad (Freeland Park to Milford Junction (Illinois))**  
**E. The Illinois Central Railroad ( West Lebanon to Potomac (Illinois))**  
**F. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad (Coal Creek to Bismark Junction (Illinois))**  
**G. The Chicago & Great Eastern Railway (No. 4) (LaCrosse to Valparaiso)**  
**H. The Chicago & Erie Railroad (Bass Lake Jct. to Bass Lake)**



Official logo of the Chicago, Attica and Southern Railroad.

Table II—LA CROSSE BRANCH.

No. 210	Mls.	January 8, 1917.	No. 209	....
12 48 P M	0	lvc. + Goodland δ . arr.	10 11 A M	....
3 08 "	7.2	..... Foresman .....	9 47 "	....
3 24 "	13.1	..... Mount Ayr .....	9 30 "	....
3 55 "	22.2	..... Fair Oaks .....	9 05 "	....
4 20 "	31.8	..... Zadoc .....	8 40 "	....
4 32 "	35.6	..... Wheatfield .....	8 30 "	....
4 57 "	45.3	..... Wilder .....	8 03 "	....
5 05 P M	48.7	arr. ... La Crosse δ . lvc.	7 55 A M	....

Time schedule for the 1917 run of the La-Crosse Branch of the railroad.

posite ran on approximately the same schedule.

In June, 1894, the C&IC merged with the C&EI and for all technical purposes the name, Chicago and Indiana Coal Railway were dead. However, the line between Brazil and Fair Oaks continued to be referred to as the "Coal Road" gradually evolving into "The Old Coal Road."

In October, 1902, the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad, (SL&SF) acquired control of the C&EI. During the next few years the inadequacies of the Coal Road became apparent. Coal traffic was shifted more and more to the main C&EI line because of heavy grades, and flimsy track on the Coal Road, resulting in the necessity for shorter trains with the same power that could propel longer trains on the C&EI.

In 1913, receivers for both the "Frisco" (SL&SF) and C&EI were appointed. In 1916, the C&EI properties were completely divested from those of the Frisco. Foreclosure sale of the C&EI took place on April 5, 1921. The Coal Road was not included in this sale, but was ordered to be disposed of separately. Therefore, the Coal Road was offered for sale in 1921 at the upset price of \$10,000. No bids were received. The C&EI "junked" the road on December 31, 1921.

However, prior to abandonment, the

entire line was sold for the sum of \$15,000 to Edmund P. Kelly, \$5,000 over the upset price of \$10,000, who assigned the property to Stoddard M. Stevens, Jr. He in turn sold the 25 mile Brazil-West Melcher segment to the CI&W, later the B&O, for the sum of \$137,500 - cash. But Stevens would profit more from his \$15,000 investment. The people along the lines to the north were distraught with the thought of losing their railroad.

Kelley was unable to make any comment regarding the northern Coal Road lines, but was under the impression that the bond-holders would operate the line for the present. The C&EI agreed to allow them to use the new company engines, cars and men if necessary to operate the road.

This lasted for only a couple of months, being operated through the Central Illinois and Worthington (CI&W) of Attica. The venture was a costly one for the bondholders, and the legal time line was not working in their favor. It wasn't until the Interstate Commerce Commission granted the C&EI the right to abandon the Brazil Division in May, 1922, that the hopes that the light at the end of the tunnel would be a train, coming their way.

The local newspapers, in particular, *The Brook Reporter*, closely followed the demise of the railroad, as this was the livelihood of many businesses of the towns affected by the line. Other local papers picked up their articles, word for word.

"Authority to abandon entirely the line of the C&IC in Indiana was granted today

by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The railroad company, formerly a subsidiary of the C&EI, is now in receivership, but its line, 162 miles, is probably the longest yet vacated by commission permission."- *Newton County Enterprise*, May 25, 1922.

In an article reprinted from the *Brook Reporter* in the *Newton County Enterprise*, June 8, 1922, "Businessmen of Brook, Fowler and Attica joined forces to save the coal road. In June, two railroad cars of businessmen from Brook went to Fowler and met with other patrons of the Coal Road from Fowler and Attica. The object of the meeting was to devise ways and means to save the Coal Road as a whole instead of letting it be broken up piecemeal, and parts of it be junked.

"The report of the sale of the south 26 miles to Worthington, President of the CI&W, and the fact that the bars now seemed to be down to the bondholders to do whatever they pleased, started the ball rolling."

However, as the article continued, "No one seems to know who really has authority over this road. The Interstate Commerce Commission specifically denied authority in their last decision. If this be true, the power of control must lie with the state authorities, and it will be up to the governor and the Public Service Commission of Indiana to save the day by finding the way."

August 2, 1922,

*Newton County Enterprise*

"Sale of the Coal Road of the C&EI Railroad Company, which was abandoned some



In trouble at Goodland, CA&S #108. This locomotive was leased from the Cloverleaf. Louis W. Schaller photo. Reprinted from "Ghost Railroads of Indiana" by Sluzer-Jones.

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time ago, was announced in a telegram received today by John W. McCradle, chairman of the Public Service commission, from George Barnard, ex-member of the commission.

"Mr. Barnard purchased the road for a syndicate of men from Attica, Indiana, and other points along the road.

"Dispatches from Attica indicate that C. F. Probst of Chicago is to operate the line in the event the purchase has been made by the citizen's committee. It is understood that the sale price was approximately \$250,000.

"The committee which purchased the road consists of Mr. Shannon, who acted as chairman, Attica; Fred Lyons, Brook; Charles Starz, Fowler; Clem Jones, Pine Village; Mr. Holmes, Veedersburg; Scott Booe, Kingman; Scott Ratcliff, Kingman and Mr. Swaim, Tangier.

"Mr. Probst who has offered to operate the road for the purchasers, and is associated with the MacGuire & Cummings Tire Company of Chicago. Mr. Probst is a native of Paris, Ill., where the plant of the tire company is located."

*August 10, 1922,*

### *Newton County Enterprise*

"Plans for the operation of CE&I Coal Road, which runs from Brazil to LaCrosse, with a branch from Percy Junction to the Indiana State line, are beginning to look much brighter. Last week word came that a deal had been made by Attorney George Barnard, acting for the road's patrons, for the purchase of the road extending from West Union north to LaCrosse and the Indiana state line for a price of \$250,000.

"At a meeting of the patrons of the railroad held at Fowler, there were representatives from all the towns north of Attica except Mt. Ayr and Oxford; plans were considered for the road's operation and proposals for dividing the cost."

*The Brook Reporter* published the following article on the meeting:

"... Mr. Probst presented his plans for taking over and operating the road. Forming a corporation; take over the property; furnish the rolling stock; establish the line as a growing concern; furnish freight service only at first and after the first year taking up the proposition of an adequate passenger and express service.

"After his plan was taken under consid-

eration, the question of raising the funds to secure the road were taken up. Fred Lyons of Brook submitted a tentative proposal dividing the cost along 100 miles of the road, as it was agreed that about 40 miles of the line ran through country in which it would be hard to raise funds to any considerable amount.

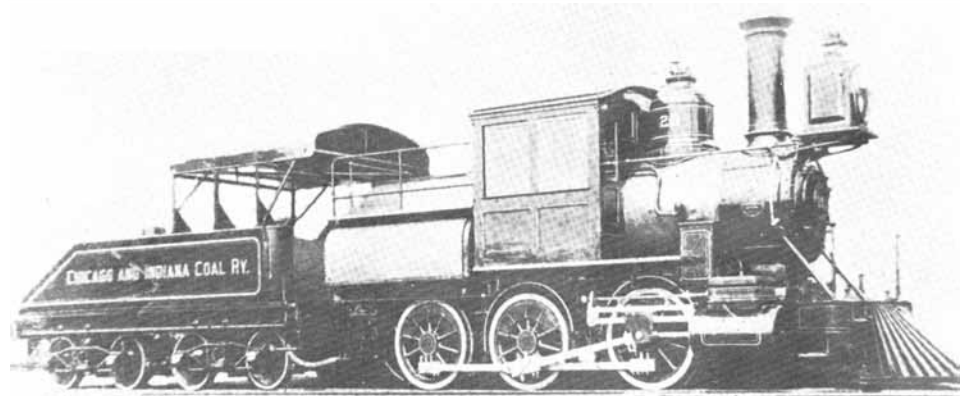
"A committee of five was appointed to check up this list and determine if the divi-

sion was feasible. Mr. Lyons was made chairman of this committee which consisted of the following members: R. J. Harrison of the National Car Coupler of Attica, Clem Jones of Pine Village, Walter Atkinson of Morocco and Albert Verrill of Goodland.

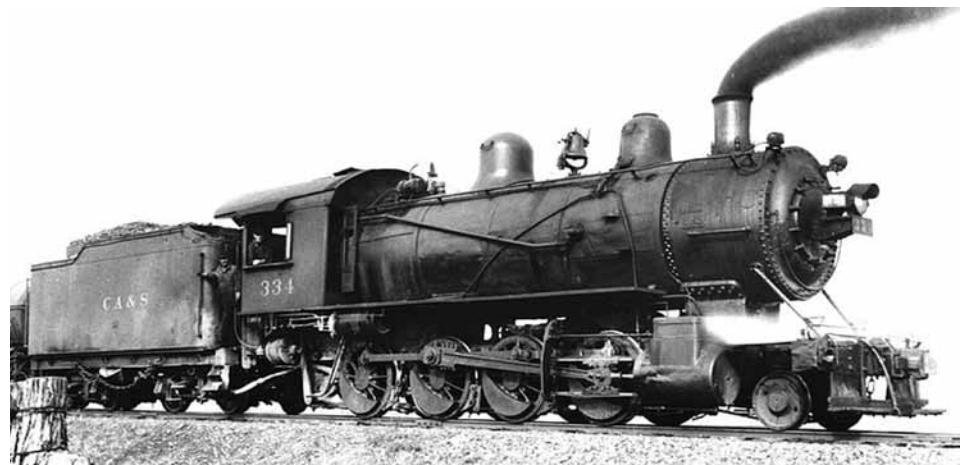
"Only one change was made in the original figures which are as follows: Morocco, \$12,000; Brook, \$36,000; Mt. Ayr, \$18,000; Goodland, \$15,000; Wadena to Barce,



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Top photo: #11 of the C&I. Next photo, C&I #20. Note the "all weather" protection given the fireman by this 1886 Baldwin creation. Reprinted from "Ghost Trains of Indiana" by Sluzer-Jones.



The CA&S rolling through Goodland. Internet photo.

\$21,000; Oxford, \$15,000; Pine Village, \$27,000; Attica to Winthrop and Stonebluff, \$68,000; Veedersburg, \$15,000; Yeddo, \$18,000; Kingman and Tangier, \$40,000.

"... In the final plans there was not a dissenting voice and all agreed to take the plans and start at once to work them out. Fifty percent of the money must be raised for the cash payment and it was left to the various units mentioned as to how they raised their cash. The option of two years was taken on the balance."

**September 14, 1922**  
*Newton County Enterprise*

## Coal Road Bought by Local Parties

"After nine months of parleying the Coal Road passed into the hands of a new corporation yesterday, and if plans do not further miscarry trains will soon be running again. Twenty-six miles of the south end of the road was sold to the CI&W for \$125,000. The remainder, including the two branches through this county, was purchased by a syndicate made up of men along the line most affected by this abandonment. This portion of the road was bought for \$250,000; \$100,000 to be paid in cash, and a mortgage to cover the remaining \$150,000."

Thus, the Coal Road, after abandonment and foreclosure, was sold to an intermediary for \$15,000, then resold within a year to two operating carriers for a total of \$387,000, \$137,500 for the southern Coal Road and \$250,000 for the northern Coal Road.

The name of the line would be the Chicago, Attica and Southern, (CA&S). In November, the papers reported that the freight service of the Old Coal Road would be installed on December 4; no mention of passenger service.

Thus ending the second chapter in the demise of "The Old Coal Road" and its' engine, "Old Coalie." Had she been abandoned at this point in time, it would have meant bankruptcy to a large number of businessmen, and depreciation of the value of property to others. The towns of Brook and Mt. Ayr would have been especially hard hit, as they were without other railroad service. The Monon, that operated the line to Fair Oaks, was approached by Governor McCray with the hopes that they would be interested in purchasing the Coal Road lines, however, they were not interested.

The CA&S struggled through the 1920s and found itself bankrupt in 1931. The abandonment of the coal mines and clay fields, as well as the deterioration of the tracks led to its final demise. It never left receivership or turned a profit again, and began to abandon its track in increments over the next fifteen years. The CA&S abandoned its connection to the C&EI in 1943, shut down operations in September 1946, and was completely abandoned shortly thereafter. The Newton County tracks were abandoned in 1944.

John Connell wrote in his book, "...

and They Named Her Brook", "In 1944, the C. A. & S. ceased operations. Thus ended the railroad history of Brook. The right-of-way, track, and buildings were sold to Dulian Steel, a salvage firm in New York City. They in turn sold their holdings to the Fabiercant Steel of New York."

What happened to the Mt. Ayr holdings is yet to be discovered throughout the pages of history, as an exact date of abandonment was not located at the time of this writing. But the memories still remain . . . of "Old Coalie."

Local Republished History Books  
On Sale at the Resource Center  
"Ralph, The Story of Bogus Island"  
"Hoosier Hunting Ground"  
"Newton County Landmarks"  
"Beaver Lake,  
Land of Enchantment"  
Past editions of the *Newcomer*  
Post Cards - Coloring Books  
JUST RELEASED . . .  
The History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and  
Colfax Townships - \$30.00  
While Supplies Last

## Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller answers found on page 14

1. Do you know when the first telephone line was run into the town of Kentland?
2. In August, 1886, the name of a post office in Jackson Township was changed to Mount Ayr. What was the name of this post office prior to the change?
3. Washington Township was one of the first areas of the county to be settled and at one time contained eleven churches. Can you name these churches and their denominations? At the present time only one still exists. Can you name it?
4. What highway was once known as the Illinois Corn Belt Route?
5. What was Pogue?



Left, the Brook Depot, and right, a rare photo of Percy Junction. Reprinted from "Ghost Railroads of Indiana" by Sluzer-Jones.

# President's Thoughts

By Bernie Murphy

While there are many individuals and volunteers I could commend in this column, I would like now to highlight Ms. Beth Bassett. Since my relatively short time as a member/volunteer, I have been most impressed by Beth for many reasons I would like to call to your attention, I probably will miss some. First, Beth is always available for any task or question we all may have for her. She is very bright and is an excellent genealogist, who has been a major asset to the society and all those far and wide who need help researching their family history. Her many accomplishments –not necessarily in order–are the publication of *The Newcomer* for many years as well as being most instrumental in the publication of several local history books, which we have at the Resource Center; most recently the Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships history. She had a lot of help pulling this fabulous book together, but I know she spent many hours in its final form.

Beth also creates and maintains our web site that has been praised by many – both locally and nationally – it contains a wealth of information about the history and many research records of Newton County. She also was a contributor to the creation of the recently released PBS documentary “Everglades of the North”. I many times take Beth for granted since she is always ready to help. While I can go on and on about Beth and her seemingly endless energy, I just wish to commend and thank her for all her many contributions over the years to the Newton County Historical Society. Next time you see Beth just say “thanks”!

Thanks, Beth!

*Editor's note: Thank you Bernie for the many accolades, but it takes a team to pull off what successes the Newton County Historical Society has had over the years. The foundation that we are building upon began many years before I entered the scene, and it is with the dedication and enthusiasm of the active members today that the tradition of preserving Newton County history continues.*

*Someone once told me that it takes a good engine to pull a train, but I know that it takes a lot of cars to make that train run down the tracks in the right direction!*

**May Society Program: Focus on Jackson Township**

## The Amish and the Miller-Amish Cemetery



Author Sharon Leichty, top photo center in black, gave a program on the Amish who settled in Newton County and detailed information regarding the Miller-Amish Cemetery. Members arrived at the Community Center in Mt. Ayr for the program then ventured out for a look at the cemetery.

**Resource Center, Spring and Summer Window Display**

## “A Woman’s Work Is Never Done!”



Society members pooled together their items and energy to display the toils, tasks and rewards of women’s work of days gone by. Tasks depicted included laundry, cooking, cleaning, canning, child care, sewing and more. Baby doll Adell takes a vacation from the Murphy home to take center stage in the display.

## June 2013 Newton County Historical Society Annual Meeting, June Hosted by Sig Boezeman, Held on His Farm, Lincoln Township



The 2013 Society Annual picnic was held once again at the lovely home of Sig Boezeman in northern Lincoln Township. Members were invited to sit in the shade and enjoy the pond, or utilize one of Sig's fishing poles for a little catch and release. Later a delicious carry in supper followed by the program "Tales and Trails of Northern Newton County" presented by Beth Bassett and Sig Boezeman concluded the evening. Photos: Top, a view of Sig's pond; left, Larry Lyons shows one of the many large mouth bass he caught that evening, right, members pose for a photo, back, left to right, Bob McCoy, Lois Delay, Sig in his golf cart, Rich Miller, Russ and Sharon Collins. Standing behind the bench is Deb Risely, seated, Barb Wilfong, Janet Miller, Georgia Robertson. Bottom photo, Far left, Janet Miller, Becky Lyons, Barb Wilfong and Darlene Truby exchange historical conversations.



### The History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships Has Arrived!

After a lifetime of collecting historical and family information for the Jackson and Colfax area, Donna LaCosse's collection and articles, along with pictures and information added by the Family History Division and Mt. Ayr community members, the compilation has been published. Four hundred copies were ordered, and only a few remain.

Left, committee members, back, Judy Schultz, Pat Anderson and Janet Burton unpack and check each book before delivery at the Mt. Ayr Alumni.

# The Roselawn Fire of 1908

By Cheryl Hipp

Ike was awakened Tuesday night at about 11:30 p.m. by the noise of the animals stabled in his livery barn which was located directly below the family's apartment. When he hurried down to check on the cause of the commotion, Ike was met by a wall of flames and smoke. The building was on fire and his animals were frantically trying to free themselves. At that point, seventy-two year old Isaac Newton Best ran back up stairs to get his family out of the burning building. The Best family, Ike, his wife Rebecca, their grown daughter Pearl and Rebecca's brother, Benjamin Cooper, barely escaped the fire. There was no time to save the animals or collect treasured possessions. They watched helplessly, clad only in their night clothes, as everything they had burned.

Thus began the Roselawn Fire of October 6, 1908. The past summer had been exceptionally hot and dry. In September the temperatures were still in the mid nineties and the thermometer rose to as high as 85 degrees during early October. Rainfall had been below average all summer, with less than an inch for September and October combined. The weather conditions were made more dangerous because most structures were wood and covered by wood shingle roofing material at the time and could be easily ignited with a single spark.

By October the stage was set for disaster.

Even a small fire was a great hazard because neither the town nor the county had its own fire department in 1908. The first fire department in Newton County was established in 1916 in Brook. Lincoln Township didn't have its own fire department until 1962. Any help would have to come from a neighboring county. Though some larger towns of the day had a paid fire department, most rural communities did not. In most rural areas like Roselawn fire equipment was almost nonexistent at the time and fire fighting techniques were unorganized at best. Alarms notifying fire fighters, usually volunteers, ranged from word of mouth to church bells and plant whistles. The fire men would stop what they were doing to respond in their street clothes. In some cases they would bring their own bucket because the only means a community had to fight the fire was a bucket brigade. If a town was lucky enough to have equipment, a specific group was designated to bring it to the fire. For example, Sheffield Township in Tippecanoe County, Indiana assigned the Dayton Boy Scout Troop #5 the job of getting their 60 gallon fire cart to the scene.

As a result of not having a local fire department, almost all of the business district of Roselawn east of the Monon tracks on Front Street was destroyed by fire. From the I. N. Best livery barn, the fire spread to the Roselawn hotel, the W. T. Kight saloon, the George Steele and Mellinger buildings and the Roselawn Lumber Company. The saloon, the livery barn, hotel, Steele and Mellinger buildings were completely destroyed,

Although initial reports state that the lumber yard, including the office, store room and the lumber shed, were also completely destroyed, subsequent advertisements from the Kankakee Valley Review show that about a third of their stock did survive. In the months immediately after the fire, Roselawn Lumber Company ran ads for lumber at a greatly reduced price.

The estimated loss varies between \$20,000 and \$30,000 depending on the newspaper report. A conservative estimate of the loss in today's terms would be better than \$750,000. Some of the buildings lost were insured, unfortunately for woefully inadequate amounts. Mr. Kight's saloon was insured for \$600. He had a like insurance amount on the stock of the saloon. Mr. Best had \$1,500 in insurance on his livery barn and contents. In addition to nine horses, two cows and all of the household goods Mr. Best lost, it was reported that on the night of the fire Zack Scifres, part owner of the Templeton ranch, had his iron gray driving team stabled at the livery barn. That team alone was valued at \$750.00. Newspaper records of the time do not note any insurance on the hotel, Steele or Mellinger buildings. The lumber yard had between \$5,000 and \$6,000 in insurance.

Though one newspaper article of the time described the citizens of Roselawn as "crushed", the fire could have been worse. No mention is made of anyone dying in the 1908 Roselawn fire, a fact supported by Newton County death records. This in itself was a small miracle because there had been a



Sitting in buggy is Art Korth talking to Collins Lock, Foreman of the Oits Ranch, in front of the devastation of the fire. Reprinted from *Kankakee Valley Post News* article written by Lydia Atkinson. The original photo belonged to Ralph Boezeman.





A glimpse of the Roselawn business district prior to the 1908 fire. This is east of the railroad tracks, from the left, Kight's Saloon, Livery Barn, Hotel and Boarding House, Saloon and the Lumberyard. From NCHS Roselawn files.

Republican meeting in town that night. The 1908 Presidential Election was only a month away.

The Roselawn Hotel, formerly ran by Aug Schribner, was closed. In fact, Mr. Best was in the process of buying the hotel, but the sale hadn't been completed at the time of the fire. The George Steele building, formerly the George Steele Saloon, which was a two story building having a public hall above that was occupied by a pool room and soft drink restaurant run by Mr. Steele, was not in operation. The Mellinger building, where the old "Seven Points" saloon was conducted was unoccupied. The reason that two saloons were not in business is that earlier in the year remonstrance legislation was passed making Lincoln Township dry. The only reason that the Kight saloon was still operating is that their liquor license had just been renewed before the legislation was enacted. By May of 1909 Lincoln Township would be dry due to a local option election.

According to an article in the October 7, 1908 *Hammond Times*, one business did survive. Harvey Nelson's blacksmith shop remained. Mr. Nelson who was no doubt acutely aware of the dangers of a fire to his business, especially given that he worked an open forge, had installed a gasoline engine. That engine was connected to his well. This allowed him to spray enough water on the

shop to save it from the fire.

No one was ever charged with setting the Roselawn fire and the cause of the fire was never determined. There is no question that it started in the Best Livery, but how is still a mystery. One newspaper reported an incendiary device. Several other articles stated that a cigar was dropped in the back of the livery barn.

In an interview with the *Newton County Enterprise* two weeks after the fire Isaac Best stated that he was confident that the fire that destroyed his home and livery was the work of some one that sought to injure him for the work he did to get the saloon remonstrance passed in Lincoln Township. Mr. Best, like others of the Methodist Episcopal faith, was active in the temperance move-

ment. A fact that didn't endear him to some of his neighbors, including Mr. Kight who actually owned the land Mr. Best's livery barn and home were built on. It also had to have made family holidays interesting as Mr. Best's youngest surviving son, Curtis, was married to Mrs. Kight's daughter, Maude.

Of the buildings lost in the fire, only Mr. Kight and Mr. Best rebuilt. In the weeks following the fire both gentlemen went to Hammond to purchase lumber. Mr. Kight built a temporary frame structure that was eventually moved to the sight of his former saloon and Mr. Best build another livery and hitch barn on the lot where the hotel once stood. After the fire the Best family resided in a house on the corner of West Front Street and Keller.



Another scene after the fire in Roselawn, 1908. NCHS Roselawn files.

# Home is Where Your Story Begins

The Insley Family of Beaver Township by Beth Bassett

In September of 2010, Lee Atkins contacted me at the Resource Center in Kentland, letting me know that he was cleaning out his home and had several items of his mother's, Bethel Louise (Insley) Atkins, that he thought our historical society might want for our files. He specifically mentioned a school project she had written entitled "My Autobiography", which he considered to be an interesting artifact with some historical significance.

A few weeks after his call he sent along the school project, along with several other items of memorabilia from his mother's era. Over the next couple of years, he sent additional material for our files.

Lee Atkin's mother was the daughter of Dale Wallace and Mary Belle "Belle" (Potts) Insley. She was born in Morocco in 1916; graduated from Morocco High School in 1934; began Nursing School at St Luke's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois in 1935 and graduated a registered nurse in 1938. In 1939, she married Tom Bailey Atkins in Chicago, Illinois. Bethel gave up nursing and devoted her life to raising four children: Tom Bailey Atkins, III; Dale Lee; Sara Beth and

Frances Ann.

Bethel's paternal great grandparents were Cyrus and Sarah Insley of Hoopston, Illinois. Their son, William Smith Insley was born 9-1-1864 in Lafayette, Indiana. He married Udella Virginia Arnold, born 3-11-1884, daughter of Nathan Merritt and Maria Arnold of East Lynn, Illinois. William and Udella's son Dale Wallace, was born 3-1-1882 in East Lynn, Illinois, died 2-14-1923, and is buried at Oakland Cemetery, Morocco. On 8-10-1903, Dale married Mary Belle Potts, born 9-19-1888 at Morocco, the daughter of Frances "Frank" M. (1859-1920) and Louetta (Billings) Potts, (1859-1944) of Morocco.

Lee did not have any information regarding Bethel's grandmother, Louetta's lineage, only noting he thought that her maiden name was Billings, as listed above.

A bit more was revealed regarding this lineage on page 301 of "The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection, 2006", written by June Harter.

In regards to Louetta Billings: "Francis Marion "Frank" Potts (1860-1920) married Louivina "Jane" Baker (1846-1923), the

daughter of Ira Baker.

"Jane Baker first married John Billings, a Civil War veteran whose health was affected by his war experiences, and they moved to Springhill, KS, where he worked in a store.

"Their son, James Franklin "Frank", and daughters Minnie (Mrs. Wm.) Hamlin; Louetta (Mrs. Frank) Potts, Ida May (Mrs. Cary) Hagen and Rosa Alice (Mrs. Writ) Guinn were born in Kansas. John Billings mysteriously disappeared and Jane had to return with her children to Morocco.

"In 1878 Jane married Albert J. Potts, they had four sons, James Elmer, Richard, Ira Ephriam and Charles Triplett, and three daughters, Bessie Marton/Majors, Iva (Mrs. Virgil) Ediminstter, and Lizzie (Mrs. George) Hively.

"John Billings reappeared years later and lived in Hardin County, Kentucky. Accord-



The Insley family members, back, l-r, Roy, Dolly, Dale, Claude, Nellie and Nathan; front seated, l-r, William Smith and Udella Virginia (Arnold) Insley.



Mary Belle Potts, at an early age.

ing to one legend, he had been kidnapped by Indians.”

Louetta (Billings) married Frank Potts, son of Ephriam (1810-1902) and Elizabeth (McCormick), (1817-1901) Potts, and had a daughter, Mary Belle, and sons Lewellyn Benjamin and Leslie Earl.

Mary Belle first married Dale Insley, and then in 1923, she remarried after her first husband's death to William Perry Powell, son of LeMuel Powell.

William Powell's first marriage was to Wilmerth Lyons, in 1893; both of them were from Somerset, Kentucky. Wilmerth died in 1918. Mr. Powell was active in his blacksmith shop for 40 years, fourteen of which were in Morocco. He was also engaged in farming for a number of years. In a *Morocco Courier* article dated March 9, 1923, we learn that Ray Ward of Brook had purchased the blacksmith and horseshoeing business shop of R. O. Dutcher, and placed in charge in Morocco, W. P. Powell, formerly of Ade who was well known to many. It is quite possible that the relationship between Belle and William Powell developed through the blacksmith business, as Belle's first husband had his own blacksmith shop in Morocco prior to his death in 1918.

Here is what Lee wrote regarding the school project entitled “My Autobiography”:

“My mother, Bethel Louise Insley, was an only child who was born and raised in Morocco. She attended Morocco High School and graduated in 1934. Her father died when she was six years old. Her mother,



Back, Mary Belle, seated, Dale and right Bethel Louise Insley.

Belle, subsequently married William Powell.

“My discovery of her autobiography fascinated me by offering insights into her upbringing and reflects the culture and society of small town Indiana in the 1920s and 1930s. From my mother's musings, I imagine she was somewhat lonely and perhaps shy being an only child.

“I assume she wrote this autobiography while in high school. As a retired high school history teacher, I am impressed with how lengthy and meticulously composed it is. I am particularly taken by the grammar school class photograph. My mother is the child who is seventh from the left, second row from the top. Two other aspects of the photograph are reflective of that time and place: two of the boys in the front row are barefoot and there are 47 children in the class!

“Perhaps the biggest surprise to me was the revelation that her father was a blacksmith in town. She included a picture of his business.”

The autobiography is handwritten on personally designed white paper containing 47 pages. She pasted in several photographs amongst the stories that are told in twenty chapters. Other items that Lee sent along in later months included a Morocco High School Class of 1934, 50th Anniversary Memory Book. Additional photos along with highlights of some of the stories in the autobiography are included here for your enjoyment.

## My Autobiography

*Written by Bethel Louise Insley*

*Dedicated to her teacher, Miss Younger*

### My Ancestors

“About a hundred years ago my great-grandfather and great-grandmother settled in this vicinity. they traveled that long hard road in a covered wagon. The land about here had not all been staked off and so they stopped and founded their new home about three and half miles west of Morocco. Here they built a rough house which they called home. Here was born many children among them my grandfather Potts.

“Out in Kansas my grandmother was born in still a wilder country. My great-grandfather Billings had many connections with the Indians. He was their captive for a long time. During one of his long absences, my great-grandmother Billings came to Indiana. Here she had a hard time supporting

her five children; my grandmother being the next to the oldest child. It was not an unusual custom in those days to bind their children out to families. The families were not always as good to them as they could have been. My grandmother, therefore, had a hard time while she was bound out.

“In a few years my grandmother Billings was united in marriage to Frank Potts. My mother was the oldest of three children of this union.

“As the years passed, I was born January 24, 1916. Our childhood days were never spent in such misery as many of the childhood days of a few years ago.

“I believe my grandmother has been repaid for all her hard and bitter days of her youth. She is happy and I know that there never could be a sweeter woman on earth. She seems to be like a meal to my body; without something to eat we would starve, so my grandmother is to my life.”

### My Infancy

“My first recollection is different than most others. Many were made by happy or unusually gay incidents while mine is just the opposite. Mine has a make-up of sadness.

“In the year 1918, the United States entered the World War and by this move numbers of our young men were called to serve their country. Among this great number was my Uncle Earl, who, un-married, had always made his home with my parents. When he was called to war, it was against my wishes. I was the only child and was used to having my own way. In other words, I was out and out a “spoiled” child. I had learned by now



Bethel Louise Insley baby photo.

## 12 The Newcomer

that with a few tears, they would all yield to my wishes. So on the morning of leaving, I attempted my scheme, but to my displeasure, it did not work as I had hoped. I still have a faint memory of standing on our porch with out-stretched hands, tears streaming down my face, calling, "Uncle Earl, please don't go, stay home with your little girl."

"He went in spite of my pleading.

"Days continued and I forgot, as young children do, my great sorrow. Life slipped back into the same routine as before. A few times before I had decided unbeknownst to anyone else, to go and see my Grandmother, who lived a few houses away. Mother had warned me I would be punished if I ran away again, but in unheeding, with my doll in her warmest clothing, I set out for my afternoon call. I was just comfortably settled for a nice long quiet afternoon, after a bushel basket full of kisses, and assuring my grandparents I loved them very much, when the front door burst open rather quickly and there stood Mother out of breath and asking for me. Entering the parlor the first thing I saw was a little switch, although I had never been whipped with such a thing. I knew the meaning of it. I began begging before I reached Mother, but with all my pleadings, it did no good. I received my first real punishment there, when I was about three years old."

### My First Year In School

"Soon I was to go to school, from the time I was old enough to realize what it



Bethel Louise Insley, age three.

meant, I looked forward to my first year. Oh! I can remember the thrills of meeting all of those boys and girls on that first day. Everyone was talking loud and trying to get acquainted.

"I remember how big I thought I was, now I was a young lady and no one could call me "a little girl." I never could see why people called me a "baby" or "such a little girl." I was big enough to play outdoors and I didn't play with rubber rattlers but with great big dolls, but still people seemed to think I was a tiny baby and talked to me as though I was.

"Now I was with young men and women and didn't call me "little girl" but considered me one of themselves. Here we could talk about our children at home, some were worried because maybe June or Henry had the flu.

"When we were tired of talking on that subject we discussed our new neighbors or a fire. I was really very thrilled over all my new adventures and was sure people would not call me a little girl, but would say "Isn't Bethel getting to be a great big young lady."

"One day we had our pictures taken on the east side of the old school-house. Do you see me? There are most of our class today in there. There are many who have gone, many who have dropped behind. In a whole we are still together, the same old bunch, in the same old town, having the same old good times, and thinking of many more together."

### Being An Only Child

"I was the only child until about two years ago when we took a little boy to raise.

Not the only child but the only girl of all the family. I can still hear my Grandmother saying, "Yes, Bethel is the only granddaughter I have." I am suppose to smile sweetly and act as though it is wonderful to be the only granddaughter!

"It isn't a pleasant situation to be in, and I wish and have many times that there had been another. I was used to having my own way. Having a temper made the world a little harder to get along with. In school I could not break that fault and I was very stubborn and strong-headed. I was never able to play with a person any length of time. Always that uncontrollable temper would be aroused by some little thing.

"After years of striving, I still find my temper getting the best of me and saying cutting words to my best friends. I have conquered it some and after a few more years, I shall have it as it should be.

"Now I find myself being very selfish to Paul. That is another fault that must be conquered. Paul came to live with us about two years ago this spring; then I realized my selfishness and set out to check it.

"Among my first play mates were Rosalie Harris and Charles Todd. If I had a penny for every quarrel we had I would be almost a millionaire. One day we would play at Parish's who lived across the street, the day following at my home. With all our playthings together we had enough furniture for a large house.

### My Pet Aversions

"The things that I dislike to do most or my pet aversion is dusting. Dusting is one of



"One day we had our picture taken, can you see me?" A photo pasted in the autobiography of her grade school class. Her son identified her as the seventh child from the left, second row from the top.



“We had our pictures taken, at our play house, Rosalie, Charles and I.” Bethel is holding on to the porch post on the right.

the most disgusting things about caring for a home. I don't mind to sweep, wash dishes, or cook but dusting is terrible. I never could see and don't to this day see why dust is always present. It seems as though it is a waste of time when every little visible grain must be removed with an oiled cloth.

“When I was smaller and could not help with the harder work, my task was to dust. Oh! how I hated that name and everyday would hope that Mother would forget it. I thought I would rather do anything else. Many times I would try to trade



Bethel Insley graduation picture, 1934

work, when I succeeded, I thought I was very lucky, but when Mother refused, I knew I was the most unlucky child in the world. I would try to console myself with self-pity.

“Even today when we are doing the housework I dread the dusting. I always leave it to the last. Maybe someday someone will invent a machine that will make that task as well liked as the others. Then perhaps I shall change my mind and rather like to do it. Let's hope so.”

### Slumber Parties

“Slumber parties are one of the kind of parties I enjoy most. All the girls seem to cast off their reserve and coolness, they seem to all be trying to have a good time and helping others have one also. There are no cutting remarks; nothing but the feeling of happiness. To me such an atmosphere is seldom present except among a group of jolly happy girl-friends.

“After we have said a cheery hello to everyone present, we slip into our pajamas (as though we were going to have a parade). If the hostess has planned the early part of the evening, or if she has not all is well and good, for when a group of we girls get together-beware, there is mischief in the air.

“The reason in having slumber parties is to see how long we can stay awake and who can stay up all night. Everything is usually exciting until after midnight. Then things seem to quiet as the night deepens in her journey. There are usually a lot who fall asleep for a few hours, but, some wait for they have something up their sleeves.

“In the wee hours of the morning, a group can usually be seen, slipping tip-toes, taking one shoe, one hose, a dress, belt, usually one article from everybody. Then comes the

fun of hiding them (not to good for they might forget where they put them). Between spasms of giggles they finally get all hidden.

“In the morning all are awake with sharp appetites ready for a nice warm breakfast, for our stomachs have forgotten about that midnight lunch. After breakfast we usually take pictures of all in our pajamas, so as to have something to not let us forget about another good-time.

“After many goodbyes and thanks to our charming hostess, we leave for our home. Still giggling and talking over the happenings of our eventful night.”

### The First Money I Ever Earned

“The first money I ever earned was by helping my father in his shop. Many people would not like the idea because of the dirt and dust, but I seemed to almost love it. I'm not sure that I would care for such a thing now. The shop was a dirty thing as all blacksmith shops are! It is impossible to keep dust and dirt out of it. I always thought it was a lot of fun to sort rivets and string them on a wire. When I had a few spare minutes I would ask Father how much he would give me if I would sort rivets. He would usually say a nickel or dime. I eagerly begin for it was a large sum to me. Like a million to a multi-millionaire. There I would set and every rivet I string the blacker I became.

“Hands, face, dress, stockings and my bare knees would be black, when I finally demanded my money. Father would laugh calling me his dirty little pig and sent me home to be clean for dinner. Those were the days I thought myself very important and protested against the bath I was forced to take.

“Every minute I delayed seemed an hour, every minute the nickle became hotter, every minute my hand hotter and redder. When I ws finally on my way to the store I forget all my impatience with the eagerness of securing the candy or ice-cream. I was never able to save my money like my parents but I guess we were never intended to keep our hard earned money.”

There is so much more to this autobiography that is fascinating, and as Lee Atkins stated it is a wonderful look into the era of the 1920s and 1930s in the small town of Morocco, Indiana. Also included in the collection is the Arnold family history. All the information is on file at the Resource Center in Kentland. Thank you Mr. Atkins for sharing and preserving Newton County history.



Dale Insley's Blacksmith Shop. “the shop was dirty, but I seemed to love it”.

### Now You Know Your County of Newton!

By Janet Miller - Questions on page 5

1. The first telephone line was run into Kentland on Jan. 4, 1896. It was owned and operated by the Hartley syndicate of Goodland. A franchise was granted Will McCray two weeks later to establish a telephone plant in Kentland. The exchange was located at the Randall House, later called the Hotel Kentland. The first subscribers were the Courthouse, Discount & Deposit Bank, Bank of Kentland, Cummings and Darroch, F. A. Comparet, McCray & Morrison and The Enterprise.

2. "The name of the post office at Pilot Grove, this county, has been changed to Mount Ayr and John M. Hufty appointed postmaster. The change in the name has been long needed, as having one name for the town, and another for the post office has led to considerable confusion." Kentland Gazette, August 5, 1886

3. At one time eleven churches existed in Washington Township: Ade Presbyterian Church; Antioch Christian Church; Beaver Prairie Universalist Church; The Old Log Church, United Brethren, the first church in Newton County; Mt. Zion United Methodist Church; Morris Chapel Methodist Church; North Timber United Brethren Church; Prairie Vine Baptist Church; River Chapel United Brethren Church; Russell Chapel Methodist Church; Saint Paul German Reform Church.

Currently the only church still in existence in Washington Township is the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. In 2013 it is celebrating the 100th year of the current brick church building.

4. US Highway 24 was once known as the Illinois Corn Belt Route.

5. Pogue was a small hamlet located in the northwest corner of Beaver Township near the Illinois State Line. At one time many Newton County farmers drove their cattle to Pogue, as it was well known for shipping cattle due to the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad that ran through the town. At this time the area of Pogue is encompassed in the Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife area.



### Graduating Class of Morocco High School, 1934

Left to right, front, Wayne Porter, Audrey James, Daryl Brandt, Mary Heath, David Hancock, Eva Deardurff, Milton Storey, Grace Hagen, Harry Brunton, Bethel Inasley, Don Deardurff. Second row, Pricipal Cecil Grayson, Kathleen Sinks, Bernard Gatton, Lela Hamiliton, Lawson Cox, Mildred Rush, Lyle Sypult, Maxine Goddard, Paul Smart, Thora Johnson, Edwin Roadruck, Catherine Redden, Ruth Gorman, Ruby Grace Garrard, Sponsor Anne McPhail, Robert Ackors. Third row, Geneva Harris, Bessie James, Martin Stockey, Orville Geesa, Orville Boyd, Gene Cross, Helen Hanson, Elbert Archibald, Frank Holley, Ivan Hafstrom, Byron Archibald, Elba Ackors, Rosalie Triplett, Helen Hayworth. Not pictured: Alberta Bernwanger, Thomas Purdy, Albert Yates and Rue Gene Starr. From the MHS Class of 1934 50th Anniversary Memory Book, Inasley collection.

### 1934 Sectional Basketball Champions, Morocco Beavers



Left to right, front, Wyle Dee Bryant, Elbert Archibald, Charles Myers, Albert Yates, Robert Ackors; back row, Principal Cecil Grayson, Don Deardurff, Ivan Hafstrom, Coach Jessie Lash, Grover Padgett, Milton "Bud" Shuey, Tom Downs, Manager Daryl Brandt. From the MHS Class of 1934 50th Anniversary Memory Book, Inasley collection.

## Bonnie Deardurff and the Morocco Postal Service

By Darlene Truby



Bonnie Deardurff started working for the US Postal Service in Morocco shortly after her graduation from Morocco High School in 1938 as a postal clerk. When Bonnie retired April 1, 1990, she had been the Post Master in Morocco for 16 years.

When Bonnie started working for the postal service stamps were 1-cent (green) for local mail delivery and 2-cents (red) for out of town mail. At that time the post office was located on State Street across the street from where the *Guide/Courier* office is today. Also the Hancock Variety Store and Hancock Funeral Chapel. The bank was on the corner Bonnie recalled with all the business stores full and very busy.

The mail came in by railroad from the north and Lafayette to Kentland from the south. A star route carrier would pick up the mail at Kentland, then to Brook and finally to Morocco. At that time they would also bring the *Lafayette Journal* newspaper up from Lafayette, the Indianapolis paper, *Chicago Tribune* and the *Herald American*, Bonnie explained.

Bonnie recalled how large bundles of about 10 packages would come into the Postal office. These bundles would contain merchandise from Sears and Montgomery Ward. Montgomery Ward was the first mail-order house, started with a one-page catalog in 1872. Bonnie recalled how heavy these "Homesteader's Bible" or "The Wish Book"

were with almost every house getting new catalogs every spring and fall. Bonnie said it makes her back sore just thinking about how heavy those catalogs were to pick up. When the chickens would come into the post office, Bonnie would have to go the Drug Store to call up the farmers and let them know that their chickens were in at the post office. Bonnie went on to say that most of the farmers did come into the post office and pick up the chickens while a few had to be delivered by the rural mail carrier. There would be from 100 to 200 baby chicks in a box Bonnie said.

Despite the airlines coming into the territory, the Post office department still moved the bulk of its domestic mail by rail, massing, re-sorting, and redistributing it for area hauling for long distance hauling through the major railroad hubs of the nation.

By 1963 the trains made fewer stops and the mail then came by truck. Having suffered through a prolonged and paralyzing depression, fought its second WW of the 20th century, service moved from an agricultural economy to a high industrial one. At this time the character volume and transportation of the mail also changed.

By 1963 the social correspondence of the century gave away to business mail. All mail at the Morocco post office was hand cancel, Bonnie recalled. By 1963, a five digit code had been assigned to every address throughout the area. The use of the code was not mandatory at first but by 1967 the Post Office required mailer of second and third class bulk mail to presort by ZIP Code. Some of the rural carriers were Joe Parrish, Chet McClatchey and John Hunter. Bonnie recalled working from 6-6, Monday through Saturday and then on Sunday mornings and holidays from 6 to 9. Bonnie can still see Joe Parrish caring the pouch to the Mt. Ayr post office at Kriz's grocery store.

As the Morocco Post office was third class, Bonnie had to be janitor, too. When the Morocco Post Office became second class they were able to hire a janitor.

The post office also was once located where the Morocco preschool is now located. Also there was Shirley's restaurant nearby. Bonnie recalled that when she first started to work for the post office that she was paid in cash. Also she recalled that she

would go over to Moore's drug store and get a five cent fountain coke.

Bonnie did work under two post masters, George Clarkson and Lester Lontz. Some of the clerks were Bob Falk, Paul Hoskins, Helen Kemp, and Marcia Vaughn.

Bonnie did enjoy working with the people and does miss that part of her job. Also she enjoyed watching the water tower going up in Morocco and the festivals that were celebrated down town Morocco. Bonnie does feel that the public still gets a lot for their money today even with the cost of postage going up.

Now you might want to enjoy one of Bonnie's favorite pies, black raspberry.

Mix together:

1 c. cream            3/4 c. sugar

3 T. flour            1 egg beaten

Fill an unbaked pie crust 1/2 full of black raspberries. Pour the above mixture on top and bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

### Looking for your Newton County Ancestors?

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

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

# Historian's Corner

Submitted by Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian

My mother, Mabel White Lash, was born in Tompkinsville, KY, Monroe County. Her family moved to Hillsboro, IN when she was twelve years old. She was born in 1906.

I find her father (my grandpa) and his siblings interesting characters, as five of seven had college educations.

The oldest uncle, Tom, farmed the family farm which was an original land grant. Next, great uncle Frank was a State Senator. He also wrote a detailed book on the White genealogy.

Then my grandpa, Charles P, was a lawyer and taught school. He died when I was about one year old.

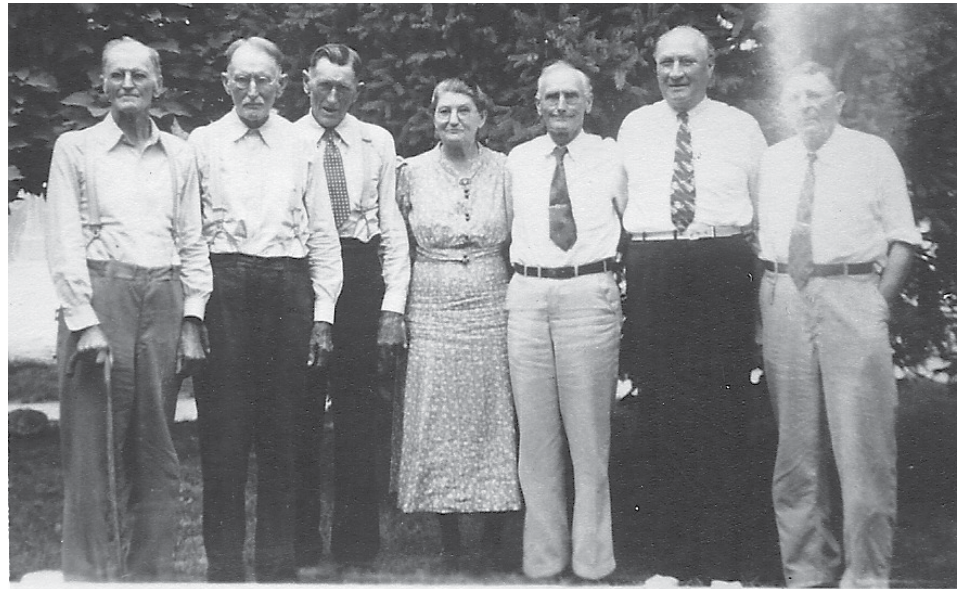
Great Aunt Effa never married, didn't have any advanced education but was well read and an interesting person.

Great Uncle Reuben, a minister, lived in Texas.

Great Uncle Sam was also a minister. I met him in 1958 when he lived in Florida.

Great Uncle Jim was a dentist in Tompkinsville. I don't remember him either, as he died when I was a small child.

In 1994, my mother and Great Uncle Reuben's daughter asked me to go to search Valparaiso University's research records for information on the family, as Frank, Charles P, and Reuben had taken classes there. The



White family children. left to right, Tom, farmer; Frank, State Senator; Charles P, Lawyer; Effa, never married; Reuben, minister; Sam, minister, Jim, Dentist.

research only revealed that Great Uncle Frank graduated from the University.

That same year, my son, Mark Elijah, Frank's great-great nephew was a student there, in his second year majoring in teaching degree in history and social studies. We thought it was really cool that a family member had graduated 100 years before.

Many small colleges didn't offer all

courses wanted or needed, so students had to travel to find what they were seeking. Education was harder to come by in the 1800's, and to think five of seven siblings accomplished a higher education fascinates me.

At a later time I will tell their beginnings in America, their participation in the Revolutionary War and settling in Kentucky. ~ Diana Elijah.

# Historically Yours

A Message from former Newton County Historian Donna LaCrosse

Wow! It's done! Thanks to Beth and a whole crew of real friends - the book about Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships should be enjoyed by everyone who comes in contact with it. Because it is the first time a compilation of these townships and town has been attempted, let alone accomplished!

I have been asked several times what was my motivation for this task, and I tell them that I have always been a writer, and having grown up in Mt. Ayr, was interested in the community, but could never find anything about Jackson Township or the town of Mt. Ayr. Since my husband is from Colfax, I wondered about its history as well. I often

said it would be nice if someone would write a book about these areas. I started saving mementos to give to the person who would undertake the task of writing the book. Guess what - when you want a job done, you have to do it yourself!

## School Section

Most of the information I collected was from my association with the Mt. Ayr Alumni Association. The school did not have a graduation until 1921 and then after the Class of 1967 graduated, they closed the school. They kept it open for a while as a grade school, then middle school, but ultimately closed for good, and finally burning

to the ground in 2012. I decided the school had to play a big part in the book.

## Family Histories

I felt it was important to include family histories in this edition. Mainly because most people did not keep a written record of their families maybe because they didn't really know who their relatives and ancestors were, or perhaps they attended family reunions and connected with their relatives there, anyhow, noone seemed to have a written record that could be passed along to me for the book.

I began with one family and wrote all I could get and tucked it away in a notebook.



Many of the stories you will find in this book are compilations I put together, many are newly written by committee members and others were contributed by the family members. For five years I asked people for their family histories and those that responded are included in the book. However, if a submission was omitted, we apologize, as it was not intentional. The Family History Division is still collecting family histories however, and will keep them on file at the Resource Center in Kentland for future researchers. Please contact Beth Bassett or Janet Miller if you wish to contribute your information to them.

My family include the Watkins, Schanlaub, Delaney and Whaley families, and I have extensive material on them, but I had nothing on Harold's family except what was in his head! Two of his families settled in Colfax and one other in Lincoln Township. LaCrosse and Robbins are his family surnames.

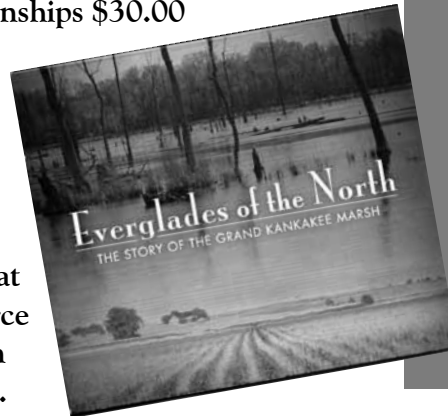
#### Picking Harold's Brain

I knew my eye sight was going and I said one night to Harold, "okay, you and I are going to pick your brain." He replied, "That won't take long." We started out with Colfax township and what he could remember about it. We went down each road in our heads - who lived where, how long they lived there. We started asking people questions, and finally it all fell into place. My eyesight was gone, there wasn't anything further we could do, so I turned everything over to Beth Bassett and the Family History Division of the Newton County Historical Society and committee to finish the job.

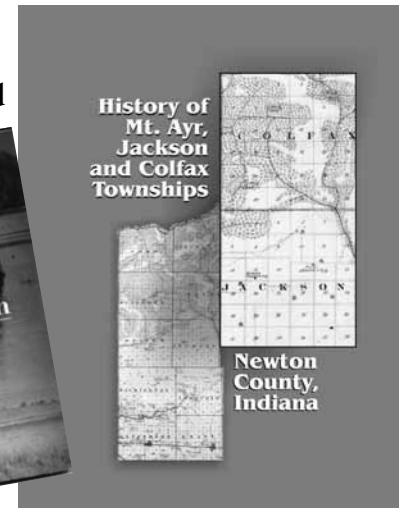
Why was this compilation so important you ask? The world is made up of individual histories. If we don't keep track, we lose track - what good is it then? Everyone should know the place from which they come. Remember, every day of your life that passes is a day of history, so keep on making history, and writing it down for your descendents to use in the next volume that is published about Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships. Donna LaCrosse.

*Editor's note: My apologies to our members for not publishing an individual Newcomer for Winter, 2013. As stated above in Donna LaCrosse's column, Janet Miller and I were busy with the Mt. Ayr book trying to meet deadline of May 1st!*

**Limited Supplies Available**  
**Everglades of the North DVDs \$25.00**  
**and The History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships \$30.00**



Available at  
 the Resource  
 Center in  
 Kentland.



## 2013 Family History Division's Coloring Contest Winners Awarded to Newton County Elementary Students

**Bernie Murphy, President of the Newton County Historical Society, presents an award to the overall Morocco Elementary School Coloring Contest winner, Carly James.**



The Newton County Historical Society recently held its annual coloring contest for all fourth grade elementary classes in Newton County. The Society's coloring books contain drawings by local artists depicting the life and times of the County's early settlers. The coloring books are available at the Historical Society Resource Center located at 310 E. Seymour Street, Kentland, IN.

**Lincoln Elementary winners:** Mrs. Scheidt's class: 1st place: Madyson Cooper; 2nd place: Austin Smith; 3rd place: Jacquelin Jones; Miss Ricker's class: 1st place: Brandon Stamper; 2nd place: Hannah Cooper; 3rd place: Brooklyn Raisanen; Overall Lincoln Elementary winner: Madyson Cooper.

**Lake Village Elementary winners:** Mrs. Smalley's class: 1st place: Nicole Szczepanski, 2nd place: Hope Churchill; 3rd place: Angela Vitalone; Overall Lake Village Elementary winner: Nicole Szczepanski.

**Morocco Elementary winners:** Mrs. Mitsch's class: 1st place: Carly James; 2nd place: Kylie Blann; 3rd place: Sarah Neal; Overall Morocco Elementary winner: Carly James

**South Newton Elementary winners:** Mrs. Dewing's class: 1st place: Grace Narcaroti; 2nd place: Jacquelin Iliff; 3rd place: Marianne Adams; Mrs. Hoffman's class: 1st place: Kaleb Coley; 2nd place: Delaney Smith; 3rd place: Kyle Hall; Mrs. Groover's class: 1st place: Carlos Garcia; 2nd place: Kyanna Dyer; 3rd place: Mya Wittenborn; Overall South Newton Elementary winner: Carlos Garcia.

**Overall Newton County winner:** South Newton Elementary student, Carlos Garcia. Thanks to all the teachers and students who participated in this year's contest.

# Pages of the Past

Extracted from the Winter, Spring, 1913 Newton County Enterprise by Janet Miller

## Kentland

A dinner was served Monday at the Seal School, one mile south of Kentland, taught by Samuel E. Molter, that was prepared exclusively by the girls of the school. Mr. Molter and the boys had been previously informed that they need not bring their dinner, and anticipating a pleasant surprise they awaited patiently for the noon hour. The girls of the school came Monday morning with unusually large baskets and at noon set out an elegant dinner consisting of fried chicken, stewed rabbit, potato salad, potato chips, beans, biscuits, muffins, cookies and cake. Every article on the menu had been prepared wholly by the girls, ranging in age from seven to fifteen years, and their exhibition of culinary skill is a source of great pride to their teacher.

**Farmers Organize Elevator Company.** The Farmers Grain Company of Kentland was organized yesterday. J. U. Wildasin is temporary president and Barney O'Neil temporary secretary. In response to a call issued last week seventy-one farmers and a sprinkling of town people met at the Court House yesterday afternoon and listened to an address by William Stickney, of Chicago, an officer of the farmers elevator association of Illinois. At the close of the speaking a vote was taken to ascertain the sense of the farmers present on the question of organizing a company in Kentland. The affirmative vote was quite decisive and a temporary organization was formed by the election of the officers named above. A committee of six, namely, A. J. Thompson, C. C. Kent, A. O. Montgomery, Henry Carson, John White and James Mulligan, was named to solicit subscriptions for stock, and will report at a meeting to be held Jan. 29. The amount of capital stock was fixed at \$12,000 divided into 240 shares of \$50 each, no member being permitted to hold more than ten shares.

The old Pennsylvania depot is being dismantled and will be moved to Effner. It seems hard to treat a neighbor so unkindly.

**Gun Club Organized.** A Gun Club has been organized in Kentland with twenty-eight members and others may join by hand-

ing their applications to Boyd Neher, secretary. The club has arranged to hold shoots every Thursday afternoon at 1:30, and rules to govern the same have been adopted and issued. Harry Ross is treasurer of the club, and Alva Montgomery field man.

Quite a number from this place are taking in the automobile show in Chicago. Now that ground hog day has passed the auto bug has come out of winter quarters and its sting is deadly.

Dr. W. C. Mathews and Dr. D. J. Harris are occupying their new quarters in the Krull building east of the Arcade Hotel, and in addition to every comfort and convenience for themselves thought has been taken for the public. There is a large reception room splendidly furnished in mission oak, and office rooms, lavatory, etc., opening therefrom. The floor is of asbestos, and the interior trim of weathered cypress.

## Brook

Lloyd Hershman is now a licensed undertaker having passed the examination with a splendid grade and is enlarging his furniture store to make room for the undertaking business he purchased from Gragg Brothers.

Everett Crisler and Mason Turner have purchased the business room by the old post office and have moved their barber shop there.

## Jackson Township

W. W. Miller and Frank Makeever were down from Jackson Monday on a ditch case. The Jackson system of roads were about half completed when the contractor shut down for winter.

The school house in district No. 2, Jackson township, just north of the home of H. L. Wright, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night of last week. The origin of the fire is unknown. This was one of the oldest school buildings of that section, and its days of usefulness were fast fading. Miss Katharine Allan of this place was teacher.

## Morocco

The four new brick business rooms on State St. are finished. L. P. Builta has moved the Courier fixtures in, and the other rooms will be occupied at once.

**Rensselaer Republican:** Attorney Milt Graves employed Frank Kay to bring him to Rensselaer last Friday morning from Morocco. Kay was driving a Ford automobile. They had come along safely until this side of Mt. Ayr, near the Huntington farm, where the machine got off the smooth road and beyond the control of the driver and went into the ditch, turning entirely over. Fortunately the attorney and the driver were thrown free from the machine and were not caught beneath it, and neither was seriously hurt. Graves is known to have a faculty for holding fast to whatever he takes hold of and he proved true to his reputation in this case. He had caught hold of the door and he held on so tight that the door was wrenched off the machine and Milt had it in his hands when he picked himself up. The auto stranded men went to the Huntington home and telephoned for aid. Mr. Graves telephoned to Attorney Dunlap here and the latter sent a machine after him and Mr. Kay procured a team of mules and after having the machine turned over, hauled it to Mt. Ayr for repairs.

## Goodland

Attorney A. D. Babcock was down from Goodland yesterday. He favors a new constitution providing a clause is inserted convening the state legislature once in ten years for a thirty day session, and then hang any member who is found in the capital city after adjournment.

Isaac Smart has sold his 80-acre farm southeast of Goodland to Will Gilman, consideration \$165 an acre.

Warren Wilson died at an early hour Tuesday morning at his home two miles south of Goodland. He was a son of Blake and Amanda Wilson, and is said to be the first child born in the vicinity of Goodland, although he was but in his 53rd year at the time of his death. He leaves a wife and three children, and two sisters, Mrs. J. A. Wickersham and Mrs. Glasco Clymer, all of Goodland.

## Lake Township

For Sale: Fresh milk cows, one-half Jersey, young cows. Also mammoth bronze turkeys; young toms, \$5.00; hens, \$4.00; yearling toms, \$8; pure bred, large bone, full plum-

age. Jennie M. Conrad, Conrad, Ind.

**Fire at Lake Village.** The dwelling house on the Fred Mashino farm west of Lake Village was destroyed by fire Friday night. The house was occupied by the Gehardstein brothers, formerly of this township, and they were away from home at the time of the fire. They were expecting to move in a few days and had drawn \$450.00 out of a Momence bank and placed it in a bureau drawer at home, and this went up in smoke with the house and furnishings.

#### Washington Township

William Ross, a prominent citizen of Lafayette, died Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Ross was the owner of 1400 acres of land in Washington township, this county.

#### Lincoln Township

Isaac N. Best, the sage of Lincoln township, was in Kentland Monday on business.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### For These Upcoming Programs

**August 26, 2013, 7:00 PM** at the Government Center, Morocco. Program: Discuss the Fair Booth and members will be asked to bring a Show & Tell item.

**September 23, 2013, 1:30 PM** Meet at the Resource Center in Kentland to car pool to the Newton County Stone quarry for an auto tour above and down into the quarry.

**October 28, 2013** Members will gather at the restored Colonial Inn in Kentland. Time and details to follow.

**November 25, 2013 7:00 PM** Members will meet at the Government Center in Morocco. Darrell Chapman will share his memories of WW II and discuss his Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C.

**December:** Christmas Open House at the Resource Center in Kentland. Time and date to be determined.

### McCray Scholarship Winner, 2013

South Newton High School, Ricky Montemayer

## Sam Rice

As an athlete of three sports during my four years of high school and growing up in Morocco, I found my inspiration of Edgar "Sam" Rice. Having researched the life of Edgar "Sam" Rice, I was elated to find that Sam and I had so many things in common. Not only did we both grow up loving the sport of baseball, but also having grown up on a small farm just along the Indiana/Illinois state line in the path of what is known as "tornado alley."

Edgar Charles Rice was born February 20, 1890 in Morocco, Indiana to Charles Rice and the former Louise Christine Newmyre. When same was eighteen years old, he married sixteen year old Beulah Stam of Iroquois Township. They moved to Watseka, Illinois where they would make their home. Rice and Beulah had their first child, a son, Bernie within a year of being married. They also had a daughter, Ethel, two years later.

Sam worked on the family farm, but still found time for baseball. he dreamed of playing baseball in the majors. October 1911, Sam signed a contract with the Galesburg Pavers of the Class D Central Association. In 1920, Sam was interviewed by Baseball Magazine and claimed that in his younger years he didn't play more than a few games. It was later found that he in fact had played sandlot ball and was a member of the Watseka Pastimes. One reporter had pronounced Rice "one of the most promising of Ducky Elbert's (Galesburg manager) recruit pitchers.

During the time that Rice was away in Galesburg, his wife and two children moved in with his parents on the family farm in Donovan, Illinois. On Sunday, April 21, 1912, as Rice took to the mound in Galesburg, his family took a trip to visit friends in his wife's hometown of Iroquois. Shortly after the family returned from their outing that evening, a violent tornado ripped through Donovan. The tornado destroyed the Rice family farmhouse killing his wife, both of his children, his mother and his two youngest sisters, Bernadine and Genevieve. A reporter for the Kentland Democrat reported a few days later that the entire family home, with contents was seized, torn and whirled into fragments and strewn entirely across the farm. Rice's family members were found 150 to 400 yards south of where the house once stood. They were all nearly entirely naked where the clothing had been whipped into shreds and torn away by the wind. His father had survived the storm, but was seriously injured and died a few days later on April 30th.

Having gone through the tragedy of losing his entire family, Rice returned to the Pavers in Galesburg for the final season of playing for them. He enlisted into the Navy January 24, 1913 and was assigned to the USS New Hampshire, a battleship in the Atlantic fleet that was docked in Norfolk, Virginia, as a "coal passer" which was a rank equivalent to Fireman 3rd class. A popular form of recreation and amusement for the enlisted men and officers of the Navy was playing baseball. This is where Rice landed a spot on the USS New Hampshire's baseball team known as the Goobers. Due to his performance, he was later used as a "pawn", so to speak, to pay off a debt. Clark Griffin, part-owner and manager of the American League's Washington Nationals, contacted the owner of the Goobers, Leigh, about the repayment of a loan of \$300.00 that he had arranged to enable the financially strapped Virginia League organization to make payroll earlier that season. Not having the money to pay back Griffin, he offered



From the NCHS collection, a postcard of the Rice place after the cyclone April 21, 1912. Back left, is marked where the barn stood, front left, where the house stood, and to the far right between the trees "King" is indicated, perhaps another family farm.

his star player, Rice, to pay off the debt.

Rice began playing for the Washington Nationals, also known as the Washington Senators, on July 30, 1913. It was around this time of Rice's life that he picked up the nickname "Sam." In his first major league game, with only playing one and two thirds innings that he pitched, Rice gave up a single, no walks, and one unearned run. He was never a home run threat, but his blazing speed often turned singles into doubles, and his 1920 stolen base total of 63 earned him the timely nickname of "Man 'O War". Rice played his last major league baseball game at the age of 44 in 1934 for the Cleveland Indians.

He remarried on October 23, 1920 to the former Edith Owen of Indianapolis and retired with his wife of 14 years to a farm in Ashton, Maryland. There he was known as "Sam Rice's Poultry Farm" that grew into a large and elaborate operation that was well known for racing pigeons. He sold the chicken farm in 1945. He continued to breed and race pigeons well into the 1950s. Rice lost his wife of 37 years in November, 1957. He remarried a third time to Mary Kendal Adams on July 4, 1959. They resided in Ashton, Maryland with her teenage daughter Chris.

As he entered his 70s the only thing missing was a plaque in the Baseball Hall of Fame. After being passed over between 1936 and 1942, he finally was nominated and inducted in 1963. Although he made his debut as a relief pitcher, he was best known as an outfielder. He never swung at the first pitch. He batted left-handed, but threw right-handed. He led the Washington Senators to three post-seasons and a World Series championship in 1924.

Having overcome personal tragedies early in his life, Edgar Charles "Sam" Rice went on to becoming one of America's greatest baseball players of all time. Rice became a regular at Hall of Fame sponsored events and activities. He made his last appearance at the 1974 induction ceremonies. His health had been rapidly declining and was admitted to Montgomery County Hospital in Maryland for treatment of cancer, then moved into a nursing home a few weeks later. There is where he passed away on October 13, 1974 at the age of 84.

# Salt: Ralph Knapp

Written by Jeff Manes, First Published in the Post-Tribune, June 6, 2013



**Ralph Knapp and Harriet, a Shorthorn-Black Angus cross, and her calf.**

"A flying saucer results when a nudist spills his coffee." — author unknown

Ralph Knapp couldn't come to the phone when I made the initial call to set up an interview with him. He was hand-milking Harriet who had just given birth. Harriet is a Shorthorn-Black Angus cross. At the ripe old age of 16, her udders are too saggy to do the job properly. And, according to Ralph, a baby calf should have mama's milk the first week of its life.

Knapp, 72, is a truck farmer who lives in Thayer with his wife, Joanne. They have raised three adult children.

Knapp also is a former justice of the peace, has served on the Newton County Police Merit Board for the past 26 years, is the only remaining active charter member of the Lincoln Township Volunteer Fire Department and is the nephew of Alois Knapp, an Austrian immigrant who founded a nudist colony in Roselawn he named Zoro Nature Park in 1932.

\*\*\*

Ralph, what's one of your main crops?  
"Asparagus," he said.

This sand country is ideal for acid-loving crops like blueberries. Asparagus likes an alkaline soil.

"We have to add limestone every few years."

Last fall, you were given an honorary gold card and axe for 50 years of service as a volunteer fireman.

"Yeah, after 50 years, they gave me the axe."

It doesn't take a mathematical wizard to figure out that you were with the LTFD on Halloween of '94.

"I heard what I thought was thunder. Soon thereafter, Joanne received a phone call that a plane had gone down by the Prohosky farm. I met the boys at the station, we hopped in the fire truck and drove to the site. At first, all we saw was part of a tail section of a plane in that soybean field. It was complete destruction."

American Eagle Flight 4184.

"We didn't realize until about an hour later that it was a commercial airplane with 68 people on it. We wanted to believe it was a cargo plane that had crashed, but that wasn't the case."

You guys from Lincoln Township were the first responders.

"They wanted to set up a morgue at North Newton High School, then they thought better of it because it was going to take quite some time to take care of the situation. The Remington National Guard Armory was decided upon."

I know there were locals who helped with the identification process during the ensuing weeks.

"Yes, there were."

Horrific. Ralph, let's switch gears. Coming to America for the Knapps.

"Uncle Alois came here first in 1910. He was from Austria. My father, Herman, and Uncle Peter didn't emigrate to New York City until 1924. Soon after, they started farming on property just west of Roselawn.

"My father told me when they came to the United States, they were often looked down upon as those 'damn foreigners who came to America.'"

Why was that?

"Because Germany and Austria sat side by side and things were getting kind of hairy in that part of the world. During World War II, there were certain ethnic groups in America who were suspicious of people with surnames like Schultz or Schmidt."

You mentioned your Uncle Alois. I can think of another Austrian named Alois who named one of his sons Adolf. Later, that son liked to be called "Der Fuhrer." Tell me about Alois Knapp.

"Uncle Alois was married to a woman named Lorena whose maiden name was Jensen. She liked to write poetry and things like that. I remember when she passed away in 1951. Alois went back to the Old Country and married a woman named Ursula. We really liked Ursula."

Wasn't Alois Knapp on a TV show back in the late '50s or early '60s?

"Yes, he appeared on 'What My Line?' The panel couldn't determine that he owned a nudist colony, by the way."

Did Alois do anything else for a living?

"Yes, he was an attorney. He earned a law degree at Northwestern University. He had practices in Chicago and Crete, Ill."

When your immediate family would pay a visit to Uncle Alois and Aunt Ursula would they be naked?

"Yes, Alois was proud to be out there without clothes on. I believe it was in 1967 that my uncle sold the place to the Drost family. Dick Drost was paralyzed from the waist down. The Drosts immediately changed the name from Zoro Nature Park to Zoro Nature City and then to Naked City."

Ralph, from what I've read or been told, when Alois Knapp owned the nudist colony it was a classy place. The members were sun worshipers; it was like their religion. What about when the place changed hands?

"Dick Drost started the Miss Nude America contest. I was justice of the peace here at that time. Drost asked me: 'Since you're judge around here, would you be one of the judges of our first Miss Nude America contest?'"

You turned him down, of course.

"No, I agreed to be a judge. The Chicago news stations came out here to cover it. They had to black out the nudity, obviously."

"Being so close to I-65, Drost started catering to truckers. There would be dozens of them parked out on what used to be the air strip that was on the property. There were nude waitresses. Shows were performed and one 'lucky' trucker was permitted to spray whipped cream on whatever part of the body of the nude waitress that he wanted to."

You don't say?

"And remove it however he wanted to remove it. It was a novel sort of thing. The county raided the place. Drost ended up being exiled from the State of Indiana. Today, Naked City is called Sun Aura."

What about Ponderosa Sun Club across the street?

"A man by the name of Harvey Schmidt had a falling out with Uncle Alois, so he started his own nudist camp. But in Uncle Alois' later years, when he'd return from Florida to Indiana in the summertime, he realized what Naked City had become. Uncle Alois chose to stay at Schmidt's nudist camp and they ended up becoming good friends. The true nudists followed suit and also moved to Ponderosa Sun Club."

Interesting.

"We sell produce at Ponderosa in the summertime. My good friend Cecil and I raise some of the produce together. Cecil took his wife in there one time while selling our wares. I asked him, 'Did Thelma take her clothes off while she helped you hawk the vegetables?'"

Old Cecil's reply?

"Nope, she woulda scared off the customers."

Ralph, when I was in high school, there

was a girl whose family lived in Naked City. The school bus would pick her up on Ind. 10. She asked me if I would be her prom date. She was really pretty and a very nice person. You're not going to believe this, but her last name was Smelly.

"I didn't know the Smellys. Did you take her to the prom?"

No, I ended up going to the big dance with what would become my first wife. I shoulda gone with Penny Smelly.

\*\*\*

There is a memorial in remembrance of the victims of American Eagle Flight 4184 at the station of Lincoln Township Volunteer Fire Department in Thayer. As the weather warms, nudists will emerge from their cabins in Roselawn. Ralph Knapp's asparagus crop will sprout from the soil. Harriet's calf is doing fine.

Life goes on.



Flight 4184 Monument at Roselawn.



September, 1973, photo of the heart-shaped pond with an interesting center piece at Naked City in Roselawn.

### Newton County Teachers, 1887

*Kentland Gazette, December 8, 1887*

*Submitted by Judy Schultz*

The following is a list of the teachers who are now teaching in Newton county:

#### **Iroquois Township**

Ada Blackburn, Goodland  
Kittie Pfrimmer, Kentland  
Jessie Dickson, Brook  
Ida Foresman, Foresman  
Mary Foresman, Foresman  
Marcus Foresman, Foresman  
F. A. Tyler, Brook  
John F. Lawrence, Julian.

#### **McClellan Township**

J. M. Chizum, Morocco  
Helen A. Gillmore, Lake Village

#### **Grant Township**

Geo. W. Allison, Goodland  
Mary Cassabaum, Goodland  
Anna Hecox, Goodland  
Mattie E. Johnson, Goodland  
Bert Patton, Goodland  
Fannie Shepard, Goodland  
Mary C. Bell, Goodland

#### **Colfax Township**

Frank Bonar, Mt. Ayr

#### **Lincoln Township**

Emma Cox, Roselawn  
Josie Cox, Roselawn  
J. R. Watt, Roselawn

#### **Lake Township**

W.P. Elmore, Lake Village  
Chas. Hess, Lake Village  
Florelia Hess, Lake Village

Mr. Chas. Hess, (Nee Bertha Safford) Lake Village

Emma Odell, Lake Village  
Chas. Urch, Lake Village

#### **Jackson Township**

Stephen A. Shidler, Mt. Ayr  
Irene Ritchey, Rensselaer  
David L. Halsted, Mt. Ayr  
Winona Seward, Mt. Ayr  
Mrs. J. R. Watt, Mt. Ayr  
S. P. Haskell, Mt. Ayr  
L. B. Haskell, Mt. Ayr

#### **Washington Township**

J. R. Thompson, Morocco  
Frances Jessen, Beaver City  
D. M. Jones, Kentland  
W. F. Edmondson, Morocco  
Lizzie Boyle, Morocco  
B. L. Archibald, Morocco  
R. C. Hitchings, Donovan, Ill.  
Lizzie Magee, Kentland  
J. R. Ward, Morocco  
Lillie Burton, Kentland  
Ella McDermott, Kentland  
Nellie Warfel, Kentland

#### **Beaver Township**

C. M. Atkinson, Morocco  
D. C. Howenstine, Morocco  
R. M. Elliott, Morocco  
Icey Hough, Morocco  
Maggie McKinstry, Morocco  
Fannie E. Fernald, Morocco

#### **Jefferson Township**

Joseph S. Vannaitta, Kentland  
May Drake, Kentland.  
May Bell, Kentland  
W. L. Kellenberger, Kentland  
Nettie Dawson, Kentland

Myrtle Elliott, Kentland  
Anna Conklin, Kentland  
Kate Cunningham, Kentland  
Alice Mertz, Kentland

#### **Kentland**

J. M. Culver, Kentland  
Sallie Hogan, Kentland  
Carrie McCabe, Kentland  
Ellis Drake, Kentland  
Jennie Hogan, Kentland

#### **Goodland**

F. (or T). C. Cassell, Goodland  
Ada Merritt, Goodland  
Annette Ferris, Goodland  
Ella M. Bugbee, Goodland

#### **Morocco**

Chas. E. Morris, Morocco  
Chas. Hartley, Morocco  
Ruby Babcook, Morocco

#### **Mt. Ayr**

Mt. J. B. Fagan, Mt. Ayr  
Hattie Dickson, Mt. Ayr

There are two vacancies existing, one in McClellan township, and one in Colfax township.

Need to do research on Ancestry.com? Stop by the Resource Center in Kentland, we have it set up on our computers for the public to use for research.

Also check out our newspaper inventory, we now have a hand scanner that we can create a digital image from the bound copies.



These postcards above and at the bottom of the next page, depict Hazelden, the home of author and playwright George Ade in Brook Above, the dance floor inside the Pavillion located on the grounds at Hazelden; right, the interior of the Hazelden Club House, which stands today, across the road from Hazelden.

## Goodland Building Remains A Thriving Business With A Diversified Past

NCHS member Kyle Conrad spotted a postcard from Goodland pictured top left, for sale on ebay and asked if we knew anything about the building on the postcard entitled "Sherman White and Company." David Dye answered his email with the following information: "It was many things including: J.A. Patton, where junk, wool, farm produce and many other things could be purchased; a paperweight with the image in the lower left is dated 1902 that I own; E.E. Bogan-same items, pictured lower right, Sherman White sold eggs, chickens, cream, turkeys, pictured lower left; Better Coil and Transformer-electronics mid 50's to 80s; MagNaTech-electronics transformers; Parallax-electronics transformers. Now it is 3D, Deno brothers custom machine parts. Most people do not realize the Deno's practically rebuilt the entire block. It covers most of the block just east of Tom's Barber Shop. These may not be in exact order and there may have been more." The caption under the Sherman White photos read: "Taken in 1933. Those pictured (l-r) are: Pauline Frohreich Byrd, Katherine Don, Frank Wingbrenner, Ed Sheldon, Ray Souligne, Unknown, Jim Key, Charlie Yates, Karl Benner, John Jenson, Bill Slattery.



On the first floor in Hazelden is the living room, pictured above left; right, the Colonial Room, located on the second floor.

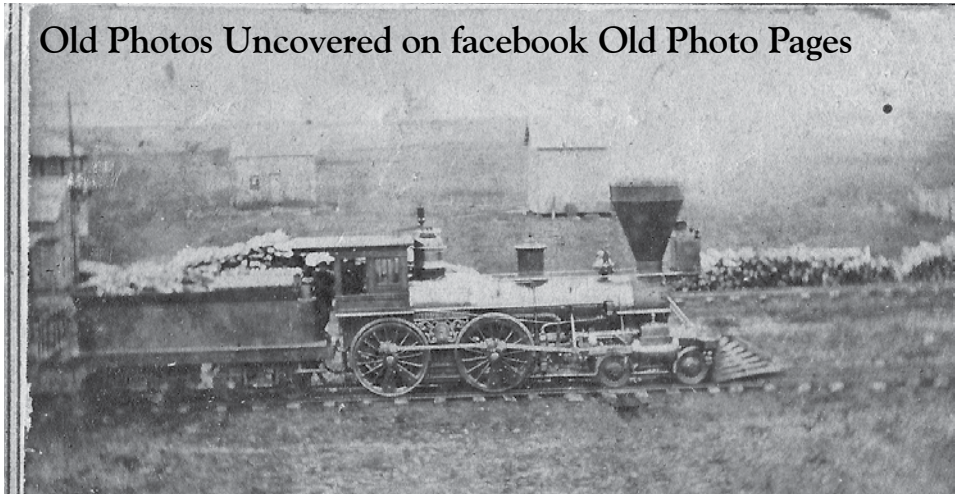
## Broadcasts of Everglades of the North, Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh In September

For those who have not seen this excellent documentary about the Grand Kankakee Marsh, don't miss it the upcoming broadcasts on LakeShore Television, Merrillville, Channel 56. Check with your provider for your channel number.

Wednesday, September 11, 11:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 12, 8:00 p.m.

### Old Photos Uncovered on facebook Old Photo Pages



Kentland Woodburner. Taken in Kentland, 1862, Hugh Gallagher fireman. Lake Village Old Picture Page.



Downtown Kentland, 1930s.



State Street Morocco, 1930s. Lake Village Old Picture Page.

# The Newcomer

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