Newton, Jasper Noted For Their
Big Farms; George Ade Tells Why He Bought Land

Submitted by Carol Light; Written by Al Chase, Real Estate Editor, Chicago Sunday Tribune, July 18, 1937

Chicagoans have made Newton and Jasper Counties, Indiana, noted in the middle West as the location of exceptionally large farms. Southeast, about 40 miles from the southern limits of Chicago, these two Hoosier counties have land areas developed to crop and cattle raising running into the thousands of acres, many of them so large that they are called “ranches.” This area is probably the only district in the middle west, particularly close to Chicago, where grain farming and livestock raising are carried on such a large scale and where the size of the individual farms is consistently large.

Ade Tells about Farming
The fact that within such a short distance from Chicago there are farms of 2000 to 10,000 acres will be a surprise to the city resident who knows the average middle west farm runs from 80 to 320 acres.

George Ade, author and humorist, is probably the best-known of many Chicagoans who have helped to make the two Hoosier counties famous as agriculture centers. Yesterday he told how he built up his Hazelden farm to 2000 acres and also how he pulled through the depression with the conviction that agricultural acres are a good investment.

“Away back in the late 90’s I acquired my first bundle of easy money and invested it in a piece of land near my birthplace, Kentland, Indiana,” he said.

“The land cost me a little less than $50 an acre. A little later I sold this land and bought a larger track for about $60 an acre.

Follows Brother’s Advice
“When I put my money into farmland I was acting on the advice of my brother, a wise and careful trader, who said that all of the land in our region would go to $200 an acre and ensure a fair return on the investment at that figure, and that if I wanted to be sure of a comfortable income in my later years, the thing to do was acquire plenty of farmland.

“Well, I kept on buying under his direction until the land got up to $90 or $100 an acre and then I stopped buying. The land continue to increase in market value and at one time I could have sold all of my holdings, about 2000 acres, for $350 an acre.

“Everyone knows what happened to farm properties and all other investments when we were hit by the depression. The income from the farms dwindled and the taxes were only slightly reduced and the investment which was to make me independent didn’t seem to be holding up.”

Believes Farm Buying Wise
“However, now that the lean years seem to have passed and I’m getting some actual net returns from the farms, I want to say that probably my brother was right after all, and that probably I acted wisely when I anchored my money in good productive and well improved farms. At least, I have the farms and if I had gone into the stock market or invested in some of the securities supposed to be standard and dependable, I just can’t help but wonder where I would be today.”

Ade’s Hazelden farm is about two miles from Brook, Indiana, on State Road 16, and has frontage on the Iroquois River. He lives in a large home of English country farmhouse design, with ten acres of wooded ground as a setting. He has a nine hole golf course, a swimming pool, dance pavilion, and a clubhouse.

Warren T. McCray, former governor of Indiana, owns and personally operates the Orchard Lake Stock Farm in Newton County. Consisting of 2000 acres, it is highly improved with 57 buildings, comprising 11 complete sets of improvements. McCray hires all his help and supervises the farming operations.

Showplace of Indiana
He has 800 acres in corn, 480 acres in wheat, 200 acres in oats, and 200 acres in soybeans.

Continued on page 3 >
Where Big Hoosier Holdings Are Located

To the left of each name of farmland owners in Newton and Jasper Counties, Indiana, as shown above, is a number which corresponds with a number on the map. Letters and numbers on the right of each name show where farms are located; corresponding letters and numbers are shown on the edges of the map.

1. What was Pickamink?
2. In 1926 the Newton County Enterprise states that U.S. Highway 41 that runs north and south through Newton County, begins in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and runs down through Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and on to southern Florida. This entire route had another name, can you name it?
3. What Newton County town was home to an Overall Factory?
4. What were the outlaws of Bogus Island commonly called?
5. At his Hazelden home George Ade had a beautiful flower garden. In what shape was it designed? Answers on page 17.

Do You Know Your County of Newton?
By Janet Miller
> Continued from page 1

In addition he specializes in purebred cattle and the sale of feeder cattle. McCray's strain of purebreds has won many a blue ribbon, and in 1919, it is asserted 120 head of these cattle sold for $436,500. Between 8,000 and 10,000 cattle annually are sold to buyers of feeders. The farm is one of Indiana's showplaces.

One of the largest landholdings in the central west is the 10,000 acre Otis farm, near DeMotte. This vast farming enterprise covers an area of approximately 15 square miles. This would be a little more than the area bounded by Madison St., Ashland Avenue, 63rd St., and State Street.

Gets Profits Quickly

During the period of recovery from the financial depression of 1873, Frederick R. Otis of Chicago wished to invest some money safely. He turned to farmland and made a down payment of $250 on only 160 acres of land, giving a mortgage for the balance of the purchase price. The rates were stiff in those days and the mortgage carried for 10% interest yearly.

Then he stocked a small farm with feeder cattle. The enterprise proved so profitable that within three years the entire mortgage had been paid off and the owner was back in the market for more land.

In 1892, in anticipation of the world’s fair of 1893, a herd of Holsteins was purchased. Soon the dairy cows crowded out the feeding cattle and there was a steady increase in milk production until there are now 500 dairy cows. At various times Otis herds have supplied most of the milk requirements of the Blackstone Hotel, the Cook County Hospital, and the Morrison Hotel.

William A. Rafferty of Chicago owns and operates the 5000 acre Green Acre Farm. Harry L. Drake, heavy investor in Chicago apartment buildings, owns a complete farming unit comprising 2,640 acres. Maxwell Kunin of the Kunin Produce Company, Chicago, owns and operates a 2,040 acre farm on the south bank of the Kankakee River, near the Illinois state line.

Harry Baistow, Chicago contractor, has several farms totaling 4400 acres. Mortimer J. Swafford, Chicago Board of Trade Operator, raises beef cattle on his 480 acre Rainbow Ranch.

Carl R. Templeton of the American Brush Corporation, Chicago, has a 1600 acre grain farm. His father and grandfather each in turn owned the Templeton farm. At one time they had 9,000 acres and produced as much as 2,000 cattle and 8,000 hogs in a single year.

Real Estate Has 1,000 Acres

Arthur M. Wirtz of the Chicago Realty firm of Wirtz, Haynal and Ehrat, who owns a 290 acre farm in the Mundeline district, has a 8,000 acre farm in Jasper County.

The 1,000 acre Willis Ranch, operated by Paul Willis, is run in connection with the Willis Ranch Produce stores in the city. All the butter, eggs, poultry, and produce sold by them come from the Willis farm.

Leroy H. Dorsey, president of the Chicago Portrait Company, and the Fine Arts Association, purchased 2,241 acres in Newton County, which are tenant operated. Dorsey also is president of the Corn Belt Farms, Inc., which owns and operates four farms consisting of 1,320 acres.

Soap Making and Uses in 1860

By David Trubry

By the time Newton County, came into existence, most folks would purchase soap from their local dry goods store. Bar soap was efficiently manufactured in factories located in larger settlements or cities throughout the land. In spite of the convenience of "store bought" soap there were many who chose to utilize materials on hand and save some of their cash for things they could not provide for themselves. In fact it became quite common during the economically challenging times of the 1930s to make your own soap.

Soap making is actually rather easy; all you need is a supply of sodium hydroxide and oils or animal fat. Just mix them together and allow saponification to occur. Since few folks of 150 years ago had formal education of organic chemistry, they relied upon tried and tested recipes handed down from their ancestors. Not every batch “turned out” as hoped for owing primarily to the lack of control of hydroxide strength.

Here is how it was done: Your supply of sodium hydroxide is the wood ash you removed from your hearth or stove. The sodium hydroxide, more commonly known as LYE, is leached from the ash by pouring water through them. Techniques I have heard of are to drill several small holes in the bottom of a wooden pail or a wooden barrel, place a layer of stones in the bottom to keep the ashes from passing through, and then pouring water through the ashes. Some, lacking a bucket or barrel, would arrange lumbro into a “V” shape with a narrow gap at the bottom and then close the ends with other boards (hopper shape). I have firsthand knowledge of a family that employed a large cast iron kettle that had a crack in it, making it unusable for its intended purpose. Water poured into the ashes would naturally leak out of the crack, carrying the lye water with it. (NOTE: iron is not a good material for contact with Lye)

Soap can be made from nearly any type of oil or animal fat. The Italians were making soap from olive oil as early as the fifth century. The French, in the seventh century, were using olive oil with addition of natural essences and color to make a soap they called Castile.

Your 1860 Newton County supply of oils or fat were most probably hog lard that you cooked out of your fried pork foods or even lard that was rendered whenever hog butchering took place.

The simplest way to clean up the cooking grease you have saved is to put it into a kettle along with equal parts water, and bring to a boil. The impurities will be captured in the water, the fats will float to the top to be skimmed as needed.

Let's get started: The lye water you have leached through the wood ash should have a strength to float an egg high enough that an area the size of a quarter is exposed. If strength (concentration) is too low, boil off some of the water. Heat 13 cups of clean lard to about 85 degrees. Slowly, while stirring, pour 5 cups of your lye water into the lard. Continue stirring until the mixture begins to thicken to the consistency of honey. Stir in 2 tablespoons of table salt. Pour into a mold and allow to set for a couple of weeks while the lye “eats up” the fat (saponification takes place).

Things you should know: All utensils should be glass, plastic, or wood, including the spoon used in stirring. Hardwood ash is a better source of sodium hydroxide than soft wood ash. A convenient mold that I have used is a light wooden box made of grape crates and lined with old bed sheet material.

Cut the soap into bars, using a thin blade knife, after it has cured sufficiently to be firm. Don't wait until it is full hard. Soap does not clean well when used in hard water. It curdles and floats on top of the water. (This is one reason Grandma liked to use water from the rain barrel to wash her hair.) Soap does well if you have softened water or you prefer to bathe in the creek or lake. It leaves a ring around the bathtub in hard water. Most commercial bar “soap” you have used in post WW2 is actually detergent. Detergents are complex compounds that contain foaming agents and surfactants and sometimes enzymes and softeners.
Pages of the Past
Extracted from the Fall, 1912 Newton County Enterprise by Janet Miller

Kentland

There is considerable sentiment among property owners along Third street, between Seymour and Dunlap, to pave that section of the street. Many are opposed to paying out any more money for oil or other improvements, but favor expending the money in a good brick pavement. A paved business street would be in harmony with the new boulevard lighting system.

Parcel Post To Be Established January 1. New Services Will Carry Merchandise and Farm and Factory Products. Announcement has been made that the postoffice department will be in readiness on January 1, 1913 to put into general operation the recently authorized parcels post system.

The postal express business, which must get organized within the next four months, will extend over more than a million miles of rural delivery and star routes and will cover in its various ramifications all systems of transportation of parcels now utilized by private express companies.

Safe Crackers Ply Trade In Kentland. The safe in Dowling's meat market was blown open Tuesday night, but a sack containing $61.00 in cash was overlooked. It was a neat job and shows the handiwork of an expert. Entrance was gained through a window in the rear of the building. By the use of a chisel a small indenture was made near the upper seam of the door, and presumably nitroglycerine was poured in. The door was crumbled into a hundred pieces, the plate being hurled through the end of a counter and up against the refrigerator. The little steel box, common to such safes, wasfried loose and carried away. Its contents consisted of a pair of handcuffs, a pipe and some papers and notes. The explosion occurred about 2 o'clock and was heard by some of the residents living nearby.

Fire Bug in Kentland. Monday morning when Fred Heilman came down town to open the Loughridge barber shop, where he works, he found a bundle of kindling wrapped in a paper and wedged in behind the screen door. The kindling and paper were saturated with coal oil and the oil had soaked in under the door and spread back over the floor for several feet. A match had been applied to the paper, but for some reason the fire had gone out after burning a small hole. It would seem from these facts that a deliberate attempt had been made to burn the building—but who is the fire bug? On Sunday night a week ago a shed in the rear of the barber shop was discovered on fire, and the blaze extinguished before material damage resulted.

Woman's Club Will Hold Big Fun Fest. The Woman's Club, always active in the affairs of Kentland, purchased a piano for the Public Library, and then discovered they had to pay for it. And in woman fashion they have laid plans to raise the money. Wednesday evening, Oct. 2 they will hold a Fun Fest in Court Park, that promises great success. It will be in the nature of a carnival where everyone will cut loose for a good time.

The Hoosier Motor Club of Indianapolis will make a cross country drive Saturday, and will be guests of Kentland over night, returning home Sunday. A number of cars will start early in the day and visit Hazelden, doubling back to Goodland to join the balance of the club, and will be met there by the reception committee of this place and escorted to Kentland. A dinner will be served by the ladies of Trinity Church, and following this the guests will be in the hands of a committee appointed to look after their entertainment. Kentland extends a cordial welcome to the Hoosier Motor Club and trusts that their stay here will be pleasant.

Ford automobiles took a drop in price October 1st. The next move will be to widen the roads so they may be run two abreast.

Strangers visiting Kentland are fascinated with the floral display in front of the Arcade Hotel. This is a beauty spot that it seems too bad for the blighting fingers of frost to meddle with.

Washington Township

The foundation for the new Mt. Zion Church is completed and Don Brothers will start laying brick next week.

Brook

George Ade, who has been enjoying an automobile trip through Europe, landed in New York yesterday. In a letter to homefolks here he states that there will be no political rally at Hazelden this fall.

Brook Harvest Festival. Make arrange-ments to attend the Home Coming and Harvest Festival to be held at Brook Sept. 18, 19 and 20. Three big days of high class entertainment. Music, ballgames, vaudeville shows, and free street performances of exceptional merit. The best line of attractions that money can buy. The businessmen and citizens of Brook invite your attendance, and you will have a good time every minute you are within the gates of the hospitable city.

We will have on display and for demonstration a complete line of Chalmers cars at the Brook Harvest Festival. Gragg Auto Co.

Mt. Ayr

Dave Deardurff and wife who have been employed on a dredge boat near Vincennes since early in March, enjoyed Saturday and Sunday here with homefolks.

The Jackson township schools opened Monday with the following teachers: No. 1, Miss Addie Harris; No. 2, Miss Dulcie Dyke-man; No. 5, Miss Hazel Doty; No. 6, Miss Fairy Deardurff; No. 7, Miss Hoppes; Mt. Ayr Principal, Miss Estelle Thurston; assistant principal, Lloyd Hopkins; intermediate, Miss Ollie Spangler; primary, Miss Flora Parke.

Goodland

Goodland has had an exceptionally fine ball team this year, and holds the championship for this section. Sunday they defeated Wheatfield 3 to 0.

Miss Leona Nice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nice, will be married at noon today at the home of her parents one mile east of Goodland to Mr. Delbert Wood. A large company of invited guests will be present to witness the ceremony, offer congratulations and partake of the wedding feast. Mr. and Mrs. Wood will reside on a farm in Wabash County owned by Mr. Nice.

Morocco

Miss Freda Recher went to Chicago Tuesday. She will take a course at the Art Institute this winter, going back and forth for two lessons a week.

The Morocco High School football team defeated Watseka Saturday in a stubbornly fought game. Morocco has a splendid team, and has not suffered defeat this season.
Lake Township August 25, 1870

Kentland Gazette

Health is excellent. Threshing is going on lively.

Beaver Lake has run down till it is almost dry. Game is not the plentiest, but there are a good many chickens, and some quail.

Hundreds of acres of corn are growing on the lake beach, which was entirely under water two years ago. Stock hogs are scarce here, and a great many hundred head are needed to eat the extra thousands of bushels of corn that are growing.

Capt. S. Sink has some five mile up the Kankakee from the ditch, seventy-five acres of corn that will average yield of sixty bushels to the acre. The dry weather in May and June cut the wheat crop short, but the grain is plump and fine. Oats is not so large a crop, either, on account of the dry weather.

Mr. Wm. Burton has over three hundred acres of corn which will average more than fifty bushels to the acres. Indeed, this whole region has such corn corps as were never witnessed here before.

The farms of Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Halleck, lying opposite each other on the ditch, have corn growing upon them that is fifteen feet high, and will yield from fifty to seventy bushels to the acres. What do you think of that, ye prairie farmers?

Mr. Milk, who lately purchased several hundred acres of land about the Lake, has hundreds of acres of corn growing where the lake used to be, which will make fifty bushels to the acre. He has built a large two and a half story house at Bogus Island, which about completed.

It would astonish Kentlanders to see how the nursery and fruit business flourishes here. Mr. Halleck has thoroughly demonstrated that the fruit business is a success along the region drained by the lake ditch. He has for several years successfully grown and shipped the small fruits to the Chicago market, and is gradually working into peach, apple, cherry and pear business. It is by many believed that he has a location almost equal to the Michigan region for peaches, and has a few trees just coming into bearing and hundreds which are just being budded. All his fruit threes look exceedingly thrifty and healthy.

Mr. Burton has just patented and put to work a ditching machine which is bound to make a complete revolution in this business. The first trial of the machine was on a piece of road eighty rods long, through a tough wild sod grass, and swamp willows and the work of ditching two feet deep on each side of the road, and throwing the dirt to the center, this all performed by the machine itself (previously was done by hand and six horses) in just five hours. The ditch was made near two feet wide, and the machine throwing the dirt up to the center, makes a perfect piece of road.

Mr. Milk, who witnessed the operations of the machine, declared it was one of the best pieces of machinery he had ever seen, and that the invention was worth more than his many thousand acres of land lying here, but with it could cheaply make all his lands valuable by drainage. The machine is now at work north of the Kankakee, in the heaviest swamp sod, and is doing its work to the admiration of many who go daily to witness it.

B.C. Kent’s Goodland Hotel

Kentland Gazette, November, 1895

"The formal opening of B. C. Kent’s new brick hotel, was termed as the “pride of Goodland.” The hotel is the crowning ambition of Mr. Kent’s life; for this he has managed and worked, and along with sixty of his friends, welcomed it to the community, and pegged it as the best hotel on the Pan Handle railroad.

"The building is four stories in height, including the basement, which is 23x76 feet, and is to be used for the storage of fine fruits. The first floor is divided in two parts; the front room 23x38 feet is used for a restaurant; the two show windows are cold storage, and in them fine fruits, meats, and other delicacies can be kept for days. The rear room is the large dining hall, and was arranged with an eye for convenience, preserving at the same time the harmony and general effect so desirable in a comfortable dining room. Kitchens and other necessary attachments are in the rear. The second floor is arranged to perfection. Two double parlors with private bedroom and bath on suite, occupy the front part and in the rear six sleeping apartments are conveniently arranged. On the third floor are fourteen sleeping apartments arranged with due regard for comfort and convenience. The house is lighted throughout by electric lights, and every room is connected with the office by electric call. Colored waiters will bring the savory dishes to the hungry and fastidious traveling man. The arrangements are perfect, the undertaking most laudable, and we predict for it success from the start."

www.ingenweb.org/innewton - Fall 2012
In his youth, Marvin lived with his family in Michigan. Newton-Jasper County area except for his nicknames "Dutch", a title today still used by Marvin. Township, Morocco School. Marvin was soon underway, and he and his siblings attended Beaver School during the years of 1925-1927. Ayr, where Marvin, the oldest, attended College School during the years of 1925-1927. In 1927, the family moved west of Morocco, Indiana, where his father continued farming and he and his siblings attended Beaver Township, Morocco School. Marvin was soon nicknamed “Dutch”, a title today still used by many of his friends.

Marvin’s sister Ida, only lived one month and twenty-eight days, and is buried in the Miller-Amish Cemetery near Mt. Ayr. All of his remaining siblings settled down in the Newton-Jasper County area except for his brother Noah, Jr., who along with his wife reside in Michigan.

In his youth, Marvin lived with his family without electricity, so he rose with the sun and went to bed with the chickens at sunset. In 1927, the moved to another farm located on Mt. Ayr Road, just west of the Jack Storey farm today. When he was nine years old, they moved to Morocco, where they had electricity.

His father grew about 60-80 acres of flint corn on the first farm which was used for making corn meal; this is the same type of corn that the local Indians grew. His chores among many, included milking the cows, gathering the eggs and helping with the seasonal planting/harvesting duties. He said that his mother always had breakfast ready for him when he came in from doing chores.

When they moved to the second farm, they had more acreage. Farming practices included using horses for planting the corn, using a two row planter; sowing oats with a spreader on the back of a wagon, pulled by horses. A small disc was used for ground preparation. The rule of thumb at the time was to not plant corn until after May 10th, due to the risk of frost. He and his father could plant or sow 10-12 acres a day. In the summer, they would cultivate their crops. They grew oats for cattle. The Millers had their own grinder, and it was suitable for chicken feed. They picked their corn and stored it in a corn crib, where in the winter months they would shell the corn by hand for use in planting in the spring. They still planted some acreage with flint corn at this location as well. Any soybeans they planted they chopped and mowed and stacked for use as feed for livestock.

They had a nice barn that provided storage for hay and straw, and also provided shelter for livestock and poultry. Most every farm in the area had chickens, a milk cow, maybe a hog or two, some goats and sheep. The chickens they raised were hatched from eggs laid on the farm. Chickens provided food for the table and extra eggs would go to the market to be sold for cash. This was the same of the cream from the milk cows. Everything on the farm paid for itself, in one way or another. Marvin said they raised everything they ate, from meat to vegetables, to the milk on the table. Warm milk is still one of his favorites.

When you drive down a country road today, you do not see the fences that were everywhere in Marvin’s farming days. In fact, you see more and more of them disappearing each season, and not being replaced. At one time, a sixty acre farm could have three different fields, all separated by fencing. I asked Marvin why this practice was in place, yet obsolete today. He explained that the amount of separate fields you had depended upon the amount of horses or livestock you had out to pasture. And, when you pasture animals, you need to rotate them to different fields so that the grass can replenish itself. Today I see electric fence utilized for dividing a large pasture into smaller grazing areas. Progress, yes, but when the fence rows were removed, the natural habitat used by pheasants and quail as well as the natural snow fence created in the winter are now the things of the past.

The would store their fruit and vegetables over the winter in a hole in the ground. On the bottom, they would lay straw and place in separate piles the apples, potatoes, etc. and then rebury them. They would last through most of the winter there.

This would be the last farm for his father and mother, as they would move into town after 2 1/2 years.

In 1936, Marvin was out of school and had his first car, a Chevy. His father bought it in Rensselaer for a price of $250.00. He said his Dad loved it, but his mother did not.

When his parents stopped farming, Marvin was looking for a job. He had several offers from the local businessmen, as he was known as a good mechanic, but it would be Richard Gumz who made an offer to pay him $30 a month to work on his farm that would provide the path to his future. At about this time he met his first wife Lydia, thus beginning the next chapter in his life.

Richard Gumz had property in several different areas. In Newton and Pulaski counties, he raised potatoes and mint. Marvin would remain working with Gumz until 1951, when he went out on his own, renting acreage from Richard and using his equipment for the same products. Eventually Gumz quit farming altogether, and Marvin added the Cody farm, about 1,000 acres to his 1,200 acres he farmed in Kentland in 1969.

Marvin’s farms would sell potatoes to the A&P Stores and Kroger. They would purchase 100-50-25 lb. bags, 10 lb. or a peck of potatoes. He had a packaging house, and they
would send in semis and load up when the crop was harvested. Eventually, they would buy them in bulk and package the product themselves.

In 1963, on the first day of summer, Gumz started growing mint in Newton County. Gumz had harvested mint at North Judson since 1940. When electricity came into Newton County north of Morocco, a mint distiller was installed at the Cody farm. The mint was used for flavoring for gum and oil. Marvin harvested mint on his fields in Newton County, just east of South Newton School. I could smell the harvest from my house in the fall.

Marvin purchased his equipment from local dealers. He bought John Deere from Archie Castongia, Case from Burton and Min-

near in Goodland.

Marvin has retired from farming, he continued until a few years ago, when his eyes began to fail him. But, he and Helen still love to be a part of harvest time. Just this fall they drove out in the evening to see how his grandsons were doing with the harvest. They have taken over the farm operation, and Marvin is very proud to have them continue on what his father instilled in him over 90 years ago.

President’s Thoughts
By Bernie Murphy

Since the last issue of “The Newcomer” your Historical Society has been quite busy with various activities. The documentary “Everglades of the North: The Story of the Grand Kanka-
kee Marsh” has finally aired on Lakeshore Public Television, Channel 56 – it is wonderful and I encourage all to get a DVD copy of the one-hour film. To purchase a DVD, please call Lakeshore Public Television at: (219) 756-5656, or their toll free number at: 1-888-694-LAKE.

Our November meeting was held at the Wolcott House in Wolcott – this is a “must see” venue, which is on the National Historic Landmark list – it is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The window display at the Resource Center was decorated in December with the theme of a “The Night Before Christmas in a One Room School House” by members of our society as well as Christmas decorations inside; a great big “thanks” goes out to all those who worked long and hard to complete the project. All need to stop by and see this beautiful display!

Lastly, we held our annual Holiday Open House on December 7th; we had a good turn-out with loads of goodies provided by our wonderful members. Another “thank you” needs to go out to all our volunteers who made the event possible.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and wish all the very best New Year!
Alexander Family

The Alexanders are many in this world. I have found that some people changed their surname to Alexander as they liked having the name of Alexander the Great.

I have been able to go back to William Alexander born in 1811 in Preble County Ohio. There are a lot of people who have worked this line and no one can prove anything before this time for sure. His wife is Elizabeth Snethe/Sneathen, which is a well researched family. Her father was a well-known preacher in Kentucky. They were married in Ohio so they both had left their homes in Kentucky.

I have come to the conclusion that William, who sometimes has an 'h' between given and surname, adopted the name. In those days you could do that and not have to legally do it by going to court.

William and Hannah Alexander had 10 children, all born in Ohio. Sarah, b:1830; Hannah, b:1832, (Hannah was Elizabeth's mothers' name); Mecham/Marcellus, b:1834; Elijah H. b:12 DEC. 1836; Cornelius Clark, b 1 OCT. 1838; Marion Morgan, b. 22 MAR. 1841; Phebe, b. 1845; William Jr., b. 1850; Mary, b. 1850.

My ancestor is Marion Morgan Alexander. He is in the middle of the family on the 1850 census. In the 1860 census, he is in Indiana listed as a farmhand. He is listed with his parents there and a ten-year old set of twins, Mary and William, Jr., who are still in Ohio. I found the death of 'Ezabeth' Alexander in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, from the town Transitville; she might have been living with Marion Morgan and his family, as Carroll county is close by.

William and a couple of the sons joined an Indiana regiment in the Civil War to go with Sherman on his march to the sea in the south and laying ruin to everything in their path. William was in his mid 50s at the time and much too old to be marching anywhere especially to the sea while fighting. From reports that I have found he had dysentery and ended up being sent home, as he was not able to fight. Dysentery was one of the main problems in the Civil War era as there wasn’t a time when they had good balanced diets. After he came home, he didn’t recover and eventually it was the cause of his death in 1866.

The only son who did not fight in the Civil War was Cornelius. He had a fence-gate making company and his metal was used in making things for war purposes.

Marion Morgan Alexander enlisted in the army in 1861 and was in there until 1866. When the war was over in 1865, he was in Brownsville, Texas where he signed up to be part of a peace-keeping effort. He was in a lot of very critical battles in the war, including the battle of Vicksburg. I often wondered how he got thru all those battles without a scratch.

Then some years ago I found that he was a sharpshooter, so was probably hiding behind some tree or rock and keeping out of sight. He lived to be a very old man and was something of a hero to the people who knew him. When he died in Michigan, he was the oldest Civil War veteran there.

After the war, Marion married Nancy Hinkle, widow of Jeremiah Hinkle. Nancy’s parent were Benjamin and Mary Ann Martin. She had two boys with Jeremiah, George Ellsworth and Newel Calvin.
When Marion married Nancy they decided to go to Kansas as he had a land grant from the war, from some land deal. They took her sons with them. They had two girls while in Kansas, Lulu Dell and Aura Belle. It seems that the Kansas life didn’t agree with them, so they returned to Indiana. They then had Wilbert Martin Alexander. When he was a baby, Nancy died in October, 1879. On the 1880 census Marion is with the three kids and there is a housekeeper, Martha Ausman and her daughter, Melvina. After some research I found that she was a daughter of German immigrants, the Ausmans, who came to Illinois. Evidently she got pregnant and there wasn’t a marriage and she was sent away. Must have been a relative in Indiana. The child is two by the 1880 census. Marion married Martha in 1884 in Carroll County Indiana. They had a lot of babies, but most died early or at their birth. Most were sets of twins which had little chance of survival in those days. In the 1910 census Martha states that she has had thirteen children and only four are living.

Children with Nancy Hinkle: Lulu Dell, b. 22 FEB. 1871, Kansas, D. 1 APR. 1938, Michigan, married William Alexander Campbell; Aura Belle, b. 7 AUG. 1874, Kansas, d. 21 MAY 1944, Los Angeles, California, married Perry Martin Horton; Wilbert Martin, b. 7 FEB. 1878, Pittsburg, Indiana, d. 21 OCT. 1944, Rochester, Minnesota, married Florence Allen.

Children with Martha Ausman: Marie, b. 4 April 1876, married Jesse Randall; second marriage to James Barrett, brother of Marie’s husband, Ray Barrett.

Lulu Dell married William Alexander Campbell, who was 22 years older. They had four children, Cora, Nancy Marilla, Delma Dial and Ruby. In 1912 William committed suicide. He was despondent over the death of Cora years before from scarlet fever and his eye sight was failing. He was a hunter and couldn’t afford glasses. After his death Lulu Dell married Jesse Randall and they had a decent life together. He had two children and when his wife died, they combined families. Lulu Dell was well known for her sewing ability. The most notoriety was from her camisoles that she made so well. In those days you went into homes and did their sewing. She also made curtains and such for homes.

Lulu Dell, William and Jesse are all buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery north of Kentland, Indiana. William is buried next to his Cora and Lulu Dell and Jesse are on the opposite side of the cemetery. Marion Morgan and Martha are buried at the front of the cemetery. Marion has a nice stone and also a Civil War veteran’s stone. He agreed to be buried there as long as it was at the back of the area. Well, his wishes were obeyed, but in the 1950s there was a dual lane road put in and it made his grave at the front of the cemetery. Marion Morgan died 10 JUNE 1930, 89 years old. He was the oldest Civil War veteran in the state of Michigan at his death. There are a lot of pictures of him in his old age and he always has a medal pinned to his lapel. After much research Bob Walkup found that the medal was one from a Civil War organization who honored veterans. Cecil Walkup Hancock said that after he died, some of the girls were fighting over the medal and so they just buried him with it.

Gramma Nancy Marilla Campbell Walk-up lived to be 92 years of age, and she loved life. Never had much materially, but she was rich in friends and family. She is buried in a cemetery at Attica Indiana, next to Ira Walk-up, her husband who divorced her and went to live with a much younger women. When that woman dumped him when he was in his 70s for a younger man, he went into the veterans home in West Lafayette Indiana. When he died, Marilla consented to have a double plot and they would be buried there. She was a generous and loving lady.

**Campbell**

The first Campbell that I’ve found that is connected to our family is James Campbell who lived to be 105 years old and he lived in Ireland. His son was Archibald Campbell who was born in 1736 in County Down, Ireland and he died in 1824 in Ulster Ireland. He was married to Mike McIvor. Their son is Thomas, who was born in 1763 in County Down, Ireland. He married Jane Corneille (b:1763 Ireland) Thomas died 4 January 1854 in Bethany Co., Virginia. Jane died 28 April 1835 in Bethany Co, Virginia.

Thomas and Jane immigrated from Ireland in 1806 on the ship, Brutus, to Philadelphia.

The children from this union are: Thomas as Archibald; Alexander; Thomas; Dorothy Jane; John b: 1815 Ohio who married Sophronia Marilla Johnston (b:1819 Ohio) they married 10 December 1846.

Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander founded the first religion based college in Indiana in the 1830s. They were the founders of the Church of Christ. First the members were known as Campbellities, which is a name they later refused to embrace. They were very radical people who believed in very strict lifestyles and thought that everyone who didn’t go along with their beliefs were destined to go to hell. There are surviving branches of the church throughout the Midwest and south and it seems the further north one goes, the less stringent their teachings are.
John and Sophronia Campbell had William Alexander Campbell, born 13 October 1847, in Lordsburg, Trumbell Co., Ohio. In the 1860 census for Rich Twp., Pulaski Co., Indiana, they have a ten year old daughter, Louisa. Obviously, she was born after the 1850 census was taken in September of that year. I’ve found no further record of Louisa in later census records. Females married young in those days, so she may have been married by the 1870 census, but didn’t find any record of it. They were Church of Christ members and in those days the State of Indiana didn’t require a license or registration of marriages.

William Campbell left home at an early age. He worked on the transcontinental railroad which was completed in Utah, 1869. William was there at that time and had a spike that Gramdma Marilla possessed, but somehow got lost in her moving around. She also had some barbed wire that he’d brought with him too. He worked on the barbed wire fence that was strung along the railroad to keep the wildlife off the track to avoid derailments. It was lost, too. He would have been 22 when the railroad was completed, so he got started before he was 20 on this trek.

I’ve not found William on the 1870 census, as he was probably coming back from Utah via the railroad, stagecoach or on foot.

In the 1880 census William is a farm hand in Newton County, Indiana. His father and mother went to places that Alexander was going intending to start a new church. William’s father founded one in Kentland, Indiana, so maybe that is why William chose that place. The church was the Christian Church that no longer stands.

On 31 August 1891, William Alexander Campbell married Lulu Dell Alexander, daughter of Marion Morgan Alexander and Nancy Folta Hinkle. Their children were Cora, Nancy Marilla, Delma Dile, John and Ruby. William was 24 years old than Lulu Dell. He was a hunter and did ditching north of Kentland to drain the boggy land there. It’s now some of the best farm land in the United States. I have a much copied photo of William, Lulu Dell and Cora that had to be taken prior to 1895. They were a good looking family. William very thin and Lulu Dell was still thin, too. Little Cora died when she was 12 from scarlet fever. William never got over her death and then in 1912 he found that the needed glasses and he didn’t have the money for them and he needed them for hunting. He got a chair and his shotgun, boarded a train for Thayer, north of Kentland, went into the woods and shot himself. That date was 30 July 1912. He is buried next to Cora at Pleasant Grove Cemetery on the old U. S. 41, north of Kentland. There is a small stone for Cora, but none for him. The stone falls over quite easily and I’ve put it up a couple times myself when I’ve been in Indiana. It’s located in the northwest part of the cemetery.

I have no death certificates for John or Sophronia Campbell. Grandma Marilla told me that her dad, William, never talked about his family and they knew very little. She said he always said he was an atheist, as his family really confused him about belief in God and he never changed his mind.

Nancy Marilla married Ira Walkup; John married (1) Alice Mulberry (2) Gerturde Shadwell. He and Alice had Donald, Beverly and Bonnie. Alice died in child birth when Bonnie was born. He and Gertrude had no children, but she had a son, James from her former marriage; Delma Dile married (1) Ray Robinette (2) Roy Pettit (3) Jasper Jacobs. Her children were Bethel Joy Robinette, Fleta Eileen Pettie and Marjorie Jean Pettit; Ruby married Norman Peifer. They had a son, John, who was still-born and Richard.

Walkup

There is a Walkup DNA project and we have been traced back to ancient Thrace which was in the area of Serbia, Bulgaria and Northern Greece. It was found that we are in the same DNA group as king tut. It is thought that as warriors they went from Thrace into what is now Europe and eventually ended up in what is now the British Isles.

My Walkup ancestors, Samuel and Nancy Agnes (Alexander) Walkup, came to America in 1727. There isn’t any positive information on them prior to their coming to America except there is a Samuel Walkup who was an ‘elder’ in the Presbyterian church in County Tyrone, Ireland. There are Walkups listed in various places in the very early times, like one in a group who came from Normandy to the British Isles in 1065 the year before
the Battle of Hastings in 1066. That means we are descended from Normans-French.

They went to what is now Scotland and were lowlanders and peaceful people. They stayed there until the British government sent them to Ireland to teach the inhabitants how to drain their marshy lands and plant them for food for themselves and their animals. The Walkups were said to be Papists and went along with anything the Pope said. The British government was run by the church of England at this time and after the Walkups had done such a good job with the new lands the government said if they didn’t give up the Roman Catholic Church they would take their lands away. The Walkups did that but they joined the Presbyterian Church which was okay most of the time depending on which kind or queen was in charge at the time.

In the early 1700s the Scots living in Ireland began selling their products, which was linen, overseas and the British didn’t like the fact that they were making money from their crops. The British limited the amount of land they could plant for food products and a certain amount had to be for the British. There was a high tariff put on exports and the Scot/Irish decided they’d had enough and there was a large exodus to America. This was over a period of about 30 years. The year our ancestors came, 1727, was the year of the biggest immigration.

Our people were in Pennsylvania to begin with but went to Virginia. In these days there was no naturalization, you just became a citizen. This was a long time before the American Revolution and they were still citizens of the British Isles.

Samuel and Nancy Agnes (Alexander) Walkup’s children are: Joseph b:1724 in Ireland, m. Rebecca Jane Graham.

James Alexander, b:15 Nov 1727 either in Ireland while abroad, or after their arrival in America, m:Margaret Pickens 1756/57. He was an officer in the American Revolution and the Battle of the Waxhaws was fought at his plantation where his home was destroyed.

Elizabeth, b:1728 m. George Mchworter, Sr.; Margaret, b:1732, (1) m. William Gay, (2) m:William Hamilton. Margaret and William Gay had these children: Henry; James; William; Jr.; Robert I.; Samuel; John; Eleanor.

Arthur, b. abt. 1734, (1) m. Elizabeth Lockridge, (2) m. Esther Mackey. Arthur and Elizabeth Lockridge have these children: Samuel; Rebecca. Elizabeth died in 1797 and he married Esther Mackey 8 Aug1897. The records show that there were two Samuels, one born in 1783 and one in 1795, which means he was two when the mother died. Possibly the first Samuel had died and they named another one for him. This is still done in some families. There is some question about dates as it is said Elizabeth was born in 1720, 14 years before Arthur and she’d have been in her 70s when the second Samuel was born. Esther Mackey is 56 years younger than Arthur which happened often in those days. He lived to be 100, so still had a lot of years ahead of him.

Arthur and Esther Mackey had these children: Betsy; Mary; Mack; John; William E.; Florence m. John Graham.

My direct ancestor Joseph is listed in records with many spellings of the name-Waughope, Waughub, Vohub, Vhub and many more. Most were illiterate and because of this, the person writing down their names spelled it like it sounded. There is some controversy about Joseph as there is a John who is sometimes thought to be the same person—but this John is his son.

In 1768, Joseph, his wife Rebecca and grown sons, Christopher and Robert, went to Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia. Joseph went back to Rockbridge County later as that is where he died 6 Feb1787.

Joseph and Rebecca Jane Graham Walkup had these children: Matthew b:1738 m. unknown Fletcher , they had son, Matthew; Christopher G. b:1744 Rockbridge VA, which is where all these children were born. Christopher married Margaret Rusk; John b. abt. 1746, m:Margaret Baker Blair; Robert b. 1748, m. Mary Margaret Meek d:1821 Greenbrier County, VA; Jane/June b. abt. 1749, (1) m. David Graham, her cousin. (2) m. Alex Stuart, 1776, she had one son, Joseph; Ann R. b. abt. 1751; Margaret b. abt. 1753, m. James Stevenson; Rebecca b. abt. 1755 m. William Elliot.

My Robert married Mary Margaret Meek. He died 8 June1821, and it is thought she died about the same time. Their children were: James who married Elizabeth Hedrick; Charlie who may have died young; Nathaniel who married Margaret Moore; Joseph who married Nancy Price; John who married Nancy Cutlip; Jane who married William Dietz; Nancy who married James Price; Ann who married Isaac Cutlip. Isaac was still alive in 1876-107 years old; Rebecca married James Burns.

My Joseph was born 1784 in Greenbrier County, VA. He married Nancy Price (10 Jul 1810) daughter of Samuel Price and Margaret Black. Joseph died after 1870. Joseph is in the DAR records for serving in the American Revolution.

Their children: Mary ‘Polly’ married William Heaster; Ruth (1) m. unknown Piercy; (2) m. James Kelly, II; Joseph, Jr., (1) m. Susan
reason for their migration north. They walked 20 miles to the nearest train and that is how they went to Indiana. None of the kids had even seen a train, so it was probably a big surprise to them and quite an adventure.

Their children were: Hill, who lived about 1 1/2 years; Oliver, m. Mabel Hanna, their children: Lester; James, Roy, Edgar “Buster”, Lawrence, Edith, Eunice, Ada and Addie (twins) and Ruth; James Dennis, b. 1879, d. 1899; Minnie Bell m. William Howard Remley; their children: Walter, Ernest and Livgie; Thomas Wesley, b. 1883, d. 1903; Wallace Elmer, married Lottie Lee Hazlet; Edmund Olga, married Murtie Mahalia Richardson, they had one son, Harold; John Lewis, married Perlie Mae Burns, their children: Charles; Basil; Mae; Hartie Jane m. Albert Voglund, their children Dorothy and Ruby; William Lesley m. Mabel Dewey, William died from typhoid fever, their children: Leslie and Ray; Ira m. Nancy Marilla Campbell; Irene Irvin m. Alfred Lee White; Iva Isola died of typhoid fever at the age of 18.

Ira and Nancy Marilla (Campbell), m. 29 NOV 1911, daughter of William Campbell and Lulu Dell Alexander. Their children: Ward Ira, m. Florence O’Conner, adopted Jeanne; Curtis Lee, married (1) Maxine Sewart, (2) Lenore Warfield, (3) Ann Thorne; Cecil Lorene m. Walter Clarence Hancock, their children: Patricia, Walter, Richard and Gary; Bernard Wayne m. Mary Iva Jean Schlutzenhofer, their children: Sue, Carolyn, Stanley, Christine, Amy and Jody; Wilmer Wesley m. Marilyn Mae O’Neal, their children: Nancy, Mike, Cathy and Marilee; Calvin Alvin married Marietta Lulu Janie Mahaffey, their children: Bob, Gloria, Marsh and Brent; Jerald Lindbergh m. Ruth Hillshey, their children: Steve, Phillip, Paul, Kenny, David and Daniel; Richard James m. Delores Whaley, their children: Rick and Pam.

Richard Dick Walkup is the last of this generation and he is living in Kentland and happy to be there. Of the next generation all live in Indiana except Rick who lives in Effingham, Illinois and Suzie Walkup who lives in Arizona.

Notes on the DNA Testing
Two lines of Wauchope/Walkup/Waugh thus far identified through Y-DNA testing are from the more expected haplo types of 11 (Viking) and R1b1b (Celtic). But curiously, one male line of Walkups (including mine) has been identified as E1b1b1. There are two thoughts as to how persons of E1b1b1 came to be found in Scotland and Ulster. Both rely on the fact that E1b1b1 is still prevalent today in an area between Serbia, Northern Greece and Bulgaria once known as Thrace. In either event, the Walkup ancestor was likely a Thracean member of a Roman Army unit either 1. sent to Britain around 30 to 300 AD or 2. stationed in Gaul (France). E1b1b1 clusters appear in the Uplands (area bordering Scotland and England) and Ulster. Many such families have always maintained that we went to Britanna with William the Conqueror in 1066 (or even slightly earlier by invitation of English King Edward III, the Confessor) and later subdued Scotland and Ireland with De Brus and De Lacey, receiving lands in the Uplands for their service. The families all came to the Colonies together from Scotland and Ulster about 1687-1730. Confirmed E1b1b1 descendency is almost totally non-existent and unheard of in England, the Highlands, and Ireland proper which makes sense given that this rare haplo type is traceable to the later Norman conquest, subjugation of Northern Ireland, and migration to America. This second theory fits in well both with Wauchope tradition and with being Roman Army.
I was raised most of my young life from age three to fifteen in Amboy, Indiana, a Quaker Community in Miami County, Indiana, about 11 miles southeast of Peru. This community had its first high school graduation class from Amboy Academy in 1878, much earlier than many communities in early Indiana.

The first graduation were three people. Families in town boarded students from miles away and the school grew. Not only known for good academia, but also religious and life lessons. The Society of Friends was the only church for 30 years. While I lived there, there were Methodist and Wesleyan Methodist Churches.

An authentic tale was a man came and started a saloon in town. Several Quaker ladies took their rocking chairs and handiwork to this establishment and after a few days of this "sit-in", put him out of business. Amboy is still a "dry" town today.

The first school was in a log cabin, west of town in 1846-47. Then in 1849-50, a double log cabin was built and used for as the school, church and a store. The building was heated with box stoves and it had glass windows, which was very unusual at the time. Families furnished desks and seats for their children. They studied 'Readin', 'Ritin', 'Rithmetic', and Spelling. They also studied the Bible for 30 minutes each day. First there were three month terms, and then about 1861 changed to six month terms.

In 1857, the Society of Friends struggled to keep their school running. In 1864, it was decided to build a meeting building. It was completed in 1868, so the log building was then used exclusively as the school, with two teachers.

When the railroad came through town in 1867, the school was the largest within miles. This attracted many students. At this time, secondary school was added. The subjects were Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany and Latin. The Amboy Academy was built in 1872; it was Miami County's first secondary school.

In 1873, the Friends of Society along with the town and township combined so everyone had educational opportunities. A separate area at the school was used for religious classes, and was optional. Until the end of the 1800s, the academy was a joint church, town and township venture. In 1889, the Friends of Society sold the building to the town and township.

Several early students from Secondary school left the area and taught with no further education. It seems they received a well rounded education at Amboy Academy.

The 1872 building looked like a big framed house; the brick addition was added in 1891. That building burned in 1945. I went to school in that building. I still remember how upset and grieved the community was about the fire. Now that I know that this was the second fire that the community had suffered through, it is understandable.

I will always remember that last fire as we lined east of the building and there was a strong west wind. My Dad was really concerned, and soon after had Shaker shingles removed and asphalt shingles put on our home, as the school had burned quickly with the type of shingles on its roof.

We had to finish school in Converse, Indiana, in churches, and other public buildings. The school was never rebuilt. Each family could decide whether their children would attend the schools in Converse or in the country schools of Clay Township. Today, students go to Mon-conaquah, which is close to the Grissom Air Force Base.

Amboy was your typical small town with 400 plus residents. Just in the past year a grocery store has reopened. Many Amish and Mennonite families now reside in the area, and two of the Amish families started the store with bulk dry foods, a deli and frozen meat; there is also a small grocery area. The last time I visited, it was a very popular place.

Quakers do not believe in war, so they are for the most part Conscientious Objectors - or can serve non-combat positions. A few had served in the Civil War and WWI, but not WWII. One fellow joined the navy in his junior year in 1942. He served three years and another young man suffered, but survived, through the terrible experience of the Bataan Death March, but his health was bad on his return. He had been reported MIA, but his mother, a super Christian, believed he was alive and as it turns out, she was right.

My resource for the article was childhood playmates who live in Amboy and a book, "Alpha & Omega Lessons of Amboy" by Audrey Snyder Bailey.
1940: Organization of Newton County REMC

Submitted by Beth Bassett

“Organization of the Newton County REMC originated with a meeting of local farmers in the County Agricultural office August 17, 1938. The farmers attending this meeting were representatives from various townships throughout the County. They had originally expressed interest in a countywide cooperative for the purpose of securing electricity in farm homes in Newton County. This meeting was called to order by County Agent J. D. Thompson, and he opened the discussion on the possibility of a REMC unit and for the election of a permanent chairman for the organization work.

“Mr. Chris Barten who at that time was chairman of the Newton County Farm Bureau, was selected as chairman of the Newton County REMC organization. Mr. Barten served as chairman of this organization until his death. The directors consisting of: Delmar Brunton, Jackson Township; Lawson Brunton and Vivian Kessler, Beaver Township; Floyd Weishaar, Iroquois Township; Curtis Kin dig and William Unger, Jefferson Township; and Lawrence Shepherd, Grant Township. A schedule was set up for township meetings between August 22 and August 30, 1938. The first countryside meeting for popular interest in membership was held in Brook, August 19, 1938.

“Mr. Wilson Taylor, REMC representative from Indianapolis attended this meeting and outlined the steps necessary in making this project available to Newton County residents. Memberships were taken at this meeting, Elmer Clark and C. J. Barten where the first two members in the Newton County REMC organization.

“The meetings were held in Jefferson, Beaver, Grant, and Jackson Townships during the following two weeks. These meetings were conducted by County Agent Thompson with the assistance of the directors who were selected in the early organization meeting.

“The directors held a meeting early in October to discuss the possibility of admitting northern Benton County residents to membership in the Newton County REMC. This resolution passed the board by unanimous consent.

“The following men were selected as directors to represent Benton County on the board: Ed Sticknoth, Union Township; Frank Yocum, Richland Township, and Ed Strong, York Township; Newton County: Burt Const able, Grant Township, replaced Lawrence Shepherd who resigned because of his ineligibility to serve in the capacity as County Commissioner and a director of the REMC. Floyd Weishaar Iroquois Township, was selected as permanent chairman of the board of directors at this October meeting.

“Work towards the securing of memberships had not been active during the period from September 1 to November 1 as a result of change in board chairmanship, Newton County Fair activities and the State Corn Husking Contest which was held in Newton County.

“Early in November the directors were called together for a meeting to discuss the continuing of the membership drive. The deadline for membership was set as November 15, 1938. Immediately following this date, mapping of signed members in each Township was completed at a directors meeting in the County Agent’s office.

“A countywide meeting of members was held January 24, 1939. This meeting was conducted by Mr. E. F. Hauser, who was manager of the Indiana Statewide REMC. Following this meeting Mr. Hauser told the directors that they were ready to select a project coordinator to take charge of easement work for the lines to be constructed. A meeting of those directors was held January 26, 1939, to select their project coordinator. Mr. Lawson Brunton, present project manager was selected as project coordinator at this meeting. A temporary office was set up for the organization in a room located in the southeast corner of the courthouse.

“In order to conduct the necessary legal work for the REMC organization the directors selected Parker Hancock as project attorney. Easement work on the REMC continued during the summer of 1939. Membership drives were conducted as the easements were being obtained from the landowners in Newton and Benton counties. The directors were notified of a $250,000 allotment for construction of electric lines in the Newton County project, September 14, 1939. The engineer selected for the project was Ray Chanterbury and Co. of Louisville, Kentucky. The engineer started staking and laying out the lines in the fall of 1939. This work continued until the employment of the Contracting and Material Company of Chicago, Illinois, for the actual construction.

Initial offices for the REMC were in the county Courthouse; right, is the first location noted in their history at 202 N. 3rd Street, Kentland; above, the second location, 207 E. Goss Street, Kentland, served as their home until 2011.

Fall 2012 - www.ingenweb.org/innewton
of the lines. Actual construction of the electric lines was started in the spring of 1940.

Electricity was made available to the first unit Monday, June 17, 1940. The residences of Albert Bowers and William Unger, Jefferson Township, were the first to secure electricity from the Newton County REMC project. A total of 630 members are being served with electricity from a total of 300 miles of electric lines throughout northern Benton, Newton and southeastern Jasper counties.  

**Editor's note:** When construction of the lines in Newton County began in 1940, the methods of construction had greatly improved since the inception of the REA. It was possible in 1940 to construct almost twice as many miles per day as formerly, thus affecting a big savings in construction costs. The average cost of the first 40 miles of line staked on the project figured at $515.00 per mile. The cost is almost half that of the first Indiana project.

Also at that time, a new machine had been invented to string line directly from a truck to the poles. With the use of this new technique, it was hoped that the entire Newton County project would be complete in 60 working days. This was reported in the February 15, 1940 Enterprise. Albert Bower's farm was electrified on July 17, 1940, so the prediction was very close.

**Electrification of Newton County**

Many things have changed and improved since the electrification of Newton County in 1940. Below you will find the statistics for 1940, 1985 and 2012. Special thanks to Newton County REMC manager Mike Butler for providing the updated statistics for 2012.

**Coop Incorporated:** April 19, 1939  
**Incorporators:** A. Edward Stichnoth, Goodland; W. F. Unger, Kentland; Delmer L. Brunton, Morocco; Vivian D. Kessler, Morocco; Henry Smith, Brook; Robert C. Morton, Kentland; Will R. Reed, Kentland; Curtis B. Kindig, Kentland; Frank J. Yochem, Fowler; Charles A. Welch, Goodland; Mort Nelson, Earl Park; Lawson Brunton, Morocco; Roy Blann, Morocco; Archie R. Storey, Morocco; Floyd Weishaar, Brook; Arthur Weishaar, Brook; Chauncey Merchant, Morocco; Lawrence B. Shepard, Goodland; Ray Cobb, Sheldon, II; Bert Constable, Goodland.

**Co-op energized:** June 17, 1940  
**First to be energized:** Albert Bower  
**Location of first pole:** 27-9-23 - Just north of Kentland metering point.  
**First pole set:** March, 1940  
**First REA loan:** September 25, 1939  
**Amount of first loan:** $250,000  
**Location of headquarters 1940:** initially a room in the Courthouse, later at 202 N. 3rd Street, Kentland; 1985: 207 E. Goss Street, Kentland; 2012: 4151E US 24, Goodland.

**Members when co-op energized 1940:** 519; 1985: 1,304; 2012: 1000+  
**Price per kwh of electricity when co-op energized:** 1.83 cents per kwh; Newton County member cost: 1.26 cents per kwh; 1985: 8.31 cents per kwh; Newton County member cost: 5.61 cents per kwh; 2012 member cost: 11 cents per kwh.

**Average monthly electric bill of consumers 1940:** $3.95; 1985: $86.40; 2012: $121.00  
**Monthly amount of kwh 1940:** 60; 2012:1050

**Miles of line when co-op energized 1940:** 252; 2012: 489  
**Number of members per mile when coop energized 1940:** 1.85; 1985: 2.8; 2012: 3

In 2011, the new home of the Newton County REMC was established in the old Sigman Sales and Service building located on US 24, west of Goodland.
The Road to Electrification in the State of Indiana

1900: The first attempt at rural electrification in this country. John Martin, a founder of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, installed an electric pump on a Yuba, California, farm.

1906: First rural electrification project, albeit small, was built near Hood River, Oregon. A two-mile power line was constructed.

Continued from page 15

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First Newton REMC
County Co-op Manager
Lawson O. Brunton served as manager from 1939-1966.

(REA). Indiana Statewide then became incorporated and the Farm Bureau directors were named directors of the new organization.

July, 1935: Hull and the Farm Bureau founded the Indiana Statewide Rural Electric Membership Cooperation to direct the development of Rural Electric Cooperatives in the state.

1939: 42 REMCs formed throughout Indiana.

October 29, 1940, it was decided statewide would serve as a legislative watchdog, keep track of franchise territories, assist in public relations and labor regulations, answer retail questions, and instruct in safety practices among other things.


Source: Power to the People, 1985; Submitted by Beth Basnett

She Understood

A poem by Mamie Orburn Odum
Submitted by Becky Lyons

I often dream of childhood days
With grandma by the fire;
She was so good, and always heard
My childish heart’s desire.
My childish plea was always that
She let me comb her hair,
Or help me sew the tiny squares
For the cushion of her chair.

It’s sweet to think of those long days
With grandma helping me
Do things that were for bigger girls;
But she knew girls, you see.
I always thrilled, the days I stood
Close to her rocking chair.
And tip-toed high to reach the crown
Of grandma’s soft, white hair.

The comb would tangle up the ends;
I’d say, “My . . . do I pull?”
Sweetly she smiled and softly said,
“Oh, no, it’s bits of witches’ wool.”
Those days were quite dear to my heart;
They were so rich and fine.
I know that I shall ne’er forget
That dear grandma of mine . . .

And so today a gold hair miss
Climbed up beside my chair,
And with her winsome, sweetest smile,
Please, “Grammy, let me comb your hair!”

First Newton REMC
County Co-op Manager
Lawson O. Brunton served as manager from 1939-1966.

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Those days were quite dear to my heart;
They were so rich and fine.
I know that I shall ne’er forget
That dear grandma of mine . . .

And so today a gold hair miss
Climbed up beside my chair,
And with her winsome, sweetest smile,
Please, “Grammy, let me comb your hair!”

First Newton REMC
County Co-op Manager
Lawson O. Brunton served as manager from 1939-1966.

Source: Power to the People, 1985; Submitted by Beth Basnett
“I Hear that Train A ’Comin”

Johnny Cash, Orange Blossom Special

1. The Pickamink River is now called the Iroquois River. The Pottawattamie Indians, who lived near the river, called the river, Pickamink, which meant muddy waters. The Federal Government made a survey of the river, and since March 9, 1834, the river has been known as the Iroquois River. The men making the survey were Perrin Kent and Sibley V. Clark. This river is a natural body of water running east and west through Newton County and empties into the Kankakee River in Illinois. On some maps the river is called Pinkamink and others Pickamink.

2. The other name for U. S. Highway 41 was the Dixie Bee Route.

3. In 1907, Brook was the site of “the overall factory”, started by Chicago clothing manufacturers Lewin and Son. A brick building was built and during its eight years of operation it employed over 50 women. For more information see “And They Named Her Brook” by John Connell.

4. “Prairie Banditti” were the commonly called name of the outlaws of Bogus Island.

5. George Ade’s flower garden was designed in the shape of the State of Indiana.

Images of Kentland Trains and Tower Notes Now Available at our Resource Center

We recently had a visitor at the Resource Center by the name of Eric Berg. “Trains have always been a huge part of my life, but it was in 1983 that I discovered the Milwaukee Road, which I am still madly in love with and the New York Central’s Egyptian line that runs north and south through Kentland, which is my favorite line to do research.” Eric relayed this information in a recent email.

Over the years, Eric has acquired quite a collection of tower notes, photographs and stories about our train lines. I’ve included a few of the photographs here.

Eric emailed several tower notes, and many more photographs of the trains that utilized the tracks that run through Kentland. These will be on file at the center for those who are interested. Thanks Eric!
Cheryl Hipp, a new member of our society, recently purchased this original ledger on eBay, used it for her research, then graciously donated the original and transcribed it for our records. The information is quite sketchy, and includes more than presented here. We urge you to stop in at the Resource Center to view the entire ledger. Thank you Cheryl, for sharing this bit of history with us. **Key to Table:** 1: Owner; 2: True Cash Value of Personal Property and Corporation Stock by Township Assessor; 3: Acres/Value of Land Without Improvements.

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<th>3 Acres/Value of Land</th>
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The 1916 Jasper and Newton history book gives the following statistics regarding Lincoln Township:

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

We are looking for volunteers to work at our Resource Center. One day a month is all that is required, but more would be greatly appreciated.

We also could use some help transcribing records for placement on our web site. This can be done from your home - anywhere in the world if you have internet access! Send us an email if you can help newtonhs@ffni.com or call us at 219-474-6944
Morocco, Indiana Old Photo Page: above, this old building still stands today that was originally built by Amanada (Archibald) Murphy, known as the Newton Hotel. Later, Ethel Sutton would own and operate the business. The photo to the right, looking west on Main Street in Morocco, shows the Hotel Sutton building and sign on the left. Note the buildings on the right, Purkey's Dental Office, Hancock's Funeral Home, Hancock's Variety Store. Check out the facebook page for more information.

Shelby, Roselawn and Thayer, Indiana, Old Photo Page: above, two photos of old business buildings in Roselawn, on the left is the Roselawn Hotel, unknown date of photo, but we do know that Chesafy (Dawson) Bailey ran the hotel in 1900 or before. On the right is another business in Roselawn, unknown. Visit the page and post your thoughts regarding these structures.