

The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

In Pursuit of the White Mule By Beth Bassett

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"When I sell liquor, it's called bootlegging; when my patrons serve it on Lake Shore Drive, it's called hospitality." - Al Capone

Mr. Capone also said, "Prohibition has brought nothing but trouble." If you were to read through the pages of the *Newton County Enterprise* from 1921-1923 as I recently have, you can justify Capone's words—if you were a moonshiner in Newton County, that is.

Sheriff Earl B. Gardner and his deputies Ira H. Drake, Ray Hedrick, Claud Herr, and Will Littlejohn kept quite busy during the mid-twenties in our county rousting out moonshiners, busting up stills and picking sandburs from their hosiery in pursuit of locals making their own home brew, known to most as "white mule."

A lot of ink was used in the reporting of these arrests and seizures of stills. Each story averaged about one and half columns of print on the front pages of the *Newton County Enterprise*. I've taken excerpts from them to enlighten you on the adventures of bootlegging in Newton County. I offer you an invitation to stop by our Resource Center in Kentland to view the entire articles.

Newton County Enterprise, Thursday, May 25, 1922. **Wholesale Still Located Saturday. Mule Brewers Sent to Penal Farm for Ninety Days and \$100 Fine**

"Charles W. Goad and Luther M. Jennings, Virginians, were arraigned before Judge Williams Monday morning, plead guilty to operating a still and were each fined \$100.00 and sentenced to ninety days at the Penal Farm.

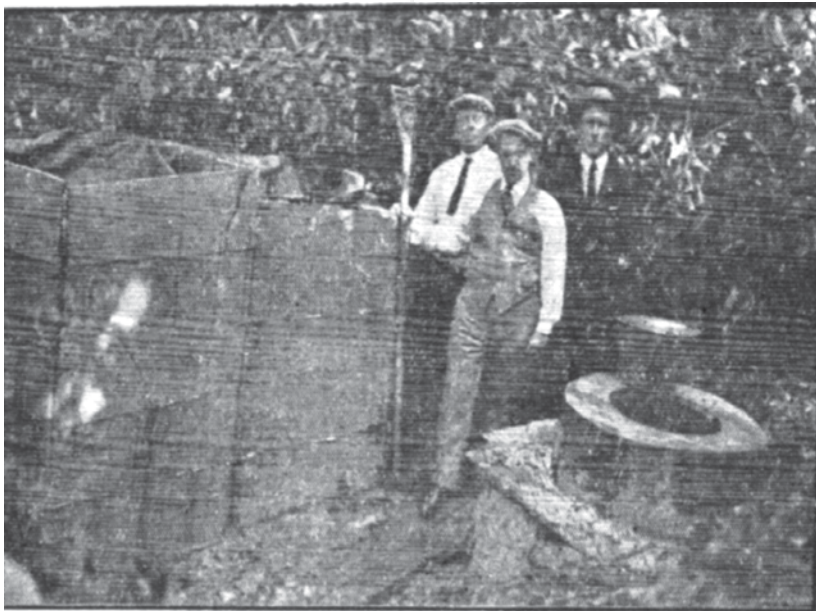
"Newton County is given over entirely to growing grain, and people have often speculated that if some industry could be located here for the consumption of grain it would stimulate prices. Our Virginia friends undertook to supply this industry, for the still they were operating was of large capacity and entitled to be ranked in the wholesale class.

"But going back to the story, George Chappel, a farm hand in the employ of Rolland Ade,

was out hunting Saturday morning and discovered the still, located in a ravine along the Iroquois River just over the line of Mr. Ade's farm. Chappel saw no one around, but took precaution to go to the house and notify Mr. Ade and James R. Whitakker, who lives across the road. Mr. Ade and Mr. Whitakker went out to the secluded spot, and found two wooden tanks, about four feet square and six feet high, filled with rye mash, and a large copper tank arranged on an improvised brick and clay furnace. The tanks were secreted in a pile of brush and were "working" beautifully when the men took a peep into them. They would hold probably four or five hundred gallons, and were just ready to be transferred to the boiling vat. It is estimated that this would have produced forty or fifty gallons of whiskey.

"Mr. Ade and Mr. Whiteakker came to Kentland and got in communication with Harry Drake, prohibition officer at Ft. Wayne. Mr. Drake arrived in Kentland Saturday evening, and spent nearly the entire night near the still hoping to catch the birds. The parties no doubt had a watch out, however, and did not make their appearance. Sunday morning Mr. Drake and deputies returned and through Howard Griggs learned that the moonshiners

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The above is a picture of the still located in a ravine along the Iroquois River. Harry Drake, prohibition enforcement officer, is in the foreground. Ed Sutherland at the left and Sheriff Gardner at the right. *Newton County Enterprise*, May 25, 1922.

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were stopping at the Samuel Odle home just west of the little bridge by the Griggs home. The officers went to the Odle home and demanded the prisoners and Goad and Jennings were placed under arrest and brought to Kentland. They denied all connection with the still, but later in the day made a full confession implicated Mr. Odle and also Fielding Farris. Mr. Farris lives on the George Toyne farm a mile and half east of the northeast corner of Orchard Lake Stock Farm.

"At their hearing before Judge Williams, the two Virginians stated that they knew Farris in Virginia. That they left Virginia a week ago Friday, arriving in Fowler Saturday. That they came to the Farris home and that he helped them get the material for the still and locate the ground on which to build it. That Farris was with them in Lafayette when they brought three bags of rye flour and the yeast for the mesh, and also the copper to make the tank. That he took them to the home of Samuel Odle, and that Odle loaned them tools and hauled the supplies and materials to the still site. They stated that they got the water from a little branch running into the river, and the knowledge that such water is used in mule whiskey should quench the thirst of some who are given to drinking this beverage. A sample of the mush was brought into court and the balance was permitted to run into the Iroquois to give the carp a kick. The vat and other equipment were demolished.

"According to street rumors, Jennings is reported to have stated that they were sent for by parties living in this county, and that the output of the still had been sold to Hammond parties for \$1700.00. This is the largest still ever captured in Newton County, and swift Justice was meted out."

July 13, 1922. Still Captured Near Roselawn of Wholesale Capacity. Was Hidden Away in Secluded Stretch of Timber.

"The still was located Sunday afternoon on section seventeen in Lincoln township. This is about two miles west and a little south of Roselawn. The still was in a dense woods on the farm of Charles P. Huntington and joining the farm of Walter Zasadzinski, a Pole who came to this county three years ago.

"The still was in a cave about 12x24 feet in size, dug into the side of a sand hill, covered over with a layer of boards and paper and a cover of sand on top. The only access to the

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Earl B. Gardiner, Candidate for Sheriff, 1918

*To the Voters of Newton County Pelham Bay, N. Y.,
October 21, 1918. To the Folks at Home:*

"Have been intending to write for some time, in fact ever since I returned to camp, but for one reason or another kept putting it off.

"I certainly had a nice trip coming back. Traveled through almost the entire state of Pennsylvania in the day time, and saw some beautiful sights in winding around through the hills, or rather mountains as the natives call them. We could see down the valleys for miles and miles and look into the enormous reservoirs from which the surrounding towns and cities are supplied with water. Also swung around the famous Horse Shoe Bend near Altoona, Penn.

"I found everything in camp about the same as when I left, with the exception of a few cases of influenza, but the disease is about stamped out, due to untiring efforts of fifty hospital corpsmen from the Great Lakes, among them my brother Ben. Sure was surprised when he came walking in.

"I do not know how much longer I will be here, but hardly think it will be long for I am expecting to be shipped to Charleston, S.C. most any day.

"Before closing, I wish to announce through the Enterprise that I am the Republican nominee for Sheriff of Newton County, and as I am in Uncle Sam's service, I cannot call on the voters personally. But sincerely solicit their support. I also wish to state that if elected, and we are still at war, my wife will be the deputy until my return. It has been investigated and determined that I can qualify no matter where I am at the time, so it is up to you people back home to decide who will be the next Sheriff of Newton County. Thanking you in advance for your loyalty.

"I am truly, Earl B. Gardner, U.S.N."



President's Thoughts

By Bernie Murphy

Once again your historical society sponsored a booth at the Pun'kin Vine Fair. This year's booth was particularly interesting to the fair-goers. First, we moved to the opposite end of the Commercial building which gave us much better exposure; the layout of the booth with many pictures mounted got a lot of attention and interest; we were able to better showcase many of our publications. Many thanks to the volunteers who designed and set-up the booth and to those who manned it each night. It was a true success!

We also gained three new members at the fair, and so far this we have gained 26 new members bringing our total paid membership to 117.

The last few monthly meetings were held at several different venues – at Hazelden, the home of George Ade; our annual picnic was held at the Iroquois Conservation Club in Brook; and last month at the Scott-Lucas home in Morocco. Those who attended were pleased with the different meeting locations and we hope to attract increased attendance in the future by offering an extra benefit along with interesting programs to go along with the business meeting, not to mention the delicious refreshments provided by member volunteers!

We also gained two new volunteers to man the Resource Center, Bruce Herriman and Verna Marcum. Bruce has picked the first and third Thursday of the month, and Verna the last Monday. This allows us to be open an extra two days a month to the public.

I was invited to speak recently to the North Newton Chamber of Commerce in Roselawn. I believe my presentation was well received, and I welcome the opportunity to enlighten the public in regards to the collection of research materials and Newton County artifacts that are available to the public at our Resource Center in Kentland, and on our web site. With the many emails and phone calls we receive, obviously the word is out all over the country about our collection of materials.

Again, thanks to all our volunteers who always offer their help wherever it is needed!

99th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry

By *Bernie Murphy*

This history is written mainly due to the fact that my great grandfather Cyrus Brunton, a farmer from Morroco, was a member of this Civil War Regiment and fought along with other soldiers from Newton County.

This regiment was organized at Camp Rose (the old fairgrounds) in South Bend and mustered in on October 21, 1862 for a term of three years service. Company "E" in which my great grandfather belonged also included other men from Newton, Jasper and Carroll Counties. Colonel Alexander Fowler commanded the 99th and Captain Daniel Ash was in charge of Company E along with first lieutenant Samuel Moore. The regiment consisted of 942 men. On September 27th, 1862 Cyrus Brunton was paid \$27.00 for "bounty and pay" during the company "Muster-in Roll". During the three year enlistment of these men, they marched 3,620 miles, were transported by water some 1,895 miles and by train 716 miles for a total of 6,231 miles through 15 states. Company E had 2 killed in action and 22 dead from disease. For the entire regiment, 45 were killed or mortally wounded; 5 officers and 147 enlisted men died of disease.

During the three years endured by the 99th Indiana, they were involved in four major campaigns:

West Tennessee and Mississippi Campaigns culminating in the surrender of Vicksburg and opening the Mississippi River to complete control by the Union force.

Culminating in the Battle of Mission Ridge and the relief of Knoxville and saving Chattanooga and the State of Tennessee.

Atlanta Campaign

"March to the Sea" and the campaign of the Carolinas resulting in the surrender of General Johnston to General Sherman ending the war on April 25, 1865.

The 99th was first attached to the 13th Army Corp. in November 1862, then to the 17th Army Corp in January 1863, the 16th Army Corp. in July 1863 then, finally the 15th Army Corp. in August 1864 until the end of the war. During this latter assignment the 99th was included in the Military Division of the Mississippi under the command of Major General William T. Sherman, the Army of the Tennessee, the 15th Army Corp. of Maj. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus, 2nd Div. Gen. William B. Hazen, 3rd Brigade Col. John H. Oliver and, finally, the 99th Indiana Regiment under Lt. Col. John Berkley.

During the winter of 1862-1863 the 99th Regiment guarded the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. On May 6, 1863 they were loaded on steamers and traveled down the Mississippi River to Vicksburg joining General Grant's siege of the city; they arrived there on July 4, 1863, the same day Grant took possession of the city. (An event separate from the military action took place later in September, 1863 the wife of Young Thompson, a member of the 99th, came to John Ade (father of George Ade) to ask if he would go to Vicksburg, MS and see if he could get her husband home as he was very sick. Mr. Ade said he would and he went to Indianapolis to see Governor Morton who gave him a letter stating Mr. Ade's business and that he be permitted to pass through the lines. Without the letter from the Governor he would never

have gotten past Memphis but he finally secured final passage to Vicksburg where he was informed that Young Thompson had been sent up river on a hospital boat to the general hospital in St. Louis. Upon Mr. Ade's arrival home he informed Mrs. Thompson of her husband's whereabouts. She immediately proceeded to St. Louis where she found her husband. He was too ill to bring home and died a few days after her arrival.) From Vicksburg the 99th joined General Sherman's Army, marching to Jackson, Mississippi and skirmishing at Big Black River and then on to Chattanooga, arriving there on November 24, 1863. The next day the Regiment took part in the battle of Mission Ridge; after this battle, they marched to Knoxville fighting almost constantly all the way. Many of the men of the 99th were barefoot and without blankets or adequate supplies. The Union forces at Knoxville caused General Longstreet to retreat. The regiment was then ordered to Scottsboro, Alabama reaching there on December 26, 1863.

On May 1, 1864 the 99th took part in Sherman's Atlanta campaign fighting at Resaca on May 14, Dallas on May 28th, and then the battle in front of Atlanta from July 20th to July 28th. On October 3rd the regiment pursued General Hood to Little River Georgia and marched 200 miles back to Atlanta. During this campaign, Union and Confederate forces met in seven regular battles, fifty engagements usually called combats, and forty-eight skirmishes

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Newton County Soliders in the 99th Regiment

Cyrus Brunton	William A. Patrick	Andrew Murphey
William W. Downes	Asa Yeoman	John Brown
George W. Smith	James Burns	John Reynolds
James W. Graves	Allen Catt	John W. Moore
Stephen D, Kerns	Jacob Housheldt	E.J. Shideler
John Barker	William Holloway	John Grenfeldt
William Rinker	A. B. Hosier	Joseph Shafer
B. T. Roadruck	E. L. Humphries	William Wilson
Solomon Ash	F. B. Jones	Elias W. Shaner
William Airhart	Hiram W. Kelley	George O. Pumphrey
Charles Bartholomew	Carroll L. Shideler	Paul LaForce
Sylvester Board	D. W. Lowe	John Starkey
William Brown	Thomas Moore	Abraham W. Bebout
Christian Enfield	Solomon Shriver	Thomas L. Thornton
John Holloway	A. J. Saunderson	Austin W. Darroch
Joseph Hooks	S. M. Skeggs	G.C. VanNatta
Jonas L. Horner	David F. Dunham	Clark A. Wood
John Johnson	John C. Sarver	John D. Wyatt
Joseph Kennedy	Thomas Starkey	William F. Board
Henry S. Kramer	Young Thompson	Andrew S. Young
Joseph L. Lafoon	J. Weber	J. E. Longwell
Benjamin Martin	Levi White	James Atkinson
W.H. Alexander	James Anderson	G.C. Bartholomew
James A. Griffith	Abner Bartholomew	

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besides regular picket duty, making a total of 105 regular actions! On November 15th the 99th Regiment joined again with General Sherman's Army on the infamous "March to the Sea" which endured from November 15 to December 10 culminating in the siege and surrender of Savannah. This latter victory was General Sherman's Christmas gift to President Lincoln.

From January 1865 until April 1865 the 99th participated in the Campaign of the Carolinas fighting and capturing Columbia, S.C., February 15-17; the Battle of Bentonville, N.C. March 19-21, occupation of Goldsboro March 24, occupation of Raleigh April 14 and, finally the surrender of General Johnston on April 26 and the end of the war. From April 29 to May 20 they marched to Washington D.C. via Richmond.

The 99th Indiana Infantry participated in the Grand Review on March 24 marching through the streets of Washington before President Abraham Lincoln and other Washington dignitaries. The 99th was then "mustered" out of service and returned to Indiana via Indianapolis where the regiment partook in a reception for returned soldiers on June 11th given in the state house grounds where Governor Morton welcomed them home.

Peculiar sayings and humorous stories abound from this epic war, many of which are attributed to the 99th. One such term was "skedaddle" which came about when some soldiers were flanked in battle and ordered to save themselves by getting back to a new line as quickly as possible. One of them outran the others and when halted by an officer, was asked, "What are you running for?" "Simply because I can't fly" he answered "All right" said the officer "skedaddle, then." Two other words originating during the conflict were "greyback" and "greenback". The former little pest was so called from the fact they were originally found in abandoned confederate camps. They had, however, no respect for "Yank" or "Johnny". The green back when first issued, was ridiculed greatly by the "Johnnies". They

asked, "What is the difference between Job and the greenback?" The answer was "The former knew that his redeemer liveth, but the greenback has no redeemer". Another was "bummer" which before the war was a distasteful term; but there was a band of men in the 99th who called themselves "Sherman's bummers". They fed the Army from the countryside, scouted the country, captured towns and did much to make the enemy's cavalry trouble on the march to the sea and up through the Carolinas. Another was during a meeting where the chaplain was preaching on the text, "If God be for us who can be against us?" He repeated



This tin type was made of Cyrus Brutnon upon joining the 99th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Bernie Murphy Collection.

the saying several times rather vehemently when an Irish soldier asked, Chaplain, would yese like to know?" "Certainly" answered the chaplain. "Jeff Davis an' the divil, then, if you want to know".

Sources: "New History of the 99th Indiana Infantry" by Chaplain D.R. Lucas, copyright 1900; "A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion" by Frederick H. Dyer, copyright 1908; "Newton County, 1853-1911" by John Ade, copyright 1911; "Southern Storm - Sherman's March to the Sea" by Noah Andre Trudeau, copyright 2008

> *Continued from page 2, White Mule*

still was by way of a well beaten path leading through a corn field to Zasadzinski's house about three-quarters of a mile away.

"Within these snug quarters were fifteen barrels of mash, thirteen of rye and two of corn, two large sized copper stills which were in full operation when the officials made their appearance, and four gallons were run off while the men were tearing down the house. The stills were thirty to forty gallon capacity per day, and the surroundings gave every appearance of having been in operation for months. A gasoline heater was used to avoid smoke from a furnace and the stills were not made by a novice. A well had been sunk within the house, and there were lamps and all manner of tools, clothing, etc., even a late novel was found among the junk which we suppose entertained the tenders of the brew.

"The whole outfit was loaded up and brought down to Kentland and set up in Court Park. The mash outfit resembled very much the cesspool barrels one sees around town occasionally, and were about as clean, with a somewhat more strong and defined odor."

August 31, 1922. Sheriff Locates Still Up In Attic. Stall in Barn Used to Conceal Mash Barrels, Filled to Overflowing.

"In the Sheriff's office at the Court House are eight dismantled stills and enough rot-gut booze to put half our population on a spree. The last addition to the equipment was stored away Saturday night.

"Sheriff Gardiner and his deputies made a drive up into Lake township Saturday and early in the afternoon turned off their gas in front of the home of Alton Hill, who lives two miles west and one mile south of Lake Village. Mr. Hill and Mose Blake were in the yard and Sheriff Gardner soon made his errand known. Mr. Hill was rather indignant that he should be under suspicion and protested that he was not in the business, but consented to them searching his property.

"The basement was visited first and the biggest find was a strong odor of liquor. Also a few empty jugs, a three burner gasoline stove, some rubber tubing and a quantity of ground corn. These articles are all useful in producing white mule, but not sufficient to convict the men. Other parts of the house were searched with no results.

"Sheriff Gardner and his men next went out to the car, owned by Blake and standing

by the roadside, and there found three pints of white mule and a gallon glass bottle about half full. Blake was forthwith put under arrest and the car taken into custody. Blake then set up the cry of innocence; said he lived in Illinois and was just there visiting and that he had no knowledge of how the liquor got into the car.

"The barn was the next place visited. In one stall at the rear of the barn was piled high a large quantity of straw. The eagle eye of Sheriff Gardner caught a glimpse of a sack of corn sugar protruding its nose out of the straw, and this led to further investigation. Removing the straw another bag of sugar was found, 200 pounds in all. Hill said he was feeding it to his pigs. Deputy Littlejohn, when not engaged in picking sandburs out of his hosiery, made a survey of the farm and found five little runt pigs which were to be the recipients of this toothsome feed.

"More hog sustenance was found a little further back in the straw pile, and under the barrel of corn a trap door that led to an empty, but quite convenient place for storage. The officials again returned to the house and were about ready to give up the search when Deputy Hedrick spied a trap door in the ceiling of one of the bedrooms. Using the bedpost for a stepladder he lifted the door, struck a match to provide a little light, for there was not a window in the attic, and there hidden away was one of the nicest little stills imaginable of fifty gallon capacity. Hill explained he found it in the woods and had forgotten about it.

"The officials were not yet satisfied and took up a trail through a cornfield that led into a thicket of timber, and there they found two more barrels of mash which Hill said he did not know was there. Hill's dog, however, knew they were there for he went directly to them and really was a guide to the searching party.

"After destroying the still and mash barrels, and extracting the bullets from a revolver that graced the kitchen wall, Hill was taken before Squire Brown at Lake Village and was bound over to court and released under bond. Blake was brought to Kentland in front of Squire Mock and bound over to court under a \$200 bond, and on failure to secure bond was taken to Rensselaer and placed in jail.

"From the fact that the still in the attic was warm it is believed by the officials that a quantity of liquor had been run off that morning, and that Blake was using his car to peddle the stuff around Lake Village and Schneider."

September 7, 1922. Draining out the Kankakee. Officers Make Good Hauls Saturday and Sunday Nights.

"The brewery in Sheriff Gardner's office continues to grow, and enlarge and expand. Enough liquor is stored to swim a horse. Each still is set up separately and properly labeled for the inspection of Judge Williams when court opens next month.

"Saturday evening Sheriff Gardner and deputies Hedrick and Drake drove into Thayer just as the shades of night were falling, and also a drizzly rain. Parking their car they took a by-road to a clump of timbers opposite the old Granger place, now operated by James Nelson. Nelson was arrested three weeks ago and placed under a \$500 bond for bootlegging, and was again under suspicion. The officers had scarcely located themselves when a big car drove up to Nelson's place, and a few minutes later Nelson came out headed direct for a pile of hay in the timber, passing within ten feet of the officers. He rooted around in the hay and extracted five pint bottles of white mule. Starting to return Deputy Hedrick ordered him to stop, but Nelson had a different idea. He started to run as he crossed the railroad track and broke the bottles in his possession. Hedrick opened fire and Nelson fell to the ground, but was soon on his feet again and ran to the rear of his building. Hedrick aimed his gun at his legs, but whether he was hit or not is not known, and Nelson has not since been seen.

"The officers went to the pile of hay and found nine pint bottles of mule. As they entered Nelson's place, following the shooting there was much excitement, and a young lady present fainted and the loungers made a hasty retreat.

"Sunday afternoon the trio went up into Lake township and spent the afternoon running down a tip. The tip led through a dense woods where the temperature was 140 or better, and on failure to locate a still they were in no humor to return empty handed, so they drove over to the home of Gus Silver, a Lithuanian, just west of Roselawn. Silver and a young man from Roselawn were the only ones present. A search warrant was read and the parties plead innocent, and Silver went on his way to milk the cows. During his absence the young man told the officers they would find some liquor in the house under the bed clothing, and investigation revealed a small partly filled bottle. The officers continued to search and in a bread-box covered with a large loaf of rye bread, they dug out a gallon and

a half of mule. Silver was placed under arrest and released under his own recognizance to appear in the October term of court."

May 31, 1923. "White Mule" Was Buried in Hog Lot. Marshall Johnston of Brook Was Surprised When the Officers Made Seizure.

"Marshall Johnston of Brook, awaiting a trial on a bootlegging charge, will have two counts to answer when he appears on Monday.

"Sunday morning, Sheriff LaCrosse and deputies Drake and Hedrick made their appearance at the Johnston home arriving at just about the time other folks were going to church. They had provided themselves with a search warrant for it had been tipped off that a supply of liquor was on the premises. Joe Portwood of Ade was at the Johnston home and as he caught sight of the officers, attempted to hide a bottle of mule, presumably just purchased from Johnston.

"Further search was made of the premises and out in the hog lot the officers spied a fresh patch of sand. They dug down two feet and unearthed a two gallon jug full to the cork."

July 19, 1923. Yes, We Had No Mule. Bottle Found in Office of Dr. C. M. Rice at Roselawn.

"Sheriff LaCrosse and Deputy Drake were at Roselawn yesterday afternoon and searched the office of Dr. C. M. Rice for illicit liquor. A bottle was found in the medicine case and the Doctor was placed under arrest and taken before Squire J. T. Bess for a preliminary hearing. He was placed under a \$300.00 bond to appear in the Newton Circuit Court in October."

August 23, 1923. House Boat Saloon. Large Quantity of Liquor Found on the Kankakee River.

"Sheriff LaCrosse, Deputy Drake and a federal officer made a raid on a house boat on the Kankakee River Tuesday and located a large quantity of liquor. The boat was operated by Harry Brennen of Lake County and was a veritable floating saloon. Brennen, a boy about 16 years of age, and a young man were placed under arrest and taken to Crown Point. There was about five gallons of mule whiskey and several cases of home brew beer on the boat and some more liquor was found on Brennen's premises."

The punishments that were handed down by the law to those mentioned here is printed in follow-up articles in the newspapers. And, you will find many more articles about the episodes of those in pursuit of the white mule throughout the prohibition years.

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The Williams Ditch Trial and Kankakee Land Reclamations

By Beth Bassett

One of the largest projects ever attempted in our area of the state began in Jasper County with a petition for the improvement of the Kankakee River filed on April 15, 1907, known as the Marble petition. In 1906, John Brown of Crown Point, and other land owners north of the river sought to defeat what they called a "reclamation scheme" being undertaken by W. F. Powers of Lafayette and the Northern Land Company who were associated with Horace Marble, and represented by Attorney Abraham Halleck. For eight years the two parties met in the Jasper Circuit Court, and finally, in 1914, the Supreme Court of Indiana sustained the decision in that circuit court in approving the Marble ditch. The petition called for reclaiming the swamp lands along the Kankakee River from the Starke County line to the Illinois boundary.

Thousands of acres of land in Jasper, Newton, Lake and Porter Counties were reclaimed by the lowering and straightening of the channel of the Kankakee River and the construction of the lateral ditches provided by the Marble petition. The cost in 1914 was estimated to be about \$325,000.00, and would take two years time to complete. The report by the viewers and engineers of the project recommended that the ditch be sold in four sections. The sections in Newton County were called the Marble-Powers Ditch and the Williams Ditch. The Marble-Powers ditch began at the junction of the counties of Jasper, Porter, Starke and Pulaski in the Kankakee River and following the general direction of the stream on the northern border of Jasper county to within seven miles of the Illinois line, making a total distance of the Marble Ditch 29 miles.

On March 21, 1921, the Marble-Powers Ditch was completed. The cost borne to each county: Jasper \$150,122.08; Newton, \$27,031.51; Porter, \$106,127.77; Lake \$17,644.74; Starke, \$5,339.16; LaPorte, \$7,742.80; total \$314,770.00. The attorney fees totaled \$16,000.00.

The Williams Ditch Trial was the proceedings regarding a petition filed in the Newton Circuit Court to straighten and deepen the sleeping giant in the northern part of the county known as the Kankakee River, from the terminus of the Marble-Powers Ditch in Section 1, Township 31, North, Range 9 West, in Newton County to the west line of the state, a total of seven miles. This trial began on July 6, 1916.

Newton County Enterprise, July 13, 1916:

"There will scarcely be more water flow down the classic Kankakee during the month of July than will trickle down the back of the bench and bar of the Newton Circuit Court during the same time. A special session of court was convened last week to hear the Williams ditch case, and the hearing will probably continue the greater part of the month. Elmore Barce of Fowler is presiding judge.

"Like everything else in life the matter of ditching is often commenced at the wrong end of the stream, and the trouble of one person, or class of persons, is merely transferred to the

shoulders of others. Flanking the Kankakee River lies thousands of acres of land in Newton, Jasper, Lake and Porter Counties the productiveness of which depends on a better drainage system. At Momence, just west of the state line, is a stone ledge that operates to dam the Kankakee River into a sluggish stream with little fall. Instead of starting an action to remove this rock ledge and thus permit the river to perform its functions properly, the property owners affected backed up towards the river's source and began operations. A straightening and deepening of the river from a point north of Jasper County to near the Lake-Lincoln Township line in this county, known as the Marble ditch, is now under construction. With the Momence rock ledge damming the stream, the Marble improvement can result in nothing more than dumping the water a little quicker and in a greater volume down on the lands at the west end of the stream in this county. This fact led to the proposition of carrying the improvement on to the state line, and is known as the Williams ditch."

The battle would rage on until October, 1918, when Judge Isham entered into court an order establishing the ditch, and modifying the assessments of a number of affected land owners. The final proceedings projected that this would complete the Kankakee drainage project so far as Newton County was concerned. It was felt that in making the new ditch, some lands in Newton County will be thrown north of the river and some Lake County land will be south of the river, possibly a couple of sections in all. It was stated that to make the new river the boundary line between Newton and Lake Counties, a legislative act would be necessary.

The Williams Ditch was completed and accepted in February of 1923. The original contract for construction held by the McWilliams Dredging Company was for \$186,000.00. A comment at the end of the reporting of this cost stated:

"Whether the deepening and straightening of the Kankakee River will ever be worth its cost to the land of the north tier of townships, remains to be proven. It is certain, however, that one of the prettiest and most classic streams in the state of Indiana has been converted into an



The Williams Ditch Triers . . . is all that described this picture that appeared in the 1916 Jasper and Newton Counties history book. Genevieve Molter donated the original photograph to the society in 2011. Identified were: first row, third from right is Judge Wm. Darroch, sixth from left is Elmore Barce; second row, third from right is Hume Sammons.

unsightly ditch." - *Newton County Enterprise*, February 15, 1923.

What About That Boundary Line?

The sinuous Kankakee River was straightened by the construction of what were officially known as the Marble-Powers and Williams ditches. The old river bed was the dividing line between the counties of Porter and Jasper, Lake and Newton, until by Act of the Indiana Legislature approved on March 8, 1923, a new line was established by making the center line of the above named ditches the dividing line between said counties. While the new line is by law definitely established, there wasn't a provision in the Act, (Indiana House Bill 67), except by inference, for necessary surveys and other acts to be done in order to carry out the intention of the law.

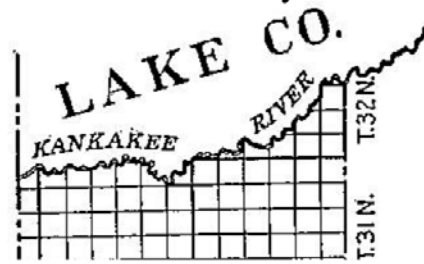
In each county, the auditor was required to enter upon the tax duplicates all added territory to his county, and likewise to eliminate all detached acreage; the county Recorder was required to make transcribed records of all lands affected and certify them. The acreage attached, or detached in each of the four counties need to be accurately and definitely ascertained before either the Auditor or the Recorder could perform their duties under the intention of the new law.

Joint boards of commissioners were formed from the four counties interested, and meetings were held to determine the procedures for carrying out the law. The estimated cost of the work was from six to ten thousand dollars to each county. The fact that no land lines were "tied to" the center line of the ditch lines when established made it necessary that land surveys be made on both sides of the new line, and in many instances the nearest government survey corners were located long distances from the river. Most people at the time did not realize the magnitude of this undertaking, and the officials all agreed that it would be an expensive venture.

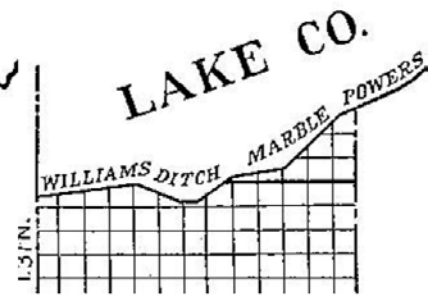
In August of 1923, at a Newton County Commissioner's meeting, the matter of the new boundary line between Lake and Newton was presented by the above mentioned board, who found it necessary to have the "attached" and "detached" lands surveyed and platted, and ordered county Auditor Davis to proceed with the land surveys. However, the Auditor questioned the authority of the Board to make such an order, or any authority of law for him to incur this expense to be paid by Newton

Boundary Changes in 1923

Newton County

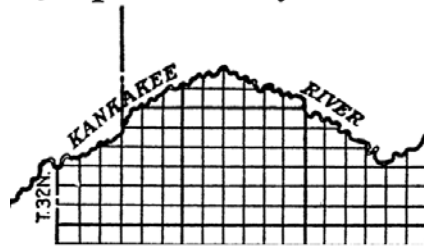


Before Dredge

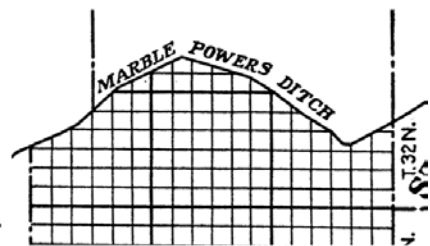


After Dredge

Jasper County



Before Dredge



After Dredge

Source: *Indiana Boundaries, Territory, State and County*
Pence and Armstrong, IHB, Indianapolis, 1933

County and refused to comply with the order. Ultimately, a writ of mandate compelled his compliance with the court's order.

Swamplands Not Up For Sale Until 1927

The law to sell the remaining swamplands was passed in March of 1923. It wouldn't be until 1927 that those swamplands would be advertised for sale in the newspapers. A few of the tracts still remain property of the State of Indiana today.

And - What About That Rock Ledge at Momence?

Herein lies another history lesson, but this writer will hold off on any further investigation into that matter, as the upcoming documentary "Everglades of the North, The Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh", will reveal the facts of the matter in great detail!



Society member Linda (Barker) Schwarzlose had these photographs in her Barker family collection. Her uncle Pete Clark worked the dredge in our area, and she is not sure if these photos refer to the Kankakee dredge, they may of be the lateral ditches that were dug at the same time of the dredge.

Proposed County Hospital in Goodland, 1920

By Beth Bassett

In June of 1920, Henry T. Griggs of Goodland, made an offer to the citizens of Goodland of \$45,000 toward the building of a hospital in his hometown. He proposed that the hospital be maintained by the county if the plans were approved. He offered to deed land he owned northwest of Goodland to Newton County, who in turn could sell the land to build the structure. One of the properties in this acreage was referred to as the Wickersham farm. There would also be a need for bonds to be sold in order to fund the entire project.

The townspeople were very excited about Mr. Griggs' generous offer. In the weeks that followed his offer, positive reinforcement letters appeared in the *Newton County Enterprise*.

"Mr. Henry T. Griggs, one of Goodland's leading citizens, and well known over the entire county, has furnished the impetus for the new hospital by a general offer to the county. Mr. Griggs agrees to give a large and beautiful lot in Goodland, upon which a ten-room house as a site, and a 128 acre farm in the northern part of Grant township for the erection of such hospital. Conservative estimated place the value of these gifts at \$45,000.00. The present plan is to move the house to one side of the lot as a nurses' home. The remaining cost of erection would have to be borne by the county but the estimated cost would be so low as to be practically negligible divided over a period of twenty years.

"The only condition imposed by Mr. Griggs, aside from location, is that the hospital meet the state requirements for a nurses' training school. This means at least a thirty bed hospital will be available for use, and this will materially decrease the operating costs.

"Plans with elevation and estimated cost are now being prepared by the architects and will be published to the citizens as soon as received.

"Newton County is to be congratulated on having a citizen sufficiently public spirited to make such a donation for a public purpose."

Goodland Attorney Babcock Says Prospects Look Flattering

"Expression of opinion from representative men and leading tax payers from all over the county is practically unanimous and it is felt that the offer of Mr. Griggs of \$45,000 and the lot is such that the county cannot afford to lose this opportunity.

"Col. George W. Freyeremuth of the architectural firm of Freyeremuth and Mauree of South Bend, viewed the proposed site last week and pronounced it absolutely ideal for the purpose. The firm is now engaged in drawing preliminary plans and estimates and promise them within a few days. The plan is for a two story building of pressed brick and Bedford stone, fireproof throughout, and containing thirty beds. This number being required by State law if a nurses training school is held. By the establishment of such training school, maintenance is greatly reduced."

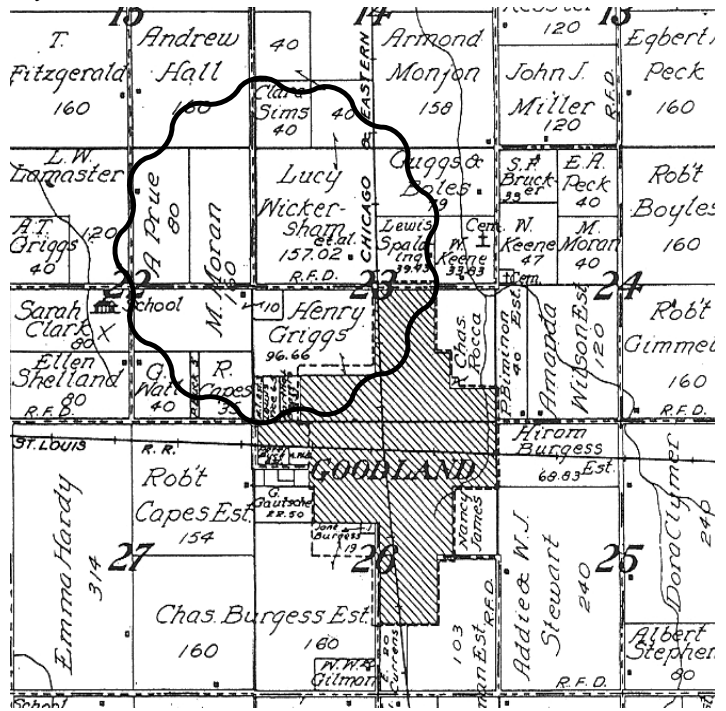
Over the next two years, those that for and against the bond issue would meet before the board. A hearing was held before Commissioner Philip Zoercher, a member of the board, at the courthouse on December 15, 1922, and an article appeared on February 1, 1923 in the *Newton County Enterprise* stating:

"The county hospital proposition has again been turned down by the state tax board, and the bond issue disapproved.

"The findings of the board were filed with the county Auditor, reading: 'This board, a quorum being present, having reviewed all the



"The accompanying illustration is from the plans of Freyeremuth and Mauer, architects, for the Newton County Hospital. Their plans provide a fireproof building of Bedford stone and pressed brick and include approximately forty rooms. John Bruck, architect, of Kentland, is also preparing a set of plans to be submitted and cuts of same will be presented as soon as drawings are completed. By law, the selection of the plans rests with a board of trustees appointed by the County Commissioners. The board consists of five members, only two of whom had to be residents of the corporation where it is proposed to build the hospital. Petitions for the election are to be circulated at once." - *Newton County Enterprise*, July 29, 1920



This plat map from 1916 of Grant township gives an idea as to the proposed location of the Newton County Hospital.

facts, now finds in favor of the objectors of this bond issue, and that the objections are good and sufficient and the bond issue should be discontinued. It is therefore considered, ordered and decreed that the bond issue of \$55,000 for the erection of a county hospital in Newton County, Indiana, be and the same is not approved by this board.'

"This is the second time the state tax board has ruled on this bond issue. From remarks dropped by Mr. Zoercher during the hearings the objections of the board would seem to rest on these conclusions: First, that the proposition did not carry a majority of the votes cast at the election; that the farm donated by Mr. Griggs for a hospital has depreciated in value materially since the time of its donation; and for the further reason that the proceeds from the sale of the farm and the bond issue will not be sufficient to erect the building proposed, but that when once started the county would be obliged to appropriate a further sum of money to complete the same.

"These objections were made by Mr. Zoercher at the time of the hearings, expressed as his personal views, and if they are the reasons that

influence the decision of the board, then and in that case, the friends of the hospital should seek to remove these objections or the project should be abandoned and the farm redeeded to Mr. Griggs.

In December, the Board of Commissioners found that the county failed to meet the requirements in the bequest, and on motion of the Trustees appointed, the property was deeded back to Mr. Griggs. He would receive all income realized from the premises conveyed since the original deed was made.

Join Our Membership!
Annual dues are valid Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
 Must be a member of the General Society to join the Family History Division
General Society: \$17.00
Family History Division: \$5.00
 Total for both: \$22.00
Lifetime General Society: \$125.00
Lifetime Family History Division: \$50.00
Membership includes free copies of the Newcomer and monthly notifications regarding meeting programs.



Bob's program to the society focused on his personal antique collection.

Bob McCoy's Antique Program

We often have what we call "Show and Tell" at our historical meetings, which usually meant to bring something old from our family to the program and tell about it. So when Ron Humphrey called and asked if I would be willing to show an antique, I said yes, I would bring something to show. He said, "Oh no, I want you to have the whole evening program." That put a different light on the evening.



First of all, I am not an antique expert. I just know what I like in old stuff, and it might or might not interest other people. The business of antiques come in two different styles, the serious ones and the novice ones.

To make a business of it you have to have a lot of history, and be aware of current prices. I am just a hobby antiquer and know what interests me, so I tried to present a variety of a collection, that I thought some might like.

A few of the things I brought range from the old butter churn, telephone, shoe horns to the modern bears, to Grandpa and Grandma sitting in rocking chairs with a few old jars and carnival glass in between. Of course I had some old toy tractors and a few old cars as well.

As far as pricing antiques, that is out of my field, so I just brought along the Kovel's price book for anyone to look at. And said what is hot his year might change next year.

I had quite a receptive crowd, and I had an enjoyable evening. *Submitted by Bob McCoy.*



Grandma and Grandpa rest in antique children's rocking chairs.



Left, Bob's cast iron toy cars; center, old irons, quite the appliance in it's day; right, airplane novelty. Upper right, a Norman Rockwell figurine and an American Legion decanter. Bob McCoy photographs.

Nineteenth Century Banking

In the early 1800s, the United States government did not print paper money but instead minted gold and silver coins called specie. The value of these coins was determined by the value of the metal in the coins themselves. People wanted a safe place to keep their savings of gold and silver coins, so they stored them in banks, which had strong vaults and other measures of security. The bank would give the depositor a receipt, or banknote, as a claim against the gold or silver that had been deposited. When depositors wanted to withdraw money, they would take the banknote to the bank and exchange it for coins. People did not always have to withdraw their money to make purchases, because often sellers would accept the banknotes as payment. Thus banknotes circulated from hand to hand while the gold and silver that backed them, or guaranteed their value, remained in the bank.

Banks often accumulated very large deposits of gold and silver from many individual depositors. Since most of this gold and silver never left the vault, banks would loan out a portion of it for a fee in interest, defraying their costs for operating the bank, while making a profit for themselves. When a bank made a loan it generally issued banknotes, again redeemable for coin, to the borrower. Consequently, a bank would have not only the original depositor's receipts circulating as money but also the banknotes it had loaned, resulting in more banknotes circulating than it had coins to cover them. Of course, the bank would be holding valuable interest-bearing debts in the form of loans and mortgages, but these were payable in the future, often over many years, while the bank was obligated to redeem its banknotes for coin money on demand.

If the slow and steady income from loans and mortgages no longer satisfied those holding notes, then the bank could become bankrupt. In the ensuing legal troubles many people might lose their savings and the bank's notes would become worthless, which could be a serious economic blow to both individuals and communities. Therefore, it was very important for banks to keep the public confidence in order to avoid a "run" on the bank where many worried holders of the bank's notes might try to withdraw their coins all at once.

One area of particular concern among



A reproduction of an early Bank of United States bill was donated to the society. On the back it reads: Bank of America at Morocco, Indiana. Organized in 1854 under the laws of the state. This bank note is redeemable for a portion of the remains in the bottom of the potato barrel at the General Store, owned by Elijah Whitson. John Murphey, Proprietor. Compliments of Morocco State Bank.

bankers, businessmen, and government leaders was banking on the frontier. Frontier land was cheap, and speculators would buy large tracts expecting the price to go up as settlers entered the region. In order to finance their investments, speculators borrowed as much as they could from "wildcat" banks that sprang up to cater to this demand. These banks were themselves often speculative in nature, being more interested in making a fast dollar than building a secure banking business. Their excessive loan practices caused many more

banknotes to be in circulation in the United States than there were deposits to cover them. Hard-pressed banks were sometimes forced to suspend specie payments to depositors and note holders wanting to withdraw coins. Confidence in banknotes dropped, causing them to lose value, and more of them were needed to purchase the same amount of goods.

Editor's Note: With the background given here, the following story will enlighten you to the days of banking in early Newton County days.

Early Banking Reminiscence of Morocco

Friday, September 10, 1875

People's Press, John H. Spotswood, Editor

"A friend furnishes us the following early reminiscence of Jasper county before it had been divided and Newton (then a portion of its immense territory) been declared a separate and independent county. It was in the days when G. P. R. James' novels were popular, and the "solitary horseman" was indispensable to every story or reminiscence:

"It was a fine autumn evening in the year 18—when a solitary horseman might have been urging his weary steed along a belt of stunted oak timber that marked the road between the city of Rensselaer, then the metropolis of the "State of Jasper and the town of Morocco (in the same extensive domain) renowned in the early history of Jasper county as the site of the Great Bank of America, that exerted such a wonderful influence upon the destiny of Northern Indiana, and the local affairs of Jasper county. The rider was a man of medium height with a countenance that indicated both shrewdness and firmness. A shrewdness that seemed to know that the \$500 in notes on the Bank of America that he carried in his valise would be cashed upon his arrival at Morocco, as he was the only one that had dared the terrors of the Beaver Lake banditti, the very name of which had sent many a seeker after hard money back to his eastern home with his "rags" untransmuted into the "rale Dimocrat gold and silver." Yet notwithstanding the many incentives to move onward, his fancy saw many a shadowy bandit in the twilight watching his approach, in order to relieve him of the contents of his valise, and his horse, and leave him to foot it back to his eastern home while the grim highwayman, would make the coveted draw upon the Bank himself. His anxiety was however, relieved by the sound of a hammer, and upon riding a few rods further he came opposite a blacksmith shop and thus accosted the occupant:

"Will you please to direct me to the town of Morocco."

“This is the town of Morocco, Sir.”

“I have some business with the Bank of America, and would like to see the President or cashier.”

“I’m the cashier of that Bank, Sir; the President is out coon huntin’, and won’t be back ‘till next week. Coon skins is the same as gold since the Harrison election, and the President wants to ketch a few to pay off depositors, and redeem outstanding notes.”

“Do you always redeem the paper of your Bank with coon skins?”

“Not exactly! Mink and muskrat will do for some people that’s calculatin’ to take a speck on the raise in fur. The Democrats will have the hard money for all the paper they hold agin the bank, but the Whigs say that bein’ as coon skins is only worth half-a-dollar now, and the prospect is that the next election will be run on that issue that they expect to scoop the Democrats and that coon skins will go up to two dollars apiece.”

“But I’m a Democrat, and would prefer doing what business I have with your establishment upon the Democratic principle of specie payments, and as Jackson is dead and —”

“Hold on stranger! Don’t use no rash language, for (going up close to the traveler and dropping his voice to a whisper), I see that some of the folks is listening, and if the Democrats find out that Jackson is dead, they will make a run on the bank, and if the Whigs hear that they aren’t a going to have the coon skin issue in the next election, the President’s coon hunt this week won’t pan out ten cents on the dollar, and we will have to try the high-man’s tableau again to keep foreign creditors off, or I’ll have to be a hiding around among the sand-ridges with the deposits in my hatchawed up by musketos and skeered by the howl of the panther, or the great institution will be busted and the United States put back half a century. Just light off of your horse and come into the house and keep mum, and I’ll do the handsomest thing by you that ever this institution did for a living man.”

“The stranger alighted from his horse and gave him to one of the attachés of the establishment, and followed the cashier into the house. After partaking of a bountiful supper, his host took his baggage and placed it in the safe, or what purported to be a safe. It consisted of a barrel of potatoes, which being laid down on its side the potatoes would roll to one side of the barrel and disclose a box in which

the deposits were secured. Having placed the stranger’s valuables where they were safe, the cashier returned to the side of the traveler and thus addressed him:

“Stranger, I have an admiration for a man that’s got the grit to dare the terrors of the Beaver Lake banditti, and beard the Jasper county financial lion in his den as you have, and if you will tell me truly how much of the paper of this institution you’ve got in that package, and agree to say nothing about Jackson being dead and the coon skin issue, I’ll go agin my principles this once, and resume specie payments; that is, if your pile arn’t too big.”

“Are you not in favor of resuming specie payments?”

“Well, stranger, that depends upon the size of the pile; if the pile is over \$500 I’m agin specie payments up to the handle; if the pile is under \$400, I sort’r lean towards specie payments, but when it comes to redeemin’ ten dollars worth of the issue of this institution with coon skins, which is the same as specie in these parts, then I’m an out-an-out resumptionist. I hold that when Gen. Harrison was elected and the Whigs had the control of the government, that Congress out to have passed a law making coon skins a legal tender in these out-of-the-way Western states and then we

could soon have established this institution upon a bases that would have defied the assaults of the Democrats, and inspired the people with so much confidence in the Bank of America that a panic would be unheard of.”

“Having deliver’d himself of his financial views and saw that his guest was comfortably lodged for the night, he retired and slept until morning.

“At an early hour the next day he awakened the traveler, and having admonished to say nothing about the death of Jackson, or the coon-skin issue, he rolled out the barrel of potatoes and having removed about a bushel from the top, took out a bag containing \$500 in specie, redeemed all the notes held by the stranger against the Bank of America and sent him on his way rejoicing.”

Editor’s note: This account of the Bank of America was also related by George Ade, that was published in the Morocco Sesquicentennial Collection, 2006, Born and Bassett. There he stated, “My father was a banker in 1852. I may add he is alive and in full possession of all his faculties at the age of 85 and emphatically denies everything I am about to say.” There are some differences in each tale, and both are worthy of reproduction. Submitted by Beth Bassett.



Grant Provides Funding That Updates Society’s Newspaper Microfilm Library

Through a grant provided by the Newton County Community Foundation, the society was able to purchase twenty reels of microfilm covering eight years of the *Newton County Enterprise*.

The Society microfilm order was received on Thursday, September 6th. The microfilm was purchased from the Indiana Historical Society Library Preservation Imaging Department. The Historical Society has an extensive microfilm library and welcomes visitors who wish to conduct research at our Resource Center, located at 310 E. Seymour Street in Kentland, Indiana.

Pictured at the Historical Society’s Resource Center are Darlene Truby opening the box containing the microfilm and David Truby threading microfilm onto the microfilm reader.

Home is Where Your Story Begins

Stories submitted by Kendra (Eiler) Hatfield, Eleanor Bailey and Linda McKee

The Woodruff Family in Jasper and Newton Counties

Submitted by Kendra (Eiler) Hatfield, written by Esther Nussbaum Woodruff

We have an old family Bible which starts with Andrew Woodruff (11/3/1766-?), with subsequent names and birthdates carried down to the present generation. They were of English descent, gradually moved from the east coast to Ohio where many settled.

Harry D. (9/20/1886-12/13/1958) and Ulva Orem Woodruff (11/8/1886-10/3/1980) were born and lived most of their lives in the Howard and Tipton County area until moving to Kentland in 1937. Their oldest son, Orem (8/3/1909-1/13/1959), wife Lorraine Newlin Woodruff (6/29/1909-?) and daughter Donna Jean (9/29/1932) moved there sometime later. Kenneth J. (8/5/1915-6/4/1981); Helen J. (11/20/1917-?), married John Eiler 1/17/1941, daughters Joetta 7/17/1945 and Kendra 6/15/1946; and Myron Joe (6/16/1925) moved with their parents. Kenneth helped his father to start up his blacksmith and ironworking shop there until the blacksmith in Remington retired and Kenneth purchased his shop.

Harry's father, Hubert D., had worked as a blacksmith also, and Harry grew up learn-

ing the trade, as did all of Harry's sons. He instilled in them a great pride of workmanship which they always kept. When the sons began, there were still horses to be shod and plow shears to be sharpened. They worked at an open forge and hammered them on an anvil. It was hot, heavy work but the sound of the anvils ringing was always a cheery, happy sound and the shop was a loafing place for farmers and friends to enjoy themselves. With the changing times and types of farm equipment, the shop work also changed from forge work to gas and electric welding. Kenneth took intensive training and became a certified electric welder for Chicago Bridge and Iron Works.

When Kenneth moved to Remington, I, Esther Nussbaum, was a teller at the Farmer's National Bank and our paths soon crossed. I have lived in Remington since birth, 9/18/1918. We were married 6/9/1940 and were away from here for several years while Kenneth was employed by Chicago Bridge constructing huge storage tanks in several Midwest states and later was a foreman in



Ulva Isle (Orem) and Harry D. Woodruff

a shipyard at Jeffersonville, Indiana, building LST landing crafts for troops in WWII. He trained many welders including several young women, which was unheard of until the war. We returned to Remington where he reopened a repair and welding shop and also went in the broiler raising, feed-mill, and later egg production.

All our children were raised here and received their schooling from Remington and Tri-County grade and high schools. They are: (1) Jynell Ann (8/25/1942), married Gerald Jackson and lives in Noblesville, IN; children: Shanyn Suzann (6/29/1970); Chad Mathew (7/10/1972). (2) Sharon Lynn Wilson (5/29/1944), one son, Trenton Ryan (10/27/1971), living in Indianapolis, IN. (3) Susan Kay, (5/9/1947-12/31/1948). (4) Rhonda Sue (2/7/1952), married James Frye and lives in Indianapolis, IN. (5) Jon Bradley (11/7/1954), married Patricia Packer and lives in Pittsburgh, PA. (6) Leanne Jane (10/18/1958), married R. Marshall Stowell, and lives in Boca Raton, FL.

Jynell, Sharon and Rhonda all graduated from Butler University School of Pharmacy; Jon from Indiana Vocational Technical Institute; Leanne from Purdue University.

Harry D., Ulva and Orem are all buried at Rossville, IN, in an old family plot. Kenneth J. is buried at Remington, as is a little daughter, Susan.

With the passing of my beloved husband and with all our children making their homes in other places I feel that our particular branch of the Woodruff family will no longer be a part of Jasper County's future, but I am glad this was our home and it was a wonderful place for our family to have had their formative years.



Woodruff Blacksmith Shop located at Allen Street, Kentland, Indiana, about 1937. Left, son Orem Woodruff, right father, Harry D. Woodruff. Kendra (Eiler) Hatfield photograph.

Waiting for the Train

From the genealogy blog of Eleanor Bailey

<http://baileyblogstories2012.wordpress.com/waiting-for-the-train/waiting-for-the-train/>

The year is 1910, the place is Roselawn, Indiana and the slender dark haired lady with the four children again waits for the train that will take her away from her friends and family. This time, she will go to the faraway state of Iowa where her husband is working. She has made several trips like this.

In 1907, Perry had gone to work with a dredging company and was sent to Minnesota to work. At that time she had written a postcard postmarked May 4, 1907 to tell her parents that she has arrived at Bancroft, Minnesota the night before.

As the steam locomotive pulling the passengers cars stops near the depot, the children run ahead to be the first aboard. The three girls and the boy have all ridden on the train before, but it is still an exciting time for them. Their father has been gone for quite some time and they are anxious to see him again. They range in age from 2 years to 9 years old.

After boarding the train and getting the children settled, Aggie rests her head against the back of the seat and thinks to herself that this time she is more tired than usual. She has packed their belongings that include her treadle sewing machine. She always takes it with her. She makes her clothing as well as the children's There will be quilts to make and clothing for the new baby

Aggie watches the children as the train begins to move. Oscar, Maude and Flora are busy looking out the window. Ethel, the two year old is curled up in the seat next to her and has already fallen asleep. All of the children have been born at Roselawn. Ethel, the youngest, was born on May 30, 1908. In July of that year, Perry sent a card to Aggie at Roselawn from Geneva, Minnesota. Late in August, Aggie and the four children traveled by train to Hayward, Minnesota. When she arrived she sent a card to her parents saying that they arrived safely There will be quilts to make and clothing for the new baby

Aggie thinks of her mother, Matilda, who walks down the lane every day to the old mailbox with the name 'Link Cox' painted on the side. She then checks her pocketbook to be sure that she has her writing materials. They include several one cent stamps for the postcards that she and her mother are fond of sending to each other. The postcards and letters are their only way of communicating with one another. Telegrams are costly and to be used only for emergencies.

Aggie thinks about the harsh winter last year in Oakville, Iowa. On January 6, 1909, she had written; "It was thirty below last night." This year in Norman, by the end of March, the trees were leafed out and the

promise of spring was in the air. The card she mailed in April said, "It is snowing here today. The fruit is all spoilt. It froze ice here yesterday. The dredge is going over into Minnesota. The leaves hang down like black rags on the trees. There are new buds on the trees and if it turns warm they may bloom again as it is so early."

Aggie's other children have all been born in Roselawn. She hopes that the coming winter in Iowa will be mild with the new baby expected around the end of the year. The rented rooms in the old store building are hard to heat. She also hopes that Perry's mother, Chesafy Bailey will come to help out when the baby is born.

The town of Norman is becoming more and more desolate, many of the businesses have moved across the state line to Emmons, Minnesota. The Creamery is still across the street. Oscar likes to go there and hang out and sell Grit newspaper to the farmers who bring their cream to sell. When there is a lot of snow, they drive teams with sleds loaded with the big cans of cream.

The train picks up speed, the children are either asleep or entertained by the activity around them.

Aggie again thinks of her mother and the stories Matilda has told her children of her life as a young girl in Ontario, Canada. This was before the family migrated from their farm near Kingston, in 1871. Matilda was 9 years old when the wagons were piled high with farm equipment and household goods for the long trip to Iroquois County, Illinois. Other related families made the journey at the same time. As she falls asleep, her last thought is of her mother telling of the other children.

Norman Iowa, October, 29, 1910

It is only a month now until the new baby is due and Aggie writes to her parents, "froze the cistern last night." Winter is not far off. Perry's mother, Chesafy Dawson Bailey, has been in Montana, helping her daughter-in-law Lillie Bailey cook for the loggers. She has taken the train to Norman, Iowa to be with the family while Aggie's fifth child is born. Chesafy is cooking for the dredge crew on the two-story houseboat that is pulled behind the dredge. The baby arrives on December 31, 1910.

On January 17, 1911 Aggie sends a postcard to tell her parents that the baby's cold is better and "We have not named the baby yet." Perry does not get home every night. He



Perry and Aggie (Cox) Bailey's children, 1908. Left to right, Perry Bailey, Maude, Oscar, Aggie, Flora (in front), and Ethel, seated with Aggie. Eleanor Bailey photograph.

14 The Newcomer

is only thirty-three years old and has rheumatism. The cold weather and dampness is not helping his symptoms. The dredge is set up about 10 miles away at this time. Walking that far on the crusted snow is quite an exhausting experience.

The baby is named sometime before the end of the month. His name is Chester Wayne Bailey.

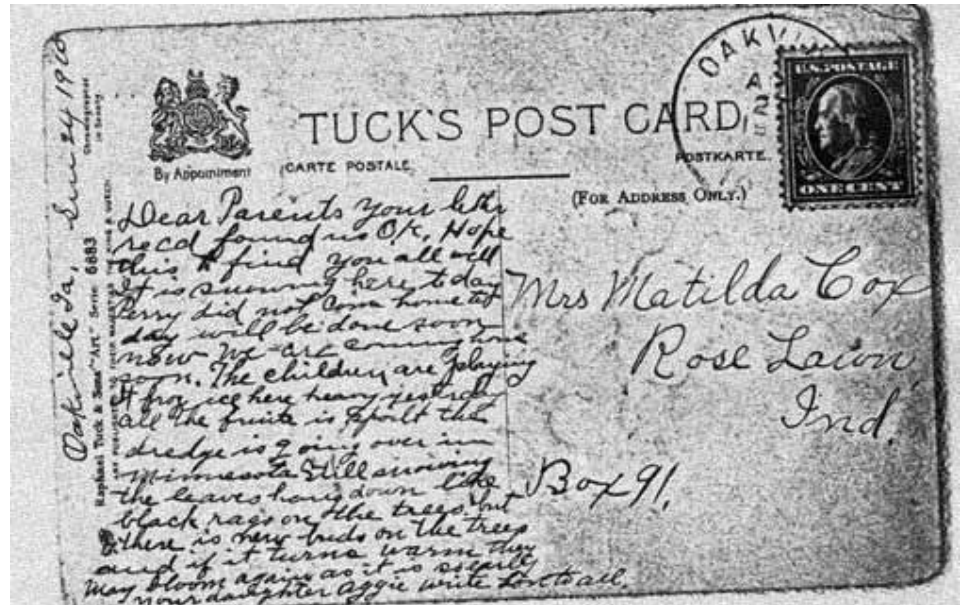
After the fifth child, Chester, was born on New Year's Eve 1910, the family remained in Norman, Iowa. The cold and damp weather was becoming more of a burden on the entire family. The children had a lot of colds and Perry's problems with arthritis were getting worse.

After much discussing of the advantages of moving to a warmer climate, Perry and Aggie decided to move south. During the remaining months of 1911, they traveled back to Indiana, there they visited relatives. This was a fun time for the children; they got to play with all of their cousins while the adults were visiting and saying their goodbyes. Perry's sisters Fanny and Arvilla and his brother John all lived in Indiana. Israel and Matilda Cox, Aggie's parents were living on their farm in Newton County.

Late in January, they all boarded the train and on January 24, 1912 the family arrived



Chester W. Bailey, January, 1911. Eleanor Bailey photograph.



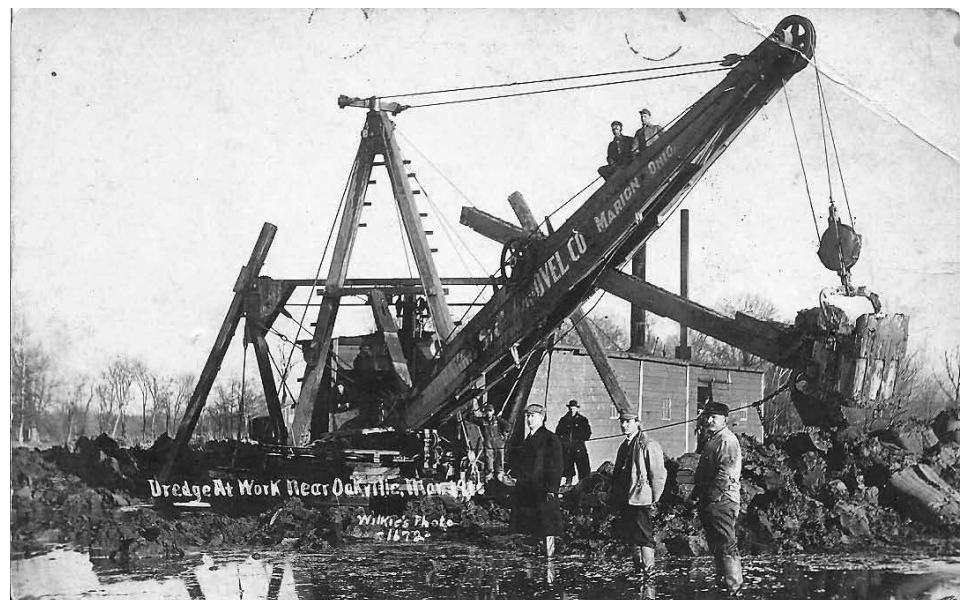
The January 17, 1911 postcard sent to Aggie's mother, Matilda Cox in Roselawn, mailed from Oakville, IA. Eleanor Bailey collection.

in Jacksonville, Florida. They were enroute to their destination of Largo near Tampa Bay where Perry had purchased some land. They had again traveled by train and their furniture had been shipped in a freight car. This train trip was the longest they had ever taken and was exciting for the children to be going from a cold winter climate to the warmth and sun of Florida. Even the trees were different there and there seemed to be water everywhere.

A house was rented at Largo near the bay. There was an orange grove in the yard and everyone enjoyed the fresh fruit. Oscar helped

Perry to clear the acreage he had bought. Even though the clearing of the land was a hot and tedious job, the entire family enjoyed the warmer weather. The children would go to the beach and play. One time, Flora got in the water up to her neck and as she couldn't swim, Aggie had to run to the rescue.

They were there a few months and their money ran low. Once again, they had to make the decision to load their furniture and other belongings and board the train. This time they would go north as far as Indiana.



Dredge at Oakville, IA, where Perry Bailey worked. Eleanor Bailey collection.

Robert Ross McKee, Bomber Pilot: The Journey From A Small Town To The Cockpit of a B-24

by Linda J. McKee, Fall, 2011

December 7, 1941. Little did young men and women know how much their lives would change the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States declared war on Japan and its allies. For some, the GI bill (which came into existence after World War II) would allow them to graduate from college, something they otherwise could not have afforded. For others, the opportunity to see the world opened their eyes to broader horizons. And, sadly, for some, it meant the loss of a brother, son or husband and life would be forever changed.

Robert Ross McKee was one of the lucky ones who was able to expand his horizons. He left small town Indiana as a young man who was studying at Purdue University in order to take over the family farm. He returned a man who had seen many parts of the country during his flight training and places in the world he had never imagined he would see. He was stationed in Italy, but flew over three different continents. This was the beginning of his desire to see the world; he became a world traveler who visited six continents and all fifty states. During his later years, he took his entire family (children, spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren) on his travels and introduced them to the wonders of the world. All this began because of his experience as a bomber pilot during World War II. This is his story.

The Beginning

Ross was a 19-year-old student at Purdue University studying animal husbandry when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. He continued his studies and had completed three years of college when he enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps, later to become the U. S. Air Force. He enlisted in the Air Force because he feared he would otherwise be drafted into the infantry and become a "ground pounder." During the first semester of his senior year at Purdue, Ross took three tests to determine whether he was qualified to be in the Army Air Corps. The tests consisted of a written test which included math, an eye test and a physical test. These mental and physical tests were all difficult—only two out of thirty were able to pass all three tests. Ross couldn't pass the eye test the first time around so was told to eat a lot of carrots for two weeks. He



The Stearman was the first plane flown during flight training. It had a double wing and open cockpit and was easy to fly. Here, Ross poses with his training plane.

did as he was told, returned two weeks later and passed the eye exam. Ross continued to have excellent vision during his entire lifetime and used eye glasses only to read.

In February, 1943 a long, brown envelope was in his mailbox which revealed his qualifying test results. He had passed all three tests and was accepted into the Army Air Corps! Ross was to report to Keesler Field in Biloxi, MS for boot camp. Ross set out by train for Mississippi in February, 1943. In spite of being in the South, it was Mississippi for misery. Ross took a swimming suit, but the water was frozen so there was not swimming. On top of the cold and damp, there was no leave so he was stuck at Keesler Field for two months.

The next stop for Ross was Cookville, TN. The purpose of his time there was additional college training at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. Ross took college classes for a month, simply a time filler until space became available in the flight training program. While at Cookville, he earned ten hours of flying time in a Piper Cub. On one occasion, the flight instructor checked the gas tank before the flight, but the cork used to measure the fuel level got stuck on top of the fuel tank. It appeared that the gas tank was full, but it

wasn't. Ross, along with the flight instructor, had to make a forced landing because they ran out of gas!

At 21 years of age, Ross was sent to Maxwell Field in Montgomery, AL as a cadet. He took basic training which included military discipline and aviation training. Marching was a large part of the discipline and all cadets marched several times a day. Then on to Nashville, TN, where job assignments were to be determined. Even though his dream was to become a navigator, in retrospect he was glad he became a pilot because pilots controlled their own destiny and that of their crew. Ross could proudly boast that he had never crashed an airplane or a car during his entire life.

Flight Training

Albany, GA, was the next stop for Ross. It was here that he began his flight training on a Stearman. It was a two-winged airplane (biplane) with an open cockpit. The Stearman was easy to fly, (crop dusters use them), but had a tendency to ground loop. Ground looping occurs upon landing when on wing has a tendency to drop causing the plane to move in a circle. Ross started to ground loop once, but reacted quickly and got the plane under control. He earned 100 flight hours on the

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Stearman. In addition to learning to fly, the purpose of primary training on a Stearman was to determine how to react in an emergency. Thus, pilots were taught flight acrobatics. They learned chandelles (U-turns), slow rolls, snap rolls and loops. The most basic part of this training was always to fasten your seat belt. With an open cockpit, it is left to your imagination what would have happened if you had left out this important step.

Then on to Greenwood, MS, where pilots learned to fly on the Basic Trainer. It was bigger and had more horse power than the Stearman. Ross put in an additional 100 hours on the Basic Trainer which took approximately two months. Pilots flew every day. It was at Greenwood that Ross tasted his first steak at a small, down-home restaurant - he remained a steak lover for the rest of his life.

Stewart Field in New York was where flight training on the twin engine Advanced Trainer took place. Six out of 200 pilots in his flight class were selected to take advanced training at Stewart Field. It was the most prestigious training field because it was close to West Point. Ross felt it an honor to be selected as one of the six cadets for this training. In order to qualify, a pilot had to be unmarried and have good grades on flying and ground work. Those who didn't score as high were sent to other training fields. Ross flew a twin engine UC-78 and earned an additional 100 hours of flying time. Pilots received a half-day of ground instruction and flew the other half of each day. By the time he was ready to be assigned to a plane for overseas service, Ross had earned nearly 500 hours of flying time. Now at the age of 22, he was ready to be assigned to a combat plane.

Becoming a combat pilot was a highly selective process. Many pilots washed out of flight training and sometimes entire classes washed out if there was no need for pilots. Individuals who washed out of flight training became gunners or infantry. During pilot training, there were as many casualties learning to fly as there were in combat. Some important detail was forgotten or overconfidence led to foolish actions. During World War II, 439 Primary Trainers were lost, 1175 Basic Trainers crashed and 1888 Advanced Trainers went down. To survive flight training meant the pilot was careful, methodical and didn't take unnecessary risks. There are old pilots and bold pilots, but there are no old, bold pilots.



The Basic Trainer was used for training pilots after the Stearman. It was larger and had more horse power. Ross sits on a wing with full gear.

Assignments for combat planes were made at West Point, New York. One pilot wanted to be near his girlfriend in the East so Ross traded places with him so he went West. Half the pilots were assigned to B-24s, (those in the West) and the other half were selected as co-pilots on B-29s (those in the East). So Ross was assigned to be a pilot on a B-24, a fortunate move on his part. This was when he received his wings, possibly the proudest moment of his life because it was a long and difficult road getting there.

Ross went home on leave for two weeks after completing his advanced training at Stewart Field. His father had been ill and died of a heart attack while Ross was on leave in Kentland. Ross received an extension of two additional weeks to be with his family. The death of his father may have saved Ross's life because he flew fewer missions than he might have flown otherwise. A close friend, Curtis Eatman, flew 44 missions while Ross flew only 25. The casualty rate on bombing missions was as high as 15% during the early years, but Ross's squadron lost only one plane.

B-24 Training

Ross returned to Maxwell Field in Montgomery, AL, to begin flying the B-24. The training on this major piece of equipment took eight weeks. They were the work-horse of the U.S. Army Air Corps. While training at Maxwell Field, the original class of pilots Ross started with (Class 44C) shipped out to Europe to begin combat duty. Since Ross had a two month delay due to the death of his father, he was assigned to a later class and

shipped out two months later in spring, 1944.

Upon completion of flight training on the B-24s, pilots were transferred to Lincoln, NB, where they picked up their crews. Crew members came from different parts of the country. There were a total of ten crew members of which four were commissioned officers: pilot, co-pilot, navigator and bombardier. The remainder of the crew consisted of gunners: tail gunner, ball gunner, two waist gunners, top gunner and nose gunner. The engineer and radio operator were also gunners. His crew now reported to Pueblo, CO, to begin training as a group.

Off to Europe

Ross and crew were sent to the East Coast to make the trip to Italy. They had been assigned to the 15th Air Force which was stationed in Bari, Italy. They sailed to Naples on a ship, then south on a British boat to Taranto, Italy. Finally, they headed north to Bari via the Italian railway.

Missions were flown every day the weather was clear. Take off took place at dawn. The lead plane took off first and circled until all the planes in their squadron were in the air. Planes flew in formation to the target area mainly for protection. Seven planes in the squadron made up a formation which was a tight grouping of planes with wingtips roughly fifty feet apart. Ross was a very good pilot, but found that flying this close to the other planes was a bit unnerving.

After forming up all the planes, they departed on their mission. The crew of the lead plane had to be top-notch. The navigator and



The official military photo of Robert Ross McKee in his Air Force Uniform.

bombardier had to be especially good because they guided the flight group to the target area and determined the timing for dropping the bombs. Other planes simply hit the toggle switch to drop bombs after the lead plane dropped their bombs. When the planes approached the target area (about 10 minutes prior), the bombardier set the Norden Bomb-sight so the plane flew on auto-pilot for a brief time. The purpose of this instrument was to guide the plane directly over the target area. Once the bombs were dropped, the pilot took over again and “got the hell out of there” because there was often enemy flak over the target area. The planes stayed in formation to turn and head back to Italy. Upon returning to camp, each crew member received a shot of whiskey to calm his nerves. If someone didn't drink, remaining crew members were more than happy to take the shot off his hands.

Ross flew a total of 25 missions (50 to complete a tour of duty) to Vienna and Linz, Austria and to Blechhammer, Czechoslovakia. With a bomb load of 10 bombs, 500 pounds each, his crew dropped a total of 250 bombs on Axis soil.

The B-24 heavy bombers were escorted by the “Red Tails,” the Tuskegee Airmen flying P-51 Mustangs. The Airmen were African American pilots who began serving in April, 1943. More were added in Spring, 1944. These “Red Tails”, so named because the tails

on their planes were painted red, escorted strategic heavy bombing raids into Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Germany. They were stationed in Ramitelli, Italy.

After the War

After Germany surrendered in May, 1945, flight crews left for the United States so they could be transferred to Japan which had not yet surrendered. Ross didn't want to go to Japan, so he transferred to headquarters for the 15th Air Force. He described himself as a “hot pilot” because he was careful and by that time had more than 800 flying hours in various airplanes. During the remainder of his time in Europe, Ross flew shuttles for the Air Force, serving 30 days, flying every day.

After the surrender of Japan, August, 1945, Ross went to the Air Corps officer in charge and asked to go home. He flew home on a converted B-24 over the Atlantic with 10-12 other men.

Back Home Again in Indiana

Upon return to the United States and after a two week vacation in Kentland, Ross went to Kelly Field in San Antonio, TX, to be mustered out of the military. He wanted to complete his senior year at Purdue, but returned in October and school had already been in session for three weeks. He went to the dean at Purdue, who was able to manufacture enough credits from wartime experiences to allow Ross to complete his education at Purdue that semester. He was then able to return to Kentland for spring planting. With just weeks left before graduation, Ross met Phyllis Ray at a church function. They began dating, but after Ross graduated he left for

Kentland.

Ross lived with his widowed mother, Robina, from January, 1946 until December, 1946. He took over the family farm (third generation) and planted his first crop during the spring, 1946. Ross needed help with the farm so Ray Prather, who had worked for his father, called his brother Hugh. Hugh was working for someone else at the time, but on March 1, 1946, he dedicated his entire life to the McKee farms. His family continued to reside in the Kentland area and remained close friends with the McKees.

While at home, Ross dated Phyllis and, being a typical man, occasionally took a drink. He hid a quart of whiskey in the garage which Robina found and chastised him royally, as she was a non-drinker. Ross was of legal drinking age, had just spent two years as a pilot, fought the Nazis and managed an entire flight crew only to be reprimanded by his mother! But Ross was his own man and went on to marry Phyllis in December, 1946. Robina moved to her own home in Kentland and Ross and Phyllis took over the family farm. He went on to become the father of three children and a very successful farmer in Newton County. He remembered the joy of visiting new places in the world and became a world traveler.

Ross had a stroke at the age of 84 and became paralyzed on his right side. But his mind and speech were unaffected and he was very determined to take care of himself. He continued to manage his own financial affairs and took an active interest in farming activities into his 90s.



Top photo: The B-24 bomber; bottom photo, the airfield in Bari, Italy. B-24s gather to the right of the airstrip.

Salt: Ronnie Robinson

Written by Jeff Manes

“...I’ve seen fire and I’ve seen rain,
I’ve seen sunny days that I
thought would never end,
I’ve seen lonely times when I
could not find a friend,
But I always thought that I’d
see you again.”
– James Taylor

I’m heading south along U.S. 41. Crossing the Kankakee River, I enter Newton County. At Indiana 10, I drive west for a half-mile. I’m greeted by acid-loving oaks and the pods of last season’s wild yucca plants. Lake Village. Getting out of my old F150, I plant my feet upon sandy loam.

It’s been a while since I’ve chatted with my old friend, Ron Robinson. Always more talkative, I begin the conversation.

Finally getting some rest, huh, Ronnie? Well, good for you; after all, you worked all your life.

While just a young boy, you were shelling pink-eye purple hull crowders for your mother, plus slopping hogs and baling hay.

Remember the summer before seventh grade, when they removed that tumor from your lung? Silly question. Of course, you do. Heck, they removed 90 percent of your lung. You didn’t let it stop you though – back to that hay-loft, shooting baskets. You worked at it. Hey, it paid off – a three-year starter for North Newton High School before graduating 1974, a year ahead of me. I can still picture you knockin’ down 25-footers from the corner before the advent of the 3-point shot.

Yeah, the glory days came and went. Fresh out of high school, you found employment at Youngstown as it was known back then. But they kept laying you

off, so you tried your luck across the canal, taking a job at Inland Steel in East Chicago.

You always had to stay busy. You lived to work. Management handed you a set of flame-retardant greens and sent you to the armpit of the mill – the coke plant. Eventually, they gave you a respirator.

I remember how you shunned those wooden clogs they tried to get us to strap to our metatarsals so our feet wouldn’t burn up. I didn’t like them, either; they were too clumsy and unsafe.

I remember one afternoon when a sales rep hung a thermometer from one of the standpipes while we were working – 208 degrees. Our long underwear stayed drenched in those days, didn’t it, kiddo? But you stayed out there longer than most, because you steeled and tempered early.

You knew work, Ronnie.

How about when we used to clad those huge gas mains on the battery top? Our eyebrows and eyelashes were burned almost completely off a few times when she spiked. Nothin’ smells like singed hair ...

Hey, there were guys hurt worse than us – much worse. You always respected the dangers and watched out for me like a hawk.

Remember when you wired that bathroom

fan for me? I can still see you wriggling that lanky frame of yours inside my cramped attic, fighting insulation, spider webs and mouse pellets the entire way.

While you were working, I told you about the time your Grandpa Harvey mounted a security light for my widowed grandmother. Old Harvey had never mentioned it to you; he just did the work for free. Bought the light, too.

Yep, my Grandpa Vito (Local 597) and your Grandpa Harvey (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) worked on the same job sites many times down through the years, right, Ron?

I learned a lot about you, car pooling all those years to and from the mill. Without a doubt, two people who left a lasting impression on you were your Grandpa Harvey and your mother. Although they had passed away, you reminisced about them while you drove. I know, your ma left this world too young; it happens sometimes.

You were always a moonlighter, hauling our native black sandy loam north so the city folk wouldn’t have to plant their petunias in clay. Heck, you held positions for the town of Schneider like head of the Water Department and Street Department. You were a jack-of-all-trades for Ashland Products. You knew work.

In May of ‘92, we ran into the fire; 300 coke-plant employees evacuated to the Big Lake, six or eight of us stayed back. Didn’t do much good; two good men had already perished. Then Fred took his life a week later – 10 feet from where his buddies died.

Being a union rep, I had to go through his belongings with his loved ones. Did



Ron in his basketball uniform in his Senior year, 1974; right, going after the rebound at a home basketball game at North Newton High School. Photographs appeared in 1974 in “The Olympian”, the North Newton yearbook.

I ever tell you that?

Ronnie, I came home that evening, after being in that hell for four hours, just knowing every second we were going to get burned alive or blown up, and I looked at my little twins and told myself: "You didn't hire in that place to be a fireman. No, sir, if something like that happens again, get out."

March 16, 2001. Sixth floor of No. 4 BOE. Moon dust. Graphite City. Live, 10-inch oxygen line. Wessie, Tom, Ponziano, and I, we ran one way. You and Norm ran another.

That steel mill is Hades hot, Ron; you know that, but the powers that be can be truly cold. They'll use you and abuse you.

Ronald Lee Robinson, keep watching out for me.

As I pull out of Lake Village Cemetery, I think of the reassuring words the pastor spoke at Sheets Funeral Home, as family and steelworkers mourned. They were simple words, really.

Jesus wept.

First published Feb. 2, 2005 Lowell Tribune; March 16, 2008 Post Tribune, on the 7th anniversary of his death.

**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**



The value of any tractor depends entirely upon the amount and variety of work it does and how long it will continue to do this work.

Too much care cannot be used in choosing a tractor. All tractors are practical for certain farm operations, but in order to replace horses with a tractor it is necessary that it be a standard unit for the large or small farm, just as a team is the standard unit for the farmer who uses horses. To the farmer operating a large farm more units can be used economically.

The Indiana All-Round Tractor is the nearest perfect power unit for farm purposes. It delivers the maximum of tractor efficiency with the minimum of tractor weight. It couples to all horse drawn top-working,

planting, seeding, cultivating and harvesting implements already in use on the farm. It also does light belt work, and will perfectly plow as much as it is possible for one man to successfully plant and cultivate.

One man can operate The Indiana All-Round Tractor in connection with farm implements. This saves the wages of one man for the reason that it is possible to operate both tractor and implement from the implement seat.

All hitches are simply and cheaply made by the local blacksmith or farmer owning a forge, and a few dollars will suffice to cover the cost of all the hitches for all the implements on the farm.

**For Sale by
Sampson & Ponsler, Mt. Ayr, Ind**

**There will be a demonstration held with the Indiana Tractor and plow
1/2 mile east of Mt. Ayr on the Rensselaer Road, September 1st.**

(This ad was reprinted from the Newton County Enterprise, August, 26, 1920.)

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1889 Census of Morocco

Source: Morocco Courier, September 14, 1939
Town of Morocco is Fifty Years Old
This Year: Story of Incorporation

"The late Fred Richmire in July, 1922, compiled an account of the town's incorporation which we reprint from the Courier of July 21, 1922.

"In 1889 the little settlement with a population of 383 took legal steps to become an incorporated town.

"And of the male residents who voted at first town election only four are alive today, (1922). Two of them - Dr. L. H. Recher and Frank Cox - are still voters in the corporation; Ben Graves is a voter in Beaver township, and Charles Shafer at Mentone.

"On May 11, 1889, a petition was filed for the incorporation of Morocco. The census at that time showed a population of 383, with 114 voters.

"At the election held on June 25th of that same year (1889), only 86 votes were cast - 68 for and 17 against with one mutilated ballot. The inspectors of election were John Broadrick, Daniel M. Graves and Oliver F. Stoner.

"The first town election was held on September 24, 1889 when the following officers were elected: Trustees, O. T. Stoner, E. P. Tweedy, Joseph Kennedy; Clerk, J. M. Lockwood; Treasurer, L. H. Recher; Marshal, H. B. Guinn. Their first meeting was held on October 3, 1889.

"The first incorporation embraced practically seven 40s, three on the east and four on the west side of Polk street.

"Morocco was originally surveyed and platted in 1852, 37 years before it was made an incorporation, making Morocco 70 years old this year.

"The first town site was contained in four blocks bounded on the north by Beaver street, on the south by State street, on the east by Clay street and on the west by Walker street.

"Morocco's last census (1920), gave her a population of 1064. The following officials are now in charge: Trustees, C. M. Hanger, Elbert L. Kessler, O. M. Tuggle; Clerk and Treasurer, A. B. Jenkins, Marshal, Amos Bachelder.

Listed here is the census taken in 1889 as it appeared in the paper.

First column name of household; second column represents the number in household; third column, number of voters in the household.

Camblin, Mrs. Mary	3	0
Camblin, Clarence	1	1
Armstrong, Wm. A.	2	1
Chizum, A. E.	2	1
Pogue, Andrew	3	1
Ready, Manson	5	1
Bartholemew, Eliza	3	0
Pulver, E. L.	4	1
Pattison, William D.	4	1
Ackers, Mrs. Fanny	3	0
Conn, Lemuel	2	1
Best, Sarah E.	3	0
Hope, Jr. V. P.	6	1
Hope, W. K.	2	1
Hicks, E. F.	3	1
Purdy, Isaac	5	1
Davis, Henery	1	1
Howenstine, Daniel	6	1
Vannatta, Claude	2	1
Vannetta, Andrew	2	1
Brodrick, John	6	1
Cutler, L. L.	4	1
Handley, William	6	1
Bender, Chas.	1	1
Murphey, George H.	3	1
Murphey, Ira	1	1
Graves, James W.	7	1
Recher, L. H.	1	1
Recher, James	1	1
Doran, Edward	1	1
Graves, George	2	1
Clark, Scott	5	1
Cox, Frank	1	1
Brady, Daniel	3	1
Stoner, Oliver F.	4	1
Allen, Fred	4	1
Starkey, John	2	1
Russell, James	3	1
Kight, Joseph	3	1
Bemenderfer, I. W.	7	1
Bridgeman, Alonzo	3	1
Middlesworth, Charles	1	1
Doty, Andrew	3	1
Purkey, A. E.	4	1

Tweedy, Ezra P.	3	1
Tweedy, Robert P.	1	1
Kessler, Elbert	6	1
Murphy, Andrew	1	1
Graves, D. M.	7	1
Starkey, Thomas	4	1
Starkey, Samuel	1	1
Purdy, Frank	5	1
Lowe, George E.	6	1
Chernore, Fred	4	1
Murphey, William	3	1
Hanger, C. M.	1	1
Graves, Benjamin	1	1
Carson, George	4	1
Miller, George W.	5	1
Triplett, Sr. C. E.	6	1
Beabout, David	1	1
Hayes, Louis C.	2	1
Robertson, James	6	1
Pulver, David M.	4	1
Robinson, Samuel	1	1
Donn, John W.	7	1
Lockwood, Jesse M.	1	1
Columbie, Frank	1	1
Perry, Harry O.	1	1
Lowe, George L.	3	2
Smitherman, Wm.	2	2
Blair, F. J.	2	1
Royster, S. A.	3	1
Bennett, Mrs. E. J.	1	0
Murphey, Mrs. Nancy	1	0
Stoner, Mrs. Nancy	2	0
Ensler, Mrs. Julia	2	0
Tucker, Seth	1	1
Edison, A. B.	1	1
Purkey, C. L.	2	1
Roberts, William H.	3	1
Price, Samuel	6	1
Bridgeman, Levi	3	1
Darroch, John	2	1
Cole, John	7	1
Shafer, Nathan	5	1
Orren, Asa	4	1
Cross, Siras	3	1

Graham, Ed H.	1	1
Greenburg, Robert	1	1
Hope, Sr., V. P.	2	1
Boicount, J.	6	1
Webb, J. W.	1	1

Guinn, Hayes	4	1
Shafer, Miranda	2	1
Shafer, Charles	1	1
Deardurff, Catherine	1	0
Nichols, William	2	1

Ewan, Ella	1	0
Kennedy, Mary A.	8	1
Mulhill, Timothy	1	1
Mulhill, John	1	1
Wolff, Peter	3	1

Historian's Corner

Submitted by Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian

The following are reminiscences of Virgil "Cy" Elijah, who was raised on the Handley farm in Jackson Township, Newton County. His son Terry was the original writer of these memories, as the stories were told to him by "Cy", both now deceased. "Cy" was the son of Isabelle, "Belle" (Handley) and Frank Elijah, whom I featured in my column in the Spring, 2012 *Newcomer*. The Wm. R. Handley farm is where I live today, plus 160 acres; all original land grant property, 1850.

The Handley Sawmill

"A steam engine and sawmill were brought (after 1850). It had a vertical boiler. It came on the railroad to Logansport. It came before winter and it sat until hard ice. Then the Handleys skidded the mill and steam engine (stationary) to Newton County to a site north of State Road 14 and State Road 55 in present day. The mill was moved

many times. It took all winter to get it home. The route from Logansport was the trail most used.

First Sawed Wood House

"First sawed wood house in Jackson Township was built by two Civil War soldiers for a wagon and team fee for Ransom Elijah. The wood was said to come from Handley's mill. This was the home where Walter and Edna (Elijah) Sullivan, a granddaughter of Ransom, lived in Jackson Township on State Road 55."

The Wood Lot

"When Wm. R. Handley settled on his 320 acres, it did not have enough timber for firewood to suit him, so he bought a timbered 40 or 80 acres woods. It was two miles north and one mile west where the Herron family settled."



Route Brothers Took To Iowa

Route Not Taken

Route Used to Bring Sawmill to Newton County; this was also the most traveled trail at that time.

Map of Jasper County, 1864. Reprinted from the 1985 History of Jasper County. Submitted by Diana Elijah.

Looking for your Newton County Ancestors?

- Check out our web site: 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

Pages of the Past

Extracted from the Summer, 1912 Newton County Enterprise by Janet Miller

Kentland

President Taft Sends Handkerchief. The ladies of St. Joseph church will hold a handkerchief and apron bazaar this afternoon in the vacant room, corner of third and Seymour streets, commencing at 2 o'clock. Among the handkerchiefs on sale will be on from President Taft and one from Col. Roosevelt. Handkerchiefs for this sale have been received from nearly every state in the union and from Ireland. Ice cream, cake, coffee and sandwiches will be served commencing at 5 o'clock.

The Titanic disaster last week brought considerable concern to Rev. F. L. Hovis as to the safety of his brother, Rev. Wm. F. Hovis, pastor of the St. Paul M. E. church of South Bend, who was returning from a wedding trip to the Holy Land. It was known that Rev. Hovis intended on sailing on the day the Titanic started on her ill-fated voyage, and that he was coming on the White Star line. Fears were allayed Friday morning, however, when the Celtic arrived in New York with Rev. and Mrs. Hovis as passengers.

A drinking fountain for horses is being installed at the southwest corner of Court Park, and the dilapidated band stand is on its way to a place of obscurity.

Starts Ade Boom: As Solution In Indiana. Crumpacker Lauds Humorist as Available G. O. P. Candidate for Governor. Congressman Crumpacker has launched a boom for George Ade for governor of Indiana, according to a press dispatch sent from Washington, and predicts that he would sweep the state and be one of the most popular candidates ever nominated for office in Indiana. The suggestion, coming from the only Indiana Republican in Congress, is certain to start an Ade governorship boom, and to cause a stir among Hoosier politicians who are hunting for a winning leader. Mr. Ade is a constituent of representative Crumpacker, and for this reason Mr. Crumpacker feels entirely free to offer such a solution of the problem of party leadership. Between Judge Crumpacker and John Ade, father of George Ade, there is a long standing friendship. Asked what his chances for election would be Judy Crumpacker replied, enthusiastically: "He would sweep the state. He is known everywhere, and he would be one of

the most popular candidates ever nominated for office in Indiana."

Roselawn

Isaac N. Best was down from Roselawn on business Tuesday. Said the reason the north end elected Roosevelt delegates was because there were no Taft men to take the place.

D. K. Fry, the merchant of Roselawn, was taken to a Chicago hospital last Friday and is not expected to live.

An infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bees was buried Monday.

Brook

Mrs. Sarah J. Miller has been appointed matron of the soldiers' widows' home at Lafayette and began her new duties the first of the month. From reports of friends there she was constantly proving herself a friend in need and it is gratifying to learn that she has been advanced to this responsible position.

The Brook Terra Cotta, Tile & Brick Co. is furnishing the fire proofing for the Medinah Temple, a large Masonic building in Chicago, and also for the Emmett school building there.

Mt. Ayr

Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Perrigo bade Mt. Ayr good-bye Monday evening and started via auto for their farm across the state line. When just west of Lewis Shriver's they ran into a mud hole, the auto stuck, and Mr. Perrigo sprained his ankle. So they had to leave the car there overnight and return to town. Although he could hardly walk, Mr. Perrigo was up early the next morning and made another start.

Alex Elijah has a new Ford auto and guarantees it will go right through a barbed wire fence. To prove it he gave a demonstration to a few of his neighbors the first time he took it out.

Morocco

Another of Morocco's old and esteemed citizens answered the call last Thursday. Cyrus Brunton was born in Montgomery county in 1841, and when a lad moved with his parents to Newton County and settled on a farm east of Morocco. He was a member of the 99th Indiana Infantry, entering the army before he was of age and serving until the close of the war.

Tornado Sweeps Center of County: 9

People Killed and Many Injured. Seven victims at Home of Charles Rice and Two at the Home of Charles Smart. Farm Buildings Demolished Like Paper. Jack Bowers, Wife and four children Saved Under Wreckage When House Collapsed and None were Seriously Injured. Frank Potts and Mike Gorman Homes Wrecked. Barns and Cribs in Path of Storm were Twisted into Kindling Wood, and Orchards were Uprooted. Many Horses and Cattle Killed. Property Damage High. Young People Going to Home of John Conn Thrown from Buggies and Clothes torn off. The Dead. Mrs. Charles Rice, and two small children about 3 and 5 years old. Mrs. Edgar Rich, a daughter-in-law, and two children about 18 months and 3 years old. Hired Man, working for Mr. Rice, name and age unknown. Cassie Smart, 15 years of age, and baby sister whom she was carrying to basement. (Note: These were the headlines from the paper On April 25, 1912.)

Washington Township

George R. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Miller of Washington township, started for the west Monday morning. He will go direct to Portland, Oregon, where he will visit for a few weeks with an aunt, Mrs. James Miller, and other relatives. Coming back by Wyoming he will spend some time at the Rider cattle ranch with the Rider boys, sons of W. A. Rider, formerly of this place, and will also stop at Kansas City and visit Mr. and Mrs. George D. Rider. Saturday evening about sixty of his young friends called at the Miller home and gave him a farewell surprise. Refreshments were served and the evening was pleasantly spent with music and social entertainment.

Goodland

Among the winners at the egg show held at Purdue last week we notice the names of A. J. Bullis and Henry Barton of Goodland, and a number from other nearby towns. Among the winnings by Mr. Bullis in fancy eggs was first in variety, second in breed and second in class; on commercial brown extras, first on brown, sweepstakes on browns and grand sweepstakes, best overall in commercial entries.

L. Champley a member of the Goodland baseball team, fell at second base in a game at Watseka Sunday and broke his leg.

Still A Brook End of Summer Tradition

The Annual Brook Fish Fry



From the collection of William Cunningham, taken while a member of the Brook Camera Club. This is the Brook Fish Fry, held in downtown Brook in 1944; to the right is the clean up crew after the big event. The fish fry still remains a big attraction and fund raiser for the community of Brook.

1939 Lake Village Regional Amateur Baseball Champs



Left, standing left to right, Elmer Lucietta, short stop; Lewis Early, right fielder; Gaylord Rainford, fielder; John Linduska, first base and pitcher; Marcus Graham, pitcher; Lloyd Rainford, fielder; Glenn Arbuckle, second baseman; G. J. Maurek, manager. Middle row: John Shepherd, pitcher; Walter Early, ground committee; Raymond Rainford, fielder; Emerson Bell, center fielder; Claude Husha, umpire; Walter Murfitt, umpire. Front row, Leo Lucietta, fielder, Forrest Martin, catcher; Ray Hixson, catcher; Marion Early, left fielder. Player not in picture, Carl Erickson, third base.

I found this photograph gracing the front page of the September 14, 1939 Morocco Courier recently, while searching for an obituary for an internet query. There is a story to be told here, but for now, enjoy this photograph and the three inches of space dedicated to the story of this championship team.

“Lake Village Is Victor! Lake Village, regional champ, won its sixteenth victory of the season Sunday when it defeated the South Chicago Janitors baseball team, 3-1.

“Neither team scored in the first eight innings and both were playing good ball. The South Chicago team pushed over the first run of the game in the first half of the ninth and the Lake Village team retaliated in their half of the ninth.

“Sunday at Lake Village the Shelby team will play its ancient rival in a game that promises to be a battle from start to finish.

“The Shelby Boosters, Lake Village’s ancient rival, will play the Village team at Lake Village Sunday afternoon.”

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Eagles of Northern Newton County

This spring the film crew of the documentary “Everglades of the North: The Grand Kankakee Marsh”, filmed a female North American Bald Eagle guarding her nest, while the male circled above. It was thought that the pair had two fledglings in their nest. We watched in awe as she “cackled and clicked” at us in warning to stay away, so we did not dally, not wanting to disturb what mother nature had put in place. On this extremely windy day, I was able to capture the moment in time with my camera, photos which are included with this story.

In midsummer, friends of the documentary gathered together to re-visit the marsh, and share memories of the filming. Once again we were stunned by the magnificent beauty and bounty that the area unselfishly provides. Our first stop was at the eagle’s nest; we were delighted to be greeted by one of the adults, gliding effortlessly above, seemingly welcoming us back into the marsh.

Several people have told me they have had sightings of eagles all over Newton County, I spotted one near the Iroquois River at George Ade a year or so ago; at same time there was a pair nesting at the Willow Slough Game Preserve.

Here are a few facts regarding the North American Bald Eagles found in our area. Generally speaking, females are longer, have a broader wingspan and weigh more than males, making them larger than males.

Life expectancy ranges from 12 to 20 years. They raise only one brood per year, and they may lay one to three eggs per nest, but the majority of them lay two eggs, usually laid one to six days apart. Incubation begins with the first egg and takes about 35 days, so eggs normally hatch several days apart. Over a bald eagle’s life expectancy, one female may lay as few as 24 or as many as 40 eggs in her lifetime.

Most bald eagle nests measure four to six feet wide and two to four feet tall. A few have been documented to weigh up to two tons. As with many other birds, once a pair of bald eagles breeds successfully, they are more likely to remain paired and breed in successive years. When a mate is lost, the remaining mate may stay with the nest and try to attract another mate, or may wander and attach to a different nest with a different mate.

Abandoned nests may be claimed by other eagle pairs that will essentially build their own nest atop the old one, which often accounts for the depth of the nest. Thus a single nest may be constantly renovated and used for decades.

Opportunistic feeders, bald eagles take whatever food is locally available. They are known to wait for other hunters to catch fish, cottontails, and ground squirrels, and chase the hunters to take their prey. But when thievery is not productive, bald eagles will eat carrion of many types. They have a special appreciation for fish, but easily switch to ducks and geese when ice makes fishing impossible.

Eaglets eat all the same foods that adults eat but in tinier portions. Parent eagles will pull bits of flesh from a prey carcass and feed them to their offspring. The bigger the baby eagle, the bigger the bites. As eaglets approach adult size, the parents may simply leave a cottontail or a mallard on the nest and let the youngsters do their own shredding and picking.

Several factors can slow down or speed up growth and development. Typically bald eagle nestlings need 10 to 12 weeks to grow and to exercise their wings before they can leave the nest and survive. *Story and by Beth Bassett. Fact resource: Bird Watcher’s Digest, Vol. 34, No. 5. July/August, 2012.*



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