

# The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

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## Tent Chautauqua Comes To Newton County

by Damon Howell

The first Tent Chautauqua in Newton County was held in Morocco in 1913. Other county towns soon followed. Goodland also held a Tent Chautauqua in 1913, in addition to 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917. Kentland held a Tent Chautauqua in 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919, and Brook held a one day Chautauqua in 1916. In addition to its 1913 Chautauqua, Morocco also held a Tent Chautauqua in 1914 and 1915.

It was The Redpath Chautauqua from Chicago that came to Brook. The Central Community Chautauqua from Indianapolis came to Kentland. The National Lincoln Chautauqua and The Redpath Chautauqua, both from Chicago, came to Goodland. The National Lincoln Chautauqua from Chicago came to Morocco in 1913 and 1915, while in 1914 it was The Jones Chautauqua from Perry, Iowa.

*The Brook Reporter, The Goodland Herald, The Morocco Courier and The Newton County Enterprise* advertised the upcoming Chautauqua events several weeks in advance. Articles about each day's performances appeared a few weeks prior to the Chautauqua, along with a full schedule and where to buy tickets. Pictures of the performers and a brief description of their talent were given in each of the newspapers. The following are excerpts from articles about the events.

### 1913 - Goodland - Goodland Herald

August 3, 1913

**Chautauqua Entertainment: Scheduled To Appear Here Under Canvas September 6th To 11th Inclusive/Five Hundred Season Tickets Must Be Sold \$1.50 Each To Play Event**

"A meeting was held at the *Herald* office Monday evening and officers were elected to take charge of The National Lincoln Chautauqua which will be held here Sept. 6-11th. The officers were as follows: Hugh Murray, president; John L. Cooke, vice president; Rev. Geo. E. Deuel, secretary; Henry Brook, treasurer; and W.C. Logan, press agent.

"The coming of this Chautauqua to Goodland offers our people an opportunity to enjoy the best talent in the land. And the price, \$1.50 for twelve high-class entertainments, makes it some inducement.

"Following are those whose names are on the contract and who stand responsible to the Chautauqua; H. Murray, W.C. Logan, Chas. E. Burgess, W.W. Washburn, W.E. Mitten, John L. Cooke, C.C. Bassett, John G. Kinneman, E.E. Marsh, A.T. McCurry, W.H. Gilman, S.A. Griffith, C.A. Doland, Geo. E. Deuel, C.M. Bogan, Vern Railsback, W.H. Dowell, A.C. Tedford and A.C. Arrick."

August 30, 1913

**Chautauqua Opens Sept. 8;**

**Large Tent To Be Erected On Hudson Lot**

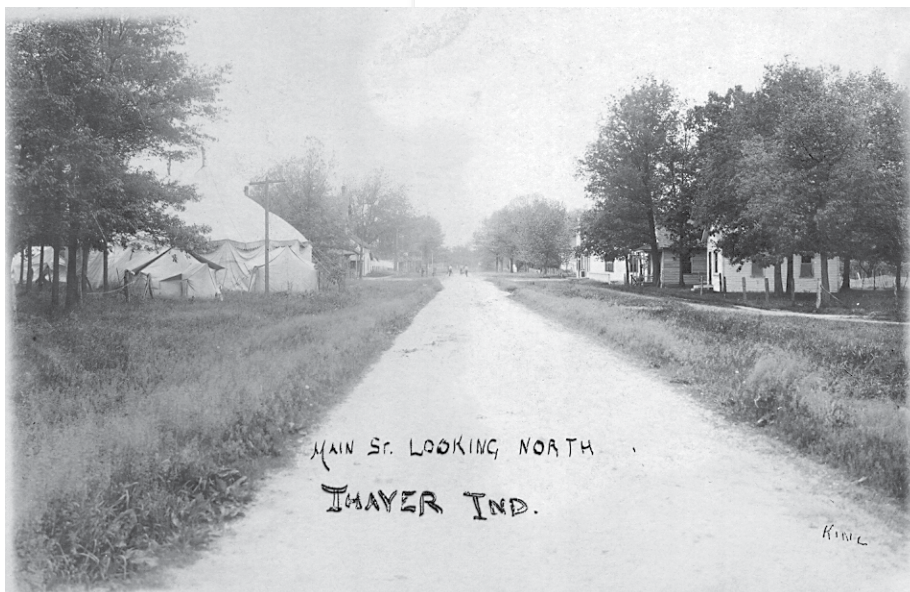
"Goodland guarantors have contracted to sell 500 season adult tickets at \$1.50 each and unless they do they will have to make up the deficiency, so the least you should do is to buy tickets when called upon."

August 16, 1913

**Chautauqua Drawing Near; Committee  
On Ticket Selling Working Hard**

"Those who will look after the interests of The National Lincoln Chautauqua to be held here Sept. 6 to 11th are composed of the following: Hugh Murray, president; John L. Cooke, vice-pres.; Geo. E. Deuel, sec'y; Henry Brook,

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MAIN ST. LOOKING NORTH  
THAYER IND.

Main Street, looking north in Thayer may have been taken during a Chautauqua event held there. Mr. Howell searched extensively to find news regarding the event, but could not validate his assumption. Readers are urged to forward any information they have regarding a Chautauqua held in Thayer or Lincoln Township.

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treas.; W.C. Logan, press agent, and the following committees:

**Ticket Committee:** Henry Brook, Dr. J.G. Kinneman, Dr. C.C. Bassett, W.E. Mitten, W.H. Gilman and John L. Cooke; **Advertising Committee:** W.C. Logan, C.A. Doland, E.E. Marsh, A. C. Arrick and A.C. Tedford; **Ground Committee:** Dr. O.H. Mohny, C.M. Bogan, W.H. Dowell and John Hudson; **Music Committee:** A.T. McCurry and C.M. Bogan; **Entertainment Committee:** Dr. C.C. Bassett and Geo. E. Deuel.

Chautauqua tickets are on sale at John L. Cooke's drug store, Chas. N. Humston's drug store, State Trust & Savings Bank and First National Bank. Adult tickets, \$1.50 for season; Youth's tickets, \$1.00 for season."

### 1913, Sept. 4-9, Morocco, Morocco Courier August 15, 1913

"The long looked for Chautauqua tickets arrived Friday and were at once delivered to the several parties who subscribed for them in blocks of from ten to fifty.

"You should buy season tickets now while you can secure them for \$1.50. As soon as the program begins they will sell for \$1.75, and should you depend on paying for each number separately the course will cost you \$3.65. There will be twelve different numbers and at the \$1.50 rate will cost but 12 ½ cents each.

"A representative of the Chautauqua company was here this week putting up advertising. The tent in which the Chautauqua will be held is 120 x 160 feet and will probably be located on the Mason's Lot. The center or square of the park is not large enough to place the tent there which would be the proper place for it.

"Those from whom you may buy tickets are: Any member of the Woman's Club, I.W. Murphey, McClain & Carpenter, A.E. Purkey & Son, Elmer Parrish, Roy Petitgean, A.D. Donaldson, C.L. Cartwright, C.E. Hosier, Kennedy & Murphy, A.A. Smart, Plummer & Irvin, Chas. Gorman, Alex Cassell, J.R. Hafstrom, A.G. Purdy, Rust & Russell or the *Courier* office."

### August 22, 1913

### Chautauqua Drawing Near/Great Array of Talent Crowded into Six Day Program/Season Tickets Cheap

"To support these ticket guarantors who are our business men and who did this with no thought of a cent's profit but for the benefit of the community, all who can should secure season tickets at once. If you pay your way into each number separately it will cost you \$3.65 but by buying a season ticket you get all the programs for only \$1.50. Very cheap indeed, only 12 ½ cents per number. All of

the young men should be in on this for two tickets."

### Morocco Best Show Town

"A showman who was here this week and who has made this town for many years says that for years this has been the best town on his entire year's circuit, Winamac coming second. Why should it not be equally as good as a Chautauqua town?"

### Talent to Interest All

"It is not just a series of dry lectures. 2,000 programs are here for distribution. You either have one or can get one by calling at the *Courier* office. They are being distributed and sent through the mails. Study the program and you will see how varied is the talent, that there is something that will interest young and old of all kinds and classes. It will be a great treat. Other towns are well pleased."

### Committees Appointed

"The following are the offices and committees selected: J.R. Purkey, President, H.H. McClain, Vice-President, I.W. Murphey, Treasurer, I.P. Bulta, Secretary; **Entertainment:** A.J. Law, A.I. Carpenter, J.D. Kessler, Elmer Rust, G.H. Murphey; **Press Agent:** I.P. Bulta; **Music:** George McConnell, A.A. Smart, A.L. Clark, Mrs. Wm Kessler, Mrs. I.P. Bulta; **Advertising:** A.D. Donaldson, J.R. Hafstrom, H.H. McClain; **Concessions:** I.W. Murphey, C.R. Williamson, Elmer Parrish, H.C. Rogers; **Arrangements:** I.H. Recher, Alex Cassell, C.E. Hosier, Roy Petitgean."

### August 29, 1913

### Chautauqua Begins Sept. 4/Big Tent on Mason's Lot-Talent is Highly Praised

"Remember our Chautauqua, the first ever held in the county, begins Thursday of next week at 3:00 p.m. in a big tent to be lo-

cated on the Mason's lot.

"It was a big and unusual undertaking for Morocco to contract for the sale of sufficient tickets to make the enterprise possible. If business men had such pride in Morocco to agree to sell from ten to fifty tickets each, is there a man who should not buy at least two or enough for the family.

"Because one of guarantors got scared, thinking he could not sell all he contracted for and sold them \$1.00 instead of \$1.50, some have thought that these guarantors were making 50 cents on all they sold. Such is not true. They do not make a cent if they sell 100 tickets. They must put up \$1.50 for each ticket even if they give them away.

"About 350 tickets are now sold. We should sell 500. Under our new contract entered into because the company failed to comply with the original contract we must sell at least 400 tickets.

"All ticket guarantors are asked to meet at the *Courier* office Monday at 4:00 p.m. and make settlement with I.W. Murphey, treasurer.

"All who can are asked to buy and pay for their tickets before Monday afternoon. After the meeting begin tickets will see at \$1.75. Children's tickets, age 8 to 15 are \$1.00. Under 8 free if accompanied by parents or guardian.

"Morocco is doing this to provide the highest class of lectures, musical and entertainments for the people both near and far. It is a big thing for a town to do this. It requires the expenditure of much time by busy men, much newspaper publicity, much thought and

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This postcard reflects a typical Chautauqua scene. This was a promotional piece used by the Community Chautauqua organization.



# President's Thoughts

By Bernie Murphy

This summer has been very productive for our society! First the annual picnic and meeting, again hosted by of Member-at-Large Sig Bozeman, at his beautiful Lincoln Township farm, saw the election of three officers of the society. The current President, Bernie Murphy, Secretary Becky Lyons and County Historian Diane Elijah offered to serve again and were elected by the members present. The nominations committee was unable to find anyone in the membership interested in serving as President and so I offered to serve one more year. I believe the Society needs "new blood" to lead us and, hopefully, someone will step forward in the next year! Guest speaker for the picnic was Ms. Lee Botts, along with Patty Wisniewski, updated us on the documentary "Shifting Sands," and progress being made in the restoration of the Indiana Dunes area. Kenneth Schoon also informed us about the ancient shorelines and settlements along the south end of Lake Michigan and the Dunes area. A delicious pitch-in buffet with meat smoked by Daren Padgett was served to members. The tables were beautifully decorated with summer flowers, (shown in photo above), from Sig's grounds, then given away as door prizes at the end of the day.



We also had a very good presence at the Punkin' Vine Fair – we had plenty of volunteers this year to man the booth all days. Thank you volunteers!

The two-volume set, "The Yost Collection," are now available. You can still get your copies at the Resource Center. While being most entertaining, these 950+ pages are also a good history of Newton County.

The State of Indiana will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2016. The Newton County Historical Society will enter the celebration next year with an open house at Hazelden, the home of Newton County's illustrious George Ade. We will have volunteers available for questions, with a visit with George Ade, aka Mike Davis, and possibly another famous character of the times. This event has received official recognition as part of the Bicentennial Commission's Legacy Project. This provides statewide promotion of our event, as well as other county events for the celebration. The event will be held in conjunction with the Annual Brook Fish Fry in September, 2016. Another Bicentennial event that your society is participating in is the Indiana Torch Relay. More information about this statewide project will be published in the next edition.

Also in 2016 your Newton County Historical Society will celebrate 25 years since our re-organization in 1991! As Ron Humphrey has said, "We've come a long way from the well-house." He is referencing the building located at Hazelden that housed the Newton County Historical Society's artifacts for several years after. The group was reorganized and has definitely carved a path from that well house!

Your society board met recently to plan meeting programs for the rest of this year and into 2016. Recent programs have included a tour of the Newton County Jail in September; and a history of Newton County auto dealers by Tom Sondgerath in October. The annual Christmas Open House will be held on Friday, December 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rumor has it a "Yost" celebration is in the works. Other program themes for 2016 include a history of Newton County banks, re-visiting the Scott-Lucas House and the Wolcott House. We understand that the Wash-O-Quois Museum has been refurbished and the committee of Carol Light, Larry and Becky Lyons from the Iroquois-Washington Preservation Committee are well on their way to restocking the historical collections and opening for tours. A tour is planned upon completion in 2016, along with a program on horse racing. Stay tuned for the our exciting future!

# A Moment of Your Time

By Beth Bassett  
Family History Division

Finally! "The Yost Collection" is finished! This task began in 2008, and was quite a project, but all involved will agree, a rewarding one. Look for more details in this edition.

Also a huge "thank-you" goes out to our current officers of our organization and volunteers at the Resource Center. These individuals devote hours of their time to plan and host events, open our Resource Center to the public three days a week and promote the preservation of Newton County history. Those members are Nancy Jo Prue, Dave and Darlene Truby, Verna Marcum, Bruce Herriman, Judy Schultz, Esther Barten, Becky and Larry Lyons, Janet Miller, Bernie Murphy, and Pat Boldman. Also, thank's to our mailman, Bob Prue.

Another "thank-you" goes out to member Pat Arnold, who has spent hours typing up indexes of donated scrapbooks, scanning those pages and creating files that can be uploaded to our website. She also works on the census files you find on our site - all in the effort to provide information for research.



In October, the Lake Village third grade classes toured our facility and listened to a presentation on Beaver Lake. Above two students pose by one of our displays.

The next project? A winter *Newcomer* ... plans to organize the publication of the history of Lake Village, Lake and McClellan Townships ... updating our website ... celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday ... let's see, that list is around here somewhere!

Thanks to everyone for their support of our on-going and future projects.

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no small amount of anxiety. Show that you are proud of the men that put Morocco to the front in this manner by buying season tickets. It is very discouraging to solicit a man or woman whom one has every reason to believe should buy and then be turned down. One feels like "I, even I only am left" to boost the town and bring good things here.

"Three ball games are scheduled: Thursday, Sunday and Tuesday. The games will be called promptly at 1:30 and will be over in time for the 3:00 o'clock afternoon program.

"The Albion newspaper where this same talent was given speaks in highest terms of every number. They sold 600 tickets to ensure it next year. What better recommendation is needed."

**1914, Goodland; Goodland Herald  
June 20, 1914**

**Our Lincoln Chautauqua; Offers Fine Program To The People/Begins Wednesday, July 8th and Ends Monday, 13th; Six Big Days**

"The large tent will be erected at the southwest corner of the Goodland School campus with the opening of the enclosure facing the southwest.

"The time is here when all should have their season tickets purchased. For the benefit of our large family of readers we will give the program in full so all will know the good

things in store for us.

"First day, afternoon - Formal opening, getting acquainted, prelude by Luzerne Concert Company. Lecture: "Wit and Wisdom of the Far East," by Mohammad Ali. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Evening: Announcements, popular concert by the Luzerne Concert Company. Lecture: "India's Millions," Mohammad Ali. Admission 15 and 35 cents.

"Second Day - Afternoon: Southern Plantation Melodies by the Mason's Jubilee Singers. Lecture - "Ireland and Irishmen," by Alexander Corkey. Admission, 15 and 25 cents. Evening: Dixie Jubilee Concert by Mason's Jubilee Singers. Lecture - "A World of Jewels," by A. Corkey. Panama-American Stereopticon Lecture - Dr. Stephens E. Crowe. Admission, 15 and 35 cents.

"Third Day - Afternoon: Prelude by Miller-Phipps Company; Address: "The Old School and the New" by Prof. R.E. Hieronymus. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Evening: Miller-Phipps Company. Address: "Community Life in a Democracy" by Prof. R. E. Hieronymus. Admission 15 and 35 cents.

"Fourth Day - Afternoon Music - Lindsberg Male Chorus. Lecture: "Winning the Nation's Greatest Fight," by D.E. L. Eaton. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Evening: Grand Concert and Recital by the Lindsberg Male Chorus, Mr. Poston, a reader of renown, and

Mr. Boughner, cornetist. Admission: this is the big night entertainment and the single admission price for this number will be 25 and 50 cents.

"Fifth Day - Afternoon: Prelude Fahlen-Breach Concert Company. Lecture: "Footprints of Centuries," by Col. G.A. Gearhart. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Evening: Entertainment - Fahlen Breach Concert Company. Address: "Community Housekeeping," by Col. G.A. Gearhart. Admission 15 and 35 cents.

"Sixth Day - Afternoon: Popular Concert, Imperial English Bell Ringers. Address: "Evolution of the Boy," by Hon. J.K. Coddling. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Evening: Grand Musical Entertainment - Imperial English Bell Ringers. Lecture: "Shall We Punish or Reform Criminals?" by Hon. J.K. Coddling. Admission, 15 and 35 cents.

"The programs will begin promptly in the afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

"At night the program will begin at 7:30; the second part at 8:15."

**June 28, 1914**

**Lincoln Chautauqua's Tents Sage Green; Platform Lighted by Great Mazdas, Each Shedding 600 Candle Power Light**

"The New American institution, the Chautauqua, is just beginning to be recognized as a most important factor in the entertainment and popular education of the masses

**Program**

**HOURS OF SESSIONS:**

**MORNING:** 8 to 11, Junior Chautauqua At the Playground. (For Session Tickets Holdfast)

**AFTERNOON:** 2 to 6. First Part of Program at Tent 7 to 15. Second Part of Program at Tent 8 to 15. Concerts and Stories at Playgrounds

**NIGHT:** 7 to 9. First Part of Program at Tent 8 to 15. Second Part of Program at Tent

**FIRST DAY**

**MORNING** - Junior Chautauqua.  
**AFTERNOON** - Formal Opening - Prelude - Robley Male Quartet. Lecture - "Jawbone vs. Backbone" - Dr. Elmer L. Williams. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.  
**Children's Hour** - At the Playground.  
**NIGHT** - Concert and Entertainment - Robley Male Quartet. Lecture - "Who Shall Rule, Country or City?" - Dr. Elmer L. Williams. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.

**SECOND DAY**

**MORNING** - Junior Chautauqua.  
**AFTERNOON** - Grand Concert - Schroedter Quintet. Lecture - Nannie Webb Curtis. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.  
**Children's Hour** - At the Playground.  
**NIGHT** - Musical Recital - Schroedter Quintet. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.

**THIRD DAY**

**MORNING** - Junior Chautauqua.  
**AFTERNOON** - Entertainment - The Arcadians. Lecture - "The Worth of a Man" - Dr. Hedley. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.  
**Children's Hour** - At the Playground.  
**NIGHT** - Musical Prelude - The Arcadians. Dramatic Recital - Jeannette Kling. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.

**The Lincoln Junior Chautauqua** will be given, mainly, on the Chautauqua Playgrounds each week. A graduate playground expert will have charge, and the real fun, joy, and benefit of play will be illustrated as well as advocated. In the afternoon, following certain parts of the Senior program, story telling, folk games, songs and camp fire circles will be directed. The Junior Chautauqua is a movement in keeping with a new era of education for the children of America.

Buy season tickets and save more than half. You get full benefit of program only by attending regularly. Total Adult Single Admissions, \$4.00. Total Youth Single Admissions, \$2.00. Youth Season Tickets, 8 to 15 years, \$1.00. (Good in the Junior Chautauqua)

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Vendor services and other features suitable arranged for Sunday. This is your Chautauqua, put on at the instance of your people. Help to make it a great and happy community occasion.

**PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**NATIONAL LINCOLN CHAUTAUQUA SYSTEM**  
ALONZO E. WILSON, President and General Manager

**Morocco Chautauqua**  
**Aug. 10 to 15**

**1915**

**The National Lincoln Chautauqua System**

This is the front and back of the program when the Chautauqua was held in Morocco in 1915.



of people, i.e., people living in towns and communities having a population of 25,000 or less. Necessarily the problem of Chautauqua equipment has been hastily handled. So far every conceivable makeshift for housing and seating the people has been adopted. All well established institutions have been drawn upon for emergency aid, but the era of physical Chautauqua comfort is dawning.

"In keeping with the permanent policies which undoubtedly must preserve and characterize its career, the Lincoln management has exercised that degree of initiative vouchsafed to an aggressive and permanent institution. Its tents are made as well as tents can be made from canvas. The designs are original and were drawn for The Lincoln Chautauqua. No detail has been overlooked by Mr. Oliver MacWilliams, perhaps the leading authority of the country in Chautauqua equipment. Not a thread, fabric, rope or pole in design or execution but has had his critical consideration. His tents are the latest in portable auditoriums. All new tents ordered this year are made from sage green canvas, conceded to be the most pleasing shade of color, because it screens out the extreme brilliancy of light.

"The crews, men in charge of tents, have been most carefully instructed in putting up and taking down these big "tops." Every known measure providing for comfort and safety has been exhausted in the training of these men.

"An entirely new feature in the Chautauqua world is the electric lights provided by the Lincoln system. They will be connected to the local company's wires, and the tent will be as well lighted as is your parlor or your favorite auditorium; indeed, as well lighted as were it a permanent structure in your city.

"A second departure is the setting of the stage. The Lincoln Chautauqua system stage is enclosed this summer by both back and drop curtains. The curtains will be manipulated by the tent crew very much as are the curtains in a theater.

"These improvements removed some of the crudeness of Chautauqua entertainment, and it need scarcely be said that this institution, which is believed by thinking men and women everywhere to deserve its distinctive place in American life, must provide for its clientele that degree of physical comfort and ease which is requisite to fine thinking and keen critical enjoyment of music and other entertainment.

"The Lincoln management in this regard as in others is paving the way toward a vacation week for its communities which shall provide rest for body as well as delight for the mind.

"This system is also urging the matter of comfortable seats upon its local committees, knowing full well that a comfortably seated tent will much more than recompense local committees assuming such expense as is necessary for this purpose."

## **1914, Morocco, Morocco Courier**

**July 24, 1914**

### **Chautauqua To Be Put On By Women's Club Contract Made For Six-Day Program For The Latter Part Of August**

"The Woman's Club contracted this week for a six-day Chautauqua course to be given in a large tent the last week in August. The talent is furnished by the Jones System of Perry, Iowa.

"Season tickets will sell for one dollar, children half price and single admission tickets twenty-five cents.

"No guarantee regarding sale of tickets was exacted. The ladies receive for the local expenses fifteen percent of season tickets sold and ten percent of single admission tickets sold. Out of this they must furnish grounds, light, seats, piano and newspaper advertising."

**July 24, 1914**

### *The Chautauqua A Blessing*

*"Blest be the town that can support a Chautauqua assembly. It is a mark of enterprise that reveals a wider grasp of the people's needs that can be satisfied with corn rows, factories and first mortgage securities. It is sense and soul joined forces for the salvation of the race from greed, from ignorance, from grouch, from over-work, from worry and the ills that all too readily befall us. - Hugh A. Orchard."*

**July 24, 1914**

### *About The Chautauqua*

"It will continue for six days, afternoons and evenings, thus giving 12 programs and the price of transferable adult tickets is only one dollar, children half price. Single admission 25 cents.

"The talent, consisting of lectures, readings, music and specialties, is said to be giving general satisfaction. You are asked to engage season tickets early. They may be secured from any member of the club or Peoples Drug Store, I.W. Murphey's store or the *Courier* office."

**August 21, 1914**

### *Chautauqua Advertising Here*

"Mrs. John Kay, president of the Woman's Club under whose auspices the Chautauqua is being put on, this week received the advertising matter and programs which are being distributed. The program will give you a good idea of the amount and quality of talent and season tickets good for six days and twelve programs cost but one dollar each, children's tickets sixty-five cents. They are on

sale by all members of the club, Peoples Drug Store, I.W. Murphey, *Courier* Office, Hosier's Restaurant or Kay and Kay's store."

**August 28, 1914**

### *Chautauqua Begins Saturday Afternoon Twelve Varied Programs Of Good Talent Are Promised*

"Chautauqua begins here Saturday afternoon and continues for six days with two programs daily. The company claims they had held 423 successful Chautauquas and will hold 400 this year."

**Sept. 4, 1914**

### *Six Day's Chautauqua Closed Yesterday*

"The last program of the Chautauqua is being given as we go to press. The attendance has been good considering the preparatory work and the advertising done. The ticket sales this year was largely the result of the splendid satisfaction the Lincoln Chautauqua gave last year.

"Mrs. Walter Cox was champion ticket seller, having disposed of more than forty and Mrs. John Kay was second with more than thirty to her credit. The piano was generously loaned by the opera house manager and Mr. Warner was equally generous in doing the electric wiring for the ladies who had charge of the Chautauqua.

"The platform manager endeavored to draw up a contract for next year by asking for ticket subscriptions for next year but not a ticket was sold nor a word said by anyone else. It is presumed that the people are not ready to say what they will do for next year. A Lincoln Chautauqua man was here this week and will return later with the hope of putting on his talent here next year. Whatever is done, remember the best talent that we can possibly pay for is none too good for Morocco people who as a rule are good judges of the quality of talent. The Chautauqua was well worth while and the ladies deserve the thanks of all for their efforts.

"The president of the Woman's Club states that the program as a whole pleased the people especially the lecture by Mrs. Smith on Temperance and Woman's Suffrage.

"Mrs. John Kay deserves special mention of her work in managing the putting on of the Chautauqua."

### *1915, Goodland, Goodland Herald*

**May 1, 1915**

### *Chautauqua June 17-22/New Dates Meets With Approval Of All A Juvenile Chautauqua An Added Special Feature For This Year*

"Election of officers was held and the following men were placed in charge of the local organization: Dr. J.G. Kinneman, who led the Chautauqua to success last season was re-elected; Mort Kilgore, was elected vice-pres;

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Rev. Geo. E. Deuel, who also was the efficient secretary of last year was placed in the same office this season; Clarence Harms, treasurer. The people want to keep the dates in mind, June 17-22 and make their arrangements to attend. These dates seem a good time for the farmers as they will have their work in shape to come to town.

"An added feature of this year's program will be the Junior Chautauqua. A young lady will be here during the six days to help the children to enjoy themselves, as she expects to introduce a playground in Goodland. This will take place in the morning and all children between the ages of eight and fifteen holding a child's ticket will be eligible and all children under eight large enough to take part."

**June 26, 1915**

### ***Contract Signed For Next Year; With Lincoln Chautauqua System of Chicago***

"The third annual Lincoln Chautauqua which closed Tuesday night at this place was a decided success from every viewpoint - this, of course was due to the excellent management of both the local committees and the men from headquarters.

"In fact, the program pleased so well that here was no trouble experienced in drawing up a contract for the 1916 Chautauqua with 81 guarantors.

"The Junior Chautauqua which was added to the entertainment for the benefit of

the little folks was a success here and we have every reason to believe that it will be all along the line.

"Too much praise cannot be given concerning the efficient management of the local organization. Dr. Kinneman, with his generalship has piloted the Chautauqua ship thru two hard and difficult seasons - and came out each time on top. Rev. Deuel acting secretary has spent much of his valuable time to the work and deserves a good deal of credit. The grounds committee labored hard and received little or no thanks. The hardest task of all was the work accomplished by the ticket committee-and it made good.

"Goodland was the first town on the circuit. After the close things resembled a bunch of campers breaking camp-everybody carried their chairs home and several automobiles were headed with their light on the large tent and the latter was taken down, packed in trunks and is now being put up in Dugger, Indiana."

***1915, Kentland, Enterprise***  
**August 5, 1915**

### ***The Kilties Band is Coming To Kentland/Heads Program For Community Chautauqua Week of September 8***

"The Kentland Chautauqua is to be held under the auspices of The Community Chautauquas which controls the services of many of the best lecturers and entertainers on the Chautauqua platform today. It has been the

aim of this system to give the citizens of Kentland the best and most instructive entertainment possible at a price which has been kept at a minimum.

"Lectures have been arranged dealing with the most important phases of community building and development. A widely known community expert will define the purpose of the community and show how it can best advance the interests of its citizens.

"There will be a series of addresses on vital present day problems for those seeking entertainment of an instructive nature, with enough humor and novelty music thrown in to make the whole program pleasing and refreshing.

"The feature of the first day will be the appearance of Montanelli's Venetian Quartet, an organization of artists who have for several years been engaged extensively in giving concerts before New York's "400." This quartet will appear on the afternoon and evening of the first day. The lecturer on the first day will be Geo. H. Spencer. His afternoon subject will be "Dreamers and Schemers," and in the evening he will speak on "Preparedness for Peace."

"Mrs. Demarchus Brown, a noted feminist leader, will appear for two lectures the second day of the Chautauqua. Her afternoon lecture will deal with the feminist movement and will be on the subject "Her Long Road." In the evening Mrs. Brown will speak



A postcard of Governor Hanley of Indiana, seated left, John Ade of Kentland, seated right, and Perry Washburn of Kentland, standing between and behind. This was taken at the Fountain Park Chautauqua in August, 1908, in Remington, Indiana. The event they attended was the Republican Day and all of the Republican State and District candidates were present.



on "Modern Life and Literature." Preceding both lectures, Frederic Marston, the basso-contante, will sing. Following Mrs. Brown in the evening, Ray Newton, "Prince of Magic," will give his interesting entertainment of magic and sleight-of-hand.

"On the third day of the Chautauqua, Congressman M. Clyde Kelly of Pennsylvania, will lecture on "Machine Made Legislation." The Winifred Townsend Concert Company, a group of artists on the violin and cello will give a grand concert in the afternoon of the third day. Their program includes both instrumental and vocal selection, with readings by Miss Faerie Townsend, a member of the company. The Townsends will give the prelude to Congressman Kelly's lecture in the evening.

"The Humor and Philosophy of Habit" is the interesting subject of the fourth day's lecture, which will be delivered by Dr. E.G. Shouse. Preceding Dr. Shouse, The Kilties will give a program of band music. They will also give the full program on the evening of the fourth day.

"The Kilties are perhaps the only band in the world to have the distinction of having played twice before His Majesty the King of England within a few months - the second time at the King's own request. Appearing with the Kilties will be Miss Jean Campbell, a well-known soprano.

"The fifth day of the program falling on Sunday, the program is left unannounced, but will be appropriate to the day. Fred Eastman will appear on the program for a lecture both afternoon and evening, and the Stratford Opera Company will provide the music.

"The afternoon sessions of the Chautauqua, according to the program, will begin promptly at 2:30 o'clock, and the evening session at 7:00."

**1916, Brook, Brook Reporter**

On September 7, 1916, a one-day Chautauqua was presented in Brook by Redpath Chautauqua."

**Sept. 7, 1916**

**Brook Merchants To Hold Fall Festival; Something New In Entertainment Line Will Be Staged Next Monday**

"Next Monday Brook is to hold a complete Chautauqua in one day. It is something new, and sounds inviting. The merchants of the town have engaged from the Redpath Bureau a complete and high class Chautauqua program, and will put the same on in a big tent provided for the purpose. There are to be

six distinct and separate numbers, and how the public is to absorb all these good things in one day remains to be seen.

"Francesco Pallaria and his band is to give two concerts: J. Adam Bede, known as the humorist congressman, will give a lecture; Reno, the magician, is on the program for an hour's entertainment; Evelyn Bargelt, a lady

**Chautauqua History**

Tent Chautauqua or Circuit Chautauqua was a popular form of entertainment that flourished in small towns across the United States for more than twenty years, from 1910 to the 1930s. These Tent Chautauqua's combined education, entertainment and cultural enrichment through speeches, lectures, musical entertainment and dramatic plays. They were held in a large outdoor tent that could seat up to 1,000 people. It was a time in America that small towns across the nation had a desire to be educated, entertained and socially and mentally challenged. Since it was not easy for people to travel to larger towns where culture and entertainment abounded, these traveling Tent Chautauqua's came to small towns to meet these demands. Tent Chautauqua was an outgrowth of the Chautauqua Institute of New York State and the Lyceum Experience of Massachusetts.

On a seven day Chautauqua, a different program was planned each day for each of the seven different towns on the circuit. To accomplish this, seven tents were raised in seven nearby towns. Each day's talent would perform in each of the seven towns on the first day. At the end of the day, each talent would move to the next town on the circuit for the second day's performance. When the rotation of the seven towns was completed at the end of the week, the seven tents were moved to another circuit of seven towns and the process repeated.

The basic business arrangement for bringing a Chautauqua program to a town was based on several factors. The town was to guarantee a certain number of ticket sales, accept the program of talent, accept dates and schedule times, and to provide an adequate site for a large tent. In return, the agency would provide a Chautauqua program of five to seven days, a large tent, work crews to set up the tent, stage, adequate seating, lighting and advertising. With these factors met, the success of a town's Chautauqua was greatly improved.

A typical seven day Tent Chautauqua program could cost \$1,500 to \$2,000. A five day program could cost \$1,000 to \$1,500. All of the cost was to be covered by the selling of tickets. Any deficit must be paid by the town committee who signed the contract.

cartoonist, will draw funny sketches, and a company of Brook children will appear in a Mother Goose Festival under the direction of Miss Kathryn Lyle York. In conclusion there will be a grand finale of moving pictures.

"The festival is to open at 9:30 Monday morning and run to 10:30 at night, all for 75cents. Can you imagine a bigger or better

program for the money. We call your attention to an announcement on page seven.-  
*Newton County Enterprise*

**September 15, 1916**

**Merchants Fall Festival -Rousing Success; Big Tent Crowded Afternoon and Evening; Band Clears \$850.00; Splendid Program**

"In spite of the fact that only a week elapsed from the arrival of the advertising matter until the entertainment, the Band assisted by the business men made the Merchant's Fall Festival in Brook a rousing success and filled the tent twice during the day.

"It took work and the old time spirit of Brook was aroused and a campaign organized that carried advertising matter over the county and caused a sale of tickets that made the guarantee of \$300 a safe proposition on the morning of September 11th. This necessitated the sale of over 400 tickets at seventy-five and forty cents. On the day of the Festival \$150 was taken in single admissions at the gate.

The rally to the assistance of the band who had agreed to do the work shows that both business men and the public are still warm friends of that organization and they were repaid by the splendid program furnished by the Redpath people who had assembled their stars from five or six circuits to try out the one day program for Chautauquas.

"There was not an idle minute during the day for our own band filled up the resting pieces in the program by music in the Park and on the streets.

"The program opened promptly at 9:30 a.m. and continued until 11:00 p.m. At the close there was a tired but delighted lot of people with their first Fall Festival, most of whom voted to repeat the event next year.

"At 9:30 J. Adam Bede, ex-congressman from Minnesota, the only man besides Tom Reed who could bring the congressmen from the lobbies to hear what was going on in the main chamber, and while Speaker Reed did it by counting them in, Bede did it by entertaining them.

"He spoke in the morning on the community life of the rural population and paid them the compliment of furnishing the brain, brawn and moral fiber of the nation. He urged them to keep up the social standing of the community and above everything to "Keep our friendships in repair." He gave the alms of the Chautauqua to leave in every community the inspiration for better living

## 8 The Newcomer

< *Continued from page 7* >  
and broader thinking.

"Miss Kathryn Lyle York who has been here for several days then took the platform and entertained young and old with interesting Indian legends and gave an invitation to any or all to remain and see her drill the little ones for the Mother Goose program for the evening and many remained to see the drill.

At 2:00 p.m. Signor Francesco Pallaria's Band gave a splendid concert and the music and the method of conducting by the great leader both brought rounds of applause from the delighted audience. Pallaria takes rank with Creatore and other noted band leaders.

J. Adam Bede was then introduced by George Ade who briefly and wittily told of his ability to introduce life into the slumberous activity of Congress and his illustrious ancestry as indicated by his family name of Adam.

Mr. Bede's subject, "Our Nation, Its Problems and Progress," gave him ample scope to review the history of our country's life and activities, beginning with the time when the community life was narrow, its activities confined to supplying its local needs, the blacksmith, the shoemaker, the country doctor and the storekeeper supplying the community needs.

Miss Bargelt followed the address with some excellent cartoons which she illustrated with the story as with lightning strokes she sketched the picture. She is an excellent reader and this part of her work was enjoyed as much as the pictures.

The second concert of the day was given at 7:30 by Pallaria's Band and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

"At 8:25 Miss York made her appearance and from an enlarged edition of her famous tales she brought forth her little characters in living pictures to convince the grown-ups that they were taken from real life. From the Tiny Tots in their nighties to little Miss Mary quite contrary and her companions the characters came from out the lids of the old book and danced across the stage in quaint costumes and re-enacted their parts. It would be impossible for us to give in detail the wonderful performance of the little ones and we do not know which to commend most, the skill of their instructor or the adaptability of her children. The most artistic was the dance of the flower girls and little Miss Mary. This part

of the program was one of the most enjoyable ones of the day.

"Reno, the magician performed wonders and miracles and while everybody knew he was fooling them as Barnum says about being humbugged the American people like to be fooled.

### Key People

Several people or groups of people from the Chautauqua agency and from each community were responsible for bringing a Chautauqua program to a town and for its success. These include the following:

**Booking Agent.** The booking agent's primary responsibility was to sell the circuit program to the leaders of the community. If the Chautauqua program proved a success, the booking agent would try and persuade the town to sign a contract for the following year.

**Local Committee.** The local committee, usually composed of business people, educators and civic leaders, met to decide if a Chautauqua would be accepted by the community and also if it would prove successful.

**Publicity Agents.** This person or group of people from the Chautauqua agency brought promotional materials to each town a few weeks prior to the opening of the Chautauqua. Flyers, banners and posters were placed strategically through towns.

**Tent Crews.** Tent crews were responsible for setting up the tent, seating, stage and lighting in each town on the circuit and dismantling it at the program's conclusion.

**Ticket Sellers.** These ticket sellers were usually business people, civic leaders and other community people who were enthusiastic about the upcoming Chautauqua.

**Junior Chautauqua.** A Junior Chautauqua for children was included with many Chautauqua programs.

**Chautauqua Girl.** This was usually a young woman employed by the agency to coordinate children's activities for the Junior Chautauqua.

### Decline and Resurgence

By the 1930s, Tent or Circuit Chautauqua was losing its popularity across the country. Contributing to its decline was the automobile, the radio, movies and the Great Depression. But for twenty years, Tent Chautauquas were a common sight across America. They were the instrument that successfully brought entertainment and culture to small towns throughout America.

Today, though Tent or Circuit Chautauqua has ended, cultural enrichment and self improvement programs still flourish in independent Chautauquas across America. Fountain Park, Remington, Indiana; is a local long running example of a permanent Chautauqua. It is held on grounds with permanent fixtures such as cottages and hotels.

"The moving picture of animal life in the New York event proved interesting and entertaining and closed what had proven a very enjoyable day.

"The members of the Band wish to extend their thanks to the business men for their assistance and to the public for their generous patronage."

**1917, Goodland, Goodland Herald**

The Redpath Chautauqua presented a five-day Chautauqua in Goodland, from July 25th to July 29th

**June 23, 1917**

**Chautauquas This Year**

"The Chautauqua season for 1917 is almost here and most of our nearby towns will have one of the various Chautauquas visit their city. Below are the dates:

Donovan, Ill - Mutual - June 21-25  
Rensselaer - Lincoln - July 6 - 11th  
Monticello - Lincoln - July 7 - 12th  
Fowler - Lincoln - July 8 - 13th  
Sheldon - Lincoln - July 10 - 15th  
Kentland - Community - July 11-15  
Goodland - Redpath - July 25 - 29th  
Fountain Park - August 11 - 26th

**July 14, 1917**

"Samuel J. Lang, advertising man for the Redpath Chautauqua was in Goodland this week putting up the advertising matter. The guarantors will hold a meeting at the State Trust & Savings Bank Monday night and organize for the Chautauqua coming here July 25-30th."

**1917, Kentland, Enterprise**

"From July 11th -15th, The Community Chautauqua presented a five-day Chautauqua program in Kentland.

**July 5, 1917**

**Chautauqua Opens Next Wednesday Advance Sale Of Tickets Progressing Nicely, With Promise Of Success**

"The Kentland Chautauqua opens next Wednesday, and indications now point to a successful session. The program for the week has been extensively advertised, and will no doubt meet the approval of the public. There are some exceptionally strong numbers, and as a whole is well worth the price of admission.

"The Chautauqua this year will be held in the Coliseum, which offers more comfort than a tent."

*Editor's note: The above articles were edited, and others omitted, due to lack of space, but the entire articles are available for viewing at the Resource Center. Many thanks to Damon Howell for his extensive research and attention to detail and interest in bringing to light how the Chautauqua enlightened our communities.*



## History of the Goodland Barber Pole

Submitted by Kay Babcock

In 1890, Al Gravel opened the barber shop at its present location, 216 South Newton Street in Goodland. Mr. Gravel's son-in-law, Hurshal Stutesman, began cutting their hair there in 1930 and continued until his death in 1968. Joe Lanie worked at the shop until Tom Mattox took over in January, 1969.

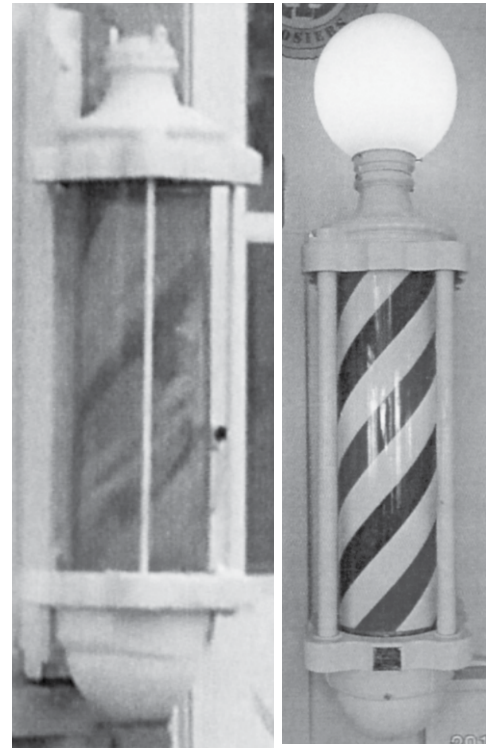
The barber pole shown in the first picture on the right was taken confirmed to be on the front of the building in 1922. The metal plate on the front of the pole states that it was made on August 29, 1911. According to Gary Stutesman, grandson of Al Gravel, he doesn't remember ever seeing the stripes rotate on the barber pole.

Tom Mattox's son, Andy, decided to restore the barber pole and to make the stripes rotate as they were intended when the pole was manufactured. He removed the barber pole in September 2014. With extensive research, Andy was able to locate the necessary parts and new motor from Minnesota. He had the metal parts sandblasted and had a missing cover fabricated and painted by Don DeVault of Kentland. The globe on the top was missing so Andy fabricated a fixture to hold the new globe. He then reassembled the entire pole with the new motor and hung it inside Tom's Barber Shop in April, 2015, with the red, white and blue stripes rotating for the first time anyone can remember.

Tom is still cutting hair after 46 years. According to the "History of the Town of Goodland and Grant Township," printed in 2014, this establishment is listed as the oldest continuous business in the town of Goodland.



Left: Tom Mattox



Restored 1922 Barber pole. Left, before the restoration, on the right.

## Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - Answers on page 16

The Newton County Historical Society has a booth in the Commercial Building at the Newton County Fair. Our member, David Truby, has made a flip board with answers for all to test their skills on Newton County history. For those of you who were unable to attend this year's fair here is a chance for you to answer David's questions.

**1. Sam Rice, a native of Newton County is famous because he:**

- A. Invented Rice Krispies
- B. Played major league baseball
- C. Manufactured Samsonite luggage
- D. Won the Power Ball Lottery in 2007

**2. The "Everglades of the North" refers to:**

- A. An alligator sanctuary in Jackson Township
- B. A Seminole Indian village
- C. The location where "Duck Dynasty" is filmed
- D. The Kankakee River Basin

**3. The Newton County Historical Society was reorganized in:**

- A. 1860
- B. 1991
- C. 2001
- D. 2010

**4. Newton County has how many townships:**

- A. Not Enough
- B. Ten
- C. Too Many
- D. Six

**5. Newton County was named in honor of:**

- A. Mr. Fig Newton, inventor of the cookie
- B. Sir Isaac Newton, 17th century physicist
- C. Sgt. John Newton, Revolutionary War hero
- D. Newton Gingrich, American politician

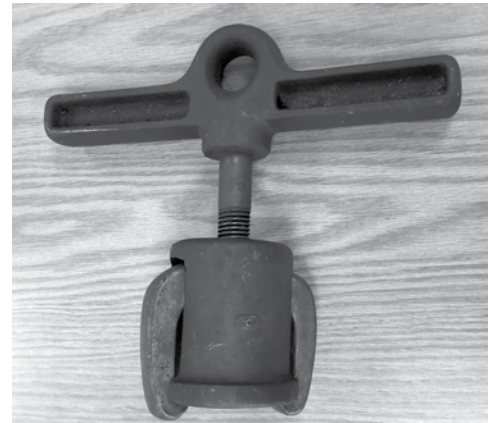
**6. Newton County (until recently) was home to which religious community:**

- A. Hittites
- B. Druids
- C. Amish
- D. Wiccans

## Lost - But Found Now ... What Is It?



This item was found in a Lake Twp. garden ... any suggestions as to what it might be?



What is it? Someone out there knows! Both items can be examined at our Resource Center in Kentland.

# Salt

Margaret Merchant by Jeff Manes  
Originally published in September, 2013

*"Diligentia maximum etiam mediocris ingeni subsidium." (Diligence is a very great help even to a mediocre intelligence.) – author unknown*

In 1922, Warren Harding was president, a brand-new Willys-Overland went for \$695, Thom McAn began mass producing shoes at \$3.99 a pair, 1,000 copies of James Joyce's "Ulysses" were published in Paris, the Chicago Staleys played their first NFL game as the Chicago Bears, and little Maggie Rainford was born in Lake Village.

In the 1970s, I would refer to Maggie as Mrs. Merchant. She was my English teacher at North Newton High School. This marked the first time we'd seen each other in nearly 40 years.

Our interview took place at George Ade Memorial Healthcare Center in Brook. It was the day after her sister Marjorie was buried. Peanut and Marjorie Brunton were one of the most beloved couples in Lake Village. Margaret's daughter, Judy Washburn, a math teacher, sat in our conversation.

\*\*\*

**Mrs. Merchant, tell me about "the good old days" in Lake Village.**

"We lived on Old U.S. 41 across the street from the Presbyterian Church," she said. "My parents were Ruben and Florence Rainford. My dad worked as a laborer for the railroad. During the dust storms of the late '30s, my mother would wet sheets and hang them over the windows to keep the dust from coming in the house. The chinch bugs were bad in the drought years.

"My mother also was a schoolteacher. Her maiden name was Sullivan. She was an orphan from Chicago who was raised in Lake Village by her older sister and her husband. Mother was a devout Catholic."

**And Miss Sullivan eventually would be forced to quit her job.**

"Yes, female schoolteachers weren't allowed to be married. But she did teach at Conrad School way back when, and at a one-room schoolhouse near the state line."

**Do you remember the legendary hunter and trapper "Kankakee Ned" Barker?**

"Barker came to school when I was in grade school at Lake Village. He would talk to us about nature and bring his pet owl. They called him 'The Wolf Man.' He smelled like it, too."

Continue, please.

"I remember when the big cheese factory in Lake Village burned. You can imagine the odor in the entire town. People came there to salvage the cheese that wasn't totally burned. It was a godsend. The people of Lake Village weren't starving, but that free cheese helped during the Great Depression."

**Were the cheese factory and the pickle factory next to each other?**

"No. Remember Snowball Rainford? He was an albino. The cheese factory was near Snowball's filling station."

**My dad had a math teacher who was an albino.**

"That would be Alvin Stoner. The poor fellow suffered from tremors and was severely cross-eyed. He scared me because I couldn't tell if he was looking at me. Plus, I did not like math."

**More about your days as a student?**

"I graduated from Morocco High School in 1940. Back then, the Lake Village and Sumava kids were put in one section and the Morocco kids were put in another section. Segregation.

"I didn't like that."

**College?**

"Ball State University. If it had not been for a scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to go to college. At that time, they had quarters rather than semesters. It was \$27.50 per quarter; my scholarship covered \$22 of that. I worked at the movie theater while going to college. I smelled like popcorn all the time.

"During the war years, when everything was rationed, we wore leg makeup because nylon wasn't available. We'd also make a pencil mark on the backs of our legs because some of the hose had a mark like that."

**Yankee ingenuity. How do you lean politically?**

"The Rainfords from Lake Village were all Democrats. The Merchants from Morocco were not."

**As a kid, I'd hear the name Doc Merchant mentioned once in a while. A relative of your late husband?**

"Yes, Raymond Merchant was my husband's uncle. He was a doctor in Lake Village."

**It has been said that my Uncle Joe came into this world for a cord of wood. That's what my Grandpa Vito paid Doc Merchant for delivering his son.**

"Doc had a huge homemade freezer filled with butchered chickens and other types of meat. He brought a lot of babies into this world for the price of a few chickens. Hard times. We were all in the same boat. Doc was a brilliant man with a PhD."

**Let's fast forward. Which class did you**



Margaret Merchant, 2013.

**enjoy teaching most, English or Latin?**

"Well, I like poetry. Here's one for you: 'Latin is a dead language, dead as it can be, first it killed the Romans, now it's killin' me.'"

**Ha! Good one, Maggie – I mean, Mrs. Merchant. Favorite authors?**

"I like Hemingway. Your style is similar to Hemingway's."

**Short, staccato-like sentences.**

"Yes."

**One of the most fulfilling aspects of teaching?**

"To see the results of these wonderful teenagers. You don't know what they're going to grow up to be. Some of them become highly successful in their professions. I'll say, 'I know that child, I had him in class.' My husband used to say, 'Honey, don't say that you taught him, say you had him in class.'"

**Wise man, Dale Merchant.**

"Some of the kids would call me M.M. That's how I signed everything. But they said it stood for Matchmaker. I always wanted the kids to go to the prom. You don't have to be lovers, just go and have a good time. That's my philosophy – enjoy."

**I signed up for your Ancient Latin course, but since I wasn't planning on going to college, it was decided for me that I should take shop math instead. I flunked shop math. In retrospect, I know darn well that I could've pulled off a D-minus in Latin.**

"Such a sense of humor."

**In the crossword puzzles, they often-times ask for a three-letter word for a Hoosier wit.**

"George Ade never married. Yet, every year he had a huge Christmas party. Everything was free for the kids of this community.



I believe it was Cleveland who announced that he would run for president at George's estate here in Brook."

**You know, it seems like just the other day, I was sitting in your classroom.**

"Jeff, you know what they say?"

**What's that, Mrs. Merchant?**

"Tempus fugit."

\*\*\*

Margaret Merchant is a gem. She might be wheelchair-bound these days, but remains as sharp as the proverbial tack. During our conversation, she recited everything from "The Raven" to various Longfellow works. And as she lovingly delivered the children's poem "Wynken, Blynken and Nod" by Eugene Fields, it brought her daughter to tears. Like they say, time passes.

# Historian's Corner

By Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian

I interviewed Ralph Knapp of Lincoln Township, Newton County, and found it interesting and informative.

Alois Knapp, Ralph's uncle, immigrated from Austria to Chicago in 1910. He graduated from Northwestern University with a law degree and practiced in Chicago. He encouraged by his brothers Peter and Herman, Ralph's dad, to immigrate to America and farm. So they left Austria in December 1923 and arrived in January, 1924.

They came to farm in Lincoln Township. Alois owned 200 acres there, where Sun Aura Nudist Camp is currently located. They discovered that it wasn't good farm ground, so the brothers left that farm in 1932 and rented 320 acres. Alois started the first nudist camp in Newton County called the Zoro Nature Park on 20 acres of his property. Peter and Herman went on to buy 1000 acres in the early 1940s and later the 129 acre farm Ralph owns today. The brothers severed their partnership in 1958, as each was aging and their families had grown up.

Now let's talk about asparagus. In the late 1960s, it was recommended that farmers diversify their crops to help ward off bad farming years in tough times. So Ralph allocated ten acres, and bought asparagus starts from Carl Fritts of DeMotte. It cost \$250/acre to start plants - today the cost would be \$2500/acre.

Stokely Cannery of Hoopston, IL, leased 800-900 acres in the surrounding counties, paying the start-up planting costs with the farmer repaying them after harvest. Their lease was for ten years with the option for five more years. They paid 19 cents a pound for asparagus. Ralph sold the extra from his crop for 20 cents a pound.

To begin, Stokely used mechanical harvesters, but were disappointed to find the machinery could not cut uniform spears as needed for the factory canning process. So a few years later, they brought in migrant workers to pick the asparagus by hand, via truck or bus. Later, they housed them in season at the Dunromin Ranch.

After the leases expired and the cannery closed, Ralph and neighbors Joe and Phyllis Wilson were hired high school students after school to pick the asparagus. Ralph says that the girls were the better pickers. The Wilson's had eight acres devoted to asparagus.

Ralph now sells his crop at \$2.00/pound. He offers discounts for seniors and purchases of large quantities. He said that he plants the asparagus 8 inches deep, 12-16 inches apart, with 48"-54" between rows. It is comical to observe the harvest, as the pickers utilize seats close to the ground, to make the picking easier.

Ralph's crop the first year was small, and it was three years before he had good production; 13-14 years for full production. Timing of fertilization and applying chemicals is essential for the next year's crop. With the wet season this year, it was well after July before this process was complete.

Ralph grows a variety of produce in the spring including strawberries and rhubarb. Pumpkins, gourds and Indian corn are ready in time for fall.

## Mrs. Knapp's Canned Pickled Asparagus Spears

10 lbs. fresh asparagus, trimmed and rinsed

1 white onion, cut into strips

1 carrot, cut into strips

3-4 bulbs of garlic

Pint canning jars with lids and rings, sterilized

Brine:

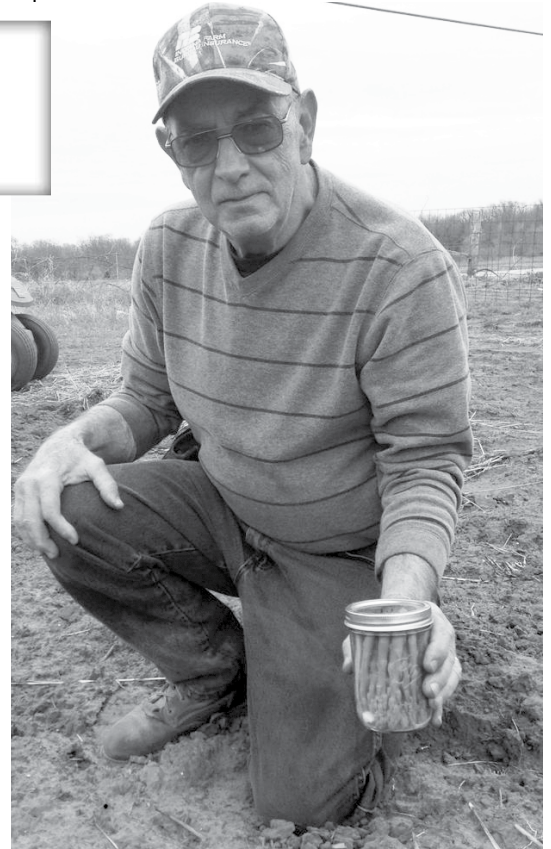
3 Qt. water

2 Qt. white vinegar

10 level Tblspns. salt

1 level Tblspn. pickling spice, remove clove spices

Directions: In a large stock pot, combine water, vinegar and salt. Bring to a boil and assure salt has dissolved. Add pickling spice and continue to boil for 15 minutes before removing from heat and straining. Set aside. Blanch prepared asparagus in boiling water for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. Cool spears in ice-cold water quickly and pack asparagus spears standing up in sterilized pint jars. Add 1 clove of garlic to each jar, a few strips of onion and carrot for color and contrast. Cover packed asparagus spears with the prepared brine, leaving 1/2 inch of space at the top of each jar before sealing with lids and rings. Process jars in boiling water bath for 10 minutes. Allow canned pickled asparagus jars to sit on cellar or pantry shelf for 2 weeks before enjoying. Before serving, chill jar in refrigerator for a crisp spear - makes 11 pints.



**Ralph Knapp, holding a jar of his wife Joanne's pickled asparagus. Hammond Times photo.**

# Home is Where Your Story Begins

The Merchant Family Record 1844-1960 - submitted by Dennis Boyd

The records of the Merchant family, submitted to us by Dennis Boyd, husband Rose-lynn, who is the eighth generation of the family. The records begin with Joseph H. and Keziah (Hambridge) Merchant, both born and lived in England. Keziah was the youngest daughter of William and Elizabeth Hambridge, her siblings being George, Richard, Elizabeth, William, Harriet and John. She married Joseph H. Merchant, son of John (1766-1843) and Hannah S. Holtom, (1776-1864) Merchant. They were married at Wescote Sou on the Wold, in Gloucestershire, England, on June 16, 1844. Children born to them in England were Fred, John, Louise, Adeline, Joseph, Clara and Samuel. The family left England in July, 1853 and reached New York on August 26, 1853, after spending six weeks on the three-mast ship named Siddons. All of the children except Adeline who died in infancy and is buried in England, made the voyage.

On August 29, the family left New York and stayed for nine weeks in Buffalo, New York, then moved on to Richmond, Indiana. From there they went on to Concord, Ohio. Their children Thomas, Stella and Eliza were born there. Thomas and Stella died at an early age and are buried in Concord. While the Merchants were living in Concord, Keziah's brother, John and his wife Anna (Ellis) Hambridge came from England and settled there. Their children were Kate, Sally, Will, Dick, Hattie, and John, born in England and Thomas and George, born in Ohio.

In 1865, both families moved to Brook, Indiana. Joseph passed away on August 6, 1881 and Keziah on May 20, 1883. They are buried at Riverside Cemetery in Brook, Indiana.

From these records we find that their son John H., married Eliza Jane Hess, daughter of Andrew (1820-1898) and Sara (Holman) Hess, on August 27, 1872 in Brook, Indiana. He is buried in Ashville, NC. His autobiography of the time spent on the ship coming to America and growing up by John, was included with the family record Dennis submitted, and it is available for public view in the family history files at the Resource Center in Kentland.

In the autobiography, he states that Fred



**Left, Keziah (Hambridge) and Joseph H. Merchant. They settled in Brook in 1866.**

volunteered to serve in the Civil War and left in the winter of 1863. This would be George Fred Merchant, (1844-1918) who married Martha Ann (Bell, 1844-1930). Their children were Harvey, (1873-1874); Jay M., (1877-1956); Chloe, (1880-1972); Miriam, (1882-1923).

Samuel Merchant, (1853-1930), married Ellen Cook, (1855-1903). In the "History of Brook, Indiana, Iroquois and Washington Townships, 2006," the newspaper article noting his passing and obituary states that "he was a well-known resident of Newton County and made his home west of Brook. He came to America at the age of nine months, and settled with his family in Brook in 1866, when there were only two houses in the town. He was an active member of the community, and one of their most successful farmers. He began farming by using the old fashioned horse-drawn implements of that day. He was very progressive and was the first in this section of the State of Indiana to use one of the modern combines for harvesting grain."

Samuel and Ellen had ten children. Bertha, (1880-1944), married Lloyd Brunton; Clara E. (1850-1851); John (1883-1964), married Rosezella "Zella" Lowe; Hattie, (1887-1914), married Ode Shellenbarger; Walter, 1888-1891; Chauncey, (1889-1954); Laura L., (1891-1967), married John Odle; Cora E., (1893-1972), lived in Schneider, In-

diana, and is buried at West Creek Cemetery in Lowell, Indiana; Myron, (1895-1961), married Dorothy Haste; Raymond, (1902-1957).

Chauncey Merchant married LeAnn Whaley in 1915. In 1923, they moved three miles east of Morocco from Washington Township. Their children were Kenneth, Ruby, Dale, Doris and Helen. Ernest and twin baby boys died in infancy. Dale married Margaret Corinne Rainford in 1947, who is featured in the "Salt" article written by Jeff Manes in this edition.

Myron Merchant married Dorothy Haste, and they had three children. Barbara, Joe and Ellen.

John Merchant married Rosezella Lowe. Their children were Lloyd, (1908-1976), who married Mary Louse Beagley; Alma Ellen, (1915-1966), who married Dr. Burton Furst; Eva May, (1919-2000), who married John H. Tallmadge Hess; Roy Wilbur, (1921-1984), who married Ruth Juanita Graefnitz, (1922-2011).

Roy and Ruth Merchant are the parents of Roslynn (Merchant) Boyd. She has two sisters, Carolyn and Cheryl. Ruth and Roy ran Merchants Restaurant in Morocco, located first just north of Oakland Cemetery on U.S. 41 and later it was at the corner of U.S. 41 and Hwy. 114.





George Fred Merchant



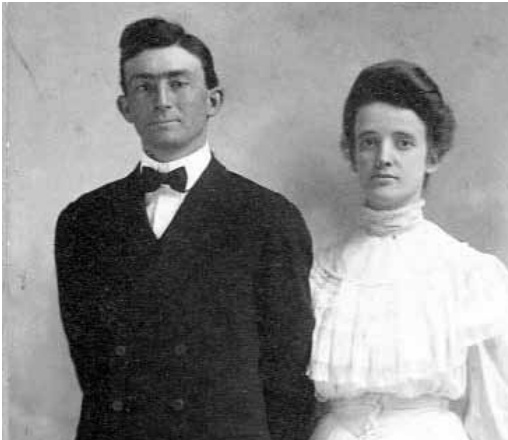
Martha (Bell) Merchant



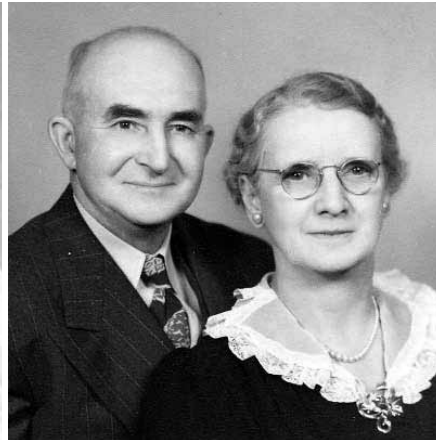
A younger Martha Merchant



George Fred Merchant served in Company D, 9th Indiana Volunteer Cavalry.



These two photographs are of John and Zella (Lowe) Merchant.



Back, Roy and Ruth Merchant, front, Carolyn, Cheryl and Roslynn Merchant



Left to right, Ellen, Joe, Dorothy, Myron and Barbara (front) Merchant. 1959.



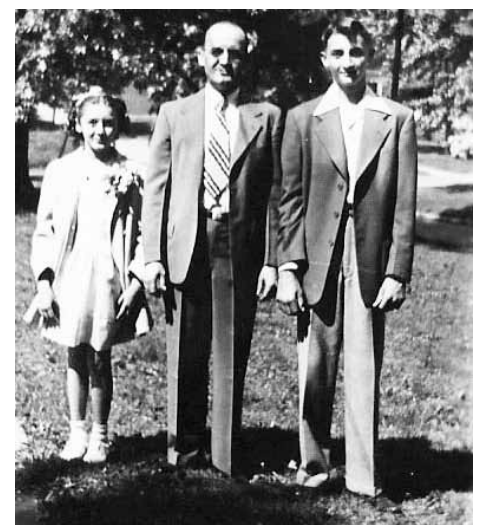
Dale Cook Merchant Helen Merchant



Ruth and Roy Merchant



The Hess Family Left, Eva May (Merchant), Ron, John holding baby John.



Glenda, Lloyd and Dick Merchant

# Life's Journey

## LaVanche (Woodruff) West's Tales of Americana

*Reprinted from the February/March 2015 edition of Generations The Magazine*

"The unincorporated community of Foresman, Indiana, sits in Iroquois Township, Newton County, near the Town of Brook, which in 2010 bragged of 997 habitants. Foresman, which was laid out as a town in 1882 by John Foresman, had no census records in 1917, the year it added LaVanche Woodruff as one of its citizens. LaVanche is the daughter of Samuel, who at the time was a photographer, and Nellie Hatch Woodruff, who was then a teacher. Actually, several minutes after Foresman added its newest citizen, another, her brother, Bud entered the world. They were the youngest and last of the Samuel and Nellie Woodruff family, which included four more sons.

"Shortly after the birth of the twins, Samuel moved the family to Terre Haute, Indiana, where he took employment at the Oakley Grocery Store. When the Great Depression struck in 1929, Samuel's wages were frozen. Some of LaVanche's older brothers were then attending Indiana State Teacher's College (later Indiana State University), and paying the bills became an issue. "We saved everything we had during the depression," LaVanche remembered, "including string. We had these huge balls of string. My dad glued rubber soles on our shoes because we always had holes in our shoes. He would use sandpaper to rough up the leather, then glue the rubber soles on."

"Mom opened the house for college students. She would feed them and charge them for a meal. My brothers were in college and they brought some of their friends over, that's how it all started. We had six kids to get through college, so we did anything we could to do so."

"Among the other things they did to earn money during the tight economy was to sell items that LaVanche's mother made. Nellie would make angel food cakes and the children would walk up and down the neighborhood streets selling them. Nellie also made mush for breakfast by baking them in small pans, then wrapping in wax paper. LaVanche remembered walking up and down the streets selling them for 10 cents each. The three brothers going to college would bring some with them to sell to classmates in need of breakfast. "That's why my dad had to repair all those shoes," LaVanche said with a smile on her face, "walking through the streets selling."

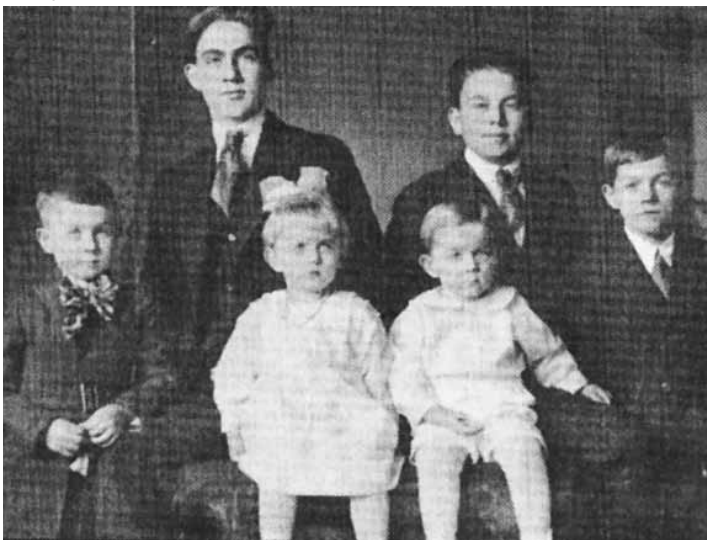
"It was during those times that one of her aunts became infamous. Aunt Lillian (Hatch) Holley, her mother's sister, was then Sheriff of Lake County, Indiana. John Dillinger became one of the prisoners in the Lake County jail in Crown Point, and made his famous escape from the jail under her control. That incident was the end of Lillian Holley's promising political career. Although speculation proliferated for years that Dillinger used a gun formed out of wood, it would later be learned that the



**Nellie and Samuel Woodruff**

gun that he used to effect his escape was provided to him through his attorney.

"Growing up, LaVanche remembered coming home after school, in junior high, and baking a cake every night because there was always so many people eating with them. After making the cake, she would go to a girls club. "There were no girls in my house,"



**The Woodruff children, June 2, 1917/18; Left to right: LaZelle, Flora LaVanche and Florian Samuel, Wesley, Charles and in front are twins, LaVanche and Bud. Laverne Woodruff, 1917.**



**LaVanche and Bud, high school graduation photograph.**



she said. At the girls club she learned how to cook, clean, care for a house and run a family. They also talked “girl things,” LaVanche said. Beside the girls club she was active with her church and the Girl Scouts. She graduated from Terre Haute’s Garfield High School in 1935 and went to Indiana State Teacher’s College where she attended a two year course and began her teaching career in 1937.

“Her first job was in Thayer, Indiana, a Newton County school that was 10 miles from the school her mother had taught at 30 years earlier. Nellie had taught first through eighth grades and LaVanche’s first teaching job only had her teaching first through fourth grades. “I taught half what my mother taught,” she said. After each school year, LaVanche returned to Indiana State Teachers College to obtain her BA degree. It took six years, but she got it.

Two years after her first job, she was teaching in Lake Village, another Newton County school, and while attending a basketball game at the school met Gale West. He was an area farmer. “He asked me to see “Gone with the Wind.” Actually, LaVanche corrected, “a friend of his saw me and said that a group was going to Kankakee, Illinois, to see the movie and asked if I’d like to go along. It turned out to be a double date, only the four of us. I had expected to pay my own way to see the movie, but Gale said ‘no way.’” That was the first date, they would continue dating

until they married on June 27, 1944.

LaVanche finally earned her Bachelor of Education Degree (BA) in June, 1943, and took a teaching job in Richmond, Indiana, which is on the Ohio border; “But that was just too long of a drive,” she said, “I taught for one year and Gale said it was just too far to go, so we got married.” She moved into the Lake Village farm that Gale worked with his father. He had to stay because his father needed help. Gale was not drafted due to the fact that he already had two brothers in the Army and he was the last son able to help with the farm. After they were married, LaVanche remembered, “we couldn’t buy anything. The government took everything (due to war). You couldn’t get appliances, cars, tires, gas, even silverware. We didn’t want to live with his parents, so we rented a little farm close to his parents.

That farm house was on the primitive side. It didn’t have electricity, gas or even running water. “We had to go to the well to get water and I’d carry it in a bucket,” LaVanche remembered. “We had to buy an old kerosene, three burner stove to heat the water, as well as cook, a sink, and oil to heat the house.” The couple used kerosene lamps at night and kept food cool in an ice box. “There wasn’t an iceman so we had to drive to town, a few times a week, to get the ice.”

“LaVanche was still teaching then and as part of her duties she had to go to work on Saturday where she issued ration books to



**Gale and LaVanche West wedding day, June 27, 1944.**

local residents. She explained that they were numbered and each resident had to sign for them weekly. Residents were only entitled to one coupon book a week, and some rations, like tires, and shoes they only received once a year; if that often. Even with the coupon the item might not be available. Finding leather shoes was one of those items impossible to obtain. LaVanche remembered purchasing shoes made out of pressed paper. “They didn’t last long,” she said, “and they were wide. I have a narrow foot and couldn’t find any that fit.”

“Once, while issuing the coupon books, she remembered how a man became enraged at her and yelled that he needed more coffee and sugar than they allowed. She told him that she was sorry but couldn’t give him more. Due to the number of the books there was no way to give someone more than one. That was how the U. S. Government controlled the rationing during WWII. It may not have been perfect, but it worked supplying citizens as much as possible, while at the same time providing those servicemen overseas fighting with the food and supplies they needed to win the war.

“It wasn’t until 1946 when they finally got

< *Continued on page 16* >



**Lillian Holley, Sheriff of Lake County with prosecutor Robert Estill and John Dillinger, on the far right. Holley is LaVanche’s aunt, her mother’s sister.**

## 16 The Newcomer

< Continued from page 15 >

a certificate from the government to purchase a stove. It ran off of propane. Their son, Gary, was born that year, and LaVanche remembers washing his diapers by hand on a washboard. A year after Gary's birth she finally got a washing machine. It was gas powered and she had to start it with a foot peddle, like someone kick starting a motorcycle. "I had everything that I needed," LaVanche said.

"By 1947 there was no more rationing as the capitalist machine that runs America kicked into high

gear. People could buy almost anything that they could afford. From new cars to refrigerators, buttons to houses. In 1948, the West family moved into a "real nice big farm house," LaVanche said. "It had hardwood floors, running water, plumbing, a bathroom, refrigerator, water heater, stove; I was in heaven." Gary was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes and LaVanche had to care for him constantly. There were special meals that had to be provided, constant watching of his sugar levels and an array of other peripheral things that go along with caring for someone with that special need.

Because of Gary's illness, LaVanche didn't return to teaching school until he entered school. She then taught in Morocco, Indiana, and enrolled Gary in the same school LaVanche taught there until 1956, when the family moved to a farm in Crown Point, Indiana. LaVanche said, "It was a real nice modern farm." They remained on that farm until 1966, when Gale accepted employment at Indiana General Company, in Valparaiso, making magnets for electric motors. The couple purchased a house there and "Gale was happy to be off the farm," LaVanche said, "he said that you don't have to worry about the crops coming in, about enough rain, too much rain, you don't have to worry about anything."

"LaVanche taught grammar school in Valparaiso for the next 13 years, finally retiring in 1979. Afterward she began researching



LaVanche (Woodruff) West, 2015

her family. This genealogical study consumed many happy years for her and Gale. The couple travelled to New York and North Carolina to look at census records, birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates. Over the years she compiled four genealogies, of her family, Gale's family, Gales' mother's family and her grandmother's family.

"They didn't have online records then," LaVanche explained, "everything had to be inspected in person. I really enjoyed doing that. Both Gale and I loved to travel, looking up those old records." Gale passed away in 2008, and Gary, due to complications of his diabetes, passed away in 2011. Today

LaVanche lives in the Valparaiso home that she and Gale bought back in 1966, where her nieces visit regularly and attend to any need that she may have.

### Newton County Roots

A copy of the *Generations* Magazine with this story inside was given to Kyle Conrad by Mickey Reed. Kyle, in turn, gave it to Janet Miller to file at the Newton County Historical Society for further genealogical use. Janet was delighted to receive a copy of the story, as she had corresponded with LaVanche years previously regarding their Kenoyer family genealogy.

LaVanches' mother, Nellie (Hatch) Woodruff was the daughter of Flora R. (Kenoyer) and Charles E. Hatch, and granddaughter of Jacob A. and Jane (Frame) Kenoyer. Flora R. was the daughter of Frederick Kenoyer, the United Brethren minister who was instrumental in constructing the first church in Newton County, and his wife Mary M. (Pfrimmer) Kenoyer. Frederick's brother, Jacob Kenoyer, and his wife, Catherine (Roberts) Kenoyer, were the great-great-grandparents of Janet Miller. Jacob Kenoyer established the first corn cracker (mill) in Newton County. The church and the corn cracker were both located in Washington Township.

## Now You Know Your County of Newton!

By Janet Miller  
Questions on page 9

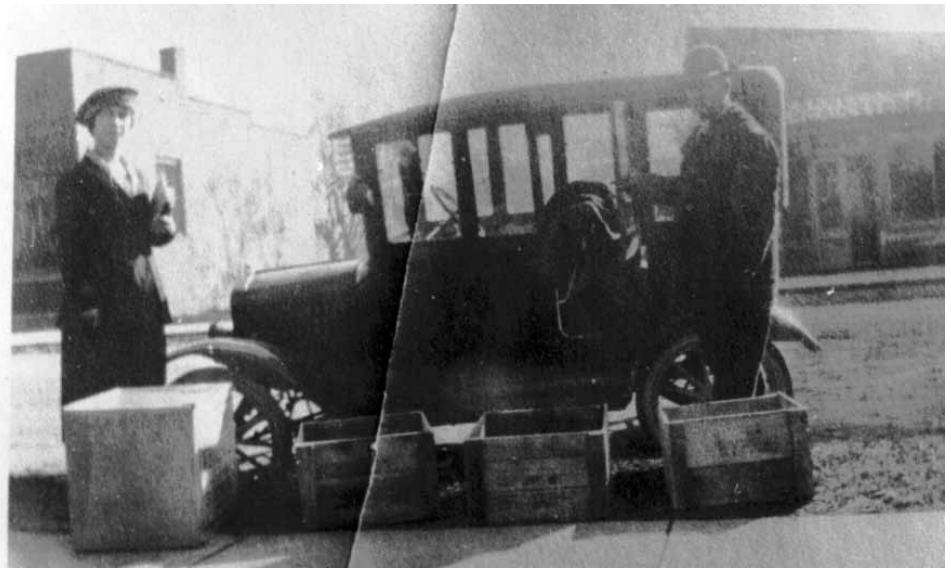
1. The correct answer is B. Sam Rice played major league baseball. He was born in Morocco in the year 1890 and elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963.
2. The correct answer is D. Also referred to as the "Grand Kankakee Marsh". With 500,000 acres in eight counties in northwestern Indiana, the Grand Kankakee Marsh was one of the great freshwater wetland ecosystems of the world. To learn more: <http://www.kankakeemarsh.com/>
3. The correct answer is B. The society was reorganized in 1991.
4. The correct answer is B. There are ten townships in Newton County. They are Beaver, Colfax, Grant, Iroquois, Jackson, Jefferson, Lake, Lincoln, McClellan and Washington.
5. The correct answer is C. Newton County is named in honor of Sgt. John Newton, a Revolutionary War hero.
6. The correct answer is C. An Amish community with a population of 150 was located in Jackson Township from 1875 to 1974.

### Newton County Historical Society Resource Center

PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951  
**Open Monday, and Friday**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM CST  
**Thursday, 10:00-1:30\***  
**219-474-6944**

**newtoncountyhistoricalsociety**  
**@embarqmail.com**  
**Tours Available - Call Ahead**





Left, The first location of the Brook Library was in a building owned by Phil Sunderland. Today, it is the home of the Brook Locker Plant. Right, The arrival of the first books for the Brook Public Library.

*“Throughout the history of the library, those responsible for its administration have sought to make it a vital force for good. The Brook Public Library developed, strengthened and expanded during all the years since its establishment, and stands today as a fine modern public library, offering a high type of library service to our community.” ... Mrs. Annie Reed, 1930.*

And So It Is 85 Years Later ....

## Brook Public Library Celebrates 100 Years

The first steps to organize a public library in the town of Brook were in 1910. A fund raising via a subscription plan was completed; an office room found, painted and shelved; and a program and book shower was held in McKinley Park. Approximately 500 persons gathered in the park and about three hundred books were donated, thus the beginnings of the Brook library. It was located in a building built by Philip Stonehill, located at 234 W. Main Street. In 1905, he leased the upstairs

to the Odd Fellows, and in 1910-1915 it was leased to the Brook Library. Today it houses the Brook Locker Plant. Miss Francis Hays was named librarian, and the new library was opened in September of 1910. One encyclopedia and 500 volumes were shelved.

In March, 1914, the idea of accepting a Carnegie Library for the community was acted upon, and on Saturday, February 20, 1915, the new building was opened to the public. Hundreds of visitors came to the opening and brought many gift books. There were 965 registered borrowers and 1611 books shelved. The east 2/3rds of the main floor was the library proper with the west 1/3rd allowing for a small room for the librarian and a room for a restroom, (the toilet was located between the two rooms).

In 1929, a children’s room was opened on the west main floor. Today, this is the media room containing magazines, inspirational and large print books.

In 1967, a spiral stairway was built, which connected for the first time, the main

floor and the basement area from the inside. It was located near the main entrance which was on the south side of the building. Originally, the entrance to the basement was through a doorway on the east side of the building. The office of the Township Trustee, headquarters for the County Health Nurse and Probation Officer utilized the basement area in the early years for their offices. Over the years, a private and public Kindergarten and Early Cooperative School were held there, and it was also utilized as a Community meeting room.

In the late 1960s, the Psi Iota Xi Sorority of Brook purchased a film projector and screen, and redecorated and installed a stainless steel sink in the basement area.

The spiral staircase was replaced in 1983 with a standard stairway, enclosed on the upper level with built-in bookcases, located immediate to the right of the south entrance. Additional improvements included purchase of steel bookcases, that held approximately 10,000 books. Air conditioning and carpeting for the main floor and improved lighting were added.

## Historical Timeline of Events - Brook, Iroquois-Washington Public Library

**March 1910:** A meeting was held at Christian Church to begin the organization of a public library for the town of Brook and Iroquois Township. A committee was put together to see the project through. An office was located and furnished to house the new library (the building now serves as the Brook Locker Plant, shown top left.)

**July 9, 1910:** The town held a book shower in McKinley Park. 500 people attended and over 300 books were donated to the new library by the townspeople. Some of the original 300 are on display in the Local History cabinet.

**September 1910:** Miss Frances Hays was named Librarian. The library officially opened to the public on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons as well as Saturday evenings. At its opening, the library’s collection contained an encyclopedia, public records, and more than 500 volumes of fiction, history, science, poetry, oratory, and general information.

## 18 The Newcomer

In the early 1990s, the library board began looking into renovating the Carnegie building to increase shelf space and make it more accessible to the public. A study made by an architectural firm reported that the building was in sound condition and that an addition was feasible. Fundraising and grant writing began in 1995, the results allowing for increasing the size of the building to twice its original size. In 1997, a new era began for the Brook Library. Now space was available for new services, including new computers for the staff and public use. A new elevator was installed which allows handicapped accessibility to the entire building. The children's library, now located in the basement has plenty of bright lighting, room for children's programs and a wonderful stage area utilized for a variety of activities.

In 2000, Washington Township became a part of the Brook-Iroquois Township Public Library taxing unit. Library services are offered for residents of both townships. At that time, they housed over 40,000 books and other items on the shelves, with over 1500 registered borrowers.

### The Librarians

Miss Ethel Reed succeeded Miss Hays as librarian in 1916, serving until 1924 at which time she resigned. Miss Vera Cunningham

succeeded her, serving in this capacity until her retirement in 1965, after serving 41 years at the library. Mrs. Helen Thompson then served until 1971, followed by Choice Bartlett. In 1994, Choice retired and her assistant since 1986, Joyce Whaley took over the duties as director. Joyce retired in 2014, after 27 years of service. Today, Krissy Wright has

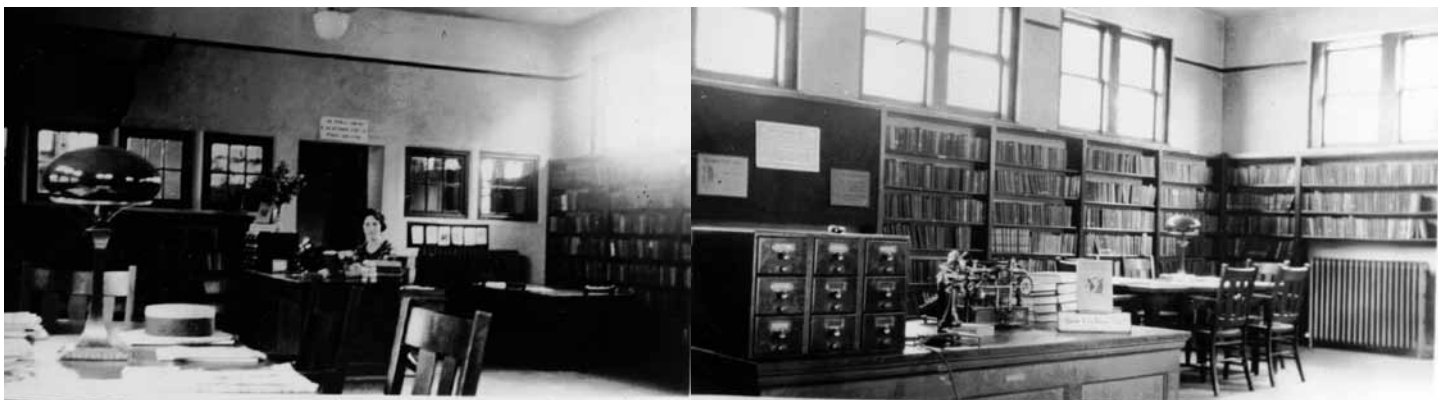
assumed the director's position.

### Board of Trustees

Throughout the years dedicated library board members have kept the library in good physical and educational status, updating as need appeared. Their duties including writing policy and overseeing all everyday financial matters of the facility. It consists of seven



Brook Public Library, 1923.



Main floor of the library, 1923. Left, looking west, Mrs. Reed at the desk; right, looking northeast.

## Historical Timeline of Events - Brook, Iroquois-Washington Public Library

**July 1911:** The first money for taxation was received.

**March 1914:** The town and the library board accepted Andrew Carnegie's offer to erect a Public Library. The current location of the library was purchased for \$1,500.00. It was proposed that the new building would cost \$7,000.00.

**August 1914:** Construction on the new building began.

**February 20, 1915:** The new library was opened to the public. Several hundred visitors came and many books were donated. The library's collection grew to 1,611 with 965 patrons, and 962 books read each month.

**September 18, 1915:** The In Memoriam Tablet was presented to the library by John Bennett Lyons, and was dedicated to the memory of the original members of Company B, 51st Indiana Veteran Volunteer Infantry.

**Summer 1917:** A call for books came for the soldiers at Ft. Benjamin Harrison and Library War Service was taken up through the library. During the war, several boxes of books and magazines donated by the people of the community were sent through the library. The town also raised \$100.00. The library opened its doors to war service organizations such as the county nurse and the County Red Cross Secretary.



## Staff Members 1910-2015 Librarians

Frances Hayes (1910-1916)  
 Ethel Reed (1916-1924)  
 Vera Cunningham (1924-1965)  
 Helen Thompson (1965-1971)  
 Choice Bartlett (1971-1994)  
 Joyce K. Whaley (1994-2014)  
 Kristine Wright (2014- present)

## Support Staff

Lenora Mohr	Avalynne Cooper
Ann Larson	Sally Conn
Amanda O'Hare	Alice Terrell
Rose Sell	Maxine Dyer
Missy Warne	Heather Tsaparikos
Mandy Justice	Carol Deno



1923, left to right, Elmer Hess, Board President, Ethel Reed, Librarian, Mr. Chapin, Janitor.

members, all of which had to live in the town of Brook. Appointments were made by the Circuit Judge, the Brook Town Board and the Brook School Board. At least three of the members had to be women. Today, the appointments are not gender-specific and members are comprised of three appointments by the South Newton School Board, two members each from Washington and Iroquois Township, appointed by a Newton County official.

## Accessibility

In 1962, the Brook Library joined Lake Village and Rensselaer libraries to establish and provide free bookmobile services to six townships in Newton County and eleven in Jasper County, that were without library service. This service was discontinued in 1964, but in 1965, the library became a member of the Newton County Contractual Library, agreeing to a reciprocal borrowing program, making library materials available to all library patrons in the county.



Left to right are Joyce Amsler, Helen Thompson, librarian and Gene Hershman looking over the displays during an Arts and Crafts event held at the library.

Now known as the Brook-Iroquois Township Public Library in 1974, they became a member of the Northern Indiana Area Library Services Authority. Through this program patrons of local libraries are able to borrow specific library materials from area, state and federal institutions and libraries throughout the United States.

## Services

The shelves of the library were filled originally with volumes donated by local residents, some of them still on display today. Over the decades, these collections have added materials that supplied local school students with a resource for research and development of class projects and study. Genealogists and historians have taken advantage of the collection of local, state and national history books available to help with their research.

In 1924, librarian Vera Cunningham created the Children's Reading Project. In the early years, it was a winter program, but eventually it became a six-week summer program.

## Historical Timeline of Events - Brook, Iroquois-Washington Public Library

**September 1924:** Miss Ethel Reed retired as librarian. Miss Vera Cunningham was hired as the new Director. Miss Cunningham started the first Children's Reading Program.

**1929:** The library opened its first children's room.

**1930-1931:** Focus on working with the schools was a main focus. There was also a strong focus on adult education.

**1995:** The library board took steps to look into building an addition to the Carnegie Library due to a severe lack of space.

**November 19, 1997:** A ground breaking ceremony was held and construction was started on the new addition. The library received a Community Focus Fund grant to help pay for part of the construction. The library also received a Rural Development USDA grant. The addition doubled the library in size.

**November 7, 1998:** A grand re-opening and dedication was held. The children's section was dedicated in honor of former librarian Choice Bartlett.

**2001:** The library switched over to a computer automated inventory and circulation system.

**September 21, 2015:** An open house was held noting the library's 100th year as a Carnegie library and 105th year as a public library.

## 20 The Newcomer

This program is still in action in 2015.

In 1974, librarian Choice Bartlett organized a Pre-School story hour. Through 1984, this project proved to be a popular one-hour program.

In 1975, in conjunction with the Indiana State Library, and the *Brook Reporter*, they collected and preserved local history by micro-filming the *Brook Reporter* through the years 1898-1974. These films are available today and read on a computerized microfilm reader, allowing the researcher to save, copy and print items directly from the films.

Today internet access and Wi-Fi access is available to the public. To help the Spanish speaking residents of the area, Director Wright has added English language learning software accessible to all ages.

### Recognition

It takes a community to create a healthy learning environment, and hours of volunteer time and donations have created this atmosphere at the Brook-Iroquois-Washington Township Public Library. It has a long tradition of support from the community and numerous donations and memorial gifts over the years. A gift was made in 1998 by the Fowler family in recognition of their parents, Morton and Nettie Mae Fowler, to help make the library a learning center. A bronze plaque was hung in the new addition during its dedication in 1998.

The library is a vital part of the Brook community, providing a source for entertainment, education and well-being of the residents.

### Brook Public Library Librarians 1924-1994



Vera Cunningham



Helen Thompson



Choice Bartlett



Dorothy Arbuckle, who served as the first librarian of the Lake Village Library, is autographing paperback copies of her second book, "Andy Dan's Boones Rifle," which was published in the 1960s, at the Brook Library. Gene Hershman is shown in the foreground.

## 1910-2015 Board of Trustee Members of the Brook Public Library

Frank Davis  
Elmer Hess  
R.E. Hershman  
John Lyons, Jr.  
Anna Reed  
Mrs. T.E. Collier  
Mrs. John Foresman  
Mrs. Harry Bruner  
Paul Weishaar  
O.B. Stonehill  
Sue Lowe  
E.C. Tyler  
Mrs L.C. Lyons  
Ida Lawrence  
J.B. Lowe  
Nellie M. Lyons  
Sarah A. Ricker  
Charles Russel  
Lloyd Hershman  
Claude Warr  
James Montgomery Sr.  
Ruth Haynes  
Kenneth Hiestand  
Gertrude Miller  
Arthur Weishaar  
Belle Dewees  
George Denham  
Owen Liskey

Grace Sell  
Virginia Hershman  
Leslie Akers  
Margaret Brown  
Alford Lyons  
Helen Thompson  
Lawrence Bannon  
Norman Tanksley  
Ruth Wadleigh  
Ralph Adamson  
Ray Vandenberg  
James Weston  
Dr. Jerome Murawski  
Roy Cooper  
Thomas Wilson  
Harold Myers  
Lowell Gardner  
Dan Ross  
Marilyn Clark  
Virginia Davis  
Richard Hershman  
Catherine Carroll  
James Montgomery, Jr.  
Arthur Jackson  
Thomas Kindell  
Morton Fowler  
Richard Gerts  
Barbara Schoonveld

Sandra Arini  
Aldine Antcliff  
John Connell  
Avalynne Cooper  
Harley Clark  
Joyce K. Whaley  
Janice A. Wilson  
Bill Fowler  
Beth Kindell  
Marshall Whaley  
Linda Reiners  
Marilyn Ekstrom  
Kenneth Marsh  
Robert E. Lyons  
Thomas Anderson  
Becky Lyons  
Greta Taylor\*  
Philip Whaley  
Anthony Arini  
Joyce A. Whaley  
Susan Kindig\*  
Jerry Johnson\*  
Jeff Vissering\*  
Jaqueline Jennings\*  
Sandra Harmon\*  
Janet Miller\*  
\*Asterisk indicates members currently serving.



# Pages of the Past

Submitted by Janet Miller Excerpts taken from The Newton County Enterprise, beginning January 1, 1915

## Kentland

**To Be Given Away:** 25 Beautiful Rugs. Having purchased 25 beautiful rugs we will absolutely give them to our patrons during the next few weeks. These rugs are on display at the Kentland Theatre and you are invited to call and see them. They were purchased from local merchants and are guaranteed both as to quality and workmanship. Kentland Opera House.

**Advertisement:** Twenty-five Thousand Ford Cars Bought By Allies. Without a doubt, the greatest sale ever made of automobiles by the Ford Motor Company, of Detroit, to the Allies for War Purposes, of Twenty-five Thousand Touring Cars to be delivered in Europe within sixty days. This is another illustration of the magnitude of the Ford Motor Company. No other automobile company could attempt, with any degree of success, the delivery of twenty-five thousand cars within sixty days after the order was placed. It also illustrates the confidence that is placed in the sturdy construction of a Ford Car, as it will be put to a severe test, transporting troops long distances over very bad and sometimes no roads. We also note that John D. Rockefeller, President Wilson, and Thomas Edison have joined the army of Satisfied Ford Owners, having each purchased a Ford. Schuh & Son, Agents, Kentland, Indiana

**Peter Nice** has bought a farm down near Urbana, and will move onto it next week. He dug the purchase price out of Newton county soil.

## Goodland

**Goodland Stars in Popular Comedy.** A comedy entitled "The Hoodoo" was presented at the Opera House Friday night by a cast of twenty-four people from Goodland. Unstinted praise of the production had preceded the actors, and on the strength of these good words our neighbors faced a large audience on the raise of the curtain. The principal parts were carried by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Little, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Doland, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Constable, Louise Constable, Bernice Humston, Hope Kilgore, Dorothea Todd, Mrs. A. P. Hawn, and all acquitted themselves splendidly. The play was given here for the benefit of the Public Library, and in appreciation of their clever work the cast was given a little luncheon at the Opera House following the performance.

## Washington Township

**Call on Col. Joe.** Old fashioned sleighing parties were the order during the two or three weeks of snow. On New Years night a company of about eighty, principally members of the

Christian church of Kentland, enjoyed a ride out to the county farm where they were guests of the superintendent and wife, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hooker. An oyster supper that warmed the bodies and convivial spirits of the company was served, and served abundantly. Those present report a most enjoyable evening.

## Conrad

**Mrs. Conrad Heads New Organization.** Indianapolis, Dec. 29: Why shouldn't a woman be interested in raising the very best Spotted Poland China hogs in the country? That's what Mrs. Jennie M. Conrad of Conrad, Ind., who opened the convention of the American Spotted Poland China Record Association at the Denison Hotel today, would like to know. Mrs. Conrad is the owner and operator of 5,000 acres of fine farm land in the north part of the state and reputed to be worth a million. "Yes, I raise Spotted Poland china hogs and am much interested in them" said Mrs. Conrad today. "There are other women members of this association. I am vice-president of the organization and I hope to be elected president at this meeting. The growth of this association has been phenomenal. Although it has existed only a short time, it is one of the strongest of the national hog associations." Not only does Mrs. Conrad raise hogs, but she was elected president of the association at the election of officers this afternoon. She is said to be the only woman ever elected president of a livestock association in this part of the country. Reports were made at the meeting showing that the association has 357 members and has 1,260 hogs registered from twelve states.

## Brook

J. N. Montgomery, the druggist, gave away ten dolls on New Year's eve, and ten little girls were as happy as could be. The first doll was a beauty, measuring thirty inches from top to toe and the nine others were as dainty and pretty though not so large. The names of the happy recipients were Lucile Lyons, Elda Sell, Ruth Robertson, Lorna Galbraith, Della Sargison, Mary Cunningham, Isabelle Wolfe, Blanche Whaling, Dorothy Montgomery, Mildred Grover.

A Victrola was purchased by the school pupils recently and they are hustling in various ways to raise money to complete the payment for it.

## Morocco

The people of the town were agreeably informed that Mr. John D. Robertson and Miss Fannie Darroch were married at the home of the latter last Wednesday evening, Dec. 30. Mrs. Robertson is one of the highly esteemed

young ladies of the town and one of the most enthusiastic workers in the Woman's Club. The groom is a man well known by all in the community having been raised in the town. He is now one of the firm of Atkinson & Robertson Tonsorial parlors. Immediately following the above nuptials Rev. L. P. Builta was called home to perform a like duty. Upon his arrival at home he found Ernest Kalfise and Miss Viola McCabe in waiting. The Reverend soon joined the two hearts as one and sent them on their way rejoicing. The bride is a niece of A. E. Purkey and has been employed in Purkey's Drug Store. Ernest is a hustling young farmer.

Harry Weidman will move to J. J. Lawler's ranch at Pogue the latter part of the week to assume the duty as foreman at that place.

## Roselawn

**Won and Lost.** Roselawn Constable Wins at Rhum and Loses Prisoners. Mrs. Ida Peterson of Roselawn, whose husband is a section foreman at Lowell, and Clyde Gibbons, commonly called "Battle Ax," were placed under arrest last Thursday on the charge of unlawfully living together. The arrest was made by Constable Frank Hatton, and Gibbons and the Peterson woman were bound over to court and placed under \$500 bond each. Unable to furnish the bond both were placed in the care and custody of the constable, who was to bring them to Kentland Friday morning. In the absence of a jail the two prisoners were taken to the home of Mrs. Peterson to remain during the night. Mrs. Peterson shortly retired, while Gibbons engaged Constable Hatton in a game of rhum, together with some neighbors that had called in for the evening. Gibbons was being beaten at cards, and finally excused himself, saying that he was going to bed. Hatton continued the game with the other guests until nearly midnight. When he went upstairs to get a little sleep before starting to Kentland, both Gibbons and Mrs. Peterson had fled. An open window and a ladder leaning against the house told the story. The constable organized a posse and the town was searched, but the birds had flown and have not since been located.

## McClellan Township

The Sunday School at Oak Grove met again last Sunday after a vacation of three weeks on account of the scarlet fever scare.

## Mt. Ayr

Joe Wichter and Ernest Schanlaub have purchased the old opera house and are converting the same into a blacksmith shop. This will make two shops for Mt. Ayr.

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### The Wash-O-Quois Museum in Brook

Preserving local history has been a passion of the people of Newton County. Individuals have strived to keep published history, newspapers and other ephemeral acquisitions by donating them to the libraries and Newton County Historical Society. Places such as the Scott-Lucas Home in Morocco, Pocket Park in Morocco, military monuments and historical markers throughout the county are their own tributes to the individuals who have contributed to quality of life we have grown so fond of here in Newton County.

Another group of energetic individuals are bringing back to life the Wash-O-Quois Museum in Brook, a project that was started in 1979 by Orv and Gertrude Hamacher as a personal collection of their historical artifacts, and developed into a museum, now under the auspice of the Iroquois-Washington Preservation Committee, (IWPC). The building is owned by the Town of Brook, but the items held within the museum belong to the committee. The remodeling of the building was under the auspice of Denny Bower, who made sure that he worked together with the town and the IWPC in meeting the re-

quests to bring it up to code, yet maintaining the outward appearance of the original structure. Denny's craftsmanship is reflected in every aspect of the building, and will endure the test of time.

The lot on which the building was built, was purchased initially by the Spitler family in 1854 from the U. S. Government. Please refer to the table associated with this story for the timeline of ownership for the lot/building.

When Gertrude Hamacher purchased the building in 1979, it became known as the Brook Museum. Items within the doors of the museum reflected the life and times of the people and businesses of the community. A walk back into time.


The IWPC utilized many of the photographs and information from the museum in their 2006 publication, "Brook, Iroquois and Washington Township, A Sesquicentennial Collection." The collection of historical material was cleaned and stored during the restoration of the building, and three members of the IWPC have taken on the task of moving and displaying the artifacts once again in the updated museum. Those members, Carol Light, Larry and Becky Lyons began working together this past summer coordi-

nating the effort, and began moving display cases back in on November 1st.

Plans are to have the museum open at different times throughout the year, and in particular during the 4th of July celebration in Brook and the Brook Fish Fry in September.

A pat on the back to the IWPC, Carol, Becky and Larry, and the Town of Brook for making sure that the history of the town of Brook, Iroquois and Washington Townships remains available to those interested in their heritage of Newton County. The oldest building in Brook will once again shine with pride and respect when her doors open to the public.

#### Timeline of Ownership of Building

Town of Brook — Museum Lot 14; Warr's Addition		
1854	Spitler family from U. S. Gov.	
1864	Orlando Bush and Samuel Favorite from Spitler family	
1868	Orlando Bush from Samuel Favorite	
1874	Margaret Deaver from Orlando Bush	
1883	Andrew Miller from Margaret Deaver	
1884	Bertha Lyman from Andrew Miller	
1884	Benjamin Warr from Bertha Lyman	
1889	Warr's Addition to town	
1897	J. D. Rich and Philip Stonehill (Citizen's Bank) from Benjamin Warr	
1901	Citizen's Bank moved to 127 West Main	
1901	Thomas Martin from J. D. Rich	
1905	J. D. Rich and Joseph Clark from Thomas Martin	
1911	J. D. Rich from Joseph Clark (1/2 int.)	
1916	Alice Vondersmith (millinery shop)/from J. D. Rich (Clark's 1/2 int.)	
1917	John Boyer from Alice Vondersmith (Clark's 1/2 int.)	
1917	John Boyer from J. D. Rich (J. D. Rich's 1/2 int. from 1905 purchase)	
1930	Elmer (Al) Cline (barber shop) from John Boyer estate	
1951	Eugene Miller (barber shop) from Elmer (Al) Cline	
1979	Gertrude Hamacher (Brook Museum) from Eugene Miller	
1980	Town of Brook from Gertrude Hamacher (for Wash-O-Quois Museum)	
2005	Town of Brook	



The Wash-O-Quois Museum, 2015 on the left and on the right, as it stood in 2011. Work on the building began in the summer of 2014 and was completed in the summer of 2015 by Denny Bower of Bower Construction, Brook, Indiana.





## Old Morocco Grade School Photograph

Mike Holder of Otterbein sent this photograph to us this summer, stating that he wanted to give it a good home, as he found many of the names in the 1910 Beaver Township Census records. It is a class from a Morocco school, and it stated on the back that the teacher was Emma Ketchum, grades six and seven, Morocco. Checking the alumni list, these names were in the classes of 1916 and 1917 of Morocco High School. The names of the students were not in any specific order.

Ruth Corbin, Dorothy Kessler, Helen Moore, Gertie Gruinn, Fern Buckles, Hazel Russell, Anna Williams, Hazel Bell, Fern Sinks, Rilla Baldwin, Voeta Saylor, Medora ?, Margie Kay, Eva Kessler, Edna Robinson, ? DeWolf, Sela Paulus, Mari Lyman, May Sallee, Minnie Williams, Irene Batchelor, John Robinson, Roy Jesson, Ernest Russell, Don Taylor, Harry Billings, Zackie Bailey, Earl Woods, Gilbert Morse, Wilbur Barker, Harold Cox, Sinclair Irvin, Clarene Dixon.

## New Monument For Flight 4184 Crash in 1994

The new monument is a wonderful tribute to the victims of the crash of Flight 4184 in Lincoln Township on a cold, rainy Halloween in 1994. The two walls have memorial blocks with the names of the victims inscribed upon them, and two plaques tell the story of the crash and the events that took place after the crash. The plaque information is transcribed below.

### American Eagle Flight 4184 - October 31, 1994

American Eagle Flight 4184 departed Indianapolis at 2:55 PM CST on October 31, 1994, en route to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. There were 64 passengers and 4 crew members aboard the ATR-72 turboprop.

Air traffic controllers directed the pilots into a holding pattern due to delays in Chicago. While circling, the aircraft encountered severe icing conditions, which led to a loss of control. Flight 4184 entered a high-speed dive and crashed in the second field behind this monument at 3:57:56 PM CST.

There were no survivors.

The National Transportation Safety Board investigation determined that ice buildup on the wings led to a loss of control of the aircraft.

The unique and irreplaceable souls lost that cold, rainy afternoon came from many backgrounds, beliefs, religions, and nationalities. Collectively, they possessed an amazing breadth of achievements, interests, talents, and potential. They are loved and missed by family members and friends all over the world.

### The Legacy of Flight 4184

The Flight 4184 accident resulted in many humanitarian and technical changes benefiting air travelers and their families. Research initiated during the Flight 4184 investigation led to a better understanding of icing hazards; airlines revised pilot training and procedures; and manufacturers enhanced aircraft anti-icing systems. All of these changes improved aviation safety.

The families of those aboard joined with other advocates seeking better treatment of those left behind following such tragedies. Their efforts helped build a strong consensus for change, which led to passage of the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996. The Act requires air carriers to have plans detailing how they will accomplish critical tasks like training support personnel, notifying family members following an accident, and returning the personal belongings of those aboard. It also designates the National Transportation Safety Board as the federal agency responsible for coordinating post-accident support.

The National Transportation Safety Board now fulfills this role for all U. S. commercial aviation and passenger rail accidents.



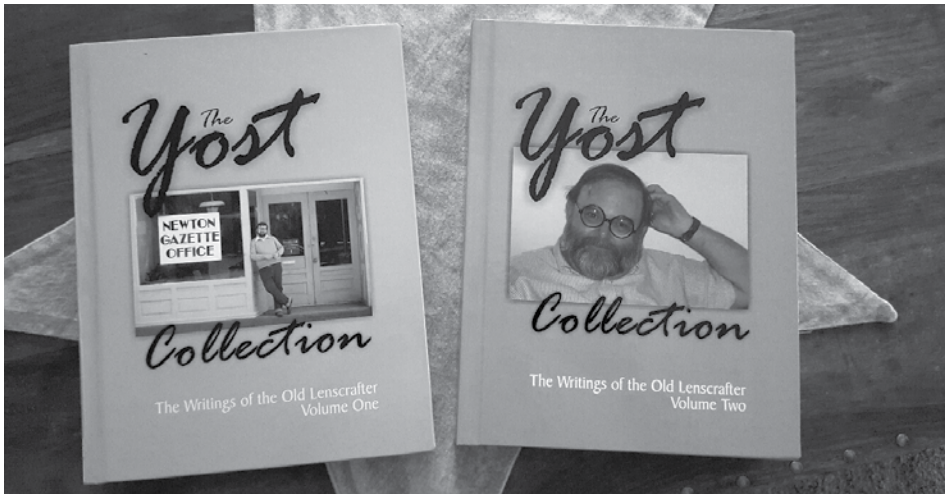
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### “The Yost Collection” Now Available!

The much anticipated collective writings of John Yost have arrived at the Newton County Historical Society! Published in a two-volume set by the Family History Division, the compilation covers over six decades of the writings of John J. Yost of Kentland, Indiana. Included are his weekly columns that appeared when he was an editor and guest columnist of the *Newton County Enterprise*, and in his own newspaper, *The Newton Gazette*. Those columns were entitled, “Yost Script,” 1972-1973; “Window on Main Street,” 1978-1987; “Through the Lens As I See It,” 1998-2005. As a featured writer of the *Enterprise*, John penned historical articles published under the titles, “Enterprise Time Capsule” and “John J. Yost’s Passing Parade.” In 2005, John embraced the latest technology to the best of his ability and began emailing his columns under the e-newsletter entitled “Yostie’s Lens.”

The content of these books includes all of these columns and featured writings because of their historical significance to Newton County. Given the title of “keeper of the local diary,” fits John well as he documented the everyday lives of the residents of Kentland and the Newton County community. His research and reporting on the early life in the county is some of the first published in detail for our area.

Also included is his complete published writings on George Ade; memories from friends and relatives and the tales of the distribution of his ashes upon his passing in 2007. Family and local historical photographs and maps have been added to enhance the articles’ content.



Pick up your copy today of the “Yost Collection,” a two-volume set that covers six decades of the writings of the ‘Old Lenscrafter’, John J. Yost.

# The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.  
Post Office Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951  
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### “All Worth Their Salt: The People of NWI”

By Jeff Manes

“All Worth Their Salt” is a collection of 100 of Manes’ human interest columns. He has written more than 1,000 since January of 2005. The book showcases mill rats, sod busters, hash slingers, bricklayers, boilermakers, truckers, teachers, tree huggers, eccentrics, altruists, artists and more. Some of the stories are hilarious. Some are heartbreaking. Some both. If you would like to purchase a copy, contact Jeff on his cell, 219-775-3038, or email, [jeffmanes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffmanes@sbcglobal.net).

Or stop in during the Society’s **Christmas Open House, Friday, December 11, 11-3 pm CST at the Resource Center in Kentland.** Jeff will be there signing books that day!

### Newton County Historical Society Resource Center

PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951

**Open Monday, and Friday**

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM CST

**Thursday, 10:00-1:30**

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**Gen. Society: \$17/yr; Lifetime, \$125**

**Family History Division:**

**(Must be society member to join FHD)**

**\$5/yr; Lifetime \$50**

**Dues for both: \$22/yr; \$175 Lifetime**

**Dues are January 1 - December 31**

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