

# The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

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Paul Terrance Cunningham,

Ordinary Man – Extraordinary  
Service and Love of Family

"Who kept the faith and fought the fight; The glory theirs, the duty ours." Wallace Bruce

## Newton County American Legion Posts & Auxiliaries

by Beth Bassett

Possibly one of the first post-war organized groups of veterans was the Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.). After the Civil War, groups of men began joining together in their communities first for camaraderie and then for political power to sway the government to serve those who served their country. Founded in Decatur, Illinois in 1866, the G. A. R. limited its membership to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Revenue Cutters Service who had served between April 12, 1861-April 9, 1865. By 1890 the G. A. R. would number 409,489 veterans of the Civil War.

There were a total of six Posts of the G. A. R. in Newton County; Post 57 Goodland, 1882-1912; Post 102 Kentland or "McHolland", 1882-1931; Post 111 Morocco, 1882-1923; Post 253 Roselawn, 1883-1916; Post 298 initially named Pilot Grove, 1884-1888, then Mt. Ayr, 1884-1896; and Post 588 Brook, 1891-1932.

Decoration Day was established by the Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.) on May 5, 1868. It was intended to honor soldiers lost in the Civil War and to decorate the graves of their comrades who died in defense of their country during the war. By the end of the 1800s, memorial ceremonies were held nationwide on May 30. The end of WWI saw Decoration Day revised and expanded to honor those who died in all American wars and declared a national holiday in 1971 when Memorial Day became a national holiday celebrated the last Monday in May. *You will find a detailed article about the G. A. R. in the Winter, 2006 edition of The Newcomer.*

## Formation of the American Legion

The final 100 days of WWI were the bloodiest. Combined casualties mounted to over two million. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the guns of Europe fell silent. After four years of bitter fighting, what was known as the Great War was finally over. The Armistice was signed at 5 a.m. in a railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne, France, on November 11, 1918. Six hours later at 11 a.m., all hostilities ceased – WWI was over. This day was named Armistice Day, in honor of the final moment of "the war to end all wars."

On March 15, 1919 in Paris, France, delegates from combat and service units of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) founded the American Legion. It was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization, focusing on service to veterans, service for members and communities. The group evolved from war-weary veterans of WWI into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States.

Initially, men and women who honorably served and received an honorable discharge were eligible to join the American Legion. Today, eligibility requires that you have been assigned to at least one day of federal active duty service any time during the eligibility periods as determined by the United States government (December 1941-present), and received an honorable discharge/discharge under honorable conditions or currently serving in one of the current military campaigns.

### Veteran's Day

The annual tradition of two minutes of silence began on November 11, 1919, honoring the 20 million men and women who lost their lives serving their countries during WWI. This moment of silence tradition carried through the decades by the American Legion and Auxiliary throughout the nation on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday in 1938. On June 1, 1954, by presidential decree, the name changed to Veteran's Day to honor all U.S. Veterans. The National Holiday Act of 1971 by Congress made November 11 an official holiday to honor all who have served in the military.



The current display window at the Newton County Historical Society Resource Center honors the Hedrick-Brandt Post #23, Kentland, the only active Newton County American Legion Post celebrating 100 years. This sign was created by Terry Dieter. Babcock photo.

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# President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

Did you notice that summer has whizzed by?

The 100th Punkin Vine Fair is history. I need to give a few kudos to Historical members who did good things to make it a success. Beth Bassett and Janet Miller, along with Karen Van Duyn did the writing for the Pun'kin Vine Gazette. It was a seven issue publication with history and recollections of the fair highlighting the happenings and fair volunteers. It was looked forward to each day.

The Society had a colorful booth full of old fairbooks, signed posters of the people who have given concerts, old trophies, pictures from years past. Thanks to Peg Lawrence, Barb Wilfong and Rich Miller for

setting up the booth and David and Darlene Truby for getting the booth cleaned up. Members Larry and Becky Lyons, Nancy Jo Prue, Diane Elijah and Hal Zantop, Janet Miller and Barb Wilfong, Greg Willis, Judy Schutlz, Bernie and Patrick Murphy for "manning" the booth.

The display window at the Resource Center is currently be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion, with special recognition of the Hedrick-Brandt Post #23 of Kentland as the only active county legion also celebrating 100 yeears. As usual, many have a hand in making the window meaningful. Judy Wirtz, Barb Wilfong, Terry Dieter and Greg Willis have been in the background getting things in order. We thank our mem-

bers who so easily come forward with things needed for the window, no matter what the theme is to be.

The Kentland Rotary held an evening meeting at our Resource Center recently. Their members had time to look around, ask questions, before enjoying pizza. Are you a member of a group that would like to schedule a time to come to the Center to see all that we have? You may even find a picture of a parent or an old friend among the things on display. Get in touch with the Center or a member and we will do all we can to make it happen.

Lastly, bother and bore your children and grandchildren with family history. They won't appreciate it now, but in the years to come they will. I send a text to several of my grandchildren every week or so with some little fact - birthday, siblings, a story - hopefully some day they will say - oh, yea, Grandma told me that!

## Iroquois Township Sponsors Survey of Older Section of Riverside Cemetery

In mid-August, thanks to the generosity of the Iroquois Township Trustee, Jane Risley, the Historic Archaeological Research (HAR) team arrived at Riverside Cemetery in Brook to begin a comprehensive survey of the original Brook Cemetery, focusing on the pioneer or older sections as well as several other locations on the grounds. Information garnered from this survey may result in precise locations of burials, open burial lots and unmarked graves.

For over two decades, Kyle Conrad has collected data of his own on the burials at Riverside Cemetery. Funeral home records, obituaries and many hours spent walking and probing the cemetery have answered many of his questions about unknown burials, unmarked and open sites/lots throughout the grounds. HAR personnel followed Kyle's guidance to areas of particular interest and used his records as reference for the site survey and mapping of the standing monuments.

"This project has many benefits to my research and data." Kyle stated. "First, it will confirm the existence and location of unmarked burials. That information, coupled with my research, will allow me to confirm the names of some of those previously forgotten burials. Next it will keep us from inadvertently disturbing those graves during our normal operation of the cemetery."

He added, "I thought this would have been a great project to do with funding from the Newton County Community Foundation and I applied for a grant through that organization. Unfortunately, they didn't recognize the historic value, but Iroquois Township did and for that I'm very grateful."

Since early 2000, HAR personnel have relied upon geophysical data collection technologies to locate unmarked graves, and precision survey equipment to accurately document poorly defined 19th century pioneer cemeteries. Consultant Rich Green and technician Ernie Humberger utilize a multifaceted subsurface imaging strategy that includes a Magnetometer and or Pulse Induction Metal Detector, first to identify buried metal features, followed by Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to record minute variations in sub-surface soil that are consistent with the size, shape, depth and orientation characteristic of human graves found in an orderly cemetery environment. In this manner, other types of subsurface disturbances can often be differentiated. Burial vaults, originally made of wood or brick but more

often today made of concrete, enclose coffins to help preserve the coffin and prevent a grave from sinking. These are easily identified and mapped through this technology, giving precise locations of the vaults, and open spaces in between burials.

So, you may be thinking to yourself, why would we need to know such precise details? For the genealogist, or interested family member, a detailed map can be provided as to the burial location of the individuals they are seeking. For historians, confirmation of data is essential. This service provides validation of the burial, (or not) noninvasively without disturbing the burial site.

After the GPR data is collected, it is then fed into a software program that can create a 3D image of tested areas permitting detailed analysis and interpretation. These details may confirm unmarked graves and or ensure that the site is open for a future burial. To Rich, accuracy is critical. If an area has been previously disturbed in any way, the recommendation for cemetery managers is always avoidance.

HAR has been involved in hundreds of other smaller cemetery projects throughout the Midwest. More of their accomplishments can be found at their website, [www.har-indy.com](http://www.har-indy.com).

It is certain that many of Kyle's questions will be answered, and that Riverside Cemetery will benefit as well down the road. The quest to preserve Newton County history into the future will continue by embracing and utilizing the new technology that is now available. Trustee Risley recognized the value of this service by bringing it to Iroquois Township and the Riverside Cemetery.



Rich Green (left) and Ernie Humberger mapped and surveyed the Riverside Cemetery in August, 2019. Bassett photo.



## Post-WWI Newton County American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries

In 1919, groups of WWI veterans from the communities of Kentland, Goodland and Morocco sent applications for American Legion Posts. That same year on August 7th, Kentland's post would be officially chartered as the first post in Newton County known as the Ora Hedrick Post #23; in October Morocco's charter was issued and the post was named the William Chizum Post #146; in December, Goodland's charter was issued and officially known as the David J. Berns Post #181.

### Hedrick-Brandt Post #23, Kentland

In 1919 an application was made to the American Legion headquarters for a temporary charter by the following servicemen: Dr. G. H. VanKirk, first President, Paul T. McCain, Kenneth G. McCain, first Secretary, Ernest W. White, Earl B. Gardner, first Vice President, Calvin C. Burton, Charles F. Heilman, Harry G. Ainsworth, Edward Dieter, Wilfred B. Schuh, Albert J. Plunkett, Paul Z. McDonald, Louis F. Kime, Ermal C. Baker, first Treasurer, and Claude Herr. Glenn Walker served as the first 2nd Vice President.

A charter was issued establishing officially what is known as the Hedrick Post #23. Post numbers were assigned in the order of application submissions, hence, Kentland was the 23rd application made in Indiana. In naming a legion post, the name of the first man to lose his life in service is used. Ora L. Hedrick, Private, Marine Corps died overseas in September 1918. After the death of Ora V. Brandt, Seaman First Class of Kentland, on December 7, 1941, the Post name was changed to the Hedrick-Brandt Post #23.

Post #23 first met in various meeting rooms in Kentland before purchasing the home of Herbert and Mina Crawford located on the north side of the Newton County Courthouse. Today, the Post #23 uses part of the building for storage. The Downtown Lounge now occupies the building.

Post #23 is the only active American

Legion Post in Newton County that is celebrating 100 years.

**Ora Lloyd Hedrick** was a Private in the Marine Corp. He was the son of John and Dessie Hedrick, born November 6, 1894, in Newton County. A farmer, he enlisted in the Marines Corp in May 1917 in Kentland. He was sent to Parris Island, SC; transferred to Quantico, VA; assigned to the 5th Marine Corps. Overseas sometime in August 1918. He was reported killed in action on September 15, 1918, place not named.



Hedrick

**Oris V. Brandt**, was the son of Edward and Leatha Brandt, born February 16, 1921 at Morocco. Oris graduated from A. J. Kent High School in 1939. In March 1940, he joined the Navy and spent his training period at Great Lakes Naval Station, then assigned to duty on the Pacific Ocean. On December 7, 1941, Brandt was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Brandt.



Brandt

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uaniu Cemeteries. In September 1947, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of US casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schoefield Barracks. In 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Brandt.

In April 2015, advances in forensic techniques prompted the reexamination

of unknown remains associated with the Oklahoma, and Sgt. First Class Brandt's remains were eventually identified on February 20, 2019. Seaman Brandt is memorialized in the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

### Berns-Burgess Post 181, Goodland

In and around Goodland, there were 81 men and one woman, Clare E. Brooks, in service during WWI. C. C. Bassett and A. D. Babcock, Jr. attended the first national meeting in St. Louis, MO. They brought back information and instructions to obtain an American Legion Charter. Another meeting was held with 24 veterans signing up for membership. They were as follows: C. C. Bassett, C. Lee Rothrock, Edwin J. Gerhold, Harris W. Miller, Wm. W. Stewart, Wm. O. Bough, Raymond Rothrock, C. B. Harms, Louis A. Yochem, Seaver Davison, Chas. P. Medlock, Albert Hotler, James L. Medlock, Harry Hawn, Ralph B. Heck, Harry A. Wild, Lawson J. Cooke, Ara J. Rounds, Floyd E. Hoover, Arthur D. Morgan, Clarence LeMaster, P. S. Miller, A. D. Babcock, Jr., and Fred McKinley.

Post #181 was named for David I. Berns, the first Goodland casualty of WWI who died of pneumonia on board ship on his way to France on October 12, 1918. and Arthur J. Burgess, who died during SATC training at Purdue on December 14, 1918.

The first meetings were held over the N. V. McClellan Garage. Post #181 eventually disbanded, and members have joined other active posts.



Berns

**David Isaac Berns** was the son of Isaac G. and Ida Berns; born March 6, 1892, he was a blacksmith at Goodland when he enlisted June 23, 1917 in the Indiana National Guard. He was sent

to Camp Shelby, MS; assigned to Battery C, 137th Field Artillery, 38th Division. Embarked October 6, 1918; died of pneumonia on board ship October 12, 1918 and was buried at sea. He was survived by his widow Julia Thompson Berns.



Burgess

**Arthur J. Burgess**, son of Fayette and Bernice Burgess; born July 3, 1899 at Goodland. He was a farmer and entered the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) at Purdue University.

On October 9, 1918 he was assigned to Headquarters Company, Section A. He contracted pneumonia and died on December 14, 1918. He is buried in the Goodland Cemetery.

The first elective officers were: C. C. Bassett, > Continued on page 4



Left, the home of Hedrick-Brandt Post #23 in Kentland was purchased from the Crawfords for \$1.00 in 1946. Right, Dr. G. H. VanKirk Post #23 first president in his 1906 Auburn automobile. Reprinted from "Kentland Newton County Centennial, 1860-1960."

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Commander; Louis A. Yochem, Adjutant; A. D. Babcock, Jr., Finance Officer; Glenn Rider, Sgt. At Arms; Rev Roy Burnett, Chaplain.

The first four to carry a Legion card were Richard I. Constable, John E. Messersmith, Jr., Robert O'Neil, and Leslie Patterson. When the Post was organized, the Civil War and Spanish American veterans were invited to use the club rooms.

### William Chizum Post #146, Morocco

On October 24, 1919 a charter was issued to the William Chizum Post #146 at Morocco with the following charter members: F. G. Behrlander, Clifford A. Dunlop, Robert E. Carlson, Raymond E. Mashino, Harry C. Blaney, Bernard J. Beckwith, L. P. Ringer, John A. Ringer, E. C. Moore, Paul E. Moore, Vernon E. Hogan, William R. Brunton, Ed Murphey, Vernon Russell, Leslie Kessler, Herschel Bower, Elmer Parrish, Thomas J. Watson, C. R. Hayworth, James D. Kay, A. M. Skinner, E. L. Skinner, Lloyd Deardurff, Alvia R. Russell, J. A. Bower, Van Cox, L. L. Camblin and Grover Hammond.

Morocco Post #146 was named after William Chizum who was killed in WWI. The Post met in various business places until they rented a room in the K. of P. building. After that they met in the theatre building, the Ira Murphey building, the Recher building and then purchased their first home in 1935 on State Street which in 1951 was occupied by Bower and Stoner, in 2019 known as Mel's Diner. After WWII, they needed a larger facility so in 1947 they sold their State Street location and in 1948 purchased their present home on Walker Street. In 1952 they added a four-lane bowling alley installed for member and public use. An addition was added on the south side of the building in 1957. Post #146 remains active today in the same location.

**William Chizum** was the sixth child of William and Nancy J. (Deardurff), born March 24, 1895 in Morocco. He was a steel inspector in Chicago and enlisted in August 1917 in Chicago. He was sent to Camp Houston, TX; assigned to Company C., 32nd Infantry, 33rd Division. Sailed in May 1918; killed in action August 2, 1918, near town of Albert France. Buried at Contay, Somme, France.



Chizum

### Post WWII Newton County Legion Posts

#### Brook Post #364

In the October 7, 1937 edition of the *Brook Reporter* an article announced the organization of the Brook American Legion

Post 364. Meetings would be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the Lions Club room, and a program of service to both the community and veterans will be the aim of the organization. One of the first activities planned was sponsoring an Armistice Day Program on November 11th.

After WWII, the membership grew, and a permanent home was purchased in 1950 from E. E. Hess Drug Co. on the south side of Main Street (SR 16). After 1974 the building was occupied by Wayne Danruther and Orville Hamacher and sold in 1996 to Bob Lyons. Today, the active American Legion members have access to their inventory held at the Wash-O-Quois Museum.

The first elected officers were: Guy Dick-ey, Commander; Lee Rothrock, First Vice; Walter Hess, Second Vice; Oscar Bisig, Adjutant; Earl Sell, Finance Officer; Art Irwin, Service Officer; Jasper Williams, Chaplain; Roy Sell, Sergeant at Arms; George Denham, Publicity Officer.

#### Lake Village Post #375, Lake Village

On January 18, 1946 a temporary charter was given to the veterans of Lake Village to be known as Lake Village Post #375. The charter was granted to members: Omer R. Newell; Leo T. Lucietta; Joseph C. Hendryx; Claude Husha; Richard H. Scheel; Adelbert L. Cool; C. M. Ross; Chester Rainford, Sr.; Chester Boyd; A. J. Kopp; Glennard H. Anderson;

Byron B. Bryant; John Sheppard; Jerry Newell; Stanley Davis; Walter Earley.

In June 1946, the original charter contains 52 members as well as the first officers: Byron Bryant, Commander; Joseph Hendryx, Vice-Commander; Stanley Davis, Adjutant; Claude Husha, Sgt. Of Arms; Omer Newell, Finance Officer; Chester Rainford, Sr., Chaplain; Leo Lucietta, Historian.

In an August 29, 1946 edition of the *Morocco Courier* we find that the joint installation of officers for both the legion and auxiliary members was held on September 29, 1946.

The building that is located just west of the Lake Village Post Office was the meeting place for the legion members. In later years, the building was converted to house classrooms for the Lake Village school. Today, a new structure is just southwest of the Veteran's Memorial where supplies and meetings are held. It is known as the Leonard Poplawski Meeting Room.

#### Kankakee Valley Post #238, Roselawn

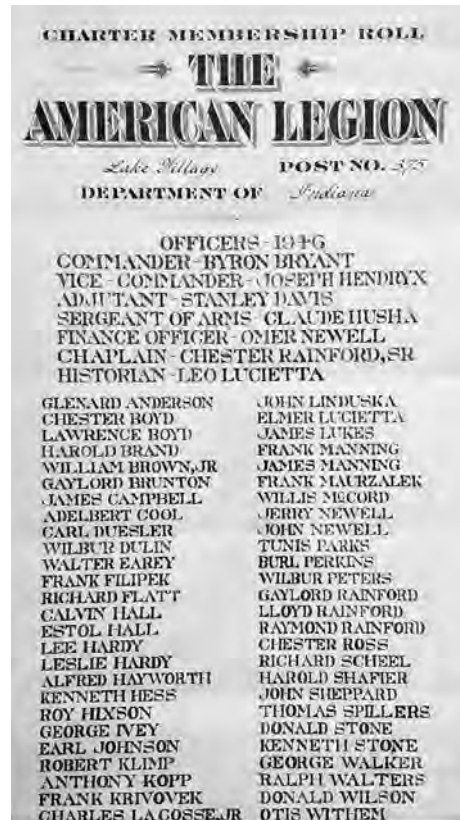
The Roselawn American Legion was chartered as the Kankakee Valley Post #238 on November 30, 1946. Members at that time were from the Roselawn and Thayer. They immediately had a permanent home thanks to the generosity of WWI veteran George S. Jaye and his wife Alice. He was a local merchant and owner of a general store in Roselawn at the time. He was also an attorney, known as Govind S. Jaye, born in India. He had two sons in WWII.

George and Alice deeded about five acres of ground upon which to build a legion home and memorial to WWII veterans. They also loaned money to construct the building and a nominal interest and twenty years to repay the loan. George served as the first Commander of the post and the foundation of the home was built during his term in office. By 1947, the structure was completed at a cost of \$12,500 with a large auditorium on the upper floor and a kitchen and dining room on the lower floor, as well as club room and rest rooms. The Legion home was dedicated on May 25, 1947 during the term of the second Commander, Franklin Cyphers.

In 1983, Post #238 installed their first woman Commander, Phillis Banks, to become one of ten women Legion Commanders in Indiana. She joined the Navy in 1964 at the age of 18 to further her education and travel. Having been active in the legion since 1969, she had held several offices including Chaplain for four years, Adjutant and Service Officer for one year each.



Banks



Original Charter of Post #375 Lake Village, 1946.



## American Legion Auxiliary

After the formation of the American Legion, several women's organizations wanted to become an affiliate of the legion. A committee was created to form a new organization made up of women closely associated with the men of the legion.

The first American Legion convention in November 1919 "birthed" the American Legion Women's Auxiliary. They would perform those portions of legion activities more suitable to women. In 1921 the women voted to eliminate the "women" in their title, and it became known as the American Legion Auxiliary.

### Goodland

The first to organize an American Legion Auxiliary in Newton County was Goodland in October 1921. Mrs. Clarence Rider was the first President and was a State Delegate to the National Convention in New Orleans in 1922. In later years, a Junior Legion Auxiliary was organized to assist the Senior Auxiliary and its projects. A few of the members were Tony and Mary Sainte, Mary Ann and Sharon O'Neil, Brenda Wildasin, Sandra and Joyce Phelps, Lynette Marion, Cheryl and Elizabeth E. Sanderson, Jane, Janice and Julia Fowler.

### Kentland

In June 1929, the Kentland Auxiliary was organized under the supervision of their first President, Mrs. Lucretia Van Kirk and her officers Frances Rex, Vice President; Mabel Goldstein, Treasurer; Evalina Skinner, Chaplain; Imogene Gott, Sgt. Of Arms; Inez Boone, Secretary.

### Morocco

In 1930 the Morocco Auxiliary organized. Charter members were Hilda Brunton, Frieda Blaney, Bernice Hayworth, Iva Mahin, Olive Smart, Mary Plowman, Pearl Parrish, Flossie Perkins, Tennis Deardurff, Olive Clark, Clara Camblin, Jessie Camblin, Ruth Mashino, Blanche Werner, Gladys Smart, Fannie Moore, Edna Robinson, Davada Murphey, Jane Roadruck, Bethel Murphey and Daisy Roadruck.

### Brook

In February 1938, a meeting was held at the home of Nina Hess to organize and elect officers for the American Legion Post #364 Auxiliary at Brook. Membership included Alta Bisig; Nancy Sell; Treasurer, Ruth Little-Sell; Alice Merchant; President, Nina Hess; Dessie Whaley; Pearl Cline; Chaplain, Clara Danruther; Verl Snyder; Assistant Secretary, Vivian Kline; Caroline Denham; Secretary, Florence Lyons; Martha Light; Ethel Todd; Lovia Kindig, Vice President, Elma Shephard; Sylvania Corbin; Jennie Clinton; Elizabeth Waling; Anna Williams; Historian, Vera Conn; Sgt. At Arms, Sue Rothrock.

### Lake Village

American Legion Post #375 Auxiliary was organized on a Friday evening, August 26, 1946. Officers elected were President, Evelyn Goddard; Vice President, Mrs. Rueben Rainford; Second Vice President, Mrs. Joe Hendryx; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Richard Scheel; Treasurer, Mrs. Estol Hall; Chaplain, Mrs. Leslie Hardy; Historian, Mrs. George Sheppard; Sgt. At Arms, Mrs. Roy Fox.

### Roselawn

In 1946, the Kankakee Valley Post #238

Auxiliary was organized under Commander Jaye's term with Bertha Korth elected as its first president. The Auxiliary has been an active part of their community and contribute annually in several ways to better their community and support their local veterans.

*"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it." - Unknown*

*To add to that unknown quote .... and our flag continues to fly because of the dedication of honoring our veterans lives by our local American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries. - Editor*



Inbox: [newtonhs@ffni.com](mailto:newtonhs@ffni.com)

## Our Digital Collection Grows!

Member John Haste recently emailed us a photograph that was identified as May Parke, Principal BHS 1913. The Park-Parke name is a familiar one to the Brook community on many levels. The Brook, Indiana, Iroquois-Washington Township Sesquicentennial Collection and Newspapers.com (*Brook Reporter*), revealed a bit of information on Miss Park.

The history book listed May Park (note spelling) not as a principal at Brook High School in 1913, but a teacher/assistant from 1906-1911. In an article written by Amy Cooper in 1945 as part of a series by the Brook Study Club we found:

"In regard to the schools, no doubt there were many who left indelible imprints on impressionable child minds that were more outstanding than others. When I first came to Brook, there were four high school teachers, Supt. Longwell, May Park, Jessie Haynes and Madeline Ramp for music - all ultra-superior teachers, in that they possessed a scholarly mastery of their subjects, knew how to present them, preserved good order, and somehow inspired even the most indolent to industry. I never saw them grading papers, but the papers always came back, neatly graded and evaluated. I found my courses in literature, English, and history comparatively easy, due to the splendid foundation work of May Park and Miss Judy."

*Brook Reporter*, May 10, 1947. Brook Public School Building Erected 1904.

"In March 1906 the State Board of Education commissioned the High School, and this year the second class will be graduated under the commission. There has been sacrifice on the part of the teachers, pupils, patrons and citizens to bring the school to its present condition and it should be the sincere desire of all concerned that its standing be maintained.

"The school board has requested the present force of teachers to remain in the school for another year. These are: E. E. Vance, Superintendent; Fred H. Longwell, High School Principal; May Park, Eight Year and High School Assistant; G. G. Lowe, Room 5; Elizabeth Hays, Room 4; May Dewey, Room 3; Nellie Harris, Room 2; Mittie DeWees, Room 1. So far as known these teachers will accept their places another year." Perhaps one of our members has a bit more information - please email us!



May Park

## Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - Answers on page 11

1. It might be well said that Newton County emerged from the "dark ages" when electricity was used for illumination. When was electricity first employed for this purpose?
2. What late county official compiled an extensive archaeological survey of Newton County pinpointing all the known Indian settlements in the county?
3. In Morocco, in the early 1900's two clubs were formed, one a young ladies' organization and the other a young bachelor's organization. Can you name these two clubs?
4. On Sunday, November 28, 1954, a special event for veterans was held at the High School Gymnasium in Kentland. Do you know what was that special event?
5. Newton County became a county in 1860 when it was divided from Jasper County. What was the population of Newton County in 1860?

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### Annie (Buswell) Bowers 1899 Wedding Dress

The society recently accepted the donation of this handmade wedding dress of Annie Rebecca Buswell who married Charley Bowers on September 6, 1899 in the Buswell family home in Washington Township. The dress has been in the possession of Patricia A. Glasson, who is Annie's great-granddaughter.

The dress was made of heavy dark blue cloth with silk lining and white lace accents at the collar and cuffs. It is a two-piece dress with a long flared skirt and a tailored, close-fitting bodice top. The top has leather stays, a silk lining with a bee pattern, and hook-and-eye closures. The lace collar is permanently attached to one shoulder and attaches with a hook-and-eye closure to the other shoulder once the bodice is in place. Annie was always small, but she also wore corsets that laced up the back to help her fit into the dress with its tiny waist. Unfortunately we have been unable to locate any photographs of Annie wearing the dress.



Annie's daughter Hazel Bowers, born in 1903, kept her mother's wedding dress all her life. In 1920 Hazel married Duke Whittington in Bartholomew County, Indiana, where Annie and Charley had relocated in about 1914, and their daughter Elsie Whittington (later Elsie Hege) wore her grandmother's wedding dress from time to time until she outgrew it. Hazel pinned her daughter's name in the dress at some point, with handwritten labels inside both the top and the skirt, and we have left them in place.

Patricia commented on the dress color: "It's certainly not what we think of as "traditional." I believe it was partly practicality, too, as I think she wore it on other occasions besides her wedding."



### Annie (Buswell) Bowers - Dressmaker and Homemaker

Annie was born April 4, 1872 in Washington Township, Newton County, Indiana to Florence Annie (Bell) and George Daniel Buswell. She was the second of eight children. Her parents came to Indiana from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia after the Civil War.

Annie was 27 when she married, and it came as something of a surprise to her family who had expected her to remain at home with her mother and younger siblings. Charley Bowers was born July 13, 1865 in Ripley County, Indiana, the son of Joel and Elizabeth (Blackmore) Bowers, Jr. He was a widower with a 12-year-old son, Alfred.

The following notice was found in the *Newton County Enterprise* from 1899:

"Charles Bowers and Miss Anna Buswell of Washington Township were married at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Florence Buswell, September 6th (1899), at 6 p.m., Rev. W. F. Hunt of the Morocco U. B. Church officiating. The newly married couple are estimable young people and have a host of friends who wish them happiness and success. They will at once locate on the farm of Bluford Light."

Florence and George Buswell's home was located in Washington Township on CR 500W approximately 1½ miles north of the Mt. Zion Church on the east side of the road. The home is no longer standing. Charley Bowers was a widower with an 11-year old son. This

was Annie's first and only marriage. Their first two children, Florence and Glen, were born in Newton County in 1900 and 1901. They then moved to Wabash County where children Hazel and Perry were born in 1903 and 1905. In 1913 the family moved to Jennings County and in 1914 purchased a farm in Bartholomew County, near St. Louis Crossing, and remained there for the rest of their lives.

Annie raised chickens and turkeys on the farm, as well as a big garden, and she and Charley had a large grape arbor where her grandchildren like to play on rainy days.

When Annie was 19 years old, she took a dressmaking course; her daughter Hazel commented she seldom used a pattern when making clothes for the family. Annie's family thought she would never marry as she was 27 when she met and married Charley.

Annie and her family always returned to Newton County on the first Sunday in August to attend the Buswell Family Reunion. Her children's and grandchildren's families did the same.

Annie is the only one of George Daniel and Florence Buswell's children who is not buried in the Buswell Cemetery near Kentland, Indiana.

The dress will soon be on display at the Resource Center.

*Photos provided by Patricia Glasson.*



## Book Review: "Manners for Boys And Girls"

Published 1913 - Reviewed by David Truby

Some time ago, while volunteering at our historical Society Resource Center, I came upon a book entitled *Manners for Boys And Girls*, written by Florence Howe Hall Copy-right, 1913. Being curious about what was being taught our young people a hundred and six years ago, I decided to read this 323 page book and share some of the main points made by the author. Surely Ms. Hall would be disappointed in the youth of the past three or four generations that fail to match her expectations in behavior. There are 29 chapters and I will attempt to extract a nugget of instruction from each chapter that you might enjoy and contrast with present day practice.

### The Cardinal Points Of Good Manners

The book begins by addressing behavior of the ancient and uncivilized and how their behavior to each other formed the basis of the laws that later governed how we live. "It is certainly impossible for us to imagine a human being without manners of some sort, good or bad. Since not only savage races of men but dogs have their rules of good manners, certainly no boys or girls would wish to show themselves inferior in civilization to wild men and animals."

"Girls should carefully avoid adopting the ways and manners of men. Human beings are imitative and our young women sometimes fall into mannish habits."

"A lady should always stand with her feet together, unless in some athletic sport which necessitates a different attitude for a short time. In the same way, her knees should be together, when she sits down. Many girls now sit with the knees crossed, an attitude which is decidedly ungraceful and to which many people strongly object."

### Manners In The Home

"No one likes to be awakened from a sound sleep by the noise of voices in the halls or by that of creaking boots on the staircase. Susan and Tom (our hypothetical girl and boy in this book) will remember to avoid disturbing other people in this way when they come back from the theatre or from a dance"

The author echoes the belief of the day concerning people that live in warm geographic climates with the following "Our geography books tell us that the inhabitants of the Temperate Zone are the finest people in the world, because they must constantly struggle with the difficulties of the climate. In the tropics, where everything grows abundantly and little effort is necessary, the natives are indolent. Overpowered by the intense heat, they are obliged to keep quiet during a great part of the day, and make little progress. The same is true in the life of each one of us. The difficulties and troubles

we dislike, help us to grow and develop."

### Girls And Their Mothers

"It was formerly considered the proper thing for children to stand in the presence of their parents, and I am told that this custom now prevails in some parts of Scotland. We still expect that boys will rise when mother enters the room and a girl who does so shows that she is well-bred."

"A girl who makes a confidante of her mother, shows that she is a wise as well as a loving daughter."

### Boys and Their Mothers

"Every active, healthy boy rejoices in the strength of his muscles and in his powers of endurance. Every manly boy likes to use that strength to help his mother. He has a chivalrous desire to protect and aid her, as the weaker vessel."

### Boys and Their Fathers

"It is the general's place to give the orders, the lieutenants to carry them out. In the family, the father is at the head, and the son does not attempt to issue directions nor to usurp the former's authority in any way, unless by his request or in his absence."

### Brothers and Sisters

"If brothers and sisters are to live happily together, they must learn to respect each other's rights and possessions. When all want the same thing, it is evident that all cannot have it and the girls are to precede the boys."

### The Servant In The House

The author urges civil treatment of the hired help by this statement "In America, all men are equal before the law. The man who digs the garden or shovels off the snow, has the same right of franchise as his employer. We are all citizens of our great and glorious Republic, which recognizes no distinctions of rank. All titles of nobility are wisely forbidden by our Constitution."

### Manners at The Table

Middle Eastern folks would object to the authors characterization of their people with this statement. "If Tom is inclined to rebel at the process and to think hand washing a foolish superstition, we would gently remind him that even half civilized people like the Arabs, know better than to eat with unwashed hands. In the full light of the twentieth century, with all our wonderful knowledge about bacteria and disease, we do not want to fall below the untaught tribes of the desert."

### Manners at Co-educational Schools

"Every manly boy intends to be courteous to girls, and to treat them fairly. Of course, he considers them as his inferiors, because they can neither run or swim so well as he, while their ball throwing is beneath his contempt."

"Our manly boy will remember the old rule, "Ladies First," and will never push ahead of a girl. Only a very mean or a very ill-bred boy will do that."

### Manners at Women's Colleges

"We sometimes hear complaints made of the manners of the students at our women's colleges. It is said that our girls deteriorate in this respect, while our boys improve during their university career."

"If a girl is going to a football game or other athletic meeting of men, she may very properly show her sympathies by a badge or a flag. To wear an entire costume of startling color and to make a herself conspicuous, is in bad taste."

### At The Telephone

"It is not polite to call people up at an hour when we know they will be at the table, unless the matter is very urgent. It is better to speak to them a little after the meal."

### On Voice and Language

"Our careless methods of enunciation show themselves in the suppression of certain letters. If an Englishman speaks of our country as "The States," we do not like it. Yet many Americans describe the great republic as the "Nite States," surely an undignified abbreviation of "United States." There are many other words which are curtailed of their just proportions in the same cruel way.

Thus we often hear "Government" called Govu'ment; Gentleman becomes Gen'lman; Avenue becomes Av'noo; Difference becomes Diff'unce; Memorial Memoyull; Generally Gen'llly; and Yes becomes Yeah or Yep.

### At The Writing Desk

"Susan should have her writing desk supplied with ink that is either black or that becomes so when dry. Purple and blue have gone out of style."

"If Susan is wise, she will not write letters to the boys of her acquaintance. She certainly should not do so without the knowledge and permission of her mother. Young men are sometimes so lacking in gentlemanly feeling as to show such missives to their friends. It might trouble Susan very much if some of her silly, schoolgirl letters were kept for years by the recipient, perhaps long after friendly relations had ceased between them."

### Conclusion

The author starts out with the premise that manners are the basis that our entire civilization is built upon. As children, practicing good manners, we will become better adult citizens.

Some of the advice is timeless "A girl who makes a confidante of her mother shows that she is wise as well as a loving daughter." Some is outdated advice references athletic abilities that girls were assumed to not possess. I found the instruction to not wear clothing of "startling" colors to athletic events a little over the top.

Everything considered, this book provided a good snapshot of parental expectations of their children one hundred years ago.



## Salt: Jennie M. Conrad

by Jeff Manes - Originally published October 2010

### Forbidden Fruit

*"When the moon is full in the month of Halloween. The ghost of Jennie Conrad occasionally is seen. And she's been known to rant, with buggy whip in hand; Jace and Jeffy Manes, you best stay off my land!" - JM*

For Halloween, I decided to interview Jennie M. Conrad. She's been dead for 71 years. Our "chat" took place in the ghost town of Conrad which is located about two miles south of Lake Village, just east of US 41.

Jennie was the daughter of cattle baron Lemuel Milk of Kankakee, Ill. Milk owned 40,000 acres in Illinois and Indiana; 12,000 of them in Newton County.

At the age of 23, Jennie married George Conrad. She was a widow by the time she was 40. George and Jennie Conrad had one son, Platt Conrad. Platt was Jennie's mother's maiden name. The Platts were quite wealthy.

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"Get off my land immediately, unless you want a load of double aught buckshot lodged in your ass," Conrad began. "you would think Conrad was the only place on God's green earth where blackberries grew. Be off with you before I crack this buggy whip across your back."

Ms. Conrad, I'm not here to steal your blackberries, and I surely would've called you from my BlackBerry, but I don't have your cell phone number.

"What in tarnation is a cellphone?"

My bad. I forgot we're in the year 1915. Jennie, my name is Jeff Manes; I'm a human-interest columnist. I'd like to interview you. Besides, it seems you could use some positive public relations.

"Manes .... That name sounds vaguely familiar. A newspaper man, are you? Seeing how my son has absolutely no interest in farming, I've been mulling over the possibility of putting an advertisement in the newspaper with the intent of hiring an athletic, well-bred, American college man with nerves of steel who does not use tobacco or alcohol. His main concern would be to prevent trespassers. Do you meet all those specifications?"

Well, ahem, I am second-generation Italian American, and I was a decent center field - I just couldn't hit.

"Humph!"

Jennie, I'm not here for a job interview.

"Oh, alright, ask your inane questions."

Thanks; don't let me forget to take your picture before I leave.

"You will do nothing of the sort. No one

has ever photographed me. I do not permit it."

Jennie your failure to use contractions while speaking galls me. "Gall", a word I've always admired. My grandmother used "gall" frequently. Where were you born?

"Milk's Grove, In Iroquois County, Ill."

I was born in Kankakee.

"Good for you."

Tell me about your early years.

"I was privately schooled and speak fluent French. The first years of my married life were spent in Chicago. I obtained this land in 1885; my husband and I eventually moved here in 1891."

It was your father who deeded these 4,400 acres to you for the sum of \$1.

"You have done your research, Jeff Manes."

Tell me more about your father.

"We did not speak for years. Some consider him a self-made man, but he acquired much of his wealth with the assistance of my mother's family. After my dear mother and brother passed, he married a woman 46 years younger than he was. The marriage produced a child."

Your half-sister, Mary Milk. Ol' Lem was 68 when she was born.

"That child and her other were the beneficiaries of his will."

What did you inherit?

"One dollar."

Ouch. This area looked a lot different before your dad arrived on the scene.

"Prior to 1873, my estate, now named Oak Dene Farms, was part of Beaver Lake in Newton County, Ind., and mostly covered with water, in some places 10 feet or more deep and all of swampy character. In '73, what was called the 'Big Ditch' was completed, and the restraining dam opened in the presence of great assemblage, thereby releasing the water of Beaver Lake, which rushed into the Kankakee River, and this well-known lake, home of myriad of wild fowl, with islands harboring horse thieves and fugitives of justice, was completely wiped off the map, an epoch in the history of Indiana."

Yeah, the annihilation of the largest fresh-water lake in the state. Beaver Lake was soon one-tenth its original size, but it died hard. That last tenth took another 20 years to drain.

"Yes, in 1893; the year my father died."

You didn't plan out your town until 1905, at age 50.

"Correct; I divided the property into smaller units which were rented out to individuals who were willing to work the land



Jennie M. Conrad

and share the profits with me."

I must say, this is quite the bustling little burg: a nice school, church, post office-general store, hotel, depot, ranch houses, outbuildings .... And each and every one of them painted such a hideous shade of yellow.

"I like yellow. Next question."

Hogs were the ticket.

"Yes; today, a woman who is left widowed does not necessarily have to be planted among her relatives or take in sewing and washing. In pioneer days, women were confined to the interior of the home and from dawn until dusk they toiled. A woman's work was never finished until the grave yawned.

"No more is it considered out of the ordinary for women to engage in the livestock industry. The best asset for any woman of the farm is the hog. If she does take it up, she should stay on the job, for the eye of the master is what prevents loss in the day of independence. So, I say, 'Go to it girls!'"

Get off your soapbox, sister. You can't even vote yet.

"I specialized in the Poland-China breed. The progeny of Paul No. 20, who surpasses in bone and length any boar of the breed, is wanted in every state of the union. Paul No. 20 walks like a Percheron horse and is an absolutely dependable sire of early maturing, big boned pigs with good backs and feet. His docility endears him to all who know him, and he is as affectionate as a beloved dog."

You're obviously fond of animals. When your beloved dog, Bouser, came up missing, you laid in bed, grieving for two weeks. Why can't you get along with people, especially the residents of Lake Village?

"Because they are trespassing swamp rats!"

Before your family arrived, they had free ac-



cess to the shores of Beaver Lake and its bounties.

"Just the other day, I caught two of those ragamuffins carrying pails of my blackberries. I jumped down from my buggy, emptied their buckets in the middle of this dirt road, and crushed the berries with my feet!"

Most of those folks from Lake Village are poor. Besides, you can't eat all these berries; it's a sin to let them rot when so many could be fed.

"Those little heathens hid in the weeds after I ordered them off my property; they

waited until I left and then set fire to a 40-acre tract of wheat which was ripe and ready to cut - the field was a total loss."

All over a gallon of berries. Who knows, their mama might've made you a blackberry cobbler in return, if you could've just shown a little kindness.

And there's something else, Jennie M. Conrad; I was born in Kankakee, but I was raised in Sumava Resorts and Lake Village!

"Off my property, swamp rat!"

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The Great Depression took its toll. When Jennie died at Jasper County Hospital in 1939, only 1,200 of her nearly 5,000 acres remained in her possession. A few crumbling foundations are all that remain of the town of Conrad.

Today, Jennie's empire has become Conrad Station Savanna, a nature preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy and part of its Kankakee Sands restoration project.

The public is welcome.



## You Like'd it on Facebook!

Historical Newton In brings local interaction on historical topics

**Historical Newton In Post:** Woodstock-the dates August 15-18, 1969 are in the news these days - how many Historical followers attended Woodstock? ... or what were you doing at that time? Were you bravely serving your country - raising a family - going to college.

**Raymond Stone:** I was almost 8-years old (had to wait until the following month) but I remember listening to great 1969 songs like this one!

**Rhonda Madden:** I was in college.

**Sue Dresel:** Married and had no clue there was a Woodstock

**Karen Harrison McClatchey:** Married, no kids yet. Our youngest daughter when she was in Jr High said "do you KNOW how embarrassing it is that your parents lived through Woodstock and didn't even GO?!!!"

**Mary K. Emmrich:** I was almost 14, had just had a rotten tonsillectomy and adnoidectomy, and watched lots of the news coverage!

**Rosemary Gyarmati:** I spent that summer in Chicago working at Woolworths. I saw the Woodstock movie when I was there. People walked out due to the language of the Country Joe and the Fish cheer.

**JaLeen Bultman-Deardurff:** I was also 12 and more than likely swimming in our local pool.

**Donna Anderson:** I was 3. Don't remember.

**Mike Reynolds:** I got out of the Marines on July 19. Being in the military, we had no idea it was happening. I probably would have tried to get there (although I may not have been welcome).

**Mary Milne Sell:** I was 17, between high school and college, working in Chicago that summer and more into the moon landing and the ticker tape parade that took the astronauts past my office building. We made confetti for days using a paper punch to throw out the windows. Another memory from that summer was seeing members of the "Chicago Seven" seated near me at a Chicago restaurant. I was aware of Woodstock in the news, but not immersed in that culture (yet?).

**Peg Lawrence:** I was in art school.

**Bob-Pat McKee:** I was going to college in the summer of 1969 Exactly one year after Woodstock Tom Kenney, Bob Marvin and I went to a little remembered concert in Michigan at Goose Lake. Had attendance in the 200,000 range and was a lot like like Woodstock. Had a great time and the panoramas were much the same as Woodstock. So much for my hippie days.

**Steve N Lori Hood:** I was 6 years old, living in Whiting, IN

**Terry Severs:** I was running streets in Highland. I was 9.

**Sandy L Matter:** I was also 6 years old in Lake Dale.

**Ricky Sipe:** I was a couple weeks away from starting my junior year at North Newton high school. Woodstock didn't become famous until after it happened

**Dean Ford:** I was in Vietnam. It was 50 years ago. The Woodstock Festival in Bethel, NY in August 1969 had been the most spectacular rock concert in US history. Over 400,000 fans showed up for four glorious days/nights of music and fun. Millions of young Americans across the country would dream of being there. But none so much as me. I didn't learn about the event until days after it was over. I was on the other side of the world that week, serving my third year in the US Air Force near a small province called Phan Rang in South Vietnam.

It was hard for me to imagine being surrounded by 1/2 a million happy 'hippies' dancing, singing of peace and love. My experiences were just the opposite. My daily routine was arming and loading bombs under the wings of jet fighter aircraft, seven days a week, 12-24 hours a day. It was hard to visualize peace while preparing powerful bombs and long tanks filled with deadly napalm. Watching them lift into the northern sky only to return an hour later, empty. Day after day. With every bomb I loaded I knew within the hour people I'd never met would die violently. Many would be burned alive. It was hard not



Sign of Peace: Dean Ford, Vietnam, 1969

to be depressed, I was destroying lives and part of my soul.

I dreamed of peace. Then I had an idea. I couldn't be at Woodstock but I could participate in my own way. I gathered some scraps of wood, a can of yellow paint and a black marking pen. In a few minutes I had created a sign. Several pieces of carefully applied masking tape and my poncho would complete my regalia. But I had to be careful. What I was doing could be construed as treason. I was, after all, in the middle of a war zone. When the opportunity presented itself, I gathered the items I made, along with my camera, and headed to a secluded area where we stored 750 lb. bombs. A few trusted friends followed. We had to be quick. I put on my poncho, grabbed my sign and climbed onto a 750 lb. bomb. A friend snapped a photo with my camera. I was anxious to leave but the guys with me wanted their photos taken too.

When we finished I removed the tape from my poncho. But I would need to destroy the sign later so I tucked it between some ammo crates, safely out of view. Or so I thought. The next day someone found my sign and within minutes the 'brass' arrived. An investigation ensued. For the next few days I sweated bullets.

They never found the 'traitor' and soon the war felt normal again. But for a brief moment 50 years ago I had been teleported to Bethel, NY, dancing to the music, yearning for peace.

# Home is Where Your Story Begins

Paul Terrance Cunningham - Ordinary Man - Extraordinary Service and Love of Family

by Teresa L. Brouillette

Paul T. Cunningham was born in Kentland on September 20, 1893, to Catherine (Hassett) and Winship Cunningham, the eldest of four children. Paul's two sisters were Romana Sego and Teresa Dieter, both of whom raised families in Kentland. His brother, Joe's adult life was based in Chicago. We have very little information about Paul's childhood or school years. The portrait shown at the right, dated 1911 is presumably for his 1912 high school graduation. It becomes clear from Paul's eloquent letters, as well as from his service as payroll clerk in the Army and later as an accountant with the New York Central Railroad, Paul must have been a good student.



Cunningham

## Deep Kentland Roots

Paul's paternal grandparents were among the town's earliest settlers. His grandfather Terrence Patrick Cunningham, immigrant from County Limerick, Ireland, arrived in Kentland in 1863 to pursue mercantile ventures with his cousins John and Patrick Keefe. Terrance married Oregon Bramble, originally from Dayton, Indiana, in Kentland on September 6, 1864; they had eight children—seven who lived to adulthood. Of these, Paul's father Winship and his uncles Frank and Terence B. 'Ted,' contemporaries of George Ade and Warren McCray, made Kentland their life-long home. His uncles William and Robert settled in Brook, while his uncle, Sam pursued a variety of occupations in Illinois, before settling in Indianapolis. Sarah 'Sadie' Cunningham married a Kirk and settled in Fowler.

Paul's mother, Catherine Hassett's family also included two generations worth of Irish-immigrant ancestors forming a wide network of aunts, uncles and cousins whose endeavors were also a part of the fabric of Kentland's everyday life. This includes, Paul's uncle, Charlie Hassett who owned a furniture store located on the southwest corner of Third and Dunlap Streets, where he also operated a mortuary in the back room, customary in those days. But the greater part of the extended Hassett family were deeply ensconced in all facets of the railroad industry. Paul had several uncles and cousins employed by the Penn Central railroad, based in Logansport. Therefore, it was not surprising that Paul would find his way to being employed by the other railroad serving Kentland, the New York Central. As with Paul's childhood we have little hard evidence from which to precisely sketch his early career. It recently came to light that sometime between 1911 and 1917, Paul worked at Conrad Station.

## Duty Calls

Early in May of 1917, Paul entered the U.S. Army. From a variety of clippings gleaned from the Kentland, Brook and Logansport newspapers during WWI, we have a clearer picture of his movement through the duration of the war. Paul takes time to give detailed descriptions not only of the activities and movements of his squad but the historical/cultural context of the places they encountered. He reports via letters published in the *Enterprise*, that he trained for 10 days at Ft. Thomas Kentucky, presumably, boot camp. By May 28th he was stationed at Ft. Washington in Maryland, near Washington DC, where his unit patrolled the Potomac River on the look-out for German U-boats and other enemy craft.

By July 1917, Paul had attained the rank of corporal and was assigned to the 17th Field Artillery, Battery A, stationed at Ft. Robinson, Wisconsin, where he served as the battery payroll clerk.

This Field Artillery unit was constituted as part of the Regular Army on July 1, 1916 and formally organized at Ft. Robinson on June 6, 1917. It was assigned to the Army's 2nd Division—Indian Head Division, on September 21, 1917. The first in a long line of war decorations awarded to the 17th Field Artillery was the Croix de Guerre for the critical role they played in the recapture of Blanc Mont Ridge in the Champagne district.

Disinformation was as much of a problem in WWI as in any other. In November 1917, Paul received a letter from Mrs. Cora Garland, Supervisor of the Red Cross Shop in Logansport. Apparently, there was a rumor at the time, indicating that service men were forced to buy the knitted sock and other items the Red Cross volunteers had been supplying to the Army. Paul wrote a very clear reply that was published in the *Logansport Pharos-Reporter* on November 9th.

*"Dear Madam - I was somewhat surprised to get such a communication as yours as I assure you I am very glad to get the opportunity to contradict the rumors afloat that soldiers have to purchase the knitted articles that the Red Cross is furnishing the army. I can very emphatically say that nothing of the kind has happened in this camp and there have been two regiments supplied with socks, mufflers and wristlets. Not only that but, the enlisted men have all been equipped before the officers.*

*All these articles are very useful and also much appreciated by the soldiers. Although we are furnished with plenty of warm clothing by the government, such articles as these will go a long way towards making life bearable in the trenches.*

*Again stating that I am very much pleased to get this chance to thank the Red Cross for my share in the fruits of this wonderful work and assure you, all of us would like to do more to show our thankfulness, I am, Corporal Paul T. Cunningham, Battery A, 17th FA, Camp Robinson, Wisconsin."*

Also, in that same letter, Paul mentioned the whole of Camp Robinson was packed-up and awaiting orders to debark for the East



The photo above is from a 'picture postcard' sent by Paul to his uncle, Sam Cunningham. While in the Army, Paul picked-up the nickname 'Buck' and was later referred to as 'Uncle Buck' by his nieces and nephews in Kentland.

Family lore states the enemy gun captured and turned against the Germans by Paul and his 20-man squad was also nicknamed 'Buck' in his honor.

Transcription: (To) Mr. S. P. Cunningham, Penfield, Illinois Shasta, Wisconsin, July 23, 1917

*"Here is some soldiers from our bunch I look pretty tough but hot weather is hard on such as me. Let me hear from you when you have time."* Paul/Battery "A" 17th F. A.



coast where they would board ships to France. He expressed eagerness to get 'over there.' As a member of the regular army, he wanted to arrive ahead of the National Guard because, in essence, he didn't want them stealing his unit's thunder before they got there. The day of deployment finally came. Paul's unit departed from Wisconsin on December 9, 1917 and finally arrived in France on December 27.

In a letter his parents received in January 1918, Paul wrote:

*"There is not much I can tell you excepting that I have arrived safely. Had a nice trip but did not know the Atlantic was so big until I crossed it. We had a nice Christmas. I went to confession and communion and sang the Adiste Fidelies at mass.*

*Mail will be regular from now on. I suppose you have been worried about me, but I could not help it. You must remember that when you don't hear from me that I am all right, for the government will notify you quicker than I can if anything should happen to me. So don't worry.*

*I did not get seasick. Some of the fellows were awfully sick, but I did not miss a meal and we were sure fed good on the boat. Don't know what kind of accommodations we will have over here, but they are all right. This will be all until I get a better place to write, and something more interesting to write about. Love to all."*

Paul's fellow soldiers were fortunate to have experienced only seasickness because, beginning in the following month of January 1918, troop ships became incubators that contributed to the spread of the Spanish Flu pandemic. Influenza proved to be nearly as deadly as the weapons of war.

In November 1918, nearly a full year after his 'arrived safe' letter was first published, and after the armistice was signed and the censor gave the all clear on November 11, 1918, Paul wrote another much more detailed account of his movements through France. The letter he wrote to his parents on November 25, 1918 was published in full, in the *Enterprise* on December 26, 1918. Paul relates that upon arrival in France, the troops spent three days on board before disembarking on Dec 31st. They began their tour in France on New Year's Day, 1918.

The troops were loaded onto box cars, 40 men to a car, and transported to a camp near the Swiss border in the foothills of the Alps. There they trained with French artillery units. Paul noted the camp was near the town of Valdahon, "one of the oldest in France. It is mentioned by Caesar in his *Contemporaries*, and there is a great amount of Roman architecture there."

By March 17th, they were off to the front. They took up a gun position 14 kilometers from Verdun and remained in this region through the end of March. Paul mentions, "This was at the time a quiet sector, but we thought at several times that it was lively enough. I remember that on Easter Sunday morning, [March 31st], Fritz put on a peach of a show and spoiled our breakfast."

Paul's unit moved north in mid-May to reinforce the British line of resistance against the German onslaught at Soissons and Reims.

*"We met the Boche, [German soldiers], northwest of Chateau Thierry where he stopped. Here is where we had our first real fighting. Here is where the 5th and 6th Marines who are in this division made the famous fight at Belleau Wood, where the Germans gave the name Devil Dogs, and where the 23rd Infantry showed them what they could do to drive them out of Vaux. But those are only the big ones [battles]. Every day, the Germans got a taste, one way and another of our fighting Marines and Infantry."*

They were relieved from that position in mid-July and sent on a two-day hike to Villers Cotterets, going into action on July 18th. Paul



**Sgt. Paul T. Cunningham 1919, wearing the 'Croix de Guerre,' medal awarded by the French military to members of the US Army 2nd Division whose valor in battle successfully recaptured Blanc Mont Ridge from the enemy. - Historical Society Collection.**

characterizes this as being 'the beginning of the end.' His unit came out of fighting at Soissons on July 26th then moved to Nancy on the Moselle River. Even though they were still on the front they were now able to get a couple days of rest before driving on to St. Mihiel Salient in early September. During this relative lull, Paul took time to write to his uncle, William Cunningham of Brook. Segments of his letter were published in the *Brook Reporter* Sept 13, 1918. Without specifically mentioning his promotion, Paul signed his letter with his new rank of Sgt. It is also worth noting that his comments about firing German ammunition from German guns, is somewhat prescient of future events.

*"I have seen more war in the past two months than I thought there ever was in all this war all together. Our Division has seen all the fighting that has amounted to anything since the first of June and it has not been without its hardships and loss of sleep which has been double rewarded by what we have seen as the result of our hard work.*

*"I helped fire German ammunition with German guns at the retreating Germans. These guns have come back to the States for souvenirs in the parks now I guess. I think if we could keep up the work we could have ended the war in short notice, but I think we will finish it up before long now as things look pretty good now.*

*"I have neglected my correspondence for so long that I have a lot more letters to write and will have to cut this short, we*

*are billed for an easy time for a while now and will get a chance to write again soon.*

*"Thanking you most sincerely for the knife, I am your nephew, Sgt. Paul T. Cunningham"*

### The Battle of Blanc Mont Ridge, the 'Forgotten Victory'

In late September, the all-American forces were consolidating ahead of the push through the Argonne Forest which began on September 28th. Eventually, Paul's unit joined French forces at Reims where he began to experience the most difficult fighting he would see. Indeed, the accumulating forces were about to undertake a campaign to recapture what would be one of the hardest won patches of territory.

*"We were up with the French in front of Reims, where on October 3rd we made our attack with the French on the Boche in his concrete dugouts and trenches on Blanc Mont Ridge, and jarred him loose from where he could not shoot at Reims. Here is where we had a real scrap. Fritz sure hated to let loose here but when he did let loose, he traveled fast and furious towards home."*

These few sentences describe Paul's participation in one of the most decisive battles of the war, certainly the most decisive of 1918. In order to gain insight to what really happened, it was necessary to consult outside sources. Blanc Mont Ridge 1918: "America's Forgotten Victory" by Romain Cansière and Ed Gilbert, as well as the Doughboy Center website (<http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/bm1.htm>) provide much of the information about the battle that follows.

The battle of Blanc Mont Ridge, the 'forgotten victory,' was fought October 3-9, 1918. Geographically, this place was the summit of a promontory, overlooking the long, sloping, wide-open plains of the Champagne region. Four years earlier, very early in the war, German forces seized control of the ridge and literally dug into the surrounding countryside with a network of interconnecting trenches and concrete dug-outs. Enemy forces had no trouble defending this position. Due to the exposure of the surrounding topography it proved nearly impossible for French forces to reclaim it. French advances against this German position in the spring and fall of 1915 had been crushed, leading French military leaders to search for other possible points of German vulnerability. Thus, Blanc Mont was in German control for the better part of the War.

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## 12 The Newcomer

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Through 1918, German forces were routinely being defeated at the hands of US forces deployed throughout all of France and Flanders. By September, it was time to again go after Blanc Mont Ridge. Both German and French forces were battle worn and weary. At Blanc Mont Ridge, the geographical challenges remained and—although they were in relatively weakened condition, the enemy also remained deeply dug-in. Fresh, vigorous assault troops would be needed. American regiments were ordered to join French regiments in marching up the long slope to Blanc Mont, without paying attention to fellow combatants who were being mowed down by machine gun fire beside them. Then the surviving troops would need to possess the will and energy to hold the crest no matter what furies the German Army threw back at them. The allied high command committed the experienced Doughboys and Marines of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) Second Division, with Texas and Oklahoma National Guardsmen of the 36th Division in the rear—54,000 men total.

Early on October 3, the first day, all four infantry regiments of the second division had successfully scaled the ridge, but they were not near enough to each other to have any advantage over the Germans. All they could do was defend their own positions. Across the slope for the next several days, American forces slowly infiltrated the entire area achieving a patchwork effect. Fighting was ‘point blank’ and deadly.

Units from both divisions collaborated on October 7th and 8th in capturing the machine gun filled strong point of St. Etienne, a village almost two miles northwest of Blanc Mont. This proved to be a decisive blow as the seized German guns were turned on the enemy and ultimately forced their retreat from the ridge.

Paul’s unit was among those ordered to chase the enemy north to the River Aisne. By October 13th the river line had stabilized, and both of the American divisions were earmarked for redeployment back with Pershing’s forces, having suffered the loss of 7,800 men.

### The Croix de Guerre

For their successful efforts in participating in the capturing of German guns at St. Etienne, the men of several units, include the Second Division’s 17th Field Artillery—Paul Cunningham’s outfit—were awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French military. This decoration was established on April 2, 1915, to be awarded only to military personnel, often to members of allied countries, who distinguish themselves by acts of heroism involving combat with enemy forces.

News of this special decoration was finally broken in Kentland by none other than the illustrious Jennie M. Conrad, several months after the fact. Following are excerpts from a letter she wrote to the *Enterprise*, as it was published on April 29, 1919.

*“With characteristic modesty Paul Cunningham confided to me in a letter received last night from Ehrenbreitstein Fortress Germany that last October he was decorated with a “Croix de Guerre” and that he had kept silence, wishing to surprise all of us, his friends, but that now some of the Kentland boys coming*

*home, knew it and would tell it, so he beat them to it. Some men would have boasted at the time.*

*“I am most excited and delighted at the honor, the only one I believe, received by any soldier of Newton County, for I am devotedly attached to Paul, who lived long in my house, and was a faithful friend.*

*“He has been in every great battle of the war and received his cross in the battle of Blanc Mont, in the Champagne district. To quote his own words, which we must doubt, he says: ‘It was not for any particular deed of bravery, or anything that I know.’*

*“I do know this, that he, at the head of his twenty men, captured a German machine gun with plenty of ammunition, which he turned on the enemy and made them suffer.*

*“Paul has had another promotion and can have a commission, if he chooses to remain in army life, all of which is worthy of high praise and should make Newton County people proud as I am.”*

As for the rest of the war, after rejoining Pershing’s forces in November 1918, Paul, along with all the rest of the Doughboys, continued chasing the Germans out of France. Paul’s outfit went through the Meuse in Sedan, Manson, Beaumont and Stenay. They were at Beaumont when the armistice was signed. They crossed a corner of Belgium and rested in Luxembourg before the final push to Germany. Paul closed his November 25, 1918 letter to his parents with the following paragraphs:

*“It has been a trying year with many hardships, and I’ll tell you that there was lots of times when I would have like to have been most any place other than where I was and thought it very doubtful if little Paul would ever see home sweet home again. But now that it is all over, I wouldn’t have missed it for the world as it sure has been some experience well worth a year of any man’s life.*

*“But let me tell you I don’t want any more of it. War is certainly the most terrible thing that can happen to the world. But the US is the luckiest nation in the bunch, that the fighting was done away from home. France can never be rebuilt like she was, neither can Belgium. They are the ones that have suffered and saved the world. They can never be repaid or given enough credit. One cannot help being impressed with the wonderful spirit of the French. It is beyond me to try and describe it. I am certainly proud that I have taken part in it.*

*“Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hoping to see you all before long, I am your loving son and brother, Sgt. Paul T. Cunningham, Battery A, 17th Field Artillery.”*

There is no published information detailing the balance of Paul’s military career. But apparently, after spending some time in Ehrenbreitstein Fortress Germany through the end of 1918 and into the early part of 1919, Paul’s outfit made its way back to Brest, France where they departed for the U.S. on July 25, 1919, aboard the troop ship Ryndham. They landed in Brooklyn, New York, on the 4th of August 1919.

### Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Indiana Representative

It is unclear when Paul was finally discharged from the Army but in 1921, he was asked by newly elected Indiana Governor Warren T. McCray to perform one last military duty. As a fellow Kentland native



The Cunninghams August 1917, in front of the family home at 104 W. Goss St. Kentland. l-r: Cpl. Paul Cunningham, sister Teresa, sister Romana, father Winship, mother Catherine, brother Joe.



Cunningham Family: L-R: Joe, Catherine, Teresa (Dieter) and Paul, June 24, 1945, front yard of Dieter home, 109 Washington St., Kentland.



and acquaintance of Paul's father, Governor McCray selected Paul to serve as one of three ex-servicemen to represent the State of Indiana at the burial ceremonies over the Unknown American Soldier in Arlington Cemetery held in Washington, DC on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921. In a letter to Paul dated October 24, 1921, Governor McCray writes:

*"I can think of no Indiana ex-serviceman who has more clearly earned the right to this honor and distinction than your own good self. It pleases me to appoint you to serve in this capacity."*

### The Silver Star

The final event of this story about Paul's service during WWI didn't happen until WWII. The following piece appeared in the *Enterprise* on April 30, 1942.

*"Former Resident Gets Belated Medal. It took a long time but Paul Cunningham of W. 87th Street, Chicago, son of Mrs. Catherine Cunningham, finally received a Silver Star for valor in action in the 1917-1918 fracas. The belated recognition is one of the several instances reported in Chicago since the War Department has been called upon to examine its musty files for records of service men of the last war who are contemplating once more going into armed forces."*

*"He has several other medals awarded for bravery in action and is the only Newton county boy to receive the Croix de Guerre."*

### Back to Civilian Life

It is believed that Paul's entire civilian career was largely in the employ of the New York Central Railroad. As previously mentioned, Paul worked at Conrad Station for some time before WWI, and apparently he roomed with Jennie M. Conrad, who would have been aged in her early 60s at the time. Again quoting excerpts of a letter Jennie wrote to the editors of the *Enterprise* on April 29, 1918, *"I am most excited and delighted at the honor Paul's Croix de Guerre for I am devotedly attached to Paul, who lived long in my house and was a faithful friend."*

Family records are sparse, so the exact progression of Paul's railroad career is unclear. Nevertheless, it is evident that sometime before April 22, 1924 he had moved to Chicago. This is where and when he married Miss Blanche Murphy, and where they began their family. Daughter, Marjorie was born in 1925 followed by Kathleen in 1928.

### 1933-34 – A Year of Joy and Sorrow

The whole country was beginning to see small flickers of hope that FDR's New Deal might bring an end to the preceding three-year slide into the Great Depression. No one escaped the ravages of the worst economic crisis of the 20th century. Some families were affected more than others. Nevertheless, the Great Depression served as the backdrop of some very sad times in the Cunningham family. Paul's sister Teresa and her young family moved back to Kentland from Earl Park where her husband Theodore Dieter and brother-in-law Edward had lost their business, Dieter Brothers Pharmacy. This was a blessing in disguise; The Dieters living with Teresa's parents Winship and Cate allowed them to provide help and support in caring for Winship who was dying of cancer. He passed away Nov 10, 1933.

In January 1934, Paul's sister Romana Sego gave birth to her ninth child on the Sego family farm three miles east of Kentland. Even in



Paul's son Michael Winship Cunningham (center) with his kids aboard the battleship USS New Jersey, on Father's Day 2014. Michael served in the Navy from (1956 to 1957) achieving the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class. Michael passed away in Chicago in January 2015. L-R: Noreen, Sarah, Colleen, Paul, Michael Winship (father), Michael Patrick (son), Kathleen, Maureen.

hard times the birth of a healthy child is cause for celebration. But joy was soon replaced with great sorrow when on February 8, 1934, Romana succumbed to the effects of a post-partum embolism. She was only a few days shy of her 39th birthday, leaving her husband Meddie with nine children, including 3-week-old Martha. Paul and his wife Blanche offered to lighten the load of Meddie's now single-parent responsibilities by taking baby Martha Sego with them back to Chicago, to be cared for as part of their family, at least temporarily.

In July, Teresa Dieter gave birth to her second child, Ann, in Kentland—a welcome joyous event. The most poignant event of all during this time was the birth of Paul and Blanche's third child, Michael Winship Cunningham, on September 23, 1934. Sadly, on the same day, his mother Blanche passed away due to complications of childbirth.

In the span of ten months the Cunningham family experienced three births and three deaths. There is an old saying that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Paul had already proven his mettle in battle in France and such challenges he faced then girded him for the balance of his life as a single father raising three children in Chicago.

The virtue of family is there are helping hands. Paul had help from his late-wife's sister Marguerite who often cared for the children when he was gone from home. His position as an accountant with the New York Central Railroad frequently required him to travel to the company's main offices in Buffalo, NY for several days at a time. There were also visits from Paul's mother Catherine, often accompanied by niece Ellen Dieter, who made use of his railroad pass in order to spend several days with his family in Chicago.

But when Paul was not traveling to Buffalo, his job at home was that of cook. When he came home from work to the family's second level apartment at 87th and Morgan, he immediately set about the chore of preparing dinner. By all family accounts he was quite the accomplished cook; not the least of his specialties was homemade noodles that he spread on newspapers on the beds to dry. He was unapologetic about using every pot in the kitchen to prepare the meal as it was the kids' responsibility to clean-up afterward.

Paul's granddaughter, Mary Kay (O'Neill) Vezina of Colorado recently reminisced:

*"My grandmother died in 1934 so during the 50's he was both gramma and grampa to us. He was a real foundation for us, a big quiet man. I believe he started a love of good food and family gatherings for Sunday dinner that I carried thru my life with my family. A fond funny memory is of him standing at the stove stirring a pot of something with a cigarette dangling from his mouth...we're sure some of the ashes seasoned the food. I know he loved us so much and was always there to support my mom during difficult times. I still have one of his cookbooks, which I cherish."*

Life is full of circles and legacies. A few years before his death in 1971, Paul was able to make another trip to Europe, this time for pleasure. As for his legacy, at last count, Paul's descendants numbered as follows: three children, 14 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren.

It is through the generosity of Paul's son Michael, himself a Navy man, that the Newton County Historical Society now possesses artifacts from Paul's service during WWI, including the citation for the Croix de Guerre, Silver Star and the letter he received from Governor McCray inviting him to represent Indiana at the ceremonies to inter the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

In January 2019, six of Michael Cunningham's seven children, (Paul's grandchildren), were able to visit the Newton County Historical Society to view their grandfather's WWI artifacts and contemporaneous newspapers detailing his service. The occasion of the Cunningham grandchildren's visit from Chicago became an opportunity for local cousins to reconnect in a mini-family reunion.

*A special thank-you to Teresa for submitting this poignant look at the life of Paul Cunningham. The chronological presentation of his war correspondence takes us alongside his journey as a WWI soldier and his return to civilian life in Newton County and beyond. Her writing is a fitting tribute to one of Newton County's finest sons. - Editor.*

# Pages of the Past

by Janet Miller - Excerpts taken from The Newton County Enterprise Summer, 1920.

## Newton County

According to the *Indianapolis News* a recommendation was to be made to the State Highway Commission, in session at the capitol yesterday, to embrace the Adeway from Kentland to Crown Point in the state highway system. We could not learn this morning what action, if any, was taken in the matter. The recommendation was to be made on the ground that it was a necessary connecting link in the system, and would give a desirable outlet to Chicago to the people of western Indiana. If Newton County is successful in getting this road it will give her but a proportionate share of the state system.

**Adeway Ordered by State Commission.** **Indianapolis, June 17.** Several changes in the state highway system which were made Wednesday by the state highway commission, were approved today by Governor Goodrich. (Among them were) Route 49 was changed to run from Hammond in a southerly direction through Dyer, Cedar Lake, Lowell, Morocco and Kentland.

## Kentland

The band concert last evening drew another monster crowd. Automobiles were parked along the street by the hundreds, and the people they carried to Kentland enjoyed the fine night and the splendid concert. Concerts are being given in but few of our neighboring towns this year, and the people for miles around are coming to Kentland every Wednesday evening. The streets were crowded last night with strangers, and all were made welcome.

"**Hudson Special No. 4**" is the only car in Kentland that can make Chuckhole Avenue on high. This car is owned by Louis F. Kime, and was especially constructed to perform the hazardous trick of which its owner boasts.

A meeting of farmers and tax payers of Jefferson Township was held at the court house on Saturday night and the schoolhouse question was discussed at length. The committee named a few weeks ago to undertake to harmonize conflicting opinions and differences, was continued and a further effort will be made to reach an agreement with the School Board of Kentland. If the two sides will go into the conference with a disposition to play fair, and show some willingness to give and take a little, there should be no trouble in reaching an agreement.

**Improving the Streets. Chuckhole Avenue to Temporarily Lose its Fame and Identity**

Our recent comment on the condition of the streets of Kentland, has been for the purpose of calling specific attention of our citizens to the fact that something should be done without delay to remedy unsatisfactory conditions existing with reference to our main traveled streets. Apparently everyone agrees that something should be done, but just what that "something" should be is problematical. What is the remedy? For many years the *Enterprise* has advocated permanent paving of the principal business streets of the town. This could be accomplished by assessment of cost of same against individual property owners, provided a sufficient number of them are willing to join to such improvement, and another method would be to build under the "three mile road law." In order to meet present needs the Town Board yesterday started a scarafier and grader, and the streets will soon be in passable condition, but with the holes filled and surface leveled the question of permanent improvement should not be dropped.

## Goodland

**Attorney A. D. Babcock** was over from Goodland the other day, and dropped in to advise us of the recent acquisitions made to his private museum. A number of coins and other articles over five hundred years old, received from a museum in Wales. Mr. Babcock has one of the best collections in Indiana, and the town of Goodland is losing a wonderful opportunity in not building a suitable home for the same.

**Marion at Goodland.** The Marion Eastern League baseball team will clash with the Goodland "Reds" at Spinney's Park, Sunday, June 20th at 2 p.m. The Marion team consists of ex-leaguers and come at a great expense. The Goodland team will be strengthened to prepare for this strong team. The Danville colored team who tied the "Reds" last Sunday will play a return game there June 27th to decide who is the best team.

**Goodland Offered Money for Hospital.** Henry T. Griggs, a prominent and public-spirited citizen of Goodland, and well known throughout Newton County, has made an offer of \$45,000 toward the building of a hospital at that place. The hospital is to be maintained by the county if the plans of the committee having the matter in charge are realized. Mr. Griggs also owns the old Wickersham property, and gives this as a site on which to build the hospital. Whether the project succeeds or not the offer of Mr.

Griggs is a most handsome one, and worthy the public spirited and honored citizen that he is.

## Brook

Bernard James had the new opening of his ice cream parlor on Saturday. He has a very pleasant room well equipped, and ready for giving good satisfaction.

Plants were set out last week in all the flower tubs downtown. The work was attended to by the members of the Woman's Club. It adds greatly to the pleasantness of Main Street.

Decoration Day services were held here on Sunday with a large crowd in attendance. The procession formed at McKinley Park at 1:30 and marched to the Community Building where a good program was given. The address of the day was given by Attorney George A. Williams of Rensselaer. He paid high tribute to the defenders of our country and appealed to the citizens of today to live true to the heritage which they have given us. His strong appeal was for active peace-time patriotism. Following the program the trip to the cemetery was made by automobile, and the regular decoration day services were observed.

The Chicago Motor Club made a run Tuesday from Chicago to Indianapolis, stopping at Hazelden to enjoy a big dinner prepared by the ladies of Brook. Yesterday, on the return trip they came by way of Kentland for the purpose of decorating the grave of Darwin S. Hatch, a former member of the club, and who now sleeps in Fairlawn cemetery.

## Mt. Ayr

W. O. Schanlaub delivered an address at Mt. Ayr Sunday before a number of lodge organizations that were jointly observing decoration day.

On Monday, Mrs. Ada Hile purchased of Dr. J. T. Martin, the barber shop building and will fix it up for the post office, and have a residence in the upstairs.

## Morocco

**Morocco Announces Big Celebration.** Announcements are out for a big celebration in Morocco on July Fourth in charge of the William Chizum Post of the American Legion. A full day's program is being arranged and a good time is promised all. As Morocco is the only town in the county that has announced a celebration it will be made more or less a county affair and a big crowd is expected.



**Conrad**

There is nothing like having the courage of your convictions. Under date of June 2nd, a week before the convening of the national convention in Chicago, a letter was received at this office from Mrs. Jennie M. Conrad, reading: "Please make note that I predict that the next Republican nominee for President, will be Harding of Ohio." Well, Mr. Harding is the nominee, and we must concede to Mrs. Conrad the title of political prophet, for at the time she placed herself on record the people of the county were generally were guessing on Lowden or Wood. Senator Harding has many friends in Newton County who were hoping for his nomination, but few with the courage to post such a prediction against the field as it existed a week before the convention. Many of our people were favorably influenced toward Senator Harding by reason of his visit to this place four years ago, and the speech he delivered at the state rally held at the McCray cabin on the Iroquois.

Trustee Graefnitz at his office in Lake Village Saturday awarded a contract for the building of a new two room brick school building in the town of Conrad. The contract went to J. J. Sharkey of Mowoc for \$11, 718.

**News From Roselawn and Northern Newton**

The home talent play given Friday evening at the Roselawn assembly room by members of the Community Club entitled "Safety First," was well rendered by the actors and was listened to by an appreciative audience. The play is full of fun and pep and brought out much laughter.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Korth was the meeting place of more than a hundred of their friends and neighbors Saturday evening to attend a social dance given in the large barn of Mr. Korth. The floor of the hay apartment had been swept and cleaned and seats had been arranged. Good music from two young men from Chicago, furnished the inspiring strains for the young people to trip to and youth, middle age, and several of the elder ones, enjoyed the merriment. At the proper time a bounteous lunch of cake, coffee and lemonade was served, and in the wee hours of the morning the friends departed for their homes.

**Newton County  
Census and  
Cemetery Records  
are just a few of the re-  
cords that can be accessed  
on our website:  
[www.ingenweb.org/innewton](http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton)**

**Historian's Corner**

By Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian  
Newton County Summertime in the 1930s-1950s

Family reunions were traditional, and it often included travel time to relative's homesteads and community parks, or the arrival of a bevy of folks at your house. The Elijah-Handley reunion had gone on many years and was huge group when I married into the family. They were meeting at the Pavilion on Beach, Michigan City and later the event moved to Lafayette's Columbia Park in the late 50s-early 60s. In those days' families brought their food specialties to share. Early in his life, my husband loved reunions at various farmsteads-as there was always homemade ice cream. My parents and I used to take a picnic to the park in Marion or Kokomo on Sunday afternoons. I think now this is as fun menu because we have coolers but didn't back then. Our typical fare: a can of Spam, bread and condiments if desired; can of pork 'n beans; some fruit or twinkies or snowballs and some drinks. Sometimes we bought drinks as we didn't have coolers. We swam either before or after the picnic. And we always made sure we didn't forget the can opener! Another common activity in many small towns were outdoor movies in the park sponsored by the local businesses.

My husband and his brothers lived, ate and breathed the Independent Baseball League - they played on more than one team each summer. Imagine baling hay all afternoon to come home and shower and then go play ball all evening - not my idea of fun, but it was for them. Paul was still talking about it before he passed twenty-two years ago. While in Korea that was probably one of the hometown activities he missed the most.

Members of families also gathered to harvest, prepare, can or freeze various garden produce and fruit. Some still do these activities today - and it certainly makes it less painful with extra hands. I have written previously about butchering, a project that required cool weather.

Mom would send me out to our yard to harvest currants and mulberries and raspberries for jam and jelly. This got me out of her hair for a while. She would pick strawberries with me however, more than likely to control how many I consumed as opposed to putting in the basket - ha!

My parents and I moved to Brook in late summer of 1953. When we drove through town, I hoped my Dad would get the teaching job he applied for at the Brook school. I saw a swimming pool and a movie theatre - I thought I had surely died and gone to heaven! Where we currently lived the swimming pool was 14 miles away!

Cookouts we call them now, rather than picnics, and the common thread in all summer activity is that we still seem to enjoy outdoors - however it suits us.

**Answers to Do You Know?**

By Janet Miller - Questions on Page 5

1. Newton County emerged from the "dark ages" when electricity was used for illumination within the county in Kentland on Friday evening, April 20, 1894.
2. The county official who compiled an extensive archaeological survey of Newton County pinpointing all the known Indian settlements in the county was the late County Clerk Joseph Hiestand. Hiestand published his survey in 1951. He was an avid collector of Indian relics and will be remembered by many county residents for the fascinating programs on the Indians which he presented for schools and civic organizations. The Newton County Historical Society republished this Hiestand archaeological survey booklet in 2005. They have sold over 225 copies. It is available at the Resource Center in Kentland for \$5.35.
3. The two clubs founded in Morocco in the early 1900's by a group of young ladies and one by a group of young bachelors were called - the ladies were the "Owl" Club and the gentlemen the "Crows". These fun loving groups continued in the community for many years. The "Owl" Club was still in existence in 1984. Many generations of young women from the same families enjoyed their many experiences in this group.
4. The special event held in Kentland on Sunday, November 28, 1954 was the Korean Certificate of Appreciation Day. It was sponsored by Newton County Selective Service Board, No. 58 and honored Korean Veterans. According to the program Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation were extended to veterans of the Korean Conflict by Board President, S. E. Molter. Four posthumous awards were presented to four deceased veterans, John Lindahl, Jr., William R. Lowe, Charles A. Ivory and Charles F. Binge. There were 221 Korean veterans listed in the program from all over Newton County.
5. The population of Newton County in 1860 was 2,360.

## Society Hosts Kentland Rotary; Views Mt. Ayr Citizen's Collection



August's monthly historical program began at the old hardware store in Mt. Ayr where members perused the collection of Don Thomas. Photos above, top center and right. The group then adjourned to the Mt. Ayr Community Room for a program by County Historian Diana Elijah on Mt. Ayr.




The Kentland Rotary held one of their meetings at the Resource Center in Kentland. They browsed the collections on display at the center then enjoyed pizza. Newton County history was the topic of the evening. Babcock photos.

# The Newcomer

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