Ledger of the Graves’ General Store of Morocco Reveals Much History

By Gerald Born

While rummaging through the attic of the house in Morocco I purchased some thirty years ago from the estate of Mildred Merle Graves, I came upon a ledger that was kept by her father. Capt. Daniel Graves when he ran a dry goods business with his brother.

Capt. Dan had been dead many years when I purchased the house he had built for his third wife, Rachel Ann Barkhurst. However, I felt that I almost knew him, for not only was he my grandmother’s uncle, (Mme. Graves Nichols) but Merle Graves, his daughter, was part of our extended family. Not a week went by that she was not a visitor in our home and over the dinner table she would tell of her father and his various exploits.

It was wonderful hearing Merle and my grandmother discuss the Graves family and their early years in Morocco. And it was a special treat when Merle invited us to her home for dinner. She was an excellent cook, and she entertained with a certain style, almost unknown in today’s society. When her white linens covered table was laid with her Haviland china and sterling silver, it was a sight to remember.

What’s On Our Agenda ...

The Newton County Historical Society meets every Monday of each month. The meetings are held in different areas of the County at 7:00 p.m. All members are notified of the place and time each month. Don’t Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!

If you would like to write an article, submit a photo, or have a source for us to check into, give me a call! I’d be happy to hear from you!

Beth Bassett, Editor 219-275-7541, e-mail: beth@brook.finis.com or drop a line in the mail to me at 1681 East 1100 South, Brook, IN 47922.
June 16, 1865. Many men from Monroe and Pilot Grove served in this company. Uncle Jack participated in the battles of Vicksburg, Mission Ridge, Jackson, Lookout Mountain, the Atlanta Campaign, the march to the sea and other battles in the Civil War, and was not wounded, nor sick a day during his entire tour of duty.

At the close of the war, Jack Graves went to Ft. Ridgley, Minnesota, where he married Jennie Bremholz, the daughter of John and Catherine Elizabeth (Updegraff) Brenholz. Jennie and her parents lived in Monroe, where her father was a miller.

Ridgley, Minnesota, after he married Jemima Brennesholtz, the daughter of John and Catherine Elizabeth (Updegraff) Brennesholtz. Jemima and her parents lived at Morocco, where her father was a miller.

Among his suggestions was to open the front door to return to Morocco and it was during this period that they entered into business with their brother and brother-in-law, Daniel Graves.

Uncle Dan Graves sold his interest in Graves Corner of Old 41 and 114 later owned by Henry Corbin, and his unmarried sons and daughters found wives and husbands in the Blanding town of Monroe.

Prior to going into the mercantile business, Uncle Dan had farmed near Monroe, which was interrupted by the Civil War, and he took up the Union cause and enlisted in Company A of the Nineteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

He was passionate in his belief in the Union cause. His grandfather, Joseph Graves and his great uncle, John Graves had both left Virginia because of their dislike for chattel slavery and came to the state of Ohio in order to be under a government which they did not condemn slavery.

He was tireless in traveling around the state to encourage others to enlist in the Union Army. He traveled the same role as his brother-in-law, Dempsey Johnson did as he rode the circuit for the Campbell church in Neosho, Jasper, White, Cass, and Benton Counties, Indiana, and Iroquois, Kankakee and Will Counties in Illinois. He was therefore known to many of the churches and people along the route.

Daniel Morgan Graves, named after the famed Daniel Morgan of Revolutionary times, obviously lived up to the name. He was a firey orator and capable of raising the zeal of his fellow citizens.

Bosworth, before mustering into the above regiment, was commissioned by the Governor of Indiana to recruit a cavalry company, which he did, as an expert rider and a man of some weight and this coupled with his firm belief in the cause of the union made him one of the most effective recruiters in the state.

He was mustered into service on January 7, 1864 as Captain of Company K, 99th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and he participated in all the marches, raids and campaigns of this regiment in Georgia and Mississipi and was present at the capture of Mobile, Alabama.

Under the military government of Mississippi, Capt. Dan commanded the subdistrict of Starville until 1865 when he was sent with a detachment of three companies under his charge to Austin, Mississippi. He then went to Jackson to serve as a member of a court martial assembled there.

James Willard Graves, Capt. Dan’s youngest brother, also served in the 99th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and served with this regiment until it was mustered out in Indianapuals.

Among the many bird and fish arrowheads, they have found game stones and banner stones. A civil war belt buckle and other objects have been found over the years by the family.

In this photograph taken circa 1908 by J.M. Handly, a local photographer of Morocco, captured members of the G.A.R. Ladies auxiliary. Mrs. Rachael (Barkhurst) Daniel M. Graves is pictured in the center of the back row in the light colored dress. Pictured in the first row, from left to right are Mrs. Mary (Salomon) Jacob Hosier, Mr. James (Emma) Caldwell and Mr. William (Emma) Caldwell. As betters Caldwell. The arrow points to Mrs. Mary (Johnson) Jacob Hosier.

As in many projects, budget now seems to be a problem. On a cold and drizzly day the auction was held. Several seedling trees were sold. There was considerable interest in the collection and the out of town buyers were as far away as Brookston and Lafayette and even traveled into Illinois to bolster the spirits of his contemporaries there.

The auction was held in the house of much of the contents in order to update the interior of the house. An auction was planned and I was hired to sort...
James Willard Graves

James Willard Graves was the youngest son of Benjamin and Mary Ann (Pie) Graves. He was born November 17, 1866 in Tippecanoe Township, Tippin County, IN. He married Martha E. (or Martha Ann) Martin on September 20, 1888 in Tippin County, IN. He was the son of Daniel and Harriet (Tedrow) Graves.

James Willard Graves was the youngest son of Benjamin and Mary Ann (Pie) Graves. He was born November 17, 1866 in Tippecanoe Township, Tippin County, IN. He married Martha E. (or Martha Ann) Martin on September 20, 1888 in Tippin County, IN. He was the son of Daniel and Harriet (Tedrow) Graves.

James Willard Graves was the youngest son of Benjamin and Mary Ann (Pie) Graves. He was born November 17, 1866 in Tippecanoe Township, Tippin County, IN. He married Martha E. (or Martha Ann) Martin on September 20, 1888 in Tippin County, IN. He was the son of Daniel and Harriet (Tedrow) Graves.
Lucille Crane has shared many of her memories of the funeral business which her husband, Gordon, operated in the town of Goodland.

The town of Goodland was a bustling place in the 1880s and 1890s, with a population of about 1,000 people. The town boasted of three doctors: Dr. Bassett, Dr. Beckner, and Dr. Kenaman. Dr. Bassett had an office in front rooms over J.A. Hatch's store, Dr. Beckner had an office in front of the J.J. Franklin store, and Dr. Kenaman had an office upstairs on Newton Street. Dr. Kenaman's office was on Union Street, just off Newton Street, Dr. Kennedy had offices upstairs on Newton Street. Each doctor had a different specialty, and the town was served by a variety of other businesses, including a flower shop.

Lucille Crane has been collecting and preserving the history of Goodland for many years. She lives in the house East of the original funeral home. She uses the front 2 rooms of her house for her business, and the custom of burial before sundown after the day man died was upheld. In 1979, when they arrived in Goodland, Lucille recalls that there were 5 grocery stores. The J&P Goggin's Meat and Grocery Store, and Treadwell's Store. There were 2 drug stores, Cook's Pharmacy and Burmister's Pharmacy owned by Charles Cook. The Goodland State Bank was open for business, and the town had a post office.

Several funerals were held in private homes, and two were held at the Goodland State Bank. The funeral was held in Chicago to be buried, and the custom of burial before sundown after the day man died was upheld. In 1928, when they arrived in Goodland, Lucille recalls that there were 5 grocery stores. The J&P Goggin's Meat and Grocery Store, and Treadwell's Store. There were 2 drug stores, Cook's Pharmacy and Burmister's Pharmacy owned by Charles Cook. The Goodland State Bank was open for business, and the town had a post office.

Several funerals were held in private homes, and two were held at the Goodland State Bank. The funeral was held in Chicago to be buried, and the custom of burial before sundown after the day man died was upheld. In 1928, when they arrived in Goodland, Lucille recalls that there were 5 grocery stores. The J&P Goggin's Meat and Grocery Store, and Treadwell's Store. There were 2 drug stores, Cook's Pharmacy and Burmister's Pharmacy owned by Charles Cook. The Goodland State Bank was open for business, and the town had a post office.

Several funerals were held in private homes, and two were held at the Goodland State Bank. The funeral was held in Chicago to be buried, and the custom of burial before sundown after the day man died was upheld. In 1928, when they arrived in Goodland, Lucille recalls that there were 5 grocery stores. The J&P Goggin's Meat and Grocery Store, and Treadwell's Store. There were 2 drug stores, Cook's Pharmacy and Burmister's Pharmacy owned by Charles Cook. The Goodland State Bank was open for business, and the town had a post office.

Several funerals were held in private homes, and two were held at the Goodland State Bank. The funeral was held in Chicago to be buried, and the custom of burial before sundown after the day man died was upheld. In 1928, when they arrived in Goodland, Lucille recalls that there were 5 grocery stores. The J&P Goggin's Meat and Grocery Store, and Treadwell's Store. There were 2 drug stores, Cook's Pharmacy and Burmister's Pharmacy owned by Charles Cook. The Goodland State Bank was open for business, and the town had a post office.