

# The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

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## The Chizum Family and Farms of Morocco

by Beth Bassett

Joseph W. Chizum was the first of his family to locate in Beaver Township, 1850, then Jasper County. He would purchase 80 acres of wild land south of Morocco; by 1883, his holdings included 750 acres in Beaver and Washington Townships in Newton County. His sons, William W., James B. "Benton," Joseph M. "Joe," and Albert carried forth their father's legacy into further prosperity through these land holdings as well as other business ventures in and out of the county over the next four decades. His son, Joseph M. continued to add to the family land holdings in Beaver Township by his own acquisition. In 1919, his marriage to Nellie G. Kennedy, daughter of John and Sarah (English) Kennedy, provided him with additional land for farming, and Nellie's eventual inheritance of Kennedy ground added substantially to their holdings. The prosperity of the Chizum farms grew over the years due in part to the talent of the tenants who lived and farmed the Chizum grounds and with the help of the many locally hired men.

In the early decades, neighboring farmland was rented by the Chizums, and it is these landowners that gave the names to the farms identified as part of the "Chizum Family Farms." These landowners in Beaver Township were Fred and Myrtle Camblin, "The Camblin Farm;" David and Bruce Hanger, "The Hanger Place;" and Fred and Walter Shafer, "The Shafer Place." "Nellie's Place," and "The Ranch," were the names of the Chizum land in Jackson Township.

More Shafer land held by James and John Shafer was also utilized in Washington Township. By the mid 1950s, the land holdings grew to over 2500 acres. Please refer to the maps and table that show the locations of these farms in Newton County located elsewhere in this edition.

After the death of Joe in 1947, his wife Nellie G. (Kennedy) Chizum, would continue to manage the Chizum Family Farms until 1979, because of illness, she would pass along the management to a professional farm manager. At that time the land holdings began to change as did the tenants.

Local farmer, Vic Carlson of Morocco, shared his memories of the Chizums and working on the farms. He states that on his return to Newton County in 1946 after serving his country in WW II, he rented 80 acres and farmed with his father for a couple of years. He continued to add rented land and formed a partnership with his brother Ronald and they operated as Carlson Brothers, farming the Alec Elijah farm.

In 1951, Vic's friend, Bill Blaney, farmed part of the Chizum land. He was instrumental in recommending to his Aunt Nellie to rent 541 acres of the Chizum land to Carlson Brothers when Elmer Shedrow, who had farmed for Nellie for two years, decided to rent the large farm of John Colburne, just north of Brook.

Carlson Brothers were the tenants for about five years when Ronald decided to enter the construction business and Vic purchased Ron's share of the partnership holdings, including the

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Left, 1916, the Joe Chizum residence, right, 1955, the original Chizum farm, V. Carlson, Tenant; 450 acres, Beaver Township.

# President's Thoughts

By Bernie Murphy

The annual Christmas Open House at the Resource Center was a huge success. We had over 70 visitors come to see our collections and enjoy the day with homemade snacks and desserts. A special "thanks" goes out to all the member volunteers who provided the delicious goodies!

At the October 2014 meeting, updated Constitution and By-laws were presented to the membership for review. These new and needed updates were prepared by a special committee I appointed consisting of Janet Miller, Kyle Conrad and Beth Bassett; the membership and I truly appreciate their efforts! A quorum of the membership was present at the February meeting, and the motion was made to accept the newly proposed Constitution and By-laws; the motion was passed, the vote taken, and the new Constitution and By-laws were put into place at that time.

The Family History Division and community volunteers have been very busy working on the enormous task of compiling the writings of John J. Yost which appeared over his six decade career as editor/columnist for *The Newton County Enterprise*. The book is working its way into over 1,000 pages and

will hopefully be completed and published this year as a two-volume set. Thanks to all the volunteers who have been helping on this wonderful project over a considerable time period.

The "Brook, Indiana, Iroquois and Washington Township, Sesquicentennial Collection, 2006," has been republished and is available at the Brook Library and the Newton County Historical Resource Center in Kentland. There are a limited number available at a price of \$60.00 each. "The History of Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby," will also be republished and will be made available at the Roselawn True Value in September.

Another undertaking started recently chaired by Janet and Rich Miller, is the identifying all the businesses that were located in Kentland, beginning with the first known stores prior to our county inception in 1860. A good start has been made so far but we will need further input and identifications. Watch for announcements on the outcome of this research, it will be something you won't want to miss.

That's all for now and I will update you again in the next issue of the *Newcomer*.

# A Moment of Your Time

By Beth Bassett

I have spent the last six months laying out the columns of John J. Yost into book format, and I thought I had better take a moment of your time to explain the contents and delay of this *Newcomer*.

This edition was more an exercise in typing than research and story development due to the fact that the Old Lenscrafter, a.k.a. Yostie, put ink to paper and recorded a vast amount of history about Newton County in his writings over the years. Thus, the inspiration for publishing his articles, and for the majority of stories that appear here!

Yost had told me years ago to "feel free to use anything I have ever written in the *Newcomer*," so I am going to take full advantage of his generosity.

You will not be disappointed, because many of you may never have read his columns. It has been over fifteen years since some of you who followed and read "his stuff" faithfully over the years, initially read them.

Sit back, and enjoy.

## 2014 Society Christmas Open House ... A Bit Of Yuletide Cheer!



Left, Terry Dieter with Tom and Kathy Sondgerath look over the editions of the *Newcomer* on display; right, Larry Lyons, left and Sonny Shedrow, right, discuss a bit of history and life and times in growing up in Newton County. Photographs by Barbara Wilfong.

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herd of Angus cattle they had established. Ron and Vic had both married at this point; Vic living at the original Chizum place and Ron at the Shafer place. In 1959, Vic and Betty had the opportunity to purchase part of the Carlson land and become landowners. Reluctantly, they gave up the tenancy of the Chizum farm.

Vic stated that Nellie Chizum was a fine lady and landlord, and after farming the Chizum lands for nine years, found her to be progressive and fair at all times.

Vic never knew Joe Chizum personally, but remembers him as a very prominent farmer who raised Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle. He farmed all of his holdings with two tractors and many horses with hired help living on all of his farms.

From a 1974 Plat Book of Newton County, Nellie still held possession of a total of 605 acres in Beaver, Washington and Jackson Townships. The balance of the land holdings of the Chizum farm were passed along to family members William and Clay Blaney, and Vance Clark. Presently, over 700 acres of the original Chizum ground is held by descendants of the Chizum family.

## Fire On the Farms

The Chizum farms suffered two large fires in 1936. The first in July that completely destroyed the seven-room frame residence on the Fred Camblin farm, which was occupied by H. H. Hanks. According to an account from the *Morocco Courier*, July, 1936, "Mrs. Anna Graves, who occupied half of the house, and two hired men, Earl Russell and Randy Lade were milking and doing early chores when the fire broke out at 6:00 in the morning. On returning from milking they saw flames within the house and immediately put in a call for help and started bringing out goods from the building. Mrs. Graves goods were nearly all saved and about half of the belongings of Mr. Hanks.

"So rapidly did the flames consume the building that it was almost completely burned twenty minutes after the conflagration was discovered. The barn caught at three different times, but was beaten out with wet sacks.

"The house was insured by the Camblin Estate, but Mr. Hanks' household goods were not insured."

The other fire occurred at the original farm. An account of the event was found in the August, 6, 1936 edition of the *Morocco Courier*:

"A fire which wiped out all buildings on the J. M. Chizum farm 1.5 miles south of town occurred late Tuesday afternoon, with an estimated loss of \$40,000.

"The seven-room house, outbuildings and a large double barn, the largest in Newton County, we believe, were all destroyed within a short space of time. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

"The blaze originated in the barn near the threshing machine, but just how it started was not determined. A crew of men had been threshing on Tuesday and a part of the crew were yet on hand when the conflagration was discovered. Only a few hogs were rescued from the barn. A team of mules perished, it being impossible to get them out because of extreme heat. It was estimated that only fifteen minutes elapsed in the burning of the building.

"The farm, one of several operated by Mr. Chizum, was tenanted by Harold Davis.

"The ravages of the fire included everything about the premises—two automobiles, two binders, cultivators, other farm machinery, household goods, grain, tools and equipment and all of the innumerable items usually found around a farm homestead. We understand the owner plans to rebuild as soon as possible."

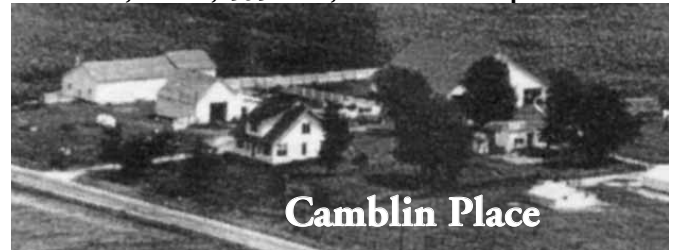
Elsewhere in this edition you will find an article that appeared originally in the *Newton County Enterprise* in 1999 written by Clay Blaney, a nephew of Nellie Chizum, who worked on the farms and eventually inherited land. There is also an interesting tale about Albert Chizum reprinted from two April, 1897 editions of the *Enterprise*.

## 1955 Aerial Views of the Chizum Land Holdings, in Townships Beaver, Jackson and Washington



Shafer's Place

R. Carlson, Tenant, 535 acres, Beaver Township.



Camblin Place

W. Blaney, Tenant, 340 acres, Beaver Township.



Hanger Place

W. Blaney, Tenant, 350 acres, Beaver Township.



The Ranch

V. Clark, Tenant, 652 acres, Jackson Township.



Nellie's Place

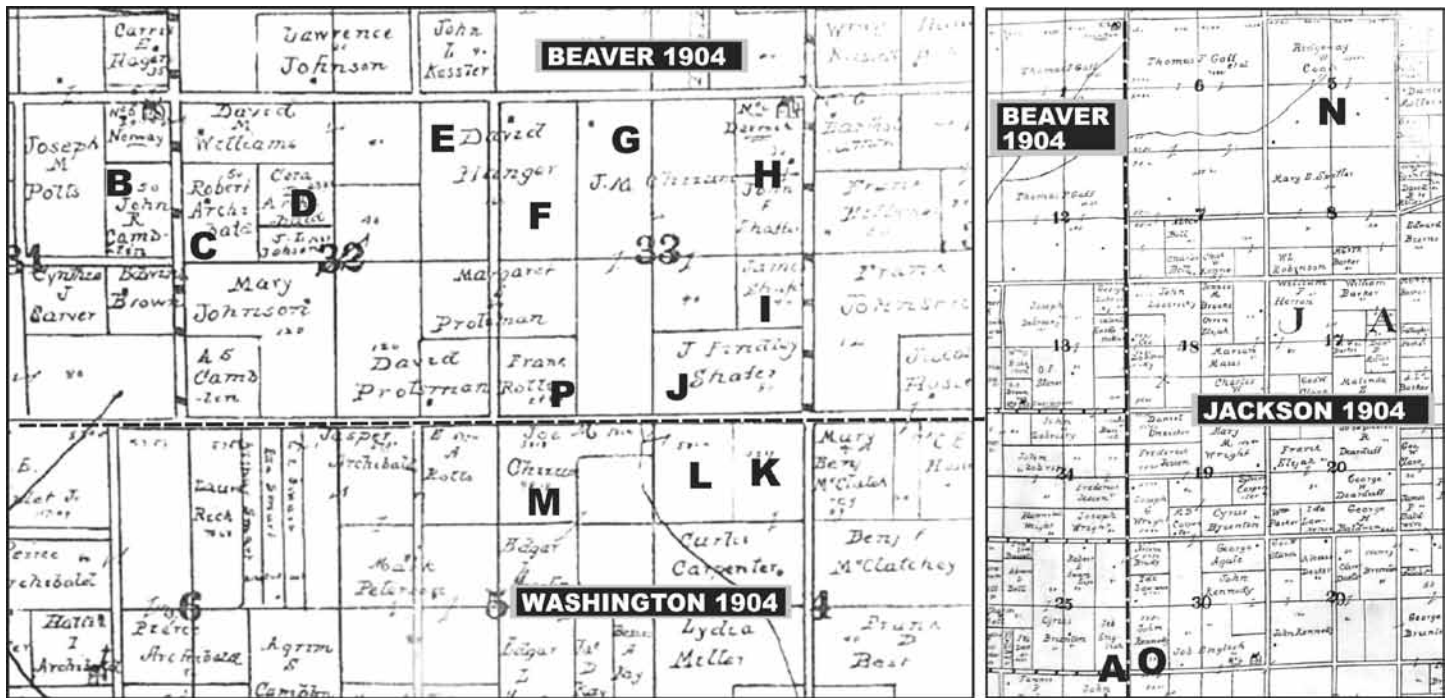
No Tenant, 658 acres, Jackson Township.

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### Other Notable Farms and Ranches In Newton County

There were many farms and ranches located throughout Newton County ... we would like to compile a list of them for our records, as well as use the information for upcoming articles in *The Newcomer*. If you have any history, photographs and/or information we would be happy to scan and preserve them in our files for the future generations to enjoy! Email or drop us a note!

### 1904: Land Owners Involved With The Chizum Farm Operation; Beaver, Washington and Jackson Townships



Map Key	Township/Section	1904	1916	1958
A	Beaver, Section 25	Job English	Job English	Nellie Chizum
B	Beaver, Section 31	John R. Camblin	Fred Camblin	Elmer Padgett
C	Beaver, Section 32	Robert Archibald	Fred Camblin	Nellie Chizum
D	Beaver, Section 32	Cora Archibald	Myrtle Camblin	Nellie Chizum
E	Beaver, Section 32	David Hanger	Bruce Hanger/J.M. Chizum	Nellie Chizum
F	Beaver, Section 33	David Hanger	J.M. Chizum	Nellie Chizum
G	Beaver, Section 33	J. M. Chizum	J. M. Chizum	Nellie Chizum
H	Beaver, Section 33	John F. Shafer	F. & W. Shafer	Barbara Hoss
I	Beaver, Section 33	James Shafer	J. W. Shafer	Nellie Chizum
J	Beaver, Section 33	J. Finlay Shafer	F. & W. Shafer	Fred F. Shafer
K	Washington, Section 4	Curtis Carpenter	J. F. Shafer	Fred Shafer
L	Washington, Section 4	J. M. Chizum	J. M. Chizum	Nellie Chizum
M	Washington, Section 5	J. M. Chizum	J. M. Chizum	Nellie Chizum
N	Jackson, Section 5	Ridgeway W. Coats	John Kennedy	Nellie Chizum
O	Jackson, Section 30	John Kennedy	Sarah Kennedy	Nellie Chizum
P	Beaver, Section 33	Fred Rolls	F. D. Potts	Nellie Chizum

## Education in Newton County

by David Truby

At the time Newton County was formed in 1860, the nation was in the throes of education reform that was put on hold until the conclusion of the Civil War. Early settlers of the frontier were preoccupied with the chores of daily living. Building a shelter against the elements and harvesting or gathering enough food to feed the immediate family took precedent over formal education. By 1860 educational reformers had influenced legislators to pass laws relating to public education.

In 1852, The Indiana Free School Law was passed. The law provided for a general and uniform system of common schools and libraries and provided for a State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The law also established the first State Board of Education that consisted of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, and Auditor and required that this board must meet once a year for the purpose of:

- more effectively promoting the interest of education by mutual conference;
- interchange of views and experience of the practical operation of the system;

the introduction of uniform school books;

the adoption of the most eligible means of facilitating the establishment of township school libraries, and;

the discussion and determination of such questions as may arise in the practical administration of the school system.

Today most of us citizens expect that a system of public education shall freely educate our young people and be supported by taxation of all citizens. This has not always been the case in these United States and especially in Europe. In England it was not until 1870 that the Elementary Education Act was made law and the State provided education that was available for all children ages 5 to 13. There was considerable "foot dragging" on the part of the English Parliament to create such a law because the children were a source of cheap labor in their factories.

Before the 1852 Indiana Free School Law was passed, education was conducted by contract between teachers and parents, also called "subscription," with no public funds involved. The prevailing thought was along the line of ...

"You chose to have all those kids and now you can pay to educate them ... Not my family and not my responsibility!"

Another common path to education was the Sunday school, sometimes called the Sabbath School. Sunday schools were for people of all ages, not just children and were supported by the contributions of the parishioners. Sunday Schools usually lasted most of the day, concentrating on basic reading, writing and ciphering of numbers and of course included a dose of religious instruction as well.

As you might guess, if financial resources did not allow for education of all of your children then the boys normally got the education while the girls stayed at home and helped their mothers. Another aberration of early education was that girls were often not exposed to ciphering of numbers, (Arithmetic), since in adulthood their husbands would take care of business dealings and women had no need to cipher.

The 1852 School Law determined that education would be supported through state taxation and delegated the responsibilities of erecting school buildings and hiring school teachers to the Township Trustees. Some Townships levied additional school taxes to supplement the money raised by the State for educational purposes. In 1854 a decision by the Indiana Supreme Court struck down the townships authority to raise additional taxes for education.

In 1855, a revised law stipulated that local government could indeed raise funds for school buildings and school equipment. A pattern was thus established through the 1850s and 1860s that the legislature would pass laws granting local districts the ability to raise taxes for school purposes, and then the Indiana Supreme Court would find such laws in violation of the constitution. It was not until 1885 that the Indiana Supreme Court finally upheld a law that granted local authorities the ability to levy taxes for education.

Indeed, Indiana was much in need of an educational system upgrade. The 1840 census revealed that less than one fourth of the Indiana school age children attended school and in literacy, Indiana ranked 18th among the 28 states then in the Union. By 1850 Indiana's literacy ranking fell even further and was ranked 23rd among the then 28 states in the Union.

The place of residence of the Hoosier student was a determinant of the type of education received. An 1879 survey determined that 72% of all students were enrolled in rural townships. A typical rural school was a one room, ungraded schoolhouse staffed by a single teacher. This stereotypical one room school

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### Inquiring Minds Want To Know!

Society member John Kessler sent a note to us with his annual dues with a couple of questions regarding Newton County history. *I'm curious about two items:*

1. Location of "Kessler School" mentioned in the *Historical Society Coloring book*;
2. *The wife of the first Brunton in Newton County - maiden name Kessler mentioned in the History of Jackson and Colfax Townships.* (Answer on page 21)

Your questions regarding the Kessler School and Margaret Kessler Brunton were given to me a few months back, and I am just now gathering the time to research them. Thanks for sending in the note ... they were a delight to explore. - Beth Bassett

### Kessler School

What an interesting quest! John Ade was the first to mention the Kessler School, in his history book, "Newton County, 1859-1911;" this was then repeated over the years in other history books, but it was the "Morocco Centennial, 1851-1951," that revealed the most information:

"Another school subsequently built was the Oakdale School, sometimes called the Kessler School. It was first located on the Gorman farm and later moved east of the Robert Kessler farm. Later abandoned as a school, it was moved to town and was used as a residence by George E. Lowe and later by Mrs. Tabitha Murphey Brown." Above is a photo of the Oakdale School, a.k.a. Kessler School from 1854 from the book, "Morocco Centennial, 1851-1951."



Later abandoned as a school, it was moved to town and was used as a residence by George E. Lowe and later by Mrs. Tabitha Murphey Brown." Above is a photo of the Oakdale School, a.k.a. Kessler School from 1854 from the book, "Morocco Centennial, 1851-1951."

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house, with some deviation and modification, persisted in rural Indiana up until the 1950s. City and town school districts, with greater funds and student population were able to experiment with progressive methods of education which included the grouping of children by their skill level into grades. There was however no statewide system of grading from one district to the next.

In this regard it seems that Fort Wayne Schools was a pioneer in the establishment of a grading system in 1866. They established eight grades, including junior and senior grades for both boys and girls. Again, I suppose the skills and knowledge imparted upon the boys was simply not needed by the girls?

In my research for this story, I encountered a hypothetical account of how decisions might be made in the building of a school that I found amusing and will share. The hypothetical conversation might have gone like this:

Mr. Elder Forethought notes that the exterior of the building should be aesthetically pleasing so it could also serve as the temporary town meeting house. Colonel Wise suggests that it be as attractive and pleasant as possible to the children, both inside and out, and that all the connection association with this temple of science should be pleasing and delightful.

In a similar manner, Captain Pinchpenny proposed the cheapest method of providing light and heat for the building, using goose oil for light and reducing the number of expensive windows in the building. His motion is dismissed by Dean Countcost who notes that the long term damage to the pupil's eyes in such poor lighting is far more costly than installation of glass windows.

When it is time to determine the internal ornamentation of the schoolhouse, some support the backless benches for the students to sit on, at least, until Doctor Considerate informed the community, "it is dangerous to confine children eight or nine hours a day to seats without backs. To say nothing about deep shoulders and crooked backs."

Just as differences in available funds varied from district to district, so did the length of the school year vary. With no set grades and no set curriculum and no set length of a school year, it is easy to understand how uneven the educational experience of an Indiana student might be. Add to this the varied abilities of the teachers themselves and one must wonder how our student population fared so well.

I now want address the topic of the teachers themselves.

There was, apparently two different pre-

vailing thoughts concerning what made a quality teacher, at least until the 1870s. One view that was held by many was that teaching was an inborn faculty or talent, and no formal training was necessary. The second thought was that the art and science of teaching (pedagogy) should be learned in a "Normal" school. In Indiana, our first Normal school was Indiana State Normal School, later to simply be referred to as Indiana State University, in Terre Haute. Tuition was free but board and food were at your own expense. This was the first of several Normal schools that came into existence between 1870 and 1890.

At this time there was also a general requirement that each year, those engaged in teaching should attend a county sponsored "Teachers Institute" lasting between one and five days. The idea being that the experienced teachers would share teaching skills and knowledge with the less experienced.

"Teachers Institute" was a feature of the Indiana experience at least until the 1970s but evolved into a two day event, annually, in Indianapolis. Today teachers have continuing education through "Professional Development" sessions that are short in duration and scheduled throughout the school year.

The Indiana State Teachers Association had its roots all the way back in 1854 when a group of concerned educators met in Indianapolis to discuss the importance of educating the Indiana citizenry and to keep education at the forefront of agenda of the Indiana General Assembly. At that first informal meeting there were 175 concerned citizens that joined the new organization with a membership fee of \$1 for the men and \$.50 for the ladies.

This teachers association became influential in lobbying for improved education with our state general assembly and exists today as a representative for over 45,000 educators throughout our state.

I found it interesting that teachers in Indiana were not licensed by the state until 1923. Pryor to that time licensing was done by individual counties.

For more information about early Newton County Schools go to internet address: <http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton/> scroll down to Schools click on "Newton County Schools, 1924," and you will find on page one, an in-depth discussion of how our schools evolved; beginning on pages four, I found it interesting where the writer indicates that in the year 1900 there were 66 single room schoolhouses in the county along with a breakdown of number in each township.

Today there are 2396 total students, grades K-12, in the combined South Newton and North Newton corporations.

## Salt

Ron Styck by Jeff Manes

*"You cook good rabbit, pilgrim."*

– Will Geer, from the film "Jeremiah Johnson"

To me, Ron Styck's dad always seemed to be easy-going – a gentle giant and a methodical man. He was a farmer.

My dad, was, let's say, more fiery – an Italian-American who didn't spare the rod. He was a steel worker.

Maybe that's why I've never forgotten the following prelude to this interview – a classic tale of crime and punishment.

When Ron was about 6 and his sister 4, they followed their father around as he did chores one sunny day. While Percy – not a lot of Newton County farmers named Percival – was preoccupied repairing something with baling wire, baling wire being a panacea to the farmer much like duct tape is to the suburbanite, Ron said to his diminutive sibling, "Lana, touch that."

"That" happened to be an electric fence. Lana was jolted immediately to the ground.

Percy had overheard Ron's command, but couldn't react in time to protect his darling daughter.

Above Lana's wailing, "Big Perce" looked Ron in the eye, and calmly said, "Son, you know what you have to do."

With bottom lip quivering and a solitary teardrop rolling down his chubby cheek, the boy looked up to his father and nodded. And that's when little Ronnie grabbed the electric livestock fence with both hands.

The smoldering chip off the old block took it like a man.

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Ron Styck, 51, lives south of Lake Village and west of U.S. 41 in McClellan Township near the state line. He has been married to Judy for 27 years; they have raised four adult children: Chad, Tara, Stefanie and Cody.

I hadn't seen Ron in 35 years, but he waited for me in his pickup at the end of his long, snow-covered driveway the evening I came to interview him. He wanted to make sure I didn't get stuck.

He's that kind of guy.

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*Ron, remember when we used to hunt rabbits near Ira Porter's place?*

"Yeah, that area still has lots of rabbits," he began.

*How much land do you farm?*

"About 6,500 acres."

*Didn't you also purchase some of the land surrounding the ghost town of Conrad?*

"I bought 800 tillable acres from Jennie Conrad's heirs; the Nature Conservancy bought the wooded portion."

*During the off season, you operate an excavating business.*

"Yeah, we have an excavator, a dozer and a scraper."

*Do you do a lot of work for TNC?*

"Yes, we help TNC create wetlands. We've also dug some ponds or depressions for them over by Bogus."

*You refer to what remains of Bogus Island. Ron, you live in a very historic area; right where this house sits was once part of the largest natural lake in Indiana.*

"My yard is part of Beaver Lake's beach; you can really tell during the daytime. When I dug our pond out back, I found all kinds of arrowheads."

*Ron, do you know much about the Black Marsh? The legendary wolf hunter, "Kankakee Ned" Barker, considered it one of the most treacherous bogs on the face of the earth. That's where the trumpeter swans nested by the thousands.*

"I farmed that muck ground; it's right next to Cherry Island. I used to flood that area so I could duck hunt it. I'd have a few swans show up every year. TNC owns that now. When I drove my combine through that muck, I could kinda feel the ground wavering."

*Ron, do you care to talk about when you got shot in 1997?*

"I was turkey hunting with a friend. I went on one end of the property and he went on the other. Right at daylight, I heard a shot. I thought, 'Well, he got his.'

"I wasn't seeing anything and by 7 a.m., I had to get out of there – planting season. As I walked back to my truck I heard a gobble; I figured I'd have just enough time to try for that one. I snuck up toward some big blue-stem (tall prairie grass) and stood up against a wild cherry tree. I started calling and it called back. The turkey was just on the other side of some pines."

*And?*

"POOM! It was like a cold sting and a shock wave hit me. It knocked me against the tree. I thought I'd shot myself. I fell over and couldn't get back up. My lungs started gurgling. I thought, 'This ain't good; I'm gonna die here.' I figured my friend had gone home after bagging a turkey."



Jeff Manes, (left) and Ron Styck pictured after their rabbit hunt in 1967.

*Did your friend shoot you?*

"Yeah, remember Babe Stojanic?"

*Sure, he was like a father to both of us.*

"He had just given me some really good 3-D camouflage; it blended in like you wouldn't believe. I was holding my shotgun in front of my chest. My bottom hand was gripping the stock. It was cold out and my hand had turned kind of pinkish-red."

*Your buddy thought your right hand was the head of a wild turkey.*

"Yep. I blacked out and I guess I laid out there for quite a while. It's real sandy and they had trouble getting to me. Judy and the kids were there when they carried me to the ambulance. They had cut off most of my clothing."

*I'd imagine more than your right hand was red by then.*

"My youngest daughter fainted when she saw me. Butch Cain, the Lake Village fire chief, blew oxygen into my face in the ambulance. I remember everything from then on."

*From what range were you shot?*

"About 25 yards."

*Lord. What kind of ammunition hit you?*

"A duplex load of No. 4s and 6s. The No. 4s are bigger shot; they did the most damage. There was a perfect outline of my shotgun on my chest. The gun protected my heart and one lung."

*Ronnie, you shouldn't be here; it's a miracle.*

"My kids counted 176 BB holes from my waist to the top of my chest. I was lucky; it

didn't pierce my intestines. But the blast did collapse one of my lungs and broke three or four bones in my right hand."

*How long were you in the hospital?*

"Four or five days; Judy says I came home too soon. I got an infection from leakage in my rib cage. They stuck a huge needle in my back and drained the infection. That was nasty.

"But really, I haven't had a whole lot of trouble. I still have BBs in my chest; it does more damage taking them out. I had a goose-down coat on that day. When I came home, my kids pulled feathers out of my chest and stomach.

"Jeff, you know where I was when I got shot?"

*No.*

"TNC's Unit H."

*I'm not familiar....*

"Yeah, you are; it's where we used to rabbit hunt near Ira Porter's place."

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Ronnie said when you go through something like he did it really makes you want to come home and kiss your wife and take good care of your kids.

He also told me he'd much rather be the person who got shot than be the person who accidentally shot somebody.

Ron Styck is that kind of guy.

– Jeff Manes. This article first appeared in the *Post-Tribune*, January 13, 2011.

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### Sugar Beets in Newton County?

By Beth Bassett

One of John Yost's columns in 1999 he reprinted an article written by editor Harry Strohm of the *Newton County Enterprise*, that explored the production of sugar beets in Newton County. Yost left the columns not knowing what happened to the industry, or the details of how it began, hoping that "the people who read his stuff" would be able to supply some of the answers to his questions.

I immediately thought of my friend Sig Boezeman, as the articles focused on Lincoln Township farms, where he resides. Sig has a wealth of knowledge of the Kankakee River area and northern Newton County, so I knew I could count on him for some back-up materials for an article. Much to my surprise, he had not heard of the sugar beet popularity at the turn of the century, and began asking around. He found that no-one else seemed to be familiar with the topic either. His niece, Marcia Boezeman, located an article from the *Chicago Tribune* dated October 10, 1897 on the web, and she forwarded that link to me.

Sig was very pleased with this article, as it talked about the lands on which he now lives, but it also suggested an alternative to the type of dredging that was done to straighten the Kankakee and to drain the swamplands.

An explanation for the enthusiasm sweeping the nation for sugar beet production may be stemmed from the McKinley Administration of 1896. The Dingley Act of 1897 raised tariffs on items shipped into the United States, such as sugar, to counteract the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act of 1894, which had lowered tariffs to entice trade with Europe.

Articles throughout the year in the *Enterprise* about the beet industry suggested "that now that the Dingley Act is in place, farmers should stop growing corn and oats for the government and stop shipping them off to the French and the Dutch in trade for their sugar;" and from the *Chicago Record*:

"The new Tariff Bill (Dingley) seeks to equalize American production of sugar ... in 1896 German, Belgium, Russia, France, Austria and Holland produced 500,000 tons of sugar, valued at \$300,000,000. The United States consumed 2,300,000 tons of sugar; 45,000 tons of which was made from sugar beets. The thought is to increase local production and provide our own sugar and become

competitive in the European markets."

One of Yostie's questions, "Wherefore Art Thou Sugar Beets," may simply be answered by the fact that the heavy rains, the cost of production and the new direction the straightening of the river took may have popped the balloon of success projected by the masses for sugar production along the Kankakee River.

However, small fields were still being cultivated into the 1915s, as heavy rains devastated the beet crop that year, as reported by the *Enterprise*. It was E. T. Boyle of Roselawn who invested his time and monies into the factory to be built in Shelby. He attended a Sugar Beet Convention held in North Judson in the late fall of 1897, and returned to the county to hold a meeting with a Mr. Burke of Chicago with plans to build the factory. The factory is mentioned in Yost's article. Hereafter, you will find the article from the *Chicago Tribune*, and Yost's two columns that appeared in 1999.

#### **Chicago Tribune, October 10, 1897 Beets Grown in the Waste Lands of Northern Indiana Marshes To Be Reclaimed; Swamps of the Kankakee May Be Converted Into Farm Land**

"Within fifty miles of the (Chicago) city limits, in the sand and marsh lands of Northwestern Indiana, success beyond expectation has been achieved in the raising of the sugar beet during the last summer. The work was experimental; it was carried out on a comparatively small scale on a limited amount of ground; but it has established not only the fact that it is possible to raise beets on the land hitherto believed almost valueless, but that the beets so raised contain a greater percentage of sugar than those which supply the markets in Germany and France.

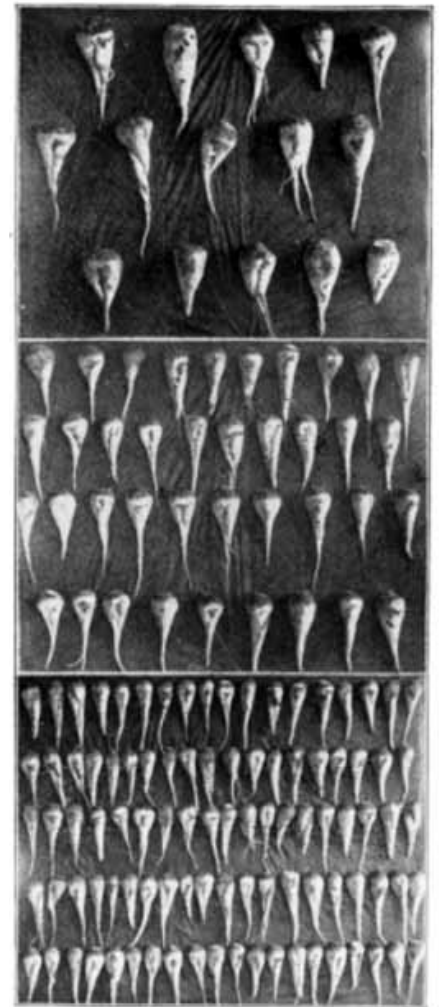
"Moreover, it has opened up an immense field of possibility. For in the neighborhood of the land upon which the beets have been raised, along the winding shores of the Kankakee River, is mile after mile of swamp and marsh, bordering in the aggregate close upon 500,000 acres. To reclaim it in former years projects have been put on foot, only to be defeated by the belief of the large landowners that the land was not worth the expenditure. Now, in the light of the recent experiments, its reclaiming is a matter of moment, and steps are being taken to shut the river into a narrower bed and devote the land along its course to the new industry."

### Started Last Spring

"The first movement toward the establishment of the fact that the sandy marsh of northern Indiana was capable of raising beets with a sufficient percentage of sugar to make the industry profitable was made last spring.

"From the government a number of farmers in the district obtained sample beets. In June, the beets were planted in the spongy soil, half muck, half sand, near the shores of the Kankakee River in St. Joseph, Porter, LaPorte, Jasper, Starke, Lake and Newton Counties. After three months growth, and later at maturity, samples were sent to the government experimental stations connected with Purdue University, where tests were made to determine the percentage of sugar.

"The greater number of samples sub-



**From the Purdue Test Results, 1897: Top, 15 large beets weigh 40 lbs, contain 4 lbs. 4 oz. of sugar; Center, 39 medium beets, weigh 40 lbs, contains 4 lbs. 14 oz. of sugar; 96 small beets, weight 40 lbs., contains 5 lbs. 10 oz. of sugar.**



mitted were the product of a strip of country some twenty miles long, lying between Hamlet and North Judson in Starke County. In determining the practicability of sugar production the results of the tests were compared with those made by French and German experts, in which the sugar beets raised in those countries show to average 12%. The average percentage in the beets raised in Indiana proved to be considerably above this, and both the promoters of the plan and the government experts were much elated.

“Upon maturity, the beets raised by H. A. Ellington of Hamlet, proved to contain 15.5%; Jacob Keller of North Judson, proved to contain 15.6%; J. M. Wilson of North Judson, proved to contain 16.75%.”

### Marshes of the Kankakee

“The best product had been grown in sandy ground, but high percentages had been found in vegetables from more marshy soil, and the average exceeded that of districts where the manufactures of beet sugar had proved profitable. The subject for land for cultivation, then, came uppermost.

“As the crow flies the Kankakee river, near which the beets have been grown, travels some 100 miles from source to mouth. Its numerous windings, however, make the stream fully 210 miles long, and on both sides of the real bed of the current the waters spread out over the low ground until acre after acre of it is converted into a spongy marsh. In dry seasons the marsh is valuable for grazing purposes only. In wet seasons it is useless except to duck hunters.

“A large amount of this land is owned by Chicagoans and by hunting clubs. Nelson Morris owns about 25,000 acres in Jasper and Newton Counties, close to the Illinois State line. The Lewis Cass estate controls 17,000 acres in Lake and Newton Counties; Burke brothers of Chicago own some 7,000 acres; John Brown, President of the First National Bank of Crown Point owns 10,000 acres; and various other individuals control considerable stretches of the marsh.

“The redemption of this land has long been a topic of debate. To accomplish this, it would be necessary to “straighten out” the Kankakee River, confining it to a definite channel, and draining the surrounding lands into it. Fourteen years ago a movement to carry this out was begun, and Governor Porter of Indiana commissioned John L. Campbell of Wabash University to survey the land and make an estimate of the cost of the straighten-

ing process. This was done, but the fact that the cost would be considerable for those owning large amounts of land has prevented the plans being carried out. The possibility of the lands being used for the cultivation of sugar beets has given increased interest to the project, especially among the small farmers, and the work now promises to go forward rapidly.”

### The Cost of Work Irrigation System Suggested

“The cost of reclaiming the 500,000 acres of land now partially submerged by the waters of the Kankakee has been estimated at \$2 an acre, in the total of \$1,000,000. This contemplates not only the straightening of the river, but the draining of the neighboring land and the introduction of a system of irrigation for use in dry seasons. There is of course a possibility that the land, when reclaimed will prove unsuitable for beet cultivation. It will depend chiefly upon whether the ground can be readily drained. But the chance of success is regarded as great enough to warrant the attempt.

“The work of improvement of the river has already begun. Indeed, it had been commenced, in accordance with the original plans, before the possibility of beet culture had been investigated. Two companies have been formed to carry out the proposed changes.

“The first of these is the Kankakee River Improvement company, organized by land-owners in LaPorte and St. Joseph Counties to complete the improvement of the upper river to a point near Hamlet, where the Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne and Chicago railroad crosses the stream. The other is the Kankakee Improvement Association, organized by land-owners, some of whom live near the river, others in Chicago. The association takes charge of the improvements from the railroad crossing to the Illinois State Line.

“The plans of the association contemplate a system of levees about ten feet high, shutting the river into a bed a half-mile wide. This wide bed is thought necessary because of the great extent of the marsh which it is designed to drain. The stream between the levees will be dredged and deepened sufficiently to make the river navigable, with a view to utilizing the waterway as a means of transporting the beet crop to market.

“As soon as the lands are drained sufficiently for the needs of the beet cultivators

the final step toward making Chicago a sugar center will be taken. This will be the construction of a factory large enough to take care of the beet crop of the district at a point easily accessible. Negotiations regarding this feature of the plan are already going forward between Chicago promoters of the industry and English capitalists.”

### Wherefore Art Thou, Sugar Beet?

September 22, 1999,

By John J. Yost

I was recently doing some research on something entirely unrelated when I became distracted by an article in a 1901 edition of the *Newton County Enterprise* by editor and publisher Harry A. Strohm.

With the unsettling nature of the corn and bean market, some farmers are giving consideration to what are called niche crops. Alternate crops has been a subject of interest in the farming community for many years, and I guess that was the case at the most recent turn of the century.

Strohm wrote this story after a visit with his friends John D. Sink, E. T. Boyle and John Brady of Lincoln Township. This is the story of sugar beet farming in northern Newton County.

It is a tale without an end, as I do not know how the sugar beet ceased to be a prominent crop in this area, and I hope you, the readers can inform me.

Strohm pointed out that the sugar beet had been a successful crop in northwestern Indiana for the prior decade. Strohm, himself a farmer north of Kentland, became interested in the subject as the result of a Purdue study which indicated that the most fortuitous soil for this crop is a moderately light sandy loam which is found in Lincoln Township.

The Purdue study further reported that the costs to plant and harvest an acre of beets ranged between \$25 and \$35 per acre. It was also noted that while the harvest of beets is usually carried out in October, frost does no damage to the beets, and they can be left in the ground until late November.

As Strohm recounted, “My visit to this town (Roselawn or as it was referred to in those days as Rose Lawn) and to this Township was made for the purpose of seeing in person the growing fields of sugar beets, of which we have heard so much and know so little.

< *Continued on page 10* >

## 10 The Newcomer

< Continued from page 9 >

"Candor compels the admission that the citizens of Lincoln Township are taking very little interest in this new industry. Many are skeptical, and some say openly that the whole thing will burst like a soap bubble. There are a number, however, who believe that experience and perseverance will prove that the sugar beet can be raised in this locality with great profit to the grower.

"This year is hardly a fair test. The season was backward and the inexperience of the planters are two potent reasons why a full crop need not be expected."

He also pointed out that of the large tract of land leased by the Central Sugar Company, the most hospitable for beet growing was not used for that purpose.

In the next and final installment of this story, Mr. Strohm visits sugar beet fields and a site of a planned beet processing plant near Shelby. *And That's Through The Lens As I See It ... JJY*

## Wherefore Art Thou, Sugar Beet, Part Two

October 13, 1999

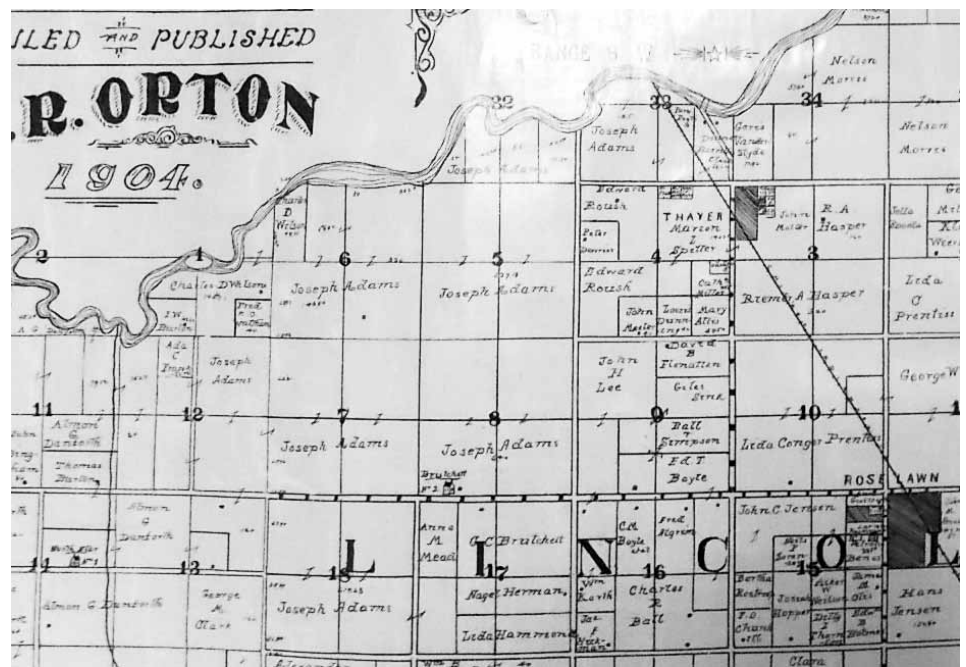
By John J. Yost

Enterprise editor and publisher Harry A. Strohm's description of the newly popular sugar beet crop in 1901 concludes this week with his visit to a sugar beet farm and the processing facility.

"The largest beet farm is located on the Adams Ranch in Lincoln Township, and is under lease by Timothy Harrison, J. E. Burke, and two members of the Central Sugar Co. Mr. Burke thinks that the soil is good for beet culture, but he believes that they made a mistake in laying it out in such large farms. Smaller tracts can be farmed more profitably, he thinks, than the larger ones. Fertilizer has been spread over the ground at a rate of 300 lbs. to the acre, but Mr. Burke believes a good barnyard manure will produce better results.

"It will cost the development company \$33 per acre before the beets are ready for harvest. They hope to secure from 12 to 14 tons per acre, but I venture the assertion that this crop will not produce beyond eight tons per acre, if it does that well. The company has been offered \$4.25 per ton for the 1901 crop, but this offer has been refused.

"I passed through several of the largest farms on the Adams Ranch and noted the growth of the beets. They are uneven, the re-



A 1904 map of Newton County reveals the land holdings of Joseph Adams, who utilized some of his lands for beet production.

sult of replanting. Some are grown well, while (other) acres are but through the ground. The heavy rains in the latter part of June and first week of July caused the weeds to greatly outstrip the beets, but the large force on the farms are working long hours, and it will not be many days until the whole farm will look like an immense garden.

"In addition to the large farm, about 20 farmers are experimenting with five, ten and 15 acre tracts. The crop on these small farms look well, and I noticed particularly a six-acre tract previously owned by the late Walter Hixon which is growing finely and producing a beet of excellent appearance. If the small farmers do well this year, they will engage in the industry quite extensively next year, and their crops are thriving now.

"I asked Mr. Burke about the building of the proposed factory at Shelby, but he was not prepared to answer. I believe, however, that he does not expect to see the factory built this year. He says that unless the Central Sugar Co. makes some provision for the crop, their chance of losing money is good. The company furnished Harrison and Burke all the fertilizer used on the Adams Ranch, and imported the seed from Germany for the planting, and to receive any pay (the company) must take it out of the crop. Therefore Mr. Burke reasons it stands them in hand to look well to delivery of the matured beets. Harrison and Burke have invested of their personal accounts

\$17,000 developing the 500 acres.

"The imported laborers consisting of Russians and Germans have located on the Adams Ranch and occupy a large field of tents. They number 174 people, and everyone over six years old is a laborer. Men, women, and children toil in the fields, weeding beet rows by hand. The task appears almost interminable, but they cover a great deal of space every day. They are working under contract and receive \$20 per acre for the cultivation of the beets. After the crop is harvested they will fold their tents and return to their happy Nebraska homes."

Strohm noted that the Central Sugar Co. offices were in Chicago with a plant, though not as yet constructed, in Shelby. The officers were primarily railroad executives and New York bankers. He reported that the company had contracted for 700 acres in Newton County as well as in tracts in Lake and adjoining counties.

"As I noted, the company furnishes all the fertilizer amounting to about 1,050,000 pounds, all the seeds and implements. The directors have spent nearly \$100,000, and next month will determine whether the crop will justify the enormous outlay. Several exchanges have prophesied a total crop failure, but I think it is too early to pass judgment. While at this time the outlook is not overly promising, yet late fall will work wonders, and thousands

of tons of beets may be harvested in the counties surrounding Shelby.

"I drove to Shelby to look at the factory and talk with the manager. I found him, but not in the factory. The site proposed for the factory of sweetness is not in Shelby, but is located at Water Valley, on the banks of the Kankakee a half-mile from Shelby. Here I found the manager Lafayette Myer, located in a small office building about 50 feet from the factory. The air surrounding the building was that of dignified solemnity. Not a sound disturbed the peaceful summer afternoon. Mr. Myer represented every department connected with the factory, for he is the sole representative of Central Sugar in Indiana.

"A side track from the Indiana, Illinois Railroad, about a half-mile distant connects the factory site with the outer world. I stepped across the sidetrack and beheld all that is visible of the sugar beet factory; a concrete foundation about two-thirds finished. When the foundation had reached this state, work was stopped, the workmen recalled and everything has been shipped away except the office building and Mr. Myer.

"In the office a fine set of plans show that the building will be 320 feet long and 65 feet wide from three to five stories high. The boiler house will be 150 feet long and 60 feet in width, and a lime kiln will be 80x80 feet. The capacity of the plant was to be 500 tons of beets each working day. Mr. Myers says the company has \$280,000 tied up in machinery in New York City, and he is confident the plant will be built. Without a factory the company will have to arrange for the beet crop, and it is believed they will do this by buying according to the contract and shipping to a factory in Michigan." *And That's Through The Lens As I See It ... JJY*

### Newton County Historical Society Resource Center

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## 1897: The Importance of the Telephone

*Submitted by Bruce Herriman*

What was once new is now on the verge of obsolescence. The land line telephone is falling by the wayside due to our reliance on the newest high-tech gadget for personal communication. And with its passing, a whole way of life is gone. Gone are the days of party lines, rotary dial phones and later push button, phone booths (where Superman used to change clothes), long distance operators, and being tethered by a cord. Prior to the rotary dial, you had to crank the old phone hanging on the wall and talk to the central operator and let her know who you wanted to talk to. I vaguely remember that.

Telephones initially benefited business entities and for the most part, they still do today. All you have to do is to pick up the yellow pages and let your fingers do the walking.

As I was on my never ending quests for obituaries I ran across this article in the April 8, 1897 edition of the *Newton County Enterprise*. After reading it and giggling like a school girl, I realized this was but a small part of the zeitgeist of the era. Place yourself back in Newton County in 1897 and being introduced to this new-fangled contrivance. Is this the current fad or will it prove to be a valuable item in every household. I guess we all know the answer to that.

Presented for your reading pleasure is an article extolling on virtues of the importance of the telephone to the lady of the house, to-wit,

Long ago, says the Electrical Engineering [sic], the telephone was found to be an indispensable factor in the daily promotion of almost every line of industry, and in nearly all professions, and by its proper use a marvelous saving in time and labor and detail as daily effected by the business manager. But only in the last year or two has the housewife realized that what is so serviceable to the master will also prove a blessing to the mistress. For the prompt and perfect performance of her duties are just as essential to the maintenance of home and health and happiness, and her responsibilities are as exacting in their nature as those that fall to the lot of the man of affairs. Then emergencies requiring prompt action are as liable to arise in the home as in the office; and where her time is fully occupied, bodily and mental weariness comes to the mistress as frequently as to the master.

Yet the master, though sitting at his desk, has but to set the simple mechanism in motion, and practically every agency that contributes to his success financially, commercially or professionally is brought within speaking distance. Then why should not "the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker" be at the immediate call of the mistress? Why not have the family physician in hearing of her voice? Why not make it possible for mistress to transmit the invitations to a five o'clock tea, or to a theater party or to an evening's festivities, over the telephone wire at the last moment? Or to learn that it would be well to delay the dinner for thirty minutes? Surely the telephone can lighten life's burdens and enhance the pleasure of life for the mistress as well as for the master.

To the question: "What is your opinion of the value of telephone service in the home?" several fair women in four different cities, answered in the following words:

"Our telephone has become a member of the family. We go to it with all our woes and joys, and after all is said and done, it is as silent as the grave."

"Makes housekeeping much easier and simplifies one's duties in general."

"As essential a part of the home-furnishing as the range and the refrigerator."

"In this progressive age a home without a telephone seems incomplete."

"To the busy woman the telephone is indispensable."

"For emergencies it is much better than a messenger."

"Invaluable as a saver of time, strength, and nerves."

"It brings a sense of security not otherwise experienced."

"Without the telephone I would be deprived of many hours of leisure."

(Transcribed verbatim from the *Newton County Enterprise*, April 8, 1897)



**This is a popular type of telephone that was utilized in the early 1890s through the 1900s.**

## 12 The Newcomer

### The Privy Out Back

By Beth Bassett

At my mother's farm, located 3 miles east of Morocco, stands an old privy. Obviously at one time, it was used as such, but through my growing up years, it was a storage building. Mom, (Lorene Bassett), told me that she would have removed it years ago, but there is a ceramic toilet located inside it that would take a sledgehammer to remove it. She also told me that her father, Lewis Zoborosky, oversaw the installation by the WPA in the late 1930s.

Astonishingly enough, this past month when I was researching the newspapers, I came across an article in the *Morocco Courier* that validated her history of the privy, much to my delight! The photograph in the ad for the new privies looks exactly like the one on her property, except Mom's has weathered over the years - but by golly, it is still standing! A testament to the builders of the time. As far as the current family members are concerned, it will remain standing.

*Morocco Courier, July 9, 1936*

### Sanitary Work Progressing, New Clean to Replace Unsightly Out Buildings Old Model Privies

"An enterprise which has been a strong force for sanitation about the county as well as furnishing employment to a force of men continuously is the Newton County Community Sanitation with headquarters in Morocco.

"In this issue appears a display advertisement showing outbuildings before the new sanitary toilets were erected and exterior and interior views of the new type sanitary building built here according to specifications of the U. S. Public Health Service. Work and supervision will be furnished by the Works Progress Administration. the approved privies are constructed in such a manner that flies, insects, rats, or small domestic animals cannot gain access to the waste material, and they are practically odorless.

"This program enables any property owner or tenant to have any outdoor privy constructed or a new one built for the cost of materials only, provided the location complies with local ordinance pertaining to distance from sewers, etc., and meets the State specifications as to distance from source of water supply. All labor is free.

"Supervisor L. S. Clark is in charge of the work here and expects to continue operation for some time. Any interested parties may consult him or one of the sanitarians, Chester Locke or Thomas Ross, who will supply complete information on costs and specifications."

Enjoy an excerpt from one of the poems attributed to James Whitcomb Riley that was never included in his published works.

### The Passing Of The Outhouse

James Whitcomb Riley

When grandpa had to "go out back"  
And make his morning call,  
We'd bundled up the dear old man  
With a muffler and a shawl.  
I knew the hole on which he sat  
'Twas padded all around,  
And once I dared to sit there;  
'Twas all too wide, I found.  
My loins were all too little  
And I jack-knifed there to stay;  
They had to come and get me out  
Or I'd have passed away.  
Then father said ambition  
Was a thing small boys should shun,  
And I must use the children's hole  
Till childhood days were done.  
But still I marvel at the craft  
That cut those holes so true;  
The baby hole and the slender hole  
That fitted Sister Sue.  
That dear old country landmark!  
I've tramped around a not  
And in the lap of luxury  
My lot has been to sit,  
But ere I die I'll eat the fruit  
Of trees I robbed of yore,  
Then seek the shanty where my name  
Is carved upon the door.  
I ween the old familiar smell  
Will soothe my jaded soul;  
I'm now a man, but none the less  
I'll try the children's hole.

## THE GREATEST STEP IN INDIANA HEALTH PROGRESS



**Before**  
The Old  
Open Surface  
Privies

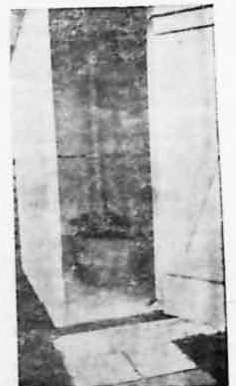


**After**  
Sanitary  
Toilets

U. S. Public Health  
Service Specifications

Only Sheet Metal Roofing  
Used

Only Wood Used in Pit



\* **NEWTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SANITATION** \*

Sponsored by County and Town Boards of Health and State Board of Health  
CHESTER LOCKE and THOMAS ROSS, Sanitarians

L. S. CLARK, Supervisor

Phone 26, Morocco

This ad appeared in the *Morocco Courier*, 1936, encouraging improvement of the local privies.

Winter 2015 - [www.ingenweb.org/innewton](http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton)

## First Dwelling in Kentland - McHolland Home



Located on Allen Street, west of St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Thomas Moore family pose in the front yard in 1893. Left to right, Girtie Franklin, Ella Moore, Mary and Thomas Moore.

Last fall, the society received a packet from Paul Neff of Ft. Wayne that contained photographs from an early member of the Kentland community. There were three photographs, and on the back of one it stated "The First home, built in 1860, that was finished when Kentland was organized. This home was used for a grocery store - also this building was used to hold court in before the courthouse was built." Also noted were the people in the photograph, Thomas and Mary Moore, Girtie Franklin and Ella with dog. Taken in 1893. Two other photographs were sent along as well, noted that they were supposed to be the man and woman in the other photograph.

The note regarding the home being used to hold court before the courthouse was built clicked with me, as I recalled reading that fact somewhere. Mr. Neff had left an email address, so in contact with him I found out, "I lived at 311 E. Allen Street. His parents were John and Olive Crum. "Grandma Ella," Mrs. Ella Gagnon, resided next door to us and she was adopted right into their family, as Grandma. We have pictures of her playing the piano, which she loved to do. Ella was the one who gave us the pictures because she wanted to share the history of Kentland with us. He also has other items of Mr. Moore's in his possession, including Civil War correspondence.

From Joseph B. Fletcher's "A History of Your Own Newton County," we find that reference to the court:

"This part of the State at the time was

mostly rough prairie land, and when the town of Kent was named as the County seat, the town consisted of one store, one dwelling house erected by David McHolland, and two unfinished store buildings. Through the courtesy of the owner of the latter buildings, the officers of the county transacted County business, all in the same room."

Ella (Moore) Herath-Gagnon was the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Kennon) Moore. From the "Kentland Centennial, 1860-1960," the Moore family was included in the family histories:

"Ella Oma Moore, later Mrs. Frank Herath, now Mrs. Phillip Gagnon, who lives on East Allen Street, is one of the oldest living residents. She lives in what was her childhood home which is one of the original buildings at Kentland - 1 block west of the Catholic Church, lots 8, 9, 10, 11.

"The original owner of this house was David McHolland, then it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Evans in 1865, grandparents of Mrs. Gagnon. Later, it became the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clark Moore, when they moved from their farm home in Jefferson Township in 1882. This house was used by city and county officials, and at one time court was held in it, due to the scarcity of buildings in the new town.

"Mrs. Gagnon is the only living child of the Thomas Moores brothers and sisters dying before the age of 4 years. She lived here as a girl; then after her mother's death in 1907, she

kept house for her father until her marriage to Frank Herath in 1912. She returned to the home in Kentland after her husband's death in 1936. She is the mother of four girls and two boys, all living in Indiana and Illinois but none in Kentland. She is a member of the M. E. Church, being taken into membership during the pastorate of Rev. Mathews, father of one of the well-known 20th century Kentland doctors, Dr. W. C. Mathews."

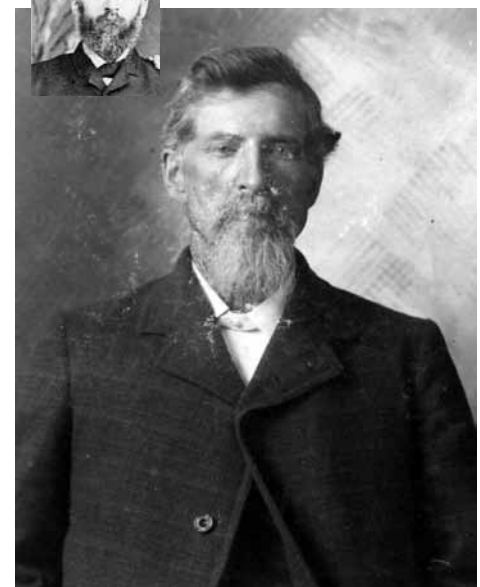
This, indeed, is a great addition to our historical collection at the Resource Center in Kentland. Mrs. Gagnon would be very proud of her adopted grandson Paul, for returning it to Kentland, to a forever home, where it belongs and will be admired by generations to follow.



Mary (Kennon) Moore  
1844-1897



Thomas Clark Moore  
1833-1920



# Living and Working On The Chizum Farms

*This series of three articles appeared in the Newton County Enterprise in June, 1998, written by Clay Blaney*

## Mammoth Barns Used For More Than Just Storage

When I first started this story several years ago, I had in mind to tell about this large barn of Joe Chizum's he had built back in 1890.

However, I have decided to tell about this farm and some of the stories about how the farming was done. This barn was quite large and was used in several different ways. I had the pleasure of working in this barn in the 1930s and 40s. I even helped shingle it in 1945.

The size of the barn will be described to the best of my ability. It was about 100 yards long and 30 yards wide. The barn had three floors, the top of course was where the hay and straw were stored. When the hay was ready to mow we used a mowing machine and then come along with a hay rake that raked it into rows. From there we came along with a hay loader and loaded up the hay racks. It was then hauled to the barn where it was unloaded with a hay fork into the barn.

The north side of the barn is where the timothy hay was stored for the horses and mules. This hay was raised on a separate 40 acre field; it was put up in the barn at the Shaffer place and also the Hanger place. The barn at the Hanger place was really old. It was constructed with wooden pegs. I remember when we put the hay in the barn as I usually had the job of driving a team of mules to pull the hay up in the hayloft.

The south side of the barn was filled with straw. It took two or three days of thrashing to get the barn full. We would get up in the barn and level off the straw and then we would tramp it down. Each end of the barn had a big hole where we pitched it down when it was needed.

The main floor of the barn was where the horses and mules were kept. There were stables for 14 head of horses and mules on the east side of the barn. On the west side of the barn was where the horses that had colts were kept. The big Percheron stallion was also kept on that side, near the colts. He could roam outside thanks to a small lot with a horse tank full of water. Joe had several mares and he raised a lot of colts. A group of us would break the colts and Joe would sell many teams of

horses around the country for \$200 a team.

He always changed stallions every four or five years so as not to crossbreed. We always named the stallion King. The young horses were kept in the pasture in Washington Township in the summer. They drank out of a large tile that ran through the farm.

In the middle of the barn was a big wide hallway where the oats and corn bins were kept. We fed the hogs and mules from those bins. The oats bin was rather large and could feed the animals for an entire year just from that bin. The corn crib was right next to the oats. We always fed each horse six ears of corn and one gallon of oats three times a day.

On the south end of the hallway was the harness repair room. A lot of harness was repaired here. What we couldn't fix we took in to Jimmy Daddow in Morocco. We had a lot of harness, as you can imagine, with over 25 head of horses and mules. Repairing harness was not my specialty. Brother Bill always took an interest in the harness and would buy fancy halters and bridles for his working team.

On the west side of the barn was a small hay mow where we hauled the soybean hay. There isn't any soybean hay anymore and that is a good thing. It was such a hard thing to handle. The horses that had colts and the horses that had not been broke for work were also kept on that side of the barn.

On the southwest corner of the barn was a gigantic corn crib. The amount of corn that could be held in the crib is unknown, but it was enough to feed hogs and cattle for an entire year.

The hallway in the barn was wide enough that when we filled the barn with hay, we could drive a team of horses through it. Words cannot describe what a workable and useful barn it was.

Off the hallway in the barn was a stairway that led to the basement. In the basement was several hog pens where sows were kept in the winter when they were having pigs. Beyond the pig pens was where the feeder cattle were fed out. There were always several pigs around, mainly because they were put into the pens where the cattle were fed so they would clean up what feed the cattle left behind. There were probably 40 to 50 head of cattle fed out from this part of the barn. South of the barn was a pasture of 30 acres or so where the horses and mules were turned out.

On the southeast side of the barn was where most of the sows that were having pigs were kept. There were probably 15 pens with a little pig house with a fence around each lot. Each lot was 25 x 25 feet in size.

There was another barn at the home place that was on the east side of the house. It had a big haymow and a very large feeding area for feeding cattle. On the east side of the barn was a large silo where corn stocks were ground up and put up in the silo. The silage would be used to feed cattle throughout the winter.

These were the facilities that made up the original Chizum Homestead Farm. North of the house was a building called the seed barn. Before the hybrid corn and oats were on the market, the farmers had to keep their best corn and oats and use it for seed.

In the fall of the year, a group would go out and rack up the corn and then in the spring go out and shell it off the ears. That was used for the seed that was planted in the fields. When threshing was done in the summer, 500 or 600 bushels of oats would be put in the seed barn.

## Driving Seed, Cattle To Markets Took Time At Chizum

The barns and facilities of the original Chizum Homestead Farm were mentioned in the first part of the series. The barns were used for more than just storing animals.

On the west side of the seed barn was where the threshing machine was kept and the oats binder was stored on the east side. The farm machinery that was not in use, such as wagons and plows and one and two row cultivators were stored in a vacant lot north of the house. There was also a garage where Joe Chizum had an old buggy that he and his family used before cars were invented.

One of the most unusual watering systems that you can imagine was on this farm. The main well was located at the house where everyone stopped to get a drink of water. Everyone also used the same drinking cup.

The windmill was strictly run by the wind blowing and it pumped the water. Now, if the wind wouldn't, or didn't blow for a few days, a gasoline engine was brought in and it would pump the water. There were at least eight or nine horse tanks that were fed from this one windmill.

The remainder of the farms that made up Chizum Farms included the Camblin Farm, The Hanger Place, the Shafer Place, The Ranch and Nellie's Place.

The Camblin Farm was located on the west side of the farms. The hired man that lived there was usually the man that ran the tractor on the farms. There were no large barns or any hog pens on this farm.

The Hanger Place had a barn on it that was put together with wooden pegs. It was the original Hanger Homestead. The man that lived there worked at the Home Place with the horses and other livestock. Also at the Hanger Place was where all the worn out machinery was stored.

One interesting piece of information was that nobody ever worked on Sunday, especially the horses and mules.

The Shafer Place had a large barn that held a lot of feeder cattle. It also had a silo. In 1935 or 1936, we were threshing in the barn and it had been a real hot and dry summer and a fire broke out in the barn. The barn and all the buildings, including the house burned down. The team of mules was tied up to a pole and in the excitement, the mules were forgotten and they died.

The Ranch was located up in Jackson Township. It was the section of ground that belonged to Grandfather Kennedy. It had 640 acres.

Nellie's Place consisted of 180 acres. The 180 acres in Jackson Township was what Nellie inherited from her parents, John and Sarah Kennedy. Nellie's Place was usually farmed with the tractor. It has a corn crib there and also a place for horses on the east side of the corn crib. There was no house there, so it was much handier for it to be looked after by the tractor man.

Coming out of the great depression of the 1920's, farming wasn't the best business to be involved in, and the hired men on the Chizum farm at that time, didn't make much money. All married men had a house to live in with no electricity and no telephone so they didn't have those bills. They each got a cow to milk, a beef to butcher, two hogs a year, all the chickens and turkeys they wanted to feed, which gave them eggs and all the chicken they wanted to eat. They also received \$30 a month.

The reason for the low wages was due to the price farmers were getting for their corn, oats, cattle and hogs. The price of oats was 10 cents a bushel and the price of corn was 25 cents a bushel and it was so cheap a lot of the farmers used the corn as fuel. Farmers generally didn't grow soybeans to sell during this time, only to use as feed for cattle. Nobody had hybrid corn and oats as farmers do today.

If the oats made 30 bushels to the acre, that was a fair crop and the corn, if you were lucky, would make 40 bushel to the acre. That was one of the main reasons Chizum fed so many cattle and hogs. The hog and cattle markets were not that great either. We raised 40 head of calves and our profit for raising and feeding the steers was only \$10 to \$20 for a whole year as the price for steers was \$10 for 100 pounds and the steers would weigh around 1,000 pounds which would amount to only a \$100 steer.

Hog prices were \$3 and \$4 a hundred and most of the hogs were sold for \$6 and \$7 a head.

The price of farm ground doesn't even come close to comparing to today's prices. Chizum paid \$400 an acre for one 40 acre field. There was some ground that went for \$35 per acre and some other ground brought \$60 to \$70 per acre.

In the fall of 1941, a piece of ground that was bought the spring before already paid for itself after the harvest. It was at this time that hybrid corn was coming out. The same ground that was < *Continued on page 16* >



ORANGE MARSHALL 2d, Head Bull in His Day

## CLOSING OUT SALE ENTIRE OAKWOOD HERD

Owned by J. B. CHIZUM, at Oakwood Farm, 4 miles Southeast of

MOROCCO, INDIANA

ON  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21st

56 HEAD ————— 7 BULLS ————— 56 HEAD

including two head bulls, King Royal by Royal Jubilee, a descendant of that great imported bull **First in the Ring**, brought over by Mr. Woods of Ohio, and Orange Marshall 2d by Orange Marshall, a son of the two times International champion Whitehall Marshall. Both are thick, level and rugged; impressive in character and good sires, as the numerous get of both in the sale will show. Young bulls of special merit.

The females are a good working lot all through and of the types that are hard and milk. They mean their calves in good shape and will keep in good condition on the best of the average farm. They have made money for me and will make it for the new owners. All are well bred and in good, healthy condition. Many will sell with calves at foot and all of breeding age will be bred to the best bulls. Many of the cows and heifers in this herd I have personally selected to price, but all without

reserves will be sold on day of sale. Every animal in this herd has been bred by me except the two head bulls.

All will be tuberculin tested and may be shipped anywhere. There never had a reactor in this herd, which has been vaccinated since 1895.

All interested in the herd and in profit producing Shorthorns are invited to attend the sale.

Jones, Phillips and Martin, Auctioneers

Agents, Union County, Indiana, for the Shorthorn and Chicago divisions of the New York Cattle Co. also the Orange and Royal families of Shorthorn & F. T. M. C. Union County, Indiana. In the several states New York, Michigan, Ill. and Ohio. See other half the Shorthorn Standard, Illinois, and Ohio.

CATALOGUES SENT ON APPLICATION. WRITE MENTIONING THE SHORTHORN WORLD TO

J. B. CHIZUM, MOROCCO, IND.

REMEMBER THE DATE—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21st

An ad for a Chizum sale appeared in "Shorthorn World," October 16, 1919. For a clear image of the sale bill, search "Chizum" on the web using Google.

## 16 The Newcomer

< *Continued from page 15* >

bought back in 1941 is selling for \$1,200 an acre today.

Horses and cattle were a big part of farming. There was always one horse that was a riding horse. It was used to drive the cattle. We would drive cattle up to Nellie's Place and then maybe drive them on up to The Ranch. This usually took place in the spring and fall of the year. I remember driving the cattle over the overhead bridge on highway 41.

Cars would have to be stopped from going both ways and then drive the cattle over the bridge. All the farms at that time had fences up and you could drive the cattle down the road. While driving the cattle, boys would ride on Chizum's car, either on the fender or would stand on the running boards. At that time, about every road was one lane where you would drive your teams and wagons. We always hauled oats to the elevator at the time it was threshed.

While thrashing up on Nellie's Place (it was about four miles to the elevator) Chizum would tell us to hurry as it was downhill all the way there and most of the way back. The World's Fair was in Chicago and we were hauling grain on highway 41. We would try and hurry as the highway was busy with traffic. We were about 10 and 12 years old at the time.

### Summer Months Were Long, Productive On Chizum Farms

When farmers weren't driving cattle and hogs to either the market or from ranch to ranch, they were planting.

In March, around the middle of the month, was when the oats were planted. After that, the plowing was started so the corn could be planted in May. Many young men would work on Saturdays. They would either plow or clean the barns. That was a real hard job, using a pitch fork to pick up the cattle manure.

Joe Chizum always had good manure spreaders. One time while we were cleaning up straw stack bottoms, we hauled over 100 loads of the straw in the manure spreaders. It was all done with a team of horses or mules on the manure spreader.

Also, we would pick up rocks in the plowed fields. That was done by using fodder wagons and by hand. There were a lot of rocks in the fields south of town and also up at Nellie's Place. There were not many rocks up on the ranch as it was a different type of soil.

After all this was done and the weather was right and the time to plant corn had arrived, such as May 10, everyone would start planting the corn. It was at this time we would go out to the seed house and start shelling the ears of corn that had been put there the preceding fall. We always shelled the ends of the ear off as that was considered corn that would not grow well.

The corn was planted by using a two-row corn planter that was pulled by a team of horses. The corn was planted in rows and a 36 inch check wire was used for straight cross rows. Before the corn was planted, the field was disced with either four or six horses according to the size of the disc.

A harrow was either put on the back of the disc or pulled separately to level off the field so the planter could run in straight lines and the corn rows would be straight and the cultivation could be done easier. The corn cultivation was done with either a single row cultivator that was pulled with a team or a two-row cultivator that was pulled by four horses.

One year, there were six two-row cultivators and two single-row cultivators besides the tractor two-row cultivator, all working at one time. We usually cultivated the corn three times. Two times the way it was planted and once we crossed it. The cultivation of corn was a long season. Sometimes we worked past July 4.

The shocking of wheat started in early July and then we started the oats. Chizum liked to run the binder and three boys would try and keep up with him on shocking the oats and try to finish about 10 minutes after he finished the field.

Chizum liked to have good binders and he bought a new one the last year of my employment. We shocked wheat and oats for three weeks straight in my last year.

After we got the oats all shocked, the threshing season came along. The threshing machine was classified as a 28 inch machine. Two people could pitch the oats bundles, one from each side. Bill Jenkins was in charge of the machine all the time. He would come down from the ranch where he lived and work the machine over for about a week before we started on the threshing run.

There were several interesting experiences while we were threshing. We always threshed for John and Francis Protsman. We always loved to go there as the dinners were the best with homemade pies for dessert and the best mashed potatoes and gravy along with fried chicken and other meat.

Francis and Margaret were the cooks. Before we ate any place, we all would wash our hands and face in large wash tubs. Some of the other places we had outstanding cooks was at the Billing's Farm, Mrs. Shirley, who later had a restaurant in Morocco, also served outstanding meals.

When we threshed at Chizum's, we had wonderful meals also. Aunt Nellie, of course, was an outstanding cook. Mrs. Jenkins was also another good cook and we ate with her while at the ranch.

When we were threshing, my job usually was to haul the oats to town or scoop it into the oat bins. One year my pay was \$1.50 for scooping all the wheat and we worked for three days. In a regular day's work one person would usually scoop about 10 loads, more or less. All of us boys were paid .50 cents a day and we got three meals. Aunt Nellie usually had a girl help her with the cooking. Two girls that helped most of the time were Imo Best and Helen Hammond.

The threshing run took several workers. There was Mr. Jenkins who stayed up on the machine and helped stack the straw. When threshing out in the field, we had to have a man work in stacking the straw. Not every man could do that job. We also had seven or eight bundle racks who would keep the threshing machine going. It also took two or three men who we called pitchers. And of course, it took a man running the tractor all the time.

When we were younger, if my memory serves me right, the threshing machine was pulled by a steam engine that belonged to my Uncle Sam Kennedy.

*Editor's Note: A reference at the end of this article stated to join Clay in the next edition for an indepth look at the employees of the Chizum farm. However, there wasn't an additional article, but the following was added at the bottom of the page of the last article that appeared:*

### Chizum Farm Employees:

Bill Jenkins and sons Roy and Morris Jenkins; Forest Tolin; Mr. McNuer; Harold Gentry and brother Jack Hofstrom; Clyde Dubea and brother Raymond Dubea; Gene Sheldon; Guy Smith; Bill Blaney; Clyde Kaiser; Mr. Murray; Luther Parrish; Mr. Thompson; Kenneth Starnes; Shortie Renfil.

#### You said it!

"While hauling oats to town to the elevator one year, Joe was trying to speed his workers up." "Hurry up boys," he said, "It is down hill all the way there and most of the way back."



# Historian's Corner

By Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian

## The Arnold Home

I have admired this house for over 50 years. It is the fieldstone stucco and brick home located on the north side of Hwy. 55 west of Mt. Ayr currently owned by Dave and Pat Arnold.

The farm ground began as a land grant from President Millard Fillmore to Joseph Shigler in 1849, for his service to his country. Later Mr. Shigler deeded parcels to various family members. The land across the highway to the south was originally in this grant.

Then, James Blankenbaker bought the farm around 1871, and owned it for 50 years. Simeon Blankenbaker bought it between 1919-1921. Numerous members of the Blankenbaker family owned it, including Clarence, Lloyd, Kenneth and Mary. Dean and Mary lived on the farm at one time.

Harold and Carrie Helterbride bought the 80 acres and home in 1955 from Kenneth B. and Luella Blankenbaker, and Dean and Mary Blankenbaker.

Eleven years later in March of 1966, Eugene and Helen Arnold bought the farm. Their son Dave, wife Pat and family lived there for 5 years. They moved to east of Rensselaer and started farming on their own.

The Arnold family moved back to the farm in 1978, and in 1991 bought the farm and have remained there until today.

In 1935, the farm description was: East half of SW Quarter of Section 14, Twp. 29 N, Range 8 West.

In August of 1921 when Simeon lived on the farm, he built the house. It was originally a wood frame house. Simeon put on the fieldstone and cement porches, after putting the brick and stucco on the exterior of house. A fieldstone fence was also built in front. All of the rock came from the farm. The house has three stories: basement, main, and second story, each about 2,000 sq. ft.

The second story was known to be hot in the summer and freezing in the winter, where there were five bedrooms and a bath. Since Dave and Pat's family is grown, the second story is closed off.

The woodwork design is Mission Style



**The Arnold home in Jackson Township also appeared in Indiana's Historic Landmark Foundation's publication on sites and structures of Newton County.**

and well tended over the years. There are wood columns and glass front shelves which are beautiful.

Pat says visitors from the Blankenbaker family and Don Hoon have told them that State Road 114, south of the home, was built the same year as their home, 1921.

On April 4, 1982, an F-1 tornado hit the property. It took down more than thirteen trees, the tool shed, and damaged every building on the farm. The grain bin with corn in it was pulled out of the ground. The doghouse window on the south side of the house was lifted and blown out which saved the house.

After the storm, Mr. Reitz from Rensselaer tuck-pointed the house and fence. He commented the stone work was expertly done and considered the man an artist.

Today, the house has a metal roof.

The kitchen was built to last, and remodeling requires the use of a jack hammer. There are tiles embedded in 4" of cement; the floor is slanted to the middle, which implies that there may be a central drain located in the floor.

Electrical outlets are in the floors since the wall are solid brick and then plaster. The kitchen walls are cement with a brick pattern stamped in it.

In 2014, the front porch collapsed. Whatever they used to support the cement when it was built had rusted away. There was iron pipe supporting the floor and a six foot drop to the ground underneath. The porch was repaired with stone and rebar and a new cement floor was poured. Dennis McElfresh did the repair work and Mr. Wynn from Morocco tuck pointed the house and porches again.

Pat and I used the property abstract as a resource. The information found there was fascinating, and an excellent source for history. *Submitted by Diana Elijah, with help from Pat Arnold.*

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# IU Start Andy Zimmer Elected To The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame

Goodland's native son, Andy Zimmer, was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999. In two of Yost's columns that year, he wrote about Zimmer and the induction ceremonies.

Goodland native Andy Zimmer is among this year's "class" elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame at New Castle.

Andy Zimmer was a star for the Goodland Trojans team and went to the Regional in Michigan City in 1937. Andy Zimmer's story, though, is one of perseverance that should serve as a shining example in any of life's pursuits.

During his 1930s career at Goodland High School he played under coaches Gilbert Best and Red LaFollette. His Trojan teammates included Lon Patterson, George Haniford, Jim Jensen, Jim and Earl Sell, Mike Myers and John Slattery.

In his playing days at Goodland, Andy was 6'5" and 160 lbs. Some years ago I did a feature on Andy and spoke with Jim and Earl Sell about their teammate. Jim recalled Andy as "a big, tall kid, a little awkward who didn't look like he could really do anything. But just give him the ball, and he could make the basket. he could get up and down the floor in a hurry for a tall player."

Jim stated that Zimmer had something of an unusual shot, "it went right straight to the basket with very little arch to it. You couldn't see how he could make that shot, but he did." Earl Sell also remembered Zimmer as an exceptional rebounder.

Following his graduation from Goodland, Zimmer went down to Purdue to get a try-out with the Boilermakers, but then coach Piggy Lambert, to his later dismay, rejected him, stating that "he was too tall and too light" to play basketball in the Big Ten. Zimmer returned to Goodland to help out on the family farm after being turned down by Purdue.

At that time there were a lot of CYO and independent teams playing in the region. Ralph Bower coached the Kentland teams, and he recruited Zimmer.

Bower described Zimmer as a "pleasure to coach. He wanted to learn, and he did learn." In these independent and CYO leagues, Bower noted, that the style of play was a lot more physical than in high school. "Zimmer had to learn to push back when the boys started muscling each other around. They pushed him around in the first couple of games, but not after that," said Bower.

Bower noted that it was during this time that Zimmer filled out physically which improved his game. It was also at this time that Zimmer began to emphasize his defensive skills. In an interview, Zimmer told me that the greatest change in basketball he had seen is that defense had a greater priority in his playing days, and he cited the 1937 sectional game in Morocco in which Goodland beat the Kentland Blue Devils by a score of 36-4.

"He was good offensively in high school, but in college, defense was his specialty," said Bower. "I felt Zimmer could be a college player so I talked to (Kentland Superintendent) Al Cast who contacted Indiana University's Coach Branch McCracken," recalled Bower. "Send him down, and I'll have a look at him," was the response Cast got from McCracken.

The Purdue reject went down to Bloomington where he enrolled in the School of Education. He made the freshman squad for 1938-39. When he returned to school the next fall he had to compete with 14 lettermen for a spot on the IU Varsity, and he got one.

During the '39-'40 season, a legendary season for IU basketball, he played in 17 games, and his defensive skills and speed won him wide recognition. It had to be especially satisfying for Zimmer that though IU, at 9-3 finished second to Purdue in the Big Ten, the league's champs' 10-2 record included home-and-home losses to IU. McCracken's "Hurrying Hoosiers" won the nod to the NCAA tournament. Battling the Big Dance finals, the Hoosiers beat Kansas 60-42. Zimmer scored five points and led the defensive game. Zimmer played out the final two years at IU, and was elected Captain of the 1941-42 squad.

"Winning the NCAA was probably the greatest thing that ever happened to me. Mac (McCracken) just got the best out of you. He made you produce," said Zimmer.

It was in this senior year that America went to war, and completing his IU degree this Navy ROTC grad joined the Marines. But he had a stellar season that final year. He was named first Team All-Big Ten, third team All-American, and won the prestigious Balfour and Gimble award from IU.

But Andy Zimmer's heroics were not limited to the hard court. He has a distinguished record in World War Two and the Korean War, and a grateful nation recognized his service presenting him

with the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and Letter of Commendation. He retired from the Marines as a Colonel in 1969 and returned to teaching. He taught government and coached basketball, baseball and golf at Arlington, VA. He retired from teaching in 1982 and moved to McClean, VA.



This 1941 photograph originally appeared in the "History of The Town of Goodland and Grant Township, Newton County, 1861-2014." More Zimmer information can be found there as well.

Andy and 13 others will be enshrined in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame at a banquet at Carmel, IN on March 25, 1999. On that happy note I wish all readers of this stuff a most happy Christmas.

## Zimmer Inducted in Basketball Hall of Fame

Goodland native Andy Zimmer joined the elite of Indiana's game Thursday when he was among 14 inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Zimmer, a member of the Goodland High School Class of 1937, was honored during ceremonies at the Ritz Charles banquet facility in Indianapolis.

The induction ceremony capped off a busy day of festivities starting with an introduction of the honorees at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in New Castle. A crowd of 1,100, including many of Zimmer's relatives, packed the Indianapolis banquet facility that evening as tribute was paid to the 1999 inductees as well as the members of the 1974 Silver Anniversary Indiana All-Star team.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was legendary Hoosier sportscaster Tom Carnegie. In introducing Zimmer, Carnegie stated that Zimmer led the Goodland Trojans to one of their two sectional tournament championships in his senior year. In addition to the 1937 championship, Goodland also cut down the nets in 1939.

Zimmer, 79, was a 6'5" 165-pound walk-on when he enrolled in Indiana University in 1938. Carnegie said that in his Sophomore year, Zimmer started only two games but was the dependable sixth-man on the famed "Hurrying Hoosiers" national championship team in 1940 under famed coach Branch McCracken.

"His senior year Zimmer was team captain, first team All-Big Ten, and third team All-American. He was also selected co-captain of the College All-Star team which played the championship pro-team in Chicago," said Carnegie. Andy Zimmer was one of the few Hoosier athletes to win the coveted Balfour and Gimbel Awards at IU.

After graduating from Indiana, Carnegie said, "Zimmer began a 27-year career with the United States Marine Corps, serving in World War Two and the Korean War, receiving the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit and a Letter of Commendation. He retired with the rank of Colonel."

As the introduction of the honorees was made in alphabetical order, Zimmer was the

final inductee to be honored during the evening, which gave him a humorous response in Carnegie's remarks. Zimmer said, "Thank you Mr. Carnegie for your kind words. When our name begins with "Z" you become last in many things that happen to you during life, and tonight was no exception.

"I'm the last member of IU's national championship team of 1940 to be inducted into the Hall of Fame; I also have the distinction of being the only sophomore and only non-scholarship member on that team.

"I would like to acknowledge the members of my family who are here; my brother Norb from up in Newton County; my brother Father Tom from Holiday, FL; my son Phillip from Garner, NC; and my son David and his wife Nancy from Portsmouth, VA. I appreciate you all coming.

"I would like to thank the members of the selection committee and any others who may be responsible for my being here tonight. At

79, I may be the oldest living inductee. It is a great honor to be here - one that I have waited for, for a long time. The IU Class of 1942 is finally represented in the Hall of Fame, thank you," concluded Zimmer.

Zimmer said in an interview with the *Enterprise*, "It has been a long wait. It really happened." Observing that many of the other honorees paid tributes to their coaches, some of whom were in the audience, Zimmer added, "At my age you have not coaches to thank. They're all dead."

Other members of this, the 38th class of the Hall of Fame inductees, included Zimmer's fellow IU alumni Kent Benson, Steve Green, John Laskowski and Fred Gorman; Purdue Boilermakers Darrell McQuitty, Allen Menke, Bill Ritter, and Phil Wills; from Indiana State, Dave Nicholson; Jim Stutz from DePauw; Willie Long from New Mexico; Jeff Blue from Butler; and noted prep coach Knofel Forntern.

### Inquiry: The Kessler-Brunton Connection

*Who was Kessler of the first Brunton family in Newton County mentioned in the "History of Jackson and Colfax Townships." - John Kessler*

I have to tell you that the Margaret (Kessler) Brunton started out to look like a needle in a haystack, but ended up as an easy find, once I tapped into the resources at our Resource Center in Kentland!

I am not sure that the relationship, (brother/sister) between David Kessler and this Margaret Kessler Brunton are as published in the "Morocco Sesquicentennial Collection, 2006," and "The History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Township," is correct, as my research did not prove this, and would like to see the fact's source to clear my mind. Also, the Kessler family books on file at the center only mention that she was married to Daniel Brunton.

I researched ancestry.com, with little success, as Census records prior to 1860 only show the head of household (usually male), and enumerate how many female and males reside in the same home. She lived at a time that I am sure was documented, i.e. census; marriage; birth, etal, but at this point and time, they are not available on line .... a visit to the Tippecanoe Historical Society in Lafayette might "pan-out" a few documents, however.

However, I discovered "The Brunton Family of Newton County," on our shelves and the first page I turned to there was a chart of Margaret Kesler (note spelling) and her lineage. I about fell over, after all of the time I had spent with other resources. The book, however, has everything you might want to know about the Bruntons, but the chart page, and a note on the marriage date to Daniel Brunton was all that I could find. This still did not confirm that she was related to David Kessler. Also noted on the chart was the fact that Margaret Brunton's grandfather, Jacob, fought in the Revolutionary War ... this may give further researchers more clues!

So with a few more dates I went to the ingenweb.org/intippecanoe site, and 'lo and behold, there I found a will for a George Kesler, that named a daughter, Margaret Brunton, as an heir; the will dated 1857. This at least confirms that she was a Kesler that married a Brunton. (Again, note the spelling of Kessler).

There was grandson listed as an heir, Samuel, as the son of David Kessler, listed deceased; your David Kessler did not pass until 1866. There are several common first names listed on the will that match your ancestors, and further research into George Kesler's lineage may reveal the connectoin between your David and this George; And, George (Kesler) and David (Kessler) father's name was Jacob, but the Jacobs had different wives, George's was Maria Hauser; David's Elizabeth Shearer. This was all that was available at this time. *Researched and submitted by Beth Bassett.*

# Home is Where Your Story Begins

The Chizum Family of Beaver Township by Beth Bassett

*Editor's Note: The obituaries, articles and biographies were reprinted as they were published.*

## Joseph W. Chizum

*Newton County Enterprise, April, 1894*

Joseph W. Chizum died at his residence in Beaver Township, April 2nd, 1894, after a lingering illness, aged 68 years, 5 months and 21 days. Mr. Chizum was born in Ross County, Ohio, October 31, 1825, being the oldest son of



**Joseph W. Chizum,  
1916**

Garrison and Nancy A. (Shafer) Chizum. The family removed to Fountain County, Indiana, in 1833, where Mr. Chizum received a common school education in the typical log school house of that period.

He was married February 28, 1847, to Mary J. Hanger. In 1850, he removed to Newton County, locating in Beaver Township, where he has ever-since resided.

He became a prominent farmer and stock grower, and a respected citizen. He served the county six years, very acceptably as a County Commissioner. He leaves his widow and four sons, Wm. W., James B., Joseph M. and Albert, to mourn his loss.

He was a man of strict integrity and good morals, and leaves behind him an unsullied reputation. He was for many years a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His remains were laid to rest in the Morocco Cemetery, on Tuesday last, followed by a large concourse of friends and neighbors.

## Mary Jane Chizum

*Newton County Enterprise, January, 1909*

Mary Jane Chizum, one of the good old pioneer mothers of Newton County, died at her home in Morocco last Thursday morning at the advanced age of 81 years, nine months and nineteen days. Funeral services and burial were held Saturday.

Mrs. Chizum was a native of Virginia, being born at Stanton, March 26, 1827. In

childhood she came with her parents, Frederick and Elizabeth (Guinn) Hanger, to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, where she grew to womanhood, and was married to Joseph W. Chizum in 1849.



**Mary Jane (Hanger)  
Chizum, 1916**

In 1851, Mr. and Mrs. Chizum came to Newton County, then Jasper County, settling on the broad prairie a mile and a half south of Morocco, where she spent the greater part of her mature years. During the years of her activity, Mrs. Chizum lived a noble life, and was honored and respected by all whom enjoyed her acquaintance. In common with our other pioneer mothers, Mrs. Chizum had her trials and hardships incident to life in a new country, but she fought her battles bravely and left to her children an honored name.

She was the mother of four sons and two daughters, and another child taken in infancy was brought up as a member of her family. Those still living are W. W. Chizum, J. B. Chizum, Joe M. Chizum and Rhoda E. Camblin, all of whom were present at the bedside of their mother in her last illness.

*Editor's Note: Mary Jane and Joseph W.'s daughters, Mary E., born October 10, 1852, died August 9, 1863 and Nancy Jane, born May 30, 1854, died December 25, 1872, are also buried at Murphey Cemetery. Rhoda E. (Ensfeld) Camblin was listed as a domestic servant in Mary Jane's household in 1880. Mary Jane's siblings were David George (1831-1906); Eleanor T. (1833-1880); Susannah (1835-1915), Josephine A. (1837-1928); Joseph Peter, (1839-1914); Hannah, (1841-1852); Katharine (1843-1909) and half siblings, Sarah (1850-1852), Sarah (1853-1855)-both named Sarah.*

## William W. Chizum

*Reprinted from "A History of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton Counties, 1883"*

William W. Chizum was born June 22,

1850, in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and is one of six children of Joseph and Mary (Hanger) Chizum. His parents came to Newton County when he was an infant, where he remained through his childhood, attending common schools.

In 1870, he went to California and Oregon, where he spent eighteen months working on a farm and teaming. He then returned to Newton County and bought the farm of 80 acres where he now resides. It is in a good state of cultivation.

April 17, 1872, Mr. Chizum married Nancy J. Deardurff, a native of Newton County and daughter of George W. and Catherine (Ash) Deardurff. They had five children, four of whom are living, Mary E., Flora, Omer and Ned; an infant, born in 1882 died in July of that same year. Politically, Mr. Chizum is a Republican, and one of the enterprising young men of the township.

*Editor's Note: A sixth child, William, was born December 11, 1876. He was a member of the 132nd U.S. Infantry, 66th Brigade, 33rd Division, and died in World War I on August 2, 1918 in France. The American Legion Post in Morocco received its charter on October 24, 1919, and as named for William Chizum.*

William W. Chizum died on December 2, 1922, and his wife Nancy Jane, born June 4, 1854, passed on November 22, 1914. They, along with their infant child, son William and Omer, (b. December 11, 1876 and died September 18, 1954) are interred at Murphey Cemetery in Morocco. Their daughters Mary E., b. February 19, 1873, d. January 6, 1934, married William E. Hitchings, March 4, 1906; and Flora, b. September 24, 1887, d. September 8, 1957, married Charles Roadruck, October 9, 1892.

## James Benton Chizum

*Morocco Courier, October 4, 1929*

James B. Chizum of Chicago died there on September 24, 1929, from a cerebral hemorrhage. He was seventy three years of age and is survived by Nellie F. (Read) Chizum, his widow, and his brother Joseph M. Chizum.

He had been in poor health since suffering a capillary hemorrhage three years ago

which he bore with great torture and bravery throughout that time.

Mr. Chizum was born and raised in Newton County, Indiana, and was well and favorably known to many of our citizens. He was a land owner of our county and President of the Farmers State Bank of Morocco. His ability and attention to the affairs of the bank contributed much to its success. His home since his marriage thirty-nine years ago to Nellie F. Read of Des Moines, Iowa, was in Chicago where he was principal owner and President of the Western Publishing House, a corporation engaged in the publication and sales of educational works and school supplies.

As an early student at Valparaiso University, he was one of the first graduates of that institution. No more loyal alumnus did that university have.

Mr. Chizum was a man of high ideals and honorable conduct. By nature he was affable and friendly and having in his business career occasions to travel about the country, he had friends and acquaintances in probably every state of the Union. He was tolerant, upright and substantial and these qualities made for him a successful life extending over a period of seventy-three years.

Services were held in Chicago, Thursday evening at Lotin & Son's Chapel, R. Keene Ryan, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Illinois officiating.

Funeral services were conducted in the M. E. Church at Morocco at 2:00 p.m., Friday, September 27, by Rev. J. H. Julian.

Mr. Chizum was a 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner as is his friend and cousin, Clinton M. Hanger, Worshipful Master of Morocco Lodge No. 372, who conducted the Masonic Services at Oakland Cemetery.

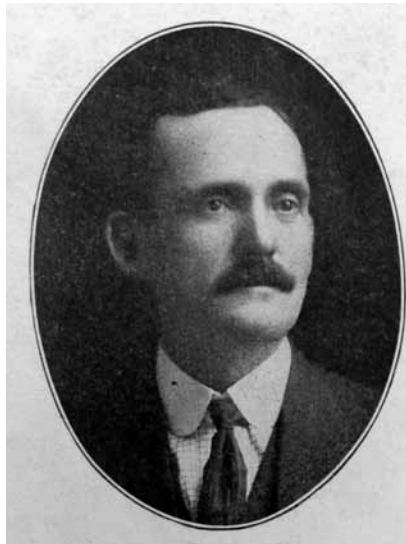
## Joseph M. Chizum

*Morocco Courier, November 28, 1947*

Joseph M. Chizum, 83 prominent local citizen, passed away at his home in Morocco on Friday morning, November 14, following an illness of four years.

Joseph M. Chizum was born in Newton County, Indiana, June 16, 1864, the fifth of six children born to Joseph W. and Mary Jane (Hanger) Chizum, all of whom preceded him in death.

Mr. Chizum received a good education in the district schools of Newton County and graduated from the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. He returned to Newton



Joseph M. Chizum, 1916.

County and taught for several years in the county schools, later taking up agriculture and livestock raising. Through hard work and keen business ability, he acquired large real estate holdings. He has served as a County Commissioner and was active in the county affairs.

The deceased was a member of the Methodist Church of Morocco, a director of the Morocco State Bank, a member of the Scottish Rite, Murat Temple, Knights of Pythias and was a member of Morocco Lodge No. 372, F. & A. M. for sixty years.

In 1919 Mr. Chizum was married to Nellie Kennedy, who survives to mourn his death, together with other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Methodist Church Sunday afternoon at 2:00 with Rev. James Ellerbrook officiating, and interment was in the Oakland Cemetery.

## Death of A. E. Chizum

*Newton County Enterprise, December 8, 1904*

Albert E. Chizum, the well-known Morocco lawyer, died Sunday morning, shortly before 9:00, after an eleven week illness with typhoid fever, complicated by cataract of the stomach. The funeral was held at 1:00 Tuesday afternoon and interment followed in the Morocco Cemetery (Oakland).

Mr. Chizum was one of the best known men in Newton County, a lawyer of ability, prominent in lodge and social circles and a factor in the commercial life of the county. He stood high as a lawyer, had a good lucrative practice, and in the course of his professional career has served this circuit in the capacity of Prosecuting Attorney.

A marked characteristic of Mr. Chizum was his fidelity to his friends and their interests, and in his death, Newton County in gen-

eral and Morocco in particular loses a noble character.

Mr. Chizum was thirty-nine years of age—a young man just in his prime—and a promising future awaited him. He leaves a most estimable wife and one son and to them and to his mother and brothers the *Enterprise* extends its most sincere sympathies.

*Editor's Note:* Albert and his wife Gertie, had two children, Gaylord, b. May 4, 1892 and Harlie W., born July 9, 1890.

## An Exciting Episode

Prosecutor Albert E. Chizum Claims That An Attempt Was Made On His Life; Attacked At Roberts Bridge

*March 11, 1897, Newton County Enterprise*

"Monday night, Prosecuting Attorney Chizum drove up to the Hotel Randall in an excited frame of mind and asserted that an attempt had been made upon his life at the Roberts Bridge. His statement was fully corroborated by his companions R. G. Hardy and J. C. Graves. Mr. Chizum's story as related to a representative of the *Enterprise* is as follows:

"Monday afternoon I was engaged in the prosecution of the case of the State vs. Cole, who is a bartender for John Dowling of Morocco. Cole was charged with an illegal sale of liquor, and the jury found him guilty. The witnesses for Cole were Al Kline, John Dowling, Guy DeWolf and Guy Roadruck. As I was coming down the stairs after the trial one of the parties said to me: 'You will be sorry for this.'

"Later in the afternoon, Al Kline asked me once or twice if I was going home. I told him yes, as my boy was sick. About 8:30 p.m. I went to the livery stable and secured my team and noticed that the team that Dowling, DeWolf and Roadruck drove stood ready for immediate departure. I drove around for my companions and we started for Morocco.

"About two miles from Kentland we came across the buggy heretofore mentioned and passed them. Al Kline's horse was hitched behind. Some time before reaching the Roberts Bridge a horseman rode up beside our buggy, and we could easily see by the dash board lights that it was Al Kline; he soon dropped to the rear and my companions spoke up and said 'I am afraid we are going to have trouble with those fellows.'

"Just before reaching the Roberts Bridge we looked back <*Continued on page 22*>

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< Continued from page 21 >

and saw the Dowling carriage coming up at a furious pace. At this moment the horseman passed us, and going ahead fired three shots in the air. Just as we reached the bridge, he seized the bit of my nearest horse and tried to steer him for the banister, I seized my whip and sank on my knees leaning over the dashboard to have good control of the team and commenced to apply the lash. This made the horses plunge ahead but all the time the man on the horse was trying to force the team over the rail into the turbulent river beneath. Becoming desperate I gave the team a furious cut with my whip and they succeeded in passing over the bridge. We dragged up over the hill and into J. B. Robert's yard and the parties that had been following us drove rapidly away. Mr. Roberts and his men accompanied us back over the bridge and we returned to Kentland.

"I am confident that it was intended to force my team over the rail and every person in the buggy would have been drowned in the river as the current was very swift."

Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Chizum swore out warrants for the arrest of the party and in the afternoon they were arraigned before Judge Thompson. Unless a change of venue is taken they will be tried Friday morning. A reporter of the *Enterprise* hunted up Mr. Kline and asked him for his version of the matter, he declined to make any statement saying at the proper time he would be able to prove his innocence."

### The Chizum/Kline Case

April 1, 1897, *Newton County Enterprise*

"What is known as the Kline case, the venue of which was changed from Newton to Jasper County, was tried in the Jasper Circuit Court last week, occupying three days with a verdict of acquittal as to four of the defendants and a verdict of guilty of assault as to Peter A. Kline, and a fine of fifty dollars assessed against him.

"This case attracted public attention for the reason that the accused were charged with assault, and assault and battery with intent to murder Albert E. Chizum, Robert G. Hardy, and J. C. Graves, by shooting at them and attempting to precipitate them into the Iroquois River.

"The facts proven in the case were that on the evening of the eighth of March, 1897, Peter A. Kline, John Dowling, John Cole, Guy

Roadruck and Guy DeWolf, the defendants, met at the livery barn of William Dowling in the town of Kentland, preparatory to starting for their homes at Morocco, and as they were about to start for home, A. E. Chizum, J. C. Graves and R. G. Hardy came to the barn and ordered a team to take them to Morocco also. Kline and his company started for home about ten minutes in advance of Chizum and his companions.

"The defendants were all riding in one two-seated carriage, Kline leading his horse behind. Chizum, Graves and Hardy occupied a one-seated buggy and were driving a span of high-strung, spirited horses. At the slaughter house north of town the Chizum crowd passed the Kline crowd. At the Sell bridge, two miles north of town, Kline got out of the buggy and rode ahead on horseback. He passed the Chizum crowd before he reached Martin's corner and at the cemetery Kline fired his revolver three times in the air and rode on.

"The evidence further shows that when about half-way across the Roberts Bridge, Kline thought someone spoke to him from the rear and said 'whoa' to his horse which sopped, and in doing so partially turned to the west, and Chizum evidently thinking this an attempt to 'hold him up,' whipped the horses and plunged into Kline's horse, and as the whipping was kept up by Chizum it is a wonder, as Kline says, that someone was not injured as the night was very dark. On the north side of the river Kline dropped behind and Chizum drove to the residence of J. B. Roberts and stopped, Kline going on home.

"The jury found all the defendants not guilty of a felonious intent. They found all the defendants not guilty of an assault and battery. They found four of the defendants not guilty of any crime, and found Kline guilty of a simple assault.

"The evidence was clear that no assault had been committed and the State had abandoned that charge, yet the jury doubtless thought that Kline should be fined something for shooting a revolver on such a dark night when he knew there were people traveling in the immediate vicinity, and fined him fifty dollars, which with the costs and his attorney's fees will cost him about five hundred dollars, and is to be hoped will be a lesson to him to be more considerate of the rights of others in the future.

"The State was represented by Prosecuting Attorney Albert E. Chizum, John C. Graves of Morocco, Frank A. Comporet of Kentland, Hanley & Wood of Lafayette, Foltz, Spitzler & Currie of Rensselaer, and Deputy Prosecuting

Attorney Handley.

"The defense was represented by Cummings & Darroch of Kentland, Frank Davis of Morocco, and later in the trial by Judge Reynolds of Monticello.

"As this case had acquired a great deal of notoriety by publication in the newspapers of the alleged attempt to commit murder, the attorneys for the defense displayed legal ability and skill in throwing the prosecution off the scent as to the line of defense.

"The case was tried before Judge Palmer of Monticello, who by his kind and courteous treatment of all the parties and their attorneys, together with his fair and impartial rulings in the case, met the unqualified approval of all who were present."



These 1873 maps of Washington and Jefferson Townships, (separated by the Iroquois River), give us an idea of area north of Kentland and location of the Roberts bridge, and Martin's Corner.



What remains of the southeast corner of State and Clay Streets in Morocco after a fire on December 21, 1908.



### Morocco Civil War Photo - Old Soldiers Reunion

**Memorial Day, 1904; Photo taken May 30, 1904.** Those known are identified as follows: Left, boy on bicycle, Raymond Zoborosky; (in back), girl in white, Pearl Roadruck; girl with hair ribbon, Flieve Zoborosky; Soldiers in line: left to right, 1. Joseph Zoborosky; 2. Andy Ellis; 3. John Don; 4. George Benjamin; 5. Fred Mashino; 6. ?; 7. John Vayette. Third from last, Mr. Hitchings; last in row, Mr. Clark. Hope's Restaurant in foreground, left. Can anyone identify the street and other buildings in the background?

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