

# The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. Published 4 times a year, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Articles for submission are encouraged and may be sent to the editor, Beth A. Bassett, 1681 East, 1100 South, Brook, Indiana 47922. Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the second month of each quarter.

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*With society membership you may also join the  
FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION NEWTON  
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Student (\$1) \_\_\_ Individual (\$3) \_\_\_  
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As a member, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, THE NEWCOMER free!

You will also receive notification of our monthly meetings for each division. Dues are payable yearly (July 1-June 3), check your mailing label for status of membership. Back issues of the Newcomer are available upon request for \$2.25 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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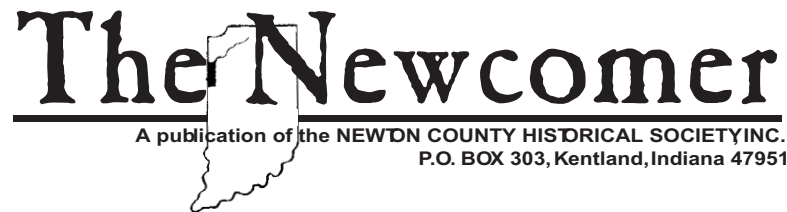
**Send Payment to:  
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Treasurer, PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951  
219-474-6944**

### Visit our Resource Center!

Here, you will find a variety of research tools for the history buff and those seeking family history. Microfilm of census records, from 1790 to 1910, 2 readers are available, and plenty of room to sit down and spend some time going through our other books about the county, family histories, maps and plat books.

We try to have volunteers at the building at a regular basis: Monday, Jim Robbins from 1:00 until 4:30; Wednesday, Janet Miller from 10:00 until Noon; Nev Carlson from 1:00 until 3:30; Friday, Gerald Born from 1:00 until 4:30. Please call first (219-474-6944), to ensure the building being open.

The county courthouse is just across the street within walking distance, enabling a researcher to access county records, and we also have a computer with internet access for other research. We give tours of the center as well, just give us a call!



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### What's On Our Agenda . . .

**The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month, on the same day, the Family History Division meets at 3:00 at the Resource Center at 224 N. Third Street in Kentland and the Society general meetings are held in different locations in the County at 7:00 p.m. All members are notified of the place and time each month. Don't Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!**

*We'd Like Your Input!! We are looking for suggestions for stories, articles and pictures for our next edition of The Newcomer. We know that there are many stories of our past ancestors and their way of life that are just waiting to be told! This newsletter is designed to do just that!! If you would like to write an article, submit a photo, contact the editor or a member of our society.*

Visit our web site at [www.rootsweb.com/~innewton](http://www.rootsweb.com/~innewton)

# The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Indiana's YOUNGEST County  
Fall 2000 • \$2.25

## The Diana Hunting Club

By Gerald Born

One of the most graphic reminders of the way life on the Kankakee River used to be can be seen as one travels north on Highway 55, passing through Thayer, Indiana, and as one approaches the curve just before the bridge there appears on the right hand side of the road a large and imposing structure. It is the former Diana Hunting Club, named for Diana, the goddess of the hunt, which for over fifty years provided lodging and recreation for the members of the club and their guests who sampled the abundance of the Kankakee River as it was before it was dredged and became a ditch.

As with all things, they go through a natural cycle and soon after the World War I the club went into decline and was abandoned, and finally sold. For the past sixty years it has provided shelter and sustenance for the Yacuk family.

A short history of the Diana Hunting Club appeared in the Thayer-Shelby News,

published at Thayer and dated May 1, 1902: "The club was organized on the twelfth day of December 1881. The business and object for which the club was formed was for the purpose of hunting, fishing and similar sports and amusements and for the protection of fish and game and the enforcement of the fish and game laws. "The club is incorporated under the laws of Illinois as a corporation 'not for pecuniary benefit."

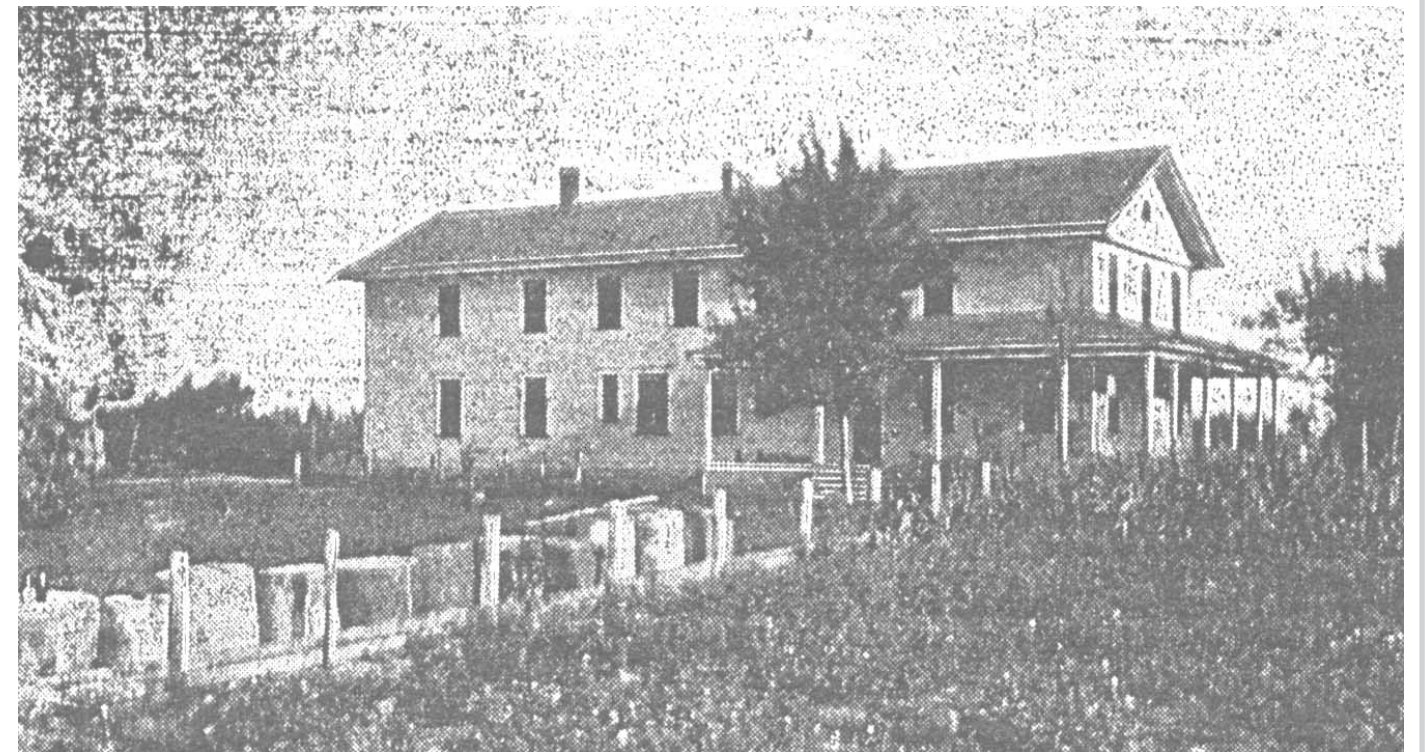
The club house and grounds are located in Newton County adjoining the town of Thayer on the banks of the Kankakee river. It consists of a beautiful club house and boat house for the care of the members and their hunting outfits on some eighty acres of valuable land. The officers and members of the club are some of the most influential business men of the city of Chicago and are recognized by the citizens of Thayer, Water Valley, and Shelby as 'good fellows well met.'

"The officers and members of the club are:

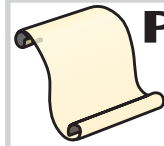
Charles Burmeister, president, J. Augustus Kretzberg, secretary and treasurer, H. P. Beiler, G. G. Cornelson, H. Ehlers, G. Eerhorn, E. Funk, J. Gerson, P. Helleckes, Charles Hild, H. Horn, J. Hafmeyer, J.J. Karseens, George Klein, A. F. Frey, John Kyle, T. Nalepinski, J. Olive, John Press, H. J. Russer, H. Schaller, Otto H. Sikel, A. A. Smith, Anker Stanford, W. H. Weber, P. Williams, William Schmidt, A. Goldstein, D. G. Geiger, H. G. Eckstein, J. P. Hettinger, Edward J. Walton, and L. Rueckheim. The supervisor and caretaker of the club is George Klein and family, who have resided at the club house for the past twenty years."

It did not take long for a bias against the club and its "foreign" members to develop in the church communities of the southern part of the county as witnessed by this article from The Kentland Gazette, July 29, 1886 precipitated by the accidental shooting of a guest.

"The Chicago Dutch are in the habit of  
*Continued On Page Three*



The Diana Hunting Club as it appeared in 1902. Photo Contributed.



**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**  
*Yvonne Kay*

In looking back over this past year, I see that our Society of volunteers have been busy. We have had programs on Barges, Funerals, Show & Tell, Marijuana, Earthquakes, The changes of the Nu-Joy, Tidbits from the past as recorded in old newspaper, The Kankakee Sands Project as all of these relate to Newton County. If you missed any of them, there are tapes available at the Resource Center.

The volunteers have been able to keeping the Resource Center open most afternoons. The Ladies have done an exceptional job on the window displays. Beth has been busy as our editor trying to keep the presses rolling with our great Newsletter and the many articles submitted by the many volunteers. She also keeps the web site updated. Several persons have responded to request for information.

The Coloring Book committee has finished the Coloring Book and had a get open house to preview book and recognize the artist. The Oral History has been busy with their recorders and typing. The Refreshment committee has always made us leave the meetings with a good taste in our mouth. The House committee has continually worked on the Scott/Lucas House. The Museum committee has been making plans for our future. A Thank You goes out to everyone and keep up the good work.

**WEB SITE DIRECTORY**

- Newton County Census Records:  
1860 & 1870, 1880, 1900 (Beaver Twp)
- Jasper County Census Records:  
1850-Index
- Enter & View Newton County Queries
- Newton County Look-Ups
- Newton County Biographies Project
- Index of "The Newcomer" Articles
- Newton County Marriage Records thru 1971
- Obituaries of Past Residents of Newton County
- Biographies of Past Residents of Newton County



*The first look . . . The coloring book committee gathered together for this photo just before the open house began on November 2nd. Seated right to left are the artists, Greta Taylor, Art Editor, Mary Krueger, Norline Shepard and Phyllis McKee. Back row: Janet Miller, Editor; Barbara Wilfong, Artist and Beth Bassett, Production. NCHS Photo.*

Oh, look at this page!" "How did you do this page?" "Did you know there is a new oil paint on the market?" "Sign this one!" These are some of the comments heard while walking by the artist's table at the Coloring Book Preview Open House on November 2, 2000. Several of the artists had not seen the completed project until arriving at the Resource Center in Kentland. Greta Whaley Taylor of Washington Township served as Art Editor of the book and along with her illustrations were ones done by Mary Krueger, Morocco, and her uncle, William Mulverhill; Norline Shepard, Kentland; Phyllis McKee, Kentland; and Barbara Wilfong, Kentland. The South Newton art students, under the direction of Lori Murphy, completed two of the pages. Beth Bassett, Brook, served as Production Coordinator and Janet Miller, Kentland, as Editor.

What started as a dream 3 years ago became a reality on this day. The Resource Center was decorated in fall attire as the public came to view the book and have it signed by the artists. Many had not visited the building before and were pleasantly surprised by the collection of historical data and the facility in general. Members were available to give tours of the building and

provided homemade cookies and punch to the guests.

The bright, yellow book is a delight for the Newton County Historical Society to be able to offer to the public. It has 40 pages and interesting data about Newton County as well as the illustrations for youngsters to color. It can also be called a black and white, mini history book. The book will serve as a keepsake for young and old alike who are interested in Newton County. They are on sale by the Society for \$5.00.

The book, which is dedicated to the children of Newton County, will be donated to all the fourth grade students of Newton County in the following years to use as a guide as they study local and Indiana history. One of the goals of the Society is for the children of Newton County to become more familiar with the history around them through this publication.

**Order Your Coloring Book Now!**  
*they may great gifts and keepsakes for your own history library - Call the Historical Society at 219-474-6944 or contact Janet Miller at 219-474-5380.*

**THE RESOURCE CENTER'S WINDOW DISPLAY**



**Memorabilia Of Seed Companies, Past and Present of Newton County**

**N.C. Seed Companies Con't.**

Frontier Hybrid Seed Corn Service, is owned by Dick and Elaina Funk. Their family business in Kentland was incorporated in January, 1984. "Our Roots Are in Corn" is stated in their brochure, and they have literally grown up in the seed corn business. Dick is the grandson of Edward J. Funk and the son of Bill Funk, both involved in the Edward J. Funk & Sons Company. Their family has been dedicated to serving the hybrid seed corn needs of the American farmer for many years.

Vernon Voglund was the owner of **Colonial Seeds**, a Kentland seed corn business started in 1975. He grew seed for three years and sold it to local farmers. He worked from the barn on his farm at the junction of U.S. 41 and 1300S.

In the early 1900's, Charles Simons, a 1911 graduate of the University of Illinois, worked in university corn testing, while his brother, Will, traded corn futures at the Chicago Board of Trade. In 1976, Charles' son, Jim, and his grandson, Mark, began a family agribusiness that produced hybrid seed corn for large seed companies and overseas markets. Mark still produces the seed on the now irrigated land that his great-grandfather worked more than 120 years ago, as Jim's daughter, Cathy, and her husband, Earl Standish, now market the seed directly to farmers all across the United States. **Unity Seeds** is a family run hybrid seed corn business whose mission is to produce and market the highest quality hybrids at reasonable prices to the



American farmer. Unity Seeds seed corn is available at 250 locations across the midwest and is the first seed corn company to market through retail outlets such as Sam's Club and Big R Stores.

**AgVenture, Inc.** was founded in 1983. The company initiated a unique concept to the seed industry. AgVenture would put entrepreneurs within the seed industry in business for themselves, relying upon AgVenture Inc. to supply genetics, production, and to conduct broad based intensive testing to support local marketing efforts. In 2000, AgVenture has 18 successful companies marketing seed throughout the corn belt, including AgVenture D&M of Kentland which is the marketing company for northwest Indiana. John Cassidy and Mike Davis are the Indiana owners of AgVenture Inc. and Mike Mullen and Mike Davis are the owners of AgVenture D&M.

The **D.E.F. Seeds and Crow's Seed Corn Companies** are a part of Channel Bio Corporation. In 1991, D.E.F. Seeds was founded and Crow's was developed in 1935. Both companies remain American owned independent of chemical companies, focused on the farmer dealer as their primary distributors. They have improved access to the best genetics, biotechnology traits and financing programs so they can serve their customers better than ever. Don Funk recently purchased and renovated the NuJoy restaurant building in Kentland which now houses Crow's, D.E.F. and Channel.

**Diana Hosts Locals At "Hoosier Surprise Party"**

*Continued From Page Four*

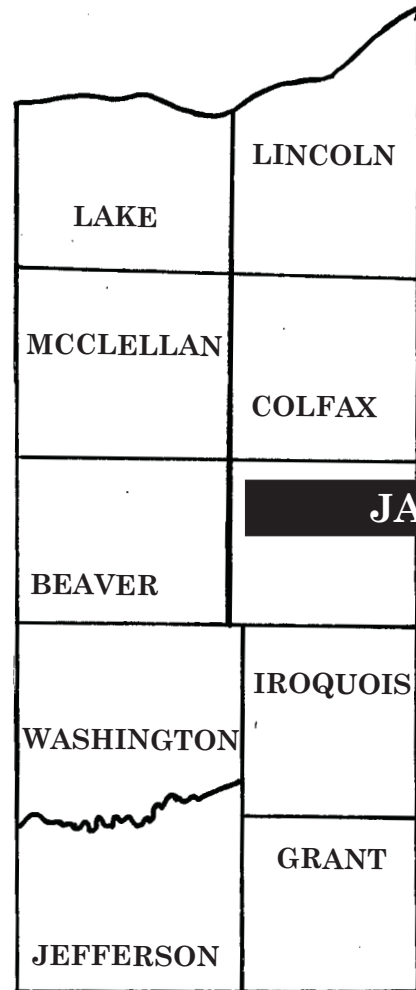
**June 8, 1917:** Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Nayler of DeMotte, visited Sunday at the Diana club with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Kline."

The newspaper went through a series of name changes and in the September 14, 1904 issue of *The Weekly News Review* in the column entitled, Diana Club Shots, it tells of the local population turning the tables on the members of the club:

"A very pleasant surprise party was held at the Club House last Friday evening when about fifty persons called and informed Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burmeister, of Chicago, that they expected to be entertained to a Hoosier Surprise Party at their expense. The evening was spent in dancing, vocal and musical selections. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Ehrhorn, Mrs. Henry Ehler, Mr. and Mrs. A. M.. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Shaw, Seven Engstrom, Mr. and Mrs. James Scott, Miss Dolly Holt, Mrs. Ana Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. L. Kirchner of Chicago. Emma and Mary Brady, Mann Spitler, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fuller, Mrs. F. H. Salter, John Spitler, Jake Luchene, Dr. Petry, Henry Kemp, Zack Spitler, Mrs. and Mrs. Henry DeFries, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Kuss, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ahlrgin, Jack and Glenn Cobb, Mrs. and Mrs. George Kline, and daughter, Dora, Henry Tauge, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fogli, Tom Fogli, Miss Nellie Fogli, Miss May Fogli, Miss Austia Fogli, Miss Ida Folgi, Mr. and Mrs. William Gault, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Luchene, ye editor (John Bowie) and wife and last but not least that well known impersonator and ventriloquist, Adam Miller, who kept all in a continuous uproar of laughter with renditions throughout the evening."

This is but a sample of the events and people who filled the rooms of the Diana Hunting Club with their presence and laughter as seen reflected in the pages of the newspapers of the day. The story of next sixty years or so will be told by Doris and Nick Yacuk, who were the current owners and residents of the Diana Hunting Club, until Nick's untimely death earlier this year. Doris and her son, Ron, are now busy with the management of the property. **Read the Yacuk Family History on page 10.**

# NEWTON'S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS *Pilot Grove*



Researchers utilizing the 1860 census records have noticed that Jackson Township or other county division was enumerated from a place called Pilot Grove. Where? John Ade's history book noted that in 1854, Newton County succeeded in getting a post office at Morocco, on condition that the citizens would agree to carry the mail once a week to Rensselaer and back, also keep the post-office for the proceeds of the office, so that it should be no expense to the government. A few months later, an office was established in Jackson Township, called Pilot Grove, with Stephen Elliott appointed postmaster. It was located about 3 1/2 miles west of the present town of Mount Ayr, or 1 mile west of 1/4 mile north of the landmark known as Pilot Grove.

Following up in the 1985 *History of Newton County*, Esther Weston wrote: "Located at 325 S and 225 E in Jackson Township, or 2 miles west, 1/4 mile south and 3/4 mile west of the present town of Mount Ayr, was a grove of Oak trees known as Pilot Grove. This was a landmark that piloted the schooners through the prairie as they were traveling west."

The picture below was taken on October, 2000, showing the location of the roads that marked the location of Pilot Grove in the 1985 *History of Newton County*.



At times, they camped at this location, under the trees. It has been told that about 50 years ago (1935), you could still see the trail of the wagon wheels through the grove and nails were still in the trees where they hung things, on their overnight stay. This grove of trees was the southern most point of timberland that lay north of the Iroquois river.

Later, businesses were started one mile west and 3/4 mile north (225 S and 400 E) of the present town of Mount Ayr, and the post office was moved there. Molasses Street - Just two miles north and a little west of Mount Ayr, on road 300 E, there was quite a gathering place for the people of the neighborhood. This was in addition to North Star Church, and the North Star School. There was a road called "Molasses Street". It was just off the prairie to the north. The road was a mile in length running north and south. Some of the old settlers were Ben Yoder, Eli and Ira Chupp, David Hostetler and Harry Hufty.

Harry Hufty, who ran a butcher shop in Mount Ayr, bought a piece of land on Molasses Street and built a slaughtering house, doing all his own butchering for the store and others.

"Molasses Street" got its name from the molasses press that was on the road. Sorghum cane was brought from surrounding neighborhoods to the molasses press by horse and wagon. The press was horse powered. The horse would walk around and around at the end of a long pole that would move the press. The sorghum cane would be fed into the press and the juice would be pressed out and caught in buckets. The juice would be boiled down in large pans above the open fire.

The fire for boiling down the cane juice was fired by pole wood, cut and cured for that purpose. Once the boiling off process was started, it was never allowed to stop. Someone had to be in constant attendance at the boiling pots.

*Editor's Note: Does anyone have further information or pictures of Pilot Grove? We would love to have them for the Newcomer, and our files at the Resource Center.*

## Ade Consolidated Schools - Class of 1928 *By Margaret Gadson*

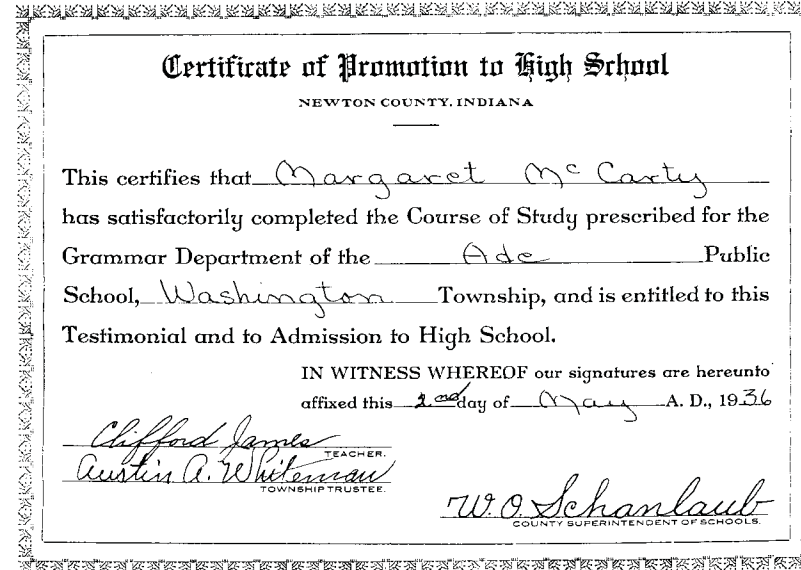
This is the largest graduating class of Ade School. The majority of our class started to school in the year of 1928, with an entry of about twenty-five pupils here at this school. There has only been four pupils, namely Darwin Vanderwall,

Goodland and had the following teachers: Miss Westfall, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Emerson, Miss Lamaster, Miss Burt and Miss Verriel. He entered the class in the last half of the fifth grade under Mrs. Cross. Victor Hagen has attended Morocco and Ade Schools. He had the following teachers, Miss Brunswick, Miss Burge, Miss Weedman, Miss Dixon and Miss Murphy. He entered the class in the second half year of the fifth grade.

The second half of the fifth grade, Lois Watt also entered. She had attended Mount Ayr School, having had Miss Byfield, Mrs. Day Shook and Miss Makever for teachers. After that she had Mrs. Cross and Mr. James. In the sixth grade, Ella Jane Crawn entered. She had attended Kentland School for five years. During these years, she had Miss Winters, Miss Peters, Miss Helen Johnson, Mrs. Mable Johnson Schanlaub, Miss Eastburn, Mrs. Cross and Mr. James. Raymond Clutten had Miss Goodwin, Miss Lyst, Miss Stone, Miss Himelick. During the fifth year, she attended an Illinois school having Miss Webster as teacher. We attended Ade the other four years. Paul Powell has attended Terre Haute, Morocco, and Ade Schools. His teachers have been Miss Weedman, Miss Dixon, Miss Murphy, Miss Ketcham and Mr. James.

Jean Crocker entered the class the seventh grade. Her teachers were Miss Augspurger, Miss Morrow, Mrs. Cliff, Mr. Beard, Miss Mische and Mr. James. She attended school before coming to Ade.

This makes a total of twenty-one pupils who are receiving



Margaret McCarty, Betty Jean Warrick, and Carl Tebo, who have gone to this school all their school days. Ted Sell entered with the other four pupils in the second half of the first grade. He previously attended a Ft. Wayne school. These five pupils have had the following teachers: Miss Hogan, Miss Kalfise, Miss Himelick, Mrs. Cross, and Mr. James.

Rex Deardruff entered the class in the second grade, having attended an Illinois school for the first year. He had the following teachers: Miss Kalfise, Miss Himelick, Mrs. Cross and Mr. James. Evelyn Nichols who entered the class in the second half of the third year, had Miss Goodwin, Miss Winters, Miss Peters and Miss Helen Johnson. Cecil Voglund also entered the class in the third grade, his teachers were: Miss Goodwin, Miss Lyst and Miss Stone. These four pupils from the fourth grade on had Miss Himelick, Mrs. Cross, and Mr. James.

Dana Gulley and J. Delmer Padgett entered the class in the fourth grade. Dana's first three teachers were Miss Goodwin, Miss Lyst and Miss Stone. J. Delmer's first four teachers were Miss Nina Sargison, Miss Goodwin, Miss Lyst and Miss Stone. These two pupils then had Miss Himelick, Mrs. Cross and Mr. James. Pauline and Lester Kindig both entered Kentland school under Miss Winters, Miss Peters, Miss Helen Johnson and Mrs. Mable Johnson Schanlaub. They entered the fifth grade at Ade School under Mrs. Cross.

Martin Braaksma entered our class next. He began school at



graduation certificates today. *Editor's Note: Margaret (McCarty) Gadson submitted this article that she had written for her graduation date from Ade School in 1928. Pictured here is a copy of her Certificate of Promotion to High School, and a photo of the Ade Consolidated School. Erected in 1914 for a total cost of \$14,500. This picture was submitted to our society in a copy of "Newton County Farm Bureau News" - A Brief Historical Sketch of Schools of Newton County, August, 1924 donated by Barbara Gerbracht.*

### Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton? *By Janet Miller*

1. "Prairie Banditti". See page 5 of the coloring book.
2. Three. The first in Iroquois Township, and the other two at the present site. See page 26.
3. Head, heart, hands and health. See page 20.
4. "Newton County 1853-1911" See page 27.
5. Perfection Fairfax was a Hereford Bull. See page 33.

## Newton County Seed Corn Companies

By Janet Miller

Newton County, and more specifically, the Kentland and Brook areas, has been well known for its seed corn companies. To quote an Ainsworth-Boone Company brochure of 1928: "Kentland, Indiana, has long been identified with the production of excellent seed corn. It is the county seat of Newton County, Indiana; three miles from Benton County, the largest corn producing county in the state; four miles from the Illinois border.

For many years Kentland has been regarded as a seed corn center. This, of course, resolves from the excellent quality of corn produced and the seed selected from it. The soil is admirably suited for the production of corn and corn is the principal crop. We have a well-drained, brown, sandy silt loam. The community is progressive, the land is farmed intensively but is scientifically rotated and develops a hardy variety of corn which will grow in any portion of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio or other states in our latitude.

Kentland is at the intersection of the New York Central and Pennsylvania lines. These roads give us admirable shipping facilities, north, south, east and west. For the information of customers unfamiliar with this section of the country, Kentland is located at the intersection of Indiana state road No. 41 and Indiana state road No. 24, which connects with No. 8 of Illinois."

The **Ainsworth-Boone Company**, a

pure bred seed corn company, was the successor to Ainsworth Bros. & co. This five-story seed corn drying plant was located on U. S. 24 where the Kent Theatre is located today. Their brochure states that their location is directly across the street from the Pennsylvania station and two blocks east and two blocks south of the New York Central Station. In 1928 their officers were C. W. Wharton, President and Clyde Hurt, General Manager. This business was destroyed by fire in 1928.

During the Fall of 2000, the Newton County Historical Society Resource Center, 224 N 3rd Street, Kentland, had their window displayed with Newton County seed company memorabilia. Twelve different companies were represented, with the Ainsworth-Boone Company as the oldest.

Brook, Indiana, was the site of two different companies, Williams Hybrid and Barten Hybrids. **Williams Hybrid** started in 1936 as a small family project with four acres. Jasper Williams and his family were the owners of the business. By 1948 the business had outgrown the family and was moved to Harold Williams farm south of Foresman. He joined his father in the business and it became known as J. E. Williams & Son. They grew approximately 60 acres of seed which was grown and processed on the farm, two miles east of Foresman. The sales office and warehouse were located in Foresman. Business was good until about 1961 when larger seed

companies were improving and it was hard to keep up with the breeding process. In 1964, J. E. Williams & Son sold to Fred Gutwein & Sons of Francesville, Indiana. Jasper continued to sell for Gutweins' until he retired four years later.

**Barten Hybrids**, which was located southeast of Brook, started in business around the year 1939. Maurice Barten was the owner. This was a small family owned seed corn business that also produced certified varieties of wheat, soybean and oats. When Mr. Barten died in 1972, his sons, Rick and Gary, and wife, Violet, continued operating the company until 1976.

**The Edward J. Funk & Sons** company was one of the larger seed corn companies in Newton County. Edward J. Funk purchased the defunct Ainsworth/Boone Corn Company Building and opened the doors of their company on September 4, 1935. This was a family business with Mr. Funk involving much of his family in the original company. Mr. and Mrs. Funk were parents of eleven children, seven boys and four girls. In 1937 they grew their first hybrid corn under the trade name of "Hoosier Crost". This name was later changed to "**Super Crost**." This company grew by leaps and bounds and eventually was a big employer of Newton County residents. They celebrated over 50 years of business in Kentland and were then acquired by British Petroleum in December, 1986.

British Petroleum sold the company to Garst Seed in October of 1990. In 1991 Garst Seed Company changed their name to ICI Seeds and since that time has changed the name back to Garst Seed Company.

Roswell Garst of Coon Rapids, Iowa, was the founder of the **Garst Seed Company**. He began growing hybrid seed in the spring of 1930 and sold his first crop from the back of his car a bushel at a time. Their brochure states: "For three generations, our company has been a leader in the vast agricultural industry. Since Roswell Garst founded this firm, we have always had a focus on modern science, yet we strive to maintain traditional values." Their company plant in Kentland is located on U. S. 41.

**Frontiersman, Inc.** formerly known as  
*Continued On Page Next Page*



## "Diana Hunting Club - the Talk of the County!"

From Page One

coming to Thayer on Sunday, every week or two, to meet their friends and have a good time in a kind of beer garden, pigeon shooting, etc. Last Sunday while they were having a good time, two of the men got hold of a 'harmless' shot gun one on the breech and the other the muzzle, and the muzzle man got the full contents of the barrel in his breast and was killed instantly."

And on August 5, 1886, in The Kentland Gazette: "The Chicago roughs that have been holding beer picnics and shooting matches on Sundays at Thayer should be given to understand that the citizens of Newton county will not tolerate such immoral and unlawful conduct. The peace officers of Lincoln township should see that the law of Indiana is enforced and that our people will not be called upon to witness another carousal as was had at that place on the 25th...If the reports are true the Diana hunting club gang that comes out from Chicago to Thayer on Sundays, have little regard for the sanctity of the Sabbath. The accidental shooting of Varreault at that place Sunday the 25th ult., was a shocking and disgraceful affair."

The term Chicago Dutch is a euphemism for Germans or foreigners as was Pennsylvania Dutch for Germans and Swiss of that state, and it is clear the disdain that was felt for them. They were viewed as a hedonistic group, dedicated to having a good time, and that was tantamount to being immoral. However, beer was part of their culture as was enjoying life to its fullest. And as we will see later, the good citizens of Newton County were not adverse to being invited to partake of the abundance of club life. The sad note gleaned from this article is that the pigeons they were shooting were probably passenger pigeons, now extinct. Some of the resentment against the club is

understandable, for hunting and fishing was not easily accessible to everyone, for a concerted effort was made by wealthy hunters from the city to buy up choice land along the Kankakee river and keep it as a preserve for their members. From *The Kankakee Review* of January 17, 1901 comes the following: "Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago and a party of fifty representatives of that city, including Charles S. Dennis, Hemstead Washburne, Robert Organ and William Haskell have closed a deal with Brown Brothers of Crown Point in which they came into control of 10,000 acres of marsh land on the Kankakee River, south of that city, which will be the largest in the United States.

"They have leased the marsh for 25 years and will at once commence the erection of a costly club house and stock the marsh with all kinds of game, besides the ducks and geese which habituate the place each spring and fall. This practically places the duck hunting in this well known game marsh in a tract and is absolutely controlled by the Chicagoans, the residents of Indiana having been frozen out entirely, as the land along the Kankakee river has all been leased.

"The Mascawba Club ground commences south of South Bend, The English Lake Gun Club then follows for miles and the Diana Club and the new one

their hunting rights. I remember as a child visiting the club house maintained by a group of men from Schneider, Indiana with whom my father, John Born, hunted-Harold Hamann, Woody Larson, George Rodgers, Dolly Minninger and Robert Born, or Tuffy, as he was called, and others whose names I do not recall. It was located further downstream from the Diana Hunting Club and was fitted with a bar, a juke box, and all of the paraphernalia associated with hunting and fishing. A warm fire kept away the chill after a serious day of hunting. Game was plentiful then.

The Diana club house is huge. It consists of 26 rooms, with 14 bedrooms on the second floor. The club house is divided into two parts the front portion housed the members and their guests, and the back part of the house contained a living quarters for the caretaker, consisting of a living room, three bedrooms and a kitchen. The dining table would seat 32 people. Hunters would enter from the front or side doors.

A hand pump was located at the side door to wash off the dirt and dust of the hunt. Six of the original lockers remain where members and guests stored their gear. The porches were removed around 1963 as they were in disrepair. A white fence at one time lined the roadway.

George Klein must have been there as caretaker from the very beginning. He is listed as one of the original members and started his job in 1882, which was probably the year they finished building the club house. He and his family were still there as late as 1917, so for at least thirty-five years he was responsible for the club house property. He took care of not only the club house and the boat house, but also the grounds and oversaw the farming interests of the club. Henry Cobb did the farming in 1902.

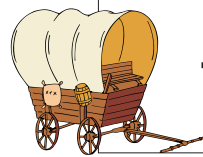
The club house must have supplied a most idyllic setting for the busy Chicago  
*Continued On Page 4*



An aerial view of the Diana Hunting Club and outbuildings taken in 1978 when the Kankakee River flooded. Photo contributed.

just formed takes up the balance of the land and in each case no poachers are allowed in the Calumet marsh."

Hunters of the region guarded jealously



## FOCUS ON FAMILIES

Family History Division • Gerald Born, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

*Forward: We have tried to salvage and put into writing as much information as we can about the past generations of the Yacuk family. Most of this has come in bits and pieces of the memory of my parents, Radion and Mary Yacuk and those remembrances of their closest friends Harry Shenuk, John Bilovous, and Nick Rukowchuk. They were neighbors in Russia, who came to this country sometime after my father, Radion. Harry Shenuk (fondly called 'Uncle Harry') lived three doors from Radion in Russia. John Bilovous also lived in the same town and knew him well. There is some question as to the spelling of the names, but they have been spelled phonetically, as they were pronounced in the English language. We consider all of the information related to us in this short history as fact, for it has been told to us at different times by the people mentioned above, during our fifty years of marriage. We hope this will give our children some idea about their identity.*

**R**adion Yacuk was born in Biletzke, Ukraine located about 200 miles East of Kiev, Ukraine, in 1898. At that time the Ukraine was a part of Russia.

We do not know his father's first name, nor much about his family history, about all we know is he had two brothers. Radion tells about his dad, one of his brothers, and himself working for Czar Nicholas II (1868-1918). The Czar had many palaces throughout his kingdom, and the family worked as caretakers of the palace orchards and gardens in one of them. Radion held the Czar in such high regard that he often told Nick that he named him after the Czar of Russia and his other children after the Czar's family.

The three men were also musicians of note and often played and sang for royal weddings, parties, etc. Harry tells of Radion playing the tambourine (which is still in the family and located at the farm.) His brother played the mandolin, and his dad played the violin. The Czar was impressed that Radion could tune his father's violin using only his voice, as he had perfect pitch.

The last time we saw Uncle Harry was approximately four years ago. How I wish



*Radion Yacuk Family . . . Radion Yacuk is holding the twins, Helen and Anna, seated is Nick, and to the right is Mary Yacuk holding Alex. Photo Contributed.*

I had gotten much more information from him. He was in his 90s at the time, an accomplished musician who even made his own instruments. In my notes Harry tells of what a talented family Radion had and how well liked they were by the Czar.

I must mention that, at this time, Radion was just a young boy, no older than twelve. Most of the Ukrainians spoke their own language. However, like many other households in the Ukraine, the Yacuk family was required to speak the Russian language. This was necessitated, without a doubt, because of their association with the Czar.

The only discussion we ever heard about Radion's mother was from John Bilovous. He knew her as a very stern and strict disciplinarian.

About the year 1912, Radion and one of his brothers was given permission by the Czar to immigrate to America. Since Radion was only 14 years old, according to Harry, the Czar discreetly pulled some strings in order to get him a passport. At the time, the earliest a Russian citizen could immigrate was 16.

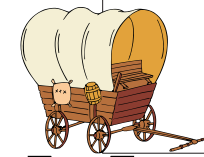
## Yacuk Roots

By Doris and Nick Yacuk

The steel industry was booming in America, so they planned to take advantage of it, earn all they could in a few years and then return to Russia. The only thing we know about the brother is that he accomplished what he came for and returned to Russia in five years.

We understand that Radion's last name was originally spelled, Yatchuk, or rather that is how it was pronounced in Russian. When he entered the United States, an official at the immigration office convinced him that he should Americanize the spelling of his name to Yacuk. It sounded good to him, and so he changed it and it stuck. He was so happy being in America that he didn't mind changing his name for the privilege.

Radion Yacuk, first settled in Passaic, New Jersey and for a while worked for the government as an interpreter making \$3.00 a day. We don't know how long he had been in Passaic before he met a young lady by the name of Mary Cernickoi (another pronunciation we heard was something like, Churnitska). She would later become his wife. Mary came to America in 1913



## FOCUS ON FAMILIES

Family History Division • Gerald Born, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

**M**embers of the Cooper Clan started arriving at the farm home of Roy and Avalynne Cooper on Friday, June 30, 2000. They were coming for the annual family and neighborhood 4th of July gathering and the annual business meeting of the farming partners.

This annual 4th of July party was started 50 years ago in 1950 when brothers, Roy & Richard Cooper, along with neighbors, Eugene Deno and Kenneth Honn, took up a collection from those helping in the neighborhood hay baling ring. The four young men then drove all night arriving in Missouri just in time for a quick early breakfast, while waiting for the stores to open. When the stores opened they purchased some fireworks, and headed back to northwest Indiana.

In the meantime, the neighborhood women had lined up ice cream and cake and other "goodies" for the upcoming party.

The boys drove all day, finally arriving home in time for a wiener roast before the fireworks display they presented. Following the display, they also supervised and helped the little kids do sparklers. The evening concluded with everyone enjoying cake and ice cream as they sat around visiting.

The festivities were so much enjoyed that the annual 4th of July party is held each year at the Cooper farm on the Saturday closest to the 4th of July, making it easier as

a weekend event. It seems to get bigger and better each year, and thank goodness fireworks can now be purchased locally, with no more all night trips to Missouri.

Many of the Cooper family attend this gathering every year, even though they are now scattered throughout the United States and beyond. This year, everyone made a special effort to come, since the family had just recently achieved "Homestead Farm" status. The family's grandparents, William and Kate S. Cooper had purchased the farm, moved here and started the family farm operation in 1900. Now, four generations later they have reached the 100 year mark of farming the same farm by the same family. Thus, we had planned for a "Centennial Farm" celebration in the year 2000.

William and Kate S. Cooper had seven children. They were in chronological order as follows: Arthur, Laura, Olive, Wilbert, Amy, Ruth and Elsie. The two sons, Arthur and Wilbert, helped with the farming as they were growing up. All of the children got their early education at the Schuette School, about 3/4 mile south of their home. They all later attended and graduated from Brook High School.

When Arthur and Wilbert married two more farms were added to the operation. In about 1930, Arthur, wife, Ora and three sons, Glenn, Earl and Wayne, moved to a farm they had purchased in Jasper County. Meanwhile, Wilbert, wife, Esther, and

## Cooper Centennial Farm Celebration

By Roy Cooper

family continued helping with the home farm operation.

Wilbert and Esther's family consisted of Gerald, Floyd, Bob, Roy, Richard, Joan, Kay and Joyce. They were all educated in the Foresman School and graduated from Brook High School. After college, they married and scattered to various parts of the U.S. Roy returned to the farm to help his father and later took over the farming operation.

Of William and Kate's daughters, only Elsie married. She wed Felix Rodriguez and they had two daughters, Felicia and Leta. Laura, Amy and Ruth were teachers, all teaching more than 40 years each. Elsie was a school librarian. Olive stayed at home to help her aging parents and help with the poultry.

Roy, and wife Avalynne, had two sons. William and Gary. They had a dairy operation for almost 30 years to help make ends meet with the farming setup. In 1992, Gary Cooper took over the operation of the farm as the fourth generation became more actively involved.

The early arrivals on June 30th included Jenny, Curt, and Mindy Dinsmore from California, Alan & Carriann Alabastro and family from Washington, and Jim Rausch from New Jersey. There arrived in time to help their Uncle Roy put the finishing touches on his first tractor-drawn 2-row Black Hawk corn planter.

*Continued On Page Eight*



*75 Coopers all in a row . . . The Cooper Family Float depicting "100 years, down on the farm", is pictured here in the Annual 4th of July Parade held in Brook, Indiana each year. The Cooper family homestead started in operation in 1900. Earlier in the spring, the Coopers were awarded the "Hoosier Homestead Award", by the State of Indiana. Photo contributed by Roy Cooper.*

## Newspapers Give Account of The Life & Times at "Diana"

### From Page Three

businessmen who wanted a weekend retreat, or a place to spend a couple of weeks vacation, and the river had an abundant supply of fish. The hunting was, according to many reports, some of the best to be found anywhere in the world. The Kankakee river, before dredging, meandered some two hundred miles with sinuous curves, ox bows, and sprinkled with many islands, such as Grape island, Jerry island, the Garden of Eden and other intriguing names before it emptied into the Illinois river. These excerpts from *The Thayer-Shelby News* of 1902-03 give some idea of the activities of the Diana Hunting Club:

**April 21, 1902:** "George Klein, of the Diana club is preparing to do the spring work on the club grounds. Mssrs. Charles Burmeister, Henry Ehlers, Peter Williams of Chicago, arrived at the Diana Monday evening. Each wished the News success and subscribed for a year.

**May 10, 1902:** George Klein and daughter, Dora, visited by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holmes of Cumberland Lodge on Thursday.

**June 6, 1902:** The club house is undergoing a complete renovation in the way of painting, paperhanging and other improvements. George Krider, of Kentland, the painter and paperhanger is hustling along the work at the club house this week. J. P. Hettinger, one of Chicago's prominent architects, with the office of Schiller building arrived at the Diana on Saturday, returning Monday. Mr. Einhorn, connected with the administration of the city of Chicago, having held the office of Chief Assistant Clerk for the past fifteen years, who is one of the popular hunters and fishermen, who enjoys their vacation in this vicinity.

**July 12, 1902:** H. L. Camp, of Chicago, manager of Rueckheim Bros. and Eckstein Cracker Jack Co., made his first visit to the Diana and Kankakee river on Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Grant returned to their home in Chicago, Monday, after a week's visit to the Diana and recreation on the Kankakee. Mr. Grant is secretary and manager of the Marsh and Grant Printing and Engraving Company. Mr. A. J. Wagner is a manufacturer of galvanized iron cornices and has been a regular visitor at the Kankakee for many years. Mr. I. B.

Wolfson, of Chicago, expert operation is a member of the club and a regular visitor. He rigged his sail boat and made the trip from the Club house to Red Oak in eleven minutes and thirty-nine seconds

**July 19, 1902:** Chicago man catches a mammoth pickerel in the Kankakee river on July 5th. It weighs 17 1/2 pounds. It was caught by Mr. Rueckheim of Rueckheim Brothers & Eckstien, who manufacture Cracker Jack.

**August 9, 1902:** Edward J. Walton, a member of the firm of Walton, James & Ford, law stenographers of Chicago enjoyed a few days recreation at the river this week.

**August 30, 1902:** Mr. and Mrs. John D Kyle and family of Chicago, have been spending the week at the club and enjoyed the splendid fishing. Mr. Kyle is identified with N. K. Fairbank & Co. manufacturers of soaps.

**September 6, 1902:** Platt M. Conrad, son of Mrs. Jennie Conrad, of Oak Dene Farms, visited with friends at the club house Monday. Otto Sickel, one of Chicago's prominent real estate agents, came down on Monday for a visit at the club house and enjoyed a few days hunting and fishing. Miss Stella Rackeheim, of Chicago, visiting at the club house since last Sunday, returned home on Monday.

**September 12, 1902:** James White, of Kentland, has been spending a few days this week fishing and visiting. Charles Burmeister, of Chicago, arrived at the club Saturday for a two week vacation. Mr. B. has the honor of being the president of the Diana Club and is one of the regular visitors to the Kankakee. Judge Cummings, of Kentland, was at the club house a few days this week.

**October 4, 1902:** Peter Williams, of Chicago, one of the regular visitors to the Kankakee hunting grounds, accompanied by his friend, ex-alderman, John H. Hartwick, of Chicago, arrived at the Diana on Sunday prepared to take a few days recreation having driven through from the city with Mr. Williams' private carriage. Gustav Ehrhorn, of Chicago, arrived at the Diana Club Saturday evening for a few days fishing. Mr. Ehrhorn is one of Chicago's prominent musical directors and had the honor of directing the great German mass chorus of 1,268 voices in the Armory before his Royal Highness Prince Henry upon his recent visit to Chicago.

**October 11, 1902:** H. F. Beiter, of Chicago, architect, came down to the club on Saturday to try his luck with the fall shooting. Louis Seydel, of Chicago, foreman of the Free Press made his first visit to the club and returned with a fine catch, speaking highly of his treatment at the club.

**October 18, 1902:** Mssrs F. G. Hahn and R. O. Schmidt, manufacturers of artistic decorations, of Chicago, were spending an outing at the club.

**October 17, 1902:** E. Funk and Peter Williams arrived at the club Friday evening, and went up the river for a few days shoot with the ducks.

**November 1, 1902:** Otto Sickel was down for a few days this week and returned home Friday with a good bunch of ducks.

**November 8, 1902:** W. H. Weber, of the Weber Wagon Works, arrived at the club house Saturday for a few days shooting.

**November 15, 1902:** Dolly Burmeister, of Chicago, arrived at the club house Monday evening and expects to do a plenty to the ducks before going back.

**November 28, 1902:** W. A. McHie, treasurer of the Central Grain and Stock Exchange of Hammond, was a guest at the club this week and taking his luck at shooting. Some hunters claim that the Kankakee river is and some claim it is not a navigable stream. Anyone observing the stock of household goods, eatables, ammunition, etc., that went up the river Friday for the accommodation of Ernest Funk and Peter Williams, who are camping on Indian Garden, would think that a man of war has been ordered to that point with supplies for six months. Judge Walton was again a visitor this week. The cold wave could not bluff the judge.

**December 13, 1902:** Peter Williams didn't do a thing but go home with 75 mallards. Oh gee.

**February 1, 1903:** Peter Williams, Ernest Funk, and ex-alderman, Hartwich, of Chicago, visited at the Diana this week. George took the above gentlemen for a sleigh ride and rabbit hunt down through the Beaver lake district. It was a good thing that the sleighing was good as they were well loaded when they returned (with rabbits).

**February 3, 1903:** Edely Einhorn, of the city clerk's office and two gentlemen friends from Chicago were at the club Sunday and Monday looking after their traps for the spring shooting. They also enjoyed a sleigh ride.

*Continued On Page Fifteen*

## PAGES OF THE PAST

The following excerpts are from *The Kentland Gazette* during the fall of 1886, transcribed by Janet Miller

### Brook

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Foresman, of Foresman, will start next Tuesday for a visit with old friends in Massachusetts and Vermont. Mrs. Foresman has not been back to her girlhood home for 34 years.--*Goodland Herald.*

Comrade Charles Waling of Brook, Ind., went to Bushnell, Ill., Tuesday, to attend the reunion of the 64th Regt., Ill., Vol., Infantry, his old regiment.

The Brook parsonage is receiving a nice coat of paint, which makes a beautiful appearance. Howard Gross is the dauber.

### Washington Township

A young son of George Herriman was seriously if not fatally injured on last Tuesday by being run over by a wagon load of clay.

We are informed by the Secretary of the Patron and Farmer's Fair that the receipts were \$782.00.

FOUND: on the Patron and Farmers' Fair grounds a gold bracelet. The owner can recover the same by calling at this office, prove their ownership and pay for this notice.

### Goodland

On Friday, Sept. 24th, a special train will run from State Line to Goodland to accommodate those wishing to hear that great statesman, gallant soldier and eloquent orator, Senator Ben Harrison. The train will pass Kentland at 12:30 p.m. The fare will be 25 cents for the round trip. you can return at 4 o'clock or at 9 o'clock. Let every one go and take all their friends.

Fred Slyter, late of Dakota, returned home last week. Give him old Indiana for climate, and Newton county for soil, before all others.

Mr. A. J. Kitt and Miss Hattie Spoor, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of S. C. Spoor, our banker, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at the residence of the brides father, Monday at 1 o'clock p.m.

### Morocco

The following is the program of the speed ring at the Morocco Fair next week: Wednesday--Green running race, limited to Newton county; purse \$25.00; Thursday Free for all running race; purse \$50.00; Friday - Pacing race; purse \$100.00--time 2:30. also running race, three year old and

under; purse \$25.00; Saturday - Free for all trotting mile heats; purse \$125.00--time 2:30. Running race, mile heats; purse \$100.00. Mule race, two mile dash; purse \$15.00.

Peter A. Kline, son of Peter Kline, the boss cattle raiser of Newton county, had a number of fine Short horn and grade Hereford cattle on exhibition at the fair last week, and was successful in carrying of a large number of red ribbons. Among his herd we noticed a fine heifer calf, ten months old that weighed 950 pounds,. He is a chip off the old block in the cattle raising business and shows some of the finest stock in the country.

NOTICE: I wish to procure good homes for my two little boys, one 8 and the other 4 years old. Any person wishing to take a boy to raise will please call on, or address me at Morocco, Indiana. James Brown.

### Mt. Airy

In our last week's items we made mention of the new millinery store, but we were not aware at the time that there was a firm of more than one. Mrs. Samuel Wilson will please excuse our ignorance of the fact and accept our apology for omitting her name as partner with Mrs. Patrick.

At the Morocco Fair last week there was on exhibition a quilt containing 11,500 pieces, put together by Mrs. Sarah L. Dennison of Mt. Airy, who was 67 years old last June.

### Roselawn

Mrs. Hammon, an old lady living in the country took her first ride on the cars last Friday. She went to Rensselaer and set for her first picture.

The year 1886 came in on Friday, and will end on Friday, and will have fifty-three Fridays. Four months of the year have five Fridays, and the moon changes five times on Friday. The longest and shortest days of the year were on Friday.

### Kentland

Reports from threshing machine men show a vast difference in the amount of grain raised from tiled land. Oats on tiled land turn out 60 to 70 bushels to the acre, while that raised on untitled land runs from 25 to 30 bushels. *Lafayette Courier*

Persons attending the State Fair in Indianapolis: J. Z. Johnston and son, Frank;



Mr. & Mrs. John Cunningham; Mr. & Mrs. William Perry and daughter; Miss Maud Arnout.

The new Hubertz Hotel is a neat and attractive building and adds much to the appearance of Third street.

### Lake Village

The boys on Knott's Dredger are running at the rate of 200 feet per day in hard digging. They have reached Long Point and say that in a couple of weeks they will be in easy digging and then they will have fun on the home stretch.

### DAYLIGHT SAVING PLAN

*From The Goodland Herald, April 5, 1919*

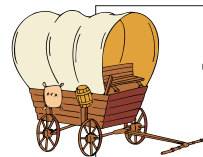
When the new time schedule went into effect last Sunday morning, the people of Goodland took a long breath kicked off the covers, and jumped out of bed according to the new time.

An effort was made to retain the old time, and it was even tried, but it was soon learned that it was impossible to operate under the old schedule with the other hundred million people giving by the new time it would have been very irregular to come up one hour late.

A petition was circulated last Saturday and was signed by most every business firm in town, to operate under the old time, and it was tried for a few hours Monday, but it was soon learned that it would not do, so all adopted the new time and since then have had easy sailing.

In order to serve the community the business firms have adopted new methods that should accommodate all, that is, by opening at the regular time and arranging to keep their stores open later in the evening to accommodate those who claim they cannot get in. Wednesday and Saturday nights the merchants will remain open after supper to accommodate their trade, this proved very satisfactory last season, and should this year.

There has been a good deal of discussion pro and con and both sides have their good points, but this is to be remembered, there can only be one time and as the new time has been adopted everywhere between the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in October, the Herald believes that after a few days, people will thoroughly accustom themselves to the new schedule..



## FOCUS ON FAMILIES

Family History Division • Gerald Born, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

### Continued From Page Seven

Had been rescued from its back fence row, final resting place, and then "spruced up" for a place of prominence near the farm's front entryway. The crew helped with some painting, and then helped to move the planter to its new location.

They then proceeded to landscape the setting with ferns, flowers, and wood chips. As a final touch, the Hoosier Homestead Farm sign was then attached to one of the planter's markers for everyone to see. Every new arrival seemed pleased with their finished project.

On Saturday, July 1, 2000, the Cooper Clan arrived in bunches as the celebration began. Volleyball, bean bag toss, horseshoes and badmitten games were available and a special corner was set up for kid games. The big old barn with its hay bales, ladders, etc. seemed to hold a special attraction, especially to the "city kids."

A brief business session was held at one o'clock with Richard Cooper presiding. While this was going on, some of the fourth generation started cooking hamburgers on the grill. Everyone had brought well-filled baskets and shared their goodies with everyone as there was a combination dinner and supper at 3 p.m.

The young folks hurried through the meal so they could get warmed up for the annual softball game at 4 p.m. They all gathered in the south pasture to choose up sides and play the game. Everyone able lined up to play with ages ranging from 5 years to 65 years. Some of the older softball enthusiasts have had to retire from the game, but are still very interested spectators. With 30-35 players on each team, it made quite a sight and also made it harder to get a base hit. A lot of fun and excitement was had by all.

After the ball game, there were 2 or 3 hay rack rides around the pasture, with the hay rack filled to capacity by excited youngsters and adults. A songfest with Ken Long, a Cooper cousin, on the guitar was enjoyed by many as they awaited dusk and the fireworks.

At dark, the fireworks squad went to work and put on a great fireworks display including sky rockets, arial bombs, roman candles, pinwheels, fountains, and other

ground displays. Following the fireworks, everyone went back to the shop/tool shed for ice cream and cake. Out in front of the shop, the annual sparklers show was held with every little kid, and several big kids getting to take part in the show. Then the tables and chairs were pulled back and the big door opened for more room and more breeze as they prepared for the annual square dance.

Again, all ages participate with the dance "B-I-N-G-O" one of the favorites among the little ones. The traditional closing dance, the Virginia Reel, had 18 couples participating again ranging from ages 4-68 years old. It is quite a sight to see them so intermingled and thoroughly enjoying the dances. After the dance, most headed for their motel, their home, their room or their tent to get some rest for the big day coming up on Sunday. A few of the old-timers and several of the teenage set stayed on to play some euchre into the wee hours of the night.

Sunday, July 2nd, was the special day set aside to share memories of 100 years on the farm with friends, neighbors and family. The shop had been festively decorated and had many photos presenting 100 years of Cooper family history. A family tree also occupied a prominent spot for everyone to see. A special open house and program began at 2 p.m. with Richard Cooper presiding.

Following a welcome by Richard, Pastor Kelly Houard gave the invocation. After a few more opening remarks, Richard introduced Indiana State Representative Claire Leuck who gave some congratulatory remarks before again presenting Roy & Avalynne Cooper with the Homestead Farm award as was previously done at the State House in April.

Roy Cooper than gave a brief history of the Cooper Family Farm, noting that his great-grandfather Cooper had come to Orland Park, Illinois, in 1850. Roy's grandmother's parents came to Frankfort, Illinois from Germany at about the same time. Roy's grandfather, William Cooper, was the only one of his brothers and sisters to come to Indiana. Most of the rest of William's family stayed in and around Orland Park Illinois which is just southwest

## Cooper Centennial Farm Celebration

of Chicago. These Illinois Coopers will be celebrating 150 years at their Cooper Reunion in Mokena, Illinois in late July. Some of the Indiana Coopers try to attend that reunion each year, too.

Interspersed with several memories of his grandparents related from Gerald, the oldest brother, and told by Richard, were some musical numbers that the family had been rehearsing for a whole year in preparation for the special program. With Richard and Norma Cooper, Ken Long, Andy Taylor, Joan Peacock, Jim Peacock Kim Everett, Marylynne Cooper and maybe a few others providing guitar, ukulele, and violin musical lead. The entire Cooper Clan sang: 'Back Home Again In Indiana.' "I Was Born Country," and 'Precious Years of Memory.' Also the little folk had been practicing all year, and sang "America" led by Debbie Rausch from New Jersey.

Floyd Cooper also shared memories from the past. A special treat came when Joyce Sharp called. "Grab your partner and let's dance." Many couples, young and old and greatly intermixed, jumped at the chance to do their favorite dance, "B-I-N-G-O," for the crowd to see.

Just in time, Mary and Bill Jackson and 5-year-old son, Murphy, arrived from Hood River, Oregon and Mary and Murphy hurried to the dance floor. Actually, it was the pasture floor, but everyone danced enthusiastically.

Frosty Hofmann gave a patriotic presentation called "This Old Flag" that was enjoyed by all. With closing remarks, Richard thanked friends, neighbors and family for coming to help make the day so special and expressed his gratitude for the part each and everyone had played in their lives to help them achieve 100 years on the farm. He then invited them to partake of punch and cookies then being served and to visit the shop with all its pictures and memories of days gone by.

The family was pleasantly surprised when Channel 18 TV from Lafayette showed up to tape some of the event. They were really honored with being on the 6 o'clock and 11 o'clock news on that Sunday night.

About 150 people attended the 4th of

July party on Saturday. Approximately 200 people attended the Sunday "Centennial Farm" celebration. By count, at least 225 people stopped by at some time over that long weekend. Some of the Cooper family members had to leave after the Sunday program, but most stayed on for the next big event.

The Cooper family is also proud of their home community and hometown of Brook. Each year, Brook has a 4th of July parade, many other activities throughout the day, and then a great fireworks display that night. Quite often, this takes place while the Coopers are having their annual reunion. Oft times, the Coopers have enjoyed watching the parade, joining the festivities, and fireworks and visiting with old friends, neighbors, and classmates.

In 1976, the family had the Cooper Family Band float in the parade and had so much fun and happy memories from it, that they decided to have a float in this year's parade to enable some of the younger generation and some of those who missed the parade in 1976 a chance to enjoy the thrill and pride of being in the parade.

Much planning and purchasing had been done ahead of time by Joyce Sharp, Norma, Avalynne and Karen Cooper, and several others. Roy and Gary Cooper, along with helpful neighbors, Wilbur and Chris Yana, Ralph Barten, and Bill and Marilyn Watkins, had lined up two Donahue implement trailers and covered the floors with plywood. Wilbur and Chris had engineered and rigged up a hitch so they could pull the two trailers together. Bill Watkins built the 8x8 backdrop for the second trailer.

On Monday, July 3, the Cooper Clan began the task of decorating the two trailers for the parade float. Led by Jenny Dinsmore and Alan Alabastro from California and Washington, with expert assistance from Gary Evans from Ohio, Jim Rausch from New Jersey and Dave Everett from Texas, the float began to take shape.

In the shops the Southwest Coopers from Arizona and Texas started cutting out letters for the back and started painting the letters on the banner that was to be carried in front of our float. Melissa Cooper's family, including Russell Cooper, Bobbi Cooper, and Ed and Jean Burt and sons, worked enthusiastically and tirelessly. Most everyone pitched in one way or another, with many of the younger ones

also contributing. By Monday evening, the float was completed. It was decided to take it on a test run down to the corner and back. What a strange sight it must have been for the cows and horses in the pastures.

On Monday night, Alan Alabastro organized and emceed a youth talent show which proved to be a real treat. Most of the Clan then went to bed early to be fresh for the parade on Tuesday, July 4.

Gary hooked the float together again early Tuesday morning and at about 8:30 several of the family members climbed on to the float for the long, but enjoyable ride in to Brook. He parked the float in the shade east of the Christian Church. Many of the Cooper Clan had driven into Brook and they then came over to find a place on the float. Bales of straw were used for seating.

When the parade got underway, there were 75 Coopers on the float depicting "100 Years of Down Home" and singing "Back Home Again In Indiana." The oldest member on the float was Floyd Cooper at 77 years, the youngest, Heather Cooper, daughter of Gary & Karen, at 2 months. It was a real treat and a fitting close to a special five days of happy times and precious memories. Thank you, Brook, We Love You!

Of the Cooper Clan, Elsie and Felix Rodriguez are the only survivors of the second generation at 89 years and 93 years. Glenn Cooper is the only deceased member of the third generation, although Mrs. Wayne (Lois) Cooper has more recently passed on.

The fourth generation is missing Monique Cooper Dinsmore and Jay Kessell from untimely deaths. Eugene Torres died of leukemia at age 14. Some others have died at birth or in infancy. We have been quite fortunate, however, and can probably credit our longevity to grandfather, William, who lived to almost 97 years of age and to the Good Lord for our many blessings.

Elsie and Felix Rodriguez were unable to attend because of their age and health. Their daughters were also unable to attend. Bob and Martha Cooper of Upland, California had planned to attend, but Martha's illness flared up a few days before their planned departure so they had to cancel and were sorely missed. Kay Torres was also unable to attend because of ill health, but her daughters and families were able to come from New Jersey. At nearest count, only 11 or 12 of the family members

were unable to attend. Most of the families were here in entirety.

Though Roy and Avalynne and Gary and Karen and daughters hosted the celebration, with Bill, Deb, and Marylynne from Lexington, Kentucky assisting when possible, everyone pitched in both financially and physically to help out and make it a success.

Norma Cooper, assisted by husband, Richard, "chaired" the planning and were blessed with cooperation from everybody. Joyce Sharp was in charge of the history photos, etc. Carol Jean Cooper constructed the Family Tree. Joan Cooper Peacock, Avalynne and Karen Cooper were on the planning committee also.

Coopers came from as far away as the East Coast and the West Coast. From as far north as Wisconsin and as far south as Texas. Michael and Charlotte Cooper and children, Baye, Shan and Weston, came the farthest from their home in Taiwan.

Bill Cooper even had the privilege of playing on the 3-on-3 basketball tourney in Brook on the 4th. He played with Clint and Curt Dinsmore from California and Dan and Clint Schwartz from Illinois all young 2nd cousins of his. They were battered, bruised and exhausted when it was all over, coming in second after losing 2 games to the champions by one point each game. Many of the Cooper family enjoyed watching the boys play in Bill's old grade school gym.

### DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE ON YOUR GIFT LIST THAT IS A HISTORY BUFF?

May we suggest a membership to our society! They make great gifts! Not only will they have access to meetings and our resource center for research, but they will receive The Newcomer quarterly FREE! See page 2 for details

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**- Volume One Cemeteries Book:** published in 1997, covers Lake, McClellan, Beaver and Washington Townships - limited amount available! \$15.00 members, \$20.00 non-members, plus tax & postage if necessary.  
**- Newton County Historical Coloring Book** - published in 2000, great for kids and adults too! \$5.00 each plus tax and postage if necessary. Give us a call at 219-474-6944.

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

### Match Holders

By Gerald Born

This issue features Gerald Born's collection of match holders developed over a period of many years. Match holders, designed to keep matches conveniently at hand, have an interesting evolution, as the invention of the match caused a mini-revolution in the 19th century lifestyle.

Prior to the accidental discovery of the match in 1827 by John Walker, of Stockton-on-Tees, Durham, England, fires were lit by rather primitive means. At that time the only way of starting a fire was to strike a piece of flint against an iron bar, which produced a spark that was aimed at



tinder in a tinder box. The tinder, usually oven dried old linen rags or shavings from a willow tree, was so flammable that the spark would ignite it and produce a flame. Depending on the humidity it could be a long, tedious and frustrating process. Other means included using a lens to intensify the sun's rays and in this country, the use of a



stick and bow to produce friction and light wood shavings (a technique that was learned from the Native Americans). None were completely satisfying.

Walker, a chemist, was working on a substance he could use to fire gun powder, composed of a mixture of potash, antimony and gum arabic when the wooden stick he was using to stir the mixture became coated



with the goo, and when he tried to wipe it off on the slate floor, it ignited and became the first match in history. He improved the technique by dipping the wood stick in the sulphur and his matches became known as lucifers.

By 1833, matches had come into general use, however, they were expensive and therefore became quite a status symbol in the homes of those who could afford this new invention, which seemed to possess magical qualities. All sorts of match holders and match safes were developed to protect the match and keep it dry. All matter of materials were used in the production of the match holder. Porcelain, which had only been discovered in Europe a scant 75 years before, became the material of choice as it too was very expensive to produce and represented the best of the best.

Many of the finest examples of the match holder come from this period until 1855 when the safety match was invented and it then replaced the older type and became less expensive as it was mass produced. By the turn of the century, match holders became less elaborate and were often made of tin and placed on the wall by the stove. By then, matches were such a staple in the lives of people, they were taken for granted.

Born's collection contains many early examples of the match holder art. Fanciful figures of little boys and girls with bundles of matches on their backs, an elephant carrying a load of matches in its container and an old shoe which provides a place to store matches. It is the whimsy and the sophistication of the match holders from this era that attracted Born to collecting them.



They are still to be found in the antique market today, priced anywhere between \$55.00 and \$350.00, and up. Many times they are mistaken for tooth-pick holders and the alert collector can still find a bargain. Born prefers those made of porcelain, which is fired at very high temperatures and retains its color and form for years to come. "It is so durable that these will be around long after I'm gone", Born concludes. NCHS Photos.



## Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

These questions were taken from the Newton County Historical Coloring Book Vol. 1, dedicated to the children of Newton County by the Newton County Historical Society.

1. What were the outlaws of Bogus Island commonly called?
2. How many courthouses have been located in Newton County?
3. Youth of our county have enjoyed 4H Clubs for many years. Name the 4 "H's"?
4. John Ade, (father of George Ade), wrote a Newton County history book. What is its title?
5. Gov. Warren McCray of Kentland had a prize bull on his Orchard Lake Stock Farm. What was its name and breed? See answers on Page 12).

## Yacuk Family Makes Diana Hunting Club Home

from Galizcia, Austria. She also had settled in Passaic, where she worked in a textile factory, earning fifteen dollars a week. We have very little information about her life in Austria. She told me that she was an only child. Her parents owned some cattle and that she helped herd them to different pastures because there were no fences.

Mary was four foot eleven inches tall compared with Radion's six foot height. She had saved enough money from her wages to pay for a fashionable wedding. She related with pride how she had hired horse drawn carriages to take her wedding party to the church. Harry thought the date of the wedding was 1917.

Mary Yacuk seemed to have a stabilizing effect on the family. I got to know her in 1945. She had by then reared her family with pride, love and devotion. I especially noticed her graciousness and hospitality. She still had not mastered the English language. However, she was undaunted and would laugh at her own mistakes. I remember how she loved America with a passion and never missed putting out her precious flag on all patriotic days.

I would be remiss if I did not mention how hard she worked. She would get up early for morning chores. These consisted of milking, feeding the animals, hoeing in the fields and garden, as well, as working in the house. She raised turkeys, geese, chickens, and ducks. They were a source of joy for her and she treated them with kindness and patience.

Radion Yacuk was determined to pursue his dream, so in 1918 he and Mary moved to Gary, Indiana. He worked in the steel mill as a 'catcher' in the roller mill. His job was to guide the steel as it came out of the furnace. It was a tough, hot job, which was delegated to the immigrants. There were two shifts the 'day shift' of eleven hours and the 'night shift' of thirteen hours. He would ride his bicycle to work and sometimes he had to walk it back home because he had such bad cramps in his legs.

He and Mary settled down in a two bedroom frame home on 1576 Filmore Street. They were happy. Harry Shenuk had followed Radion to American in 1913. He had no place to live, so Radion rented

him a bedroom for a year. They remained friends for many years. Two other sporadic renters were John Bilovous and Nick Rukowchuk.

Twelve children were born to Mary and Radion Yacuk. Nick was born in 1919, Anne and Helen in 1921, Twin girls were still born in 1923, Alex in 1924, Katherine in 1925, Olga in 1927, Peter and Paul were still born in 1928, Sophie in 1930 and Irene in 1931. Sophie and Irene were born after the move from Gary to the farm.

In 1926 Gary was growing by leaps and bounds. There were new businesses opening up at a fast pace. Radion was an expert teamster and as such decided to start a business of his own. He had three sets of draft horses and three dump wagons (We still have one of the wagons on the farm). He and his crew dug basements for new buildings in Gary. They also built much needed streets. It is not known how many buildings in Gary have basements dug by Radion Yacuk.

In 1929 the depression hit and no one could pay for the work he had done, including the city of Gary. The horses had to be fed and with no money coming in, Radion had to make a decision. He had quit the steel mill in 1927, so now it appeared he would have to make another change. He had a friend by the name of Metrofan, who owned a large house in Thayer, Indiana with 78 acres of land.

This house was the 'Diana Hunting Lodge' by then defunct. It seemed to be the perfect answer. At least he felt he could feed his family and animals during the terrible depression. Radion had built a new three bedroom brick home in Gary which he had planned to move his family into when the depression hit. They had outgrown the two bedroom frame building. Mr. Metrofan agreed to take the brick home in on trade. And so a deal was made. Mary was especially pleased. This seemed to be the perfect place to raise her family. There was also enough land to raise corn, oats, and alfalfa to feed the horses. They used their Filmore home for rental property. It yielded 12 dollars per month.

The move was made with horses and wagons. What an exciting time. Nick was nine years old when the Yacuks moved. I'm sure he was able to help do some of the



Doris and Nick Yacuk

Work. Radion dismantled his barn in Gary and moved it piece by piece to its present site.

Moving to a small community like Thayer was quite a challenge. It was a small, close knit town and any one of a different culture and nationality was considered an intruder of sorts, especially a family who spoke a foreign language in the home. But with a lot of hard work, effort, and time they adjusted to this new and strange way of life.

There were some sad times. Olga died in Gary from lockjaw after she cut her leg with a piece of glass. Katherine fell off the back of the farm truck in motion and was fatally injured. There were, however, a very close family and managed to prosper despite the many setbacks. Perhaps because of the nature of their struggles there remains a strong allegiance to each other that surpasses any disagreement or outside influence.

My grandfather, Thomas Brown, originally from Tennessee's Lookout Mountain area, moved to New Mexico soon after the Civil War and there in the Alamo Valley is where I was born to my parents, Charles and Bennie (Shaw) Brown, whose parents were, Bud and Canuta (Madrid) Shaw. Soon after my parents moved to Santa Rosa, New Mexico where there were better schools. Nick, who received his undergraduate degree from Central Normal, and his master's at Purdue University, and I were married in 1945. We met during World War II when Nick was stationed at Ft. Sumner, an Air Force glider base. We have two boys, Ron, who currently lives with me on the farm and Chuck, who lives at Kouts, and two daughters, Debra Lynn Nick and Dawn Kessler, both live at Elkhart. Photo contributed.