It did not take long for a bias against the club and its “foreign” members to develop in the church and 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
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 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 grounds, the club house now is a guest house for the Yacuk family.

As a member, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, THE NEWCOMER free!

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!
Colonial Seeds
D.E.F. Seeds and Crow's Seed Corn Companies

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.

The company initiated a unique concept to the seed industry. AgVenture would put entrepreneurs within the seed industry ... and Mike Davis are the Indiana owners of AgVenture Inc. and Mike Mullen and Mike Davis are the owners of AgVenture D&M.

Unity Seeds are a part of Channel BioCorporation. In 1991, D.E.F. Seeds was founded and Crow's was developed in 1935. Both companies remain American owned and operate from Kentland, Indiana. Vern Funk recently purchased and renovated the NuJoy restaurant building in Kentland which now houses Crow's, D.E.F. and Channel.

Memorabilia Of Seed Companies, Past and Present of Newton County

Frontier Hybrid Seed Corn Service, is owned by Dick and Elana Funk. Their family business in Kentland was incorporated in January, 1984. "Our Roots Are In Corn" is on 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 company. His company was founded in 1911 by Charles Simons, a 1911 graduate of the University of Illinois, who worked in university corn testing, while his brother, Will, traded corn and seed to farmers all across the Midwest. In the early 1900's, Charles Simons, a graduate of the University of Illinois, worked in university corn testing, while his brother, Will, traded corn and seed to farmers all across the Midwest.

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 their names written by the authors. 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.

Newton County Census Records:
• 1850 & 1860
• 1870, 1880, 1900 (Beaver Top)

Jasper County Census Records:
• 1850-Index
• Enter & View Jasper County Queries
• Jasper County Links
• Jasper County Biographies Project

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

Newton County: Past and Present

Diana Hosts Locals At “Hoosier Surprise Party”
Continued From Page Four

June 8, 1917: Mr. and Mrs. F.P. Naylor 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 Ehrler, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Shaw, Seven Enstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Holm, Mr. and Mrs. Alexirkis, Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Kircher of Chicago. Emma and Mary Brady, Mann Sperry, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Salter, John Spitzer, Jake Luchene, Dr. Perry, Henry Kemp, Zack Spitzer, Mrs. and Mrs. Harmon, Doris, Tommy Taig, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fogli, Tom Fogli, Miss Nelle Fogli, Miss May Fogli, Miss Austin Fogli, Miss Ida Fogli, Mr. and Mrs. William Gault, and Mrs. Charles Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Luchene, ye editor (John Bowie) and wife and daughter, Doris, Rodney and Doris with the many others 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 Diana Hunting Club, keep the Yacuk Family History on page 16.
**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 1/2 mile west of the landmark 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 1865 History of Newton County.

**Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?**

By Janet Miller

2. Three. The first in Iroquois Township, and the other two at the present site. See page 26.
4. “Newton County 1853-1911” See page 27.
5. Perfection Fairfax was a Hereford Bull. See page 33.

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**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 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 Durrfield 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 Lyst, Miss Peters, Miss Helen Johnson. Cecil Voglund also entered the class in the third grade, his teachers were: Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Himelick and Miss Stone. These four pupils from the fourth grade on had Miss Himelick, Mrs. Cross, and Mr. James.

Dana Galley and J. Delmer Padgett entered the class in the fourth grade. Dana’s first three teachers were Miss Goodwin, Miss Goodwin, 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 Goodland and had the following teachers: Miss Westfall, Mrs. Allen, 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, Mary Shook and Miss Makever for teachers. After that she had Mrs. Cross and Mr. James. In the sixth grade, Ella Jane Crow 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 Chutens 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. James, Mrs. Beadle and Mr. John.

Margaret McCarty, Betty Jean Warrick, and Carl Tebo, who have gone to this school all their school days. Ted Sill 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. Margaret McCarty, Betty Jean Warrick, and Carl Tebo, who have gone to this school all their school days. Ted Sill 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.
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 soil loam. The community is progressive, the land is farmed intensively and it 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 intersect a few miles north of Kentland.

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 now located. Their brochure states: 'The success of the company is based on high quality seed and excellent service, which has been the policy of the company since its founding in 1882.' The company was organized by John Ainsworth and Isaac Boone, who were former employees of the Chicago, St. Paul and Minneapolis Seed Corn Company.

The company was one of the larger seed corn companies in Newton County. Edward J. Funk purchased the defunct Ainsworth-Boone Corn Company in 1939. 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. In 1948 the business had grown so large that the company moved to a new location in Brook. It was at this time that the company began to focus on developing hybrid seed corn.

In 1954, Barten Hybrids was founded by John Barten. The company started with four acres and quickly grew to become one of the largest seed corn companies in the county. Barten Hybrids was acquired by Garst Seed in 1964. Garst Seed was founded by Roswell Garst of Coon Rapids, Iowa, in 1918. The company was one of the larger seed corn companies in the country and was known for its high-quality seed.

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.

British Petroleum sold the company to Frontiersman, Inc. in 1997. Frontiersman, Inc. is located in Foresman, Indiana. The company was acquired by British Petroleum in December, 1985.

Garst Seed Company was one of the first companies to develop hybrid corn seed. The company was able to develop a hybrid seed corn that was resistant to the diseases that were affecting the corn crop at the time. This allowed farmers to grow a higher quality corn crop and to increase their yields.

The company continued to develop new hybrids and new disease-resistant varieties. The company was a leader in the corn seed industry and was known for its high-quality seed.

The company was founded by Roswell Garst, who was known as the "King of Corn." Garst was a pioneer in the corn seed industry and was known for his work on the development of hybrid corn.

Garst Seed Company was one of the largest seed corn companies in the world. The company was known for its high-quality seed and its commitment to developing new and improved hybrids.

Diana Hunting Club - the Talk of the County!

By Janet Miller

The Diana Hunting Club is huge. It consists of 26 rooms, with 14 bedrooms on the second floor. The club house is divided into two parts. The first part housed the members and their guests, and the second part contained a living room 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 lined the roadway. "The Diana Hunting Club ground commences south of South Bend. The English Lake Gun Club then follows for miles and the Diana Club and the new one just formed takes up the balance of the land and in each case no poachers are allowed in the Calumet marsh."

"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 inhabit 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 Mascalba Club ground commences south of South Bend. The English Lake Gun Club then follows for miles and the Diana Club and the new one just formed takes up the balance of the land and in each case no poachers are allowed in the Calumet marsh."

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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 America when we heard was something like, Churtnitska). She would later become his wife. Mary came to America in 1913. I had gotten much more information from her. She was a school librarian. Olive stayed at home to help her aging parents and help with the poultry.

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 was so popular in Russia 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.

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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.

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 Ethel. 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 the farm. 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 a farm they had purchased in Jasper County. Meanwhile, Wilbert, wife, Esther, and family continued helping with the home farm operation.

Wibert and Esther’s family consisted of Gerald, Floyd, Bob, Roy, Richard, Joan, Kay and Joyce. They were all educated in the Foreman School and graduated from Brook High School. After college, they married and scattered to various parts of the U.S. They 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 Avalyne, 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 and Karen Bowers from Wisconsin. They arrived in time to help their Uncle Roy put the finishing touches on his first tractor-drawn 2-row Black Hawk corn planter.
Wolfsion, 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.

September 12, 1902: James White, of Kentland, has been spending a few days this week looking after the hounds and fishing. He is a member of the club and a regular visitor. His rigging of his sail boat and made the trip from the Club house to Red Oak in eleven minutes and thirty-nine seconds. Anyone observing the stock of household goods, cutables, ammunition, etc., that went up during the week for the accommodation of Ernest Funk and Peter Williams, who are camping in Indian Garden, would think that a man must have gone through the town in one day. The supplies for six months. June Wauer was again a visitor this week. The cold wave that came did not keep Mrs. John Cunningham; Mr. & Mrs. William Perry and daughter; Miss Maud Arnout.

February 13, 1903: Peter Williams, of Chicago, one of the regular visitors to the Kankakee river hunting grounds, accompanied by his friend, ex-alderman, John H. Hatch, of Chicago, arrived at Dunkirk, New York, on Friday. They took a few days recreation in the water hunting and fishing at the Diana Club and is one of the regular visitors to the Kankakee. Sentence of the Diana hunting ground’s, accompanied by his friend, ex-alderman, John H. Hatch, of Chicago, arrived at Dunkirk, New York, on Friday. They took a few days recreation in the water hunting and fishing at the Diana Club. It was a good thing that the sleighing was good as they were well loaded when they returned home (with rabbits)

November 15, 1902: Otto Sickel was down for a few days this week and returned home Friday with a good bunch of ducks. November 19, 1902: W. H. Weber, of the Weber Wagon Works, arrived at the club house Saturday for a few days shooting.

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

On Friday, Sept. 24th, a special train will be run to the Fair to accommodate those wishing to hear that great statesman, gallant soldier and eloquent 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 9 o'clock. Let every one go and take all their friends.

All of the above gentlemen are friends of the Diana Hunting Club, and adds much to the appearance of Third street.

Lake Village

The boys on Knox’s Dredge are running at the rate of 200 feet per hour 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 19, 1919

When the new time schedule went into effect last Sunday morning, the people of Goodland took a long breath of relief, 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 man and woman in town. It was presented to the legislature, and it was tried for a few hours Monday, but it was soon learned that it would not do, so it was abandoned. We have tried in time and since then have had easy sailing.

In order to serve the community the best possible the Diana Hunting Club, and adds much to the appearance of Third street.

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Cooper Centennial Farm Celebration

July party on Saturday. Approximately 200 people attended the "100 Years of Down Home Farm" celebration. By count, at least 225 people stopped by at some time over that weekend. The Cooper family members had to leave after the Sunday program, but most stayed on for the next big event, the ball game.

The Cooper family is also proud of their home community and hometown of Brook. Each member of the family participated in 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. Off times, the Coopers have enjoyed watching the parade, joining the festivities, and fireworks and visiting with old friends, neighbors, and classmates.

On Monday night, Alan Alabastro, Gary hooked the float together again early Tuesday morning and at about 8:30 several of the family members climbed onto the float for the long, but enjoyable ride into 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.

The parade got underway and 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, Elise 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.

To attend because of their age and health. Their daughters were also unable to attend. Bob and Martha Cooper of New Jersey, the nearest count, only 11 or 12 of the family members were unable to attend. Most of the families were of Chicago. These Illinois Coopers will be celebrating 150 years at their Cooper home in the southwest part of Chicago. They were unable to attend. Most of the families were here in entirety.

On Saturday, July 1, 2000, the Cooper Clan arrived at the farm 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.

In 1976, the family had the Cooper float as the centerpiece of a presentation called "This Old Flag" that was enjoyed by all. With closing remarks, Richard thanked friends, neighbors, and adults too! $5.00 each plus tax and postage if necessary. Give us a call at 219-474-6944.

HISTORY BUFF? May we suggest a membership to our members? They make great gifts! Not only will they have access to meetings and Our Publications that make great gifts:

- Volume One Cemeteries Book
- Newton County Historical Coloring Book

Visit our web site at www.rootsweb.com/~innewton - Page 9
Collector's Corner
Match Holders

This feature 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 used 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 metal point immersed in 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 gunpowder. His method was to mix a combination of potash, antimony and gum arabic with the gunpowder. When this mixture was fired it would produce a flame. However, the mixture was unstable and did not produce a consistent flame. Walker's work was not successful.

In 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 was too 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 nearly every kind of container plays a role in 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 toothpick 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 so it is so durable that these will be around long after I'm gone. Born concludes.

NCHS Photos.

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. What is its title?

1. What were the outlaw's 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 McCoy of Kentland had a prize bull on his Orchard Lake Stock Farm. What was its name and breed? See answers on Page 12.

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Do You Know Your County of Newton?

Yacuk Family Makes Diana Hunting Club Home

from Galicia, Austria. She also had settled in Passau, where she worked in a textile factory, earning fifteen dollars a week. We have very little information about 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 feet as he walked. She had saved enough money from her wages to pay for a fashionable wedding. She related with pride how she had hired him from the neighboring wedding party to the church. Harry thought the date of the wedding was May 1, 1914.

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. She especially noticed her graciousness and hospitality. She still had not mastered the English language. However, she was unassuming 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 feeding the animals, plowing 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 definitely a strength for him. There was a 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 blisters in his legs. He and Mary settled down in a two bedroom frame home on 1576 Fillmore Street. They were happy. Harry Shenukh 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 of their tenants were John Bilovusky 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 adopted by the move from Gary to the farm.

In 1926 Gary was growing by leaps and bounds. There were new businesses springing up at a fast pace. Radion was an expert teamster and as such decided to start his own teamster 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 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 Club Home. Nick was ten years old when the Yacuks moved. I'm sure he was able to help do some of the work. Radion dismantled his barn in Gary and moved it piece by numbered piece to its present site.