As this century draws to a close it is appropriate to take a moment to mark the centennial of a literary event which had no small impact on Newton County. For in December 1899 the publication in book form of a collection of George Ade's fables took the country by storm, ranking as one of the top ten bestsellers of that long ago season. Folks who are certain George Ade's most endearing work, Ade's fables had their origin in his newspaper work. After three years of various disasters at the Chicago Record, in 1925 Ade was given an opportunity which launched his literary career.

With the opening of the Columbian Exposition the record created a daily column called All Roads Lead to the Fair. He continued the editor of the paper to allow him to continue writing this type of pieces were carried under the heading Stories of the Streets and of the Town. The articles represented a major step in evolution of the modern newspaper column.

Ade's column was carried on the paper's editorial pages and many were illustrated by his Purdue University Sigma Chi fraternity brother John T. McGuffin. A fellow Hoosier, McGuffin grew up four miles south of Lafayette, IN on the Wabash, and he later became acquainted with the dean of American cartoonists, Al Frueh. Prize winner, McGuffin's most famous work is Japan Summer, the two panel drawing of a grandfather and grandson looking at corn stalks which became transformed into dancing Indians.

In the Stories of the Streets and of the Town, Ade had a free hand to write about any aspect of the city which struck his fancy. He created some stock characters through whom he told many of his stories. These characters included Doc Horne, the hotel reading retiree and racecar driver; 'Itie, the brush young newspaper copy boy; and Pink Marsh, the highschool whose stories became one of the first written portrayals of urban Blacks.

Ade's columns were enormously popular. One reason for their popularity was that he employed a lot of variety in his subject matter and style. One day in September 1897, George was sitting at desk menaced by that monster that intimidates and haunts any writer, the blank sheet of paper. He was searching for something clever, or a column, or a have for the editor to check in. He then hit on the idea of telling a story in the form of the ancient fables of Aesop. A fable, of course, differs a format of a parable summed up by an appropriate moral.

Ade decided to write the piece in the home office hisd spectacles that he knew so well from his brother's days listening to the old teller: tongues takes at around the porthole stoke in the back of A. J. Here's dry goods store in Kentland, IN. In this first two stories, he decided dissimilar sisters, one plain and hardworking, and the other, pretty, not so bright, but honest. It is certainly George Ade's most

At this time in his career, Ade was one of the top priced writers on the paper. His columns were hugely successful. He was even getting some regional notice throughout the Midwest. Three collection of his columns, one each about Doc Horne, Pink Marsh and 'Itie, had been reprinted in book form, and they enjoyed a modest success.

Throughout 1898-99 period George continued to write widely varied columns, occasionally sprinkling in a fable. But he was also getting somewhat restless. He had an idea for such a book for sometime. Ade wanted to write a novel using a college setting.

He had the idea of employing a fiction based on the famous Monson Hall football rivalry between DePauw University and Wabash College. He talked about the idea for a novel with his friends and Ade's book publisher was continually after him to write a novel, in truth, Ade needed little pushing to write a novel because he had had an idea for such a book for sometime. Ade wrote a novel using a college setting.

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

By John Yost

Ade's Fables In Slang Took The Country By Storm

Close of the Century Marks Centennial of Literary Event

As 1899 wore on, Ade continued to work under the press of his deadlines. His newspaper columns were popular and pressure as a writer was quite significant. He continued to be pressed to his book publisher for that novel. He did instead collect some of his fables and write some new ones. He turned them into his publisher and offered them under the title Fables in Slang.

The book rolled of the presses in December, 1899 and became a sensation. A little book of stories told in the Hoosier dialect, it was so popular that it sold out, then reprinted and sold. It enjoyed a modest success.

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George never did get around to writing that novel, but he did not discard the concept of the story. Five years later, after his career had been transformed and he had become the nation's leading playwright, he returned to the Tribune mansion near Brook IN. Ade retired to his study and in just three weeks he wrote a play based on his college football idea. It was The College Widow, and it was so successful. A letter on Broadway and toured for years on the road. It provided the basis for one of the Marx Brothers' most popular films, Blazing Saddles. Ade called this play his meal ticket, and in 1904 and 1905 it was earning him up to $5,000 per week in royalties. But George might never have had the opportunity to write that play or his eleven others if it weren't for his funny, folksy fables.
**PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

Yvonne Ray

I am excited about this year, as we have members who are great to work with. There are lots of new and rewarding challenges ahead. I hope that we can continue building on the opening of the Scott Lucas House. There are great programs on schedule as we go traveling around the county. We are always gathering history from the past in hopes that it will benefit our future generations. I would like to welcome Beth Basset as our editor of the newsletter. She is working hard and this will bring a significant contribution to our members who cannot attend our meetings. Great strides have been made by volunteers at our building in Kentland. Volunteers are always welcome. Thanks to everyone who has helped.

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**“Fables In Slang” History Continued**

The Sultan of Sulu

Yes, Fables in Slang had a most important impact on Ade’s career. The book earned him the respect of many of the leading figures of his day. Teddy Roosevelt could virtually quote the Fables in Heart.

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**An Open Invitation To Join**

APPLICANATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEWTON COUNTY INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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**PIONEER LIFE**

Excerpts from the book “Northwestern Indiana 1800-1900” By T. H. Ball

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**Pete Sauer Benefit**

John Yost’s Show Staged In Kentland For One Night Only!

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**Visit our web site at** greatoupons.com/~innewton - Page 7
Russell Family of Washington Township

By Gerald Born

My childhood was spent in Morocco in the 1930s and 40s. It seemed that during that time I was surrounded by Russells or relatives of Russells. One of the first houses I lived in was the house which the Russell family once lived in. My grandfather, James Russell, was married to Mary C. (Hayes) Russell. Their children included John, Charles, George, and Myrtle. My mother, Myrtle, was the twin sister of Myrtle Russell. My father, Charles Russell, was the son of James and Mary Russell. My mother's maiden name was Hayes. My mother attended school in Washington Township, and her family was from Romance, Indiana. Her parents were James and Mary Hayes. Her father, James, was born in 1827, and her mother, Mary, was born in 1830. My mother was born in 1830 and lived in Washington Township for most of her life. She was a very active member of the community and was involved in many local organizations. She was also a great , Hemst. Janet Miller, Treasurer

An Internet Success Story

Discovering the Magic of the Internet

By Gerald Born

While surfing the Internet Family Tree Maker's Indiana Gen Forum site I ran across the following query from E. B. Russell: re: George A. Graves, selling land to your relative, have you found anything out? My grandfather Augustus Graves was born in 1877, in Indiana and moved to Texas, his father was George A. Graves. This is all I have found them or anything on them. E. B

I responded that my grandfather once bought a farm from a man by the name of George A. Graves, and as I recall he had a son by the name of Augustus and that I would search through my papers and see what I could find. The following exchange took place.

By Gerald Born

Hi, The Roselawn Cemetery is under the care of the Lincoln Township Trustee, and I'm not sure who that is at the present. Kyle Conrad, the County Clerk, whose office is located on S 5th and 10th and is responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery. Kyle Conrad can be contacted at 317-883-2182.

Next door to the house on Beaver and Clay streets lived Charles Russell and his second wife Myrtle (Murphy) Russell. Myrtle was special in my life, for she took care of my sister for many years. My mother, Myrtle, was born in 1830 and lived in Washington Township for most of her life. She was a very active member of the community and was involved in many local organizations. She was also a great

Hi Eugenie, Had a little surprise for when looking for your grandfather, I also found the obit. of Mrs. George Graves: Mrs. George Graves obit. Lillie Anna Graves, the daughter of George and Mary Graves, was born in 1858 in Indiana and died in 1930. She was the mother of Mary and George Graves. Lillie married Joe Graves, who was also a descendant of George A. Graves. They had two children, Mary and George Graves. Lillie died in 1930 and was buried in the Rose Lawn Cemetery. Joe Graves died in 1932 and was buried in the same cemetery.

Hi, Gerald, That would be GREAT!! Like I said before it's wonderful to know that there is more of my family out there and that Grandpa Graves wasn't an only child. E.B.

Visiting our web site at www.rootsweb.com/~innewton - Page 5

WEB site directory

- Newton County Census Records: 1860 & 1870
- Jasper County Census Records 1850
- Newton County Quaker Records
- Newton County Look-Us
- Newton County Biographies Project
- Sites Related To Newton County Genealogy

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Local Library Research Resources

In the early 1900’s, Dick Hershman’s Hardware store was more than just a convenient spot to buy hardware and farm equipment. It was an official “meeting house”, it was the spot where many of the men would gather daily to exchange the news of the day. Deaths, births, and weddings were discussed as they gathered round the pot-bellied stove in the center of the store. The men would circle the stove and a picnic was near by. A blackboard hung from the ceiling listing the news of interest. Anyone with something to buy or sell or bait could use the space for free advertising.

Many of these men were born and raised in the area. But for many years, the hardware store had a distinct feature. The store was a community gathering place, a center for social and political activities. Cast-off chairs circled the stove and a list of notices of importance. Anyone with something to buy or sell or barter could use the space for free advertising.

In the early days the store was headquarters for the Newton County Historical Society. An annual meeting with a pot-bellied stove in the center of the store. Cast-off chairs circled the stove and a list of notices of importance. Anyone with something to buy or sell or barter could use the space for free advertising.

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