

Resource Center Window *The 4-H Centennial*

This year at the Newton County Fair, the 4-H clubs celebrated the 4-H Centennial. 4-H began in the late 1890's and early 1900's to provide a better agricultural education for young people. Records indicate that it began in Newton County in the early 1920's. By 1928, there were ten local clubs with 125 members. Today, 418 4-H members participate in 10 local clubs and 3 project clubs, under the guidance of 109 adult volunteers. The display was put together by

Jennie Washburn,
Janet Miller,
Barbara Wilfong,
Marilyn Whaley and Esta Stevens.

Stop and take a look at the new display "Trains".



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.

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V. President, Michael Haste, Brook
Secretary, Betty Risley, Kentland
Treasurer, Kay Babcock, Goodland
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Gerald Born, Morocco
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Kentland
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Morocco

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A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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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. Local 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

The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County
FALL 2002 • \$2.25

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Newton County 4-H Clubs celebrate 100 Years of 4-H in Indiana

The Career of Irwin the Great

by Kyle D. Conrad

There are probably many in our community today that remember a man by the name of Arthur Irwin. Many may even remember seeing one of his magic shows over the course of many years. However, many may not know the story of his professional touring as an entertainer and magician.

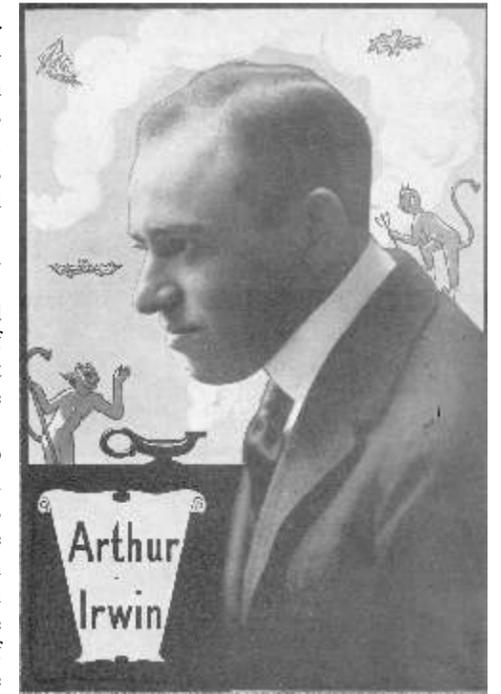
Arthur R. Irwin was born in 1896 in Brook, the son of John and Addie Irwin. John Irwin was a blacksmith and operated his shop southwest of the present location of the Christian Church. In 1898, when Art was only two or three, he performed for the public with his two sisters, Della and Cora. "Irwin's Trio" as it was called, was also referred to by their father as the "Anvil Chorus". A picture in the Wash-O-Quois Museum at Brook shows the three youngsters sitting with a large blacksmith anvil with hammers and drumsticks in hand. At the age of ten, Art became interested in magic after an appearance of "Reno the Magician" occurred in Brook. He collected books on magic and soon was trying tricks out on his friends.

According to a newspaper account published before Irwin's death in 1964, local druggist, E.E. Hess, after seeing the boy's interest in magic, surprised Art with a magic set containing a dozen or so tricks, telling the boy that when he had mastered the tricks to come back and perform them. A few weeks later, Art was ready and he made arrangements to be at Hess' store one night at closing time. Not only was Hess there, but about a dozen or so other men were present for Art's first magic show.

After graduating from Brook High School in 1914, Irwin studied drama at the Indianapolis Conservatory of Music and in 1915 worked there as an assistant teacher. He also took private lessons in magic from Marcelle, a well known Indianapolis magician during that time. He signed his first professional contract in 1916 with the Community Welfare Chautauqua Company of Indianapolis. He was only 20 years old.

In May of 1918, Irwin enlisted in the Army at Kentland. After being promoted to Corporal of the 36th Infantry at Camp Devens, Massachusetts in October of that year, he was discharged at Camp Taylor, Kentucky in April of 1919, and thus once again began his professional touring.

For the next several years, Art Irwin was booked by Lyceum and Chautauqua companies out of Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Washington, D.C., and traveled on the Lyceum circuit in the winters and the Chautauqua circuit in the summers. Not only was he billed as a magician, but also as an entertainer and impersonator, as he performed throughout the eastern and southwestern states, as well as in Indiana. His promotional literature states that he believes in the Law of Laughter, and that his shows were divided into two parts, impersonations and magic. The *Kokomo Dispatch* is quoted as writing "Magic that really was magic enough to deceive the crowd was Irwin's strong bid for favor, and to say he made good would be a little mild". After several years of the grueling schedule, Irwin grew tired of show business, and retired from his profession, and returned home to Indiana.



Pages Of The Past

transcribed by Janet Miller
The following excerpts are from The Kentland Enterprise during the Fall of 1902.



Goodland

The eighth paper for Newton county is soon to be established at Goodland by Frank Davis, the Morocco lawyer. It will be called the *Newton County Citizen*.

The Pleasure and Profit Society of Goodland, comprising the young married ladies of the smart set, will be entertained tomorrow by the Cosmopolitan Club of this place. A dinner will be served by the Club at the pretty home of Mrs. Arthur L. Smart on Lincoln street and covers will be laid for sixty.

The Hartley elevator that burned at Goodland last Friday night contained about 300,000 bushels of grain, mostly oats. The building was insured for \$25,000.00 and the grain was well covered. About half the grain was saved. According to the *Herald* the Hartleys will rebuild.

A contract was let (by the County Commissioners) to the Attica Bridge Company for the building of a bridge east of Goodland, at \$280.

Morocco

The electric lights were duly dedicated Saturday evening, Aug. 30th. The lights are the largest and best in the county, we think. Another old landmark, the M. E. Church, is being torn down and a new brick building is being put in its place. The new building will be occupied by Cassel Bros. The building now used by them will be occupied by F. M. Axe.

Quite a little excitement was caused by a fire breaking out in Dr. Gregg's residence Saturday evening. Owing to the speedy help of our fire department no serious damage was done.

Kentland

The vice-presidents of the Old Settlers Association of Newton County are called to meet in Kentland Sept. 9th, to arrange for the annual fall meeting. The vice-presidents by townships are as follows: Jefferson township, H. M. Oswalt; Grant, M. L. Humston; Iroquois, Aaron Lyons; Washington, J. A. Whaley; Beaver, B. L. Archibald, Jackson, S. C. Barker; Colfax, Angus Washburn; McClellan, Albert Skinner; Lake, C. L. Brandt; Lincoln, E. T. Boyle.

Kentland will have a good representation at the various colleges and universities the coming winter. Among the number will be Miss Mary Simons, Charles Hall, Fred McKee, Robert Allan, Darwin Hatch and George Davis at Purdue, Ray

Hall at the Indiana University, Claude Steele at Northwestern, Jay Means at Rochester, Roy Ross and Will Drake at Indianapolis, Will Keefe at Kankakee, Miss Hazel Hatch at Lake Forest Seminary, Miss Ada Means at Alma, Michigan, Miss Agnes Jones at the Holy Angel Academy in Logansport.

We regret to state that J. B. Roberts has rented his farm for a period of two years, and will make New Mexico the home of his family during that time. This course is necessary on account of the illness of his daughter, Miss Ina. We trust that long before the expiration of that time the Roberts family will return completely restored to health.

Dan Patch, Benton county's famous pacer, went against the world's record of 1:59 1/4, made by Star Pointer, five years ago, on the Readville, Mass., track Tuesday afternoon and equaled the record.

A new history of northwestern Indiana has been put on the market this week. The author is T. H. Ball of Crown Point, who has been a resident of this northwest territory since 1837. Mr. Ball was in Kentland Monday appointing agents for the sale of his book, which will be made solely by subscription. A hasty glance at the contents of the history reveals an interestingly written story of the eight counties of Newton, Lake, Starke, Porter, LaPorte, Pulaski, White and Jasper, covering the period from 1700 to 1900. It treats of the natural features, productions, native animals, Indians, early settlers, pioneer life, county organizations, modern life, churches, schools, towns and villages, and various other particulars, much new historic material having been collected in the last few years. The history will no doubt meet with a good sale.

Washington Township

James Mock is also a believer that Newton county is a good apple country, and to demonstrate it brought from his farm in Washington township a number of apples measuring 1 1/2 inches in circumference, which can be seen at the post office. These beauties are called the Mann apple and sixteen of them make a half bushel. It is strange that farmers will not devote more attention to this industry when such results can be obtained.

Lake Village

State Will Hold Kankakee Lands for a Rise Over Present Prices: One of these years

India n a will offer for sale at public auction in forty acre tracts several thousand acres of "meandered" lands along the Kankakee river. The waters have receded and left in the dry section after section. Just how many acres the state owns is not yet known. A special survey was provided for by the last legislature and a plat is being made. Recently the state auditor has received many offers for the state lands. Auditor Hart believes the land will net the state \$200,000 or \$300,000. The attorney general has advised that the lands not be sold under the present law; and there will probably be new legislation on the subject next winter which will enable the state to get a higher price.

Mt. Ayr

J. M. Hufty had in the lowest bid on the school house at No. 8, consideration \$72. William Wooley, Sr. got the coal house for \$16.

Roselawn

The Commissioners met with the trustee Saturday and let the contract for the Lincoln township bridge over the Kankakee river at Water Valley.

Postmaster Boyle and wife returned yesterday from a trip to the south end. They attended the funeral of their nephew, Fred For



Do you have old photos that you would like to share like these? Contact the editor! Top, from Russ Collin's family photo collection, an early threshing crew. Bottom, looking north on main street, ca. 1925, contributed by Beth Bassett.

Newton County Landowners in 1904 - Beaver Township

By Janet Miller

Township 29 N, Range 9 & 10

Range 9: Section 1: Thomas T. Gaff, etal, *School #1 - Eagle Mere School*; **Section 2:** Thomas T. Gaff, etal; **Section 3:** Thomas T. Gaff, etal, Charles McHarry, Cyrene Cox, Ira B. Heagy, W. G. & S. C. Cox, *School #2 - Cox School*; **Section 4:** Charles McHarry, Geo. A. Dexter, Tho. McBiltita(?); David Hanger, Phillip Mass, Ira B. Heagy; **Section 5:** Malkom Hubly, Sam Baker, John Cole, Jr., George Hammond, J. E. Atkinson; **Section 6:** Malkom Hubly, *Pogue (village by railroad tracks)*; **Section 7:** Malkom Hubly; **Section 8:** Malkom Hubly; **Section 9:** Phillip Mass; **Section 10:** Thomas T. Gaff, etal, Cyrene Cox, I. (?) A. Dexter, Edwin H. Urch, Hattie Urch, O. F. and D. A. Stoner, Chas. Roadruck; **Section 11:** Thomas T. Gaff, etal; **Section 12:** Thomas T. Gaff, etal; **Section 13:** George Zoborosky; Valentine Hochstetler; Joseph Zoborosky, Wm. O. Richeson, O. A. Brown, O. F. Stoner, John Zoborosky; *School #8 - East Union School*; **Section 14:** Omer A. Brown, W. & J. Dowling, Johanna Dowling, Saml. A. Hoover, Samuel Bridgeman, Jr., Thomas Dowling, Chas. L. Smart, Maria Hope; **Section 15:** Thomas T. Gaff, etal; Samuel J. Dearduff; Artina Brady, Almira Sinks, N. & A. Kline, Samuel Bridgeman, Jr.; **Section 16:** Joseph Kennedy, J. B. Kay, John W. Smart, F. (?) M. Wiseman (?), Asenath Thomas, John C. & W. D. Martin, Isaac Purdy, Benj. H. Darroch, Andrew J. Moore, Cemetery; **Section 17:** Malkom Hubly, Christian Peterson, J. E. Atkinson, Peter Peterson, Benj. H. Darroch, John C. & W. D. Martin; **Section 18:** Malkom Hubly, Phillip M. Potts, P. M. Potts, Michael E. Gorman, Arthur E. Saunderson, John C. Sarver, *School #3 - Toad Puddle School*; **Section 19:** Amanda Murphy, J. C. Hitchings, Joel J. Bowers, Malkom Hubly, George W. Baker, Jasper Archibald, C. R. Parrish, Benjamin L. Archibald, Geo. W. Murphy, Henry Tincher; **Section 20:** J. C. & W. D. Martin, Cath. Roadruck, Joel J. Bowers, D. W. & Jane Roadruck, John L. Kessler, F. A. Camblin, John D. Goddard, Robt. B.

Kessler, Almira J. James, Wm. C. Smart, Julia Pulver; **Section 21:** Andrew J. Moore, J. A. P, Mary C. Hosier, Oliver F. Stoner, Kessler & McConahay, John W. Smart, Isaac Purdy, James Johnson, Almira J. James, Cora Graves, Julia Pulver, O. A. Stewart, Geo. W. Dearduff, Jas. Rice, J. S., Lawrence Reskey, J. Vayette, Town of Morocco; **Section 22:** Chas. E. Roadruck, William H. Kessler, Samuel J. Dearduff, Sarah E. Smart, Town of Morocco, Orrin Elijah; **Section 23:** O. E. Stoner, Anna Smart, Thos. Dowling, Mary Franklin,

Bartholomew, Nancy M. Hicks; **Section 29:** Robert B. Kessler, Mary J. Goddard, Sarah E. Best, Estella A. Kessler, John D. Goddard, F. A. Camblin, George & Jesse Fry, Lawrence Johnson, John L. Kessler; **Section 30:** John H. Cox, Henry Tincher, Louis E. Camblin, Harvey M. Goddard, L. E. & F. A. Camblin, Anna Carlson, Wm. W. Archibald, Ann Archibald, Joseph M. Potts, Carrie E. Hagen. **Section 31:** David M. Williams, Joseph M. Potts, John R. Camblin, Florence Biesecker, Myra J. Rogers, Charles E. Triplett, Cynthia J. Sarver, Edwin Brown, *School #5 - Norway School*; **Section 32:** David Hanger, David M. Williams, Robert Archibald, Cora D. Archibald, J. L. Johnson, Mary Johnson, A. S. Camblin, David Protsman, Margaret S. Protsman; **Section 33:** John F. Shaffer, J. M. Chizum, David Hanger, Margaret S. Protsman, Frank Rolls, J. Findley Shafer, James Shafer, *School #6 - Darroch School*; **Section 34:** Andrew Hall, Harvey E. Rust, J. G. Bartholomew, Frank Billings, Frank Johnson, Jacob Hosier; **Section 35:** L. E. Smith, Phillip S. Smith, J. Archibald, M. Archibald, Ardetta Lamphere, Isaac Smart, George W. Smith, *School #7 - Decker School*, *Bap. Church*; **Section 36:** John Kennedy, Fannie P. Duclos, Ida A. Baird, A. A. Holley, Etta C. Gridley. **Range 10: Section 1:** Malkom Hubly, W. W. Salisbury; **Section 12:** Malkom Hubly; **Section 13:** Malkom Hubly, Phillip M. Potts, Otto Johnson, Edwin Brown, August Glad; **Section 24:** August Glad, Benjamin S. Baker, Joseph M. Potts, Michael Gorman, Malkom Hubly, Albert Potts, Jane Potts, Albert Rich, Mary M. Holloway, Hiram W. Sallee; **Section 25:** B. L. Archibald, Hiram W. Sallee, Robt. T. Russell, Albert Rich, John Edmonds, Sr., Florence Biesecker, Jos. Potts, Mary M. Holloway, Jos. M. Potts, John Vayette, *School #4 - West Union School*; **Section 36:** James Potts, W. Baker, Edwin Brown, Maria Potts, John Edmonds, Sr., Johanna C. Johnson, C. E. Triplett, John H. Cook, Alice Triplett.

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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36	37	38	39	40	41	42

B E A V E R

M O R O C C O

Samuel J. Dearduff, Chas. Roadruck, A. R. Dearduff, Orrin Elijah; **Section 24:** Isaac Bassett, John Zoborosky, Frederick Jessen, O. E. Stoner, Hannibal Wright, Joseph Wright. **Section 25:** Arlina Brady, Robert E. Ewan & wife, Cyrus Brunton, Ira L. Bassett, Abram L. Bell, Charles W. Bell, F. J. & L. S. Decker, F. & L. Decker, Job English; **Section 26:** Riley S. Harwood, Abraham Bell, John E. Harwood, Reuben Rolls, Sallie C. Kenoyer, Alice Archibald, Phillip C. Smith, Ardetta Lamphere, Emma Enfield, Charles W. Bell, Franklin & Lenis Decker; **Section 27:** Albert E. Chizum, Elbert R. Kessler, Mary Atkinson, Wm. C. Russell, Harvey Boner, Harvey E. Rust, Albert R. Dearduff, Nathan Shaffer; **Section 28:** Henry K. Corbin, F. Mashino, J. E. Camblin, A. J. Bowers, Bertha Smart, John P. Kessler, O. A. Smart, William Darroch, Emma Darroch, J. G.

Do You Know Your County of Newton By Janet Miller

The following questions are taken from the publication "The School Guide" which was issued five times a year from the County Superintendent's Office. Mr. W. O. Schanlaub was superintendent of schools at this time. Various issues of "The School Guide" may be found at the Brook-Iroquois Township Public Library.

1. What township grade school was the first to get a hot lunch program? In what year?
2. When did six-man football begin in Newton County? Where was the first game played?
3. In 1941, a radio with record player was presented to the Morocco High School students by four Morocco businessmen. Can you name these men?
4. During World War II, a Schools-At-War Flag was presented to a school who had ninety percent of the pupils enrolled in the war savings program. Who furnished this flag to the schools? Does anyone possess or has anyone seen one of these flags?
5. In 1944 a contest, entitled milkweed pod collection, was sponsored by R. L. Zell, County Agricultural Agent, R. D. Lutz, Vocational Instructor of the Kentland High School, and County Supt. of Schools, W. O. Schanlaub. Each school was to collect milkweed pods for the war effort. What were these milkweed pods used for?

Answers on page Fifteen.

In the last issue of *The Newcomer*, under the section *Do You Know Your County of Newton*, there was mention of an automobile

company that was organized in Brook in 1909. Additional information was requested. The following paragraph is taken from the *Standard Catalog of American Cars 1805-1942*, 3rd edition, by Beverly Rae Kimes and Henry Austin Clark, Jr., Krause Publications, 1996, p.152.

"BROOK Brook, Indiana (1909) "Brook Coming to the Front with Prospects for Another Factory in the Near Future" was the headline in *The Brook Reporter* of June 25, 1909. One Lee Lowe and his brother had come to town and persuaded local businessmen to support them in a construction of a factory for automobile manufacture. Very little was recorded about what the car would be, but reportedly there were plans to call it the Ade, after George Ade, the famous author and humorist whose estate was two miles east of Brook. The car was never called that, however; neither was it called a Brook, as it has appeared on various rosters. No car was ever produced, and perhaps the prototype was not even completed. The factory was, however, and it remains today as the home of the Brook Plumbing and Heating Company. Lee Lowe moved to Royal Center, Indiana, following the failure of his automotive venture." According to the *Standard Catalog of American Cars 1805-1942*, there was a car called Brook but it was manufactured in Indianapolis in 1920-1921 and had no ties to the town of Brook. It had a low production run.

It would be interesting to see the entire article as it appeared in *The Brook Reporter* of June 25, 1909. Perhaps it would provide a little more local information such as names and discussion of the proposed project. Since it appears that a new factory was constructed for the purpose of automobile manufacture, perhaps *The Brook Reporter* followed its progress in subsequent issues and provides a little more information. As to who Lee Lowe is, that remains a mystery. Did he have ties with the automotive industry or was he just a business adventurer? *Submitted by Damon Howell.*

The Newcomer welcomes replies from readers in regards to this column and other items submitted for publication. Contact the editor for more information regarding submissions.

McCray Scholarship Offered to Deserving Newton County Graduates Each Year

Continued from page Four

Clark, 1998, South Newton; Casey Hall, North Newton and Brandelyn Tanter, South Newton, 2001; Devin Miller, North Newton and Ashley Whaley, South Newton, 2002.

How To Donate

Donations for the scholarship fund are always welcome. Without monetary gifts, the scholarship fund could cease to exist in the near future. Deserving students in the county who receive, or could receive the McCray Scholarship, need that financial boost when planning to go to college.

You may donate to this fund by sending a check to the Newton County Historical Society ear-marked McCray Scholarship Fund. Please feel free to ask questions about this fund by calling any of the Historical Society officers.



Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. The first township grade school to get a hot lunch program was Enos School in 1940. "Mrs. Mildred Graves was in charge of the project. Trustee George Bingham and Mrs. Bingham are to be congratulated on the prompt steps taken to utilize the opportunity to get surplus commodities for this purpose." Issue #3, Nov-Dec 1940-41.
2. The first game of six-man football to be played in Newton County took place on Kentland's lighted field, Friday night, October 14, 1938. The opposing teams were Knox and Kentland High Schools. The former won by a score of 38 to 24. "The six-man football game was devised by Stephen Epler in 1934 while he was coaching at a small high school in Chester, Nebraska." Issue #3, Nov-Dec 1938-39.

The McCray Scholarship Essays - North Newton

"The Colfax School" by Devin Miller

Continued on page Fifteen
Continued from page Nine

to have my grandpa on it. To see this picture refer to Exhibit 6. They had local basketball school; missionary society; farmers clubs; box social suppers; movie picture exhibitions; and many other activities.

Even though the school was productive on the inside, the outside was a different story. They took a time out from learning and had fun. They played on the softball field, which was in the southwest corner of the lot. In the Spring they had softball games against other schools, which was real competition. They also had on the playground the ocean wave, which was by the teeter boards.

The teeter boards were located in the southeast side. Other games that were played were fox and the goose; red rover; Handy I Over; rabbit; dog; fox; double jump rope; dodge ball. Grandpa also told me of a hornets' nest hanging in a tree on the north side of the playground. What did they do with a hornets' nest you ask, well they picked up rocks and threw them at the nest. The object of this game was to see who could get back to the school with out getting stung..

Inside the building they held activities in the basement. They had one room for girls and the other for boys. The basement had two basketball hoops where they had a basketball team. This basketball team just so happened

3. The four men who presented a radio-record player to Morocco High School students were Morocco businessmen Edwin Robinson, Alonzo Skinner, John Colbourne and Walter Atkinson.

4. The organization that presented Schools-At-War Flags to schools during World War II was the American Legion. Issue #4, Jan-Feb 1944-45.

5. These milkweed pods were collected for the war effort to furnish floss for life jackets. "Major W. A. Rafferty, of Colfax Township, motivated the project by offering cash prizes to the student in each school collecting the largest number of sacks and also a ten dollar cash prize to the school having the largest collection on a pupil enrollment per capita basis. Lake Village School had the honor of delivering the largest number of sacks in the county with 175 sacks. Richard Cooper of the Foresman School carried off the honors for the largest individual collection in the county with 47 sacks. In addition to the cash prizes, all children were paid 20 cents per sack for their collections. Eleven hundred forty-two sacks were collected which will furnish floss for 550 life jackets." Issue #4, Jan-Feb 1944-45.

Publications for Brook and Mount Ayr Histories In Process

Members of the Society and a committee have volunteered to begin compiling the histories of Mount Ayr, Brook and their surrounding townships.

If any of our members have historical material or photographs they think applicable, please pass them along to the committee. It would also be a good time to put together your family history to be included in the book.

Mt. Ayr was formed in 1883 and it will be their 125th anniversary before long, a good time to start a history. Brook will be celebrating their 150th in 2006. Washington and Iroquois Twp. will be included in this history as well. Please contact Donna LaCrosse or Gerald Born regarding Mt. Ayr, and Kyle Conrad, or drop off information at the Brook-Iroquois Twp. Library for the Brook publication.

Inquires From E-mail

From: "Cynthia Elschide" <cynthia915@webtv.net>

I am searching for info that they may still have in their records. In the book "History of Newton County Indiana" that the Historical Society published there is mention of a John Snow in Colfax Twp. He is listed as being one of the familiar names of early residents in Colfax Twp.

This is my 3rd great grandfather. He was in 1870 census in Iroquois County with his family. Then there is a one line newspaper article in Iroquois County Genealogical Society that says the he was a former resident of Beaverville and that he died in Newton County Sept 22, 1878.

There were no census records in Colfax Twp till 1880. In 1880 his wife Mary and daughter Emma show up in census in Beaver Twp. In 1881, his wife Mary married another man in Kankakee County.

What I am looking for is exactly how they got their info for him being in Colfax Twp.? There are several people who submitted info for Colfax Twp and I tried to contact some of them. But unfortunately some have since passed away.

If I could find the people who submitted this info maybe I could find out where he is buried. Or maybe where he lived in Colfax Twp. Is there any way that you could help me?

Death Certificates did not start till 1882 and then they were not mandatory. I am at a loss to know where to search. I have written to the Newton County Courthouse in order to find out if there was a Will or probate done for him or if he owned land. I hope that you can help me. - Cindy Elschide



Exhibit 6 - 1945-45 NC Grade Champs



Exhibit 7 - the "shop" - 1943-1944



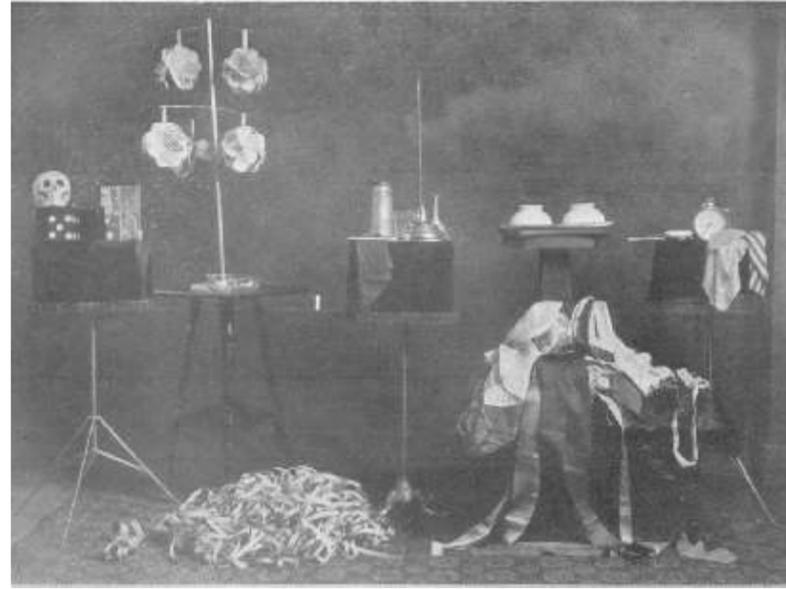
Exhibit 4 - the Meade School

After leaving the magic show circuit, Irwin worked for a time for the Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce as secretary, and later for the Hammond Chamber as assistant secretary. During World War II, he was hired as a photographer at the Wright Aviation Field in Ohio. Following the war, he returned to Brook where he worked at the Montgomery Drug Store and for several years at the Brook Post Office.

While Art had given up the professional circuit, he continued to perform shows occasionally for area organizations. It was following such a performance for the Kentland American Legion on March 16, 1964 that Irwin stopped by the Country Inn restaurant for dinner. During his meal he suffered a fatal heart attack and died instantly. He is buried, along with his parents and two sisters, at Riverside Cemetery at Brook.

Today, historical information on the old Lyceum and Chautauqua circuits can be found on the internet, and among the names listed of those long forgotten performers is that of Arthur Irwin.

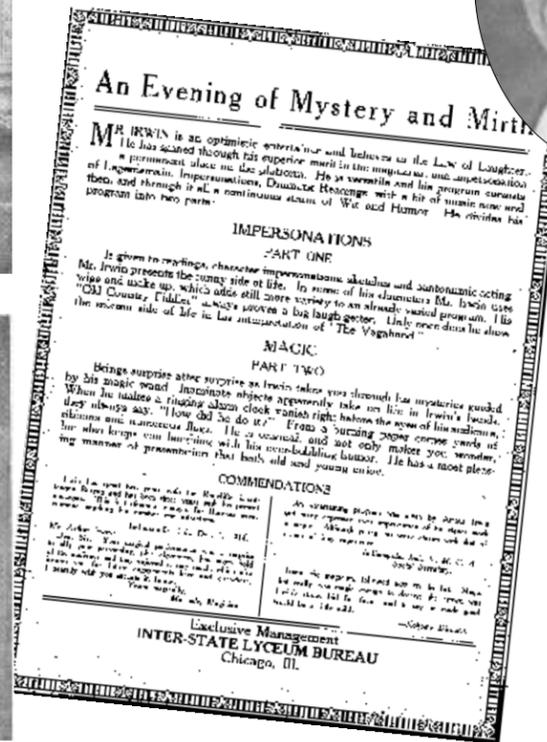
Thanks to the collection of his own promotional programs and other personal articles and letters in the possession of the Wash-O-Quois Museum, in Brook, his professional career, though no longer remembered by those living in the Brook community today, will not be forgotten by those generations of tomorrow.



Artie Irwin, Magician and Impersonator



Left: Artie's promotional material depict an "Evening of Mystery and Mirth". The photo above depicts his stage presentation. Contributed by Kyle Conrad.



Original Ribbon Presentation



Dying Handkerchiefs



Old Country Fiddler



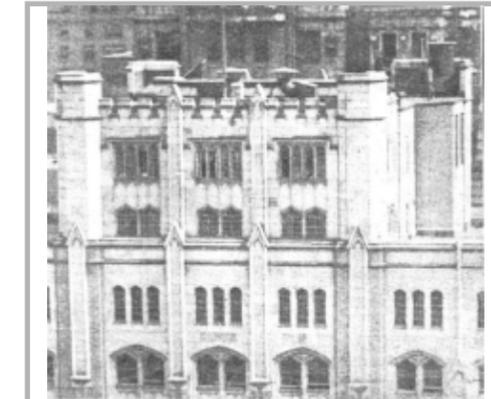
The Vagabond

At the time of his death Thomas Mitten was staying at his 4,500 acre estate, "Sunnylands," located in the foothills of the Pocono Mountains some 125 miles from Philadelphia. This was not his only residence. He owned a 28-room apartment in New York City and while attending to business in Philadelphia occupied a penthouse atop the Mitten Building, Broad and Locust Streets. It consisted of five rooms, two baths and a kitchen. He also had an estate in Roxborough, a suburb of Philadelphia, called "Dun Roamin," where he kept his horses, for he was an avid horseman.

One could devote a whole article to the involvements of Thomas E. Mitten; however, this is the story of Arthur G. Mitten and his collection of American historical documents.

The first part of his collection includes the Northwest Territory, Indiana, the War of 1812, signers of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. presidents, and American autographs. This section also includes a broadside of Jefferson's plan for the Territory.

The Indiana section is important mainly as a collection of autographs and concludes with items concerning Indiana state banks and the Bank of the United States in the period 1818-1850.



Thomas Mitten's Philadelphia penthouse.

The War of 1812 section contains the papers of James Taylor, a Kentuckian who served as Quartermaster of the 8th Military District during the war. The papers span the years 1795-1847. Mitten's interest in William Henry Harrison led him to collect material on the Battle of Tippecanoe, and one folder traces the career of Col. John P. Boyd, a

soldier of fortune who fought at Tippecanoe after colorful adventures in India. A folder on General William Hull's surrender of Detroit on August 15, 1812 contains bills from owners of an oxteam lost in the surrender.

The autograph collection includes signers of the Declaration of Independence and other autographs from Washington to Franklin Roosevelt. A facsimile letter from George Washington to Arthur St. Clair warns him against using proclamations to accomplish what should be done by legislation. A small section of documents are from outside the U.S., largely British officials of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The miscellaneous part of his collection contains John Sibley's journal, covering a period of January to December 30, 1807, describing his work as Indian agent in the area just to the northwest of New Orleans, shortly after the Louisiana Purchase. Of special note concerning the Harrison family are letters from Gov. Benjamin Harrison of Virginia to the Governor of Pennsylvania regarding the surveying of the boundary between their states in 1782, and a letter from Mrs. Benjamin Harrison (Caroline Scott) giving her frank views of the 1888 Republican Convention.

This brief view of Arthur G. Mitten's collection gives some flavor of the richness of this collection of a lifetime. The complete survey of the collection processed by Charles Latham in 1985 and reprocessed by Glenn McMullen with the assistance of Elizabeth Wilkinson in 2000 can be found at the above web site of the Manuscripts and Archives Department, William Henry Smith Memorial Library, Indiana Historical Society.

I was unable to find a photograph of Arthur G. Mitten. If anyone knows where to find one, please let me know. Included with the article are photos of his brother, Thomas and his penthouse at Philadelphia.

W.O. Schanlaub by Donna LaCosse

I remember W. O. Schanlaub as being "just" a relative; just another cousin to my dad and I was much too young to really relate to him as a person. I also remember W. O. as a stern-looking man who could, and did, enter a classroom without prior notification. During those times I remember him as the boogy-man! On those visits he was not "cousin Bill" but Mr. Schanlaub.

But I best a s parents, and educational during my Mount Ayr Bill offered to college so I Home Ec idea was for Mount Ayr as teacher until I expired! young not continue they had been



remember him approaching my me, with an proposal for me final year at High School. send me to could become a teacher. His me to remain at an unmarried either retired or During that era, teachers could teaching after married for six months. A pregnant teacher was not welcome in the school system and W. O. was getting mighty tired of hiring Home Ec teachers for the Mount Ayr school. Since I didn't want to remain single forever and I really didn't want to be a Home Ec. teacher, I refused his offer, and being a fair man, he accepted my refusal and the subject was never discussed again.

W. O. Schanlaub died May 3, 1951 after suffering a heart attack the week before. He was 74 years old. The son of John and Armina (Kepner) Schanlaub, he was born Oct. 11, 1876 in Jasper County. He graduated from Rensselaer High School, Valparaiso University and studied at Indiana State Normal College in Terre Haute. He began his teaching career in Morocco and became superintendent of the Newton County school system on Dec. 7, 1907 where he served for nearly 44 years.

He was one of the pioneers in the movement to consolidate schools, thus Newton County was among the first to abandon one-room educational establishments. He also received national recognition by serving the National Education Association on a committee which dealt with social problems of schools.

During his career, he made over 2,000 talks to graduating classes in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. His best speech was labeled, "Conrad The Cobbler." Following his death, and as a living tribute to him, a Schanlaub Memorial Library was established in every grade school in Newton County. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church where he served as Sunday school Superintendent many years, was a Sunday school teacher and often filled the pulpit as a welcome speaker.

He married Edith Spaulding in 1910 and she died in 1929. In 1935 he married Mabel Johnson who is, at the present time, a resident of Marquette Manor in Indianapolis.

W.O. Schanlaub never took offense, nor carried malice. He made his mark in history and those memories, along with his good deeds, has made a lasting impression on all

Historically Yours

I am sorry to report I have not been able to attend history sessions offered by the Indiana Historical Society for the past few months. A busy go-go-with-my-husband-life took up a lot of my time this summer, however I hope to attend the Finding Ancestors Who Have Fallen Through The Cracks Of Time in Indianapolis on November 16. Chris McHenry, Dearborn County Historian, will conduct the seminar, telling us how to find and use little known sources containing information about people who did not own land or leave probate records. Also being featured at this seminar is Teresa Baer, author and editor of articles in *The Hoosier Genealogist*, who will give us tips for using manuscript sources in genealogical research. I sure hope I can attend this workshop and bring back information for all of us.

Also for your information, I did not receive a notice from the State of Indiana telling me that my term of office was ending as of Dec. 31, 2002, therefore I guess you will have to put up with me for at least another year! This first year has been interesting and educational and I really do look forward to another year in your service.

I want to share this with you. Harold and I attended an IMOK Chapter of the 63rd Infantry Division Association reunion the first week in October. Members of the Chapter are WWII veterans of the 63rd who live in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky. The group meets for a reunion in the spring and again in the fall; this meeting was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Prior to this reunion and while talking to the president of the chapter, Harold mentioned I was at a book unveiling that day and was not available to talk to him. President Ed was quite interested in the "book" and, after asking many questions, suggested I bring the book to our October meeting so he could see it. So, when I packed for the trip, a copy of the *Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection* went with us.

Well, by the time our four-day reunion was over, all 36 (not counting Harold and me) had looked through the book! Not one person had seen a "history" collection that included as much information as this one had! No, they didn't read the complete book, but they did read articles I had written; they did study the pictures, and they did tell whoever wanted to listen, that I had just helped write and publish a book! One such comment got me a hug from the Cruise Boat Captain!!

Of course I gloried in all the pats on the back and I did explain that one person did not make this book a reality, so the pats on my back and the compliments I received were intended for all of you who worked so hard and so long to complete this project. I can hardly wait to see Katherine Dill from the Indiana Historical Society so I can give her a copy of the book. The state needs a copy of this book so they can share the information with others. The state also needs the book so they will know the people in Newton County are recording history for the county and the state.

Now that the Brook Book Project is off to a fast start and the Mount Ayr Book is off to a slow start, we have a lot of Newton County History in the making. I can hardly wait for the next unveiling!

My wish for all of you is to have a Happy Holiday Season and a great winter. Keep on making history.

By Donna LaCosse
Newton County Historian

McCray Scholarship Offered to Deserving Newton County Graduates Each Year



Above, right, County Historian Donna LaCosse presents the McCray Scholarship to the 2002 North Newton winner, Devin Miller. The winning essays from both schools are published in this edition.

The McCray home and its contents located at 501 North Third Street in Kentland, were given to the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. as a gift from Warren T. McCray's daughter, Mrs. Lucille (William P.) Evans. She is the last immediate survivor of the family. The home was built in 1892 by Warren T. McCray, who became Indiana's 30th Governor in 1921.

When the Newton County Historical Society could no longer maintain the property, the mansion was sold and the proceeds of the sale were used to create scholarship funds that would be made available to graduating seniors in the Newton County High Schools. The purpose of the \$500 scholarship is to encourage the recording of local history in Newton County. The fund was first started in 1973.

Seniors are encouraged to submit essays containing at least 500 words and no more than 1,200 words about a Newton County point of interest. The essays are given to the high school counselor, who hides the name of the author so the judges do not know who has written the essay. The essays then become the property of the Newton County Historical Society; judges decide who the recipient from North Newton High School and South Newton High School will be and only then are the names revealed. A student of each school is given \$250. A scholarship is not presented to a school where an essay is not submitted.

Areas that may be historically addressed include: (1) events (2) families (3) businesses (4) schools (5) churches (6) ranches and farms (7) landmarks or places (8) political figures (9) cemeteries (10) clubs (11) military, fraternal and political groups (12) trails, roadways and highways (13) early gangs (14) wildlife refuges (15) native population (16) flora and fauna of the region, and/or (17) migration patterns.

Entries are judged by a panel using the following points: (1) historical significance (2) originality (3) research (4) documentation (5) proper English usage (6) content and (7) comprehension of the subject. The decision of the judges is final, and articles copied from other sources are disqualified, however quotes with proper source identification is allowed by the society.

Kay Brown from the North Newton School was the first recipient of the McCray Scholarship presented in 1973. Other recipients include Michael Garing, 1974, South Newton; Mike Mislán, 1975, North Newton; Julie Ann Whaley, 1976, South Newton; Lynn Olson, 1977, North Newton; Julia Taylor, 1978, South Newton; Timothy Ray Mahone, 1981, North Newton; Becky Mashino, 1991, North Newton; Michael Farmer, 1993, South Newton; Heather McFarlane, 1996, South Newton; Joseph Dewing, 1997, South Newton; Natalie

Continued on page Six

Bogus money is still being found on Bogus Island, not left by the crooks of long ago, but planted there as a joke. Allen Cummins, one of the perpetrators, described this scam to me. It was such a wonderful prank; I thought it should be shared with our readers.

But first a word about Allen Cummins is needed. Although not a resident of Newton County, he has been intimately involved in the area for the past few decades. Allen is a farm manager, managing absentee owned farms in Indiana, and other states. Some of the large farms in the northern part of the county have been under his control at different periods of time. He has been associated with Bogus Island farms, Fair Oaks Farms and the Otis Trust Farms. As part of his job he helps the owners set goals, prepare budgets, hire tenants, report on the operations and inspect the farms. He works out of Lafayette, Indiana.

Being so involved in Newton County, he has become very interested in Newton County history. Allen Cummin's web site is at www.geocities.com/allenhc_2000/index.htm. Here you will find his history of Bogus Island land sales as well as the first draft of John Yost's book on Bogus Island. I found the section on *Cows, Cows, Cows* especially interesting and informative.

With this background the following story takes on more meaning. It seems that Allen and a group of retired professional men and Purdue professors meet every morning at the MCL cafeteria for coffee. The following is Allen's report of the caper, "One of the fellows brought in the book "Ralph" one morning in the spring of 2001. His wife grew up at Enos and the house she lived in is still there. Several of us read the book and this lead to idea of some of us going to the new dairies, Bogus Island and the George Ade home. We originally thought we could get 6 to 10 people, but before long we had 25 that wanted to go. So I rented a Lafayette Limo bus and we planned the tour.

Bogus Island High Jinx

By Gerald Born



The Koffee Klatch surveys the area.



The discovery is made!



The treasure hunters examine their "bootie"?

"For several months, one of the group dubbed "old Shafer" and I planned and schemed to come up with something at the island. Before we went in September of 2001, almost everyone in the group had read John Yost's history of the Island. So we had the "boys" primed with stories of Old Shafer and counterfeit coins being found on the island.

"Old Shafer" and I decided we would get an old Ball quart jar, put the shiny lid in salt water until it looked old and rusty, and include a large note on old brown paper from Old Shafer to Duncan. In effect the note said, 'Duncan, here is the last of the money, the Jasper Rangers are hot on my trail and I've got to get out of here.' I printed up some phony money I found on the Internet and we put the note and the money inside the jar. Then we put a wire cage around it of light 'concrete wire' and attached a small 3 or 4foot log chain to it. We went to Bogus Island two days before the tour and buried the jar just below the surface with about 2 or 3 feet of chain on top of the ground. We carefully covered the jar with sod and went back to Lafayette.

"The Koffee Klatch Group started our day touring the dairy farms and were lucky enough to get the bus down through the barns and close enough to see the milking. After lunch we did Bogus Island.

"When we got them to the Island I got them on top of the remaining land and told them to envision the surrounding Beaver Lake as it would have been in the 1800s with all the wildlife.

As we moved around, I eventually got them close to the 'plant', and the discovery was made. We had quite a few of the fellows fooled for awhile and several still thought we had found 'genuine' counterfeit money when we got on the bus some 15 or 20 minutes

later. Even today, they still laugh about their experience and how much fun we had at Bogus Island. Of course, without having previously read John Yost's history, the whole scam could not have been pulled off."

- Web site directory -

- Cemetery Records • 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
 - Obituaries of Past Residents
- Newton County Biographies Project
- Morocco and Goodland Alumni Lists
- Newton County Marriage Records thru 1971
 - Links To Other State & Local Sites
 - Index of "The Newcomer" Articles

www.rootsweb.com/~innewton

John H. Higgins, County Civic Leader

Continued from page Seven

that he tells with great amusement. He, with five other drummer boys, and an ambulance, were covering the recovered ground, picking up the wounded of both armies. They thought they heard a wounded man moaning, and left the ambulance and were searching in the woods, when Mr. Higgins fell over the prostrate form of a man. The man was wrapped in a poncho, asleep. He arose, and it proved to be Gen. Grant, asleep under a tree in the rain. The spot was near his headquarters. He had the battle well in hand and was trying to get some sleep.

"Mr. Higgins had three experiences at the battle of Stone River, the bloodiest battle fought in the west. A Confederate cavalry charge swept the rear of the Union Army. Mr. Higgins saw them coming, yelling and shooting. He made a dive for the ambulance, and as he raised his leg to get in, a rifle bullet struck his right thigh, tearing through his trousers and bruising the skin, but aside from the inflicting great pain, it did no damage. He lay in the ambulance while Confederate Cavalry rode by, looking in and mistaking him for a wounded man. In a few minutes the scene was changed. The Union Cavalry made a counter charge, drove back the Confederate cavalry, recaptured all the prisoners and trains, and restored the lines. Can anyone imagine a more awe-inspiring sight than thousands of men fighting on horseback and to be 12-15 years of age?"

"His regiment and brigade was captured at Rome, Georgia, May 3, 1863, by Gen. Forrest. The enlisted men were paroled and the officers confined in Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia. Here, Col. A.J. Straight and one hundred and eight other prisoners escaped by digging a tunnel sixty feet long. Fifty-five of the men were recaptured but fifty-four finally reached the Union lines.

"We kids, said Mr. Higgins, were not allowed to do any actual fighting when in contact with the enemy, largely because we could not carry the army musket then in use. We were to make ourselves useful in helping around the ambulances in the care of the wounded. On a particular day of a capture of our men, I was helping two drivers and watching a pair of mules which they had hitched to the ambulance in our charge. Presently, they came running towards me shouting that the regiment was being captured. One of them jumped on a

mule, and I jumped into the ambulance and crawled under a tarpaulin. I thought they would drive away. Instead of that, they cut the mules loose and left me to my fate. Several rebels took a look in the ambulance, but thinking there was nothing in it, did not look under the tarpaulin. That night, I crawled out and ran away".

The reporter for the *Newton County Enterprise* had to have thoroughly enjoyed his visit with Mr. Higgins, then at the age of 82. The recount of the events in his life were described as though they had only happened a few months prior to the interview, not 68 years before at the age of 12. Reading them now, 71 years after its publication, the thrill of his military life still resounds in the article.

"John Higgins is one of the few men whose recollections cover almost the entire period of Kentland's history", the *1916 History of Newton and Jasper Counties* states.

"When he first came here there was one business block, a hotel and five or six stores, with very few residences on the town site proper", it continues.

On September 4, 1878, he married Anna Wittenberg of Reynolds, Indiana, a daughter of Charles and Caroline Wittenberg. They had three children, Frederick B., Harry L., and Ruth B.

Mr. Higgins served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the town and was clerk for several terms. In his middle life he took an active part in politics. He was a Republican and served on the county central committee.

Mr. Higgins confined his own work largely to probate practice. He had a good clientele, and it is stated that the wards of the court were always well taken care of when John Higgins represented them. He always looked after the interests of his comrades of the Civil War and many a veteran, and veteran's widow and children have cause to thank Mr. Higgins for his painstaking efforts in the procurement of pensions. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Masonic Lodge. He had served through all the chairs of the Newton Lodge, No. 361 F and A.M., and was secretary of the Masonic Lodge Association.

"Taps" sounded from John H. Higgins on October 11, 1931. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving Civil War Veteran of Jefferson township. He passed away at his home on West Carroll Street,



"Comrade Higgins", as his G.A.R. friends addressed him, served his country and his county.

due to a weakened heart condition brought on by advanced age. His entire life had been one of action and remained as such up to three weeks prior to his death.

"Comrade Higgins", as his G.A.R. friends addressed him, courageously took up arms on behalf of his country at the tender age of twelve. The keen sense of duty and honor which prompted his early patriotic move, remained with him throughout a long and useful career. He was known as a courteous and congenial friend and neighbor, able and honorable.

Publications For Sale from the Newton County Historical Society

"The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection" - \$63.00
Available at Sharpe's Store, The Prairie House, Morocco, Lake Village and Roselawn IGA stores.

"Ralph - The Story of Bogus Island" - \$5.25

"The Newton County Historical Coloring Book" - \$5.25

"The Morocco Centennial" - CD only \$21.00

These items would make great gifts for everyone! Memberships to the society include a free copy of "The Newcomer" sent quarterly to members. Tax included on above prices. Contact Donna LaCosse at 219-285-2861 for more information.

The McCray Scholarship Essays - South Newton "Hazelden" by Ashley Whaley

Driving along Highway 16, motorists round the curve to pass by a beautiful, impressive estate. Residents of this quiet Newton County area are very proud of this famous home. Becoming a National Historic Landmark in 1976, Hazelden was the residence of Hoosier humorist, playwright, author, newspaper columnist, and philanthropist, George Ade.

Born on February 9, 1866, in Kentland, Indiana, George Ade was the second youngest of seven children raised by John and Adaline Ade. Lacking enthusiasm for manual labor, George could usually be found reading a book. At Purdue University, he met and started a lifelong friendship with cartoonist John T. McCutcheon. George graduated from Purdue University in a class of eight students. Following his graduation, he became a journalist for the *Morning News* of Lafayette. When that paper went out of business, he became a reporter for the *Call*. However, Ade was soon offered a much higher salary to write advertisements for a patent medicine.

In 1890, Ade joined McCutcheon on the staff of the *Chicago Morning News*, which later became the *Chicago Record*. George began his career there by reporting the weather. After proving his worth as a reporter, Ade was put in charge of the column, "Stories of the Streets and of the Town," which McCutcheon illustrated. Ade captured the hustle and bustle of Chicago through vivid characters such as Artie, a young office boy; Doc Home, a gentlemanly liar; and Pink Marsh, a black shoeshine boy. His column also introduced the work that would make him famous: fables. George's humorous fables, which first appeared in 1899 in the book, *Fables in Slang*, were an immediate hit with the public. Ade, also was known as a play writer, producing such Broadway shows as *The Sultan of Sulu*, *Peggy from Paris*, and *The College Widow*.



The Hazelden home, ca 1909.
Photos contributed by Beth Bassett

While Ade was busy traveling and writing, his brother, William urged him to invest in farmland. He followed his brother's advice and bought 417 acres of Newton County farmland. On wooded land near the town of Brook, Ade had an old friend named William Mann, a Chicago architect and Purdue graduate, design the house. He told Mann he would like the house not to cost more than \$2,500. William built an impressive Elizabethan home called Hazelden Farm. The house included a swimming pool, dressing rooms and showers, a greenhouse, a cow barn, and caretaker's house, coming to a total cost of \$25,000. "I am a bachelor but I prefer to live in my own home. My enthusiasms include golf, travel, horse-racing, and the spoken drama. My antipathies are social show-offs, bigots on religion, fanatics on total abstinence, and all persons who take themselves seriously. I love to put on big parties or celebrations and see a throng of people having a good time." This home soon became known as the amusement center for the United States, hosting a campaign stop in 1908 by William Howard Taft, a rally for Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose party in 1912, James Whitcomb Riley, Will Rogers, and a homecoming for soldiers and sailors in 1919, with over 15,000 in attendance. Later, George Ade added a 9-hole golf course and founded a golf club for the community. He encouraged the members to have parties in the clubhouse for which

he paid.

At his death, the trustees of the estate donated the house, along with ten acres of land to Newton County for the development of the George Ade Memorial Hospital. Today, the Hazelden Compound includes an 18-hole golf course and country club, the George Ade Extended Care Facility, the George Ade Clinic, and the restored home. Hazelden still remains the source of great pride among the people of Newton County and insures that the name of George Ade will never be forgotten.

Old Time Clothesline - "The Clothesline Said So Much!"

A clothesline was a news forecast
To neighbors passing by.
There were no secrets you could keep
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link,
For neighbors always knew
If company had stopped on by
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the fancy sheets
And towels upon the line;
You'd see the company table clothes
With intricate design.

The line announced a baby's birth
To folks who lived inside,

As brand new infant clothes were hung
So carefully with pride.

The ages of the children could
So readily be known,
By watching how the sizes changed
You'd know how much they'd grown.

It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too,
Haphazardly were strung.

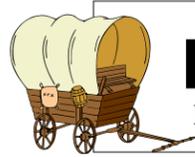
It said, "Gone on vacation now,"
When lines hung limp and bare
It told, "We're back!"; when fill lines sagged,
With not an inch to spare.

New folks in town were scorned upon
If wash was dingy gray,
As neighbors raised their brows,
And looked disgustedly away.

But clotheslines now are of the past,
For dryers make work less.
Now what goes on inside a home
Is anybody's guess.

I really miss that way of life.
It was a friendly sign,
When neighbors knew each other best,
By what hung on the line!

Author Anonymous
Submitted by Janet Miller



Focus on Families

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

George Ade Davis & his Newton County Roots By Gerald Born

Recently a group of photos and mementoes belonging to George Ade Davis were given to me to do with as I saw fit. Knowing of my interest in Newton County history, I'm sure they intended for me to organize them and credit the man's accomplishments. My prior knowledge of George Ade Davis was scanty. I knew he had inherited all of his uncle George Ade's copyrights and that he had served in the military, and that his father had at one time been Clerk of the Court in Newton County.

As I searched the Internet and the Census records, a very interesting person emerged, truly a native son who had led a successful life. George Ade Davis was born on November 27, 1884 to John Greeley and Alice Mary "Allie" (Ade) Davis. Alice was the daughter of noted Newton County historian, John Ade and his wife, Adeline (Bush) Ade, and an older sister of George Ade, nationally known as a humorist and playwright. John Greeley Davis was a native of Miami County, Ohio and the son of Charles W. and Hannah (Lawshe) Davis.

Among the photos in the box of mementoes was one taken at Kentland showing George Ade Davis, as a young man, and his friend, Stewart Kirkpatrick, on horseback. So very early he developed an interest in horses that would last throughout his life. This was probably taken before he was a student at Butler College, Indianapolis, where he spent two years. He then went to Purdue University where he received a B.S. in forestry.

His early career paralleled that of his famous uncle in many ways. He wrote for the college newspaper and after graduation began as police reporter for the *Lafayette Morning Journal*, and then worked for the *Indianapolis Sentinel*, and the *Indianapolis*

Star. He then went to Chicago and worked for the *Chicago Daily Journal*. He soon quit that job to become Assistant Manager of the Studebaker Theatre in Chicago where he



Above, George G. Davis family. George and wife Alice, William H. and George Ade Davis. Upper right, George and Will; lower right, the children of Charles L. Davis; lower left, Nancy (Davis) Phillips and her three sons, Clarence, George and Dorsey.



soon rose to the position of Manager.

Here he would meet many of the famous people in show business. He was publicity agent for the road show of Charles Dillingham, Liebler & Co. and other New York Producers. Charles Dillingham, who later produced such Broadway shows as "Echo," "Sunny," and "A Night in Spain," had a career that spanned most of the life of the Broadway musical. At the turn of the

century the most common way to enjoy humor was to attend a vaudeville show, which was a variety of acts that included comedians, dancers, singers, slapstick comedy, animal acts, acrobats and magicians. The Broadway musical grew out of this medium.

Dillingham also produced with Florenz Ziegfeld, known for his follies, "The Century Girl," which was a 1920 precursor of much of what would follow. One of their joint ventures featured Houdini and his wife, and he became a good friend to the pair. In fact both he and Ziegfeld were pallbearers at Houdini's funeral. It is reported that Dillingham turned to Ziegfeld and whispered, "I'll bet you a hundred bucks he ain't in here."

So with such connections George Ade Davis must have led a very interesting life during this period. It would soon require more responsibility when he became Advertising and Sales Manager for the Chickering Piano Company in Chicago and for the Bissel Weisert Piano Company before he went into the advertising department of Byllesby Corporation, which was also managing the Enid, Oklahoma electrical plant at the time, and it was this connection that led to his next major career change.

It is surprising that he also began his military career in this same period. He joined the army as Lieutenant of Cavalry, the 1st Illinois Cavalry at the Mexican Border in 1916, and emerged as Major of Machine Guns. He was an officer in England, France and Belgium during World War I and served as assistant G1, 89th Division, Army of Occupation, and an organizer and served as G2 and chief of staff, 45th Division, until World War II. He married Ethel Slocum in 1906, who was deceased by 1928. He did not remarry.

While in Chicago he wrote some music for shows and seems to have enjoyed a reputation as a humorist himself.

In 1920 he moved to Oklahoma City to assume duties with the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company.

The company had just about recovered from the depression when World War II began. As was the case with about everyone, OG&E had to make tremendous adjustments to the wartime economy. Many people enlisted or were drafted into military service, necessitating extensive personnel changes throughout the operation. About the only large, new customers were the military bases. The biggest load was the sprawling Tinker Air Force Base, which



George Ade Davis during college.

has since become one of the company's largest customers. It was during this hectic period that George Ade Davis took over as OG&E's new President in 1942, a position he held until 1949 when he retired. During that time the company experienced tremendous growth. A new steel tower transmission line was built over the Arkansas River at Ft. Smith and a new generating unit installed at Horseshoe Lake. The first hydrocooled generator was built at Osage with a capacity of 25,000 kilowatts.

George Ade Davis was appointed Adj. General of Oklahoma and promoted to Brig. General, U.S. National Guard and Maj. General in 1946. He was briefly involved in the battle of Hurtgen Forest

and with the 28th Division in the Bastogne affair during World War II. After retirement, he enjoyed his life on Moon Lake outside Oklahoma City until his death in February 1958. He is buried at Kentland.

A number of the photos in the group included the parents, the grandparents, and great grandparents of George Ade Davis. It might be well to review the career of his father, John G. Davis in Newton County. George G. Davis, Clerk of Circuit Court, Newton County from 1880-1888 was born in Miami County, Ohio, March 24, 1854. He is the eldest son in a family of eight born to Charles W. and Hannah (Lawshe) Davis. He attended public school at Pleasant Hill, Ohio, (located west of Troy, Ohio) in which he continued until the spring of 1868, when he came with his parents to Newton County, Indiana, where they engaged in the nursery and farming business. He was employed from 1869 to 1871 in the nursery and traveling for the sale of fruit trees; from 1871 to 1873, he was engaged in farming; in March 1873, he came into the Clerk's office as Deputy under Andrew Hall, which position he held until 1876, when W. W. Gilman took the office as Clerk, and appointed Mr. Davis his Deputy. Mr. Gilman did not attend the office in person, but left the work to his Deputy.

In 1878, Mr. Davis received the nomination for Clerk at the hands of the Republicans by acclamation, he having no opposition in the convention. He was elected the following October, being one of the two Republicans elected at that time in the county. In 1882, he was renominated by acclamation, and was elected by a handsome majority; his second term of office expired in April, 1886.

Mr. Davis was married, January 1, 1876 to Miss Alice M., daughter of John and Adeline (Ade) Davis, favorably known as pioneer settlers of Newton County. They had one child (as of 1883) William Harry. Both parents were consistent members of the M.E. Church since childhood. Mr. Davis is a member of the K.of P., and in politics a Republican. The next year they would have George Ade Davis.

The family appears in the 1870 Newton County Census, Jefferson Township as Charles W. Davis, 43, farmer, born in Ohio with his wife, Hannah, 38, born in New Jersey. Still at home are John G., 16, Charles L., 19, Nellie, 15, Isaac R., 11, James W. 9, and Eugene, 5. All of the children were born in Ohio. By 1880, some

Continued On Page Twelve



Russell Davis



Mary Jane Davis



Charles W. Davis



Hannah (Lawshe) Davis



Alice (Ade) Davis



John Greeley Davis



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Grant Davis



James W. Davis



Nancy (Davis) Phillips



Isaac Lawshe father of Hannah



George Ade Davis



Isaac Lawshe father of Hannah



Orchard Lake Stock Farm

Throughout the pages of this edition, you will find many references to Warren T. McCray, so it only seemed fitting to include these "discovered" photos of his famous Orchard Lake Stock Farm. Located in Grant Township, one can only speculate the location of the buildings located here. In passing, you can still see the foundations and from county road 1300 South, looking north, you will spot the monument to Perfection Fairfax.

Kay Babcock left a copy of the top left photo of the entrance to Orchard Lake, and the bottom photo appeared on the front page of an edition of the August 8, 1912 Newton County Enterprise. Note the name "McCray Stock Farm" on the concrete wall.



George Ade Davis - from page nine

of the children had married. Nancy (Davis) Phillips, who was older than John, lived near her parents. Her husband was gone by 1880 and in her household were her children, Clarence, George and Dorsey Phillips. The marriage had taken place in Newton County on Christmas Day, 1872. John G. Davis and his wife, Alice M, aged 26 and 23, respectively are shown with their 2-year-old son, William Henry. Not far distant lived Charles L. Davis, 23, and his wife Elizabeth B., who was born in Canada with their daughter, Myrtle, aged 1. Remaining at home with Charles W. and his wife Hannah, were Isaac R., 21, James H. 18, and Eugene G., 15.

In his own hand, John G. Davis wrote on the photos the relationships of the people to him and it serves as a small photographic gallery of the Davis family. I will let the photos speak for themselves, as they document his ancestors and siblings. Pictured top, left to right, George in his older years, working on World War II shows; George, right and Stuart Kirkpatrick in a photo taken in Kentland. lower left, early billboards from the Dillingham and Century Theatres; George in the military; "the two Jims",



The McCray Scholarship Essays - North Newton "The Colfax School" by Devin Miller

For this scholarship I have chosen the Colfax Township Elementary School as my point of history. This school interests me because a number of my family members attended Colfax school. My family members that attended were Devon Miller (grandfather), William "Bill" Miller (uncle), Mary Ann Villinova Miller (aunt), and Jim Robbins (neighbor). They told me many experiences that happened when they were in school and they were somewhat different in comparison to my experiences now.

To begin with, before the consolidation of Colfax school the township supported four different school districts. The schools were named the Meade School State Road 55 and 600 North, in the Northwest corner of Section 3. Refer to Exhibit 1, this is Wesley Robbins and his classmates at Meade school. The Harris School located 100 East and 300 North, Southeast corner of Section 18. The Wildrick School located State Road 55 and State Road 14, Southwest corner of Section 16. The Switch School located State Road 14 and 500 East, Northeast corner of Section 35. To see the plat book refer to Exhibit 2. At this time George H. Hillis County Commissioner, Alexandra B. Tolen Progressive Citizen, Forest A. Tolen Township Trustee had the idea of building a consolidated central school. These three men got their heads together and shared their ideas with the community. The community thought this would be a great idea.

The fabulous Colfax school was erected in the year 1919. Refer to Exhibit 3, this is a picture of the high school. The cost of the school was \$18,000 with all but \$6,500 paid at completion of the building. John J. Lawler donated 3.2 acres where the school was built. (A copy of the original deed was included as exhibit 4). The main floor consisted of a primary, advanced classroom, a library and sick room, and a community room with a stage. The basement consisted of another community room with girl's restrooms, a lunch room, and another community room with boys restrooms that were used as a shop for a few years. To see layout of Colfax, refer to Exhibit 5.

The Colfax school was a very advanced school. The school started on September first and ended the middle of April. They had half days on Good Friday, the day before Thanksgiving, week before Christmas and had an extended break until January 2nd. A few days before Christmas they were all taken to the Morocco Theater by bus, to watch cartoons for the day. They received candy

and fruit from the local merchants and business people when the shows were over. In the Spring they had a three day vacation for teachers institute. The school was also always closed on election day. Every year the children were picked up and taken to school in early September.

From there two buses left and went to the Newton County Fair for the day. The kids were taken back home after their fun day at the fair. The school was known for having many firsts, known for the first indoor chemical restrooms; the first for having a movie picture screen; first to install their own electric plant; first township school to have a telephone; first to have a cooking range stove; first to have motor buses, also known as hacks; first township to have real classroom lectures; and the first to have in Newton County a real community center.

The school had cooks, janitors, and bus drivers. The cooks were Elba Studer, Mary Villinova, and Mrs. Robin Smith. The ladies of Colfax community went to the school in the fall and canned fruits and vegetables. They used the canned food for the students to eat during lunch time. The janitors were Bruno Kressen also carpenter and maintenance Frank Henderson, and Emmitt Potts. The bus drivers were Nelson Wildrick; Basil Watkins; Joe Berenda; Ed Berenda; Harry Sullivan; Louie Sullivan; Joe Zogis; Andy Studer; Elton Randolph; Clarence Studer; Oli Chupp; Frank Styck. Located on the northwest side was a building that held four buses. The small building next to it was the fuel shed. Colfax township was divided into four sections and each school bus/hack had their own section.

While in school the students received a hair cut from a barber in Rensselaer. They also received their small pox vaccination and TB (Tuberculosis) tests.

The Colfax school was also known as the community center. The community center was used for Ladies aide; church, Sunday

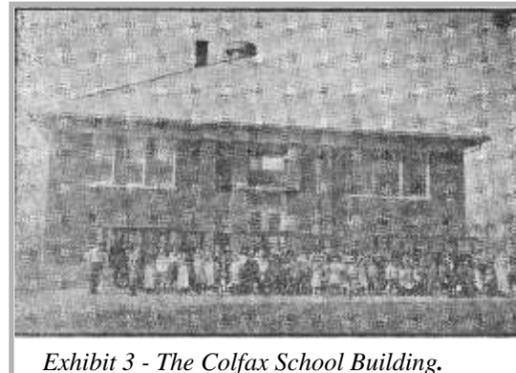


Exhibit 3 - The Colfax School Building.

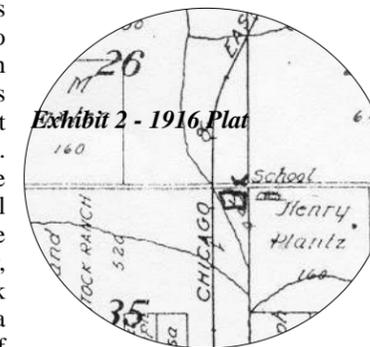


Exhibit 2 - 1916 Plat

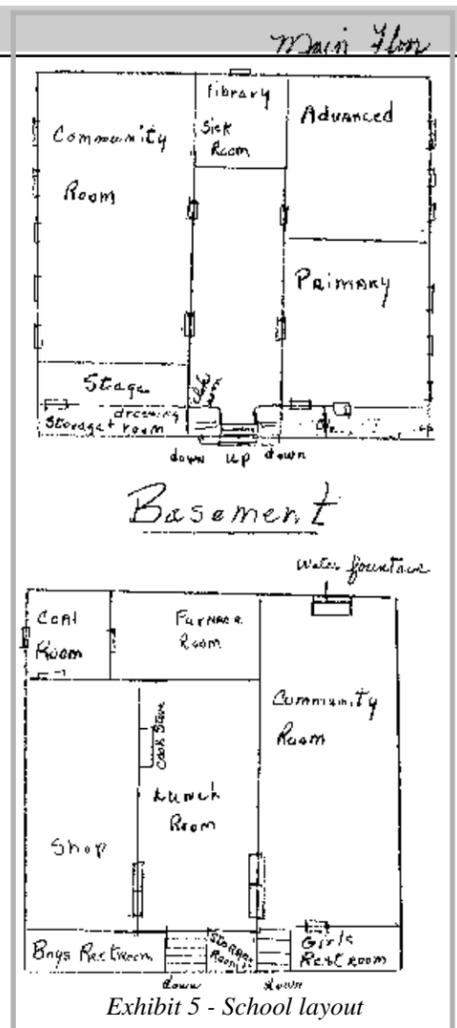


Exhibit 5 - School layout

Warren T. McCray

by Donna LaCosse

Warren T. McCray, one of the three children born to Greenberry and Martha Jane Galey McCray, was born in 1865 on a farm in Newton County.

He began working as a bookkeeper at a bank in Kentland at the age of 15. At age 21, he went into the grocery business and then he went into the grain trading business. Later in life he organized the National Grain Dealers' Association.

He developed Orchard Lake Stock Farm near Kentland where he started his world famous herd of Hereford cattle and was the world's leading breeders of the Hereford. Orchard Lake Farm is located six miles north and east of Kentland. The original purchase of 258 acres in 1890 grew to include 600 acres in 1918.

He first started breeding steers and raising grade calves for baby beef. In 1904 he purchased a few registered cows and in 1905, he added the first bull to the herd. Thus the business grew until the herd numbered over 500 head and the annual sales for the year ending December 31, 1917, amounted to more than a quarter million dollars.

His prize bull, Perfection Fairfax 179767, born October 10, 1903, was crowned Grand Champion in the 1907 International Exposition. A monument of Perfection Fairfax was built at Orchard Lake Stock Farm and graced the farm for many years.

McCray also owned a Stone Quarry in 1906 which he sold to George Hart when McCray became Governor of Indiana. In 1946 the George Hart quarry was purchased by the Ralph Rogers and Co. Inc. of Bloomington, Indiana and became known as the Newton County Stone Quarry.

In 1916, the coliseum, the first multi-purpose community building was built just west of the now business section of Kentland. Land for the building was donated by C.C. Kent, son of the town's founder, A.J. Kent. The coliseum, designed by Kentland Architect John A. Bruck, was constructed at a cost of \$10,000. Warren T. McCray was one of the three prominent Kentland citizens who donated money for this project. The coliseum was used for basketball games, school programs, carnivals, concerts and housed the Chautauqua meetings for several years. After 22 years, the coliseum was closed to public use and was later used as a factory. The building was torn down in 1978.

McCray was instrumental in the construction of the Kentland Public Library. He began negotiations in 1905 but the proposal was not to be considered because Kentland's population of 1006 was not large enough to support a library. The town began to grow and on January 19, 1910 a group of citizens met at the law office of William Darroch for the purpose of establishing a public library. On February 5, 1910 the voluntary board turned custody of the library over to the first library trustees which included Warren T. McCray. The lot for the library was donated by Mrs. Eliza McCray.

In the fall of 1920, he became the 30th Governor of Indiana. During the time he served as governor, the women's suffrage amendment was added to the State Constitution. His administration laid out the pattern for the state highway system and approved the state's first gasoline tax which would fund road construction.



His administration was also credited with a progressive view on State Mental Institutions, improvements in state teachers' pension law, the establishment of the Indiana Reformatory at Pendleton and the construction of 87 public buildings, including several at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

McCray was the first governor in American history to serve a prison term for felony. His personal financial problems drew public attention during his term of office, a Grand Jury investigated and McCray was found guilty of using United States mails to defraud. He resigned as governor, served ten years in prison and was fined \$10,000. He remained in prison until he was paroled in 1926.

In 1930, he was granted a full pardon by President Herbert Hoover after which McCray returned to Kentland where he rebuilt his farming operation.

After suffering a heart attack at his Orchard Lake Stock Farm, McCray died in December 1938 at the age of 73. He married Ella Ade and they were the parents of three children: Lucille Evans, Mrs. William P. Evans, Marion and George. Ella died in 1947.

Photographs & Memories

The Old Courthouse, ca 1860



The society recently acquired this post card, "The Old Court House". Built for the approximate cost of \$1,000 in 1860, the building was described as a modest, plain frame structure on the east side of the present courthouse square, with the court room and 2 jury rooms above and four offices below. The lower offices housed the Clerk and Auditor on the south side of the building and the Treasurer and Recorder on the north side. Because the low ground between the courthouse and Third Street on which the business houses were located, there was a sidewalk four feet above the ground on trestles, leading to the courthouse. If you look closely, you can see these in the photo.

John H. Higgins, Jefferson Township's Civil War Drummer Boy, 1849-1931

By Beth Bassett

When the conversations of local history buffs center around the Civil War, how it affected Newton County and its population, most certainly one name is always mentioned, that of John Higgins. After serving in the 51st Infantry, Company B as their drummer boy at the age of 12, he returned to Newton County in 1863, and took an active part in community and civic matters. He learned the tinner's trade from George W. Smith, and followed it for a number of years. In 1888, he was elected to the office of county recorder and in 1892, was reelected for a second term. It was after he completed his tenure of office, He embarked in the law and insurance business with Frank Compere as a partner. In 1907 when Mr. Compere passed away, and until the day he passed away, he continued the business alone.

His biography appears in the 1916 *History of Jasper and Newton Counties*, and upon the celebration of his 82nd birthday in 1931, a *Newton County Enterprise* reporter sat down with him in his office surrounded by pictures that the writer felt revealed the soldier career of the man. On one wall was the picture of "Old Ironsides" and her British adversary which she has just shot to splinters and on her decks are a shamble of dead and dying men. Another picture was of the famous charge of George Pickett's Confederate division at Gettysburg. Only 3 months later, his death would prompt another article that included a more personal look at his life, and additional memoirs of the Civil War.

"John Higgins was born April 24th, 1849, in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of Michael and Julia Higgins, of Irish descent. At the age of seven he was left an orphan, and for three years lived in the institution of the Children's Aid Society at New York City on Randall's Island, New York. In the autumn of 1860, with two carloads of other orphans, he was brought to Lafayette, Indiana, where they were distributed among the people. Samuel Bramble, a merchant in Kentland, took Mr. Higgins into his home. He arrived in Kentland in November 1860, a few weeks after the election of Abraham Lincoln, an event that was destined to precipitate the great Civil War.

"During the winter and spring of 1861, he heard the papers read and discussed around the stove in Mr. Bramble's store, and it was here proposed that a company be organized.

"David McHolland, a Mexican war soldier, and a local blacksmith, was made a Captain; Albert Light, First Lieutenant, and Adolphus H. Wonder, who had seen service in the German Army as a Second Lieutenant. He was Mr. A.J. Kent's herdsman. William Collins, a local physician, became regimental surgeon. The company was to become a part of a regiment that was being organized by A.J. Streight, a wealthy lumber dealer of Indianapolis.

"On the 14th of December, at Indianapolis, John Higgins was mustered into the service. Mr. Higgins told an amusing incident when they were being mustered. A Lt. Wood of the Regular Army, was the mustering officer. The Company fell in, and Mr. Higgins with them. He, being a boy of twelve, and quite small, was



John Higgins, age 12, drummer boy for Newton County's 51st Infantry, Company B, returned to Newton County in 1863.

easily spotted by Lt. Wood and ordered out of the line, stating that he was entirely too young and small for service. The mustering was not completed that evening, so in the morning the company fell in again. This time Mr. Higgins has learned his lesson and did not fall in with the Company, but stood by the side of Lt. Wonder, who was a small man, hoping there would not be such a contrast. But it did not succeed. He was ordered out again. But this time, the Company officers interceded, and finally the mustering officer sent Mr. Higgins to the

regimental surgeon, who was William Collins of Kentland (the old army game of passing the buck). He ran to Dr. Collins' tent. The doctor wrote something on a piece of paper which Mr. Higgins did not take the time to read, but ran back to the Company and handed it to Lt. Wood. It must have contained the proper information, for he was immediately mustered.

"The regiment left immediately for the front, passing through Louisville, Bardstown and Lebanon, Kentucky, and in the latter part of January took part in the battle of Hall's Gap. In February, the regiment suffered greatly from sickness, measles and pneumonia, many men dying. It was at Lebanon that Lt. Albert Light died. At this point in his narrative, Mr. Higgins spoke of the great service rendered the soldiers and their families by Mr. and Mrs. John Ade. All the churches, stores and public buildings in Lebanon were filled with sick and dying Union soldiers lying on the floors with very few blankets and little of anything else. John Ade went to Lebanon to get the body of Lt. Albert Light. He was the first Union soldier to be buried in Fairlawn Cemetery, Kentland. While in Lebanon, Mr. Ade busied himself hunting out and getting the sick of Newton County evacuated North.

"The Shilo battle started Sunday morning by the Confederates making a surprise attack on the Union Army under Grant and Sherman. All day long they drove back the Union, and as night fell, the Union Army stood with its back to the wide and deep Tennessee River. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson, Confederate commander, essayed to sweep the Union Army into the river, and either capture or destroy it. He led his troops in person and fell mortally wounded, but the Union Army was saved for the night. As soon as the battle started, Grant sent out couriers to his scattered troops to hasten to Shilo. Mr. Higgin's regiment was with Buell's army at Nashville. Sunday forenoon they received word of the battle and started a forced march to the rescue. All afternoon and all night they hiked with the sound of battle growing louder. Sunday morning they were crossing the river and were in battle. Grant had not waited for the Confederates to attack, but had struck first, and had driven them steadily back, recovering all ground lost the previous day. It was during Monday night that Mr. Higgins had the experience

Continued on page Eight

Collections Of A Lifetime *The Arthur Mitten Collection*

By Gerald Born

While surfing the Internet the other night for historical material, I stumbled upon the words Goodland, Indiana, which immediately caught my attention. Naturally I clicked onto the page that contained the reference and found something that took me completely by surprise. Before my eyes appeared a collection of historical material that I had never heard of before, the Arthur G. Mitten Collection, 1755-1936. The Mitten name rang a bell as I remembered seeing it over the entry of the Goodland public library. But why had I not heard of what appeared to be a major collection of Americana. Further reading indicated that Indiana Historical Society purchased the collection in 1939, which explained why I had not heard of it. I was three at the time.

Later I asked members, Nev Carlson and Fanny Collins, if they knew of the collection. Both remembered seeing it. It was housed in a building owned by the Mittens on the east side of Goodland's main street. Nev remembers going in to look at the collection and said it was placed on tables around the room and that Mr. Mitten was there to explain the different manuscripts. Fanny remembered seeing the collection on one of her trips to Goodland to go bowling with friends who had a car. Nev went there to roller skate. High adventure for the young ladies in the 1930s consisted of good clean fun.

The collection is now housed in eight manuscript boxes, 44 oversize boxes, one framed broadside and one bound volume. The collection contained three major parts, the William Henry Harrison collection, the Northwest Territory collection, and the John Armstrong papers. Sometime before the 1980s the William Henry Harrison manuscripts were taken from the Mitten collection and placed in the Harrison collection. What remained is arranged largely as Mitten had organized it. Several smaller groups of papers were merged into a section called, American Autographs, which included Presidents of the Continental Congress, Patrick Henry, Northwest Territory prominent men, Washington's cabinet and Lincoln's cabinet.

In addition to these major collections the Mitten collection included books, pamphlets, maps and printed material,

which was dispersed into the Society's printed collection and visual collection at an early date.

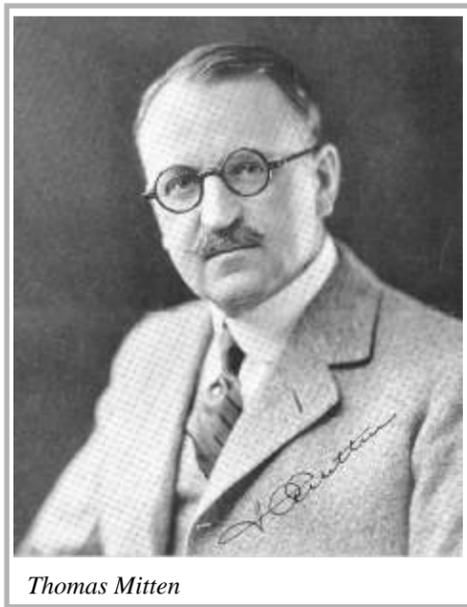
Reading about the size and scope of the collection made me realize that a man of substance had collected it, and at no little expense, for even in the early part of the 20th century there were collectors who avidly sought this type of Americana. So who was Arthur G. Mitten? The following was compiled by the Indiana Historical Society and is paraphrased here. Further information may be found at http://www.indianahistory.org/library/manuscripts/collection_guides/m0211.html as well as the sources used.

"Arthur G. Mitten was born in Brighton, England, March 13, 1866, one of the nine (census records indicate she had 10) children of George and Jane (Lucke) Mitten. The family moved to Goodland in 1875, where Arthur attended school and received a limited formal education. Beginning at the age of twenty, he worked for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, serving at the Swainston and Attica stations before going to the railroad's Chicago offices as an executive. He also developed considerable financial interests with his brother, Thomas E. Mitten, in Philadelphia.

"By 1920 he was comfortable enough off to retire to Goodland, where he worked to develop model farms, Foster Park, and the Mitten Memorial Library given by his brother Thomas. His major interest in his last years was collecting books, pamphlets, prints, lithographs, and manuscripts on American history. He began collecting in the 1890s.

"From 1930 until his death on November, 23, 1938 he served as vice president of the Indiana Historical Society as well as on its executive council. He often lent parts of his collection for Society exhibits. After his death the Society purchased his collection, one of its most noteworthy acquisitions after the founding of the William Henry Smith Library."

Arthur G. Mitten's financial interests with his brother, Thomas, explain why he was able to afford assembling such a collection. At the time of his brother's death in an unfortunate drowning accident while he was fishing, Thomas' wealth was estimated at over \$100,000,000, and this was in 1929 before income taxes. Arthur was named as one of his executors, so it appears that the

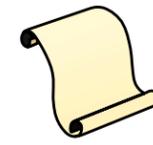


Thomas Mitten

brothers were close.

Thomas had amassed his fortune in the rail business in Philadelphia. He started his career on a farm in Goodland, Indiana, where his family had settled in 1875 after coming to the United States from England. In 1884 Mitten started his railway career as a telegraph operator for the Chicago and Indiana Railway, afterward merged into the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad Co. With this company and the Big Four lines he served in various capacities, stationed mostly at Wyndham, Indiana until 1887, when he became local agent at Attica. He remained in this position until 1890 when he became general superintendent of the Denver, Lakewood and Golden Railroad, then a steam road, but which was equipped electrically under his management.

In 1895, Thomas became general manager of the Milwaukee Electric Railway Co. He then became vice president and later president of the Chicago City Railway Co. and held that position from 1905-1911. He became Chairman of the Board, Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co., and president, International Railway Co., Buffalo, New York from 1911 to 1928. He was also president of the Yellow Cab Co., Philadelphia, president, Mitten Men and Management Bank and Trust Co., Philadelphia, and president of Mitten Management, Inc. The integrated transportation system he developed also included six airplanes with connecting flights to New York and Washington.



The President's Corner *By Yvonne Kay*

Newton County Historical Society

Program Focuses on Preserving Artifacts

Jennifer Hein, one of only ten conservators working in Indiana, ushered in the current theme of Artifacts at our last meeting. It was obvious that she knew her craft well. She gave background material on the different things that might ruin a collection of printed matter or collected objects. She had examples of insects that could cause damage. Mold, mildew, acid paper and the oil from hands were also cited as potential problems. As part of the demonstrations she showed the group how to care for a dress that had been donated to the Society. Careful choice of storage boxes and packing material were essential. The sources she uses for material were discussed. Ms. Hein assembled an interesting display of books and pamphlets on conservation, which will be of use in future as gifts are received. Many questions

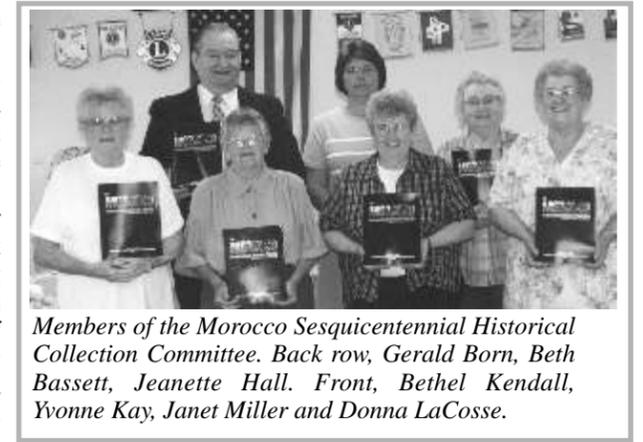
were then answered. She also furnished materials, which outline how things are to be preserved, a video was made and all this will be available at the Center.

As we batten down for the winter, we look forward to interesting programs that will develop the theme of artifacts, which in many historical societies are a major part of their efforts in preserving the past.

We are looking for volunteers to work at the Resource Center. It becomes more obvious every year that we need to have a paid staff, who can do the

work of the Society.

Economic reality means that more and more people who once volunteered their time, no longer have spare time to give.



Members of the Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection Committee. Back row, Gerald Born, Beth Bassett, Jeanette Hall. Front, Bethel Kendall, Yvonne Kay, Janet Miller and Donna LaCosse.



The Director's Update *By Gerald Born*

Family History Division

The Family History division has had a busy summer. Sales of the *Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection* have been brisk. Many have expressed appreciation that we were able to hold the price of the book at \$60.00. Copies are available from Yvonne Kay, Donna LaCosse and Gerald Born, and the IGA Store at Morocco; Beth Bassett and The Prairie House at Brook; Janet Miller, Sharpe's Store and the Resource Center in Kentland; and at the Roselawn and Lake Village IGA Stores.

As an interesting spinoff of the publication of the book, I was asked to speak to the French class of North Newton High School about Morocco. It is part of their effort of learning about the locale in which they live and an interesting seminar was held with many interesting questions about the town. We talked about local legends and how they can be verified. I took a pair of Morocco leather topped riding boots to show that the legend of how Morocco got its name may have indeed had a basis in fact.

At our last meeting we discussed the Newton County Historical Society web page that Beth is constructing. It will be wonderful to have the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society available on the site,

as well as the minutes of the meetings, membership blanks to download, maps and links to other pages that are of interest to the Society. A number of items were passed to Beth of things that we would like to see on the web page.

A couple of mysteries emerged on our computer at the Resource Center. Someone had put a password on the computer, which excluded anyone who wanted to use the Internet and no one seemed to know who had done it or what the password was. It took a number of days and dollars to get the problem solved. Then, as I was using our GenWeb site, I noticed something that I had not seen before, a link under Other Indiana Sites of Horace Peele's web page. It didn't seem to be relevant to Indiana genealogy and again no one knows how it got there. So we have had it removed. If anyone has a clue about these two happenings, please let us know. Could it be that we have been hacked?

We earmarked \$2,000 for the publication of a book on Brook history to be published by the Society in time for their Sesquicentennial. Kyle Conrad is spearheading the effort and a committee has already formed and assignments made to

start the process.

If any of our members have historical material or photographs they think applicable, please pass them along to the committee. It would also be a good time to put together your family history to be included in the book.

At the same meeting we earmarked \$2,000 for the publication of a Mt. Ayr history. Gerald Born and Donna LaCosse will head this effort. The town was formed in 1883 and it will be their 125th anniversary before long, a good time to start a history. Again if anyone has any relevant Mt. Ayr history please pass it along.

Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking help to "man" the Resource Center at Kentland a few hours each day. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Beth Bassett at 219-275-5741, Janet Miller at 219-474-5380, or Yvonne Kay at 219-285-2749. Thank You!