Augustus Dwight Babcock

By Beth Bassett

"As A Man Thinketh In His Heart, So Is He"

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, 1601 East, 1300 South, Brook, Indiana 47922. Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the second month of each quarter.

Art Director, Gerald Born, Hammond

The Newcomer is a publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. PO Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951

The Newcomer, Beth Bassett, Brook

PO Box 303, 224 North Third Street
Kentland, Indiana 47951
219-474-6944

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What's On Our Agenda ... The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month. 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 areas of the County at 7:00 p.m. All members are notified of the place and time each month. Don't Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!

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

We are again publishing our Summer Edition of The Newcomer. This edition is dedicated to the life and times of Augustus Dwight Babcock. Augustus was one of the finest collections in the United States at that time, and many flattering offers had been made to Mr. Babcock. Mr. Babcock was a democrat, and on two occasions was a candidate for prosecuting attorney, but owing to political conditions was met with defeat. His fraternal connection was with Goodland Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. His hobby was the building of a museum which he desired to hand down to future generations, and the Open Door Museum, located in Goodland stood as a monument to his ambition and generosity. Mr. Babcock was a colorful character. He was devoted to the town of Goodland and interests for the betterment of the entire county, and it was this profound ambition for the betterment and education of children that prompted him to found a musuem. For years, Mr. Babcock strove earnestly to reach every remote corner of the world, by letter, asking for articles, trinkets, pictures, etc. for display in his museum. His hobby was the building of a museum which he desired to hand down to future generations, and the Open Door Museum, located in Goodland stood as a monument to his ambition and generosity. Augustus Dwight Babcock was six years of age when his father died, and following that event he was taken to Rensselaer by his mother, who three years later married Mount Elia Jordan, the family then moving to near Remington and settling on a farm. While working on farms in Carpenters and Jordan townships, Mr. Babcock secured a common school education, but his ambition was to become a lawyer, and in 1885 he was admitted to the bar at Kentland and at once entered practice. He built up a good professional business and has an excellent standing among his fellow practitioners. 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**Do You Know Your County of Newton?**

By Janet Miller

1. What Newton County town was home to an Overall Factory?

2. What was the Akkiki?

3. Kentland, at one time, was the home of the Greyhound Post House on US. 41. Where in Kentland was the Greyhound bus stop prior to the building of the Post House?

**Newton County Census Records: 1860 & 1870**

**Newton County Maps**

**Newton County Genealogy**

**Newton County Orphanages**

**Obituaries of Past Residents of Newton County**

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**FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Send Payment to:**

Newton County Historical Society, Inc.

100 Church Street, Newton, NC 28658

219-474-6944

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**APPLIcATIoN FOR mEmBErSHIP IN THE nEWToN COUNTY hISTORICAL SoCIETY, INC.**

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**KENTLAND**

J. B. Bore, the army postmaster of this place, despatched an order by telegraph from Oldenburg, Germany, several years ago, for the following books: According to the report of the assessor there are 1,453 polls in this county. We are informed that G. W. Clark on the Bank farm in Washington Township, has seventy acres of as fine corn as there is in the county.

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**COOLGAND**

To Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Brunton, twin daughters, born in 1863; to Mrs. J. S. B. and Mr. S. W. G., sons of Johnsey and Eleanor (Campbell) McCarthy. When he was still a child, his father moved to Detroit, MI to operate a bakery that supplied bread to soldiers and the residents of the area. Three of their seven children were born during that time; Louise in 1841, Mary in 1842, and John Henry in 1845.

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**V isit our web site at www.rootsweb.com/~innewton** - Page 11

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J.W. McCarthy

**Submitted For Your Keeping**

The railway company laid piping underground for the purpose of getting water to the house when it is in use. He describes the family: "Mr. Gillett was everything to me: friend, sister, and mother. I do not speak disparagingly of others when I say this was no other but a dear friend and sister. She was not without personal charm, but her greatness adorns work with moral and intellectual excellence. The family lived with the heart of the state and disease eradicated."
A Little History on the Town of Tivola-Goodland

Many residents of Newton County are unaware of Bogus Island or of the fact that it was the site of one of the earliest counterfeiters in Indiana. Indeed, many older residents of Indiana have not heard of Bogus Island in northern Newton County, once the stronghold of the counterfeiter and horse thief, and for years pointed out to strangers as one of western Indiana’s most interesting landmarks.

Bogus’ Reputation Slowly Fades From Area

But the early history of the Bogus Island area affords nothing so strange and interesting as the changes that have taken place here in the last twenty-five years. The actual beginning of the reclamation of the region dates from the completion of the “Big Switch” in 1872 which drained the Chief Kankakee swamp, covering 25,000 acres into the Kankakee River. The thousands of acres added to the tillable area of northern Newton county by this enterprise soon attracted the attention of the hucksters, and in a few years the area was ready for settlement.

Looking today directly west of the Mitten Memorial Library Building, Newton Street, looking from the north at the southwest corner. Anyone remember the businesses that were located here?

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**A Bit of History on the Town of Tivola-Goodland**

This information was taken from articles written in a scrapbook in the Goodland Library. Library publication dates of these articles is not known. The explanation of the railroads being a direct connection with the great coalfields of Indiana on the south was produced by a local printer, Carpenter and Sister Company. Some of those can be seen in the Collection of a Lifetime.


**A Collection of a Lifetime!**

Butch Tilton of Goodland has been collecting post cards of the Goodland-Kentland area for about 8 years. His daughter Natalie has begun searching the internet for old post cards of the area, and with the help of her wife, Linda, continues to collect such cards from the area. Tilton and his wife collect these post cards as a personal interest.

**Post Cards Of Goodland-Kentland**

**Newton Street, looking from the north at the southeast corner. Do you know which storefront houses Denny’s?**

**Newton Street, looking from the north at the southeast corner. Anyone remember the businesses that were located here?**
The James Family of Goodland

By Eric James

Marion James was born in 1845 in Goodland. He was one of the founding members of the First Baptist Church of Goodland. He married Nancy Angeline Logan James, who was one of the founding members of the First Baptist Church of Goodland. Nancy had been born on the Oregon Trail.

Marion's wife, Nancy Angeline Logan Wood James, was one of the founding members of the First Baptist Church of Goodland. Nancy had been born on the Oregon Trail.

Mack also brought a brother Daniel Morgan to Goodland. It is believed Morgan operated a lumber business in Goodland, but this has not been verified.

The son of Marion and Nancy Angeline Logan Wood James, was A.D. Enjoyed exchanging stores about his collection with visitors to the Open Door Museum.

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Photo submitted by the Goodland-Grant Twp. Library.

Focus on Families

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

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Recently the sole surviving daughter of Frank and Marjorie James, born in Goodland in 1950, found that many of her family members were related to Sam Walton, founder of WalMart and Sam's Club, who had a great-grandfather named Marion James. Recently, Sam Walton, founder of WalMart and Sam's Club, was found to be a descendant in this family line. According to a list that was made by a W.P.A. project, in 1936, it was estimated there were over 4500 known ancestors and descendants. Recently, Sam Walton, founder of WalMart and Sam's Club, was found to be a descendant in this family line.

The James family came to Goodland just prior to the Civil War. Joseph McJames, aka Joseph McJames, had been taking some family members out of Pulaski County Kentucky to new settlement lands where the growing family might continue to prosper.

Prior to the Civil War McJames had been free from slavery families and settling them up in their own plantations and farms. Mack brought former slave families from Kentucky to Goodland to operate the farm together with his son Marion James, who was born in Goodland in Marion James. Marion James arrived in Goodland after serving in the Confederate army in the Civil War, James family once had fought on both sides. Marion settled into a life of farming and farming served as his primary occupation. Marion built a new home completely opposite of the original cabin. Farm life has its good and bad points. James family left the town of Westmont, Illinois, outside Chicago. There he married Anna Emalia Knaff, and raised 7 children. Among them was Frank.

Frank proved himself a kind, generous, and considerate Father and husband. He is also buried in Goodland Cemetery.

The Active pall bearers were Burke Walker of Lafollette and R. C. Conner of Lafayette. The active pall bearers were Burke Walker of Lafollette and R. C. Conner of Lafayette. The active pall bearers were Burke Walker of Lafollette and R. C. Conner of Lafayette.

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Their hosses and dug out fer the island like to h-----a-beatin' tanbark. "The next mornin'," said Jared, "the boss outlaw and six of his men cum over frum the island to whar I war camped and when I told 'me what had happened -- not knowin' at ... it made me shudder, and I've hear'n some mighty purty perfanity in my day and generashun, if I do say it as shouldn't. cussed 'emselves to the p'int of committin' salt and batter on me and my outfit, that blame Zac'rias comes strollin' out of the woods. The capting told me to git out'n thar mighty sudden, befo' he changed his mind and made wolf meat of me and Zac'rias both. Is generally believed to be a member of the Bogus island outlaw gang, was shot to death in his cabin, near Beaver lake, one ... it issaid, and his violent death caused no particular grief among the honest settlers of this locality. Testify that he came upon Schafer's ghost one evening, cumfertable as you please. I pulled my shack around with a old gray mule - Zac'rias, I called him - and we'd been together so long that by heck, we war like two brothers. I war campin' one night on the west rim of Beaver lake, 'bout three miles frum Bogus Island, and while I war gittin' supper I could see lights flicerin' on the island as if ... begins to pull back towards the lake, and as he couldn't git his head out'n that hole, of co'se my shack went with him. 'Boys, I war scairt stiff. I fairly got down on my ... Now it chainct to happen that on that p'ticlar occashun them thar bandits war drivin' a bunch of hosses to the outfit as straight as a beeline, bellerin' like a buffaler ... old stompin' ground, fo'ty miles away. The drivers, b'l'evin' Zac'rias to be some sort of a hant, put the last to ... to investigate as suspicious looking smoke, asked: "And what will I do with the hoss, mister, ef'n yu don't come back?" A good old circuit rider, at the time living in western Indiana, southern Michigan and Eastern Illinois, all roads led to Bogus Island. Pursuing parties also, as a rule, acted on this theory. He'd chase herd 'em within fifteen miles of the island and the owner and his neighbors would over on set for "old Bogus," and if they failed to exterminate it their men before reaching the dense timber surrounding the island, they invariably turned back, mend of that way aboul' "distraction being the better part of valor." Their tactics in this respect result in the attribution of the Kentucky's, who, when ordered by a recruef officer to hold his horses while the officer went over to a nearby saloon to investigate a suspicious looking smoke, asked: "and what will I do with the hoss, mis'man, is it to stay backs?" "Bogus Island comprises forty acres and formerly ... shottin'出去的; the woods, still connected with the rear ... they thought that their thiers' wheels rolled on the round and laughed like a poor hound on easter. For, wh' when they couldn't laugh no more, they got up the caption and told me to git out'n the woods, but afterwards, before he charged his mind and made me out'me and Zac'rias both. "Ite me," the old reefer boy would usually close this narrative, "I was dumd to git away with a whole shack, larn t'handle my shack, they outs was crowded out, some ten years later. "I man the name of Schafur and she was generally believed as a member of the Bogus and outlaw gang, was shot to death in his cabin, near Beaver lake, one in the 1860's, and was the commonly accepted theory at the time that the outlaws for some impossum reasons, committed the murder. Schafur lived alone, was on an all-out bad man, he said, and his violent death caused no particualr grief among the honest settlers of this locality. "But the death of this noted character, it would seem, would place Ca'sin as a factor in the community. His ghost, tradition has it, would take a hand in the home on the most unexpected and inappropriate occasions, as well as in the forty odd nights before, while women became hysterical and drunk through fear. "Beg Bellhouse, an honest settler, was want to write what he came upon Schafur's ghost one evening, Continued On Page Eight

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Island Surrounded by Marsh Occupied By Lawbreakers

NEWTON’S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

The First Church

A dedication Program of a historical marker placed at the site of the first church in Newton County was held on July 4, 1976, and was sponsored by the Newton County Bicentennial Committee and Mt. Zion United Methodist Church with the cooperation of the Historical Society. Group pictures of the people gathered parking their cars in the meadow behind chairs and benches that had been set up for the occasion. After the program, the markers were unveiled with the plaque made from logs and a cross cut NC, west of 41, and to the north after the old railroad tracks.

Photos by Beth Bassett.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of the James family has been translated from the Indiana Office of the State Historical Society of Indiana. The material has been compiled from various sources and is not intended to be a comprehensive account of the family's history. It is presented for educational and informational purposes only.

FOCUS ON FAMILIES

The James Family of Goodland

By Eric James

The man with the beard is Rev. Joseph Martin James, father of Joseph McCalister James, aka Jos. McJames. Mack's name change was further triggered by the encounter between his ornate mustache and Frank's. Under this name, Mack built a sterling reputation.

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1. In 1907, Brook was the site of “the overall factory”, started by Chicago clothing manufacturers Lewin and Son. A brick building was built and during its eight years of operation it employed over 50 women. For more information see: “And They Named Her Brook” by John M. Connell.

2. This is one of the Indian names for the Kankakee River. Before the name of Brook was applied, the river was called the Indian name Tashkekee, Tashkeki, Tekulki, Therakkee, Arapeekee, and others. It is also stated that upon completion of the log church it was also used as a school building. The building was of logs and described as “being about 20 ft. by 10 ft. with 8 ft. ceiling, faced to the south, with one window in the north, two in the west, two in the east and a door in the south.”

Tashkekee and Missouri churches were held in the grove nearby. It is recorded that large crowds attended, many traveling for miles and remaining for several days.

Frederick Kenoyer had three sons who became preachers. Jeremiah, who went west and was one of the pioneer missionaries in Oregon and Washington. He was also a doctor and as he went to preach the gospel and cured the sick. Jacob A., who was mentioned before, was one of the first preachers licensed to preach in the county.

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The men were volunteers and served without pay. Their discipline was one of the strictest and implicit obedience was the rule. This company aided by the settlers living in the area fought the outlaws and chased them to the west, and at the end of the war the outlaws fled to the main land by boat. Among the pioneers of the county who were instrumental in the building of the island was John I. Chase, of Grandview, who was one of the first families to move into the county from the east.

The first church built in the county, probably in the late 1830’s, was on the farm of Frederick Kenoyer near the Iroquois River. The location of the church building was on the north side of the present road about 110 rods east of the Metz family residence. Previous to the building of the church, services were held in several homes in the country and the community, and the church was also said to have been used as a school building. The church was of logs and described as “being about 20 ft. by 10 ft. with 8 ft. ceiling, faced to the south, with one window in the north, two in the west, two in the east and a door in the south.”

The Kentfield Chapter NSDAR headed the project of the procurement and final placement of the marker for the first church in Newton County. Eta Stevens, president of the chapter, helped describe this unbelievable project.

The stone marker for the first church Newton County is located on CR 1750 South, just west of Goodland and to the north after the old railroad tracks. Photos by Beth Bassett

1. Classen Outing
2. Sycamore Outing

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