

Visit our Resource Center!

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

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

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

The Newcomer

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

Officers of the Newton County Historical Society

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**PO Box 303, 224 North Third Street
Kentland, Indiana 47951
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Dues (Check One) Yearly (July 1- June 3)
Student (\$2) Individual (\$6)
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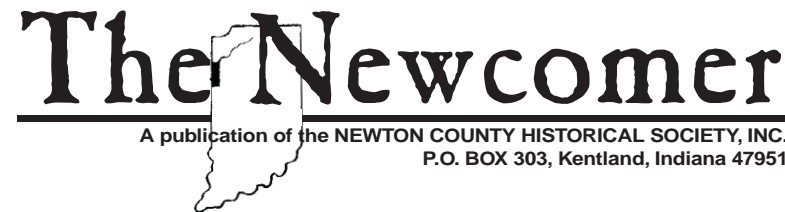
As a member, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, THE NEWCOMER free!

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send Payment to:

**Newton County Historical Society, Inc.
Treasurer, PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951
219-474-6944**



If you are not a paid member, this may be your last issue of The Newcomer - Please send your dues today!

What's On Our Agenda . . .

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

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

Visit our web site at www.rootsweb.com/~innewton

The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County
SPRING 2001 • \$2.25

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See the Back Page - This may be your last free sample, if you are not a member of our society!

150 Years of Farming By Vic Carlson

Morocco was founded 150 years ago in 1851 and I have lived one half of this period having been born in 1924 and farmed here all of my life.

I have seen tremendous changes and there were of course, important farming practices developed after Newton County was settled and Morocco was established.

The Morocco area attracted many early settlers because of the Beaver Timber. Timber was essential for house, shelter for livestock and fuel for heating the dwelling. Almost all of the land to the south of Morocco was covered by prairie grass. It was usually broken up with a plow pulled by several head of oxen. It is interesting to note that the first attempts to drain the area was accomplished with a large plow pulled by several teams of oxen hitched in tandem.

As the settlers became established and prospere., agricultural changes came rapidly. Draft horses and mules provided the motive power on the farm and were the only means of transportation until the railroads came to this area later. Most of the crops raised in the early period were consumed locally, but some were hauled by team and wagon to Kankakee, Illinois, Chicago, Illinois and Lafayette, Indiana.

The early farms were small but diversified with livestock of all kinds. The farmer was very self sufficient and raised almost all of his families needs, as well as feed a few families in town.

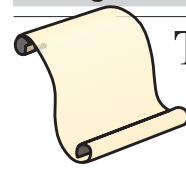
The Civil War took place a little over one decade after Morocco was founded, and many changes in farm implements came about. The grain binder replaced the cradle sythe and the grain separator or threshing machine separated the small grain from the straw and chaff. Better plows and tillage tools became available and the two row horse drawn corn planter replaced the early method of hand planting.

The average farmer could handle more acres and the family farm became progressively larger. Where the earlier farmer probably owned one-two horse team, a farmer needed six or eight head to farm 160 acres. The steam traction engine powered the threshing machine, saw mill and other machinery by an endless belt, but were too big and awkward to be of much use for tillage in this area.

At about the turn of the Century, the internal combustion engine had been developed to the point where it was becoming practical. By the time I was born in 1924, the automobile and farm tractor had been widely accepted. *Continued on page three.*



During Morocco Plow Days in 1999, Vic Carlson demonstrates plowing with a team of Percheon Horses pulling a sulky 1 bottom plow. Photo Submitted by Vic Carlson.



The President's Corner *By Yvonne Kay*

Spring is trying to happen in Newton County and already has made it appearance in North Carolina, where I have been enjoying the daffodils. It has been a long winter, and everyone is ready for some sunshine. The winter has been filled with a lot of paperwork. Between completing the applications for the Federal and State not-for-profit status for the Newton County Historical Society and its Retail Merchants Certificate, I still have numbers running around in my head. I can report that we now have received approval for each of them and that removes any barrier to accept title to the Scott-Lucas house and the funds from the sale of Ann's personal property. We also can now sell items at a Museum Shop, should we open one. Ann's estate has not been finalized, but we look forward to it being closed soon, as there are committees ready to start work on their projects.

I have been helping my daughter, Joyce, prepare family history for the upcoming Sesquicentennial book. It has become clear to me how important this is. With all of the fractured families that exist it will be almost impossible for future generations to know

Resource Center Library Wish List

Although the shelves in our library at the Resource Center of the Society located at 224 N. Third Street in Kentland have several books regarding local history, family histories and general information for researching, we still have many books that would help complete our collection. If any of you run across an extra copy of the following books, or are aware of a source for purchasing these books, please contact us at 219-474-6944. We need these books! Thank you!

- (1) Newton County 1853-1911 by John Ade.
- (2) A Standard History of Jasper and Counties 2 volumes 1916.
- (3) Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, Indiana 1883.
- (4) Beaver Lake, A Land of Enchantment by Elmore Barce.
- (5) Any book of poems by Will Pfrimmer.
- (6) Any book by a local author.
- (7) Any book by George Ade.
- (8) The Story of Marion's Men by Weems -tells the story of Jasper and Newton as soldiers
- (9) The Land of the Potawatamie by Elmore Barce.
- (10) The Land of the Miamis by Elmore Barce.
- (11) Tales of An Old Border Town and Along the Kankakee by Burt E. Burroughs.
- (12) Recollections and Autobiography Gurdon S. Hubbard.
- (13) Memoirs William H. Hershman.
- (14) A History of your own Newton County by Joseph Fletcher. We have a photo copy.
- (15) Biographical History of Tippecanoe. Plus other counties.
- (16) Hubbards Trail. Alfred Hubbard Holt 1952.
- (17) Any family histories that have been-published could we have yours?
- (18) Newton County High School Yearbooks any school.

Do you have an old family Bible? Never destroy these! We would be happy to have them or we would be happy to copy the written family information from them for our files. Books may be given as a memorial or in honor of someone.

who their ancestors are unless we record them now. I encourage you all to submit your family history to the Resource Center for filing, even if you are not involved in the Beaver Township book. It takes some time, but you will be pleased that you did.

The Society is still in need of volunteers. The growth of the Society has been outstanding. However, it has all been accomplished by volunteer help and there are many jobs that still remain to be done. If you can devote a few hours even on a regular basis to help keep the Resource Center open it will be a valuable contribution. We have pretty well got the afternoons covered, but the mornings still need volunteers. Beth Bassett is in charge of the schedule and will be happy to accept your help. We are getting more and more visitors.

If you have not visited the Resource Center, please do. I think you will be impressed by what has been accomplished in such a short time. If you have not driven by the Scott-Lucas House in Morocco, please do, for I think you will be interested in this classic Arts and Crafts Bungalow, which soon will be ours.

Our INGENWEB Web Site Wins The Purple Floppy Award!

With the addition of our cemeteries records, actual pdf files of our newsletter, a link to a quality cemetery and township map, and information regarding general records, our web site has received many positive comments from visitors and researchers. Doing this has increased the traffic to our site, as well as lessened the burden of research to our volunteers.

We are in the midst of publishing The Morocco Sesquicentennial Book, and the web site has provided a way for "out of towners" to contribute their family histories. Biographies and Obituaries downloaded to the site by Gerald Born and visitors have also added valuable material for the book.

I was recently informed that our site had been awarded "The Purple Floppy Award", which is given internally by the INGENWEB Project. We were ranked eighth in the state, with the award given to the top ten sites. Without the contributions of our members, and the help of our webmaster, Fred Finkbiner, who worked with Bob Williamson at the onset of the site, this information would still be on file at the center, and not available on-line to be accessed by the world. Good job everyone! Submitted by *Beth Bassett, Web Site Coordinator.*



Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. In the early years, people of Newton County referred to Kentland with a nickname. What was it?
2. What and where was the first benevolent society formed in Newton County?
3. An early landmark of Newton County was Timmons Ford. Where was it located?
4. In 1886 and 1887, there were two fairs held in Newton County. Name them and their locations.
5. A. J. Kent, the founder of Kentland, was also a large land owner. He died in May, 1882, owning approximately how many acres in Newton County?

(see answers on Page 14)

PAGES OF THE PAST

The following excerpts are from The Kentland Enterprise during the Spring of 1900, transcribed by Janet Miller

Kentland

A small party of young folks enjoyed the hospitality of F. M. Ross Tuesday evening at a crokinole contest.

The suggestion of the Indianapolis Press that the country roads be given names the same that is accorded to streets in the cities, is hardly necessary. The roads had far better be graveled than dignified by a name. Any farmer who gets his wagon stuck in the mud of a country road can find an appropriate name for that particular highway without looking on a guideboard.

Treasurer Ade has finished sending out the tax books to the several townships, and collections will be made at the usual places except in Jackson township, and at that point Mr. Geo. Sigler will make the collections. This arrangement makes it convenient for the taxpayers, and almost makes a county seat unnecessary.

Governor Mount has issued a proclamation calling upon the people of the State to observe the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the territorial form of government in Indiana by holding celebrations in each of the counties on July 4th. Information concerning the counties' earliest history will be secured, compiled and read on this occasion. The papers read at the county celebrations will be forwarded to the Governor, and will be filed away in the State library, to be compiled later in book form.

Bowling Premiums: The following premiums are awarded to persons scoring the highest number of points on any single game played at my bowling alley during the month: 1st, \$2.50; 2nd, box of Havana cigars; 3rd, \$1.00. Also \$5.00 to the person raising the present record of 257 points. Adolph Roy

March 15 A housewife in the north end of town, with malicious intent and malice aforethought, commenced cleaning house this week. Knowing how contagious the housecleaning fever is a person so malevolent as to start its spread this early in the spring should be quarantined for at least thirty days.

Sir Thomas Ross, the big cat known to all patrons of Frank Ross' grocery, is a real epicurean, and showed his taste for bird meat the other day by making a spring at a helpless

little bird ornament worn on a lady customer's hat. The lady's fright and the cat's modesty saved the headgear intact.

Washington Township

May 3 A bulletin just issued by the State Board of charities has the following to say of the Newton county poor farm: "The farm consists of about 317 acres, perhaps two thirds of which is tillable. It is located four miles northwest of Kentland. The Superintendent is paid a salary, and everything furnished by the county. Thirty head of cattle, two cows, thirteen horses and ninety hogs comprise the livestock. About an acre is devoted to garden, and there is three acres of young orchard. Not over a half dozen are bearing. The population is nine, five men and four women. The women occupy one side of the house, and the men the other, and the Superintendent's residence is between. The house and inmates are both clean. There are no bathtubs of any service. Weekly bathing is required, in which movable vessels are available. Clothing and bedding are good. Iron beds are supplied. Light is by lamps, and heat is by stoves. The food is sufficient. Vegetables and fruits are supplied in season. The health of the inmates is good. Newspapers are provided for reading. There are no religious services. The records are fairly good. The main building is a two story frame structure, almost square, with a large square hall in the center. The rooms open into this hall. This building is in good condition, as are also the farm buildings, fences and dooryards."

John Anderson will hold a public sale of farm implements tomorrow at the farm of Lemuel Risley in Washington Township.

Mt. Ayr

Ralph Agate, Ray Nichols, and Grant Lane, Mt. Ayr high school boys, recently accepted a challenge to hold a debate with three boys of a neighboring school. They drove ten miles to meet their challengers, found the house crowded, but the debaters failed to appear.

The ladies of Mt. Ayr have organized a new society and so far is composed of eighteen members. It is known as the L. L. H. of meeting Ayr.

Morocco

Cummings and Darroch have sold the Maloney ranch of 1,120 acres lying two

miles north of Morocco, to a Chicago party. Consideration \$31,000.00.

Miss Jennie Conrad left the first of the week for Europe where she will sojourn for about three months.

Goodland

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Bell were in Kentland from Goodland Thursday evening attending the entertainment given by the Rathbone Sisters. The Temple presented Mrs. Bell with a lovely new dress and other articles as tokens of friendship, and in sympathy for the loss sustained by her in the fire which recently destroyed their home.

Lake Village

Alfred C. Lowe and Miss Frances Larsen, a Newton county couple who got their marriage license at Rensselaer, Feb. 23rd, were married at Lake Village on Friday, March 2nd, by Jennie Peters, a "Spiritual Minister." This is probably the first time in its history, that a couple licensed in this county were married by a woman, and probably also the first that were married by a "Spiritual Minister". This Rev. Mrs. or Miss Jennie Peters was ordained by the Spiritualist Association of Illinois, and by them authorized to preach, solemnize marriages, cure by "laying on of hands", etc.

Thayer

Charles Hickman says his livery business is so rushing that he hasn't teams enough to supply the demand, especially when there is a dance at Water Valley.

Roselawn

A large party of Rose Lawn people were at Water Valley Sunday bathing and taking in the sights.

How Can We Help?

We'd love to help you discover your family history - or help you find materials for a history project.

Give Us A Call . . . if you would like to visit our resource center that has a library filled with local history books and information.

Like to reserve a time? Just Call Ahead - we'll try to accommodate everyone!

219-474-6944
e-mail: newtonhs@ffni.com



Green Acre Farms Of Colfax Township



The landmark home shown in this photograph of Major William Augustus Rafferty and his wife Virginia Insull Rafferty, that was located on the Green Acre Farm in Colfax Township in the late 1920's, is now a part of our Newton County heritage, as is the island on which the house was built. Photo submitted by Shirley Miller.

By Beth Bassett

In the 1920's, Major William Augustus Rafferty arrived in Colfax township and purchased large tracts of land in Sections 17, 19, 20 and 29. At this time, Major Rafferty and George Hillis farmed together owning in partnership ground in sections 17, 18, 20 and 1/2 of 29. Later, they divided this and farmed individually.

Major Rafferty was born on March 6, 1892 at Ft. Wingate, New Mexico. He was the son of Colonel William A. and Rosetta (Ezekia) Rafferty. He spent his entire youth at various Army headquarters where his father was stationed. He entered West Point Military Academy on March 6, 1909 and graduated in the class of 1913 in time to see action in the Vera Cruz incident with Pancho Villa became overenthusiastic. He was on the staff of Gen. John J. Pershing in World War I, in France, as a coordinator of supply in the General Staff Corps, First Army, A.E. F. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Belgian Order of the Cross. He retired from service at Washington, D.C. on December 31, 1922, as a Major.

The Major met Miss Virginia Insull at Highland Park, Illinois and they were married on April 27, 1927. Virginia, the only daughter of Martin and Virginia (Van Vleet) Insull was born in Evanston, Illinois on December 7, 1896. From there she moved to Massachusetts, back to New Albany, Indiana. Unfortunately, past information does not reveal much about her life prior to marrying Major Rafferty, but her

obituary states that she was a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Highland Park, Illinois; Morocco American Legion Auxiliary and the American Angus Association Auxiliary.

The home was built in 1928 on a sandy knoll, which was part of an island in Beaver Lake. This home would become headquarters for a 2,035 acre establishment with an impressive output of beef, pork, and purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle, as well as grain crops such as corn, wheat, oats and hay.

A copy of an article given to me by my sister, Shirley Miller, wife of Devon Miller, son of Mount Miller, one of the general foremen at Green Acre Farms, reveals much of the day to day activity of the farm. Unfortunately, the introduction and ending of the article have been lost with time, which contained information regarding Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty's lives. However, we were able to reproduce a picture of the lovely home they established.

"Many Green Acre calves have brought over \$1,000 and the top was \$1,500, for a heifer that was a champion at Denver, but those are the exceptions, not the rule. Major Rafferty strives for a good, type calf that will be the most efficient possible tool to turn grass into meat, to provide good bulls and heifers that will raise the productivity not only of the home farm but the surrounding farms of the area. Increased farm productivity, that's always the main goal.

"Counting on a calf crop of around 85%, say 100 bulls and 100 heifers annually, not over 15 or 20 heifers are added to the herd

each year. Around 80 bull calves are castrated. The Major is not sentimental in the use of the knife. It is used all too sparingly by most breeders, he believes. Steers are sold as club calves or fed for the commercial market.

"You like to sell a load around the top once in a while," he explains.

"The rest of the crop is sold privately and there's always a market, evidence that the Major's preaching and example have borne fruit.. The Major likes to see the youngsters appreciate good cattle."

In fact, both the Major and Mrs. Rafferty were responsible for many young members of the farming community's involvement in the local 4-H programs. They contributed help and encouragement to many members, furnishing calves, pigs and money to help them get started. They taught the children to groom and show their livestock. The Major served on the County 4-H Committee and furnished money for ribbons and awards as well.

"But the Angus herd, big as it is and important as it is to the general scheme of things at Green Acres, is only a part of the picture. From 300 to 350 feeder calves are purchased at the Chicago market and fed out at the farm along with the home bred Angus.

"There was a time when thoroughbred horses were an important part of the livestock picture. This was another case of an accident and the Rafferty family team which led to a thriving sideline. Mrs. Rafferty had been a horsewoman since girlhood. The Major, too, knew good horseflesh when he saw it. His father was a



From the Journal and Courier, June 6, 1976, we see left to right, Howard Washburn, Steve Derflinger and John Funk examining the monument placed in honor of Governor McCray's prize bull, Perfection Fairfax.

made details hazy, said the rumor reportedly was based on the word of several of McCray's farmhands, who said they saw the flag being covered by dirt.

A posse of patriots armed with shovels invaded McCray's farm and labored to disinter the bull. They found no flag, but several, perhaps trying to justify the act, said the grave site showed evidence that someone had opened it prior to the posse's arrival.

A couple of years later, members of the American Legion in Newton County reportedly objected to flying of an American flag from a flagstaff on the monument.

The death of the prize bull seemed to mark a turning point in McCray's financial fortunes. It was four years later when he was convicted of mail fraud by a federal jury at Indianapolis while he was serving as Indiana's 29th governor.

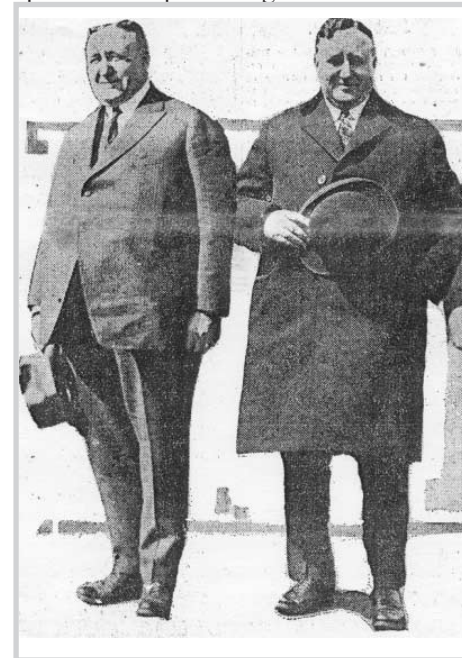
A year before his federal indictment, McCray escaped imprisonment when a state court jury failed to reach a verdict on a charge that he had embezzled \$155,000 from the Indiana Agricultural Board. That year the state was rife with rumor that the governor, once said to be worth \$3 million was bankrupt.

Governor Warren T. McCray

Warren T. McCray was born in 1865 near Brook, and after a common school

education in Kentland, became a bookkeeper in the Discount and Deposit Bank of Kentland. he later became president and owner of the bank.

According to McCray in one of the publications promoting Perfection Fairfax,



"my original purchase of 250 acres was made in 1890, which at that time was an unimproved and undesirable piece of land. From time to time, as opportunity offered, additional purchases were made until the

farm (Orchard Lake Stock Farm) now comprises a tract of 1,600 acres".

"At first," McCray wrote, "I started feeding steers and raising grade calves for baby beef. I was always partial to the Hereford breed, and from feeding steers and raising grade calves to the breeding of purebred cattle was but a short step. In 1904, I purchased a few registered cows, adding in 1905 the first bull to the herd.

"From this small and modest beginning the business has grown until the herd of all times numbers over 500 head. The annual sales for the year ending December 31, 1917 amounted to more than a quarter million dollars," McCray said.

McCray was highly regarded in farm circles and served as president of the National Grain Dealers Association. His political aspirations surfaced in 1916 when he became a candidate for Republican nomination as governor. He lost the nomination to James P. Goodrich, but in 1920 won the nomination and election.

Although his personal financial life was filled with scandal and fraud, McCray apparently separated his official duties from his personal life. He ran the state efficiently and pushed through important legislation. Whether you like it or not, you can thank Gov. McCray for the tax on gasoline that is used for state and county highway construction. The gasoline tax measure was a pet project upon which he had based much of his campaign.

Eighty seven public buildings were constructed during his administration, including many of those still in use at the State Fairgrounds. McCray sponsored 13 amendments to the Indiana Constitution, but only one was adopted the one incorporating women's suffrage.

McCray also pushed an improved teacher's pension law through the Legislature after he made a number of unannounced visits to rural schools to investigate educational problems.

It was the old role as a "wheeler dealer" cattle baron that got McCray into trouble. During his sensational trial on charges of using the mails to defraud, the federal prosecutor paraded 150 witnesses to the stand, all of whom were McCray farm managers and employees and Indiana bankers.

The trial revealed that McCray had forged the names of many of his farm managers and partners to papers for loans he had allegedly made to them so they could purchase herds of cattle covered by notes

A Ned Barker Interview Regarding Beaver Lake

by S. E. Perkins III, Indianapolis, Fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Thomas K. Barker settled about 1838 on the banks of Beaver Lake. This was only four years after the Indians ceded their rights to this region to the government. It was for this Barker that the old Barker Township was named, evidencing the outstanding character of the man. He was succeeded in that region as time went on by his son and grandson, the latter, Ned Barker, born on this homestead in 1860. Throughout his life Ned has tramped year after year in this constantly changing area. He knows its every mile of land and water. He had experiences similar to J. Lorenzo Werich and E. W. Erwin who have written of the hunting and trapping during the same period in the Kankakee Region.

I have the following history, past and present, of the wild life thereabouts, from Ned Barker whom Dr. Amos W. Butler and myself interviewed in September, 1934 at his cabin on the banks of the Kankakee near Sumava and Lake Village.

"When I was a boy," said Mr. Barker, "Beaver Lake was literally covered with swans both spring and fall. They appeared in flocks like white clouds above the lake. They left in the mornings from daylight till 9:00 a.m. and returned at dusk through as long a period. I learned to wing-tip them, becoming sufficiently pert that even with a shot gun I could shoot off the primaries of the swan on one side so it became out of balance and could not fly and it would coast to earth unhurt. When captured, it was placed in one of the pens at my father's place on the banks of the lake. These swans, being again wing-clipped in spring of a succeeding year, bred in captivity. We killed both spring and fall in those days."

"I acted as a guide after I was twelve years of age for some noted hunters, among whom were Messrs. Gaff and Fleischman, prominent business men of Cincinnati. They with a number of other hunters had a club house or hunter's lodge on the south shore of Beaver Lake. With my cheap gun I got swans for them. They were unable themselves to get these magnificent birds because of their inexperience, even with three hundred fifty dollar shot guns for they could not gauge the range."

According to T. H. Ball there were, about fifty years ago, swans identified as trumpeters that nested in the Kankakee marshes of nearby Lake County. The Ruthven Deane collection in Chicago contains a specimen of trumpeter swan taken in February 1894 in adjacent Porter County. It measured fifty inches long with a spread of wing of eighty-three inches. Mr. Barker says he never saw any of

these in Newton County.

Of the whistling swans he said, "These white birds were one moving mass of white. They looked like a great snow bank in motion as far as you could see on the lake." There are two specimens of whistling swan that have come to my attention that are still extant. One is in Morocco and was killed about 1886 at Beaver Lake by Barker. The other was taken at Morocco and is in the State House collection at Indianapolis. These are not so large as the trumpeter.

Barker said that in his young manhood he had seen two kinds of cranes in the marshes, a white "red-headed" and a smaller brown crane. The white one was common thirty years ago. This white one could mean none other than the whooping crane, very large and with red face. The other was the sandhill crane by some named "sandy-hill," of the same build and about three and a quarter feet tall. The whooping crane is today practically extirpated from the state, only a few being seen going through the region at migration time, while Mr. Barker says the sandhill cranes were nesting in the marshes near the old lake as late as 1932, when he saw two adults and their young. Now over forty of these cranes may be found at Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve in occasional years.

Ducks of many kinds were very common and the different species were collected by the Barkers, three generations of them, by wing-tipping and corralling in the same way as the swans were. Ned Barker says, "Wood duck, mallard, blue-winged and green winged teal still breed both in captivity and in the wild. The shoveller or "spoonbill" was not common at any

time. The hooded merganser continues to nest in the tree holes near the lake. The Canada goose, the snow goose and the blue goose are all recognized now as uncommon migrants on this lake. The Canada goose formerly bred in the wild, up to fifty years ago, when we often corralled them in captivity. (The last wild nest of a Canada goose was seen in 1895). The blue goose and snow goose of two sizes bred at the lake only when corralled. I have seen the "brant" as we called the white-fronted goose." Barker reports pintail or "spike tail" still the commonest duck. The widgeon was reported by all the hunters of the olden days. Sadly, Barker continued, that as the lake became smaller all the forms of water bird life became scarcer and some kinds ceased to breed there.

Passenger pigeons passed over in great numbers, said Mr. Barker, so that he got to know them well. They had roosts and nesting areas both thereabouts. He reports that the last live specimen he saw there was about 1900.



Ned Barker and his pet owl, "Hoot".

A Collection of A Lifetime Old Ivory China Collection

Old Ivory China is a collection of delicate and beautiful porcelains produced by the Ohme Porcelain Works in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Little has been known of its origins or history, and therefore it has been shrouded in mystery. This only adds to the excitement that the Gerbracht experiences when their search for additional pieces to their collection! Barbara inherited a Chocolate Set and Cake Set that once belonged to her father and mother, who acquired it from her grandfather's sister, Emma Howard Ireland of Charles City Iowa. Emma had the set at about the turn of the century, and Barbara is sure that she used the ivory for entertaining.

What is clear about this china is that a factory existed in Silesia, Germany, from 1882 to 1928 called the Procelain Manufactory Hermann Ohme. The factory produced two lines of porcelains. The major line was a fine china titled "Old Ivory" after its delicately matted ivory colored background. This finish and color was achieved by china painting the ivory color over the clear glazed bisque and then firing. The second series was a line of hotel ware utilizing the same porcelain pieces but finished in clear glaze.

The china was produced in full dinner sets with multiple accessories similar to Haviland china patterns. Blanks were even given French names as an obvious link to the highly respected French manufacturers. Some of the Old Ivory China possessed a more complete line of accessory pieces than others.

The porcelains of Old Ivory and apparently, the majority of the hotel wares were produced exclusively for export to the United States. The china was shipped in wooden barrels, often used as ballast in the cargo hold on the ships. The hearsay information provides that the barrels of china were often traded for barrels of fish upon reaching New England, and during the times of embargo of German goods, were smuggled ashore by sailors to grade for desired supplies.



Barbara is shown here with her collection of Old Ivory China and holding a piece with her favorite pattern - the tulip. Photo by Beth Bassett



This is the Chocolate Set that was originally her grandfather's sister, Emma Ireland Howard. Additional pieces have been added by the family over the past 10 years. Photo by Beth Bassett

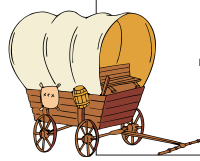
There were 3 major ports of entry of the Ohme porcelains in the United States. The largest import destination was Portland, Maine; the second was Boston, Massachusetts, and the third New Orleans, Louisiana. Distributors are documented from the first two ports, but none from New Orleans.

Barbara added to her mother's collection by happening upon a mustard pot. About 10 years ago, the Gerbracht's obtained the family collection and their entire family is involved in the search for added pieces. Since that time, they have added over 100 pieces.

One of Barbara's favorite patterns is the tulip pattern, which is not an easy find. But, she is collection 7 1/2 inch plates, attempting to have one that represents each pattern of Old Ivory China.

In 1996, a group of collectors decided to create a society, namely the Society For Old Ivory and Ohme Porcelains. Each year they meet for a convention at different locations throughout the United States. Here, 50-75 people bring pieces of their collections for discussion amongst the group, as well as participate in an auction of Old Ivory China, of course, and to collect and share their general knowledge about their collections.

Thank you Barbara, for sharing your collection with us!



FOCUS ON FAMILIES *The Kessler Families*

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

By Vic Carlson

The David Kessler Family

One of the early pioneer settlers who came to Beaver Township, Newton County (at that time Newton was part of Jasper County) was David Kessler. He came to this area from Battleground, Tippecanoe County, Indiana in 1844 with his wife and



David and Rachel (Fisher) Kessler.
Photo submitted.

two children. It is interesting to note that the last of the Potawatomi Indians who inhabited the Beaver Lake area had been removed and sent southwest just seven years prior to this date in 1834 and seven years later John Murphey founded Morocco in 1851.

David Kessler was born in Botetourt, Va. in 1807 to Jacob and Elizabeth (Shearer) Kessler. Jacob was a son of Johannes Kessler who came to America from Hess Darmstadt, Germany and settled in Fayette County, Va.

In 1831 at Battleground, Ind. David Kessler married Rachel Fisher. A son, John Luther, was born in 1832 and a daughter

Catherine Elizabeth was born in 1837. In 1845, one year after homesteading near Morocco, a daughter Mary Jane was born.

David Kessler pre-empted a farm one mile west of Morocco, the patent to which was signed by U. S. President James K. Polk.

The farm has remained in the Kessler family and presently John D. Kessler, great-great grandson of the pioneer David Kessler, owns and resides there. The Kessler farm is listed in the Hoosier Homestead Award Program which recognizes farms owned by the same family for at least one hundred years. Of Newton County recipients to date, the Kessler farm, acquired from the United States government in 1844, has the longest tenure.

Before public schools were organized in Beaver township, individuals or groups built crude one room log school houses which were commonly known as subscription schools.

John Ade stated in his "History of Newton County", that such a school existed west of Morocco and was known as the Kessler School. There can be no doubt it was located on David Kessler's farm.

There are always stories passed down through family generations and one concerns David Kessler and his wrestling ability. David was said to be a large, powerful man. This is confirmed in a recent history article written by Gerald Born which appeared in the *Morocco Courier*, in which a letter written by John Ade is reprinted. John Ade relates a story about a visit to David Kessler's farm and alludes to his physical attributes. Wrestling may have been a family pastime because David's brother George who lived near Rensselaer, Indiana was also known as a wrestler.

Family tradition has it that David trained and developed strength by lifting a calf every day. As the calf grew and became heavier, it took more strength to lift the animal and thereby the lifter's strength increased gradually.

In those days, one form of entertainment at local gathers was wrestling matches between traveling professional wrestlers and fighters who were pitted against the local talent available. usually the local yokels came out second best.

The story goes that a party from Morocco in company with one of those professional wrestlers appeared at David Kessler's residence hoping to interest David in challenging the man to a match in Morocco.

It seems as they arrive, Kessler was attempting to pen a group of steers weight around 500 lbs. each. As they watched, Kessler was successful in penning all but one animal in the split rail enclosure. At this point, David wrestled the steer to the ground and bodily lifted the animal over the rails and dropped him in the pen.

After observing this feat it is reported the wrestler turned to the Morocco men and said, "Let's get back to town. I don't think I want to wrestle that farmer."

Perhaps his strength came into play on another occasion. History states that while enroute to Tippecanoe County, Kessler encounter a fellow with a horse he recognized which had been stolen from the area. Kessler apprehended the man and horse and returned them to Morocco.

David Kessler died in 1866 and his wife Rachel died in 1894. Both were interned in Murphy Cemetery in Morocco.

John Luther Kessler

John Luther Kessler, only son of David, grew to manhood on the Kessler homestead and in 1856 married Sarah Ann Goddard, daughter of Benjiman Hall Goddard and Nancy Deardurff. The Goddard and Deardurff families also came to the Morocco area from Battle Ground and figured prominently in the development of the Morocco Community.

John Luther and Sarah Ann were the parents of four sons, all born on the Kessler farm west of Morocco. The first son, Elbert Riley, grandfather of local resident Martha Blaney was born in 1857. The second son, John David, grandfather of local resident Howard Kessler, was born in 1861. The third son, Robert Benjimen, grandfather of local residents Dorothy Johnson, Wayne Holley, Helen Maycinik, John Kessler, Sandra Johnson, Vic Carlson, Ron Carlson and Marilou Woods, was born in 1865 and the last son, William Horation, grandfather of local residents William Harvey Goddard, Harriet Spurgeon and Ruth Ann Shirer, was born in 1869.

John Luther Kessler was a devout Methodist and his grandchildren were related that every Sunday he would hitch to his carriage, gather them all and take them to the white frame church which was located where the present Methodist Church stands. He apparently instilled strong religious convictions in his sons as three of them were Church trustees when the present Methodist Church was built about 1917. His convictions regarding the use of alcoholic beverages must have been quite strong as the following story will illustrate and of which I believe to be factual.

John Luther was a livestock farmer as were almost all farmers of this period. I would guess that his pasture bordered on what is now State Road 114. As the story was passed down John had a large bull in the pasture which he considered to be potentially dangerous. One day he observed a prominent landowner and stockman stop at his pasture, tie his horse, enter the field, and walk toward the stock. The man appeared unsteady in his movements and Kessler surmised that probably the fellow was inebriated.

At this point, the man either passed out or decided to take a nap. Kessler approached the sleeping man, could smell whiskey and decided his hunch that the fellow was drunk was correct. Rather than remove the man from potential danger, Kessler procured rails and posts and built a fence around him from possible harm from the bull. One can only speculate as to the man's reaction when he awoke from his stupor to find himself penned up in a pasture.

John Luther became a widower under sad and unfortunate circumstances in 1885 when his wife, Sarah Ann Goddard Kessler, ended her life by lowering herself into an open well and drowning. Information is some-what sketchy, but apparently she had been ill and was very despondent. It is known that she left her husband a note expressing her desire for forgiveness and indicating where he could find her.

Sarah Ann was 48 years of age and her death was a profound shock to her family and friends.

A few years after Sarah's death, John Luther's son, Rob Kessler moved his family from a farm just east of Morocco back to the home place and John Luther resided with them until his death. John Luther Kessler died in 1906. His wife,

Sarah, died in 1885. Both were interred in Murphey Cemetery in Morocco.

Elbert Riley Kessler

Elbert Riley Kessler, a first son of John Luther, grandson of David Kessler, was born at the Kessler Homestead in 1857.

In 1882, he married Emma Bell Hogan, daughter of the Methodist minister, Joseph Hogan.

He purchased the Goddard interest in the Goddard and Kessler Store and it then was known as Kessler and Company. Betty Carlson has a set of dishes with a gold inscription, "Kessler and Company for your Dry Goods and Groceries", on each piece.

Elbert and Emma's first child, Mary Love Kessler, was born in 1883. She married Captain Alvin D. Hathaway, who was interned in Arlington National Cemetery at Washington D.C. Mary Hathaway was buried in Oakland Cemetery at Morocco.

Grace Lenore Kessler was born in 1884 and married William Marvin Archibald in 1904. Marvin sang tenor in the Archibald Brothers Gospel Quartet which became quite well known though the appearances and records they made.

In 1918, Marvin Archibald and his brother in law, William Spradling, purchased John D. Kessler's interest in the Kessler and Company Store. Marvin and Grace were the parents of a daughter, Blythe Lenore and a son Elbert Lawrence.

Elbert and Emma's third daughter, Edna Virginia Kessler, was born in 1885. Virginia, as she was usually known, married William Spradling and they were the parents of two daughters, Mary Kessler and Martha Virginia Spradling.

In 1934, "Bill" Spradling purchased Marvin Archibald's interest in the Kessler and Company Store and then it was known as Spradling's Store. After Bill's death in 1950, Virginia Spradling continued the business, with her son-in-law, Clay Blaney as manager.

Elbert and Emma Kessler's fourth child, Sarah Margaret, was born in 1887. Her marriage was to Kerr Spitler, a practicing dentist in the South Bend area.

Luther Hogan Kessler, only son of Elbert and Emma, was born in 1890. In 1916, he married Vivian Manning and they lived on a farm just south of Morocco. Luther Kessler was an active leader in the Morocco Methodist Church and was a respected community and county leader as

well.

Luther and Vivian were the parents of Luther Manning, Margaret Emma and Buna Katherine Kessler.

Elbert Riley Kessler died in 1934 and his wife, Emma Bell, died in 1938. Burial was in the Murphey Cemetery in Morocco.

John D. Kessler

John D. Kessler was born in 1861. He was the second son of John Luther and grandson of David Kessler. His marriage was to Estella Hope in about 1900. John D. purchased the McKinstry interest in Morocco General Store and it was then known as Goddard and Kessler. John D. Kessler died in the World War I influenza epidemic.

John D. and Estella Kessler's first child, Lela Hazel, married Rexford Banes and they were the parents of two daughters, Isabell and Estele. Lela's second marriage was to Dr. J. C. Fleming.

Second child of John and Estella Kessler was Earl Hope Kessler, born in 1887. Earl married Lorena Estella Smart, daughter of Isaac Smart. Earl and Lorena set up housekeeping just west of town where Bill Smart presently resides and later moved to the farm southeast of Morocco. Many Morocco residents fondly remember Lorena as the nursery supervisor in the Morocco Methodist Church for years. Earl and Lorena were the parents of Lorena Eloise, Howard Earl, and Evart Ross Kessler.

Bethel Olive Kessler, third child of John and Estella, was born in 1892. Bethel married John W. Ross and their children were Virginia Hope, John Leslie, Nellie Louise, William Kessler and Bethel Jean Ross.

Albert Leslie Kessler, second son of John D. and Estella, was born in 1894. Les, as he was known, farmed the J.D. Kessler farm just west of town Les was a fine athlete and played on Morocco's football team when Morocco was known as a football power statewide. Les was a fast runner according to his nephew Howard Kessler. Howard relates that his father Earl attended Purdue University and made the track team. During the summer a foot race was held at a Fourth of July observance and Les won, outrunning his brother Earl, the Purdue tack team member.

Eva Pauline Kessler, fifth child of John D. and Estella, was born in 1898. Eva married Harold Cox, a brother of Van Cox, local banker for many years. Harold was

Focus On Families-Kesslers

also in the banking business. Harold and Eva were the parents of Martha Joan, Mary Ann and Jerry Frank Cox.

John D. Kessler died in 1920 and his wife Estella Hope Kessler died in 1945. They were buried in Oakland Cemetery.

Robert Benjimen (Rob) Kessler

Robert Kessler, my maternal grandfather, was born in 1865 and, with the exception of a brief period when he farmed just east of Morocco, he spent his entire life on the original Kessler homestead. He built the large frame house, where his grandson John Kessler now resides, just before World War I.

Rob, as he was generally known, married Lulu Kinney and they were the parents of six children.

Carrie Ann Kessler, first child of Rob and Lou was born on a farm just east of Morocco. Carrie married William Earl Triplett, grandson of pioneer Doctor Charles E. Triplett, who came to Morocco from Kentucky. Earl farmed to Triplett home place southwest of Morocco and also managed a grain elevator located where Wilson Farm Center is now in business. Earl and Carrie were the parents of Blanch Louse, Dorothy Ethel and Phyllis Jean Triplett.

Estella Maie Kessler, second daughter,



Carrie Lind Kinney. Mother of Lulu Kinney Kessler. Photo submitted.

was born in 1890 at the Kessler home place. Maie married Albert Ray Holley and their children were Donald Ray and Charles DeWayne Holley. Maie Holley died in 1990, lacking a few months of attaining 100 years of age.



Men pictured left to right, John Kessler, Elbert Kessler, Robert Kessler, and Bill Kessler. Women were not identified in photo. Submitted by Vic Carlson.

Vivian DeWayne Kessler, oldest son of Rob and Lou, was born in 1893. Vivian was quarterback on the Morocco football team that his first cousin, Les Kessler, played on just before World war I. Vivian married Alice Ann Victoria Carlson and they owned and operated a farm southwest of Morocco. later in life, they lived in and owned a part of the original Kessler homestead west of Morocco. Vivian and Alice were the parents of Roberta Ann, Helen Jean and John David Kessler.

David Milton Kessler, second son of Rob and Lou, was born in 1896. Donald was a livestock and grain farmer and farmed the Kessler home place until nearing retirement; then he moved to his own farm which was nearby. Donald married Helen Schumaker Sallee and adopted Helen's children James M. and Sandra Kessler.

Dorothy Bell Kessler, fifth child of Rob and Lu, was born in 1897. Dorothy married Robert Carlson, brother of Alice who married Vivian Kessler. These marriages resulted in a set of double first cousins.

Bob and Dorothy owned and farmed a farm north of Morocco where the parents of Victor Eugene, David Lyle, Ronald Earl, Marjorie Ann and Marilou Carlson.

Gwendolyn Kessler, youngest child of Rob and Lou, was born in 1905 Gwendolyn married Robert Farve, an accountant, and until Bob's retirement, they lived in Indianapolis. Bob and Gwendolyn's children were Carolyn Mae and Judith Elane Farve.

Gwendolyn now resides in Florida and is the only living granddaughter of John Luther Kessler.

Robert B. Kessler died in 1936 and his wife, Lulu Kinney Kessler, died in 1948. They were interned in Murphey Cemetery.

William Horatio Kessler

William "Will" Kessler was born in 1869. William Kessler married Harriet (Hattie) Triplett, daughter of Dr. Charles E. Triplett, Morocco's pioneer doctor. Will and Hattie farmed southwest of Morocco and Will operated a livery stable for a time in Morocco.

Will and Hattie were the parents of a son, Chester (Chay) Lee Kessler, who was born in 1892. Chester married Ella Mae Milk and they farmed southwest of Morocco. Chay and Ella were the parents of William George who died in childhood, Robert Noble and Ruth Ann Kessler.

Ethel Rosalie, daughter of Will and Hattie, was born in 1894. Ethel married George Earl Goddard and they farmed southwest of Morocco near her brother Chester's farm. Earl and Ethel Goddard were the parents of William Harvey, Harriet Florence, and Lloyd Earl Goddard. Lloyd was killed in Normandy invasion during World War II.

In a period of just a few years in the 1930's, Will Kessler lost his wife, Hattie; his daughter, Ethel, and son, Chester. With the help of his daughter-in-law, Ella Kessler, they raised Will's grandchildren to adulthood on the farm located near the east edge of Morocco.

William Horatio Kessler died in 1952. His wife, Hattie Triplett Kessler, died in 1934. They were interned in Oakland Cemetery.

"I can show you the osprey or fish hawk nesting along the river in Newton County in our summers, even now," announced Mr. Barker.

The red fox continues to be found in goodly numbers, says Barker, but is not as common as formerly and apparently is not as numerous today in Newton Copunty as the wolf. There are still many vastnesses in this region that constitute favorable habitat for foxes and wolves

With the aid of two valuable and well-trained hounds Mr. Barker captures wolves throughout three Indiana counties neighboring Newton. He recognizes three kinds of wolves among those which he has killed, the Michigan timber wolf of immense size and with reddish ears, the gray timber wolf, a little smaller, and the coyote or prairie wolf which is not so common. Mr. Barker reports that he has killed in the timber and on the prairie in these western Indiana counties, fifty-three wolves between April 1 and September, 1934 for which he received a bounty. The wolves do not travel in packs as was their habit formerly, but are most often encountered singly. The wolf seems to be holding its own in numbers in spite of increased human population and persecution through hunting and trapping it within thirty miles of Chicago.

Mr. Barker, when called this year to farms where raiding wolves were reported as killing stock, noted that at many places the tracks showed a wolf with only two toe nails on a front foot. He gave it the name, "Two Toes." It was of unusual size and a wide ranger. It was reported to have killed on three separate occasions at different places, dogs that tried to bring it down. Barker made it his special business to end this raider's life. He took his dogs to the place where the fresh tracks of the animal were found and gave his hounds the scent. They were off on the trail at once with the trapper keeping in touch with their movements. He can interpret in an uncanny degree, the various kinds of barks the dogs give upon the trail. The dogs and their owner ended the career of "Two Toes" in the Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve the summer of 1934. At Mr. Barker's cabin I saw the tanned skin of old "Two Toes."

The narrative concerning the plans laid to bring this predator to bay proved that Mr. Barker is an expert hunter of wild animals, as well as an accomplished narrator of his many experiences afield.

Taken from the Newton County Enterprise, June 1, 1939.

George Ade Speaks On His Own Hometown

George Ade, Kentland's most famous native son, was featured on the half hour broadcast that was heard on April 28, 1939 over Radio Station, WBAA from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. when he accepted an invitation to assist in Kentland's booster program. This was one of a series of programs entitled, "Your Town and Mine." The program was sponsored by the Kentland Chamber of Commerce. Paul Bruck, President of the Chamber, Ira A. Dixon, and A. C. Cast, superintendent of the Kentland Schools and Judge G. F. Sammons also participated.

The Interviewer left the introduction of Mr. Ade to Mr. Bruck, who said, "I have lived in Kentland all of my life, and could tell you many incidents. However, I would much prefer that you question a gentleman who is here with me in the studio, a gentleman who was born in Kentland and who, though he has won fame and honor throughout the United States as a playwright, author, and humorist, retains an active and friendly interest in his birthplace. May I present that distinguished and beloved Hoosier humorist, George Ade, who has been kind enough to accompany our delegation to your studio.

Announcer: Good afternoon, Mr. Ade. It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to WBAA. Mr. Ade, you were born in Kentland:

Ade: So they tell me. What is more, I stayed right there until I entered Purdue in 1883.

Announcer: What kind of a town was it in the seventies and eighties?

Ade: Well we were bounded on the North by mud, on the South by wild ducks, and the East by frogs, and on the West by mosquitoes. The town was very wet. We had a great many sloughs and ponds and also four saloons. I'm afraid Kentland was a rather primitive settlement. In wet weather Main Street was impassable. We had no hard roads, no motor cars, no telephones, no radios, no moving pictures. We stayed home because we had no place to go. The streets were dimly illuminated by coal oil lamps. In the winter we skated and went bob-sledding. In the summer we went fishing or splashed around in the old swimming hole. We had none of the modern conveniences or luxuries, but we didn't miss them because they were still in the future tense. We found our excitement in politics and two-old-cat and Church sociables and taffy-pulls.

Looking back on the period of my

boyhood, I now realize that we were living in the dark ages. However, we managed to have a good time. A buggy-ride is all right if you never took a motor ride. A magic lantern show is a treat to one who never saw moving pictures. Kissing games are a lot of fun if you never heard a Jazz band. A spelling-bee isn't as exciting as a basketball game, and a Church revival could hardly be classed a popular entertainment compared with--say, Bank Nights.

The point is, you never miss any kind of diversion that you never have enjoyed. Kentland was, to me the whole world and I found it a very satisfactory world because it was the only one I knew. Today it is the main junction of two important highways; blazoning with lights; buzzing with new industries, and threatening to become a minor metropolis.

I am very proud of my birthplace, and I marvel at recent improvements and ambitious developments, but I still insist that we had a lot of fun away back yonder in the horse and buggy days. I am glad to join in this tribute to one of the liveliest county-seats in Northern Indiana. I thank you.

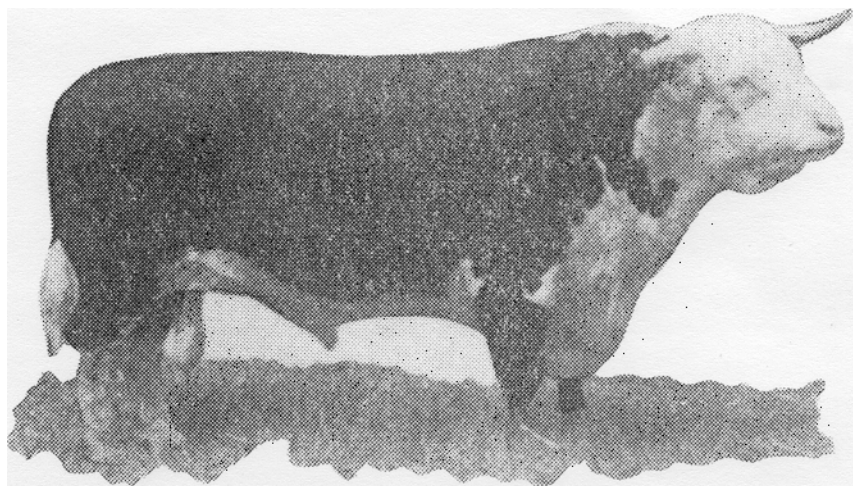
Announcer: And we thank you Mr. Ade. Submitted By Gerald Born



NCHS Resource Center Window Display Girl Scouts Of Newton County Several generations of our county have participated in this local organization. Our display portrays many different "eras" of girl scouting in our county. - Window Display Committee.

NEWTON'S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

*McCray's Monument
To A Bull - Perfection
Fairfax*



Editor's Note: An article on Governor McCray and Perfection Fairfax was originally printed in the Journal and Courier, June 6, 1976 by Jack Alkire. It is reprinted here for your enjoyment.

KENTLAND On a catalpa tree studded ridge that rises out of the flat prairie farmland six miles northeast of here is perhaps the world's largest monument honoring a bovine.

The huge slab of concrete marks the final resting place of Perfection Fairfax, a Hereford bull nationally famed as "King of Herford Sires" during the teen years of the 20th Century.

Fairfax blood flowed in the veins of Hereford cattle from coast to coast, and his international notoriety provided the odd sight of turbaned and sari-clad East Indians, strolling on the tree shaded streets of this bucolic community.

But rivaling the stardom of Perfection Fairfax was the colorful owner, Warren T. McCray, a turn of the century "wheeler dealer" who became Indiana governor and held the black honor of being the only Indiana chief executive who went directly from the Statehouse to a federal prison.

For 12 years, Perfection Fairfax ruled over McCray's Orchard Lake Stock Farm, its 1,600 acres, and 500 head of registered Hereford cattle.

In it's heyday, 1910 to 1920, Orchard Lake Farm was a national showplace, a small empire that had a baronial mansion and a headquarters complex of more than a dozen buildings.

Only a handful of those buildings stand today, but one of them is a large, frame

amphitheater designed to hold hundreds of buyers and spectators drawn to McCray's periodic sales of highly registered herefords.

McCray purchased Perfection Fairfax in Scotland in 1908 for a reputed \$25,000, a tidy sum today but a veritable fortune then. Perfection Fairfax was born Oct. 10, 1903 and was crowned Grand Champion in the 1907 International Livestock Exposition.

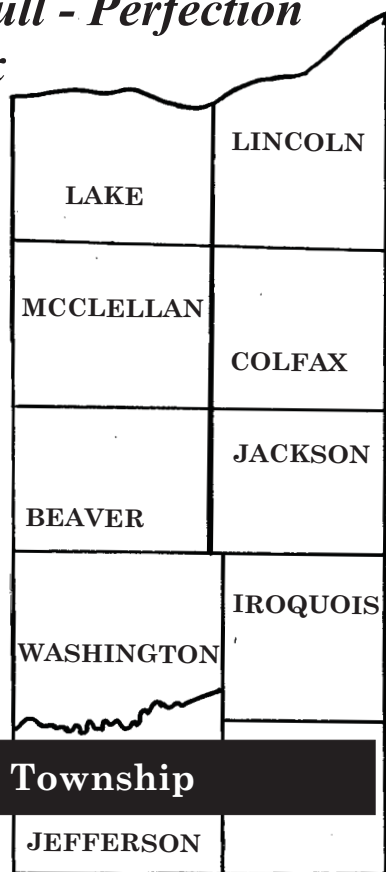
McCray was a promoter with a skill that probably was not appreciated during his time. Instead of sitting back and waiting for the world to find his "perfect bull", McCray told the world about his bull.

Among many devices, McCray printed fancy brochures extolling the virtues of Perfection Fairfax and his offsprings. One brochure of World War I vintage quotes cattlemen from coast to coast on their successes with Fairfax progeny. Among those from Indiana quoted were John W. Van Natta and Rainey McCoy. Tippecanoe County cattle breeders.

According to Howard Washburn, a retired Newton County farmer and historian who had business dealings with McCray, McCray used an old device to increase the value of his cattle.

"It works this way: You make a deal with another breeder to come to your sale and pay a big price for some of your stock with the understanding that you'll go to his next sale and pay the same amount for some of his animals.

"It's an old trick that's still going on.



Livestock buyers in between begin to think the animals are actually worth that price." Washburn said.

Washburn said McCray was an affable, cheerful man who had legions of followers and armies of detractors. He said McCray had a reputation of being slick in business "and he could give you a sob story about his financial troubles that would have you in tears".

Washburn said he sold tons of hay to McCray during Orchard Lake Farm's hey days, but had no problem with McCray because they operated on a cash on delivery basis.

Perfection Fairfax died in 1920 and the famed bull's passing was accompanied by the same fanfare he enjoyed in life plus some deep controversy among Newton County's returning World War I servicemen and patriots.

After the bull's burial, a rumor spread that the corpse had been draped in the large American flag that always had been displayed on the wall of his stall in McCray's cattle barn.

Washburn, who admitted the years had

cavalry man. The Raffertys owned a Canadian bred hunter, Playwright, on the farm. He was kept for riding, and he met with a fatal accident, having a water tank pipe driven through his chest. The insurance amounted to \$750.00.

"The Raffertys went to the Lexington sales that year, 1930, with the insurance money in their pockets. They came back with a whole load of thoroughbreds. The horse breeding program flourished at Green Acres until 1943, when the last were sold. The Raffertys not only bred horses, but raced them too, and did all right.

"Mrs. Rafferty was quite a horse trader," the Major recalls. Only one mare remains today, "Just a sort of monument to the old days," as Mrs. Rafferty puts it.

"Of the 2,035 acres that comprise the farm today, one section of 640 acres is normally in corn. Another 640 acres will be in oats, wheat and soybeans. Soybeans, the Major explains, makes a good wheat seed bed and, with their late harvest date, tend to ease the labor bottleneck."

At this point, the article loses a few paragraphs and picks up discussing the first time use of extra nitrogen being added to the fields by a process that hadn't been tried before.

"Anhydrous ammonia, in liquid form, was put in the ground with a special implement, but a custom outfit. A series of tubes for the ammonia run behind the shovels. In the ground the liquid turns to nitrogen gas. If successful, the system will probably be used more next year.

"And, of course, all the livestock, all the cropping and fertilizing add up to a lot of work. Eight families are a permanent part of the Green Acres general staff, each with a home of their own on different parts of the farm. The Raffertys are properly proud that they have not labor problems. Most of the families have been with them for years. Those that have moved on have moved to farms of their own, usually with a boost, or at least encouragement from their former employees."

Staff of Specialists

"Major Rafferty himself does the overall planning for crops, breeding and feeding. The year's program is planned to the last detail and written down. First lieutenant is the general foreman, Harold Clevinger, formerly herdsman, who came to the farm 25 years ago, just out of high school. When the Major is away for a week or two, Harold is the boss. If there's a problem that's

doubtful he has only to look in the written program. Very seldom is it necessary to put in a long distance call to the Major.

"The position of head mechanic, a job that is quite a necessity on the highly mechanized, modern Green Acres, is held by Paul Merriman. He was formerly foreman, but his skill with machinery led to the establishment of his present status. He has at his disposal a modern shop on the farm where he repairs almost anything except diesel motors. He travels from shop to field in a pick up truck that has drinking water, fuel for both gasoline and diesel tractors and tools and spare parts for any minor repairs right in the field. Lost time is lost money in the busy cropping season.

"Craig Frye, a 1951 graduate of Purdue University, is now head herdsman.

"Besides the permanent families living on the farm, numerous college and high school students are employed on a weekly basis throughout the summer."

When the Devon Miller clan gathers together at their shop, and the talk gets around to the Major, quite a bit of discussion can be held by Devon, Shirley and their son Dave, as well as Devon's brother Bill, and his wife Maryanne, and their son Scott, who are now 3rd generation farmers of some of the original Green Acres Farms. They've compiled a list of names of person who were affiliated with the farms. Please note the "nicknames" that were used by the group.

General Farmwork-Charley Bailey, Seth Barker, Rachael Barker, Raymond Bassett, Gene Clevinger, Jim Cox, Don Denton, Gaylord "Swede" Denton, Butch Derflinger, Gordon Derflinger, Dan Doyle, Raymond Dubea, Augusta "Auger Eye" Flowers, Errert Graves, Edward Hale, George Hanley, Case Henderson, Russell "Rusty" Henderson, Muriel Lade, Calvin Laffoon, Charles "Chuch" Laffoon, Lloyd Laffoon, Terry Laffoon, Bill Lindahl, Raymond Miller, William "Bill" Miller, Rolland Parrish, Bill Pittmen, Rex "Pig" Plummer, Charle Purawits, Louie Ernest, George Roadruck, Albert Randolph, Earl Randolph, Ernie Randolph, Elton Randolph, Roy Sinks, Roscoe Sipes, Franklin Styck, Adam Styck, Percy Styck, Albert Sullivan, Louie Sullivan, Harry Sullivan, Glenn Taylor, Oscar Taylor, Glenn Todd, Jake Trump, Kenneth "Spud" Warne, Harvey Warne, Riley Warne, Joe Wilson, "Tuff" Wilson, Ruben Wooten, Ike Wortley.

Cattle and Hogs-Emmet Deton, Joe Dorvak, Thomas "Tommy" Dunkin, Ernie

Hendrickson, Bill Lock, Collins Lock, Charles Lindahl, Jr. Jeff Randolph, Richard "Dick" Wilson, Delos "Buster" Bower.

General Foremen-Fred Atkinson, Harold Clevinger, Mount M. Miller.

Horses-Oscar Atwood, Harold Hlton, Billy Osburn, Harold Shoppin, Leonard Wilson, Sidney "Cowboy Tex Jack" Town.

Mechanics-Ed Hale, Sr., Bill Henderson, Paul Merriman.

Bookkeeper - Darlene Wilson. Nurse-Hattie Travis.

Maintenance and Yard Keeper-Rubin Conklin, Glen Phillips, Robin Smith.

Cooks-Claire Conklin, Bertha Dunkin, Mrs. Neidert.

In the late 1980's the original homestead burned to the ground. A new home has been erected and the property is now owned by Al and Dottie Molson.

Mrs. Rafferty passed away at the age of 73 in her home on Friday, March 13, 1970. Her obituary noted that she was a most delightful and accommodating lady. She would go out of her way to do a favor for a person. She was a gracious and delightful hostess at many affairs in their home.

Major Rafferty remarried again, to a Georgia Woodruff, who had three children, Debra, Carol and Jack Woodruff, Jr. Upon the Major's passing on Saturday, October 9, 1971 at the age of 79 years, his second wife George inherited all of the estate. He was the cousin of General Mark Clark, of World War II and Korean fame, and left a sister, Mrs. Valencia Rafferty McCleave of Grossmont, California and a brother John Marshall Jr. of Lake Forest, Illinois. Both he and his first wife are interned at the Oakland Cemetery in Morocco.

An agriculture scholarship was established by Mrs. Georgia Rafferty at the North Newton High School in memory of Major Rafferty.

**Morocco To Celebrate
150 Years August 24-26th**

Submitted by Donna LaCrosse

The town of Morocco will be celebrating 150 years of "growth" on August 24, 25, and 26. Committees have been meeting and members are planning events to take place on that special weekend this summer. A fun-filled celebration is being planned for your three-day visit to Morocco. Mark the days on your calendar so you won't miss the festivities!

were phantom herds. McCray then took the phony loan agreements and sold them to banks at discount rates. He made the mistake of sending many of the forged notes through the U.S. mail.

One of the farm managers, W. H. Hendry, testified that he had not signed and had no knowledge of a note for \$160,000 he allegedly gave McCray to cover the purchase of cattle.

Hendry told the court all he owned in the way of livestock "was two heifers and a dog".

J.L. Williams, a partner with McCray in the Butte County Land and Cattle Co., of Belle Fourche, S. D., testified that he had never signed a note to McCray for \$91,000, although he had signed one for \$40,000 for the same herd of cows.

The trial revealed that McCray had executed over \$500,000 worth of fraudulent notes and hand fraudulent dealings with as many as 344 banks. Bankruptcy action was initiated for McCray.

McCray was the defense's only witness. He admitted each and every count of forgery but denied any intent to defraud anyone.

The jury deliberated only 15 minutes on April 28, 1924, in finding McCray guilty. The governor was not surprised on the verdict, but he was stunned when Federal Judge A. B. Anderson ordered the U.S. Marshall to take McCray directly to the Marion County Jail. McCray said he thought he would be free at least until his sentencing the next day.

However, McCray still was governor of Indiana and Judge Anderson relented in the sense that he allowed the governor to go to his statehouse office in company of the marshal to conduct final state business.

The afternoon and evening of his conviction McCray worked diligently in his office, clearing up urgent matters and preparing his resignation. His last act as governor, according to the Associated Press, was to pardon a convicted murderer who had served many years of a life sentence. Two days later McCray was in prison himself.

McCray's resignation took effect at 10:00 a.m. on April 29, just 20 minutes before Judge Anderson sentenced him to 10 years at the Atlanta Federal Prison. As the sentence was being read in the federal courtroom Lt. Gov. Emmet F. Branch as receiving the oath of governor in the Statehouse.

"There was a general note of sadness throughout the Statehouse today. The halls

were cleared and quiet," the Associated Press reported.

In Atlanta prison, McCray edited the "Good Words", the monthly publication issued by the inmates and taught a Sunday School class. In 1930, President Herbert Hoover granted McCray a full pardon and within five years he was again financially stable, some believed from "hidden assets".

McCray's legal problems opened a kind of Indiana Watergate period in Hoosier politics. Branch, the lieutenant governor, served only the remainder of McCray's last year and left politics. But the next governor, Edward L. Jackson, also went on trail while in office, charged with conspiring to commit a felony in an incident that involved McCray.

The state alleged that Jackson conspired to offer Gov. McCray a \$10,000 bribe to appoint James E. McDonald as Marion County prosecuting attorney. McCray, although apparently needing money in 1923, refused the bribe and appointed William Remy to the vacancy.

It was pretty much an open and shut case against Gov. Jackson but he was excused at the last minute because of a legal technicality. Special Judge Charles M. McCabe of Crawfordsville on Feb. 16, 1928, ordered an acquittal for Jackson because Indiana's statute of limitations said a bribe conspiracy charge must be prosecuted within two years unless it can be shown that the crime was concealed.

The charge against Gov. Jackson was made by D. C. Stephenson, the grand dragon of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan, who was then serving a life sentence for the slaying of a Statehouse stenographer.

Jackson's administration coincided with the climax and downfall of the Klan's political dominance in Indiana. It was McCray's appointee, Remy, who had successfully prosecuted Stephenson. There is a possibility that McCray's own conviction of mail fraud stemmed from evidence backed by the Klan because of its displeasure at the appointment of Remy.

There followed a hue and cry throughout Indiana for Jackson's resignation because the stat apparently had proved the bribery attempt. Jackson refused to tender his resignation and hung on through 1929, the end of his term. Jackson, incidentally, for several years after World War I had operated a law office in Lafayette.

McCray returned after his pardon to his diminished farm holdings in Newton County and led a quiet life until his

unexpected death in 1938.

Although his colorful life may be pretty much forgotten by new generations, his monument to a bull will stand for many years.

(Editor's note: This is a reprint of an article written by Jack Alkire, Lafayette Journal and Courier, June 6, 1976). Submitted by Beth Bassett



Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. The "hub".
2. The Morocco Lodge, No. 372, Free and Accepted Masons, is the oldest lodge of the order in the county. It was established in 1865.
3. Timmons Ford later became Timmons Bridge. There were at least two wooden bridges and a steel bridge at this location. Today, a modern concrete bridge stands there known as Fairgrounds Bridge. It crosses the Iroquois River, connecting Washington and Jefferson Townships on Pun'kin Vine Road, near the south entrance to the Newton County fairgrounds.
4. One was the Newton County Agricultural Association Fair held in the town of Morocco. The second was the Patron and Farmer's Fair in Washington Township on property of George Herriman. This was in the grove of trees just east of the north entrance to the current Newton County fairgrounds. The property is now owned by the Murphy family. It was also referred to as the Pumpkin Vine Fair.
5. He owned approximately 24,500 acres of land, of which 7,000 acres lay contiguous to Kentland.

Do you have your copy of the Newton County Historical Coloring Book? Why Not? 219-474-6944

Watch for information about the upcoming Morocco Sesquicentennial Book and how to obtain your copy!

Family History Division Update By Gerald Born

A great deal of activity has been generated in the Family History Division by the gathering of material for the upcoming publication of Morocco History, being prepared for the Morocco Sesquicentennial. During the month of March Gerald Born has been at the Scott-Lucas House museum helping residents write their family histories. The response has been brisk, but not as inclusive as had been hoped. Family histories are still being received. The April 1st deadline has been extended to April 15th in order not to discourage people who are working on their articles, but who do not have them completed as yet. There is still time to have articles from every member who has Morocco, or Beaver Township roots to submit their family history.

The new laser printer is up and running and it has been a real boon to the work of the Division. Beth Bassett was responsible for purchasing and installing it and it is a joy to have clean, crisp copies that can be used in printing. Beth also installed the scanner that Marlowe Davis donated to the division. It, too, has been a welcome addition to the Resource Center, and has allowed the scanning of photographs of Newton County, many of which are going to be used in the formentioned publication. Beth also installed the Quark Xpress program used for publishing, which will contain the information for the book. It is

A Great Place To Raise A Family from page one

In 1924, International Harvester introduced the row crop tractor, the Farmall, which could plant and cultivate row crops. Up until this time, the farm tractor was restricted to tillage and belt work. From this point on, the tractor gradually replaced the draft horse for all types of farm work. By the time Morocco celebrated it's centennial in 1951, few teams could be found on surrounding farms. It was during this period that the small grain combine phased out the threshing machine and the mechanical corn picker ended hand corn husking.

From 1951 until 2001, technology in farm equipment advanced rapidly. Machinery became larger, more sophisticated, and yes, very expensive. One farmer could now handle many more acres and farm operations grew dramatically. The family farm of the early settlers probably consisted of around 40 tillable acres and today the family controlled operation might

wonderful to have a member, who has knowledge of the computer, who has taken charge of the production of materials. We take our hats off to you, Beth.

A steady stream of material is being donated to the Society, which give more detailed views of the county and its people. These include photos, school programs, telephone books, family histories, a desk from Kentland's first post office, and items too numerous to mention. Many of them are being utilized in the display in the front window and others are being displayed in the Resource Center. We look forward to the time when traveling displays will circulate around the county illustrating the history of Newton County.

The Newton County coloring book has proved to be one of the most popular things the Society and the Division has done. It is being widely distributed, both to fourth grade students and to the general public. I have heard many good comments about it wherever I go. It will continue to be marketed as the interest is still running high.

Newton County has not produced many authors, but recently a book came to my attention, which should be of interest to Newton County residents. It was written by Patricia Hunter Gray, whose mother Hilda Brunton was well known in Morocco. The title of the book is "How It

Really Was" and she tells in a very personal fashion how life in a small midwest towns was lived in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, and she tells it the way it was, no holds barred. Her journey from small town to world class traveler is detailed with a lot of interesting detail and to anyone who has moved from the safety and confinement of a small town into the wide, wide world outside its borders can relate to the stories she tells. It is beautifully written and a joy to read. It can be found on Amazon.com. Just type in the title and it will be displayed along with ordering information. Excerpts of the book can be read at iUniverse.com. Again just type in the title.

The Internet continues to be a source of new and unrecorded history of the county. It has been very rewarding to talk with people who have had roots in Newton County and who are actively searching for their roots. Many of those contacted on the web now want to visit the county and to see where their ancestors are buried and to learn more about their families. Of course, they are always welcome to visit the Resource Center and we always have the welcome mat out for not only them, but any resident of the county who is interested in learning more about their family. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of material that has been collected in a very short time.



Vic and Dave Carlson demonstrate the 1932 Farmall Regular during the Morocco Plow Days 1999. This was the first practiced row crop tractor on the market. Photo submitted by Vic Carlson.

start at 1,000 acres up to several thousand acres. In 1851, farmers made up a large majority of the population. Today, we represent less that 2% of the total.

It has been said that farming used to be

way of life, but now it is just a large business. This may be true, but I believe the farm is still a wonderful place to raise a family.