The Newton County Historical Society meets every fourth Monday of each month, on the same day, the Family History Division meets at 1:00 at the Resource Center in Kentland and the Society general meetings are held in different locations in the County at 7:00 p.m. Local members are notified of the place and time each month. Don’t Forget - Memberships are valid January 1- December 31 of current year.

Dues are valid January 1- December 31 of current year. Membership includes free copies of The Newcomer.

The Newcomer

May the hard work, the foresight, the determination, the innovation, and the ingenuity of our pioneers continue serve as an inspiration to us in preserving what we can of their work heritage. We dedicate our work to their memory.

Newton County Historical Society

Join Our Membership Now!

General Society Membership
- Individual $10
- Family $15
- Individual Life $100
- Family Life $150

Family History Division
- Individual $5
- Family $7
- Individual Life $50
- Family Life $100

Must be a general member.

Officers of the Newton County Historical Society

President, Janet Miller, Kentland
V. President, Mike Williamson, Morocco
Secretary, Becky Lyons, Brook
Treasurer, Darlene Truby, Kentland

Member at Large
Sig Boezeman, DeMotte
County Historian,
Donna LaCosse, Morocco

Ex-Officers: Sue Humprey, Kentland

Officers of the Family History Division

Director, Beth Bassett, Brook
Janet Miller, Treasurer, Kentland
Donna LaCosse, Secretary
The Newcomer Editor
Beth Bassett, Brook

Send membership dues to:
PO Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951
219-474-6944
newtonhs@ffni.com

Visit our web site. www.ingenweb.org/innewton

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What’s On Our Agenda . . .

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The Newcomer, Volume 13, Issue Two
Spring 2008 - $2.25

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- The Making of A Small Town
- The Progress of Roselawn
- Newton County Photographs
- Mt. Ayr
- Goodland
- Kentland
- The John William Sapp Family
- Grant Township Family History
- Lincoln Township Residents - A Report of the 1880 Census
- Family History Division
- Republishing Bill Bat’s “Hoosier Hunting Grounds or The Beaver Lake Trail”
- Washington Township, 1873 - Landowners

We are living in a progressive age, you know, and I do not know but I might as well make “Progression,” the subject of this scribbling. We are progressing in the way of building, fences, ditching, road grading and general improvements, increasing in population. Six years ago we had 7 or 8 voters in this township, now we have near 50 voters. Eight years ago I did not think there was an apple tree in the township; now there are a number of orchards bearing fruit. Eight years ago I do not think there was a foot of graded road in the township; now there are about six miles of grade. Two years ago, I believe, the first crop of wheat was raised here; there are some fields here that look about as well as any in the county. Our corn crops have been comparatively light hitherto, but we will soon have our lands drained, so that crops will be pretty sure. The prospect now is good for an abundance of small fruits, such as huckleberries, strawberries, raspberries, and grapes, etc. But I must close for this time for fear you will not find space in your columns.

From Lincoln Township

November 25, 1880 -

Please excuse me for my long delay in reporting to you from the region—the solid North—Lincoln township determined to make itself as near a solid North as possible for Garfield—not by fraud in any way, but in an honest way; by comparing the principles of the two parties, and we are proud of the result of our efforts and that of the masses of people in the great Nation. It shows that when the people of this country are put to the test upon questions of vital importance, the masses will stand up for the right.

But I suppose you want some news from this corner of the county.

- continued on page 2
February 3, 1881 Lincoln Township

Grover Smith has contract to get out 10,000 ties and he is pushing vigorously the same; he thinks he will be able to fulfill his contract by April next; he has an extra large force of men on now. There are two pile drivers at the Kankakee River.

Guildford & Southerton think they will be able to move from Jasper county, north of the dividing ridge by March 1st. They are pushing their work through with energy, and the work is a credit to them. They employ a large force of men and teams. No tramps need apply. This is the most favorable winter for railroad building for many years. We thank the All-wise providence, because the railroad building gave and will give employment to all the needy – COROX.

February 17, 1881 – Lincoln Township

A first-class blacksmith and wood maker wanted in the new town just started. The new near completed railway as they did last year. The railroad gave and will give employment to all the needy.

Kinney Newton County

Editors Gazette: In answer to Correspondent from the North end of county, I would say that he, and Henry Farrell must have had a narrow escape from being torn to pieces, when armed with a musket and pitchfork, they made a raid on Squire Ray’s old dog that was both crippled and blind. – One of the Boys.

May 5, 1881

Newton County has a new town, it is on the line of the C. & I. A. It’s name is Rose Lawn, and it is full of business, the first building having been erected about a month ago; it has six or seven dwelling houses, one blacksmith shop, and one dry goods store. Rose Lawn is about two miles south of the Kankakee River – Rensselaer Republican. May 26, 1881 – News from the North-East Corner

Rose Lawn, is the name of the new village on the I. D. & C. R. R. in Lincoln Township, and is located on the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Sect 14, Twp. 31 N, R 8W. It is not yet six months old, but it presents quite flourishing appearance; eight new buildings, one of which is the store room of Keller, Craig & Co., about 24 by 80 feet, two stories high, and crammed full of dry goods, groceries, hardware, Queensware and notions. They informed us that they have a very good trade. They will soon lay off 40 acres into town lots and offer them on reasonable terms to persons who will improve them; the north-east corner has improved very rapidly for the last few years, splendid mansions loom up where a few years ago all was wilderness. Among the many new buildings we might name that of Mr. Slater in Township 32. Mr. George Watts has a herd of about 400 cattle on Sect 1 and 2; there are also quite a number of other herds near the village. The I. D. & C. R. R. is approaching completion very rapidly. Messrs Kite &

Masonic Lodge

The Goodland Bank with the Masonic Lodge upstairs as seen during the 1920’s-30’s. The Bank is at the NW corner of Newton and Union Streets. To the right of the bank is some business and then a bakery and a building (now the drive through window for the bank) - where in the 1940’s-50’s Clement Sainte and Bill Tempelin had a barber shop. - David Dye Collection

Threshing Rig, 1914

This is part of a threshing rig used on a threshing run on the farms just east of Goodland, in the early 1900’s. Picture is Charles Welch (Helen Goff’s father) and James Sheldon, (Kate Dewees’ father). Picture taken in 1914. Photo courtesy of Kate (Sheldon) DeWees. - David Dye Collection

Early Grant Township Schools

The left picture is of Constable School #6, which was southwest of town near the intersection of 1700S and Indiana State Road 55 on the southwest corner. Date and students unknown. Center is the first school house in Goodland, which started soon after the Civil War as one room and was added to as time went by. The photo to the right is also of Constable School #6, taken about 1900. It shows Raymond Lyle Constable as a student at age nine or ten. There were seven one room schools in Grant Township at one time. - David Dye Collection


Visit our website www.ingenweb.org/innewton
Goodland History
Preserved on Web Site
David Dye, who has contributed many items to our newsletter, has these photos and more on his web site. We encourage you to visit the site soon!

C. S. and A. Depot
This building was later expanded on all sides and in 1947 became the home of Better Coil and Transformer Corporation. Later a beer distributorship. The trucks run down Iroquois Street in Goodland, and no longer exist. - David Dye Collection

Goodland Hotel
This is a very old picture of the Six Taverns in Goodland where it was a hotel and owned by cousins of Jesse James. - David Dye Collection

Goodland
Pan Handle Depot
From an early postcard showing the East/West tracks through Goodland. The depot was erected in 1871 and is a simple wood frame, shingle structure. Efforts are being made to move and restore this depot by Goodland citizens. - David Dye Collection

Burton have their contract nearly finished. Guilford and Sutherland have about half a mile to grade; they are working quite a large number of men and teams, and if good weather continues, they will finish their contract before the first of June. This road is built in a first-class style. It's 30 miles the shortest route from Indianapolis to Chicago, which will insure it a fair share of patronage, besides it being the principal connection of the Wabash Valley Road with Chicago, and its depot which is to be in the best location in the city.

June 30, 1881 - Lincoln Township
Rose Lawn is in a swelling frame of mind. Wm. Walters is going to start a wholesale saloon, for which he now has a stock of liquor, and is making preparations for erecting another superb mansion in the new town. Still they come. Walters will make the Lawn Roses reverberate with jollity.

The C. & I. A. S. RR have their track laid from Rensselaer to within 1 ½ miles of the Kankakee River, and we hope to soon see the C. & E. intersect at Thayer's Grove.

One of Lincoln's oldest residents, John Hamman, died the night of the 16th instant - Kenny, Newton County Ind.

August 25, 1881 - From the North End
Rose Lawn is still flourishing.

The drug store is completed and contains a full stock in that line.

The railroad is completed and the telegraph wire up, and freight is received and discharged at Rose Lawn.

The town is still improving; good demands for town lots. Come one, come all.

Sept 1, 1881 - Notes from Kenny
Chief Engineer and Superintendent E. Le M. Hoarer, of the C. & I. A. L. RR came out from Chicago on the 24th and staked out the two depots south of the Kankakee River. The first depot south of the river is in Thayer's Grove on Section 4, Range 8 Township 31, being half a mile from the river and is to have 2 side tracks 1,400 feet in length. The second depot on Section 31, Range 7, township 31, in Jasper County - Rensselaer gents are now erecting a club house at the Kankakee River and have $625 subscribed for the same.

Messes, Sigler and Geff of Rensselaer propose building a storehouse at Thayer's Grove, where they will purchase all kinds of grain. Several others intend building as soon as the depot is built.

We have a train running from the south as far as Lowell in Lake County, and will soon be able to get out of the black marsh on the steam horse.

Sept 8, 1881 - From Roselawn
The saw mill has been moved from Bumbuloe to this place and will be ready for work in one week.

The population of Rose Lawn now is about 200, and is only five months since the first building was erected.

The American Express Company has established an office here. Lawn Craig is their agent. The American Insurance Co. has established an office here.

Visit our web site www.ingenweb.org/innewton
Contributed by
Chuck and Dennis Farrell

Historically Yours

BY COUNTY HISTORIAN, DONNA LA COSSE

This is my last year to serve as Newton County Historian. An Historian can serve for three years and then has to be approved by the Indiana State Historical Society board in order to serve another term of three years. I have held this office for many years and am now asking to be re- placed when this three-year term expires. I am no longer able to attend meetings in Indianapolis; therefore I don’t think I am serving the county as well as I should. If I feel someone younger should be representing our county, and it should be someone who can travel easily to Indy where most of the Indiana Historical meetings are held.

I have enjoyed the years I have served as the county historian. The Round Tables held once a year in Indianapolis gave me a chance to meet historians from other counties and to share with those who work on the State level.

The trip to Indy was two-fold for us — while I attended the meetings, Harold spent the day with our daughter who lives in Indy. They have been missing out on their father-daughter days since I can no longer attend those meetings.

It is not the traveling that is a problem; it is the walking after reaching Indy that was murder on my poor worn out knees! And, the time difference is also a factor.

Our society lost a valued and dedicated friend with the passing of Jim Robbins on June 7. He was an historian in every way — gathering material, savoring facts and fiction, and verbally sharing the information with everyone who would listen.

Jim, the son of the late Wesley and Francisce Robbins, was 77 years young. He was a 1948 graduate of Mount Ayr High School and was a veteran of the Korean War. He is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Neva Robbins of Wisconsin; a nephew, Sam Robbins of Illinois; four nieces, Mary Gehlke, Lorene Fobia, Sara Robbins and Janet Robbins, all of Wisconsin; three first cousins, Vivian Ames of Rensselaer, Harold (Donna) LaCosse of Monroe and Joyce Padgett of Brook. He will be sadly missed.

Have a great summer and keep on making history — both in the family and in the community. That’s what this history business is all about.

Visit the Resource Center!
Monday - 11:3 - Thursday 1:5; and Friday 11-3.

Family History Division
Repubishes “Hoosier Hunting Grounds or The Beaver Lake Trail”

The Family History Division is pleased to announce the re-publication of “Hoosier Hunting Grounds, or The Beaver Lake Trail.” Written in 1904 by Bill Bat, aka John Alter, this work of fiction, based on fact, depicts the life of trappers, horse thieves, counterfeiters, Indians and the wildlife of our area in 1840.

Jim Robbins, to whom the book is dedicated, suggested that we reprint this book because of its accurate description of the Beaver Lake Country, which included Lake, Lincoln, McClennan, Beaver and Coffaux Townships in Newton County, as well as bordering townships of Jasper County, specifically Union Township, where the author grew up and walked the Indian trails, hunted and trapped in the Beaver Lake Country.

From the first chapter, Mr. Alter draws the reader in by detailing a trapper’s cavern; the Bora and fauna of Beaver Lake; the antics and anxieties of hunting and trapping as a lifestyle; to sitting amongst the Bogus Island counterfeiters while they listen to a man named Barker deliver a sermon on living a “straight and narrow” life.

The characters are of mixed heritages, all coming together in several seasons sharing their own stories of horse thieving, honor and friendship.

Josie (Pullin) Zacher, a descendant of John Alter, had an original copy of the book, which had been leather bound, and included a drawing on its cover of the homestead of the Alter family, which was dated 1912. We have reproduced that cover in paperback form.

After reading the book, several members of the Family History Division felt the book revealed very vivid pictures in the reader’s mind, and decided to enlist the help of local artists to illustrate several of the events in the book.

Mary Knieger, Greta Taylor, Mary Turnbull, and Ruth Warwick were sent copies of the book, which they read, and submitted their own stories of horse thieving, honor and friendship.

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When High reached the Mississippi River he was five hours had the horse waiting for him. High mounted the horse and started east. Neighbors of the Bogus Island country and thieves was located on the Northwest end of the island, which was 13 acres, 25'-35' high on the North-Northwest end, and sloped South to Southwest. It could be approached from the North-west via sandbars.

He also states that the reason why it was called Bogus Island was that counterfeit money was created there, and horse thieves hid horses there, moving the heavy horses to Chicago, Wisconsin and Michigan, and trading to the East, low grade horses, and using "quarry" money to boot.

"In the 1830’s thieves started using Bogus Island as a hideout. It was 4 miles west of the lake's mouth. Vegetation was so thick on the island that if someone did manage to land they could easily be ambushed. In 1839, the thieves passed some bogus coin in the vicinity of Iroquois (Bunkum) and points south. A party of vigilantes headed by Aaron Goodnow was formed with the goal of punishing the thieves. They approached from the Northwest in a wagon. When they couldn’t find any further on dry land, they converted the wagon to a boat and continued to the island.

"They captured three men and counterfeiting equipment. These men and their equipment were taken to the home of Jacob Township. They were trying to get the island’s border. They were tried by Wesley Spitler, a J. P. (Justice of the Peace,) and bound over to the sheriff’s door for breakfast.

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Fiscal 2013才能起无 this tale were given to the book is dedicated. By Jim Robbins. Editor’s note: This is the text that Jim would use when he gave newspapers about Bogus Island. It is only a fitting that we print it here, in celebration of the reprinting of “Hookeier Hunting Grounds or the Beaver Lake Trail.” It was Jim that suggested we reprint the book, written in 1906 that depicts the Beaver Lake Country in the year 1840, and it is to him the book is dedicated.

When the state finally authorized militia groups, a group was organized to protect the logging or farming areas. Light horses went to cities or towns. Nebraska and sold. Bogus Island’s heavy horses were sent to the states. The horses were brought to Portland and crossed the Wa.
The Historical Society holds their annual meeting with a picnic in June. This took place at the Conservation Club south of Brook. A most interesting program was presented by Steve Diedam on “Diedam Family Painting”. Their company has been in business since 1904 when Steve’s grandfather, Herman Diedam, came to America.

Our Society had a loss in June with the death of Jim Robbins. Jim was the president of our Family History Division, and chairman of our Public Relations Committee. He was a willing worker and good friend to the Society. We will miss his dedication, wit and wisdom.

The Resource Center has had many guests and visitors recently. During the Kentland Alumni weekend Bob and Nancy Prue and Rich and Janet Miller kept the building open Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. We were rewarded with many alumni visitors. The Society has been host to a “Red Hat” group from Goodland, two County Extension Homemakers Clubs from Kentland and Goodland, and Delta Kappa Gamma a teacher’s organization. The fourth grade students from Lincoln Township School and South Newton Elementary have also toured our center this spring. Jim Robbins told the students many interesting stories about Newton County, Beaver Lake and Bogus Island.

After the publication of the 2008 Newton County Historical Coloring Book this spring, the society held an “Open House” to honor the artists. Five artists, Greta Taylor, Carol Whaley, Mary Krueger, Ruth Warrick and Barbara Wilfong, were in attendance on April 21st as fifty or more people dropped by to say “hello”, greet them and tour our Research Center. Thanks to County Historian Donna LaCosse and her husband, Harold, for greeting people as they arrived; Larry Lyons the tour guide, Sue Humphrey for the refreshments and the other members who made this an enjoyable day.

At our March meeting we were delighted to have Carl Carpenter of Kentland, to speak to us on “The Civil War”. His topic was the life of Ulysses S. Grant preceding the Civil War. The topic was so informative we felt as if we had known President Grant personally.

Linda Reiners, Executive Director of the Jasper-Newton County Community Foundation, presented us with a program in April about the nature of the foundation and the grants that are available. The Foundation has selected the area of Historic Preservation as their major focus for their fall Community Impact Grants.

“Unfit for Cultivation” was the topic that Chris Knochel, Newton County Surveyor, chose to speak to us about at our May meeting. He told of the formation of the North Territory and how it developed into Indiana and then Newton County. In the old surveyor’s records much of Newton County was once considered unfit for cultivation.

Thanks to Sue Humphrey and Larry Lyons for the excellent job they have done providing us with programs this past year. We are looking forward to enjoying what they have for us this next year!

Stop by our Research Center and get a hands-on close-up look at Newton County history! - Janet, Mike, Becky and Darlene.

Pictured left, the Coloring Book Artists who attended the open house. Back row: Carol Whaley, Brook, Greta Taylor and Barbara Wilfong, Kentland; seated, Ruth Warrick and Mary Krueger, Morocco.

If you could see your ancestors all standing in a row, there might be some of them perhaps you wouldn’t care to know, but there’s another question which requires a different view, if you could meet your ancestors, would they be proud of you? - Author unknown - submitted by Tim Fagan

Now You Know Your County of Newton!

1. Newton County residents, Carroll C. Kent and John A. Kent, laid out the town of Fair Oaks in Jasper County. The town has a street named for them, Kent Street. It was surveyed by Jasper County resident, Lewis Allen.

2. The first school established in Newton County was in Morocco in 1854.

3. The Newton County Historical Society named their quarterly publication “The Newcomer” because Newton County was the last county in Indiana to be formed, thus, the newcomer in the state.

4. The Hazelden Country Club and golf course were established in 1911—in an article written by George Ade in 1932 he tells this about Hazelden and the course: “The Hazelden Country Club is over twenty years old. When it came into existence there were no other golf courses within fifty miles of here. For two years, we played on a little approaching and putting course, inside the Hazelden grounds, the longest hole 100 yards. The only clubs used were approach irons and putters. In 1913 we jumped the fence and laid out a little 1500 yard course in the pasture.” (This complete article is available to read at the Newton County Historical Society Resource Center in Kentland.)

5. Howard R. Hiestand, attorney from Kentland, was the Joint Representative of Newton and Jasper Counties from 1937-1949. He was the exclusive author of the bill establishing the Kankakee State Park in Newton and Lake Counties.

Visit our web site www.ingenweb.org/innewton
Morocco Businesses - 1881
A Strole Through the Ages

My recent research of the 1881 Kentland Gazette revealed a bit about the businesses in Morocco in that year. This article was in the "local" column of the front page.

"We were at Morocco last Saturday, and found the citizens of that thriving town alive to their own interests in business matters. We first stopped at the Graves House, where we found the hospitable landlord, Mr. Graves, ready to entertain us and to pleasantly supply the inner man with the necessities of life."

"The firm of Graves and Johnson is doing a good business in the dry goods and grocery line.

"F. J. Pawlet, the harness maker, is crowding business so well that he scarcely had time to speak with us."

"Mr. Isaac Timmons has opened up a grocery store in the middle to late 1800's. Another twenty-three (23) court houses were built between 1890 and 1930.

"In the nineteenth century, these county seats were situated near the center of the county so that it would never be further away than a day's ride by horse from any part of the county. Yet, from the beginning, this central location was not to be found in Newton County. The first site of the Newton County Courthouse was to be at a farmhouse (Spiflet) in 1839 situated two (2) miles south and one (1) mile east of Brook. In 1861, the county seat and courthouse were moved to Kentland. Yet, Kentland was found to be two (2) miles north of the southern county boundary and two (2) miles west of the meridian line. For a county that is approximately thirty (30) miles long by approximately fifteen (15) miles wide, Kentland was an exception to the above opinion of central location."

In 1899, the first of the controversies began over the location of the county seat/courthouse as situated in Kentland. That year a new state law provided for the relocating of county seats by election.

The town of Brook, Goodland and Morocco tried to take the county seat/courthouse away from Kentland. Goodland (a town two (2) miles north of the southern county boundary and four (4) miles east of the meridian line) won the election for the relocation, but it lost a court battle when the Indiana Supreme Court found the 1899 statute unconstitutional.

In 1905, the second of the controversies began over the location of the new courthouse in Kentland. That year, Newton County government officials were in court fighting an effort to stop them from replacing the forty-five (45) year old courthouse in Kentland.

The opposition sued to stop the building of the new courthouse and won, by arguing that the county had failed to appropriate the needed monies. It was a weak and short victory based on an easily corrected technicality.

Finally, in 1905 through 1906, the existing courthouse was built. The simple brick and limestone building cost the people of Newton County approximately $35,000. This cost was modest to the costs of Benton County's courthouse built in 1874 at $62,000. Lake County's courthouse built in 1878-1879 at $52,000, and Jasper County's built in 1896-1898 at $142,000. Huntington County courthouse built in 1906 cost a total of $347,000.

In retrospect, Morocco as the oldest town in Newton County is also the closest to geometric center of Newton County.
The census taker for Lincoln Township in 1880 was John L. Oswalt, enumerated the 12-14 of June. The heritage of the residents are diverse, however the main occupation was that of farmer. You can trace the path that led them to our county by noting the birthplaces of the family members. The average age of the heads of household appears to be 25-60. This is just another way to discover the lineage of your ancestors. Part of the census report is reproduced here as they appear in the transcription that can be viewed in its entirety on our website www.ingenweb.org/inneewton.

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<td>Prussia</td>
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For the last time.

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**Recipes From Days Gone By**

### Old Fashioned Rhubarb Cake

Submitted by Becky Lyons

- ½ c butter or margarine
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 1 egg
- 1 tspn. vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tspn. baking soda
- ½ tspn. salt
- 2 cup chopped rhubarb
- ½ tspn. cinnamon

Cream butter and 1 cup of the sugar. Add egg, beat well. Combine buttermilk and vanilla, set aside. Combine flour, baking soda and salt; add alternately with buttermilk/vanilla to the creamed mixture. Stir in rhubarb. Spread in greased 13x9x2 pan. Combine remaining sugar with cinnamon, sprinkle over batter. Bake 350 for 35 minutes or until cake tests done.

### Topping

- ½ c milk
- 1/3 c sugar
- 1 tspn. vanilla

Combine all ingredients and pour over each cake piece as you serve it. Frozen rhubarb works well, too.

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**Teachers Gather in Goodland in 1893**

Tim Fagan submitted this photo (right) of an 1893 group of Goodland teachers, including J. F. Fagan, his ancestor, on the far right, is the only individual he could identify. I searched through the 1893 Kentland Enterprise, the only periodical we have from the time, and could not find a notation regarding the group. However, a bit of history was found in the “History of Newton County Schools,” published by Katherine Clark that mentioned Mr. Fagan. The following is an excerpt from the Grant Township school information.

In 1887 the community had grown prosperous enough to erect a modern brick building. It contained two stories with four rooms on the first floor, and three on the second. A superintendent’s office was also provided. There was a laboratory and a furnace room in the basement.

“Early principals in the building were F. C. Casell and C. L. Davis. Other teachers included Charles Humston and Wilkis Morgan. In September 1893, J. C. Dickerson came from Mitchell, Indiana where he had engaged in teaching at the Southern Normal School, to take charge of the school. He remained 10 years. He was principal with no assistant. A school board was then functioning which desired to secure a commissioned high school. Through the efforts of Mr. Dickerson and the Board of Education, this was accomplished during the early days of his administration. To meet the requirements of the State Board of Education, changes were made to entitle the high school to receive a commission. The three-year course was changed to a four-year course and the length of the school year was increased from eight months to nine months, a standard that has been maintained ever since.

Mr. V. B. Fagan, (should be J. B.) was promoted to the principalship and Mr. Dickerson became superintendent. Mr. Fagan re-signed to enter State Normal School at the end of his first year and I. A. Humphred was elected principal. Upon request, Mrs. Emma Mont McCrae of Purdue University inspected the school and it was on her recommendation, the long talked of and much desired commission signed to enter State Normal School at the end of his first year. The class of 1895 with four graduates out of twenty-two from eighth grade were members of the first commissioned class at the State Normal School. Members of this class were Hattie Stevens, Willard Camey, John Summerfield McCurry, and John Jenkins. The school board included Dr. K. Clymer, President; Dr. M. L. Humston, Secretary; E. R. Bringham; Treasurer; and George Jenkins, Grant Township Trustee.

“This commission made it possible for graduates from the Goodland Schools to renter without examination, the freshman class in the State Normal School, Terre Haute, Purdue University, Indiana University, and perhaps other colleges. This was done by graduates of the class of 1895 and 1896 and thereafter. All credits, including higher mathematics, four years of Latin, science, chemistry, and other required subjects were accepted. Because of his commission, high school students from non-commissioned schools completed their courses at Goodland Public Schools to entitle them to enter college. The classes of 1903 and 1904 had graduates from Morroco and Brook.”

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Visit our web site www.ingenweb.org/inneewton
When I got back to the motel, I care
the money. “Certainly.” I smiled as I handed her
dropped it off this morning. Looks like just
Someone probably found it in her attic and
“I've never seen it before, Hazel.
in? There's not even a price on it.”
Where on Earth did this grubby old
box. I grabbed the box and hurried to the
but there was no one there.
these pieces and make the quilt. It is spe
ed the box by mistake. But as I touched the
colors unfaded. Someone must have donat
The filthy box was full of quilt pieces!
When I lifted the lid to see what was inside,
box I hadn't seen before caught my eye.
As I turned toward the door, a large
more minutes, then decided to leave.
If the newspaper. “Who’s Martha?” my husband asked
“Where did you get this quilt?”

I was overcome with anxiety. The soft voice
whispered again, “Time is getting short.

The next day I was on the lookout for fabric for a quilt.

I'm not saying I'm a quilter by any means, but the

As I worked on the patchwork I won
strolled back to the corner where the quilt
hanging.

“Mom, isn't this a beautiful, old-fash

I was not surprised to find that she had
my husband returned that afternoon, I’d
completed several blocks.

As I turned toward the door, a large
more minutes, then decided to leave.
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my husband returned that afternoon, I’d
completed several blocks.
John and Mike Sapp, great-great-grandsons of John Williams Sapp, have created web sites honoring the family. You can visit John’s site: http://home.comcast.net/~mssapp/jwisapp/ and Mike’s site: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=main&dbr=mls&id=I14 for more detailed information regarding the family. They have created these sites to share information about their Great-Great-Grandfather. They hope that others who find this site will have additional information to contribute. And of course, any comments or corrections are welcome.

John lived a rich and full life from his birth in 1836 to his death in 1922. He was a farmer, soldier, and lawyer. He lived in Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, and Michigan. He was probably named after his paternal grandfather (John) and his mother’s maiden name (Williams). He was the fifth of six children, first son. Shortly after his birth, his family moved first to Liberty, Henry County, Indiana, then about 2 1/2 years later to just outside the New Castle town limits (western side – still in Henry County).

Sometime between March and August of 1839, John’s parents and one sister died, probably of cholera (apparently, two other sisters had died previously). John, age 3; his sister Hester, age 9, and his brother William, age 2, were taken in by their maternal grandparents, William & Rebecca (Loar) Williams, who were living nearby (almost neighbors) in Henry County, Indiana. Between 1850 and 1855, John’s whereabouts aren’t certain. He seems to be counted in the 1850 census living with his grandfather, William & Rebecca (Loar) Williams, who were living nearby (almost neighbors) in Henry County, Indiana. Between 1850 and 1855, John’s whereabouts aren’t certain. He seems to be counted in the 1850 census living with his grandfather, William & Rebecca (Loar) Williams, who were living nearby (almost neighbors) in Henry County, Indiana. He was probably named after his paternal grandfather (John) and his mother’s maiden name (Williams). He was the fifth of six children, first son. The 1840 Federal Census; next door to the William Williams household is a George Rogers household. Terressa was 17. They traveled with others, possibly a covered wagon. In preparation for the move, he converted all his savings into gold. He put the gold in a cloth bag, and the bag into an iron pot. He put the pot under the seat of the covered wagon, then piled in all the household goods and furniture and other worldly possessions to hide it. When they reached their destination, they found that the gold coins had rubbed the cloth bag to pieces, but the gold was not lost, because it was still in the iron pot.

Washington Township, 1873

The Washington Township map included the following commentary on the left side:

The Washington Township map included the following commentary on the left side:

Among the first settlers of Washington Township were Bruce Dunn, James W. Lacy, Mathias and Joseph Redding, Wesley Spitter, James Cuppy, Frederick Kenoyer, Jacob Troup, John Myers and Z. Spitter. The two last named, we are informed, are the only ones now remaining in the township of the original settlers. The first schoolhouse was built about the year 1856, and the first church edifice some ten years later. At the present time there are ten school houses and five churches. The latter belong to the United Brethren, Baptists, Christians, and Methodists.
It also shows school houses, many less than on the 1904 map available to us. These maps all appear to have come from some sort of atlas. There is no printed date on any of the maps. On the Jefferson Township map the year 1873 is written in pencil on the edge of the map. After doing some research we believe these maps are from the years 1874-1894. There is little we have little information about residents in our county. We have very little newspaper coverage of this time period. So, what good is a map? It shows us landowners and names associated with our county that perhaps no one was aware. It also provides a picture of the area that exists today.

The Beaver Township map was published in the Spring 2007 issue of "The Newcomer" and the Jefferson Township map was published in the fall 2007 issue. Robert Simonis presented a paper at the framed copies of the Jefferson Township map. (Editor’s note: It was incorrectly stated in the Summer/Fall 2007 issue as given by Ross McKee.) Ross McKee donated the Washington Township map. If anyone has copies of other township maps of this period, we would enjoy having a copy.

Range 9 West, Township 28 North

Range 10 West, Township 28 North
Section 1: Porter, J. Cook, Wm. Best, Church, Alice Triplet, R. Seely, Joseph Law; Section 2: Alice Triplet, J. W. Sampson Hrs., C. E. Triplet.

Range 11 West, Township 28 North

Range 12 West, Township 28 North

Range 13 West, Township 28 North
CIVIL WAR MEMORIES OF JOHN WILLIAM SAPP

EXTRACTED FROM JOHN SAPP’S WEBSITE

The following are notes from another researcher: Served in Co F 32nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was born on the farm near his previous residence. He and his wife had a long and eventful life together. In 1897, Mable appears to be a “change of life” child, born almost ten years after her previous sibling. She and her husband, George, raised their family, born during their residence in Nebraska.

Civil War Memories of John William Sapp

Sapp Family Photographs

Hester Sapp, John’s sister.

J. W. Sapp, Civil War Era Photo

Children of John W. Sapp

George Rogers Sapp

William Henry Sapp

William Sapp

Xerxes Sapp

James Walter Sapp

Needham Nelson Sapp

Sue Mable Sapp

Mary Sapp

William Henry Sapp: born April 23, 1857 in Iroquois Twp., Newton Co., IN. Died 16 July 1897. Mable appears to be a “change of life” child, born almost ten years after her previous sibling. She and her husband, George, raised their family, born during their residence in Nebraska.

Tennessee River at Chattanooga and marched over the Cumberland mountains to Shellman, then we re-crossed the river and went into camp at Whitesides, Tenn., making the route in four days and nights. We then crossed the river again shortly before daybreak and marched about one mile in the direction of the opposite bank of the Tennessee. We were ordered to form a line and charge the Confederate line. We then advanced and charged the Confederate line, driving them back to the Tennessee River. We then marched back to the Tennessee River and crossed over to the opposite bank.

Among the 16th of September we started home, our time having expired nearly two weeks before we left. I arrived home at midnight and found my wife and the children living in a little log cabin, getting along fine. I had been out just thirty-eight months and had only seen them once during that time. I secured a twenty-day furlough after the battle of Shiloh and this was the first time I had a furlough as it certainly looked as if I was needed at home, but couldn’t make it at that time as the Government needed every able bodied man in the front. How Mrs. Sapp and the little ones got along, God only knows, I don’t.

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Next came the campaign of the summer of ’64. Gen. Bragg in the Confederate side and Gen. Sherman on our side. Sherman marched from Dalton to Resaca, from Resaca to Rome, from Rome to Big Shanty, at which place our first Lieut. was killed. From Big Shanty to Cartersville and then around to Atlanta and thence to Jonesboro. This was a continual fight and a hard one. Every day for about three months there was fighting somewhere along the line and in the month of September we crossed the Tennessee River at Chattanooga and marched over the Cumberland mountains to Shellman, then we re-crossed the river and went into camp at Whitesides, Tenn., making the route in four days and nights. We then crossed the river again shortly before daybreak and marched about one mile in the direction of the opposite bank of the Tennessee. We were ordered to form a line and charge the Confederate line. We then advanced and charged the Confederate line, driving them back to the Tennessee River. We then marched back to the Tennessee River and crossed over to the opposite bank.

“Then our Brigade with four others was ordered across the Tennessee River. Landing just in time to save Grant’s army. Our regiment being the first to cross the Tennessee River. Grant’s army at this time was almost routed, being forced to the water’s edge, and many soldiers were standing waist deep in the river and imploring as we were crossing to take them back, but we were fresh and eager for a fight and we certainly had a hard one for about two days.

The Confederates were routed, there were about 32,000 killed and wounded on both sides. But I was too far away to get a good picture of the engagement. The next day we moved back to Nashville, on 30 Oct 1921. His remains were transported to Indiana where he was buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Sunnyside, IN.

We organized at Richmond, Ind. went from there to Indianapolis, Ind. to Jeffersonville, Ind. Then to Indianapolis, Ind. and to Richmond, Ind. I was on the way to Richmond, Ind. It was about 11 a.m. and I was going to Richmond, Ind. from Indianapolis, Ind. It was about 11 a.m. and I was going to Richmond, Ind. from Indianapolis, Ind.

The regiment was gone so we went to Decatur, and from there to Nashville, Tenn. and from there to Columbia, Tenn.

...and the fight raged all day. The Confederates were driven off the Ridge with heavy losses, we having captured 80 pieces of the enemy’s artillery. Our Lieutenant was killed in this fight. Gen. Bragg retreated to Dalton, Ga., and we came to Whitesides, Tenn., and there we were about six miles away.

That winter my wife’s house was burned and everything she had in the world was burned with it, as she and the little boys were eight miles from home visiting. I tried hard at this time to get a furlough as it certainly looked as if I was needed at home, but couldn’t make it at that time as the Government needed every able bodied man in the front. How Mrs. Sapp and the little ones got along, God only knows, I don’t.

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