

Newton County
Historical Society

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

219-474-6944
www.rootsweb.com/~innewton
email: newtonhs@ffni.com; P.O. Box 303
310 E. Seymour Street, Kentland, IN 47951

Join in on the fun . . . we are seeking volunteers to work at our new Resource Center give us a call today!

General Society Membership Family History Division
Must be a general member.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life \$100 |

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

The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 2:00 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,

Resource Center Hours - all CST - Monday and Thursday, 1:00-5:00; Friday 11:00-3:00, located at the junction of U.S. 24 and 4th Street, 310 E. Seymour, Kentland, Indiana.

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.

The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. A 501(c)(3) approved organization.

Articles for submission are encouraged and may be sent to The Editor, P. O. Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951.
newtonhs@ffni.com

Officers of the Newton

County Historical Society

President, Janet Miller, Kentland
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Secretary, Becky Lyons, Brook
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The Newcomer

Beth Bassett, Editor, Brook
Send membership dues to:
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Kentland, Indiana 47951
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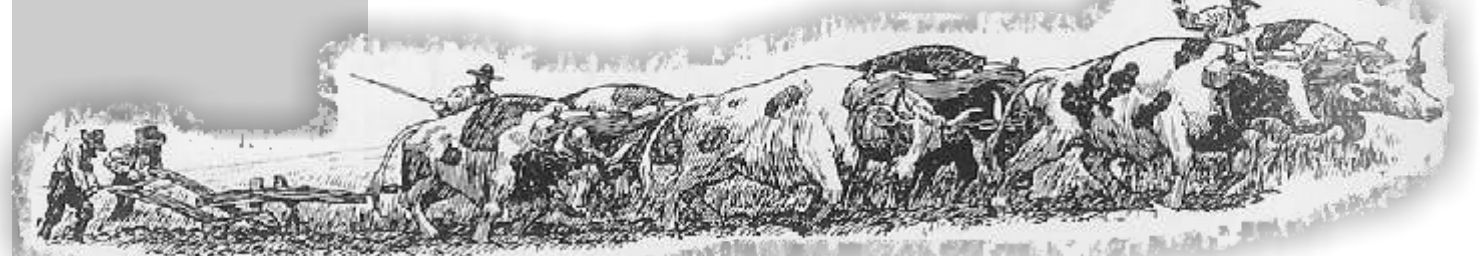
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A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County

Breaking the Sod With a Yoke of Oxen



Written by John R. Hershman and submitted by Beth Bassett

In this issue . . .

Breaking the Sod With A Yoke of Oxen

Funeral Directors of Kentland

Modern Day Betsy Ross

Pages of the Past Summer of 1906

Beaver Township Map 1874-1876

The Hershman Family

Regular Features:
Quill and Ink
Recipes of Days Gone By
Historically Yours
NCHS News and Notes

Before the use of tractors or other machinery, plows (or ploughs), were used to turn the soil and create furrows in the earth. Farmers used oxen or horses to draw the plow and break up the ground. The plow's primary purpose was to dig up the soil in preparation for harrowing and planting. Farmers took great pride in their plowing technique. A clean, solid furrow demonstrated the farmer's handiwork and expertise to his peers.

In the pages of John R. Hershman's journal written in 1920, his own experience of yoking and plowing with oxen gives generations today an inside look at this farming technique rarely seen in our area today. It is included here for your enjoyment.

"As I have previously stated, I was employed in the summer season of 1864 on the farm where I was born in White County, owned by Mr. G. D. Wiggins. I had never worked with oxen and as he did a good deal of his work with ox teams I had to learn to use them. Fortunately, Mr. Wiggins was an expert cattle driver and took some pain to teach me, so that I became quite proficient in that line myself. In that day we thought it quite impossible to break the prairie sod with horse teams. Mr. Wiggins had five yoke of oxen which was considered the right number for a breaking team as they were called.

"After the crop was planted he turned the farm over to his son and me to tend. He took contract for breaking sod which he took care of himself. He had a large plow rigged between two wagon wheels with an upright bar bolted to the axle over which a horizontal bar with a slot was slipped to be used as a lever. Another upright bar of shorter length was attached to the end of the plow beam and bolted to the end of the lever bar. Holes were bored in the main upright to be used for

gauging the depth of the plow. A wooden pin was used to hold the lever in place. In plowing, headlands were left to turn on and when the end of the furrow was reached the driver would go to the lever, which would raise the end of the beam and throw the plow out. The well trained cattle would swing round the end into the furrow on the other side of the land when the driver would again remove the pin and raise the lever this time, which would lower the beam and throw the plow into the ground again. All done with great precision and without a stop.

"The cattle were controlled by words of command and the use of the whip. The latter more in the way of taps or signals than for actual whipping. The whip was made of a heavy braid of leather or buckskin and attached to a long springy hickory stick and used with both hands and in the hands of an expert could be made the instrument of severe punishment. Mr. Wiggins could actually cut the hair off when he chose to use it for punishment. But to his credit be it said he very seldom so used it, then only when the ox got contrary or lazy. I have always been glad that he let me break sod with this big team, though it was for only one day.

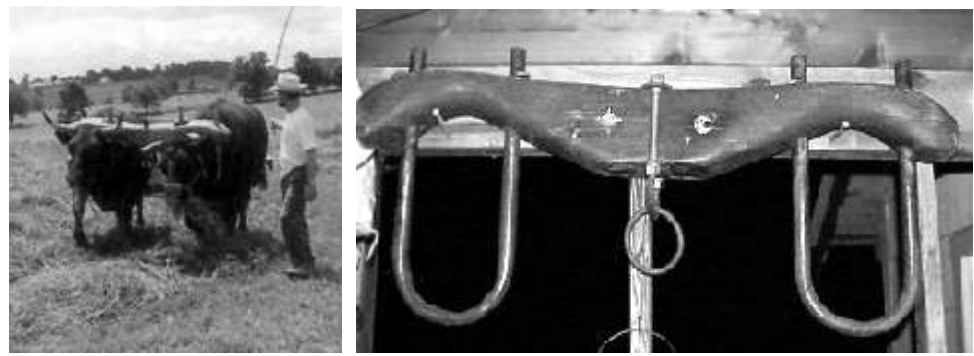
"It was on Saturday and he wanted to attend a quarterly meeting of the church, which was one of the important functions in those days. So he turned the breaking team over to me. The cattle were always turned out on the commons at night to graze. After the grass got a good start they were not fed anything else. They could always be found close together in the morning, if not too early they would be lying down ruminating after their morning feed. I was only 15 years old and I felt quite proud of the responsibility. To get up all those oxen, yoke them, hitch them together and

Plowing With Oxen - <from page one

drive them all day was quite an exploit I thought. Not many boys of these days would know how to go about it. They might know how to start a tractor. We had never heard of a tractor then, but we knew oxen.

"He told me to drive the cattle in about 8 o'clock, yoke them and plow till noon then to leave them hitched to the big plow, go into dinner and afternoon to plow enough to make up eighteen rounds in all which would take till about 4 o'clock which would be time to turn the cattle out and I could call that a days breaking.

"I drove my cattle into the pound where they had been unyoked. I would then take up the yoke for a certain team, for each team had their individual yoke, and each ox his own end of the yoke and his own bow. I would remove the bow from the proper end of the yoke, then holding the bow in my right hand and the yoke under my left arm approach the off side ox on his left side, place the yoke on his neck and adjust the bow which was held in place by a wooden



The "gas and go" method used in today's military may have originated from the feeding of the oxen still yoked for a day's work. Right, a typical yoke of the day. - Photo contributed by Vic Carlson and the Internet.

key on the top of the yoke. I would then remove the other bow, hold it in my right hand, step back and hold the end of the yoke up with my left hand and speak to the mate to come under which he would generally do without hesitating. However, if he refused to move as sometimes happened, I would lay the free end of the yoke down, to the ox, put the bow under his neck and drive him to his place. When all the cattle were yoked, I would line out the leaders, hook a chain to the ring in the middle of the yoke and drive up the second yoke and attach the chain, hook another to their yoke, and so with the other teams till all five yokes were coupled together.

"I think I picked up my whip, opened the gate, spoke to my cattle to come on. If they didn't start at once I would crack my whip-which would start 'em. The cattle were so well trained that their action was almost automatic, though the leaders were three-year old steers, I remember, and this was their first season.

"So passed my first and last day breaking sod with an ox team and I think I shall remember it with pleasure, as long as my memory lasts."

Origin and Explanation of Land Measurements**Measures of Area**

ACRE The unit of land area in the United States is the acre. An acre contains 43,560 square feet. Have you ever wondered why an acre is 43,560 square feet instead of a round number like 40,000 or 50,000 square feet? The story goes like this. When plowing with a yoke of oxen, it was standard practice to rest the animals (and the farmer) after plowing a furrow 1/8 mile long. An eighth of a mile therefore became known as a furrow-long or furlong; (a furlong is a nearly forgotten term for distance, except at horse racing tracks where it remains in common use).

The usual practice after plowing a furlong was to then turn the team around on a "land" and plow the other direction. Lands were laid out so the farmer would be able to finish a land every 10 rounds with a 10 inch plowshare (about 16.5 feet). One could imagine that perhaps farmers used a pole or rod that was 16.5 feet long when laying out lands because this measure of distance is still called a rod today.

By starting early in the morning, two lands could be finished before noon with a good yoke of oxen. At noon, the farmer stopped for his noon meal and to feed, water, and rest his animals. After the noon break, another two lands could be finished before quitting time. Four lands, or forty rounds (80 furrows) measured 16.5 x 4 = 66 feet across by 1/8 mile (660 feet) long and was considered a good days work with a walking plow. The area plowed was therefore 43,560 square feet and became the standard unit of land area we call an acre.

By the way, a farmer who plowed 80 furrows an eighth of a mile long would have walked ten miles while wrestling with the hand guided walking plow. Is it any wonder this measure of land area became known as an acre (ache-er)! Actually, the Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary states that the name comes from the Old English 'aecer'; akin to Old High German 'ackar' (field), Latin 'ager' (field), Greek 'agros' (field), or Latin 'agere' (to drive).

Measures of Length

ROD On the American prairie where fences were constructed of posts and wire, farmers would place fence posts a rod (16.5 feet) apart. In addition to being about the right distance to support a wire fence, this helped them quickly estimate the number of posts needed (80 rods is a quarter mile). It also was useful when plowing a field. By spacing posts a rod apart, the farmer had permanent markers to use when setting up lands. Farmers took great pride in being able to plow a straight furrow. If the field was level, the farmer could use the post on the far side of the field to sigut to when breaking out a new land.

Fence posts are still commonly spaced a rod apart and barbed wire still comes in 80 rod spools.

Much of Nebraska was settled by homesteaders. In eastern Nebraska, the Homestead Act awarded each homesteader one-quarter section (160 acres). When posts are spaced a rod apart on the perimeter fence of a quarter section, the space between each fence post represents an acre, if measured across the full width of the quarter section.

Newton County Community Foundation Awards Grant for Civil War Veteran Flag Holders

Thanks to the efforts of Kyle Conrad of the Iroquois Washington Preservation Committee of Brook, the Newton County Community Foundation recently awarded the group \$4,000 to purchase at least 100 flag holders for those Civil War Veterans in Newton County that do not have any flag holders or any other indication as to their veteran history. The flag holder is a bronze Grand Army of the Republic symbol that Kyle varnished to help preserve it, and included new American flags upon placement.

In addition, Judy Taylor, Trustee of Washington Township has also purchased flag holders for the Washington Township veterans, therefore freeing up some of the 100 earmarked for their township for others in the county.

Kyle has done an extensive inventory of all of these burial places in the county, and as of Memorial Day, he had placed holders at Washington Township and North Star Cemetery in Jackson Township. In addition to the G.A.R. markers, five Confederate markers were purchased for the four known veterans buried in Newton County.

Thanks to the foundation and our county officials for preserving our local history.

Previously Unmarked and Forgotten Burials Now Marked

Earlier this spring, twenty previously unmarked and forgotten burials are now known and marked for future generations. Over the past few years, Riverside Cemetery Board Secretary Kyle Conrad has researched and identified these burials through obituaries and contacts of possible relatives.

A pat on the back also goes to Iroquois Township and Trustee Jane Risley for purchasing the grave stones, and to Bob Hill of Hill Monument Company of Kentland for providing them at cost, and to Kyle for his continuing efforts to document all the burials at Riverside Cemetery.

Members Urged to Participate in Society Committees

Newly elected President, Janet Miller, handed out a form on behalf of the officers of the general society, requesting members for the ongoing committees for 2007-2008. Many of the committees have chairman who have previously volunteered. These committees are not difficult and it is fun to work together, and new members are being encouraged.

Programs Committee. Larry Lyons and Sue Humphrey, Co-Chairmen.

Projects. We currently have two projects: (1) Oral History, Nancy Prue, Chairman, Oral History Publishing, Nancy Prue and Beth Bassett, Co-Chairmen; (2) McCray Scholarship Barbara Gerbracht, Chairman, Kay Babcock.

Membership. Beth Bassett, Chairman.

Public Relations. Jim Robbins, Chairman; Kay Babcock, Reporter. This committee takes care of the Fair Booth and the Coloring Book Contest.

Society Newsletter. "The Newcomer", Beth Bassett, Editor.

Budget and Finance. Darlene Truby, Treasurer, Chairman, Ron Humphrey.

Historic Sites. We need a chairman. This committee is in charge of marking our landmarks with signs.

Nominating Committee: Kyle Conrad, Beth Bassett

Resource Center. Beth Bassett, Chairman, Mail Carrier, Bill Phillips; Displays, Barbara Wilfong and Jenny Washburn; Building Maintenance, Sue Humphrey, Russell Collins; Volunteers who work at the center: Jim Robbins, Nancy Jo Prue, Dave and Darlene Truby, Larry and Becky Lyons, Beth Bassett, Kay Babcock, Rich



A flag holder placed at North Star Cemetery. Inset: The G. A. R. Symbol on the flag holder.

and Janet Miller.

Special Events. Sue Humphrey, Chairman

Refreshments for Meetings. We need a chairman. This is someone to be in charge of seeing that members sign up for refreshments for each meeting during the year.

Any ideas or suggestions for programs, newsletter articles, oral history profiles and window displays are welcome!

Volunteering Their Time For History!

Several members have stepped up and are taking time out of their busy schedules to open the Resource Center on a regular basis. While there, they are filing, storing, researching, indexing, and housecleaning. Other members are taking advantage of our new surroundings and utilize our materials for their research project.



Jim Robbins

Kay Babcock

Kyle Conrad

NCHS & RESOURCE CENTER UPDATE

Busy, busy, busy! With the opening of our new "home" in Kentland last fall, we have had many visitors through the doors. This spring, members of the Remington Historical Society came for their evening meeting to view our displays and swap a few historical stories. A few of the members had Newton County families in their lineage, so a bit of time was spent going through our library for any undiscovered material.

At the end of the school year, the fourth grade class from Lincoln Elementary explored our displays, listened intently to a presentation by President Jim Robbins, and were given a packet of information about the historical society, as well as materials to start their own family tree. Their enthusiasm for local history was sparked through their own copy of the Newton County Historical Coloring book which was given to them and other fourth grade classes in Newton County in the spring. It was a rewarding sight to see the youth of our county interact with our members, displays and our research materials.



Remington Historical Society members look through our library collection and swap historical facts during a recent visit to the Center.

Left and below, Lincoln Elementary Students from the fourth grade class explore and absorb their heritage on display at the Resource Center in Kentland. Photos by Beth Bassett



Society Meets For Annual Picnic



On Monday, June 25th, the Family History Division and general society met for their annual meetings and election of officers. The Family History Division has retained their officers from the prior year, Jim Robbins, Director, Donna LaCosse, Secretary and Janet Miller, Treasurer. The general society's officials elected this year were Janet Miller, President, and secretary, Becky Lyons, serving her second term in this position.

Donna LaCosse is also retained as the County Historian.

Members Larry Lyons and Rich Miller grilled up pork, beef and buffalo burgers for the main course, while members pitched in with their favorite carry-in dish. Helen Wildermuth provided an excellent program on Cemetery Restoration. Her presentation included photos of some of the cemeteries she and her partner Mark Davis have restored in our county over the past few years.

CHAIN Another unit used in land measure is the chain. A chain is equal to four rods or 66 feet. Modern surveyor's chains are not made of chain but are actually a flexible steel tape that can be wound on a spool. Chain measures are stamped with a die or marked with a brass tag every rod and every 1/10 of a chain, with the final section marked at 1/100 chain increments.

A standard acre as described above was one chain (66 feet) wide by ten chains (660 feet) long, or ten square chains.

Before the age of pocket calculators and computers, surveyors used chain measure to measure land because it simplified the calculations. The length and width of a rectangular tract of land could be measured using a chain measure with the area expressed in square chains. Since there are ten square chains to an acre, the conversion from square chains to acres could be done mentally. Odd shaped tracts of land could be divided into smaller parcels each representing a standard shape (a rectangle, a triangle, a trapezoid, and full or part circle) and each parcel could be measured using a chain-measure. The area of each parcel, in square chains, could be added and then divided by ten to report total acres in the field.

Recipes From Days Gone By

Submit your "never fail" and handed down recipes for publication!

Janet Miller submitted this recipe.

"I was looking through my Grandma Addie's recipe file and found the following, probably written about 1949."

Dear Grandma,

Mother is canning the apples and this afternoon she gets two bu. of peaches so she is busy. So, I am going to write.

Sis's Pickles - 9 Day Pickles

Soak pickles 3 days in salt brine. Soak pickles 3 days in fresh water. Wipe and cut in thick cross wise chunks then soak 24 hours in the following solution:

- 1 part vinegar
- 2 parts water
- 1 level teaspoon powdered alum to the quart

Remove and add this syrup. Cold.

- 8 cups sugar
- 2 quarts vinegar
- 1 1/2 oz. celery seed
- 1 1/2 stick cinnamon
- 1/4 oz. cloves

And soak pickles in this 24 hours. On the 9th day bring to a boil, can and seal.

We had a nice time at your pretty house. Mother will write later.

Love, Janet
XXOO



The Modern Betsy Ross

Donna LaCosse, of Morocco, adds the final touch to the Morocco Town Flag when it was constructed in 1976. The flag was designed by the Bicentennial Committee when they combined the two winning posters selected from the contest sponsored by the Morocco Bicentennial Committee. The winning posters were made by Tina Ohlund and Joe Zickmund, students at Morocco Elementary School and North Newton High School.

The characters on the flag were enlarged by Mrs. LaCosse, cut from fabric and appliquéd onto a background of peacock blue fabric. The fabric and the work were donated by Donna and Harold LaCosse as their contribution to the town they adopted as home when they were married and began a business in Morocco in 1948.

Fifteen years later, Donna constructed a second flag that was to be given to the Country of Morocco, Africa when town board members were invited to visit that country as guests of the president of Morocco, Africa. Before arrangements to travel to that country were made, a problem developed in Africa and local town board members decided to remain in "their" own Morocco. The new flag remained in the LaCosse home until a "home" could be found for the flag.

Soon after the Town Hall was moved to the State Street location, Donna presented the second flag to the town board members with this comment: "I will probably never make another Morocco Flag, so I am giving you a new flag for the new Town Hall and I am giving you all the patterns for safe keeping. Perhaps, in another fifty years, someone will need to replace the flags and will need these patterns. It was a fun thing to do and I did it twice. If I am still here when a new flag is needed, don't call me I don't think I will be available!"

The first flag remains in the building on Clay Street, which is now the Police Station, and the second flag graces one of the walls in the new Town Hall.

This story and picture originally appeared in the Morocco Courier.

Publications for sale from the Newton County Historical Society - See page 21.

The History of the Kentland Funeral Directors

by Kyle Conrad

The passing of Jesse McMullan in March of this year brings to an end an era of one of the last 'old time' funeral directors who were in business from the 1930's to the 1970's in Newton County. Other funeral home names that serviced the Newton County area such as Hufty, Crane, Towers, Bedinger, Hancock, Todd, and Weston are but faint memories. Names such as McCurry and Marsh and Berkey Brothers in Goodland, Hershman, Gragg Brothers, Hawkins, and Sawyer and Ulery in Brook, Frankenberger, Oswalt, Reed, and Hassett in Kentland, L.F. Porter in Morocco, W.J. Wright in Morocco and Rensselaer, and Worland in Rensselaer have all but been forgotten. Longtime funeral home names servicing portions of our county still exists with the Sheets family in Lowell and Jackson's in Rensselaer. More recent funeral home names in Morocco of Cardwell and Lang are also gone. Today's Newton County funeral homes carry the names of Stütz, Gerts, and Steinke. And while no longer affiliated in Newton County, former Brook funeral director Jim Weston continues to serve families today in Frankfort, Indiana. While previous *Newcomer* articles touched on the history of the funeral business in Goodland and Brook, this attempt will hopefully provide an accurate account of the funeral history in Kentland.

The history of the funeral business in Kentland begins in the year 1868. Charles Frankenberger, a veteran of the Civil War, had just finished a two year term as the Newton County Sheriff. Upon leaving office, he began selling furniture and set up trade as an undertaker. In 1880, Frankenberger's advertisements in the *Kentland Gazette* stated his rooms were on the west side of the public square in downtown Kentland.

In May of 1890, another Civil War veteran, Francis M. (Frank) Oswalt, purchased Frankenberger's business and continued to operate both businesses at the same location until April of 1903 when they were moved to the corner of Third and Dunlap. The furniture store faced Third Street with the undertaking parlor in the rear facing Dunlap. Upon Oswalt's death on January 23, 1905, his store employee, E. F. (Freeman) Reed, continued operating the business for Oswalt's wife. Reed eventually purchased the businesses and continued to operate it until his death in 1920. This was about the same time that the use of automobiles was beginning to take shape, replacing the horse drawn hearse that had been used up until now. Also customary up to this time period was the tradition of conducting wakes and funerals in the home of the deceased or a family member with the funeral held there or at a church. The use of a funeral home for this purpose did not begin until the 1930's and 1940's.

It should be mentioned that around

this same time, a competitor furniture and undertaking business was being operated in Kentland by W.W. Washburn. For a short time, it operated under the name Washburn and Hershman, presumably in conjunction with Lloyd L. Hershman, a Brook furniture dealer and undertaker. It appears through newspaper advertisements that the business was short lived, lasting only a few years.

With the death of Freeman Reed, the furniture and undertaking business was purchased by Charles J. Hassett. Hassett had been a Kentland merchant for many years, but never in the undertaking business. Charles' son, James, joined his father in the business and they continued operating at the corner of Third and Dunlap under the name Charles J. Hassett and Son.

In 1935 more competition came to town with the opening of the Hufty-Crane Funeral Home. Robert Hufty and Gordon Crane had established the Hufty-Crane Funeral Home in Goodland in 1934 and decided to expand into Kentland a year later. They purchased a home at 214 E. Washington Street and began their funeral business. Robert Hufty would operate the Kentland funeral home while Crane remained at the Goodland location.

A trend by the 1930's was for funeral homes to also be utilized to transport people to the hospital, since they had the equipment necessary to perform this function. This required someone to remain close to a telephone at all times in the event an emergency arose. Many times, employees of the furniture store would also double as ambulance drivers. If the hearse was in use for another emergency or for a funeral, another funeral home would be called to handle the call. The funeral directors and their employees had virtually no training in emergency medicine. Their objective was to get people to the hospital as quickly as they could.

After Charles Hassett's death in March of 1944, James Hassett carried on the business until his death in 1946. In March of that year R.H. Carlson and Carl Donahue formed a partnership and purchased the Hassett businesses. That venture, however, was short lived and ended when Daniel W. (Woody) Bedinger purchased Carlson and Donahue in August of that same year. A month later, Emory Towers, Jr. purchased an interest in the operation and Emory and Woody operated under the name Towers and Bedinger.

In 1946 a young embalmer by the name of Jesse McMullan arrived in Kentland. Having recently been discharged from his duties in World War II where he served as a medic, McMullan had accepted a job working for Robert Hufty and Gordon Crane. McMullan was following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who had both

Towers and Bedinger



Daniel "Woody" Bedinger



Emory Towers, Jr.

Hufty and Crane



Lowell Hufty



Robert Hufty

Sam Rice Baseball Cards Discovered on the Internet

Always on the look out for Newton County memorabilia, I found these cards for sale on the web. I thought members might enjoy them as well. - Submitted by Beth Bassett.



Info on the card: ©1935 National Chicle Co., Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. One of 240 major league players with playing tips. Edgar C. Rice. Born, Morocco, Ind., 43 years old. Bats left, throws right, 5'9.5", 155 pounds. Hit for .293 in 1934.



SAM RICE

Baseball Greats - Flee-Edgar Charles Rice, #34, Outfielder, Wash-Cleve (AL), 1915-1934. Mostly a singles hitter, Rice was over the .300 mark 15 seasons and never hit under .293. His total of 182 one-base hits in 1921 is an American League Record.

Newton County Historical Publications/Post Cards Available

?Postcards of Newton County

Series includes 7 different views of the current and past Courthouse, one view of Bogus Island. \$1.00 each or the entire set \$8.00 plus tax.

?“An Archaeological Report On Newton County” Soft cover \$5.00 plus tax.

Written by Joseph E. Hiestand in 1951, and published originally by the Indiana Historical Bureau. There are more than 45 Indian villages and 51 campsites identified and described in this reprint of the original publication.

?“Beaver Lake, The Land of Enchantment” - Hard cover \$20.00, soft cover \$10.00 plus tax.

Written by Elmore Barce in 1938 after his visit with Alexander Lanier Barker near his cabin, east of Sumava Resorts, and listened to his inimitable tales of Beaver Lake and it's surrounding area. Barce felt that after a life of seventy-six years, “Ned” Barker, the stories and traditions that came from this visit were worthy of publication.

?The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection - \$60.00 plus tax.

Over 400 pages, 200 photographs and 13,000 family names are included in this one-of-a-kind publication, compiled by Gerald Born and Beth Bassett in 2002. Articles written by local historians Gerald Born, Clay Blaney and Donna LaCosse, featuring the earliest settlers, businesses, community organizations, churches, friends and neighbors, are complimented with photographs from that era. Family histories, Beaver Lake, Bogus Island, Sam Rice, Jennie Conrad, The Gaff Ranch, the “Wildcat” Bank of North America, Indian Chiefs Turkey Foot and Bull, are just a few of the people, places and things that make up the heritage of Beaver Township and the Town of Morocco.

?The Newton County Historical Coloring Book - \$5.00 plus tax

Line drawings suitable for coloring with captions using Newton County Landmarks drawn by local artists and a must for anyone interested in Newton County History. Suitable for youngsters and adults alike, this unique view of the county is informative, educational and a delight to view.

?“Ralph, The Story of Bogus Island” - \$5.00 plus tax

Originally written by Jethro Hatch as a serial for the Newton County Enterprise, this romantic tale of old Beaver Lake country and the island that stood in its midst captures the essence of the era when the banditti made the island their home. Interwoven is a tale of a boy who was orphaned, raised by a family who lived near the lake, searches for the truth about who he is and where he originated, meets a girl, falls in love and the resulting adventures of his quest.

?Morocco Centennial Days (Only in Compact Disc) - \$20.00 plus tax.

The Morocco Sesquicentennial Celebration has prompted a look backward to the events of the Morocco Centennial of fifty years ago. Photographs of the pageant and parade are featured with documents relating to the events which have been offered to the Society for its use. These, along with the Centennial booklet written by Ruth Corbin have been combined to form a unique view of those events of long ago.

?“The Newcomer” (Limited copies available) One Year Group - \$10.00 or \$2.25 each, plus tax.

The official newsletter of the Newton County Historical Society began in April of 1994. Initially published quarterly through 1996, and then published once again in the winter of 1999, it continues today as a link to Society members.

To order any of these publications, please send check or money order payable to the Newton County Historical Society to P.O. Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951. Please include \$3.00 postage and handling for each publication ordered, and 6% tax for Indiana customers. The Resource Center located at 310 E. Seymour Street, Kentland, Indiana is open on Monday afternoon 1-5, and Friday, 11:00 - 3:00 CST, or contact County Historian Donna LaCosse at 219-285-2861 to place an order for your books. All proceeds utilized for future publications.

Hardware in Brook Dates Back to 1895 - The History of Dick Hershman and Sons, Inc.

by Beth Bassett

The genesis of the store was in 1895. The lot of the original building was purchased by J. D. Rich and his brother, Frank, from Schuyler Jones. The building was a two-story frame. The business was called "Rich Bros. Hardware" and was managed by Frank Rich.

The Rich brothers operated the hardware until 1897 when Luther Lyons bought the J. D. Rich interest. Four years later Mr. Lyons' cousin, Ray E. Hershman bought the Frank Rich interest and the firm became "Lyons and Hershman."

In the early days the store was headquarters for fishing tackle, hunting and fishing licenses, wagons, buggies, carriages, buggy

whips and lap robes. The store handled the first electric washers in the county, the King Washer, made in Wolcott, Indiana. Many farm implements and tools were also sold.

This partnership lasted for 35 years. Within this time the firm built a large implement shed at the rear of the store for housing their large stock of farm equipment.

For many years they operated a harness shop within the hardware. Two of the harness makers employed through the years were Jacob Fink and Walter Vergin. Among the clerks employed through the years were Ben Leavett, Allen Harms, R. E. Ricker, Paul Weston, Abe Dewees, Emmett Snyder and John Connell.

Mr. Lyons withdrew from active partnership in 1931. Mr. Hershman then operated the store for Mr. Lyons and himself until 1935 when the partnership was dissolved and Ray E. Hershman became sole owner of the business.

When Hershman Hardware began its operation, Claude Warr, a close friend of

Ray, joined the staff and worked as a clerk for the next 11 years. In 1938 Ray's health began to fail. His oldest son, John E. Hershman moved to Brook from Lima, Ohio to assist his father in the store. John took over management of the store at the time of his father's death in 1942. General

Parlor.

The store changed its image, somewhat, when it took on the True Value line of hardware in 1974 and was remodeled to accommodate the new line.

In 1981 Dick Hershman incorporated the business under the name of Dick Hershman and Sons, Inc., the two sons being Scott and Joel.

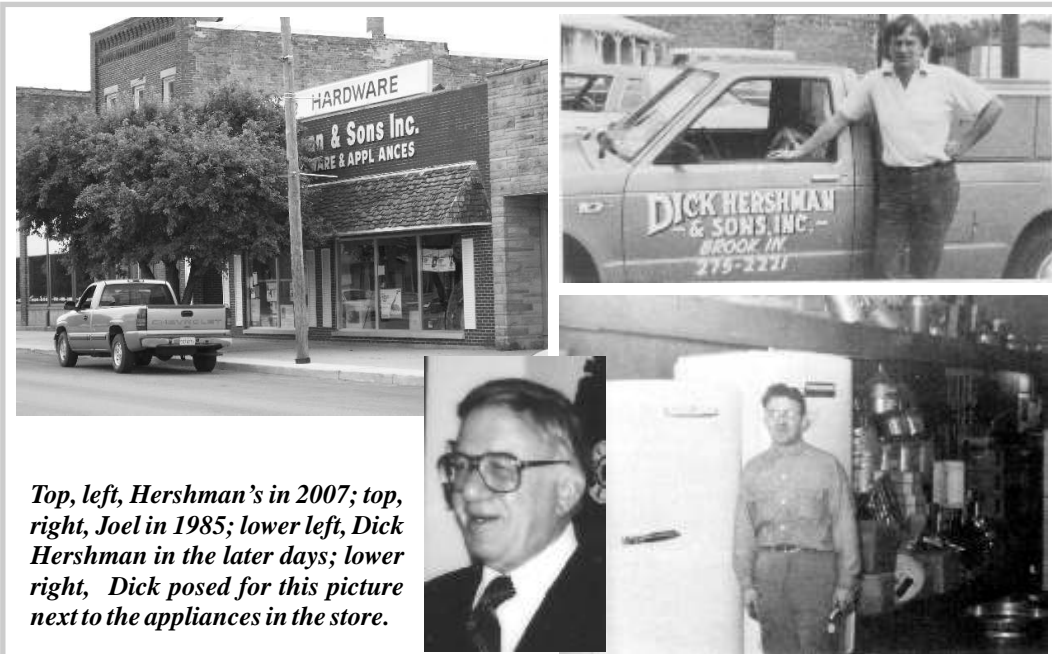
Joel took over management of the store at the time of his father's death in February 1982. Joel had been active full time in the store as Assistant Manager for ten years prior to that time.

As it was in the early beginnings, Hershman's is more than just a convenient spot to buy hardware

and appliances. Although it never has been an "official meeting house," it was and remains today, the spot where many locals gather daily to exchange news of the day.

In the early days, deaths, births, and weddings were discussed as they gathered around the pot-bellied stove in the center of the store. Cast-off chairs circled the stove and a spittoon was near by. A blackboard hung from the ceiling listing the notices of importance. Anyone with something to buy or sell or barter could use the space for free advertising.

Styles in merchandising have changed with the years, but the hardware has kept pace with the changes. The camaraderie could never be recaptured today in 2007 as it was in 1895 when people had more time to visit, but Hershman Hardware has remained a family owned store, with Joel Hershman behind the counter and at the helm for 35 years, serving fifth and sixth generations of the early settlers. Source: [History of Newton County, Indiana, 1985.](#)



Top, left, Hershman's in 2007; top, right, Joel in 1985; lower left, Dick Hershman in the later days; lower right, Dick posed for this picture next to the appliances in the store.

Electric appliances were added to the hardware line in 1945.

In 1947, the old two-story building was torn down and the stock moved to an empty building while a new building was erected on the original site.

John Hershman retired from active participation in the store in 1955 because of his failing health.

In 1963 the building just west of the hardware was purchased and the hardware store was enlarged to encompass both buildings. A new brick storefront was added to complete the new store as it stands today.

Richard "Dick" Hershman assumed full ownership of the stock in the store when he purchased John Hershman's interests from his heirs in 1972.

As the appliance businesses needed more space the G. E. appliances were moved to a building across the street where a G. E. Appliance Store was established. This building had been purchased earlier by Dick Hershman and had at one time been the Lloyd Hershman Variety and Funeral

been undertakers in the area of his hometown of Kempton, Indiana. But McMullan ended up joining the Towers and Bedinger firm instead, where he served as an embalmer and also worked in the furniture store. In 1949 Jesse McMullan purchased Woody Bedinger's interest in the business as Bedinger had enrolled in mortuary school. The name was changed to Towers and McMullan.

In July of 1949, Robert Hufty and Gordon Crane dissolved their partnership. Gordon Crane would continue to operate the funeral home in Goodland and Robert Hufty the Kentland location. Joining him in the operation of the funeral home was Robert's son, Lowell, who graduated from mortuary school that same year. However, tragic circumstances ended the operation of the Hufty Funeral Home when on March 7, 1950 Robert and Lowell Hufty were killed in an automobile accident while returning from an ambulance run to Lafayette.

Following the tragic deaths of Robert and Lowell Hufty, Woody Bedinger purchased the Hufty Funeral Home and opened it upon his graduation from mortuary school in May of 1950. The business was renamed Bedinger Funeral Home and continued to operate at the corner of Third and Washington Streets.

In 1953, Towers and McMullan moved their funeral business to a stately house at 408 N First Street in Kentland. It was about this same time they sold their furniture business that had been in downtown Kentland for over 70 years. The First Street location would serve them until 1958 when they purchased the funeral home at 214 E. Washington Street that had housed both the Hufty and Bedinger funeral homes. After some remodeling and the addition of a new chapel on the west side of the home, an open house was held in August of 1958 and funerals began taking place at the new location.

In 1959 Towers and McMullan purchased the Bussert Funeral Home in Sheldon, Illinois. At this time, Emory Towers managed the Sheldon location and Jesse McMullan managed the Kentland location. After operating as partners for many years, Towers and McMullan dissolved their partnership a short time after the new funeral home was in operation. Emory Towers continued operating his Sheldon funeral business and Jesse McMullan the Kentland business. It was then that the name was changed to the McMullan Funeral Home.

In April of 1967, McMullan and Brook funeral director Jim Weston purchased the Hancock funeral business in Morocco and remodeled a home at 101 E. Beaver Street to serve as a modern funeral chapel. By the early 1970's, however, the inconvenience of operating a 24 hour ambulance service in Kentland became too great, and McMullan sold his interest to Jim Weston, who continued to operate the funeral home until 1973.

After new regulations involving ambulance services were passed in the early 1970's and insurance costs began to skyrocket, the funeral directors of Newton County notified the county commissioners that they were going to discontinue providing ambulance service to their communities. By 1976 McMullan had

phased this service out and it was replaced by the predecessor to today's ambulance service, a 24 hour service operated through the Newton County Sheriff's Department.

Jesse and his wife, Evelyn (Kindig) McMullan continued to operate their funeral business until May 31, 1981 when it was sold to Remington native Steven Stitz, a second generation funeral director. Steve was joined in the business by his wife, Stacey, also a licensed funeral director, upon their marriage in 1997. Their funeral home continues to operate at 214 E. Washington Street in Kentland, the original location of the Hufty-Crane Funeral Home.



The Hufty-Crane funeral coach.



McMullan-Stitz Funeral Home today.



Jesse McMullan



Hufty-Crane Funeral Home.

Pages of the Past

These excerpts are taken from The Newton County Enterprise, Summer, 1906.

Transcribed by Janet Miller

Kentland

Mr. John Ade, who has waited a half century for a north and south railroad through Newton County, celebrated the Fourth by taking his first ride over the new Indiana Harbor. He merely wanted to see the "lay of the land" along the road and satisfy a long desire to travel from Kentland to the Kankakee over rails. He went to Schneider on the 7:56, returning at 10:15.

Guy Rettinger has purchased a grocery store at Effner and moved over the first of the week and took charge. He will still retain the agency for M. Born's clothing at this place, and will be over as occasion demands to take measures and show samples. Mr. Rettinger has built up a good business in taking orders for clothing, and proposes to keep right on the trail of the people of this vicinity.

The cry still goes up in Kentland for more dwelling houses. A number of minor officials of the Indiana Harbor railroad are desirous of moving to Kentland but can find no place to live. Railroad men as a rule are desirable citizens and their coming should be encouraged.

Contractor Lund and Architect Hutton were down from Hammond Monday seeing that the work on the court house is progressing. Mr. Lund hopes to have the building ready to turn over to the Commissioners at their August term.

A crowd of Kentland and Sheldon young people gave a picnic at King's Ford on the Iroquois river northwest of Kentland on the Fourth.

Odontolone. Dr. C. K. Roberts will be at the Hotel Kentland on Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21, extracting teeth without pain or danger. No sickness or bad after effects. Absolutely harmless. Perfect satisfaction or no pay will be accepted. Refer to W. E. Castle and D. S. Fletcher.

A nice refreshing shower fell yesterday, settling the dust and bringing a measure of relief to sun baked humanity. The rain came down gently but streaked, the north end of town receiving only a few sprinkles while the down town streets were running with water. An hour or so later the storm broke over the farm of W. T. McCray, northeast of town, in a juvenile cyclone. Big trees were uprooted, corn was blown down, and about thirty-five acres of oats were beaten into the ground by a heavy fall of hail. The trail of the storm was not far, however, and further damage was light.

A good many residents of the west side are kicking furiously against the prolonged and hideous screeching and tooting of the numerous engines that are congregated in the Indiana Harbor railroad yards at night. Those in charge seem to have a fiendish delight in keeping people awake and keep their engines puffing and snorting most of the night. Of course the sound of a whistle on that road sounds good to most people of Kentland, but the novelty has largely wore off now and they feel they can dispense with the music at night.

Morocco

We understand that a plant has been purchased and that a new Democratic paper is soon to be established at Morocco. Sidney Schanlaub will preside over the ink tub and exercise the pencil.

Miss Caldwell of Indianapolis is the guest of her cousin, Miss Bertha Padgett.

The Misses Graves entertained about forty young people at

their home Monday evening. Miss Lela Kessler won the honors in the musical contest, and Kerr Spitler carried off the booby prize.

Brook

Mark M. Vance, city editor of the Lafayette Courier, spent the Fourth with George Davis at Hazelden Farm.

Hugh Light bought a new straw hat and went to Momence to spend the Fourth, and see Momence and Brook play ball.

Will H. Ade, general manager of his brother George's farms and real estate interests, is having all the buildings on the various farms repaired, painted, etc., and is also having a full new set of modern buildings erected on the 670 acre tract lying northeast of Brook, bought from the Fowler heirs last spring. These buildings will be modern in every respect.

E. M. Bupp and family of Brook spent yesterday in Kentland with Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Spangler. Mr. Bupp says Iroquois township will report a larger oats yield, per acre, than Jefferson.

Jackson Township

Samuel M. Kennedy and Miss Cora Deardurff of Jackson township were married by Rev. Howard Billman at the Presbyterian Manse in Kentland Saturday. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Deardurff and the groom is a son of former commissioner and Mrs. John Kennedy, both old families of that section. The bridal couple were accompanied to Kentland by a festive company of young people to see that the knot was tied in proper style and with due solemnity.

Jackson Township will vote on gravel roads Saturday. Our advice is, get in line with the other townships.

Ade

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Blankenbaker took the train at this place (Kentland) Tuesday morning for Wolcott to pack their household goods preparatory to moving to Ade, where Mr. Blankenbaker will have charge of the new elevator, and which will be in readiness to receive the oats crop.

Fair Oaks

A very remarkable railroad wreck occurred last Friday in the north end of the county, near Fair Oaks. The fast northbound Monon passenger from Indianapolis to Chicago, and running at a speed of sixty miles an hour left the track and scattered itself along the right of way. The engine turned clear over and left a heap of wreckage. The engineer and fireman crawled out of the wreck only slightly injured. The tender followed the engine into the ditch while the baggage car went the other way and landed crossways. The mail car, the combination car, the ladies car and one sleeper all went off the track but came to a stop right side up. There were eighty passengers on the train and but three or four were injured, and these not seriously.

Goodland

Sumner Dickinson and C. L. Constable were over from Goodland Monday exhibiting some gravel taken from their farm in Colfax township. They have opened three pits and have found an inexhaustible supply--a million yards Mr. Constable says. Some of the gravel is being used on the roads in Jasper county and trustee Kosta has contracted for 1000 yards to put on the roads of Colfax township. The material is pronounced first-class for road purposes.

Lloyd L. Hershman/Rolls Family

Lloyd L. was married to Effie Rolls at in the home of her mother in Brook December 23, 1903. She was the daughter of Jethro and Hannah (Reed) Rolls, of English origin. They were both born in Cambridgeshire, England where they grew to manhood and womanhood and were united in marriage. After the birth of their son Frank, they came to America in 1868 and settled near Morocco, Newton County, Indiana, where their two sons and five daughters were born. Mrs. Rolls later became Mrs. J. B. Dickson.

Effie was the youngest and was born on April 11, 1885. Two daughters were born to this union: Gladys, March 9, 1905 and Naomi October 15, 1907. Both were born at the old farm southeast of Brook. Effie Hershman died in 1968 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery.

Lloyd attended Iroquois country school, Brook High School for two years and graduated from Goodland High School. After a summer term at a teacher's college he taught his first year at Rabbit Ridge in Washington Township at the age of seventeen.

Gladys was married in 1936 to Paul H. Weston, second son of Henry and May Henderson Weston. She has a stepson, James H., who married Joanne Whaley, two grandsons, Gregory J., married to Mary Schlotman and Michael P. married to Nancy Hartsock. Gregory and Mary have a daughter, Lisa, and Michael and Nancy have two children, Garrett and Elizabeth.

Naomi was married in 1932 to Fielder A. Lyons, son of Fred and Laura Esson Lyons. They moved to the Havana, Illinois area. She died in 1950 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery. Twin sons were born in 1934, Douglas A. and David A. David died at birth. Douglas married Nancy Brown of Beardstown, Illinois and they have three sons, Douglas A. Jr., Fielder Stanton and Bradford.

In 1909 Lloyd bought the former Ulrey Furniture Store in the Sawyer Building and moved from the farm to a home in Brook. He graduated from Worsham Mortuary College in Chicago in 1913, purchased the Gragg Funeral business and did business as L.L. Hershman Furniture Store and Funeral Home. He also operated a furniture and undertaking establishment in Kentland several years, in partnership with Don Washburn, of Fowler.

Paul Weston was affiliated with the business in Brook, and after 1936 it did

business as Hershman and Weston Variety Store and Funeral Home. The funeral home moved to the former Lawrence Lyons house on east Main street in 1948. After Mrs. Hershman's death the business became Weston Variety Store and Weston Funeral Home. Paul Weston died in 1966 and his son James continued the two firms.

Lloyd Hershman was active in all community affairs. He was a life member of the Methodist Church, and taught young peoples classes. He played baritone horn in the Brook Band, organized and directed a "Kid Band", belonged to Masonic and Knights of Pythias Lodges and Lions Club. He platted and supervised a large addition to Riverside Cemetery and held an office in the Cemetery Association. He had a unique sense of values and fairness and was loved by his family, his associates and his friends.

He passed away at Danville, Illinois,

on November 21, 1936 at the age of 57 years. He is buried at the Brook Cemetery.

Today's generations of the Hershman family are located all around the United States, with a few still remaining in Newton County. The contributions of this family to our county will remain a part of its history for future generations to reflect upon.

Thank you to the present day members for their encouragement and contributions to this family history.

Did you know . . .

. . . that you can research your Newton County roots at our web site, and find links to other Indiana counties and United States genealogical sites?

www.rootsweb.com~innewton



Harold Hershman Descendents

Left, seated, Helen and Harold Hershman with their daughter Deanna and son Mark. Top right: Mark, with his wife Nancy and son Dean. Bottom left: Dean's children, Dominic P., Saylor Diane, and Drew Patrick. - Mark Hershman Collection.



John E. Hershman, Jr. Descendents

Above right: Christmas 2006, left to right, back row: Robert Rodriguez, Andrew Siegel, Matt Siegel, Jim Siegel, Mary Siegel, a guest, Nancy Siegel, a guest, Charles Siegel; front row: Ann (Siegel) Rodriguez, Emily Rodriguez, Megan Sherwood, Matthew Sherwood, Sarah Rodriguez, Katherine Sherwood, Nicholas Rodriguez. Top left: Nancy May (Hershman) and Charles Siegel. Lower left: Thomas Siegel, Amy Sillman and son Nathan Siegel. - Nancy Siegel Collection.

Appliance and Hardware Store since 1945. Dick was a lifetime resident of Brook, graduating from Brook High School in 1937 and the University of Illinois in 1941. He was a veteran of World War II.

Dick served on the Newton County Welfare Board for 22 years, 14 years as president. In the year of his death, 1982, he had begun his second term as president of the Indiana State Association of Welfare Board Members. He also served on the local schoolboard for seven years and was treasure of Iroquois Manor in Brook.

In 1979, Mr. Hershman attended the Common Market in Europe as a representative of the federal government in Paris and London.

Dick passed away on February 23, 1982 at his home in Brook. He is interred at Riverside Cemetery.

Dick and Gene's son Scott, has two children, Micha, born May 30, 1972, who is a book buyer, and Elizabeth, born October 22, 1976, who is an attorney in Seattle, Washington. Scott worked at Wabash Valley Medical Hospital in Rensselaer, Indiana from 1974 until 2002, and now works with the soldiers coming back from Iraq at the military base in El Paso, Texas.

Joel, a lifetime resident of Brook, took over ownership and management of the store in 1982. However, he was the Assistant Manager starting in 1972. That makes 35 years that Joel has dedicated to the family business and the Brook Community.

Joseph Dunn/Edna Moran

Besides rearing their sons John and Bessie became foster parents to two orphan children. Joseph Dunn whom they took into their home in 1876 at the age of 10, lived with them for six years, dying at the age of 16 in 1882. He was a splendid boy and John wrote that they mourned for him almost as an own son.

Edna K. Moran was born at Covington, Kentucky September 5, 1876. She was taken into the John R. Hershman home at the age of eleven years in 1887, where she was known by the name Edna Hershman. She graduated from the common schools of Iroquois Township, Newton County, later taking a short course in the State Normal at Terre Haute, and at Rochester, Indiana. She taught several terms in the common schools of Newton County and was married to Charles M. Gibbons, son of James B. and Julia A. Gibbons, born May 7, 1873. They had two children, Lesta and Paul M.



Easter, 1946, left to right, back row: John E. Hershman, Virginia Hershman, Gene Hershman, Richard Hershman, Bessie Hershman, Harold Hershman holding Mark Hershman, Helen Safford Hershman, Helen R. Helms, Hubert Helms. Front row: Deanna K. Hershman, Suzanne Helms, Judith Helms and Nancy Hershman.



1954, left to right, John E. Hershman, Virginia (Wilson) Hershman, Nancy Hershman and John E. Hershman, Jr.



John R., 86, and granddaughter, Lesta Ann Gibbons, 3, daughter of Edna Gibbons. 1934.



Jack Hershman and Helen R. (Hershman) Helms.

Photos from the Joel Hershman and Nancy Siegel Collections

Historically Yours

By Newton County Historian Donna LaCosse

Yes, and by golly, we did survive the cold winter and a windy spring. Now we are suffering with the heat of summer. One thing about Indiana, there is always a weather extreme!

I guess I sort of made history last month. I was the one who reorganized the Mount Ayr Alumni Association with the first meeting being held in 1957. There had been a few meetings before World War II, but apparently there was not enough interest to begin the meetings after the war was over. Or, perhaps there was no one stupid enough to try and locate all the graduates so the meetings could continue.

On June 2, we celebrated our 50th Mount Ayr High School alumni anniversary and with that meeting came my resignation as secretary-treasurer! I thought fifty years was long enough for me to serve in that official position and now it was time for someone else to "take the ball and run!" I hardly think anyone else will hold that office for fifty years. The youngest people we have as members are 58 years old!!

Lots of good things are happening in our family! Our newest great-grandson surprised us with his birth on April 19. Noah Daniel weighed four pounds at birth and was about six weeks early but is doing quite well for such a little guy! That makes three great-grandsons and they are "great." Maybe a girl next time!!

Our grandson, Dan, is still in Iraq but is scheduled to leave there on July 15. A few days later we hope to see him back home again in Lafayette! He will still have eighteen months to serve in the

Army, and will do that on weekends but at least he will be on this side of the big pond and we are happy about that.

Our oldest grandson has found a lady friend!! I told you in my last column that he had accepted a position as music librarian at the New England Conservatory in Boston this past April. Well, it seems he was required to attend an area librarian's seminar a few weeks later and there he met a young lady who had just accepted a position as music librarian at Harvard. Would you believe this young lady, Beth, is from Greenfield, just a few miles from Indianapolis, which is his hometown? They had to travel miles from home to meet someone from home! Needless to say, we are happy for him and eager to meet her.

And, in July, we will welcome another member to our family. Foster grandson, Brock and his lady friend, Brittney, will be married on July 21 and will "set up housekeeping" in Indianapolis. Good things happen to good people! We must be really good people because we certainly have much to be happy about!

I am also quite happy to report that Jim Robbins, our president, survived a terrible auto accident and is able to continue his work with, and in the society. He was one lucky man!

I continue to work on our family's history and to help those who call for information about Newton County and/or the people in the county, so my position is not just about me and my family it includes lots of other areas.

I hope I don't bore you with the things that happen in the LaCosse family but you know, history begins with family and since I like to hear about what is going on in other families, I enjoy sharing my family with you.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and keep on making history! Fifty years from now, people will like reading about what your life was like way back in 2007!!

Resource Gifted "Robbie Years" Memorabilia, Letter Sent

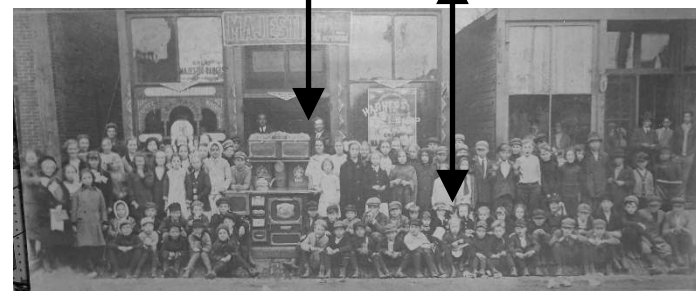
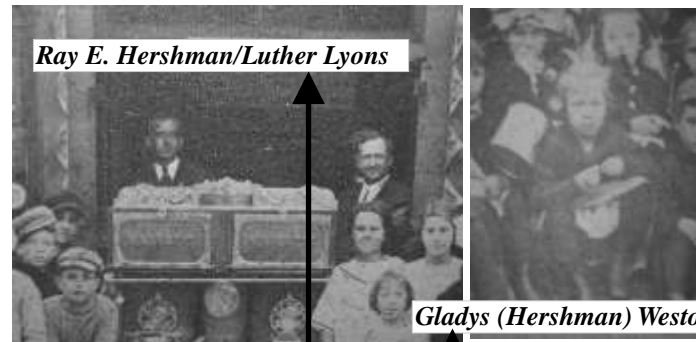
Jim Walker recently stopped by the Resource Center with a donation of Kentland High School Memorabilia. Volunteer Nancy Jo Prue took time out of her busy schedule to meet with him, and he sent her the following note.

"Dear Nancy Jo,
"Thank you for donating your time to me and Mary Jane last week. It was very nice of you. I really enjoyed talking to Bob too. He loves his roots like I do.

"The NCHS impressed me to no end. Not only all the materials but the displays and presenting quite professional! I have emailed 15 or so people of my generation to be sure to visit ASAP. Also, I plan a letter to the N. C. Enterprise with praise for the NCHS.

"My "Robbie years" collage is by intent, loosely organized. Basketball is the first section. Your friend, 1954 Blue Devil Jim Walker."

We would love to hear from you, drop us a line or email us at newtonhs@ffni.com



At the check-out counter at Hershman's you will find this large picture that has hung in the store since the 1960's. It was taken in 1912, when the Majestic Range was introduced to Brook. All of the kids in town were invited to be in the picture, family members as well! - Joel Hershman Collection

You will find the Hershman family history and hardware store in the pages of this edition.

Quill & Ink

Chapter 27: Auto buggy, Auto Wagon to Model T An excerpt from Sod, Seed and Sacrifice

Written by Bill Funk, 1993

A revolution of great importance that occurred during the lifetime of my parents and grandparents was the invention of the combustion engine. This engine, when attached to wheels, provided an incredible new means of transportation.

Grandfather Barney Funk passed away in 1900. He did not get to ride in a vehicle that was driven by a man. Fast trains at those times could travel up to 50 miles per hour in the late 1800's, but that was only on the smooth metal of the railroad tracks.

Grandfather Bernard Wetli, my mother's father, did get to drive in a man directed auto buggy. Mother's brother Frank Wetli bought the first I. H. C. auto buggy in 1907. Bernard Wetli passed away three years later, in 1910, the year that I was born.

It must have been a thrill when a man could drive this horseless auto buggy and rev it up to 20 miles per hour. A horse pulling a buggy in full gallop could only travel 7-8 miles per hour.

The roads were not designed to handle automobiles at that time. They were covered by ice and snow in winter times, muddy and rutty in the spring, and dusty and dirty in the summer and fall. The same was true both in the towns and country.

The Model T Ford issued in a new way of life for us farm folks.

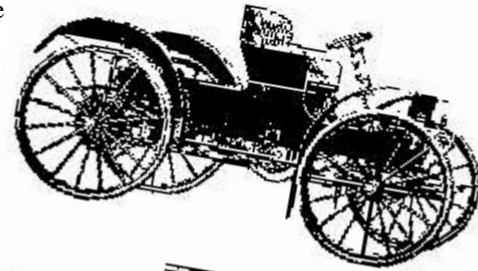
Included in the Manual of Operation

A Few Don't's

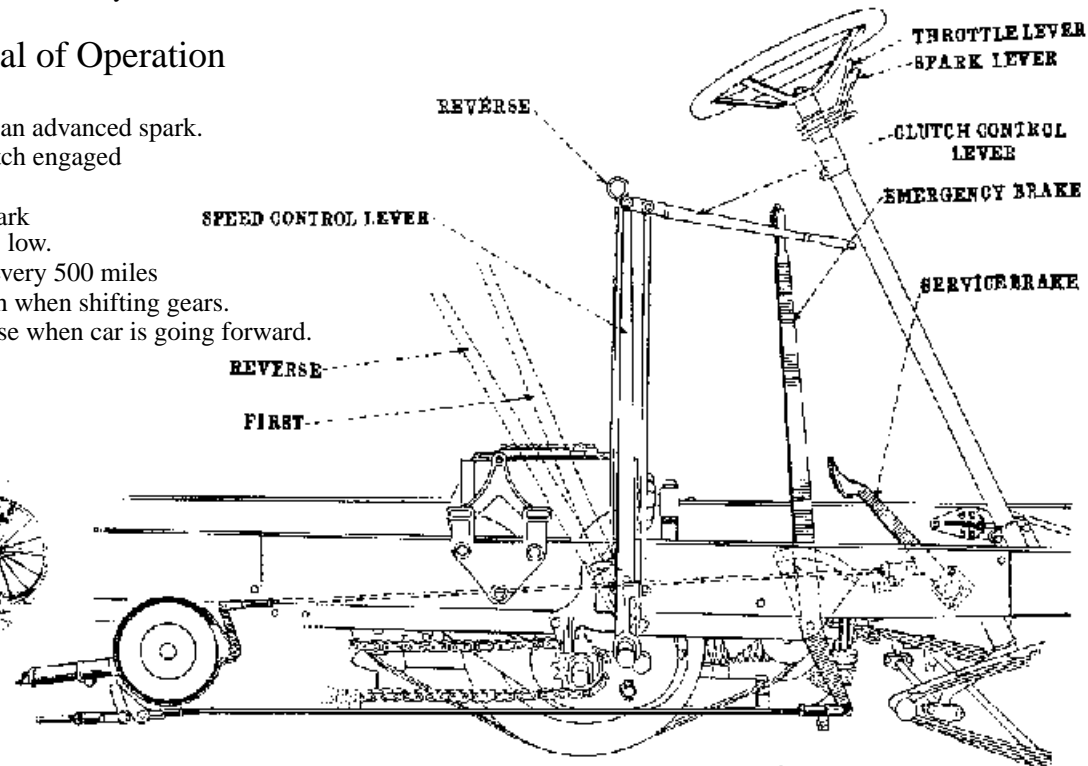
- Don't crank the engine with an advanced spark.
- Don't crank engine with clutch engaged
- Don't run car on batteries
- Don't run car on retarded spark
- Don't run engine when oil is low.
- Don't fail to grease wheels every 500 miles
- Don't fail to throw out clutch when shifting gears.
- Don't throw gears into reverse when car is going forward.



Illustrations reprinted from Sod, Seed and Sacrifice, by Bill Funk, 1993



International Harvester Company of America
CHICAGO, U. S. A.



Dad purchased our first car in the spring of 1907. Henry

Ford manufactured the component parts in

Dearborn, Michigan. He would

then ship the components of

twelve Model T's in a single

boxcar to Earl Park. The Hixon

Garage unloaded those heavy

four cylinder engines, frames,

wheels and body parts, and then

assembled them according to the

factory's instructions. With

gasoline in the tanks, the new

drivers could ramble up to 40 miles

per hour. This Earl Park assembly

group distributed Fords to a fifty-mile

wide area. Our Model T touring Ford,

complete with side curtains, cost Dad

\$360.00. That represented the money

from the sale of 1,000 bushels of corn.

Gasoline cost ten cents per gallon. It cost

\$1.00 for a fill-up. On good roads,

twenty miles per gallon would be the

normal mileage.

Within a few years our county

roads changed their complexion. One side

of the road was covered with gravel or

crushed stone. On the other side a dirt path

was left for travel by horse and buggy.



Left, Virginia and John E. Hershman, Jr.; Right, Harold, his grandson Dean and wife Helen M. - Nancy Siegel and Mark Hershman Collections

been truly blessed. We have nine grandchildren, ranging in ages 23 to nine-what a joy they are."

Nancy May, married James Charles Siegel on December 28, 1957. James is the son of James Arthur and Helen Virginia (Kurtz) Siegel. Five children were born to this union: Charles John, December 14, 1958, and married Joanne Brim on September 2, 1990; Steven Edward, February 28, 1960, married Ronda McClure, 1986, divorced, and had two children, Matthew James, born April 2, 1987, and Andrew Joseph, born October 3, 1988. Steven died August 16, 2005; Mary Elizabeth, April 7, 1961 married Scot Edward Sherwood in February, 1979, divorced, and had three children, Megan Elizabeth, born October 5, 1983, Katherine Ann, born September 10, 1985, and Matthew Scott, born April 14, 1987; Ann Virginia, December 21, 1962, married

Robert John Rodriguez on September 15, 1990 and have three children, Emily Ann, born July 26, 1992, Nicholas Robert, born December 28, 1993, and Sarah Katherine, born April 25, 1998; and Thomas Arthur, June 21, 1965 married Amy L. Sillman on July 15, 1989, they have one son, Nathan Thomas born July 12, 1997.

Helen Rosamond Hershman

Helen Rosamond was united in marriage at the home of her parents to Hubert Lester Helms, son of Ellsworth and Clara Helms of Hamilton County, Indiana on August 5th, 1932. They had two daughters, Judith Ann born September 29, 1934, married Leslie Schenck, and have a son Michael Oliver; Suzanne Elizabeth born February 18, 1936.

Suzanne went to Indiana University, and graduated in Elementary Education and moved to California, married Clark Rhudy and have two daughters, Elizabeth and

Leigh. They have three grandchildren and now live in Oregon.

Harold Saylor Hershman

Harold Saylor married Helen Safford and had one son, Mark E., born May 23, 1945 and an adopted daughter, Deanna K., born September 2, 1937, she married Tim Owens, and they have a daughter, Vickie.

Harold "Holly" died at the age of 95. He retired as a Sales Representative for American Steel and Wire, a subsidiary of US Steel.

Harold's wife Helen retired as an elementary teacher with 30 years of service. She survives today.

Mark, now age 62, has his own business, Hershman Associates, and performs Executive Coaching assignments with corporate executives, professional practitioners and pastors. His wife Nancy is Office Manager for the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis.

Their son Dean works as Operations Manager for Lifetouch Senior Portrait Studios in Indianapolis.

Richard "Dick" Ray Hershman

Richard "Dick" Ray was united in marriage to Margaret Gene Harris, daughter of Claude B. and Hilda Jergeson Harris, at the home of his mother in Brook, March 30, 1943. Hilda Harris, mother of the bride passed away when Gene was 12 years of age. They had two sons, Scott Harris, born December 5, 1946 and Joel Ray, born June 19, 1949.

Dick was known as a Brook businessman and community leader. He was the owner and operator of Hershman's



Richard "Dick" and Margaret "Gene" (Harris) Hershman shortly after they were married in 1943. Center, Scott, Bessie and Joel share a moment. Left, Mich, Scott, Elizabeth and Joel Hershman on vacation in Alcapulco - Joel Hershman Collection

Ray E. attended the grade schools of Iroquois township and later attended school in Delphi. For a time he taught school in the township. He and Luther Lyons were partners in the hardware business. Mr. Lyons selling his interests about 1936. At the time of his death, he had recently celebrated his 42nd anniversary as a hardware merchant.

Ray E. passed away on February 18, 1942 at the age of 68 years. He is buried at the Riverside Cemetery.

John E. Hershman

John E. was united in marriage to Virginia Wilson, daughter of Warren and Adae May (Bittinger) Wilson at the home of her mother near Goodland, Indiana on April 12, 1925. Warren Wilson passed away when Virginia was but a child of 11 years. Their son, John Ellsworth, Jr. was born on June 23rd, 1929 at Chicago, Illinois. Their daughter, Nancy May, was born on March 27, 1935.

John "Jack" Jr. joined the Navy for four years and then went to St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer for three years. He then moved to California to seek his fortune. He became a Customs Inspector, stationed

in St. Thomas for several years, then at the Miami International Airport. While working in Miami, his lungs were "zapped" with jet fuel while working outside, affecting his asthma, after which he received medical disability. He came back to Brook and died in December, 1993.

Nancy shared a few memories of her father and family times: "My dad worked at the *Chicago Tribune* and Household Finance as a young man, in Chicago and Lima, Ohio. When I was three or four years old, and my brother, Jack, Jr. ten or eleven, we moved back to Brook and my dad ran the Hershman Hardware. They built the house on E. Howard St. in 1939 and I remember riding in the back of the pickup truck moving furniture to the new house in August. As a side note, I remember my parents having a "burning the mortgage paper" party when I was in high school and the mortgage had been for \$4,000!"

"I graduated H.S. in 1953, and went to Indiana University and majored in Elementary Ed and graduated in the Spring of 1957.

"I met my future husband (a blind date that I had not wanted to go on!) at I.U. and

we were married Dec. 28, 1957. Jim Siegel was not finished with school and I think my parents were just hoping that he would graduate and be able to support their "little" girl. Well, he did graduate and became a banker. I taught fifth grade one year in Indianapolis and then we started our family. Needless, to say, I was very busy but it was fun. Our parents were used to having two kids seven years apart so this was a whole new experience. When our youngest two were starting high school, I went back to teaching and taught first grade for six years in Piqua, Ohio.

"While living in Indianapolis, I became a puppeteer and did art work for a children's religious television program, "Timothy Church Mouse." It was all volunteer and was such a hoot!

"Later, I have done all kinds of crafts, painting, and some needlework. I never could knit like my mother did, but I was pretty good at crocheting. I also like to wallpaper and paint walls when my husband is not around!!

"We are retired now, living most of the year in Florida and are into boating and enjoying life, family and friends. We have

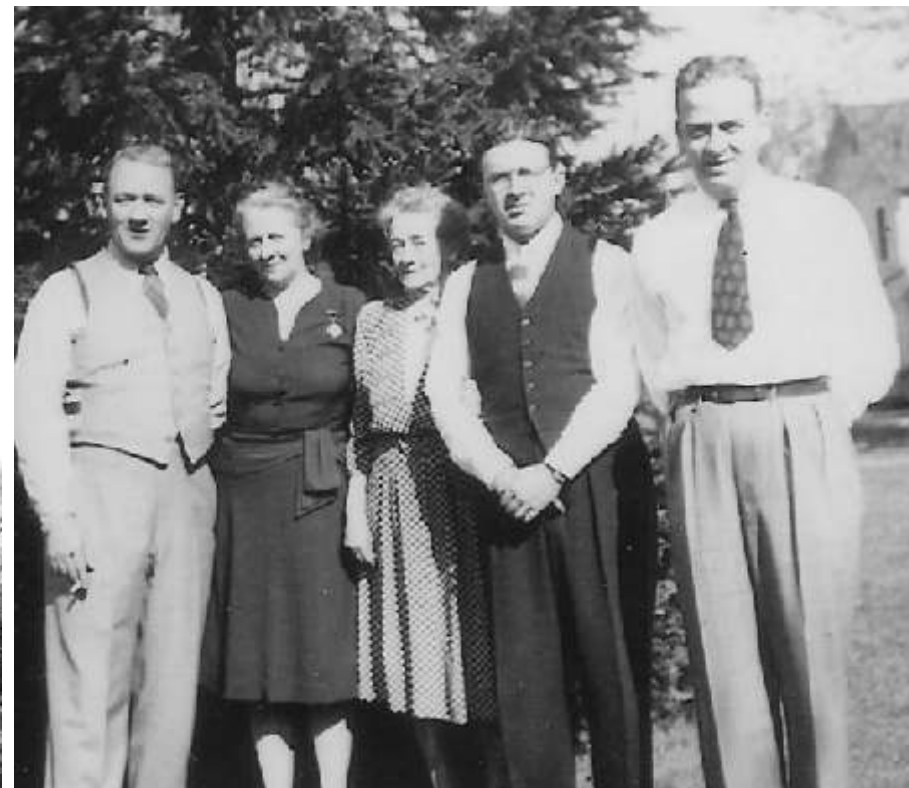
4 Hershman Generations



John R., Ray E., baby John E. Jr., and Dad, John E. Sr. - 1929. - Joel Hershman Collection



Four years later, 1933, John E. Sr., John R., Ray E., and front, John E. Jr., 4. Nancy Siegel Collection.



"Mother and Her Children"

Taken on Easter, 1946, left to right, John E. Hershman, Sr., Helen Rosamond Helms; Bessie Hershman, Richard Hershman and Harold Hershman. - Nancy Siegel Collection.

WWW *who.what.where*

**Items associated with our website and the Internet
The John Shannon Veatch Family**

Vada Larson, of Minnesota, recently e-mailed Beth Bassett via our web site, asking for any information regarding the Veatch families of Newton County. She also said that she had a scrapbook



The John Veatch family ca. 1887, taken at their home in Chicago. Top row, l-r: Cynthia, John and George; center, Carrie, Susannah, Marie; bottom, Elizabeth, Fan, Grace.



Eliza (Barringer) Veatch

that she would be happy to share with us that contained may Morocco and Newton County names.

She had planned to visit Morocco soon, and would bring a copy with her. Beth connected her with Gerald Born of Morocco, and she along with her husband met with him recently. They did research at our Resource Center and left a copy of the scrapbook for our records.

Here are a few of the photos that she emailed to us for our records. She will submit a family history upon organizing her thoughts and notes for our newsletter.



Dated June, 1888. Back of the picture reads: "Mrs. G. A. McCray and Mrs. C. E. Veatch, Kentland, Indiana." Vada added that Cynthia Heckathorn Veatch is Mrs. G. A. McCray.

"The Tea Party" - Kentland, September 1883, photo left.

The only person positively identified here was Carrie E. Veatch as the girl with her arms folded. The girls were identified on the back of the photo as follows: 1. Ella Ade; 2. Addie Thompson; 3. Leat Gardiner; 4. Maud Arnout; 5. Maud Conner; 6. Matie A. Jones; 7. Carrie E. Veatch; 8. Meta Wood; 9. Annie E. McCray.

Vada also included a note sent to George Veatch, living in Chicago from Kentland dated August 7th, 1883. In it she refers to attending several tea parties in the area, making mention of her aunt, Eliza, inviting her to tea as well. She mentions that Matie (Jones) was having a tea party tomorrow, perhaps these are all of the girls that were at that tea party.

What Good Is A Map?

By Janet Miller

The Newton County Historical Society has been gifted with three single maps of Beaver, Washington and Jefferson Townships. 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 1874-1876. This is a time period that 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

Beaver Township Map - Landowners - 1874-1876

Range 9 West

Section 1: J. B. Schissler, Clark & Gaff, John Peacock; **Section 2:** Clark & Gaff, Hall, Ward & Graham, J. W. Gaff; **Section 3:** J. H. Cox, E. Moulton, G. T. Stoner, D. Stoner, T. Cox, J. Bartholomew, S. Merwin, G. B. Lee, T. J. Dorsey, Hall, Ward & Graham, W. G. & S. C. Cox, J. Carmichael, J. W. Chizum, S. C. Cox; **Section 4:** John Darroch, W. Carmichael, Mary E. Smith, J. Morrison, D.G. Hanger, Jas. McClain, Jas. Francis, Jos. McClain; **Section 5:** I. Smart, G. W. Deardurff, J. Kessler, J. Shafer, W. M. Field, J. Chizum, L. Grunstad, S. Edmondson, E. C., M. Atkinson; **Section 6:** Wm. M. Field, G. Wordon, L. Grunstad, C. Ewan.

Section 7: Hall, Ward & Graham, G. T. Stoner; **Section 8:** Hall, Ward & Graham, Mary Shafer, C. A. Roberts, (S)? J. Hartley; **Section 9:** Hall, Ward & Graham, J. Friethof; **Section 10:** Hall, Ward & Graham, Wm. G. Cox, F. G. Shriver, C. D. Lee, M. Cook, J. F. Camblin, D. Brunton, G. T. Stoner, T. T. McGannon, D. W. & S. J. Deardurff, B. Roadruck; **Section 11:** Hall, Ward & Graham. **Section 12:** Hall, Ward & Graham, W. D. Dubois, J. B. Schissler, Nancy J. Ried.

Section 13: S. E. McCullough, M. M. McCullough, M. Harkin, G. T. Stoner, Hall, Ward & Graham, G. Bell, W. O. & G. Richison, J. S. Hooks, School House, O. F. Stoner, Jos. Zoborosky, John Zoborosky; **Section 14:** M. Bridgeman, West & Peacock, Hall, Ward & Graham, J. Wingant, J. Hiestand, Saml. Bridgeman, Wm. Dowling, S. Bridgeman, Margret Hooks; **Section 15:** Hall, Ward & Graham, C. Sorenson, D. W. & S. J. Deardurff, Saml. Bridgeman; **Section 16:** J. M. Goodwin, J. Kay, G. W. Deardurff, A. Hoover, A. Wise, J. Atkinson, M. J. Moorman, J. Hauschild, J. Lattimore, S. & E. Barker, G. Atkinson; **Section 17:** F. P. Hawkins, U. A. B. Condit, S. Johnson, J. Odle, G. W. Williams, J. W. Archibald, W. C. Ready, J. J. Clark, (S)? B. Corkins?, S. Veater, M. Gormun; **Section 18:** A. T. Read, Alice Triplett, D. Johnson, J. F. Johnson, J. Odle, Hall & Heagy, J. W. Groome, D. M. Johnson, J. H. Cole, J. Padgett, C. E. Triplett, U. Hall, Ward & Graham, A. H. Schissler.

Section 19: A. H. Schissler, Hall, Ward & Graham, W. S. McCormick, M. F. Johnson, J. C. Hitcheng, I. Smart, J. B. Bower, E. Baker, T. Hull, R. A., J. M., J. Archibald, P. Potts, G. G. Williams, Mrs. A. J. Murphy, J. M. Murphy Hrs; **Section 20:** M. Gormun, W. C. Ready, J. B. Bower, I. Smart, J. L. Kessler, S. H. & V. P. Hope, J. D. Goddard, John Smart; **Section 21:** Andrew Young, T. Peck, G. L. McCullough, John Smart, N. D. Sammons, S. Pulver, G. W. Deardurff, J. S. Carpenter, Anna Hoover, M. L. Humston, Danl. Ash, Town of Morocco; **Section 22:** B. Roadruck, Geo. Veatch, C. C. Deardurff, S. J. Deardurff, D. Deardurff, Parsonage, W. Carmichael, D. Owen, S. Edmonson; **Section 23:** M. Cook, Wm. Dowling, O. Elijah, Saml. Bridgeman, A. M. Keester, B. Roadruck, S. J. Deardurff, D. Stoner, G. T. Stoner, D. W. Deardurff; **Section 24:** M. Harris, J. D. Spohr, J. Halloway Hrs., John Zoborosky, O. F. Stoner, Jos. Zoborosky, S. E. McCullough, J. Wishard, J. G. Wright.

Section 25: D. Brady, S. E. McCullough, M. B. Carpenter, G. Y. Brunton, R. Hyllyer et al, J. Bell, J. T. Decker, D. Brunton, G. L. McCullough; **Section 26:** G. W. Thompson, G. T. Stoner, T. T. McGannon, E. T. Shriver Est., Milton Cook, J. Bell, J. T. Decker, School House; **Section 27:** W. Kennedy, John Smart, D. M. Graves, Mary Atkinson, P. & M. Atkinson, J. Darroch, H. Boner, E. Carmichael, G. W. Baker, J. W. Davis; **Section 28:** D. M. Graves, G. W. Deardurff, John Smart, J. Darroch, School House; **Section 29:** John Smart, J. L. Kessler, R. Kessler, J. D. Goddard, I. Smart, Elizabeth Goddard, W. D. Archibald, Jas. Kay, V. P. Hope; **Section 30:** J. D. Goddard; F. Bartholomew, Elizabeth Goddard, A. J. Kent, D. Ash, W. D. Archibald, J. Potts, A. G. Johnson, A. Bailey.

Section 31: A. G. Johnson, Robert Archibald, G. G. Williams, J. S. Veatch, D. M. Graves, W. D. Archibald, J. R. Camblin, J. C. Sarver, H. N. Graves, T. Porter; **Section 32:** ??nger, John Brown, Robert Archibald, D. M. Johnson, R. Archibald, C. C. Sh?e; **Section 33:** F. Shafer, N. Shafer, M. Shafer, Jos. Chizum, C. H. Smith, ??nger, J. Shafer; **Section 34:** C. E. Triplett, E. Carmichael, H. Boner, J. Darroch, J. M. Lattimore, C. H. Smith, J. S. Deardurff; **Section 35:** N. G. Smith, E. T. Shriver Est., Fanny Sherman, W. W. Chizum; **Section 36:** (can't read - edge folded over). ? Smith.

Range 10 West

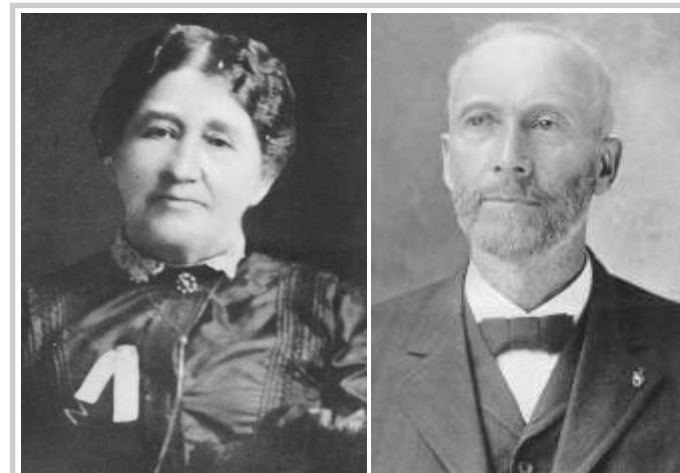
Section 1: West & Peacock, State of Ind., E. Duks, L. Milk, R. Archibald, J. S. Veatch, Clarence Smith, L. S. Ewan, J. M. Archibald, A. S. Patterson; **Section 12:** A. S. Patterson, G. W. McConnell, J. M. Humes, J. Ewan, H. & L. Sperry; **Section 13:** West & Peacock, A. Perigo, Hall, Ward & Graham, J. W. Sampson, A. Sardlee, O. Johnson, E. Potts, E. A. Rynerson, C. E. Triplett, E. L. Urmston, D. M. Graves, L. S. Ewan; **Section 24:** S. H. Ewan, F. P. Hawkins, A. G. Johnson, E. S. Chase, M. Kinney, J. R. Stak, D. Ash, L. Baker, J. W. S., E. L. U., M. Spencer, B. Baker, Mary B. Force, W. Perigo; **Section 25:** W. A. Patrick, B & F. Force, M. H., J. Patrick, M. Spencer, F. Snyder, D. Kan??; Ephriam Potts, School House, Mrs. Ewan, E. Chase Hrs., A. Guthridge; **Section 36:** Jas. Potts, A. B. Willard, Ira Baker, J. Edmunds, ? Johnson, L. S. Ewan, Alice Triplett.

one was aware. It also shows school houses, many less than on the 1904 map available to us.

We are publishing a copy of the Beaver Township map and a list of the landowners in this edition. John Yost provided us with this map.

One feature is the Momence Road, which extends from the south center of Section 16 going northwesterly and leaving Beaver Township in Section 5 traveling north. This road is not shown this way in the Historical Atlas of 1876.

To the left of the map a commentary on Beaver Township appeared, it is reproduced beside the map on the next page.



Anna (Lyons) and John R. Hershman.

served as viewer on many gravel roads, and he was one of the viewers on the first gravel road ever built in the county, the Lincoln Township gravel road, that being the first modern highway in Newton County."

Anna Elizabeth was the youngest child of John and Anna Lyons, and was born in the cabin on the old farm south of Brook, where she grew up to womanhood and in the neighborhood of which she spent practically all her life except two years spent in Ohio.

After finishing the common schools, she attended the M. E. Seminary at Onarga, Illinois, a short time and later attended school at the old M. E. Seminary at Valparaiso, under the management of President Wood.

She was married to John R. Hershman at the home of her brother, Aaron, and began housekeeping two miles west of Brook. In 1872 they moved into a newly built house on what we now call the old farm, one mile south and one and three fourths miles east of Brook. Here her two sons were born and grew to manhood.

Anna was always with a kindly disposition and devoted to her family. She was very positive when she made her decisions; a member of the Methodist church and loyal to its precepts, and without prejudice toward others; a member of the Ladies Outing Club of Brook, always enjoying its sessions to the full extent of their intentions. She was fond of children, often joining them in their sports with as much zest as they themselves.

She always had a sympathetic ear for the confidences of her boys and maintained a sort of comradeship with them seldom attained by mothers with their sons. Her life was one of conscientious devotions to principles and unselfish sacrifices for the

good of others.

She departed this life after a short illness of but 12 hours duration. She had a premonition that she would not live long and said to John that her greatest regret was that her grandchildren would forget her. They were so young, and she was so fond of them.

John R. Hershman passed away on May 19, 1935 at the home of his son Ray, aged 86 years, 6 mo. 26

days. His obituary stated that he had compiled the history of Iroquois township and the Brook community, which is printed in the Hamilton-Darroch Jasper and Newton Counties, 1916. It was noted that he was a lover of nature, and many times he had been seen showing a bird's nest to a group of small children, or teaching them the habits of the bee. He was well known in Brook as "Uncle John," probably because of the fact that he was in reality, an uncle of several of the older members of the living generation, who reside there.

In 1871, he became a teacher and followed this profession until 1877 when he returned to farming. He taught in the Iroquois and Griggs schools in Iroquois township, and in the West Union school in Beaver Township. In 1903 he retired from farming and moved to Brook.

John was a member of the M. E. church for 64 years and was on the official board 61 years; at the time of his death he was an honorary steward. At five different elections he was chosen trustee of Iroquois

township, the first time in 1880 and the last time in 1914. He also served on the county council and was president of the Brook school board. He was a member of the Masonic, K. of P. and I. O. O. F. lodges.

Ray Ellsworth Hershman

Ray E. was united in marriage to Elizabeth "Bessie" Rosamond Sayler at the home of her parents, John and Jane Sayler in Monticello, Indiana, on May 6, 1903. Elizabeth Rosamond Sayler was born September 7, 1878 near Rensselaer on the old Sayler farm. Ray E., the older is a member of the firm of Lyons and Hershman, hardware merchants at Brook, and was a member of the library board that built the library.

Bessie died at the age of 91, was born in Rensselaer and attended grade and high school there. She also attended the Chicago Art Institute. She had lived in Brook for several years and was a member of the Brook United Methodist Church, WSCS of the church, Brook Study Club and the D. A. R. She was interred at Riverside Cemetery.

Her father, John T. Sayler, son of Micah and Hannah Sayler was born near Rensselaer, Indiana, April 16, 1850 and was united in marriage to Jane Coen, daughter of John and Sara Coen, July 19, 1874. To this union were born Mabel, Elizabeth R., Grace, Thomas and Burton. Thomas died in infancy. John T's father, Micah was of German blood and an early pioneer Methodist. John Coen was of Scotch Irish descent and a staunch Presbyterian.

To the union of Bessie and Ray was born John Ellsworth, April 18, 1904; Helen Rosamond, January 8, 1906; Harold Sayler, December 27, 1906; Margaret Anna, September 17, 1910-September 16, 1912; William Robert, March 9, 1914-September 15, 1914; and Richard Ray, April 22, 1919.



Elizabeth "Bessie" Rosamond (Sayler) Hershman

Ray Ellsworth Hershman

Ray Ellsworth Hershman at the age of 19, in 1892

- Joel Hershman Collection

traces its origins, was kidnapped when a boy in a seafaring town in Scotland, taken on board a sailing vessel bound for America and forced to serve in the capacity of cabin boy to the captain. His spirit rebelled against this involuntary service and on arriving in an American port, he embraced the first opportunity offered, made his escape from the ship and remained in America where he grew to manhood and married. He was the great grandfather of Solomon Edmondson, whose son Thomas was the father of the Mary who married Jacob Hershman III.

"Thomas Edmondson was born May 21, 1794, and was married to Nancy Box, August 24, 1830. Thomas died about 1841 south of Noblesville in Hamilton County, Indiana. Nancy (Box) Edmondson was born on September 21, 1803 and died on October 1, 1866 near Brook and is buried at the Brook Cemetery.

"It is not known at what time the ancestors of Nancy Box came to the United States, but it was prior to the War of Independence, as there is a tradition that an elder brother of her father was made a prisoner by the Indians in the war between the colonies and the French and Indians, known as the French and Indian War in 1757."

Box Family

"Nancy Box was the daughter of Samuel and Mary Box, born in North Carolina, and married to Thomas Edmondson, August 24, 1820 at the age of 17. She was a very spiritually minded woman and an inveterate enemy of slavery which was a main reason coming north, as my grandfather, who had been brought up in the Quaker Church, was a natural enemy of the institution, they decided to abandon their native state and seek a home in a free state, which they did. First they moved to Tennessee and later to Indiana, settling in what is now inside the environments of the city of Indianapolis on the banks of Fall Creek. They moved to Hamilton County, where my grandfather died about 1841, eight or ten miles southwest of Noblesville."

John writes that his grandmother kept her family together till all were grown and married, leaving her one by one for homes of their own except Martha, who died at the age of 17 or 18 in White County Indiana. Her religious influence over her family was so great that four of her sons became ministers of the gospel, three of them in the Methodist church and one in the United Brethren church. She died at the home of her

youngest daughter, Solinda, near Brook, at the age of 63, and is buried at the Brook Cemetery."

The children of Thomas and Nancy Edmondson were Solomon, Samuel, Mary, Robert, William, Sarah and Martha (twins), Hanford and Solinda. At the time of the journal writing, 1920, all were deceased. Sarah was married to Stark Olmstead and Solinda to Aaron Lyons.

Jacob Hershman III Children

George W. Hershman enlisted in Company B 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry in October 1861 and went to the front lines. He died April 26, 1862 at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, about three weeks after the battle there. His regiment arrived on the afternoon of the second day of the fight and went into camp.

He was taken sick soon after with typhoid fever and died. He was buried on the grounds near the camp. In moving the dead, into the Military Cemetery, his identity was lost and his grave is marked unknown. In the journal, John R. writes that he visited the cemetery in April 1916 in company with the associates known as the survivors of the Battle of Shiloh, with a vague hope that he might find George W's grave. The group was met with disappointment however, finding that two-thirds of the graves are marked unknown.

William Hanford Hershman was united in marriage to Sarah Jane Lyons, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Lyons on July 2, 1873. To them were born two children, Ara, who married Eugene Case and George L., who married to Alma Miller. Sarah passed away on September 22, 1924 and William H. passed away at the home of his daughter Ava in Indianapolis, Indiana on February 22, 1931. Sarah is in the Brook Mausoleum and William H. at the Brook Cemetery.

Nancy Jane "Jennie" Hershman was united in marriage to Newton Lyons, son of Samuel and Margaret Lyons on April 14, 1870. To this union were born two sons and three daughters who grew to maturity. Herman, Morris, Marian, Lena and Lela. Marian was united in marriage to Leonard Beagley and is the mother of six children, the oldest of whom died at the age of fourteen. Jennie died June 24, 1923, Newton on June 25, 1928. Both are interred in the Brook Abbey.

Sarah Catherine Hershman was united in marriage to James Hoach, November 4, 1876. They have one son by

adoption who was taken in infancy and raised to manhood as their own son. He was united in marriage to Miss Ella Klanock. They have two children, Gladys and Earl.

Solinda Eliza Hershman was united in marriage to Thomas I. Grater, March 24, 1879. Three children were born to this union, Guy, Mary and Ray. Guy was united in marriage to Miss Lulu Oathout; Mary to Earl Pierson and Ray to Miss Nellie Malone. Ray and Nellie have one son, Russell, now about 14 years old (ca 1920). Thomas died on April 24, 1928, and is interred in the Brook Mausoleum.

When **Francis (Frank) M. Hershman** was six years old, he had a severe attack of fever. For several days his life was despaired of. Suddenly and without warning he lost his hearing. He was sent to the school for the deaf at Indianapolis, but he did not take learning well. I think he never fully recovered his normal condition either physical or mental. He could never become reconciled to his affliction. Although he grew to be a good sized strong man, his constitution seemed shattered, his heart was weak and he died in his 29th year on June 30th, 1885, and is buried at Brook Cemetery.

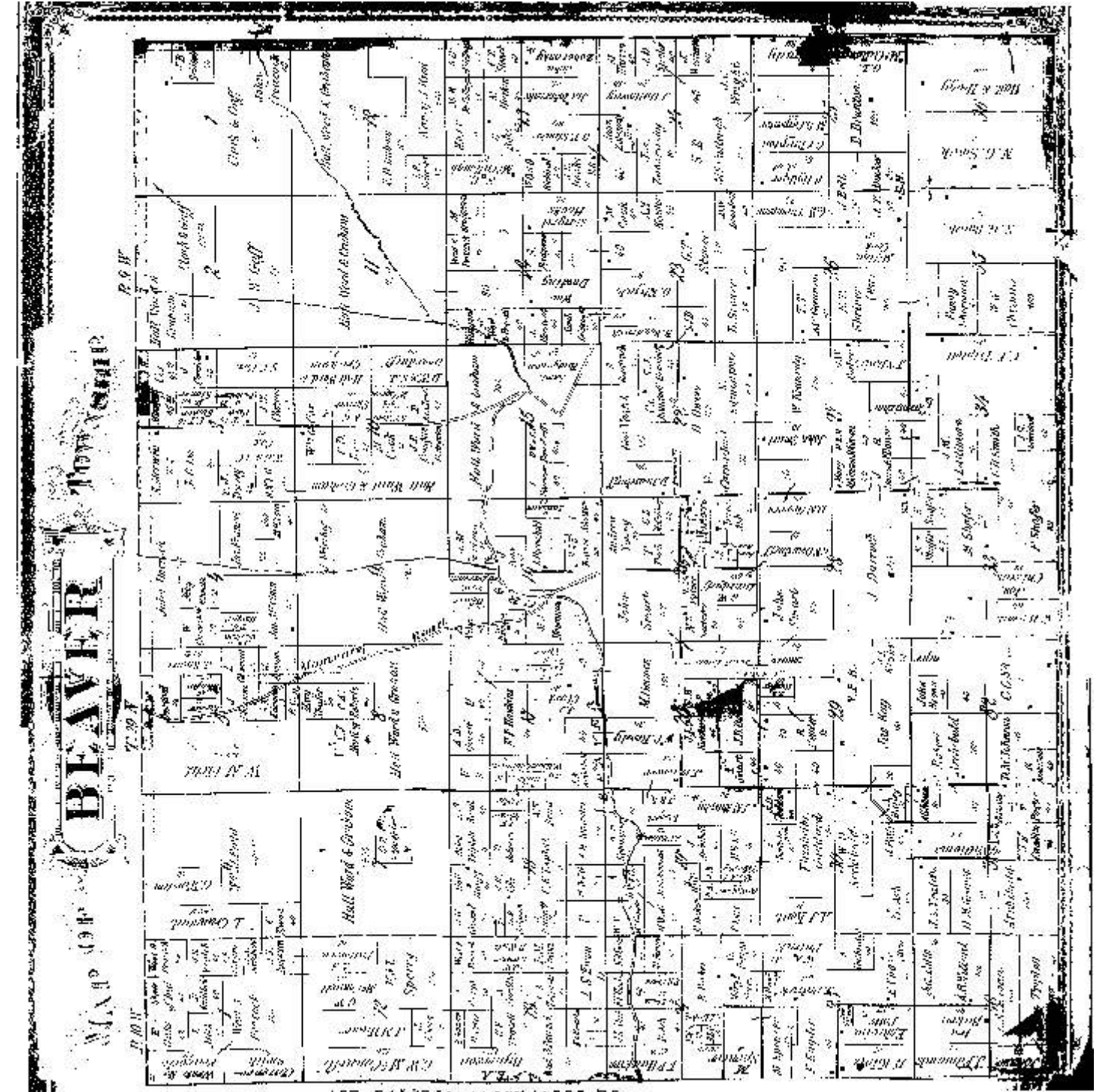
John R. Hershman

John R. was married September 13, 1871 to Anna Elizabeth Lyons, daughter of John and Anna (Jones) Lyons, born November 18, 1845 near Brook, and died at her home in Brook on September 3, 1907. She is buried at Riverside Cemetery. They established their home in Newton County in 1868, Iroquois Township, John R. at the age of 19 was one of the leading agriculturists in Iroquois Township until 1903, when he retired and moved to Brook.

There was born to this union two sons, Ray Ellsworth, born September 26, 1873 and Lloyd Lyons, born December 3, 1878, at the old farm house one mile south and one and three fourth miles east of Brook.

In the Hamilton-Darroch History of Jasper and Newton Counties, 1916, John R. Hershman's biography read as follows: "There are in every community men of great force of character who by reason of their capacity for leadership become recognized as foremost citizens and bear a most important part in public affairs. Such a man at Brook is John R. Hershman.

"In 1916 he was serving as Township Trustee. Mr. Hershman also served on the County Council, and president of the Brook School Board for about eight years. He



BEAVER TOWNSHIP

John Murphy was about the first settler in Beaver Township, having come in 1838. Among the other early settlers were Silas Johnson, David Kestler, John Darroch, Daniel Deardurff and Benjamin Roadruck. The south half of the township contains some of the finest land in the county, and the north half is being rapidly improved by drainage. About one-fourth of the territory is covered with timber. The remainder is prairie land. The population numbers 1,000 to 1,200. There are 6 school houses and 1 church building. The principal productions are corn, oats, grass, cattle and hogs. The exports are chiefly hogs and cattle.

The thriving little village of Morocco, embracing a population of about 200, is situated in this township. It is the oldest village in the county, having been laid out by John Murphy in 1851. The post-office established here was the second in the county. The Bank of America was established here in 1855, being the only bank in the county at that time. Its origin was a mystery; its life was both short and mysterious, and, so far as the community are concerned, there was nothing in its final closing up to throw one ray of light on the subject, notwithstanding its notes were redeemed when its existence ceased.

John Ade, Elijah Whison, Thomas Starkey and David Pulver, were among the earliest citizens of Morocco. In an early day this village was a great center of fur trade. William G. Cox is the present Township Trustee.

HOME *is where your story begins*

by Beth Bassett

From a handwritten journal in 1920, written by John R. Hershman and utilizing research materials located on the internet at ancestry.com and rootsweb.com, as well as obituaries from the local newspapers, a profile of a hardworking, faithful and civic and community minded group of individuals developed into an interesting family history. The journal gave an insight to their way of life, and the research records and obituaries facts and figures.

Little is known about the first generation, Jacob, and the consecutive naming of the children after him, created a bit of confusion for this writer at times. Therefore, I have added generation numbers to their names for clarity sake. All spellings of the names are as they appeared in the journal. Many of these surnames are spelled differently today. Also, please note that the Brook Cemetery and Riverside Cemetery are one in the same, early on it was known as the Brook Cemetery.

Jacob Hershman I

The first documentation of the Hershman family shows that they came to the United States from Dresden, Germany sometime near the middle of the 18th Century and settled in the State of Virginia about 1765, afterward moving to Ohio settling near Zanesville.

From a family tree included with the journal created by a Hershman family member, we show that Jacob I had three sons, John, Philip and Jacob II.

John, who had five sons: Washington, who had several sons and lived in the northern part of Jasper County, John and Alexander who lived in Jasper County, Samuel lived in Kankakee; and Elmer.

Philip had one son Charles.

Jacob II, whose descendants are the focus of this family history.

The journal and obituaries indicated in 1835 the entire family located near Boxley, in Hamilton County, Indiana.

John R's journal stated the following: "My understanding is that my great grandfather Hershman (Jacob I) came to the United States from Dresden Germany sometime near the middle of the 18th century and settled in the State of Virginia afterward moving to Ohio settling near Zanesville. My father could remember him as a very old man having lost his sight some years before

he died, but lived to be over one hundred years old."

Unfortunately, additional information about Jacob I, his life and death are not available at the time of this writing. Perhaps one day it will come to light.

Researching the Jacob II Generation

We'll begin with an excerpt from the journal.

"My grandfather, whose name Jacob was the third son of this family. His elder brother being John and Philip. Grandfather married a woman of English descent whose maiden name was Sarah Cartwell. A large family was the result of this union. Born in the order as follows: Ann, John, George, Jacob, Philip, Hannah, Sarah, Harrison, Isaac and Mary."

The census records didn't match age order that John had given, such as Sarah being born later than Mary. Who is to say which is correct!

The 1840 US Federal Census of Hamilton County, Adams Township enumerated the Jacob Hershman II family. It read as follows: 1 female aged between 5 to 10 years; one male, and one female aged between 10 and 15; three males, aged between 20 and 30; one female aged between 40 and 50; and one male, aged between 50 and 60. Showing a household of eight.

The 1850 US Federal Census of Hamilton County, Adams Township gave us some information that was not included in the 1840 Census, such as names, birth dates, and places. Their names however were spelled Hurshman on this record.

At the time of the census, Jacob II was enumerated being of the age 67, born in Virginia, a farmer with a real estate value of \$700; Sarah (Cartwell,) wife, age 59, born in Virginia; Harrison, age 26, born in Ohio; Mary, age 17, born in Indiana; Sarah Christ, age 12, born in Indiana.

Isaac was listed with his wife Mahala and children Caroline, and Francis W.; George with his wife Matilda and children Nancy L, Mary, Isaac and William H.

Jacob III was enumerated in White county in 1850 with his wife Mary and children George and John R.

John R. writes of his grandparents: "My grandfather and grandmother sold their farm in Hamilton County, Indiana in

The Hershman Family

1851, and with their sons John, Harrison and Isaac and their wives, and their daughter Mary moved to Iowa, and bought a large tract of land for which they received what afterward proved to be a fraudulent title, and was nearly a total loss."

When John R. was about four years old, his grandfather visited his family. He writes, "It must have been the following year that my grandfather Hershman visited us. He had sold his big farm in Hamilton County and he and Uncle Isaac had come out to see us before moving out to the new state of Iowa and to persuade father to go with them. Grandfather offered to give him eighty acres of Iowa land if he would go, but mother didn't want to go, so he declined the offer as he had already bought forty acres in White County and was preparing to build a cabin on it.

"All this I learned in after years. They had made the journey from Hamilton County on horseback, a common mode of travel at that time. When starting home they proposed by going way of Denton's Grove to see Grandmother Edmondson who lived there and whom they had known back in Hamilton County.

"Father and mother accompanying them that far on their way. Father drove his team hitched to a wagon, grandfather and Uncle riding their horses. We angled across prairie as there were no farms to interfere. My impression is that it was in the spring as the sloughs were full of water. The only remembrance I have of grandfather was of seeing him fording a creek, (I think it must have been the Little Monon,) on his buckskin horse. My impression is that he was a short heavy built man and had on a brown suit and broad brimmed hat. He moved to Iowa soon after and I never saw him again.

"My grandmother Hershman's family were pioneers of Ohio and Indiana. She had a brother named Nathaniel Cartwell, who was killed while carrying the mail in the wilds of the central part of Ohio by a highwayman who shot him from an ambush, mistaking him for a wealthy drover he was expecting along the route."

As to his great aunts and uncles, John R. noted: "Ann Hershman became the wife of John Davids; Hannah, the wife of Joseph Chiste; Sarah married William Vick; and

Mary was married to Charles Strong. All now dead with the possible exception of Mary Strong, who was last known to be living in Nebraska."

Researching ancestry.com and other genealogical sights may reveal more about the family after removal to Iowa.

Jacob Hershman III

Jacob III was the fourth son of Jacob and Sarah born near Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio July 22, 1821, and he came with his father's family at the age of 14 to Hamilton County, Indiana, where he grew to manhood near the village of Boxley.

Jacob was married February 29, 1844 to Mary Edmondson and located in Benton County, where two sons were born, namely, George W., born August 17th, 1845 and John R., born November 23rd, 1848. In 1850, they moved to White County, where William H. born July 20, 1851, then Nancy Jane (known as Jennie) born September 6, 1854, d. June 24, 1923, Francis M. born November 14, 1856 and twins Sarah and Solinda (known also as Linnie) born March 21, 1860.

Entries from the journal tell us that Jacob and Mary initially lived with her brothers and rented a large farm on the banks of Pine Creek in Benton County, then known as the Baker Guess farm, later the Carey Eastburn farm. They remained there for two-three years, and moved to a rental house on a part of what was then known as the old G. D. Wiggins farm. Here in a cabin located near a bubbling spring about 20 rods (330 feet) south of what is now a highway running east and west between Mt. Gilboa and Denton's Grove, and about midway of the two places is where John R. was born.

In 1850, the family moved to White County, and farmed part of Dr. Halstead's farm in West Point Township. Unable to secure the land patent for this ground, Jacob purchased 40 acres of prairie land one mile west of Seafeld and two miles east of Wolcott and built a log cabin. They continued to live here until the spring of 1868 when they moved into the old John Lyons farm, southeast of Brook in Newton County.

In 1869, this farm was sold to John O'Reilly, and Jacob farmed for three years, two miles west of Brook in Washington Township. He then bought 160 acres of prairie land in N. E. of Section 28 in Iroquois Township. Of this tract of land John R. took the west half, William the N. E. forty and his father the S. E. forty. Later, William sold his acreage and several years

"The Old Farm" - the Hershman Family Homestead



In 1871, John R. Hershman wed Anna Lyons and began housekeeping in the home of her brother, two miles west of Brook. In 1872, they moved into a newly built house on what (in 1920) they called "the old farm, located one mile south and one and three fourths miles east of Brook. Here their two sons, Ray E. and Llyod L. were born.

It is not known at this time if this is that home, as family members believe this house is still standing today at the above described location. Could it be that this home is 135 years old? Pictured: On the porch, left to right, Ray E., sitting Lloyd, Edna Gibbons, Clara Leavitt, at the bottom of the steps, Anna and to the far right, John R. Judging from other photos of Ray E., it is estimated this photo was take around 1892. - Joel Hershman Collection.

later John R. bought the S. E. forty of his parents. Over the generations this family would retain and increase this acreage, much of which remains in the Hershman name today.

Jacob passed away at the home of his son John in Brook, Indiana, March 18, 1903, at the age of 81.

Mary (Edmondson) Hershman, daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Box) Edmondson was born May 23, 1825, near Knoxville, Tennessee and died in the home of her daughter at Chicago Heights, on March 18, 1908, on the 5th anniversary of the death of her husband.

John R. noted in his journal: "Mary survived her husband just a few years to the date of his death. She was a woman of extraordinary strength of character. She was very positive in her views on all moral questions. Was a member of the W. C. T. U. and strong advocate of prohibition. She was an inveterate enemy to slavery and patriotic

supporter of the Union during the Civil War of 1861-1865."

John's journal also contained vivid sketches of related families, including several members of the Lyons family.

Edmondson Family

"Edmondson is a family of Scotch origin. In the story Rob Roy by Sir Walter Scott, in a footnote is made of a man named Edmondson, who called Rob Roy to account for his bullying conduct in a village gathering and bonfire entertainment in Scotland, by which he shows that Rob Roy was brave only when he had a weak foe or his clansmen at his back.

"Edmondson said to him, "Now mind what I tell ye Rob, if you di'na' behave yourself, I'll break every bone in your body."

"The author adds that Rob took him at his word and for the rest of the evening was quiet enough.

"There is a legend that the first Edmondson to whom the family in America