

**“Beaver Lake - A Land of Enchantment” by Elmore Barce  
And Other Publications For Sale - Great Gift Ideas!**

Beaver Lake, Land of Enchantment, by Elmore Barce  
soft cover: \$10.60; hard cover \$21.20  
Volume IV, The History of Benton County by Elmore Barce - \$26.50  
The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection - \$63.60  
Ralph - The Story of Bogus Island - \$5.30  
The Newton County Historical Coloring Book - \$5.30  
The Morocco Centennial - CD only - \$21.60.  
Past Issues of the society newsletter, “The Newcomer”. This publication regained strength beginning in 1999. Collect each year of the quarterly publication for only \$10.60.  
Tax included in all above prices.

Send your order with check or money order payable to the Newton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 303, Kentland, Indiana. Please mark front of envelope “book order”.

The Newton County Historical Society is a non-profit organization, and all proceeds from the sale of publications are used for future publication projects.

**How to join our membership**

**Dues - (Check One) Yearly (July 1- June 30) - Both Divisions**

Individual (\$6) Family (\$9) \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Family Life (\$175) \_\_\_ Individual Life (\$100)

*With society membership you may also join the  
FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION*

**NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

Individual (\$3) \_\_\_ Individual Life (\$50) Family (\$5) \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. Published four times a year. Articles for submission are encouraged and may be sent to the editor, Beth A. Bassett, 1681 East, 1100 South, Brook, Indiana 47922.

**Officers of the Newton  
County Historical Society**

President, Sue Humphrey, Kentland  
V. President, Michael Haste, Brook  
Secretary, Becky Lyons, Brook  
Treasurer, Kay Babcock, Goodland  
Family History Division  
Jim Robbins, Director, Lake Village  
Member at Large  
Fanny Collins, Kentland  
County Historian,  
Donna LaCosse, Morocco

**Officers of the Family History Division**

Ex-Officio, Yvonne Kay, Morocco  
Director, Jim Robbins, Lake Village  
Janet Miller, Treasurer, Kentland  
The Newcomer, Beth Bassett, Brook  
Send membership dues to:

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

**e-mail: newtonhs@ffni.com**

PRESORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT  
NUMBER 35  
Rensselaer, Indiana  
47978

# 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 at 224 N. Third Street in Kentland and the Society general meetings are held in different locations in the County at 7:00 p.m. Local members are notified of the place and time each month. Don't Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!**

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

Visit our web site at [www.rootsweb.com/~innewton](http://www.rootsweb.com/~innewton)

# The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Indiana's YOUNGEST County

Volume 9, Issue Two - Spring & Summer 2004 • \$2.25

**In this issue . . .**

**V-Mail**

Darlene Truby shares her family letters

**The Gold Star Honor Roll**

Newton County Soldiers Who Died During WWI

**Focus On Families**

The John and Mary Boezeman Family

**People, Places & Things**

John Murphey and John Carey Murphey

## V - Mail, As In Victory Mail

by Beth Bassett

When Janet Miller told me that her friend Darlene Truby had V-mail letters, I didn't have a clue as to what she was talking about. I found out later that just about anyone who had soldiers in their family during World War II is aware of this type of correspondence, and many have them amongst their family heirlooms. So when she brought them to a Family History Meeting and showed copies of them to the group, I was taken aback as to the content and significance these letters played in the lives of the soldiers and families of World War II, as well as discovering the extra effort that our government made to make sure that the men overseas and their families back home received letter correspondence through the creation of V-mail. These tiny letters gave the American people one more way to do their bit, like the victory gardens, rationing and more, creating a sense of well-being during a time of much uncertainty.

V-mail was launched by the War and Navy Departments and the Postal Service on June 15, 1942. Correspondents drafted messages on single preprinted sheets of thin paper that, when folded and sealed, also served as envelopes. Gathered at three central postal stations-in New York, Chicago and San Francisco-the letters were opened, sorted and copied onto microfilm. Flown overseas, the film was then processed into small, sometimes almost illegible, 4 x 5 photographs of the originals. Some 41 months later, when the last V-mail departed from New York on November 1, 1945, almost 1.25 billion had traveled to and from servicemen and women.

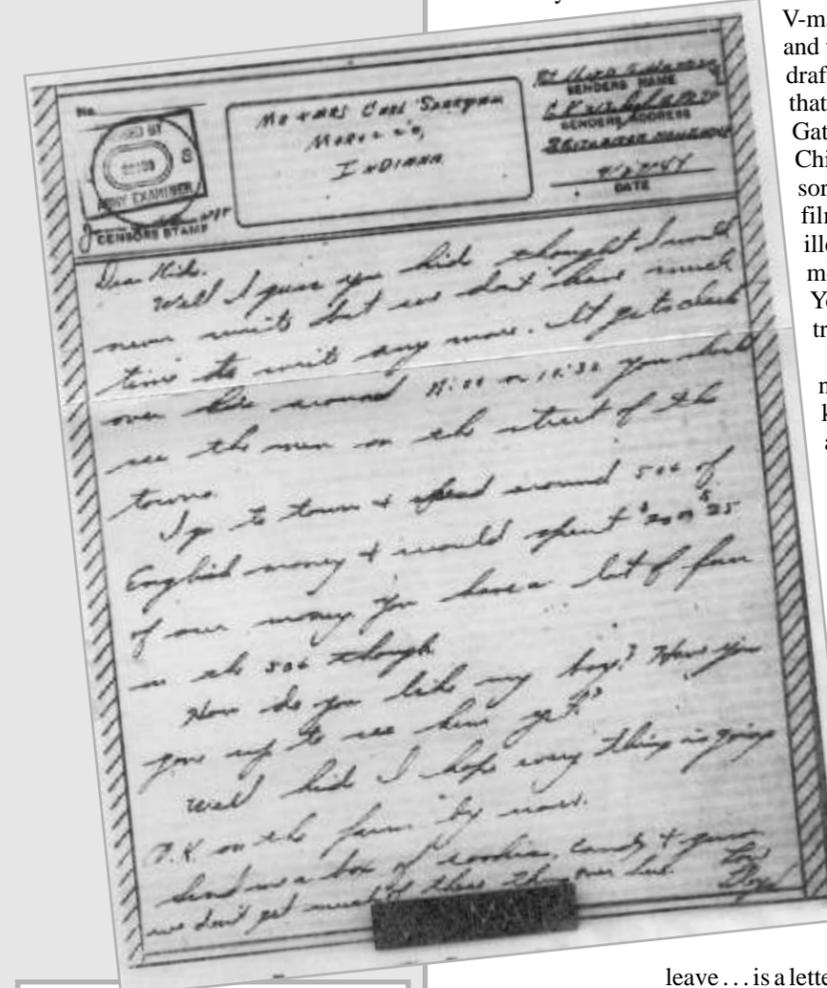
The urge to put love into V-mails resulted in what newspapers dubbed the "Scarlet Scourge": lipstick kisses on the V-mails that clogged postal machines and were rendered as gray blotches on the facsimiles. Postal workers grew accustomed also to rose petals, locks of hair and photographs fluttering out of unsealed V-mails-all violations of an explicit ban against enclosures.

For a postal system overwhelmed by the staggering volume of overseas correspondence, V-mail delivered more letters to more servicemen in less time and freed up invaluable cargo space for food, ammunition and fuel. Advertising campaigns declared that 1,700 microfilmed letters would fit into a single cigarette pack.

Advertising campaigns exhorted family and friends at home to send a "five-minute furlough" to their beloved servicemen. "Yes, V-Mail! Newsy letters packed with brief, bright, day-by-day details of life at home. That's what a man overseas wants," urged one advertisement for Martin Mars airplanes: "The Next Best thing to a

leave . . . is a letter!

"Home is heaven to men overseas. And a letter is a five-minute furlough at home. So however busy you are, find time to write that man in the service. When you write, remember these 3 rules: 1. Short, frequent letters are better than occasional long ones; 2. Write cheerful newsy letters about familiar places and faces; 3. Use V-mail because V-mail gets there quicker, saves space for vital supplies that help speed Victory. *< To page 2 >*



This is the actual size of the v-mail letter, measuring 4 1/4" x 5 1/4"; the envelope measured 4 1/2" x 3 3/4"

> they put a desk somewhere for him so he would always have a home there.

William Fred Schwanke was Carl's first cousin. Fred's mother Ada was the sister of Ellis Spurgeon. He graduated as Lieutenant William F. Schwanke, Class 43-2 from the United States Army, Air Force Navigation School in Coral Gables, Florida, March 27, 1943.

Fred became a lawyer via the GI bill, and practiced in Monticello, Indiana, for many years. He married Imogene Snider, a school music teacher and lived on Lake Freeman. Fred was the White County Prosecuting Attorney for many years. Being a hilarious storyteller, Darlene remembers Fred saying "everyone in White County wants me to run for judge... except the judge!"

Fred and Imogene always had a house full of kids, two of them their own. They also took in foster children, as well as every relative that was down on their luck and their children. In 1962, in Washington, D.C., Fred gave the bride, Darlene away to be married. The new Mr. and Mrs. drove away from the church in Fred's station wagon, bursting with children and of course, Fred and Imogene.

Darlene remembers visiting with them at their home during the summer on Lake Freeman. Relatives would be everywhere, and Imogene would have on her swimsuit, wearing a whistle around her neck and acting as "lifeguard"!

The family would also gather at the home of Fred's parents, Ada and Earl Schwanke at DeMotte. She recalls Fred's younger brother, Leland coming home in his uniform from Korea and surprising his mother. "Ada (Spurgeon) Schwanke was a very tiny lady and he picked her up hugging her and she was crying and hugging her son."

Knowing the involvement of Ken's ship in the Pacific theatre, gives us an insight to just how important these letters were to the sanity of this seaman. Imagine writing such a light hearted letter during one of the most heated battles of WWII? Having a peaceful moment with a pen and paper had to be few and far between, and had he mentioned the war at all, it more than likely would have been censored, so why waste the writing space. Families who have these letters in their collections have a unique documentation of an era that effected the generations that followed World War II.

Future generations can look back at this time and follow the everyday happenings of their loved ones who served in the armed forces, and a great record of what their families were doing at that time. Much history can be found in these records, history and tradition that otherwise might have been lost to the generations. *Editor's note: Thanks to Darlene (Spurgeon) Truby for her contribution to this article.* ■

*Dated January 7, 1945. To Mr. Carl Spurgeon, Morocco, Indiana, from Kenneth R. Spurgeon. Dear Carl, Sis and all, It was*



Ken Spurgeon

my intention to write to you a few days ago, but if memory serves the plan never materialized into action - so try and stop me now if you can!!

Living a quiet, but busy, sort of an existence these days - my routine duties are the laboratory, sick call each alternate evening in the operating room, an occasional operation, and lately I've been trying to master typing and the office procedure, eventually to be a well-rounded corpsman, I trust.

Christmas and New Years were rather pleasant - a good meal on the ship, a few hours of ship liberty later. Not too much to do ashore, but to get the old dogs on land and be away from shipboard routine for a time is worth something. On Christmas Eve there was a card from Phyllis Stewart and a letter from my favorite South Carolina WAVE - which added to the joy of my day.

On New Years there was a letter from Tennessee talking of the man that committed suicide when Sinatra sang "There Will Never Be Another Ewe".

See by the papers that you are having a bit of snow and cold in the mid-west; all right now, I suppose, but not so good in another month when moving time comes around.

Recently I read the book "Calling Doctor Kildare", rather good, I thought. Also read a couple of Dickens' stories; one especially timely inasmuch as it was a New Years Story.

Mrs. Harvey Snow writes that her son-in-law has been inducted into the Navy-still in training at Great Lakes.

Well, take care of procedures, All the best, always, Love Ken. *Outgoing postage cancellation January 23, 1945, 8:30 p.m*

*March 11, 1945. To Mr. Carl M. Spurgeon, Morocco, Indiana. From Lt. P.F. Schwanke, New York, N.Y.*

Dear Cousins, A few lines to let you know that I am still alive and kicking. Have a total of 14 missions now. They are going slow since I am a lead navigator. Hope to be home by June 1<sup>st</sup>, if not before. Reckon you'll keep your fingers of places where they don't belong from now on. I have no children to speak of. Suppose you are comfortably established on your farm by now. I am somewhat of a vagabond I guess. I'll probably never settle down now that I have got

started. Unless some person of the female variety baps me over the head and marries me while I am still in a stupor. Write often coz I can surely use mail. Love, (signature cut off). *Postage cancellation of March 19, 1945.* ■



Harriet and Carl Spurgeon

## The Gold Star Honor Roll, 1914-1918 - Newton County Soldiers Who Died During World War I



**DOWTY, HARRISON L. PRIVATE** Son of Theodore M. (deceased) and Sarah Ellen Dowty; born July 16, 1890, Fowler, Benton County, Ind. Moved to Newton County, 1894. Laborer. Entered service July 22, 1918, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Camp Taylor, Ky.; assigned to Battery C, 17th Battalion Field Artillery Replacement Draft; later to Battery B, 18th Battalion, Field Artillery Replacement Draft. Died of pneumonia October 14, 1918, Camp Taylor, Ky. Buried at Rensselaer, Jasper County, Ind



**GEESA, GEORGE DAVID-PRIVATE** Son of Benjamin Julius and Sarah Geesa; born April 28, 1891, Colfax Township, Newton County, Ind. Farmer. Entered service September 5, 1917. Sent to Camp Lewis, Wash.; assigned to Company D, 59th Infantry. Transferred to Camp Mills, N.Y. Embarked in May, 1918. Killed in second battle of the Marne, July 19, 1918. Buried in American Cemetery No.1764, Belleau Aisne, France.



**GORMAN, WILLIAM-PRIVATE** Son of Thomas and Mary Burns Gorman; born August 11, 1883, near Morocco, Newton County, Ind. Entered service April 26, 1918, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Camp Taylor, Ky.; assigned to 29th Company, 8th Training Battalion, 159th Depot Brigade. Overseas August 14, 1918.; assigned to 84th Ambulance Company, 7th Sanitary Train. Died of tuberculosis January 18, 1919. Buried at Toul, France.



**GRAVES, LLOYD M.-PRIVATE** Son of Thomas E. and Susanna McCarthy Graves; born September 24, 1894, near Morocco, Newton county, Ind. Farmer. Entered service April 26, 1918, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Camp Taylor, Ky.; assigned to 29th Company, 8th Battalion, 159th Depot Brigade. Transferred to Camp Mills, L. I.; then to Camp Merritt, N. J.; assigned to Company H, 323rd Infantry. Overseas July 31, 1918. Killed in action, November 9, 1918, in the Meuse Argonne Offensive. Buried at Maukeullur, (?) Meuse Hill, Cemetery, France.



**HARRY, CHESTER CRAWFORD-PRIVATE** Son of William Elwood and Priscilla McCoy Harry; born January 26, 1896, Brook, Newton County, Ind. Railroad clerk. Entered service March 29, 1918, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Camp Taylor, Ky.; assigned to 16th Company, 4th Training Battalion, 159th Depot Brigade. Died of pneumonia April 23, 1918, Camp Taylor, Ky. Buried, Brook, Newton County, Ind



**HEDRICK, ORA LLOYD PRIVATE, U.S.M.C.** Son of John and Dessie Hedrick; born November 6, 1894, Newton County, Ind. Farmer. Enlisted in U.S. Marine Corps May 23, 1917, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Parris Island, S.C.; transferred to Quantico, Va. Assigned to 5th Marine Corps. Overseas sometime in August, 1918. Reported missing in action September 15, 1918. Killed in action September 15, 1918, place not named. American Legion Post at Kentland, Ind., named in his honor. >

## Newton County World War I Soldiers

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Hoover, Alvia        | Gott, James Frederick  |
| Biddle, Josiah       | Gott, Merle L.         |
| Grundler, Edward F.  | Harry, Chester C.      |
| Sell, Roy            | Hassett, Bernard G.    |
| Williams, Jasper     | Hedrick, Floyd C.      |
| Gerbracht, Henry Ray | Hedrick, Ora Loyd      |
| <b>KENTLAND</b>      |                        |
| Ade, Charles Rolland | Heilman Charles F. Jr. |
| Ainsworth, Harry G.  | Hendry, James Bertrand |
| Albaugh, George W.   | Hendry, William J.     |
| Anderson, Charles E. | Herr, Charles Dewey    |
| Arendt, George M.    | Herr, Claude Harris    |
| Arnold, Alfred G.    | Hiestand, Robert P.    |
| Arnold, Raymond U.   | Higgins, Harry L.      |
| Atwood, Fred W.      | Hixon, Roy C.          |
| Ayres, Harrie D.     | Hoover, Carl A.        |
| Bair, Clarence       | Hubbard, Wm. C.        |
| Baker, Ermal         | Iloff, Wm.P.           |
| Barton, Oscar s.     | Kane, John Clarence    |
| Biddle, Josiah       | Kemp, Robert S.        |
| Boldman, John        | Kindig, Raymond E.I    |
| Boatman, Ralph R     | Kine, Louis            |
| Bowman, Roy G.       | Kirkpatrick, Wm. S.    |
| Brees, Moses E.      | Koenig, Louis B.       |
| Brees, Walter Edward | Koenig, Oscar          |
| Brewer, James Henry  | Lacy, Earl Q.          |
| Brewer, William B.   | Lassister, Adam C.     |
| Bruck, Paul J.       | Littlejohn, Guy T.     |
| Bruck, William A.    | Littlejohn, Elmer W.   |
| Burns, Ralph         | Lowe, Leon J.          |
| VanDoren             | McCain, Kenneth C.     |
| Burton, Calvin R.    | McCartney, Bert W.     |
| Bush, Charlotte Ruth | McCray, Elmore S.      |
| Campbell, John M.    | McKee, Russell         |
| Carrothers, Henry H. | MacDonald, Paul Z.     |
| Cassidy, Edmund      | Markle, Wilbert J.     |
| Peter                | Martin, Clifford W.    |
| Clouse, Glen E.      | Messman, Clarence H.   |
| Cole, Gray           | Miles, Lloyd W.        |
| Corbin, Cloyde E.    | Molter, Charles L.     |
| Corbin, William H.   | Molter, Samuel E.      |
| Couch, John H.       | Monroe, William O.     |
| Crussen, Larence A.  | Monroe, George R.      |
| Culligan, William R. | Mullen, Joseph F.      |
| Cunningham, Paul T.  | Mulligan, Christopher  |
| Davidson, Vernon     | Mulligan, John P.      |
| Davis, Carl E.       | Murphy, Lee R.         |
| Davis, George Ade    | Myres, August A.       |
| Dieter, Edward Jacob | O'Neill, Thomas M.     |
| Dieter, Theodore     | O'Neill, Vincent E.    |
| John                 | Ortner, Irvin          |
| Dixon, Thomas Leroy  | Patterson, John Wm.    |
| Doty, Carl Bertrand  | Parr, Charles Edward   |
| Dowling, Michael T.  | Pfrimmer, Lowell       |
| Drake, Charles H.    | Plunkett, Albert J.    |
| Drake, Ed. G.        | Plunkett, Gerald E.    |
| Drake, Harry         | Poland, Edward         |
| Easter, Jesse Ray    | Presher, Edgar B.      |
| Egan, Joseph J.      | Prue, Gerald           |
| Gardner, Earl Barton | Rankin, Mentor Leslie  |
| Gott, Arlan T.       | Raper, Richard         |
| Gentry, William Roy  | Rasher, Howard H.      |
|                      | Reed, Leo E.           |

< to page 22 >

<from page 7 > (b. Nov. 17, 1814, died May 3, 1904); John married Mary (Unknown), they had one son, George; Jane, (b. November 1829, d. in childbirth of a daughter, Feb. 5, 1848 age 19 yrs., 9 mos.); William, (b. May 23, 1831, d. Feb. 6, 1904), married Luvina Roadruck, (b. November 23, 1834, d. Sept 20, 1907).

**John Carey Murphey**

After reading Gerald Born's article penned in 1985 for the "History of Newton County", I feel that it is imperative that I include it with his great-grandfather's history. This article also appears in "The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection", published in 2002 by the Family History Division of the Newton County Historical Society.

James Cary Murphey, Attorney James Cary Murphey, or J.C. as he was affectionately known, was an amazing man. On October 7, 1957, at the age of 90 he closed the door of his law office on Morocco's State Street after 52 years of continuous service, the oldest living member of the legal profession in Indiana at the time. The day was commemorated as the James Cary Murphey Judicial Day in the Newton Circuit Court by the Newton County Bar Association.

Born at the end of the Civil War, just 16 years after the founding of Morocco by his great-grandfather, John Murphey, his history parallels much of that of the town itself. He was to see a rough frontier settlement develop into a thriving community. He saw the effects of every war from the Civil War through the Korean Conflict. His keen mind absorbed much of the history of the area and he was later called upon to supply facts for later day historians, which he always did with quiet dignity. He was also involved in the development of the legal system in the county. Two of his great uncles Silas and John F. Johnson, and his uncle Pierce Archibald, served as representatives to the Indiana State Legislature, so he was early acquainted with the laws of Indiana and the effects they had

on his family, friends, and neighbors. He was 37 when he started his law practice, having been a farmer, a wood worker and cabinet maker, a deep-well contractor, a real estate broker, an insurance salesman, and a Justice of the Peace prior to entering the legal profession. But to understand the man, one has to know something of his beginnings.

James Cary Murphey, son of James Monroe and Amanda J. (Archibald) Murphey, was born in Washington Township, Newton County at the homestead of his maternal grandparents, James M. and Sally (Johnson) Archibald on June 6, 1867, while his father was away to war. James Monroe Murphey, a Civil War veteran of Company A, Infantry, 128th Regiment, died when James Cary was about three years old, leaving his wife, Cary and two younger sisters. He subsequently lived with his

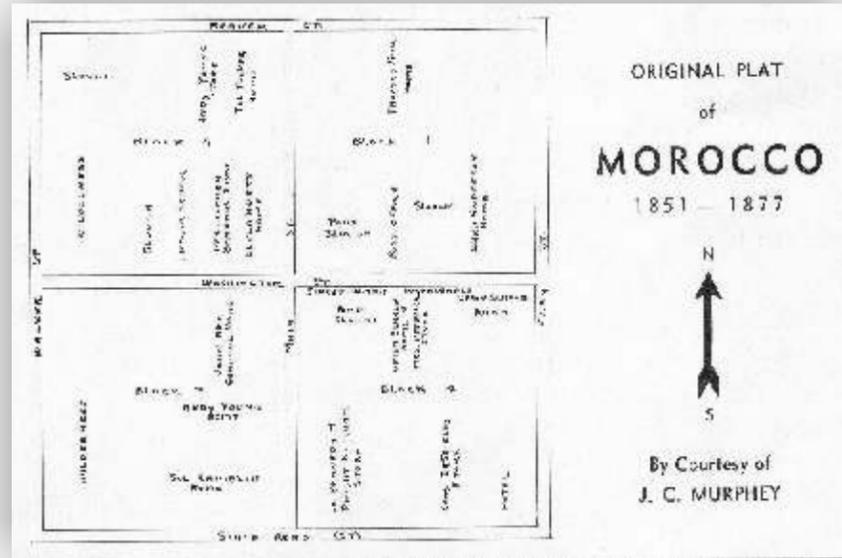
McCormick Archibald, was the son of Robert and Elizabeth (McCormick) Archibald and they too had lived near the famed Battleground in Tippecanoe County, prior to coming to Newton County.

His early religious training was at the renowned Antioch Church located in Washington Township just over the Beaver Township line, on the south side of the road. It was known for miles around for its spiritual values, its critical Bible study, and its high Christian standards, which set a tone of living and loyalty that remained with its members over the years of their lives. In one of J.C.'s most vivid childhood memories he recalled jumping from one floor joist to another as the Antioch Church building was being erected. Three services a Sunday were attended by the Archibalds and Johnsons- Sunday School, morning worship, and a church service in the evening. This church

building, as was customary with others of that day, such as Russell Chapel, Prairie Vine, and Mt. Zion, had the church sanctuary divided into two sections by a partition which ran the entire length of the church, each section had an outside door, one side being entered by the ladies and the other one by the men. The two resident ministers of the early years were Joseph P. Holloway and Dempsey McD. Johnson. Cary

joined church under the latter at the age of 11 years and was baptized south of the church in a pond in the Archibald pasture.

Cary's social life on Sundays was one of mingling with neighbors and relatives who had been invited after church to share the big dinner previously prepared in many hours of advance cooking by his grandmother. After services, grandfather and grandmother Archibald went down their respective sides of the church extending the wonderful hospitality of their home to others. By the time all were lined up there would be a procession of wagons, buggies, two-wheeled carts, and carriages all enroute to this well known country home. Some



Henry, Maria, Sig, Ralph, Bailey, Peter Nannenga, Bailey's spouse, John's wife Martha Swart.

with servants and financial well-being, marrying very young, crossing the ocean to a new life, and then adjusting to life as an early settler with its many hardships, giving birth to thirteen children, and watching two die as infant and toddler.

Three years after Maria's death, Jan (John) Boezeman Sr., died in his home on December 31, 1950 at the age of 86. John and Maria are buried at the Holland Cemetery in DeMotte, Indiana

**The Next Generation**

1. Roelf, died in infancy.
2. Roelf (Ralph) married Kathryn (Kate) Frieling. They have four children, Marie, Anna Jeanette, Ralph Jr., John Theodore.
3. Riensina Sebelina (Rose) married Joseph Robert Roush. They have five children. Edward (Bub), Marybelle, Florence, Helena, Josephine Ann.
4. Sebe (Sig) married Angie Langeland. They have five children. John Henry, Angeline Bethel, Malcolm, Sigmund (Sig), Albertus (Bert).
5. Albertus (Bert) married Gertrude Kleinpaster. They have two children, Albertus (Bert) and Clarence.
6. Ebelia (Bailey) Boezeman, died at age two.
7. Ebelia (Bailey) married Peter Nannenga. They have three children, George P., John, Jennie.
8. John Jr. married Martha Swart. They have one child, John Alden.
9. Mary L. married Albert Miles, no children
10. Henry (Hank) married Lyvah Clement, no children.
11. Teenie, married Ralph DeKock. They have five children. Henry (Hank), Ralph, John Arthur, Mary Elizabeth, Joseph Edward (Joe).
12. Jennie married Wesley (Roy) Stroup. They have two

children, Rose Marie and Sally Ann.

13. Peterina married Ira E. Mauer. They have one son, Howard.

*Editor's Note: a complete copy of this family history, with so much more detail, additional family photographs, and further information on current generations is on the shelves of the library in the NCHS Resource Center at Kentland, Indiana. ■*

**We are interested in your family history . . .**

Send us your family history for publication in our newsletter - we are seeking family histories from the entire county. Thank you! - The editor - beth@ffni.com ■

**Answers To Do You Know?** *By Janet Miller Questions on page 5*

1. Indiana Governor, Warren T. McCray, was born on a farm northeast of Brook. This property was owned by his father, Greenberry McCray. This farm is located at the corner of county road 750S and 300E. The cabin was on the south side of the road near the creek. The Herriman family farmed this farm for several generations. It was known as the Brook Farm.
2. The winners of the "Better Baby Contest" were Lloyd Molter and Betty Stombaugh Molter, who have lived in the Kentland area and raised seven children. They were recently honored by having their names added to the roster of the Kentland Hall of Fame. Both Lloyd and Betty have been outstanding workers in their community.
3. The two places in North America where the limestone lies vertically rather than horizontally are in the Grand Tetons of Wyoming and in Newton County, Indiana. For many years, these two sites have been studied by geologists from all over the world. The rare limestone deposit in the Grand Tetons was caused by a volcano and the one in Newton County by a meteor.
4. Bogus Island was the largest island located in Beaver Lake before it was drained. Other islands include Bingaman's Island, Eagles Nest Ridge Island, Cherry Island, and Bald Knob Island (later called Pole Grove Island). Can anyone tell us of any other named islands?
5. In March, 1860, Thomas Rogers Barker was appointed as organizing sheriff of the new county of Newton. His appointment was made by Indiana Governor Willard. He organized the first

election in the county held in April, 1860, at which time he resigned his post as organizing sheriff to become one of Newton County's first county commissioners. ■

**Do you know . . . where the old Morocco fire bell is located?**



Carrie Evelyn Linduska is the proud caretaker of this old bell, which was used for years in Morocco as the fire alarm, as well as the focus of many of the youth in early days for fun. It has a double hammer, and still rings true today. Town official John Calloway asked J.C. Murphey, Carrie Evelyn's father, upon dismantling it, if he wanted to preserve it, and he did, by placing it on her property.

She also has the cornerstone of the Toad Puddle School!

< V-Mail, from page 1 > Why not read this magazine later and write a V-mail now?"

The letters from Darlene's collection featured here are from her Uncle Lloyd Goddard, Uncle Ken Spurgeon and second cousin William Fred Schwanke. All three of these family members corresponded with Carl and Harriet (Goddard) Spurgeon, Darlene's parents. She has submitted the following family information as background to these letters.

My Uncle Lloyd Goddard was born January 15, 1921, the youngest of three children. He was the son of George Earl Goddard and Ethel Rosalie (Kessler) Goddard. Lloyd, his sister Harriet (born July 28, 1919) and brother Harvey (born October 26, 1917) were all born on the Kessler farm in Washington Township (6025 W 700S). They lived on the farm until Ethel's health began to fail and they moved to Morocco. Upon the death of their mother Ethel in 1930, Lloyd, Harriet and Harvey, were raised by their maternal grandparents William H. Kessler (son of John Luther Kessler and Sarah Ann Goddard) and Harriet (Hattie Triplett) Kessler. Hattie Kessler was the daughter of Dr. Charles Earl Triplett and Alice Pulver. William and Hattie had lived on this Washington Township farm also during the early part of their marriage.

Harriet married Carl Spurgeon and early in their marriage they moved to the Washington Township farm. They had five children (Carl Delos, Darlene, Sharon Kay, Donald and Debra); all the children attended Ade Grade School, four graduated from Morocco High School and Debra graduated from South Newton. Harriet inherited the Washington Township farm and lived there until her death on October 28, 2003. Her son Donald currently lives there.

Lloyd graduated from Morocco High School in May, 1940, and was employed by Bates and Rogers Construction Company at Kingsbury, IN, prior to entering the service. Lloyd married Evelyn Christenson of Lake Village on May 19, 1942. They had one son Lloyd George Goddard, born March 28, 1944 (Lloyd never saw his son). Evelyn later married Alan Sparks who adopted Lloyd George. Alan and Evelyn have resided in Kentland for many years.

Lloyd participated in the Normandy invasion and was killed in northern France on June 23, 1944. He was 23 years old when he died and was the first serviceman from Morocco to be killed in the invasion of France. Lloyd was an Army Private in Company K, 313th Infantry.

Evelyn states in a note to my mother Harriet, that Lloyd has heard from the draft board and will report at Kentland at 7:00 a.m., June 11, 1942. In July 1942, Pvt. Lloyd Goddard writes from Camp Pickett, Virginia. In September 1942, his address is Camp Blanding, Florida. In March 1943, Lloyd writes they are moving to Camp Forrest near Nashville, Tennessee. By November 1943 he writes from a base near Los Angeles, California, where they are conducting maneuvers and says they'll soon be moving to Camp Phillips, Kansas. Lloyd landed in England in April 1944 and his last letter postmarked June 5, 1944, is stamped "Passed by Army Examiner" and was mailed from England.



Lloyd Goddard



Evelyn and Lloyd George, age 2

## V-Mail Letters Transcribed

*Dated April 27, 1944. To Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spurgeon, Morocco, Indiana, from Lloyd Goddard. (on page 1.)*

Dear Kids, Well I guess you kids thought I would never write but we don't have much time to write anymore. It gets dark over here around 11:00 or 10:30. You should see the men on the street of the towns.

I go to town and spend around 50 cents of English money and would spend \$20 to \$25 of our money. You have a lot of fun on the 50 cents though.

How do you like my boy? Have you gone up to see him yet?

Well kids I hope everything is going O.K. on the farm by now.

Send me a box of cookies, candy and gum. We don't get much of those things here. Love Lloyd. *Outgoing postage stamp dated May 5, 1944, 7:38 p.m., cancelled stamp at Morocco Post Office dated June 26, 1944.*

*Dated May 5, 1944. To Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spurgeon, Morocco, Indiana, from Lloyd Goddard.*

Dear Kid, Its been some time since I wrote, so I thought I would write a V mail this time.

How are the babys making it? O.K. I hope. Evelyn says my boy is coming along fine. I sure wished I could have seen him. I will some day, but it will be almost a year I guess.

How are you coming on the farm? O.K. I hope. I can't think of much to write now.

Say what is dad's address now? I would like to write to him again.

I haven't heard from him for some time. I didn't write because I didn't know his address. Will write again soon. Love, Lloyd. *Postage cancellation date of May 12, 1944.*

*Dated February 22, 1945. To Mr. Carl Spurgeon from Kenneth R. Spurgeon.*

Dear Carl, Sis and all, Greetings and stuff!! I started to add how are things, but I daresay they are plenty topsy-turvey with you in the aftermath of moving.

Things are still going along for me. The first of March my advancement in rating became effective PLmc - a good morale booster as well as an up in pay. I can use the latter.

Yesterday I read "Doctor Kildare's Secret". You may have read some of the Dr. Kildare series or seen the movies. I rather like them.

I've been doing a bit of studying lately; as well as organizing and typing my notes from hospital corp school. Some of them seem awfully simple now, in the light of what I've learned about hospital work.

Well, take care of yourselves. This is the line on which I hang my close. Love, Ken. *Outgoing postage stamp dated March 9, 1945, 12 p.m.*



**Newton County Soldiers of World War I** - from page 18. These names were reprinted from *The History of Newton County, 1985*, any additions are welcome.

- |                       |                        |                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Moorman, Leroy        | Protsman, Roscoe E.    | Stanley, Robert         |
| Murphey, Dick         | Purdy, Emory           | Stevens, W .D.          |
| Murphey, Edward W.    | Purkey, Bayard         | Starnes, Kenneth        |
| Murphey, James        | Reagon, Charles Edward | Stoner, Alvin           |
| Neely, Glenn          | Richmire, George       | Swartz, Oliver          |
| Noreen, Alvin         | Ringer, John A.        | Wamsher, Harold         |
| Osborne, Clinton      | Ringer, Paul           | Wamsher, Russell        |
| Padgett, Harry        | Robinson, John         | Watkins, Joseph William |
| Padgett, William Ross | Russell, A.R.          | Watkins, Thomas         |
| Parrish, Elmer        | Russell, Vernon        | Watson, Thomas          |
| Parrish, Joe          | Sandberg, George       | Werner, Park            |
| Perkins, Percy        | Sandberg, Henry F.     | Wilkinson, George W.    |
| Platt, Harry G.       | Skinner, Alonzo        | Woods, Earl             |
| Pollock, Charles      | Skinner, Lloyd Elmer   | Woods, George E.        |
| Porter, Clare C.      | Smart, Boyd T.         | Yoder, Sylvannus        |
| Posey, George         | Smart, Elvin           | Zoborosky, Charles      |
| Potts, Earl           | Smart, John            | Zoborosky, George       |

## Newton County and World War I

John Yost contributed these photos by way of Velma Dart, who loaned them to him several years ago, they seemed to fit well with this edition of *The Newcomer*.

Velma's mother took these pictures of a World War I convoy coming through Newton County. It is thought to be along what is now known as Highway 55.



**The World War I Uniform**

This is Mount Miller, who did not serve from our county in WWI, but did serve as a Newton County Commissioner from 1950 to 1962, District 2 - Lake, Lincoln, McClellan and Colfax townships. Mount was the father of Devon "Skeet" Miller, the editor's brother-in-law.

# NCHS News and Reports

## Family Histories - The Smallest Incident Can Be Significant Fifty Years From Now

The Newton County Historical Society would like to stress the importance of keeping your family history. Even the smallest incident can be of great significance fifty years from now. If your family has lived in Newton County, it is very important for you to make sure the older generation is writing down information about how they lived their lives, where, when, occupation, who and how they came to Newton County. Keeping archives of information from the past by individual families helps the society to know how each family added collectively to the county's history. If this information is never gathered during the different time periods, then it is almost impossible to answer questions from relatives later on.

The Society has numerous queries each year from people all over the United States trying to find any information the Society might have concerning their ancestors who lived in Newton County. It is a big disappointment to the Society and to the distant relatives who are visiting the county from Arizona, Georgia, etc and can find no information. If you are wanting to start a genealogy on your family and not quite sure how to start, there are several members in the Newton County Historical Society who would love to assist you in getting started gathering information.

At the present time, the Society is seeking information about the log cabin presently located on 400 West/ak/a Blann Road, Morocco. No one seems to know what family built and lived in this log cabin. The Society would like to have any information concerning the grounds and the cabin. In the very near future, the county will be moving the cabin to the grounds of the future Newton County Government Center and the cabin will then be restored for everyone to enjoy. - Sue Humphrey, President. ■

## Welcome to Newton County Indiana GenWeb Project



www.rootsweb.com/~innewton

## Family History Division Continues to Support the Publication of all Newton County History

The monthly meetings held at the Resource Center in Kentland produce lively conversation regarding the people, places and things in Newton County. The republication of John Ade's book, Newton County, 1853-1911, as well as a compilation of the Newton County Enterprise articles regarding the consolidation of Newton County Schools for publication was the main topic of discussion at the most recent meeting held in July.

Progress reports on local history writing were given by those attending involved in the projects. Kyle Conrad on the Brook-Iroquois Township Sesquicentennial Collection, Gerald Born, Roselawn, Thayer, Shelby, and surrounding towns, Donna LaCrosse on the Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Township. Great progress is being made in each area, and along with the general society, we urge county residents to turn in their family histories, as well as contribute any photographs and articles they may have pertaining to these areas. The goal of the Family History Division and the general society is to preserve Newton County history, and we are anxiously awaiting the final products, due beginning in 2006 for distribution.

Contact Gerald Born at 219-285-2715, P.O. Box 315, Morocco, Indiana 47963 for the Roselawn area book; the Brook-Iroquois Township Library, 219-275-2471, 100 W. Main Street, Brook, Indiana; Donna LaCrosse, 219-285-2861, P.O. Box 86, Morocco, Indiana 47963.

Did you pick up your yardstick at the Newton County Fair? Congratulations to the Publicity Committee of the NCHS for once again sponsoring the booth and spreading the word on the society. Great job everyone! ■

### Kathy Gray and Family, Newton County Web Site Researchers, Visit Newton County in May, 2004



In the Winter 2004 edition, the Gray family of Grant Township was featured in Focus on Families. Posing for a picture, from right to left are Kathy, from Tiburon, CA, along with her cousins, Jack and Bernie House of Coon Rapids, Michigan. They visited our county to and the tombstones of their Gray ancestors in the Goodland Cemetery.

They walked the cemetery and took photographs for their genealogical records, and visited with me at Dear Junction at Kentland. Kathy gave me a copy of Daniel Gray's will to add to our family files at the NCHS Resource Center. Her search continues.

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with Kathy and her cousins after working with her via the internet on her family history. ■

# People, Places & Things

John Murphey and John Carey Murphey

The land from Beaver Lake south to the Iroquois River was known as Beaver Prairie to distinguish it from Grand Prairie, which extended from Iroquois to Lafayette. Settlers were slow in coming to the prairies, exposed as they were to wind and prairie fires. Roads were often as impassable as in the forested areas. The whole vast region was covered with blue stem or joint-grass, which made the prairie resemble a vast expanse of sea.

Timber was scarce, so scarce that each timbered area and grove bore a name that served as a landmark to travelers seeking out their homes. Beaver timber, the area around Morocco, North timber, south of Morocco, and River timber along the Iroquois converged in a point west of Rensselaer.

It was along the edge of the timber that the first settlers built their cabins. Most of them had come from forest areas and they felt more secure in that environment. Then, too, there was the many advantages of wood for homes and fences.

It was in 1838 that John Murphey, a pioneer from Virginia, came to Beaver timber. He was the first white settler in what is now Beaver Township, and the cabin which he built a few yards west of the old telephone office, was for a time the only one. His nearest neighbors were twelve families, which had settled along the Iroquois River between 1831 and 1836. John Lyons, Job Hunt, Frederick Kenoyer, John Myers and a few others. The rest of the county was unbroken solitude. Jasper County, of which Newton was a part, had not been open to white settlers before 1832.

He brought with him his wife Jane (Donnells) of Piqua Ohio, and seven children: Lavina, James, Nancy, Andrew, John, Jane and William. He was born in Virginia in 1798, and migrated west through Ohio where he lived a few years, where he met his wife. In 1825, he settled on the west bank of the Tippecanoe River (presently Lafayette), which was then wilderness.

The first time he went to Chicago, it was in June, 1822, when he assisted in driving cattle from Ohio to Green Bay, for the United States garrison located there. It took two months and two days to make the trip. From Piqua, Ohio, to Green Bay, was an unbroken wilderness, except a small

settlement at Ft. Wayne and the garrison at Chicago.

Just after the town of Lafayette was laid out, Taylor and Linton opened a store there, and Mr. Murphey engaged to take an oxen team and find a road to Chicago for them, by which goods could be brought at less expense than to haul them from the east. In company, with two other teams, he proceeded through Parish Grove, to Bunkum, Illinois, and then to West French trading post about a mile up the Iroquois River, on the north side. From this point, he had to make his own road, there being no trace to

Chicago. Chicago had increased since his first visit to some twenty-give dwellings, but land was still very cheap. Mr. Murphey was offered lots, near where the Tribune building stands, at \$10 each, the payment to be made in potatoes or oats at 50 cents per bushel. Murphey was subsequently joined on the Beaver Creek by James Elijah, John Darroch, David Kessler, Daniel Deardurff, Benjamin Roadruck, Silas Johnson, John Deardurff, Samuel Bridgeman, and David Pulver. John Deardurff came to Beaver Township in 1844. At that time there were only two cabins in what is now Morocco, the one built by Mr. Murphey and another on the site of what was known as the old Mashino place.

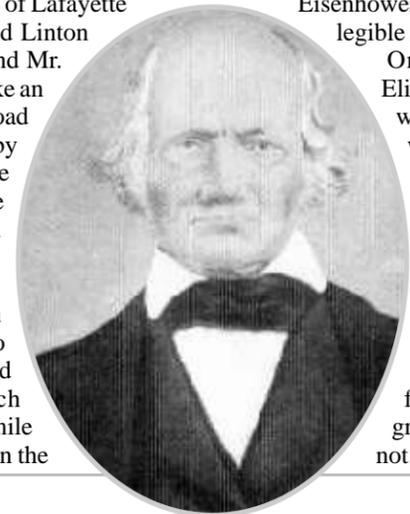
Mr. Murphey preempted one hundred sixty acres of land and was granted a patent to it from the United States government in 1839.

In 1844, John Murphey and Ephraim Bridgeman were concerned because both of their wives were seriously ill and there was no burial place available. John donated the land for a cemetery from his land in the summer of 1844. Shortly thereafter, a young Indian boy died and was buried there, his grave being covered with stones and sticks to protect it from the many wild animals in the wooded area at that time.

Also known as the Morocco or West Cemetery, it is located on the southwest

corner of present day Morocco (2004), bordered by West Street, Halleck Street and Eisenhower Avenue. The oldest legible stone is dated 1844.

On August 14, 1844, Elizabeth Bridgeman, the wife of Ephraim, died and was buried in the cemetery. Then on August 29, 1844, John's wife Jane, age 43, died and was buried near Mrs. Bridgeman. Their graves were well marked, but by the following spring, the grave of the Indian could not be found. In 1877, the



John Murphey, founder of Morocco

property was deeded to the Trustees of Morocco. The

cemetery is currently in use.

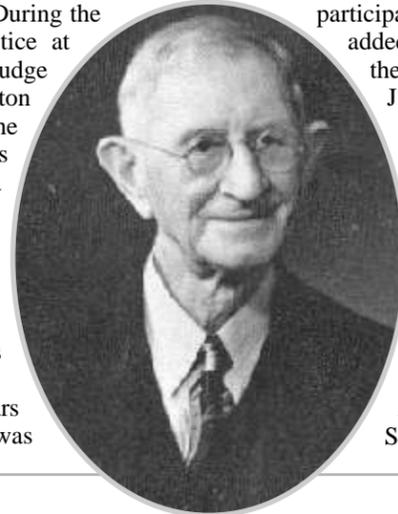
On January 28, 1851, John Murphey platted four blocks from his land, which was to become the original plat of the town of Morocco. The story of how Morocco got its name from the red leather topped Moroccan boots has been passed down through the years beginning with the David Pulver family to present day.

The original plat consisting of four blocks, lay between Beaver Street on the north and State Street on the south; Walker Street on the West and Clay Street on the east. It was in this area that the pioneer business places were located.

Cemetery records indicate that John died on September 1, 1871, at the age of 77 years, 5 months and 11 days.

Many of John and Jane's children stayed in Morocco, and many descendants are here and far away. Here is information that I was able to obtain on their seven children. Lavina, (b. August 22, 1816, d. March 10, 1887), wed Samuel Bridgeman, (b. September 8, 1816, d. Feb. 18, 1890); James, (b. Jan. 30, 1819, d. Oct 27, 1874), married Elizabeth Hall (b. 1821, d. Sept 12, 1851), in 1839; Nancy married Jessie Dollarhide in 1836, and left Morocco in 1855, finally settling in Oregon; Andrew, who was a Civil War soldier buried on a southern battlefield, wed the widow Nancy (Deardurff) Goddard < to page 8 >

< from page 9 > in the Circuit and Probate Courts of Indiana until he retired Friday, November 1, 1957 at the age of 90 years. In his own matter of fact way he stated, "Due to old age, I disposed of my law office and quit voluntarily." Attorney Murphey was well known for his directness, his reasoning ability, honesty and masterful quiet pleading to the jury. During the last 8 years of practice at times he served as Judge Pro-tem of the Newton Circuit Court, when the acting judge was absent. He was a highly esteemed figure in the area. In later years he moved his office into the former locker plant, just west of People's Drug Store.



John C. Murphey

For many years his office secretary was his most capable daughter, Carrie Evelyn (Murphey) Linduska, who entered the field after a course of Business Law at Indiana University. She continued with some aspects of the business after her father's retirement.

In regards to military service, J.C. answered a call for volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898, but he was not taken for service at that time as he had a family of children.

The Sons of Veterans was organized after the Civil War and J.C. was elected captain of Camp McKinzie, No. 128, which automatically made him master of the Firing Squad and Drill Corps, which officiated at the burials of Civil War veterans. He was proud to display the blue wool hat patterned after the visor cap of that was and the authentic long steel sword used in the SV's drill work. These mementoes are now in the possession of his grandson, James E. Swanson, son of Gertrude (Murphey) Swanson Howell, in California.

J.C. will long be remembered for his conservation work. For years he maintained a cabin and motor boat on Frenchman's Sluice, a branch of the Kankakee River, near Honey Suckle Island on which a cabin was built (now located near Sumava Resorts). Many guests shared its pleasures including a camping ground for the Camp Fire Girls under the leadership of Sarah (Archibald) Roadruck. Numerous family picnics were

held there with long tables of tempting food. The camp was named "Caw-Caw" by his then tiny tot, Carrie Evelyn. At another period several hundred people attended a Fourth of July celebration there. The camp was of the well known hunter, naturalist, and narrator of early tales of the Kankakee River, Ned Barker, was adjoining, his participation in all the activities added much color and interest to the affairs. It was here that J.C.'s concern for the preservation of wildlife was nurtured. Surely conservation was a topic of conversation with his friend, Ned Barker.

Consequently, he worked for years with federal agencies in the founding of the Willow Slough Fish and Game Area and later with the State Conservation Department of Indiana in clearing title to the lands that were later to become the park. He worked at

all levels of conservation. He headed the Newton County Conservation Clubs for several years and became a commissioned conservation officer (game warden) with full uniform of that office. Due to his interest and efforts the Indiana Department of Conservation with the aid of federal funds purchased about 3,000 acres of mostly waste land about 4 miles northwest of Morocco upon which a lake of 1,700 acres was created. As a tribute to him and his interest in conservation, the lake bears his name, "J.C. Murphey Lake."

He was a member of the Morocco Gun Club and the Beaver Township Conservation Club. He published conservation articles and was the subject of published articles in conservation magazines and newspapers. The achievement of which he was most proud was his work for the church. In his own words, "but of all my life's efforts, I applied my best in creating a Christina Church in Morocco, which I served as a recorder several years and now adds to my credit." His interest in church affairs started early. In his teenage, he saw the need of a religious center at Toad Puddle (Bower School) so suggested to William D. Archibald, then school teacher, that when the school closed for the season that a Sunday School be

started there, such plan was carried out during the summer months. Will Archibald served as superintendent and Julia Murphey, secretary. When Will went to Terre Haute College, Cary Murphey took over the leadership and his sister continued as secretary. About this time, they told Dempsey Johnson of their success and thought the field was open to start a Christian Church at Morocco. Johnson considered this and contacted Evangelist William Craft, of Chicago, who came to Morocco and held meetings for two weeks in the Methodist Church, through their courtesy. When the Methodists started their own revival service, this nucleus of Christians was permitted by Dempsey Johnson to move to the High School Building, where the meetings continued for another two weeks. Converts totaling sixty were baptized by Preacher Craft in Beaver Creek at Thomas Bridge in the dead of cold winter, the ice being chopped to free the running water. The Sam Thomas home up the sand road was opened freely to them to be used as dressing rooms after the baptizing. No ill health effects were ever felt afterwards.

The following summer the Christian Church was built, a white painted frame structure with gothic type windows. A belfry, with a clear toned bell was built over the entry hall. The baptistry was placed under the church rostrum. At the time Cary's membership was transferred from the Antioch Church to the Morocco Christian Church. In this church he taught the young ladies class, some of whom were, Laura, Carrie and Clara Brown, Ethel, Maude and Fannie Smart, and Emma Ketcham. From the choir loft could be heard his deep bass, having a true ear for musical tones. When a new brick church was built on the site of the old, the former structure was turned around and added to the new one for Sunday School rooms and a place for the young people's activities. In the new church he served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member, clerk of the church board and a deacon, also filling in any place needed. For many years, he was the oldest member of this church. He also played the pump organ by sound and notes and for several years his family would gather at home and sing hymns in the evening. J.C. was an integral part of the community. He was township assessor, and the attorney for the town of Morocco, he had his Notary Public Commission and many documents bear his seal. He was a charter member of the Independent Order of < to page 11 >

to a farmer who took them to the depot, and they boarded a train. Little Ebelia, two or three years old, must have died just before they moved from Minnesota. They left Minnesota in 1896.

**Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1896-1901/1902**

When the family arrived in Kalamazoo, they saw some children on bicycles. They were shown a paper, and drove away. The family sat there somewhat bewildered, but the children must have gone for help, because it wasn't long before a little short, fat, white horse and a wagon with wheels in front and one little wheel in back appeared.

The man asked, "Jan, how much money do you have there?"

"I got 65 cents, and my wife and four kids," replied Jan.

"You don't need that 65 cents. Let's get us a drink". So they did. The man then took them home, maybe 2 1/2 or 3 miles from town. The Boezemans stayed for dinner. They were served a bountiful meal, and Ralph recalled that they ate like hogs, and stated that they were starved, all they ate in Minnesota were beans and water.

They were taken to a house, and when they opened the door, the stove was burning and the beds were made. There was flour, potatoes, dishes, pots, pans, chairs, everything! "Help yourself Jan", the man stated.

"I can't pay for this" Jan explained. The friends' reply, "I didn't ask for any money, did I? You live here with your family for a while."

It was mentioned that the Boezeman family did repay them later when they had the money.

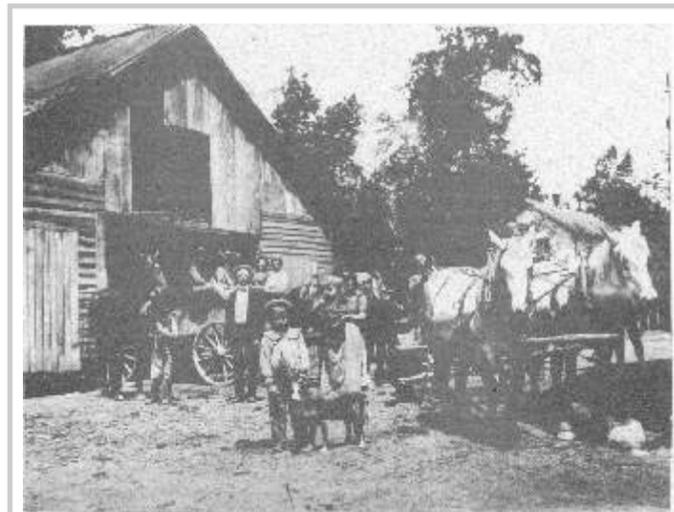
Eventually, the family moved to the country, and Rose and Ralph went to school. Ralph's eyes became bad. The eye doctor told him, "Quit looking in those books! Then the eyes will straighten out". So, he quit school and went to work in town earning \$2.50 a week. They raised sugar beets and cabbage on the farm. Some family members worked in the sugar beet factory near the river. Jan earned \$1.25 an hour on the line. They made white and brown sugar, and molasses.

It was in Kalamazoo that the family first used the "Bushman" name. The story is that Jan worked in a factory that made



Maria and John Boezeman

wagon wheels. When the timekeeper come along, he asked his name, and Jan told them Boezeman (Booze-e-man) n Dutch you see. And they just made it "Bushman". Jan thought, what's the difference, just so I get



The John Boezeman family in Ft. Wayne, Indiana

my check. The name caught on because it was easier to say.

**Iowa 1896 or 1901-1902**

At sometime, the family spent time in Iowa. Henry mentions it before Minnesota, Ralph after Kalamazoo. Five years the

family lived in Kalamazoo, the longest stay in one place for the Boezeman family. The 1900 census records identify the family as follows, John and Mary Bushman living at 1600 N. Edwards St. in Kalamazoo. By now the American spelling had taken place of the traditional family spelling of their names.

On December 20, 1900, Ebelia was born, and nicknamed Bailey. It was a Dutch custom to name the next child of the same sex after the deceased child. For the first two boys and two girl, it was considered necessary to name them after the grandparents. Thus we have two Roelfs and two Ebelias, which cover the names of the grandparents.

**Ft. Wayne 1902-1903**

The family moved to a farm west of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where they apparently worked in exchange for wages and some of their food. The family earned \$375 a year, meat and chickens. The owners had seven cows, and they had all the milk and butter Maria could make.

On November 4, 1902, John Jr. was born. The older children now ranged in ages sixteen years to eight years old, baby Ebelia turning two in December. Maria was only 32 and Jan 38. While in Ft. Wayne, Ralph became sick again, and couldn't walk. Jan took him to a tent revival service. Ralph declared that the faith healer had put his hand on him and he got up and walked.

The farm had been sold to new owners. Letters continued to come from Thayer encouraging them to return. So, the family moved again, returning to the first American residence, Thayer, Indiana.

**Thayer, Indiana Keener Township, Jasper County, 1903-February 1907**

In 1903, the family returned to Thayer. They stayed overnight on the other side of Wheatfield at Knox. Ralph and Jan slept in the depot; the family slept in a hotel. No sooner had they returned to Thayer, a letter arrived from Ft. Wayne, asking the family to return to the farm.

But this time Maria put her foot down and stated "No, I've traveled enough". So the family stayed in Thayer.

The same George Cole who had picked them up the first time in Thayer, moved them back to the < to page 16 >

# Focus On Families



Roelf and Ebelia (Swierenga) Boezeman

This is a story of the immigrant couple Jan (John) and Maria Boezeman and their children, born here and in the Netherlands. It is written based on the available information found in vital records, ship records, and memories recalled by the couple's children and grandchildren, many times using their same words for accuracy.

A copy of this family history, written in December of 1996, "The Boezeman Family: The Story of Jan and Maria Boezeman", was a joint venture of two descendants, Angeline (Boezeman) Reagan and Judith Kay (Swierenga) Hoffman. There are many additional photographs and genealogical information in this family history that is not included in this article.

Sig Boezeman, and his wife Rhoda (Unzicker) of Roselawn, Indiana, donated a copy of this family history to the NCHS Resource Center, and with their permission, their family history is submitted here for your enjoyment. John and Maria are Sig's grandparents.

### The Boezeman Ancestry

Jan Roelfs Boezeman was born January 24, 1817, in Slochteren, Groningen, Netherlands to Roelf Jans Boezeman and Pieterke Jurjens Schuitema. He died April 15, 1898 in Slochteren, where he was a farmer and a member of the "Nederland Hervormde Church". His number (86) was pulled in the lottery for service in the national military, but he never had to serve. On June 23, 1842, he married Frouke Klaassens Rustius. They were divorced November 19, 1864. After his divorce, Jan never remarried, his death certificate states that he was the divorced husband of Frouke. She remarried at the age of 41 to Jakob Watjes, a land developer, realtor. Jan Roelf was living with his son, Roelf and his wife Ebelia in the 1880 census, with his



Family photo about 1901-02 based on Ebelia's age. Seated: Maria holding Ebelia, and John Boezeman. Standing left to right, Albertus, Rose, Ralph, Sig.

occupation listed as a farmer (landbouwer). Roelf Boezeman, the only child of Jan and Frouke, was born November 18, 1844

## The Story of John and Maria (Mary) Boezeman

By Beth Bassett



Ebelia (Swierenga) Boezeman

in Scharmer, Slochteren, Groningen, Netherlands. He died on February 19, 1914 at the age of 69 where he was born. On May 30, 1861, he married Ebelia (Swierenga), born September 3, 1845 in Stedum, Groningen, Netherlands to Barteld Hendricks Swierenga and Jantje Klaassens Zarkema. She died about 1929 at the age of 84.

Because Roelf and Ebelia were both under age when they decided to marry, they had to be given special dispensation from Willem II, King of the Netherlands. Roelf was only 16 and Ebelia only 15 when they received their dispensation to marry on April 9, 1861. On May 30, 1861 they were married.

Roelf and Ebelia had five children. They were all born in Schildwolda,

Slochteren, Groningen, Netherlands. The entire family belonged to the "Nederland Hervormde" Church, the reformed church,



Peterina (Boezeman) and Hendrick Hooties

the State church in the Netherlands at that time. The family moved to Smilde, Netherlands on April 5, 1890. Family memories recall that they made their money through vegetable farming.

Jan (John), born September 5, 1863, died December 31, 1949 at his home in Keener Township, Jasper County, Indiana. He married Maria Hooites on June 26, 1886 who was born on June 26, 1870, died August 27, 1947 in DeMotte, Indiana.

Maria (Hooties) Boezeman's family was well-off financially and they had servants in the Netherlands. John Boezeman Sr. was a circus clown in the Netherlands, and after they immigrated here, they had nothing.

Pieterina, born May 3, 1886, married Hendrick (Hank) Hooites on May 1, 1884. They had no children. Jantje (Jennie), born October 16, 1868, died October 28, 1949,



Rose (Boezeman) and Joseph Roush

married Harm (Herman) Jager; Albertus (Bertus), born April 16, 1872, married Trintje (Teenie) Noorman about April 18, 1895. Bertus was a farmer, later a commission agent in straw; Johan Hendrick, born April 21, 1886, died April 21, 1886.

The ancestor families of both Roelf

and Ebelia were fairly wealthy landowner farm people, and usually chose similar spouses. The wealthy families were very heavily taxed to support Napoleons' war effort in the late 1700's and early 1800's, and most lost their wealth by the early 1800's. The ancestor families of Roelf and Ebelia hung on to their fortunes longer than most. Six generations of ancestors of Roelf, and seven of Ebelia are also listed in the book. This compilation will focus on the first generation to immigrant to America, Jan (John) and Maria (Hooites) Boezeman.

Jan and Maria were married the day after her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in Slochteren,



Maria (Hooties) and John Boezeman

Groningen, the Netherlands. Jan was 22 years old. Their first child, Roelf, named after Jan's father, as dictated by local naming customs, was born less than four months later. Roelf died five months later on March 5, 1887. Six months later, she gave birth to another son, again named Roelf, according to Dutch naming customs.

Their new son was a sickly child. He needed frequent medical attention, and his parents took him to one doctor and than another. One of the doctors examining Roelf declared "America is the best place for this boy". Anna, Roelf's daughter recalled family tradition that when they left one of the doctor's offices, their horses were spooked by the doctor's dog and ran, resulting in Jan, Maria and little Roelf, horses and carriage sinking in the water of



Albertus and Trijnte (Noorman) Boezeman

the canal. Jan saw a pair of little red socks and grabbed onto them, saving Roelf's life. During this time (approx. 1888), the family was receiving letters from former neighbors, Annie and Geerit (Geert) DeVries, (Anna's first husband), who had moved to Thayer, Indiana. Annie was the mother of Harry Van Weenen. The DeVries' had found conditions crowded in the Netherlands, and kept writing about the open spaces where they lived in Indiana.

Meanwhile, the family kept growing, one child about every two years. Sister Riensina (Rose) was born on October 7, 1889, brother Sebe (Sigmund) born on November 6, 1891, and brother Albertus (Bert) on July 1, 1893.

When Albertus was two years old, the family followed the doctor's advice and bought one-way tickets to America. They left the port of Amsterdam on October 12, 1895, on the ship S.S. Rotterdam, of the Holland America Line, #1485, headed for Chicago, Illinois.

Anna remembers her dad, Roelf, (Ralph) telling the family that the voyage took them nine days to cross the ocean in a three hundred foot boat. The sea was very rough. October was part of hurricane season. Everyone was sea sick except Ralph. He threw his medicine overboard. Ralph said that as they were crossing the ocean, the boat would zig-zag to get away from the big 50 foot shark whales. I suppose the captain and crew were concerned the



Jennie (Boezeman) and Harm Jager

< to page 14 >

<from page 13 > whales could capsize the 300 foot boat. Ralph said the boat would roll so much the potatoes would roll on the deck. What excitement for an eight-year old boy!

As the small ship approached New York Harbor, the passengers could see the Statue of Liberty, with her arms outstretched reaching out to all those immigrants. The ship entered the port of New York on October 25, 1895. Ellis Island, Ralph said it was like herding cattle in pens. The women and children would go in one pen, and the men in another. No one could speak English. This must have been an overwhelming experience for the young couple trying to keep track of their four young children.

After the immigration paperwork, the family finally boarded a train for Chicago, to go to the house of Jan Boezeman's uncle, Jan Swierenga, in Englewood. Probably because Jan (John)



Kate (Frieling) and Ralph Boezeman

had no idea about the immense size of America, he thought he was already in Chicago when he threw his boots out the window at the Buffalo, New York, stop. The John Boezeman family is listed on the American Immigrant Wall of Honor located at Ellis Island, New York.

Ralph continues the story. The family was put on a streetcar in Englewood that was pulled by a horse. They were dropped off, but seemed unsure of where they were. Jan saw three boys on the street, walked over to them, and began speaking Dutch, hoping they could understand. As luck would have it, they could. One boy said "Ja, I know that Swierenga. They are right here in the church- the Christian Reformed Church. I will get them".



Mary (Boezeman) Miles



Sig (Sebe) and Bert (Albertus) on the porch.

So the family stayed in Englewood overnight. They next morning, the Boezemans were put on a train. It was due in Roselawn, Indiana at 10:30, but there seemed to be some confusion, and they got off at Shelby. There the family stood again with their big boxes, and they still couldn't speak English.

**Thayer, Indiana  
November, 1895-March, 1896**

A man apparently noticed their predicament, and old George Cole took them to Thayer. There, old Andrew DeVries was building a house. Here was a barn and one family lived in part of it, and so did they. If the 1895 birth date of the new baby girl, Ebelia is correct, Maria would have been pregnant during her trip across the ocean.

Ralph remembers having to help provide for the family. He was an only child, but he carried a lard pail until he

walked to a big hill. He kept looking back toward home as far as his eyes would let him. Where this story took place is unknown. It may have been in the homeland, or here in the states, however, it must have been early,

because he was already 8 years old when he arrived in America and had three siblings.

**Sandstone, MN**

**March 1896-February 1897**

Early March, 1897, a land company advertised land for sale for development in

Minnesota. Some neighbors suggested that Jan give it a try. At least one other Dutch couple also made the decision to go. The town was Sandstone, Minnesota.

It was a bitter experience for all of them. The two families, thirteen of them, arrived in the spring. There was still snow. The community had no depot, only a little store. There was a big barn with a pile of coal. Jan and another man had to stay up at night to keep the stove going. Through the roof they could see the stars at night. The pine trees cracked with the cold, which was unbelievable to this group.

The family was supposed to go to a farm, but they couldn't get there. They lived in a chicken house or great big old shed with two families, by a big lake. Eventually, they made it to the farm, and each family bought a piece of land there. They needed to fix the house, dig a hole and get water. They cut logs out of the pine woods to fix the house. Maria had her wooden shoes on, and the rest wore their old shoes, with sacks fastened with binder twine.

Jan sawed the logs. They purchased a pony from a neighboring Indian Reservation for ten dollars, with no harness. They made a breast strap from a gunny sack, used tow lines for tugs, took a piece of wire and made rings on the end, put a rope around the pony's head, cut a piece of wood from a single tree, and thus they carried the logs. The cabin had an upstairs, where they kept the chickens. Jan also skinned hides for a living, and they ate navy beans, and navy beans, and navy beans!

The family lived in Minnesota for eleven months, including one entire winter. One day, Jan wrote a letter to a friend who lived in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The friend wrote back, and said "Come over here."

Jan did not know how that could happen, he didn't have a house or anything in Kalamazoo. Apparently, Jan must have gone first, because Ralph mentions that Jan left enough money for Maria and the four children, Ralph, Sig, Bert and Rose. Ralph also mentions that John sold all of the furniture, and he always kept \$5.00 in emergency money in case something happened. Maria sold her brooch and rings, giving the money and the emergency \$5.00

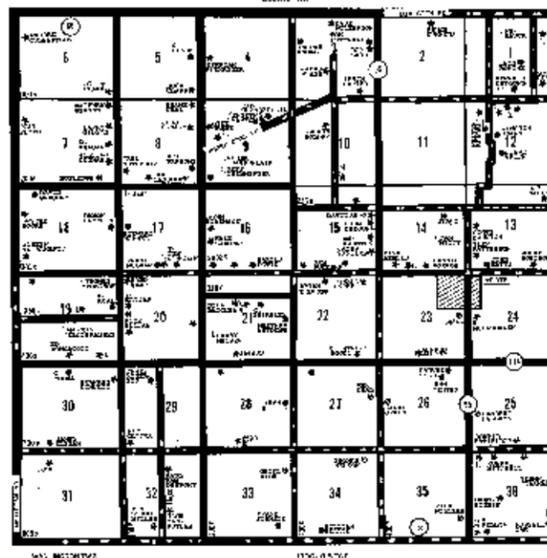


Lyvah (Clement) and Henry Boezeman

# Landowners-Jackson Twp. 1904

**Township 29 North, Range 8 West**

**Section 1:** David W. Mauck, Kitz (?) & Prochaska, John Romine, John H. Guildenzoph, Cynthia Yeager, John Barton, L. L. Herre, Sidney Stewart, G. B. Stewart. Isaac Stucker; **Section 2:** Amelia Guildenzoph, Ida Guildenzoph, Mattie Guildenzoph, Ransom Elijah, Alex Elijah, John Barton, Deborah Barton; **Section 3:** Ransom Elijah, Chas. A. Elijah, John Barton, Simon D. Hochstetler, Church (no name), Cemetery (no name), Jas. Clements, School #1 (no name), Sarah A. Shriver und Noah E. Shriver, J. G. & L. F. Carter; **Section 4:** D. & D. Hochstetler, William A. Lyons, F. M. Makeever, Acpheus H. Deardurff, Danl. Protsman, Jasper Makeever, Daniel Miller, Geo. W. Deardurff; **Section 5:** Ridgeway W. Coats; **Section 6:** Thomas F. Gaff, etal. **Section 7:** Thomas F. Gaff etal, Alven Bell, Charles Bell, Chas. W. Kennedy; **Section 8:** Mary E. Spittler, W. L. Robinson, M. G. & T. R. Barker; **Section 9:** F. M. Makeever, Jasper Makeever, Saml. C. Baker, Jos. Brunton, Virginia E. Lyons, David B. Miller, Edward Burns, John Burns; **Section 10:** J. G. & L. F. Carter, Benj. S. Miller, Sarah A. Shriver, John Barton, Newton Lyons, F. M. Makeever, Sarah Esson, Noah E. Shriver; **Section 11:** F. M. Yeager, Elizth. Brandan, E. F. Wright, Alex Elijah, Cath. Yeager, Christian Swartz, Chas. Shriver, Alex. Lardner, Joseph Miller, Danl. V. Yoder, Abram & Edwin H. Long; **Section 12:** Micah B. Halstead, Daniel W. Mauck, J. W. Mal---y(?), E. B. Stewart, Jasper (?), School #3 (no name), Christian Swartz, Edwin Harris, Abram & Edwin H. Long. **Section 13:** Micah B. Halstead, Cemetery (no name), Nancy M. Harris, Edwin Harris, Charles C. Clark, W. W. Miller, W. H. C., Clinton Stucker, A. D. & M. Washburn; **Section 14:** Danl. V. Yoder, Joseph Miller, J. T. Blankenbaker, Magdalena Miller, Danl. Helmuth, Benj. D. Miller, Jane Crisler, Alex Lardner, James O. Haskell, Lina Haskell, Wm. A. Crisler, W. W. Miller, Addie Miller; **Section 15:** Benj. D. Miller, John Burns, Danl. Helmuth, Virginia E. Lyons, Levi H. Durst, Phillip Brown, School #5 (no name), Marg. Brown, Mary J. Brown, Lewis Shriver, James Haskell; **Section 16:** Virginia E. Lyons, Mary E. Spittler, Levi H. Durst, M. G. & T. R. Barker, Gallagher Barker, A. L. Barker, Henry O. Harris, Ephriam Brown, Phillip Brown; **Section 17:** William Barker, L. G. Barker, William F. Herron, Charles W. Kennedy, Geo. W. Clark, Danl. B. Miller, Malinda S. Saylor; **Section 18:** Marian Maus, Jennie M. Brooks, Orrin Elijah, John Zoborosky, Geo. Zoborosky, Charles W. Kennedy. **Section 19:** Mary M. Wright, School #2 (no name) Daniel Unzicker, Frederick Jessen, Joseph G. Wright, M. B. Carpenter, Sylvena Carpenter, Cyrus Brunton; **Section 20:** Josephine R. Deardurff, Geo. W. Clark, Charles W. Kennedy, Frank Elijah, Wm. Parker, Ida Lawrence, George W. Deardurff, George H. Baldwin Est.; **Section 21:** Jacob Schanlaub, Henry O. Harris,



Phillip Brown, Geo. W. Clark, James P. Baldwin, Jos. Schanlaub, David B. Miller, Benj. D. Miller; **Section 22:** John H. Hayner, Geo. W. Schanlaub, John Esson, Jacob Schanlaub, George Turner, John Esson; **Section 23:** Town of Mt Ayr, Joseph Brunton, Foster B. Brunton, Phillip Stucker, John W. Brown; **Section 24:** Henry O. Harris, F. H. Slankan (?), Bertha Blankenbaker, Sarah Blankenbaker. **Section 25:** Henry O. Harris, Joseph Yeoman, T. M. Saunderson, J. H. & A. Yeoman; **Section 26:** Charles V. Bjorkland,

F. W. Ham, George Johnson, John B. & O. M. Lyons; **Section 27:** George Johnson, Charles V. Bjorkland, George Battleday, Eliz. Schanlaub, Charles Battleday, Amy & J. Protzman, Hayes W. Young, Noah G. Yoder; **Section 28:** George W. Schanlaub, Stephen A. Elijah, James P. Baldwin, Henry Brunton, G. H. Baldwin Est., George Brunton, Chas. Bjorkland, Henry S. Yoder, School #7 (no name); **Section 29:** Henry Brunton, Oliver Doctor, Alonzo Decker, Geo. W. Clark, John Kennedy, George Brunton; **Section 30:** George Agate, John Kennedy, M. B. Carpenter, Arlina Brady, Ida Lawrence, Job English, School #6 (no name). **Section 31:** John Kennedy, Job English, Willis A. Gridley, H. N. Ingersoll, John Esson; **Section 32:** Eunice Park, William H. Weston, George Brunton; **Section 33:** Church

(no name), William H. Lee, Chas. Bjorkland, Emma J. Brunton, George Brunton, Charles V. Bjorkland, John F. Nichols Est., James P. Ricker, T. J. & H. C. Proudy; **Section 34:** Charles V. Bjorkland, Chas. V. & Rhoda Bjorkland, William H. Lee, Ellen Battleday, George Battleday, Henry Wortley, George Agate; **Section 35:** G. Wood, King Chamberlain, John A. Ulyat, Charles V. Bjorkland, George Agate, Charles S. Baker, Jennie(?) C. Snide(?); **Section 36:** J. H. & A. Yeoman, John Murfit Jr., T. M. Saunderson, Benj. G. Wooley, John A. Ulyat, Walter Ponsler, Preston & Louisa Roberts, John Jenkinson. ■

**John Carey Murphey** < from page 10 > Odd Fellows Lodge, the Newton County Historical Society, the Morocco Lions Club, and a breeder of hunting dogs. A high point of his long and varied career will be remembered by many, a tape recorded interview was aired over WRIN, Rensselaer on the Senior Citizens History and Highlight Hour by Bill Bailey on June 29, 1964. While almost 98 at the time, his vision of his community was still crystal clear. He never entered politics, but strove always to be the statesman; the good of his country always was his first consideration. His staunch loyalty was to the Republican Party.

The epoch of local color history of Newton County as portrayed by the life of this versatile gentleman came to a close by his passing on February 24, 1966 with interment in Oakland Cemetery north of Morocco, Indiana. ■

< from page 15 > Griswold house, where the family lived for a long time. They then moved into the Spittler place in the spring of 1904. That is where Mary was born on November 30, 1904.

It was pretty wet land, lots of marsh. On the Spittler place, the men would cut wood in the morning. John would make a rack of wood; they got a dollar a rack. Then he hauled wood to Thayer to old Henry DeVries.

They tried one thing after another. They worked on the Grevenstock place, they had a lot of pickles. Rose would pick pickles and get 50 cents a bushel. For a year and a half, Ralph worked for Mr. Grevenstock for \$22.00 a month. Jan rented some land, \$125 a year for 80 acres. You could pick a lot of pickles for that! Six months later, Jan moved to Keener Township in Jasper County.

Rose met Joseph Roush, and they



Angie (Langeland) and Sebe Boezeman

married on May 19, 1906. Maria came to the wedding six months pregnant with Henry, who was born on August 25, 1906 in Lincoln Township, Newton County. When Henry was born, one woman said, "Let me have that boy. You got so many of them. I don't have any". But Maria refused, adding, "No, the boy is worth just as much as the rest



1919 school photo. Third row: right to left, Clara Hoffman, Teenie Boezeman, Sena Walstra, Joanna Dauma, Jake Nannenga, ?, John Kingma, Second row: Simon Nannenga, Ray Fase, Gerrit Bovenkierk, Cornelius Tysen, Libby DeVries, ?J.T, ?A.H. Three in the middle: Elizabeth Siphkema, ?(R), ?(J.) Front row: Maurice Tysen, ?, Jennie Boezeman, Dorothy Walstra, Peterina Boezeman, ?(A.J.). Miller School, Thayer, Indiana

of them".

Three months later, Jan and Maria became grandparents for the first time, with the birth of Edward Joseph Roush on November 8, 1906.

Jan and Maria moved their family to Jasper County when Henry was six months old.

**Jasper County, February 1907**

On February 25, 1908, their daughter Teenie, was born two miles west of the south side of the Dutch Church in DeMotte, Indiana. Until about 1910, they lived near the church. In March of 1910, Maria gave birth again, this time to their daughter Jennie. The family resided there until Teenie was about 4 years old.

Jan (John) was 47 and Maria was 41 by the time their last child, daughter Peterina was born July 25, 1911 on the Dean Farm. Peterina was born an aunt to one nephew and two nieces of her sister Rose, Edward (1906) and Marybelle (1908), and Florence (1911).

From 1912 to 1915, the family lived on Route 10, a half mile east of I-65. The family lived on now what is SR 110 for about three years. It was on a sand hill. John had about 600 acres there.

About 1914, the Boezeman family built an oak house three miles east of Thayer, where Hank still lives, (1996). The logs were cut at the DeYoung's sawmill. In Thayer, the children attended the Miller School.

In 1915, the road only went a mile north, beyond that was marsh. In the spring,

the boys would go fishing. The marsh was drained in 1920, when they straightened the Kankakee River.

After one of the moves, the children were transferred to school in DeMotte. The family was still struggling with the question of whether to stay with the original "Boezeman" last name or switch to "Bushman". Hank (Henry) wrote the name Boezeman. Henry explained: One day the teacher asked me if I was any relation to them girls and what was the difference? I explained to her, John Jr. Bushman, because his father had the same name, John stuck to the name Bushman; so did some of the girls, but John (Jan)

Sr., Ralph and Henry stuck to the Boezeman name, and it was told once in Rensselaer, "be sure to stick to the original name, you may never know, you might inherit some money from Holland or get a letter or something, and that name has to be spelled right!"

The "Boeze" of the Boezeman name means "the reservoir of water around the windmill". Teenie remembered that Jan (John) insisted that the children talk to him in Dutch. Eventually, he moved away from that idea, so that the two youngest daughters did not know Dutch as well as the other children in the family.

Somewhere around 1926, John decided it was time to become an American citizen in his adopted country. By this time, some of the children were married, only Jennie and Peterina were still living at home. On September 29, 1929, John became a naturalized citizen of the United States. Maria applied on April 18, 1941 and was also awarded citizenship.

In 1942, electricity came to the area. Apparently it was hard for the "old folks" to adjust to this new technology. Although Jan and Maria had electricity, he still carried a lantern to the barn.

Six years after Maria gained citizenship, August 27, 1947, she died of lung cancer. She left behind her husband of 61 years, a community filled of family and friends of 52 years, 11 living children, 28 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

It is hard to imagine what Maria's life must have been like. Coming from a home

would remain for supper and then all attended the evening church service. When he went to live with his parents, they still attended Antioch Church.

He attended a one room school, Oakdale, under Mary Hope, his first teacher and the second year with Mariah Smart. His third year was spent at Norway and the fourth in a newly built school, Pleasant Grove or Toad Puddle (Bower School), with Tome Gill as head of the school. George Ackors rode with him from the Skinner neighborhood to attend this school. The teacher then changed to Pierce Archibald under whose leadership spell-downs, debating, and ciphering matches created much interest with the pupils and led to social gatherings. Later he attended Liberty School in Washington Township where he again lived with his Archibald grandparents, his teachers were Alice Brecount from Brook, Pierce Archibald and Roy Swigget, living in the same township. After 8th grade graduation he spent the next two years enrolled in Morocco High School, held in the large frame building, walking 4 miles per day from his parents home west of town. At this time, Morocco offered only two years in their high school course for graduation. He entered in 1885 and completed the course in 1887. Dempsey Johnson, his mother's uncle was township trustee.

There was a teenage band called, "Tenite," with ten members whose headquarters were at Norway School house. In this band Cary played an alto horn. Lake Village was the farthest point of travel where the band went to play for a Fourth of July celebration. Just as they arrived a rain storm broke loose and all had to run into the stores for cover. The wet, soggy sand made marching difficult and their uniforms, dark blue coats with gold braid and caps were considerably dampened.

After high school, under Will Pfrimmer, an outstanding and widely known County Superintendent, he took the examination for a grade teacher's certificate and passed, but decided not to follow that

profession. He had already about eliminated farming as a choice. At the age of 14 years, while working for his grandfather Archibald, under the tutelage of his Uncle Jasper Archibald, he attempted to drive a pair of oxen, "Steel and Bright," recently purchased at the farm sale of the deceased George Deardurff Sr., but they ran all over the field with him and he had to give that up. Instead he took up deep-well digging and had a business that extended over a large area of Indiana into Illinois. He was assisted by Ben Graves and Henry Davis. About this time he started to court Frances Ceturah Bower, daughter of Joel and Lavina (Shearer) Lloyd Bower, who lived one-half mile north of his home. At first he drove his father's horse and buggy, but later, as was the fashion of the time, he purchased a two-wheeled cart and horse. When Miss Bower refused to ride in that vehicle, a change was



An early photo of State Street, Morocco, looking east with the Murphey house, far left, owned by his mother, Amanda (Archibald) Murphey. This is where J.C. did the interior wood trim. - Reprint from the Morocco Sesquicentennial Collection.

made from that style to a fine new buggy and two horses, matching bays, one of which he used for horsepower in well digging. On September 8, 1889, Miss Bower and he were married at Preacher Dempsey Johnson's home, northeast of Antioch Church and went to their home on the farm of George Murphey, who had moved onto the Isaac Smart place, east of there, later the Forg Camblin home, and later still the Hershel Bower residence.

After his marriage he continued with his well digging and later worked in construction, doing the interior wood work for his mother on Murphey House. He was also Justice of Peace in a small building located near the site of the Texaco station (southwest corn of State and Main Streets). In connection with this he sold real estate

and was the German Insurance Agent, and afterwards representative for the Continental Insurance Company. Later he became the agent for the Home Insurance Company, which he served 50 years, earning a prized gold medal. One day while he was engaged in business in his small office Mark Peterson came in and suggested that he couldn't do his work effectively at that place and should move to larger quarters upstairs in his building on the south side of East State Street about the middle of the block, where the Laundromat is now located (then the Gragg Jewelry store). Cary objected on the basis of high rent Mr. Peterson quoted \$.00 per month. Cary answered that maybe when he moved there, the rent would be raised. The owner said "no," and kept his word. J.C. Murphey moved there and rented from subsequent owners for about 40 years. At this time professional men had upstairs offices, unless one was maintained in their home.

During this time he took a correspondence law course from Valparaiso University. Following its completion, Judge Charles W. Handley of Newton and Jasper Courts in Rensselaer gave him his bar examination, which he passed with special commendation and recommendation from the examiner. His law office was opened in Morocco, the same suite of rooms in the Peterson Building used in connection with his real estate and insurance interests. This was October 16, 1905.

After becoming an attorney, much of his work consisted of probate. Later on he ran for prosecuting attorney, winning the election and serving for 12 years in the Jasper and Newton County Circuit Court and later in the Newton County Court (after division), in that capacity, which was three terms of four years each. Holding to the conviction that tax payers money should be spent only when warranted, Attorney Murphey prosecuted only when in his excellent judgement there appeared to be grounds upon which to base a case - thereby winning around ninety percent of the state's cases tried and eliminating waste of public funds. For 52 years he < to page 10 >

## The Gold Star Honor Roll, 1914-1918 - Indiana Soldiers Who Died During World War I

In 1921, the Indiana Historical Commission published this book, and presented copies to the families of those soldiers who died during World War I. It contains pictures (that they had) and biographies from every county in the State. The fly sheet included in each volume explains the publication of the book and it is transcribed as follows:



**BERNS, DAVID ISAAC PRIVATE** Son of Isaac G. and Ida Berns; born March 6, 1892, Brookston, White County, Ind. Blacksmith, Goodland, Ind., when he enlisted June 23, 1917, Indiana National Guard, Rensselaer, Ind. Sent to Camp Shelby, Miss.; assigned to Battery C, 137th Field Artillery, 38th Division. Embarked October 6, 1918. Died of pneumonia on board ship, October 12, 1918. Buried at sea. Survived by widow, Julia Thompson Berns. American Legion Post, Goodland, Ind., named the Berns-Burgess Post. (See following record).



**BURGESS, ARTHUR J. -PRIVATE, S.A.T.C.** Son of Fayette and Bernice Burgess; born July 3, 1899, Goodland, Newton County, Ind. Farmer. Entered Student Army Training Corps, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., October 9, 1918; assigned to Headquarters Company, Section A. Contracted pneumonia, and died in St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Lafayette, Ind., December 14, 1918. Buried in Goodland Cemetery. The American Legion Post, Goodland, Ind., named the Berns-Burgess Post. (See above record).



**BURNS, RALPH VAN DOREN -CORPORAL** Son of Louis and Huldah Burns; born December 20, 1894, Kentland, Ind. Teacher. Educated in the State Normal, Hays, Kans; teaching school near this place at time of enlistment early in 1917. Sent to El Paso, Tex ; assigned to Company I, 16th Infantry. Embarked June 9, 1917, Severely wounded at Soissons in July, 1918. Killed in action in the Argonne Forest, October 4, 1918. Buried in Argonne-American Cemetery, Romagne, France.



**CARTER, LINTON PRIVATE** Son of Frank and Ella Carter; born December 28, 1894, near Mt. Ayr, Newton County, Ind. Farmer. Entered service June 24, 1918, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Camp Sherman, Ohio; transferred to Camp Holabird, Md.; assigned to Development Battalion, Motor Transport School. Transferred to Camp Grant, Ill. Discharged March 13, 1919, because of crippled hand. Taken ill on way home. Died in hospital at Rensselaer, Ind., April 1, 1919. Buried in North Star Cemetery, near Mt. Ayr, Ind.



**CHIZUM, WILLIAM PRIVATE** Son of William and Nancy Jane Dearduff Chizum; born March 24, 1894, Morocco, Newton County, Ind. Steel inspector in steel works. Chicago. Enlisted in August, 1917. Chicago, Ill. Sent to Camp Houston. Tex.; assigned to Company C, 32nd Infantry. 33rd Division. Sailed in May, 1918. Killed in action August 2, 1918, near town of Albert, France. Buried at Contay, Somme, France. American Legion Post, Morocco, Ind., named in his honor.



**COAKE, GLENN RUSSELL, PRIVATE** Son of George A. and Iva J. Carter Coake; born November 4, 1889, Rossville, Ill. Moved to Newton County, Ind., 1914. Farmer. Enlisted in Battery A, 1st Field Artillery, Illinois National Guard (Battery A, 149th Field Artillery) Danville, Ill., April 3, 1917. Trained at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., and Camp Mills, L. I. Overseas October 19, 1917. Died of pleurisy October 23, 1918. Buried in American Cemetery Mesvres, Nievre, France.

### To You Who Gave A Gold Star Hero

The Indiana Historical Commission was authorized by an act-introduced by Senator Oscar Ratts of Paoli, Indiana, and passed during the seventy-second session of the Indiana General Assembly, - to present this copy of the Gold Star Volume to you in memory of one of the heroes who gave his life for his country's cause.

Three thousand three hundred and fifty-four sons and fifteen daughters from Indiana paid the supreme sacrifice while serving with the American and allied forces during the World War. The story of their heroism and their devotion to duty which led them on to death comprises one of the most sacred chapters in all of Indiana history.

In future years the records of these heroes, linked with those of the defenders of our Union, will be the great fountain source of inspiration for the children of Indiana.

On behalf of the Indiana Historical Commission, acting as the agent of the state, I take pleasure in presenting this volume to you. - Warren T. McCray, Governor of Indiana, June 14, 1921. ■

SILENT ROLL BROOK AREA U.S. REGULAR ARMY	Clark, Gaylord Weishaar, Ivan Clinton, William Blem, Lester Sunderland, Harry L. Boner, Walter Powell, Lester Snyder, George Harris, Fred Hess, Walter Richards, Homer Marshall, George Jack, Elmer Parke, Jay M. Curran, Pat Denham, George Irwin, Art Hilton, Gaylord Galbraith, Glen Wilkens, William Kline, John Sell, Earl Gentry, Elmer Clausen, Arthur Rothrock, Lee Snyder, Verne Danruther, Jennings Hampton, Grant
Chaffey, Charles Hawkins, Sherman Pruitt, Ormand	
WORLD WAR I	
Fidler, Lyle Allis, George Allis, Warner Denniston, Virgil Potts, Emmett Cross, Clarence Cline, Glen Harry, Chester White, Addison Weishaar, Leslie Doty, Carl Todd, Clifford Lyons, Charles H. Rayner, James Worthington, Herman Fitzpatrick, James Howell, Howard Dowty, Harry	

# Historically Yours

By Newton County Historian  
Donna LaCosse

I guess it is time for articles to be placed in The Newcomer and of course I am not prepared which is one of my better qualities! I did manage to attend the County Historian Roundtable in Indianapolis this spring and I also accompanied my husband to Ohio where we had an interesting experience. We also had something wonderful happen in our family this summer, so I think maybe I have enough to fill up the column without boring you badly. When you get to be my age, three exciting events in one year is almost more than you can stand, and, the year is only half over!!! What next, I wonder?

On March 24 we were early risers and headed toward Indianapolis at a very early hour. The County Historian Roundtable, sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society, was held in the Indiana Medical History Museum and this proved to be a great place in which to have a meeting. All the County Historians who were young, agile and spry climbed steep stairs to sit in chairs that once seated medical students. The chairs were placed in a semi-circle, in tier form so everyone could see the instructor without moving his head. I used the term "his" because at that time it is doubtful women attended a medical school. I was one of the historians who was given a chair and was allowed to sit on the same level as the teacher. This happened when I informed them that I did not do stairs!! I was not the only one sitting on the main floor, but I was the first to say that was where I needed to sit!!!

Katherine Dill from the Indiana Historical Society and Pamela Bennett from the Indiana Historical Bureau welcomed everyone and introduced those people who would be presenting the afternoon session.

Our lunch was eaten at tables that resembled the old fashioned desks, arranged in a circle that featured an up-right heat radiator in the center of this circle. This radiator was the same one used in the good old days when classes were taught there and the students needed to be warm. At least this way everyone could see each other and they could all see who was cheating if there was cheating going on. Perhaps medical students didn't cheat or maybe students did not start cheating until later. There was no one in the room old enough to answer that question so I didn't even ask it!!

Following the meal, Judy Ripple

talked about the Historical Marker Program, the preservation of cemeteries and the underground railroad. It was very interesting to me to find out historical markers are repaired in Grandview, Indiana where our first daughter-in-law was born and raised. Since Grandview is a very small town, the people who are in charge of repairing markers attended our wedding and we have met with them at different times since the wedding, so I felt honored telling the historians exactly where Grandview was located.

Pamela Bennett and Jeannie Regan-Dinius gave an interesting program on the Women's History Initiative and Jim Armstrong, spoke about the Changing Face of Agriculture. John Harris headed up the Round Table session where Historians could ask questions and have them answered. It was a day well spent, but I did not stay for the tour of the museum - I toured the first floor but did not venture up the stairs. I did find the bathroom rather unique - one small room with just one stool. A wash basin was located outside the room. There again, if all the students are men, only one restroom is necessary.

In April, we traveled to Indian Lake in Ohio for a military reunion and had an occasion to visit the Johnny Appleseed Museum in Urbana, Ohio. If ever you get the chance to visit this museum, please do so. I found the history of Johnny Appleseed so interesting I am ready to go back. I bought the book of his life and took a lot of notes on the lecture I attended so, once I read the book and sort out my notes, I am going to write an article about this historical person and just maybe someone will let me share it with you.

Our grandson Jaman met a girl at Oral Roberts University and fell madly in love with her!! He informed us she was the most beautiful girl in the world and now that we have met her, we find her just as beautiful inside as outside. She had talked of going to law school but has since changed her mind. There are other things she can do with her education, still be her own person and share life with Jaman in the field of ministry. He gave her a ring on July 3 and we are having a wedding on January 1, 2005 in Maryland. He will have his degree in December but will not walk for his diploma until May. As of now, he plans to minister in a church as he takes his seminary work through a

correspondence course from Asbury College in Kentucky. We are all excited with their plans and with our oldest grandson, who will be receiving his masters degree the end of July. We have lots of things to be happy about, and isn't it fun to be happy? So many people aren't and that makes me sad.

Our Lafayette grandson (the oldest one) has completed his basic training and taken the required extra training that took him to camps in South Carolina and Virginia. He is now home, employed at Lowe's and goes to camp one weekend a month. He is still in the army, still likes being in the army, and so far safely living on this side of the big pond! Our great-grandson is growing like a bad weed and our oldest granddaughter has proven to be a great mother. All the rest of our grandchildren are getting ready to return to school and that just about takes care of our family history for this time.

Until next time, keep making history and stay happy. ■

## Do You Know?

By Janet Miller  
Answers on Page 17

1. Where was Newton County's only Indiana governor, Warren T. McCray, born?
2. During the early years of the Newton County Pun'kin Vine Fair a "Better Baby Contest" was held. Babies were judged by doctors and nurses on height, weight, etc. One year, the winners of this contest, the "Better Boy" and the "Better Girl", grew up and became husband and wife. The babies were both from Goodland-can you name them?
3. Where are the two places in North America where limestone deposits occur vertically rather than horizontally?
4. Before Beaver Lake was drained it contained many islands. Bogus Island was one of them. Can you name others?
5. The State of Indiana in 1860 appointed a person in Newton County to organize our county government. Who was this person and what was their title? ■

### The Gold Star Honor Roll, 1914-1918 - Newton County Soldiers Who Died During World War I < from page 21 >



**MESSMAN, CLARENCE-PRIVATE, S.A.T.C.** Son of Herman and Anna Messman; born March 23, 1897, Kentland, Ind. Farmer. Entered service October 15, 1918, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Winona Lake, Ind.; assigned to Motor Truck Service, Student Army Training Corps. Died of pneumonia October 29, 1918, Winona Lake. Buried at Rensselaer, Jasper County, Ind.



**SEGO, ARTHUR ANTHONY-2ND LIEUTENANT** Son of Mr. and Mrs. Meddie Sego, Sr. ; born August 7, 1894, Kentland, Ind. Graduate of Purdue University. Enlisted in Aviation Service May 1, 1917, Chicago, Ill. Trained at the Aviation Ground School, Cornell University, N.Y.; Transferred to Camp Dick, Tex., then to Ellington Field, Texas. Rated as Reserve Military Aviator at Door Field, Fla; Commissioned Second Lieutenant August 7, 1918. Killed in aeroplane accident September 12, 1918, Love Field, Tex. Buried with military honors, Kentland, Ind.



**SHEAR, JASPER E.-PRIVATE** Son of Charles P. and Addie Shear (deceased); born April 10, 1892, in South Dakota. Moved to Brook, Newton County, Ind. in infancy. Entered service September, 1917, Kentland, Ind. Received training at Camp Taylor, Ky., and Camp Shelby, Miss. Overseas in June, 1918; assigned to Company H, 18th Infantry, 1st Division. Killed in action between 18th and 24th of July, 1918, Soissons Front. Buried in American Battle Area Cemetery, Ploisy, Aisne, France.



**TEBO, FRANK EDWARD U. S. NAVY** Son of Edward D. and Lulu Ora Tebo; born November 6, 1894, Newton County, Ind. Farmer, and mechanic. Entered U.S; Navy May 15, 1918, Kentland, Ind. (Stations where he trained not given.) Died of pneumonia March 28, 1918, Brooklyn Hospital, N.Y. Buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Kentland, Ind.



**WEISHAAR, LESLIE CLIFFORD-PRIVATE** Son of Paul and Caroline Reed Weishaar; born December 2, 1896, Brook, Newton County, Ind. Mechanical engineer. Entered service September 5, 1918, Kentland, Ind. Sent to Camp Taylor, Ky.; assigned to 34th Company, 9th Training Battalion, 159th Depot Brigade. Died of influenza October 16, 1918, Camp Taylor, Ky. Buried in Brook Cemetery, Kentland, Ind.

Name reported from Newton County for whom complete record could not be obtained.

**JONES, CHARLES.** Ade, Ind. Wagoner, Company I, 16th Infantry, 1st Division. Died of pneumonia November 24, 1918, "Somewhere in France." ■

*Editor's Note: Janet Miller discovered this book on the shelves of the Brook-Iroquois Washington Township Library. Many thanks to her for bringing it to the pages of our newsletter.*

### Newton County World War I Soldiers

< from page 21 >

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Reed, Wm. R.           | Cook, Allen          |
| Rettinger, Harold      | Cook, Hobart         |
| Rheude, Nicholas G.    | Cory, James          |
| Rice, Harry L.         | Cory John F.         |
| Roadruck, Fred D.      | Cox, Albert          |
| Root, Edwin A.         | Cox, Van E.          |
| Reinhart, Julius       | Davis, Roy M.        |
| Sammons, George F      | Deardurff, Charles   |
| Schilling, Catherine A | Deardurff, Lloyd     |
| Schuh, Wilfred B.      | Deardurff, Raymond   |
| Sego, Arthur A         | Dickey, Elmer        |
| Smith, Carl            | Doctor, Arthur       |
| Spangler, Harold E     | Doubrava, James      |
| Staton, Glen O.        | Dunlap, Clifford     |
| Talley, John F.        | Fenters, Gilbert     |
| Tavener, Fred          | Flowers, Fred        |
| Tebo, Frank Edward     | Garrard, Frank       |
| Todd, Clifford H.      | Gilbert, Jack        |
| VanKirk, George H      | Goethels, Henri      |
| Virgin, Russell D.     | Graves, Everett E.   |
| Wagoner, Ora E.        | Graves, Lloyd        |
| Walker, Glenn          | Grayson, Wm. T.      |
| Walker, Reed F.        | Gully, Dana sr.      |
| Weishaar, Leslie C.    | Hagen, Vernon P.     |
| White, Ernest Wesley   | Hampton, Grant       |
| White, George L.       | Hammond, Grover      |
| White, Harry H.        | Harlewick, Edward    |
| Whiteaker, James R.    | Hayworth, Clinton    |
| Withrow, James E.      | Heinschoat, Seraphin |
| Wittenberg, Carroll    | Hickman, W.B.        |
| <b>MOROCCO</b>         | Hochstetter, Jacob   |
| Albertson, Harry       | Hope, Myron E.       |
| Albertson, Herbert     | Irvin, Sinclair      |
| Anderson, William      | Johnson, Lloyd       |
| Archibald, Jasper      | Kay, D. James        |
| Archibald, Joseph      | Kessler, Leslie      |
| Archibald, Sherman     | Kessler, Vivian      |
| Ash, Frank             | King, Elmer          |
| Augustin, Allan        | King, Harry          |
| Barker, Leo            | Lane, John           |
| Bassett, Arthur L.     | Larrison, Dr. G.D.   |
| Bassett, Ralph         | LaCosse, Joseph      |
| Beckwith, Bernard J.   | LaCosse, Samuel      |
| Beckwith, William      | LaRue, Walter        |
| Bell, William          | Lockwood, James      |
| Blanchette, Leo        | McCabe, Rexford      |
| Blaney, Harry C.       | McClain, H.H.        |
| Behmlander, F.G.       | Manchester, Jack     |
| Boville, Frank         | Martin, Orphus       |
| Bower, Herschel        | Martin, Robert       |
| Bridgeman, Ernest      | Mashino, Fred        |
| Bower, James           | Mashino, Raymond     |
| Brunton, Lloyd         | McClatchey, Logan    |
| Brunton, William       | McDonald, Clarence   |
| Bushman, Andrew        | Middlesworth, Vince  |
| Camblin, Lawson L.     | Michaels, David      |
| Campbell, James        | Miller, Era          |
| Carlson, Robert        | Milligan, Alvin      |
| Cooke, Glenn           | Miller, George       |
| Chizum, William        | Moore, Cecil         |
| Clark, Ed              | Moore, James         |
| Clark, Leonard         | Moore, Paul          |
| Cole, Gray             | Moore, Wiley B.      |

Darlene never met her uncle, but would have liked to have known him. From reading his many letters she stated: "He sounds young and self-assured - always assures my father that he will take care of himself, misses his wife and loved ones. He asks lots of questions about the crops and farm, my parent's babies, his family. He wants to make it back home and farm. Begs for pictures of my older brother born in 1941. He was a very handsome young fellow!"

Ken Spurgeon, was her father's older brother. The Spurgeon family was from the DeMotte area. Back a couple of generations, they were from Salem, Indiana. Most of them have married into Dutch families, finally giving Spurgeon's some height she adds. Her grandfather, Ellis Spurgeon married Rose Snow. The Snows were early settlers of Jasper County.

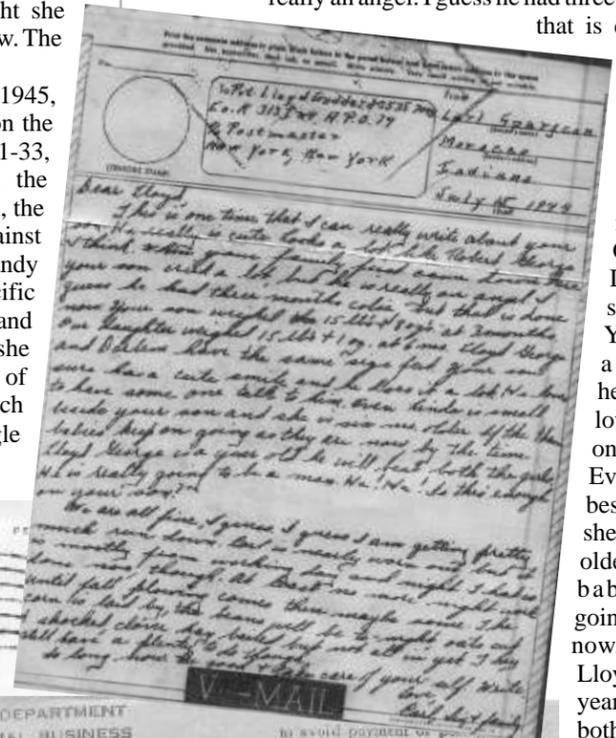
From other correspondence dated January 16, 1945, April 13, 1945 and June 1, 1945, Ken was stationed on the USS Tuscaloosa (CA-37), a heavy cruiser built in 1931-33, that was commissioned in 1934. She operated in the European theatre and participated in convoy protection, the invasion of North Africa, the first carrier strikes against European targets in Norway, and the invasions of Normandy and of Southern France. In 1945, she operated in the Pacific theatre and participated in the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. From February 16 to March 14, 1945, she bombarded Iwo Jima in support of the Marine invasion of the island. Her bombardment of Okinawa began on March 25<sup>th</sup> and continued through June 28, with only a single break of six days to replenish.

Ken became Dr. Kenneth Spurgeon, but not a medical doctor. He was in the Navy, came home, received his B.S. and M.S. in agriculture from Purdue. In 1951, he received his Ph.D. in dairy industry from the University of Wisconsin. Ken worked as a research chemist in the Chicago area for a few years, then joined the Dairy Science Department of South Dakota State University in Brookings as Associate Professor in 1956. He was promoted to Professor of Dairy Science in 1985. He experimented with ways to make butter substitutes and fat-free cheese spreads, but his first love was teaching. Ken and his wife Trudy, lived on 40-odd acres outside of Volga, SD. They cared for ten foster children in their home over a 25-year period and eventually adopted and raised two daughters. After Ken retired, he proudly told us < To page 4 >

### Carl Spurgeon's Last Letter To Lloyd Returned Via V-Mail

This letter was returned to Carl Spurgeon, written by Harriet, from the War Department December 6, 1944. It was inside a letter that was stamped "Return to War Department - Deceased", dated July 25, 1944. It was a letter to Lloyd dated July 15, 1944.

Dear Lloyd, This is one time that I can really write about your son. He really is cute. Looks a lot like Robert George I think. When your family first came down here your son cried a lot, but he is really an angel. I guess he had three month colic. But that is done now. Your



son weighs 15 lbs and 8 ozs. At 3 months. Our daughter weighs 15 lbs., 1 oz. At 6 months. Lloyd George and Darlene have the same size feet. Your son sure has a cute smile, and he does it a lot. He loves to have some one talk to him. Even Linda is small beside your son and she is six months older. If the three babies keep on going as they are now, by the time Lloyd George is a year old he will beat both the girls. He is really going to be a man. Ha! Ha! Is this enough on your son?

We are all fine, I guess. I guess I am getting pretty much run down. Carl is nearly worn out but it is mostly from working day and night. That is done now though. At least no more night work until fall plowing comes then maybe some. The corn is laid by, the beans will be to-night, oats cut and shocked, clover hay bailed but not all in yet. They still have a plenty to do though.

So long now, be good and take care of yourself. Write. Love, Carl, Sis and family.

# Pages of The Past

*The following excerpts are from The Newton County Enterprise during the spring of 1906. Transcribed by Janet Miller*

## Kentland

C. T. Martin has purchased the Dr. R. C. McCain residence property on Iroquois Drive and will take possession the first of April, consideration \$3,800.00. Dr. McCain will move into his old property now occupied by J. H. Braden, and Mr. Braden will move to the Mrs. Staton residence on Washington Street.

St. Viateurs' College, the big Catholic institution which is located at Bourbonnais, about two miles from Kankakee, and in which a number of Kentland boys have been educated, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday night of last week, entailing a loss of about \$300,000. The fire started at eight o'clock in the evening and before midnight the results of forty years labor were reduced to ashes.

School Notes: The new piece of statuary, "Minerva", has come and was put in place on a corner bracket in the south-east corner of the alcove of assembly room. It is pure white, forty-two inches high and full figure. We are very proud of it.

Stone Roads: Mt. Ayr: Jackson Township files petition for gravel road system. The petition for stone roads is bound to be a go, as they now have over 40 signers, and all farmers. Not a signer lives in Mt. Ayr. The petition calls for 15 miles of gravel road. Washington Township: A prominent farmer of Washington township was in this office the other day and expressed deep regret that no move was being made, or even contemplated at this time, looking toward the improvement of the highways of that township. Jefferson Township: The second mass meeting of farmers for good roads, held at the courthouse Saturday, was well attended. The committee reported to the mass meeting in favor of eighteen miles of road in the township, and three in town.

This is a good season of the year to talk stone road improvement. The hub-deep condition of the mud roads is a powerful and almost "impassable" argument. The mud roads are in worse condition than they have been all winter. People who are forced to plow through them can appreciate the saying of Abe Martin: "It's nice over head, but few are traveling that way."

It was sugar making time out at Uncle Perry Washburn's Saturday, and the numerous grand children were called home to enjoy the pleasures of a day in a real old

fashioned sugar camp. Mr. Washburn has a team of oxen which he hitched to an improvised ox cart, and with this the little folks were permitted to haul in the nectar of the gods, and then to dance and sing around the simmering vats of maple sugar until a late hour of the night. Mr. Washburn said the scene took him back about seventy years in memory, and no doubt he and his good wife enjoyed the frolic full well as the youngsters.

John Lowe, rural mail carrier on route No. 2, says he would not throw up his run even if Uncle Sam cut off the pay. He is getting as fat as a possum on the good dinners handed out along the route. Yesterday Mrs. Henry Dutton made his heart glad with an invitation to dinner, and John contends that pretty near all the good women of the county live on his route.

## Morocco

Hon. John F. Johnson, one of the best known men in Newton County, died at his home in Morocco Sunday night and was buried Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Johnson located in Newton county back in the 50's. Mr. Johnson served Newton county in the capacity of county commissioner, also two terms as county treasurer and represented this district in the State Legislature.

## Roselawn

James Kennedy and family, John Mellinger and family, Austin Wicks and Charles Stoakly have moved to Quinns, Indiana, to make their future home.

PASTURE FOR RENT: On the Joseph Adams place, west of Roselawn, Ind., about 3,000 acres of tile-drained, blue-grass pasture, the best grass, fences and water in Indiana; by the head or piece. (Also) CORN GROWERS ATTENTION: On the same place 600 acres of tile-drained blue grass sod, virgin soil, to be put into corn at cash price per bushel. Can divide land to suit. Only good farmers wanted. Apply to E. T. Boyle, Agent, Roselawn, Indiana

## Brook

The Reporter says that Brook wants a water wagon--that is a means to fight fire--but says that the story circulated that the town is offering \$1,000 reward for the detection of whiskey selling is a fake.

Some Blasts from Stonehill, Brook Reporter: A new way of shipping in booze is reported. Over at Ade the other day there was about a dozen kegs of beer and whisky consigned to Brook parties. It is probable

that it was hauled in here sometime during the night.

## Mt. Ayr

Will Schindler and Miss Gertrude Keeney were married last Wednesday. Their many friends wish them much joy and happiness as they journey down life's pathway together. They will live on the Schindler farm south of town. Mr. and Mrs. Schindler, Sr., will move to Brook.

## McClellan Township

Edward Brandt was in Kentland Monday and qualified as trustee of McClellan township to succeed Herman Wiltfang. His bondsmen are C. M. Brandt, Andrew Ellis and H. V. Templeton.

## Goodland

The Goodland Herald wants the block of ground intended for a court house site, converted into a public park. By vacating the unused street dividing the grounds from the little park facing the Pan-handle depot, and improve the entire plot, would give them a park that would be an ornament to their little city. Keep nagging away Bro. Shepard and you will gain your point.

## Washington Township

Ade and Vicinity: Surveyors are at work laying off the new town of Ade, and the outline looks good on paper. A bridge gang is busy this week putting in bridges and culverts along the Indiana Harbor. (railroad) The new elevator of McCray, Morrison & Co. is about half up, and will be ready to receive grain in time for the new oats crop. When completed it will be the tallest building in town and can be seen for miles.

Mrs. James Padgett, a well known and highly respected resident of Washington Township, died at an early hour Tuesday morning after a brief illness with appendicitis. She was forty years old and had resided all her life in that community. A husband and eight children survive. The funeral will be conducted from Mt. Zion Church at two o'clock this afternoon, and interment will be made in the cemetery adjoining.

George Herriman, who has about the only sugar camp in the county of any size has been sweetening up Kentland with his product. The first run yielded eighty gallons of syrup. Mr. Herriman expects even better results with the run following the freeze of the past few days. It requires thirty gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. ■

# 2004 Scholarship Winners

## North Newton High School - Katie Schroeder "Beaver Lake and Bogus Island"

In 1840, Thomas Rogers Barker, a pioneer traveler, settled on Bogus Island in Beaver Lake. He found that the Potawatomi Indians had tribes already settled on the island and cultivating the land. This, once called "land of enchantment," was the largest lake in Indiana. It was located in Newton County in the townships now known as McClellan, Lake and Colfax. The lake was 36,000 acres, one-seventh of Newton County, and 25 square miles. It is now comparable to being eleven times the size of Willow Slough.

In the 1800's, Beaver Lake was quite the attraction. It brought in many travelers and settlers, especially sportsmen. The wildlife at Beaver Lake was very diverse. Sportsmen took full advantage of hunting, fishing and trapping. Like all early settlements, there was a price to pay. There were constant disputes between the settlers and Indians, and settlers with other settlers, all hoping to gain control of this prosperous land. The Indians became annoyed by the settlers and believed they had every right to gain control over Bogus Island and Beaver Lake. It was the Pottawatomi tribe that gave the lake it's name. It was called "sag-a-yi-gan-nik-young," meaning "Lake of the Beavers."

In the 1850's a big change took over the lake. The Swamp Law Act ordered that swamps and wetlands be regulated and drained. This act gave the government the control to drain the lake when they wished. As time passed Beaver Lake was being drained little by little. It took several years for it to take its full course. In the beginning it was still desirable to fish and hunt, then wildlife began to travel to other bodies of water. Next there was just enough water that some fish could survive but by winter they were killed in the bitter cold. By the 1880s Beaver Lake was completely gone.

With the passing of Beaver Lake came many emotions. Some people were saddened by the loss of what held so many childhood and family memories. Others believed that if the lake was still in Newton County it would bring a lot to the communities, for example, tourism and sportsmen for wildlife. But, Newton County has seen some benefits. Due to the drainage of the lake it has given rich soil to many productive farms which lie on the lake's ground.

Even though Beaver Lake is no longer covering parts of Newton County and hasn't for over 100 years, it has still left an impression on it's history. Many of us now live on what used to be the bottom of the biggest lake in Indiana, which was settled by many travelers, sportsmen, and Indian tribes. There are books, essays, and even Internet sites dedicated to the history of our hometowns and our communities describing the mystery of Beaver Lake and Bogus Island. Projects are assigned at North Newton High School about Bogus Island and Beaver Lake, hoping to teach the students important history of the county in which they live. The mystery of the disappearance will live on forever of what was once called the "Land of Enchantment." ■

## South Newton High School - Seth Lawrence "My Home"

Webster's dictionary defines a brook as a natural stream of water. I, however, think of Brook as my home. Brook was settled around 1822 when the Pottawatomie tribe gave their land over to the United States government. Soon mills and different shops were

being built in the area known as Brook. Brook began to expand with many different types of people moving in and in turn expanding their acreage. Brook was the first accumulation of houses that got the title of a village in this area. Brook was given its own post office in 1837. It was not until 17 years later did another post office get placed in the surrounding area.

By the late 1850's, settlers along the Iroquois River had begun to move into Brook. A sawmill was established where McKinley Park presently is located today. Two schools were then built in the location of the Brook Library today. These buildings as well as other buildings were being built along main street and as other buildings began to go up the downtown part of Brook was born. In 1866 Brook was formally platted in Indiana. During the 1890's many new store fronts were built along main street. Then in 1894 the first church of the United Brethren was built. Then in 1895 Brook's first newspaper was hot off the presses.

Before 1900, all of the roads in Brook were of dirt. This made walking down the street in the spring time a task for many ladies that had elegant dresses. In 1900 stone was first placed on the roads of Brook. This may have seemed to be a good idea as far as travel and walking was concerned but it also posed a bigger problem. Many of the store owners complained that the dust whipped up from the stone roads dirtied up their merchandise. The solution to this problem was to place hot tar on top of the stone. Although the tar cut down on the dust it did not cut down on the messy, slick tar that would heat up in the summer.

In 1920, the first business to be located on the south side of the street was built. Many other businesses followed in its footsteps and the business district began to flourish in Brook. Many different churches and schools began to pop up in Brook and the surrounding areas. What became known as Brook Elementary school until 1996 was the first High School in Brook. What is known as the United Methodist Church in Brook was built in 1910 and is flourishing still today.

Brook isn't a town that is very extravagant or big by no means. Brook is a nice small town place that is great to live in. It's a place where you know everyone and everyone knows you. The small complexities of Brook make it the nice interest town it is today. Without all of these pioneers, that put their heart into what they wanted Brook to be, Brook would not be the warm, home-like place it is in Newton County today. ■

## Volunteers Needed!!

**We are seeking help to "man" the Newton County Historical Society Resource Center at Kentland a few hours each day. We also have many on-going projects such as census transcription and obituary extractions that can be done from your home.**

**If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Beth Bassett at 219-275-5741, Janet Miller at 219-474-5380, or Sue Humphrey at 219-474-6081.**