

Newton County Fair Booth Visited By Many

This year's fair committee, consisting of Bill and Jean Philips, Janet Burton, Marian Strosinski, Laura Allis and chaired by Jim Robbins, out did themselves in providing the fair-goers with outstanding entertainment and a great booth display. Members of the society volunteered their time to "man" the booth at different times throughout the week.

Visitors were given packets containing information regarding family history, a county map, and general society information. Each night, door prizes were given away, a choice of a society t-shirt or tote bag, with a grand prize given at the end of the week.

Among the entertainment featured was Jenny Markle of Monon spinning wool, pictured above. Kenny Stone picked some tunes one evening, line dancing and dulcimer music on other nights.

Posted on the walls of the booth were



the coloring contest winners she'd earlier this year by the committee. Fourth grade students from all Newton schools participated.

The true to scale model of the Roselawn School created by the T & G class of Roselawn, was also on display, as well as a few antiques of the past.

Thanks for this committee for getting the word out to our county about our society! Great job everyone!

The Newcomer

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

Officers of the Newton County Historical Society

President, Yvonne Kay, Morocco
V. President, Denise Miller, Lake Village
Secretary, Betty Risley, Kentland
Treasurer, Kay Babcock, Goodland
Family History Division
Gerald Born, Morocco

Member at Large - Michael Haste, Brook
County Historian, Donna La Cosse, Morocco
Ex-Officio, Sue Humphrey, Kentland

Officers of the Family History Division

Director, Gerald Born, Morocco
Janet Miller, Treasurer, Kentland
The Newcomer, Beth Bassett, Brook
PO Box 303, 224 North Third Street
Kentland, Indiana 47951
219-474-6944

e-mail: newtonhs@ffni.com



POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT
NUMBER 35
Rensselaer, Indiana
47978

What's On Our Agenda...

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

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

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

The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

In this Issue . . .

- **Feature Story**
The History of Lake Village
- **Growing Up Swedish**
Byron Sandberg recalls his early days
- **Mount Ayr As I Remember**
Donna (Schanlaub) La Cosse recalls growing up in Mount Ayr
- **Focus On Families**
The Atkinson Family
- **Collection of A Lifetime**
Betty Carlson shares some old photos and memorabilia
- **Pages From The Past**
A Glimpse of Newton County in the Summer of 1900
- **Do You Know Your County of Newton?**
Test Your Knowledge!
- **Membership News**
Society Update
Family History Division Update
Membership Application
Resource Center Information
Web Site Information
Meeting Times and Places
- **McCray Scholarships**
Two scholarships were awarded to Newton County graduates. The North Newton essay is inside.
- **Publications**
Purchase your copies of the Historical Coloring Book and "Ralph". Details inside

The History of Lake Village

Early History and Pioneer Families

In the extreme northern section of Newton County, Indiana, lies the Kankakee swamp, known to early French voyagers as the Grand Marsh. Few people passed this way as it was known to be the land of crawling reptiles, dreadful varments, and seething with countless wildlife. This land of fun told dangers represents the background of the present Lake Village. Little authentic history is known of the early period, as those traversing the waters and wilds of the Kankakee marshlands were not historians, but were hastening on to the other and less formidable destinations. LaSalle and his followers passed through in 1679, but left little history. It is said that the last buffalo was killed in 1790; passenger pigeons disappeared in 1870; deer were still prevalent in 1880; and up to 1891, Thomas Rogers Barker, and his son, Alexander Lanier (Ned) Barker had trapped more than 3,000 timber wolves, early menaces of the area.

It is known that several tribes of Indians, the Wyandottes and other Prairie Indian bands roamed this vicinity; the last known group that dwelt there belonged to the Potawatomie tribe. In days gone by Indian campfires could be seen gleaming in the dark to give some comfort for those travelers daring enough to brave the night in this terrifying wilderness. Old Indian pits and tools were still being uncovered on farms around the community.

The nobility of England traveled to this section to hunt, as this land was truly a hunter's paradise. In the early days the main occupation was that of the trapper and hunter, and the swan market was very heavy; the beautiful feathers brought good prices for use in decorations for milady's bonnet.

About 1827 one of the earliest known trading posts in the area was situated east of Lake Village on the Kankakee, and was called Trader's Point, or the Blue Grass Depot (this spot is known as Blue Grass in the present day). This depot was operated by one Gurdon S. Hubbard, a trader, who took his wares to Mokence, Illinois, where they were carried on to Chicago markets.

In the early 1830's horse thieves and desperadoes abounded in the area close by, known as Bogus Island, but operations were carried on throughout the Marsh territory. The country was so desolate; liquor flowed so freely; and crime was so rampant that pioneers hesitated to settle here, but it was a perfect setup for the renegades who needed a hiding place.

Our pioneer families were not easily daunted, as evidenced by history, and those men with an eye for the future desired to settle here for agricultural purposes. Due to Beaver Lake, only land drainage would make farming a possibility, so a group of men appealed to the
Continued on Page Two



Louise and George C. A. Bryant. Photo contributed by Gerald Born.

Continued from Page One

the state for such a project to be carried out. In 1853 land drainage was begun and the government of the United States gave swamp land grants or patents under an act earlier granted to the state of Arkansas for reclamation of swamp land. It was later that Lemuel Milk of Kankakee started his drainage work on the land now known as Conrad territory, and which in later years belonged to his daughter, Jennie Conrad and her husband.

Beaver Lake ditch which runs north and south, west of Lake Village, was first dug out by spade, under the supervision of Chris Larson, then it was further opened by Jack O'Conner to let the water through, and in later years, teams of horses were used on the higher ground to pull the dirt away.

Old Bill Burton, father of Henry Burton, who lived on the farm now owned by Lloyd Arbuckle, patented a ditching machine to clean the ditches. A cable was used to pull the plow, along pole was put from bank to bank, and a 4-horse team on either side accomplished the job. Henry Rainford was the town's main "ditcher", and could be hired on contract.

Down the Beaver Lake ditch to the old Hendryx place where Jim Halleck, dairy owner, and family resided was a water wheel used for power for churning butter, and when the many fish returned from spawning, they were caught in this wheel, and were so thick, they had to be removed with a pitchfork. Old settlers maintain that when the South wind blew, the waters went with it, and when the wind changed, on the banks were deposited countless numbers of fish, chief among them the perch. A entire family's dinner could be obtained by picking up fish.

Earliest know settlers included the Dillons and the Wades. Dick and Enoch Wade owned the land where the first school was built, the cemetery ground, farmland where the Harry Christensons live, and the Newell property, north of the present Road 10. The Wades gave the first acre of ground

that made up the present cemetery. It was later enlarged by the gift of an additional acre by the Marshalls. In this cemetery was buried the renegade, and supposedly well-educated, Mike Shafer, who spelt terror to the inhabitants. In early history he figures prominently for his many evil deeds and upon burial, he was dumped into a hole amidst jesting and hilarity, without the benefit of a coffin.

In the early 1800's, a posse made up of the woodsmen of this territory, pursued and killed a horse thief, who had been harbored by old Mike Shafer. He was buried in a hill across from the Jennie Conrad home, and it was told that this community was so healthy that they had to "kill a man to start a grave yard". Old timer residents like to affirm that this same horse thief was dug up by doctors, and now his skeleton graces the science room of Morocco High School!

Some of the earlier settlers include the

land from Dillon, which was said to include the best orchards in Lake Twp., and settled in the first log home in the village and which had been built by Dillon. This home became known as Stoner's House, or the Loghouse Hotel. It is said that in those early days, at mealtime, a large dinner bell was rung, and often from 20 to 30 persons, woodsmen, visiting farmers, etc., would respond to the call-meals were 25 cents. This hotel stood near the present Lawbaugh home, and just west of this was the village blacksmith shop, owned and operated by Mr. Stoner. John Stoner was a pettigog, noted for his "law learnin", and was an advisor for many people, among them Hy Gooden and Lemuel Milk, wealthy Kankakeeians.

(It may be noted here that Hy Gooden, though a well-to-do man, was noted for his carelessness attire, and was often mistaken for a tramp. It is said he took great delight in traveling to Chicago and dickering for land

and what not to the dismay of the "sellers" who, unaware of his plentiful currency, would reiterate that "this is to be a cash sale, this is a CASH SALE!") To Margaret and John Stoner were born two girls, Eva (Metcalf), Ella (Bunch), now deceased, and one son, Henry who still operates a grocery store in Lake Village and is one of the older living residents.

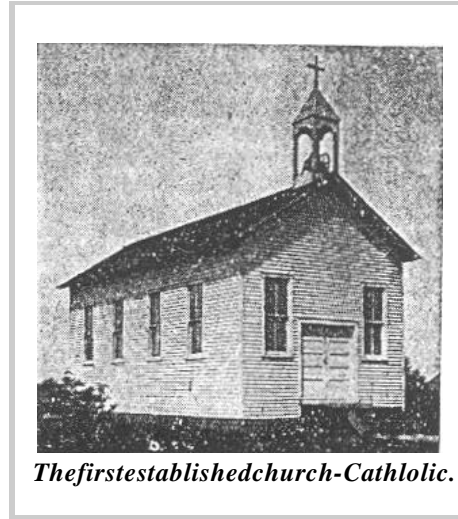
Across from the cemetery, on the land owned by the Wades

was Lake Village's first school, built by a man by the name of Hawkins, a community center for everything from church to politics. Other schools in the outlying districts were the North Star Parsons, and State Line Schools. To the Wade School in 1867, at the age of ten years, came Vietta Snyder, now the Village's oldest survivor (known as "grandma Bryant, age 91 years). Her first teacher was a Meriah Jenkins, the Snyder family had moved from Momence to a farm, known now as the Halsey Davis place.

In Courtland County, State of New York, in 1837, was born George C. A. Bryant, one of the early pioneers and one of Lake Village's most colorful residents. He was confederate prisoner during the Civil



The Stoner Log Boarding House



The first established church-Catholic.

family names of Halleck, Kight, Stoner, Malone, Bunch, Mott, Dudley, Hess, Barker, Lawbaugh, Burton, DeWolf, Rainford, Brandt, Jenkins, Tommy Christenson, Marshall, Wills, Nichols, Bingham, Hansen and others omitted for lack of information. Later came many others who have aided Lake Village in becoming the thriving community it now is, doing extensive farming and establishing businesses. Among these were the Cools, Davis, Gephards, Newells, and a number of Danish immigrants, Sorensons, Julius Christensons, Madisons, Chris Johnsons, and Frandsons. No doubt there were many others, but they also are omitted for lack of adequate information.

In 1867, John Stoner and his wife, Margaret Walker, purchased 40 acres of

Pages Of The Past

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



Kentland

C. W. Wickwire Drowned Yesterday (June 7) Our popular sheriff loses his life in what is known as The Brady Hole of the Iroquois River. Sad news flashed over the county like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. The body lay in its watery grave an hour and a half before recovered. Untimely ending of a useful life. The Brady Hole is in the Iroquois River, near the Stonehill Bridge and adjoining the farm of Will H. Ade.

Charivari parties should be sure of their victims before they sally forth on their "tour of torment." The party that operated on Fifth street Friday night seems to have been barking up the wrong tree.

An explosion of gasoline at the home of Ephraim Sell Tuesday morning caused a good deal of fright and some little damage. The gasoline was being used in the family washing and a number of pieces of clothing were burned before the fire was extinguished.

The Commissioners were in session Monday and Tuesday, and the following is of record (1) Retail liquor licenses were granted to John Flaherty of Kentland, Tony Strickfadden of Brook; and Samuel Kight of Lake Village. (2) The contract for painting 100 bridges was let to Harry V. Miller of Morocco at and for the price of fifteen cents per lineal foot. (3) The office of trustee of Colfax township was declared vacant and James A. Sammons appointed to the office.

We are informed by the present Surveyor, that from 1880 to 1893 the Surveyor's record No. 1, was destroyed, containing all the surveys from the organization of the county to about 1880. The present Surveyor has made a new record of all corners found by him that was recorded in said record No. 1. and will continue to do so, if reelected, making no charges or fees for the work. Mr. Hawkins announces himself this week for renomination.

A traveling doctor gave some anatomical and surgical demonstrations at the office of Dr. McCain Friday evening before the local physicians and a number of citizens. The demonstrations, consisting of dislocating joints and individual control of muscles, were marvelous and of great

interest to those present.

Joe Ade while spending a few days at the Kent Ranch in Colfax Township, had the misfortune to break his left collar bone while scuffling with a friend.

Brook

Mr. and Mrs. John Schuh were in Kentland Tuesday attending the Hartman-Schuh wedding.

Wm. Crawn and family are packing their household effects and will leave for Kansas next week.

The concert given by the Chicago Glee Club under the auspices of the Epworth League was one of the best entertainments ever given in Brook. Their male quartet was fine and the program was clean. The League cleared something over forty dollars on the entertainment.

Chas. Mullen has purchased the brick block occupied by II. D. Majors, and the barbershop. Consideration \$1,500.00.

The Halleck telephone lines reached Brook last week and were connected with the McCrays system. Kentland is now pretty well connected with all her neighbors and with the outside world.

Goodland

A. B. Jenkins went to the Hub yesterday on business.

The young girls, fifteen or twenty in number, had a mother hubbard picnic Tuesday. The rain spoiled their plans of going to the river on not wanting to give up all opportunities for a pleasant time and lots of fun, secured a wagon and hayrack and spent the afternoon and evening in driving and all seemed to be having a good time.

Mt. Ayr

Born to J. J. Garety and wife June 5th, a boy.

W. R. Wooley on last Monday bought the furniture building of J. H. Crisler and will move his stock of goods into the same in the near future. Mr. Wooley will live above the store. J. H. Crisler will sell his furniture stock at cost so he can vacate the room for Mr. Wooley.

Work on the new elevator was resumed this week. The main part of the elevator is up about forty feet. The carpenters had to wait on lumber.

Roselawn

Three horses were killed by a freight

train here Monday night, the property of Nels Jensen.

Fred Tanner is having a well drilled on his farm near this place, but has not as yet struck oil.

Leroy Templeton shipped five carloads of cattle the night of the 4th and 4 on the night of the 5th (July). These nine loads are destined to South Africa. They were billed to Jersey City, N.J., at which point they will take transports for Liverpool and South Africa. They are for the use of England's soldiers. The shipment is likely going the longest distance of any stock shipment from Rose Lawn.

Morocco

Capt. Graves of Morocco was in Kentland the latter part of last week selling a very useful article in the shape of an instrument to hold an obstinate horse while in the hands of the village blacksmith.

The soldiers reunion held at Morocco last week was not the complete success hoped for by reason of the inclemency of the weather. However, fully sixty veterans were on hand, many of whom were accompanied by their families. In the morning Rev. Tuggle delivered the address of welcome and a suitable response was made by Comrade J. A. Hatch. A adjournment was then taken until after dinner and the comrades and their families thereupon took possession of the tables upon which was piled enough food to comfortably feed an army. It is possible the veterans of the civil war are getting too old to fight, but they are young enough to do ample justice to a dinner like the one provided for the occasion by the hospitable people of Morocco.

Is anyone reading Pages of the Past? I was hoping to get some responses to several items listed in the Spring, 2001 issue of The Newcomer. The first question is: What is a crokinole contest? Secondly, has anyone seen a book that holds the information of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the territorial form of government in Indiana? Thirdly, What was the L. L. H. Club organized by the ladies of Mt. Ayr? And last, where was Water Valley? Please notify myself or the editor if you have the answer to these questions! Thanks-Janet Miller.

McCray Scholarship Winners 2001

Enos Store

By Casey Hall, North Newton

Back in 1963 Ed and Fern Hale returned to their home state after Ed retired from twenty-one years in the Navy. They moved to Enos and opened the Enos Store. You see, Ed and Fern were my Grandparents.

The Enos Store was open seven days a week. Store hours were real ways from 6:30 to 9:30, no matter what day of the week it was. In twenty-nine years of owning the store, my grandparents only closed the store for two half-days. One was for my great grandma's funeral, and the other for my great grandpa's funeral. The store never once closed for a holiday, or for any other significant reason. For some reason, which nobody knows for sure, my grandfather refused to close the store.

Many people would come in the store every morning. There they would go and get a cup of coffee from my grandpa, and sit there and drink the coffee and visit with grandpa. My grandpa was a wonderful person to his customers. He trusted everybody.

He would let people charge their groceries to a bill, and have the person repay him later. I don't know of one store today that I can walk into and tell the cashier that I am going to put this on my bill. I sure wish I could, but nobody can trust nobody these days. My grandpa had his own meat cutter there at the store. You ask yourself, well, it is a store, what is so unusual about that? Well, my grandpa and grandma would make homemade

Continued on Page Fourteen

Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. What township was the first to consolidate schools?
2. Who owned the first automobile in Kentland and what kind was it?
3. What was the largest freshwater lake in Indiana?
4. When did the school in Conrad close?
5. When was the first Kentland telephone directory issued with how many entries?

See answers on Page Twelve).

History of Lake Village from page Three

ruffians who liked to terrorize the vicinity came in to start a brawl. They were asked to leave, but insisted upon dancing, and in the midst of the excitement, vanished taking with them all the beer kegs. A group of men jumped on their horses and followed them, shooting as they ran, but in the dark the pursuit was soon over, and the men returned to the dance, minus their drinks. Early next morning, young Jack Jenkin hunting for his father's cows, saw a beer keg under a tree by the Burton farm, and when he investigated found a dying man, one of the interlopers of the evening before. The man whose thim was taken before the court, charged with manslaughter, but received a very light sentence, due to the character of the man who was shot.

In early days, religion was brought to the people by the circuit riders who came and held services in the homes. The first established church was the Catholic Church. They purchased the school building that used to stand where the presents school is, removed the top of the building and moved it to the northern part of town. It was later purchased by the Odd Fellows as a lodge hall and in recent years was acquired by Clark Shuler who made it into a hatcher and living quarters.

To go back to 1881, a newspaper, the Star Journal, was published by Charles W. Lee, teacher in lower grades. During this period, William Kenney was the village blacksmith; Mrs. M.L. Elijah conducted a milliner and dress goods store; J.B. Hess and Son dealt in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes; J.A. DeWolf conducted a general store for all. Hess and DeWolf were brothers-in-law, their stores being across the street from one another. DeWolf's on the site of the Claude Rainford filling station, and Hess's stood on the grounds of the Royal Blue.

William Cheevers was the owner of the gristmill, and was reported to have the best corn meal available. This mill was up on stilts, placed in the hollow next to the present home of Cecil Flagg.

Mr. Bryant really owned the first grocery store, located where the creamery building stands, and it was the first established post office. This store was later moved on the site of the Christenson garage, but the building burned, and all post office records with it. Then the post office was moved into the Hess Store.

The first postmistress was Mrs. John

Linton, it has been told that people liked to tell her that her clock was wrong just to hear her retort, "I go by my own time". Her husband, who helped her in the post office, sold patent medicine, and liked to advertise their wares as follows: "will mail you or pill you with the equal pleasure". Mail was carried for many years by Lincoln Lawbaugh, who died in 1948 in his late 80's.

The first and only drug store was owned by "Hume" Sammons, and he was assisted by Dave Hess, who boarded and roomed at the Log House Hotel.

Horse trading was quite common, and one of the earliest figures remembered was old Thad Mott, known from miles around. He traveled the country driving a hearse like buggy upon which was the inscription, "Tis Bad To Be Deaf, But Hell To Be Poor" - Dealer in Harness and Horses.

In 1904, three railroad companies surveyed for a track, the Monon, Three I, and New York Central. Warren McCray made it possible for this survey to be made, and the New York Central was successful. The deal was closed in 1904 and in 1906, the first steel was laid.

(Editor's Note: This article continues to describe the life and times of the Lake Village area, and will be reprinted in later issues of The Newcomer. Thanks goes out to Fannie Collins, who shared this edition of the Brook Reporter, dated March 10, 1949. It was a part of special section completely dedicated to Lake Village and its schools. She assisted W.O. Schanlaub in organizing this material graciously published by the Brook Reporter. A copy of this entire special section is available at the NCHS Resource Center in Kentland. It details the community organizations and churches, as well as a variety of pictures of the students of their schools from 1929-1947.)

**Do you have your copy of the
Newton County Historical
Coloring Book or "Ralph" The
Story of Bogus Island? Why Not?
219-474-6944**

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

Mount Ayr - from page Five

the summer months, my uncle gave a nickel everyday and I was allowed to walk up the street to the Kriz Store all by myself. I would buy an ice cream cone, and walk back to grandma's, licking and dripping, all the way.

I was also permitted to walk to the end of the block, turn east and walk just to the elevator. I could not cross the railroad track and I could not cross the street. During warm weather, I went exploring almost every afternoon after nap time. I would walk up the street, pass the store where I got my ice cream, meander by the little snack bar which must have been a fun-place to be - I could tell from the laughter, occasional naughty word and the smoke drifting through the open window. I was told never to go in there and I never did, but that didn't stop me from wondering what was so funny inside that building.

On the corner stood Ashby's Hardware. Mrs. Ashby, a very large lady with grey hair knotted in the back, spent a lot of time standing at the front of the store, looking out the window. This lady did not look happy, and I did not like her looks, so when I reached the edge of the hardware store building, I would run as fast as I could until I reached the corner. Then I would turn east and stand by a line of trees to catch my breath. Mrs. Ashby frightened me; I don't know why because she never came outside and she never said one word to me, but I could not walk by her store!

If my mother, who worked at the Sink's General Store, located on the corner, diagonally across the street from the Hardware Store, saw me, she would come



This photo also from "The History of Newton County, 1985", is the building in which a blacksmith shop owned originally by George Corbin was located. Later Eli Chupp, who worked for Mr. Corbin, took over the business. Ca 1908-1910.



This photo of the Tile Mill in Mount Ayr from the "History of Newton County, 1985", is ca 1888. Left to right - Ed Bell, Mrs. Marietta (Graves) Bell, daughter Bernice (Bell) Hayworth, Mr. and Mrs. Couda Stucker. Others not known.

out the front door and tell me to go back to grandma's. Then I had to run past the hardware store - again!

Every time the train came through town, I would stand with my grandpa and watch it chug down the tracks. The train was called "Old Coley" and grandpa said it was the only train talked about in the Bible. In explaining this fact to me, he said that in the "Good Book" Old Coley was described as a creepy, crawling thing.

Going east on Chicago Street there was a barbershop, a meat market, a creamery and a grain elevator. The Blacksmith Shop was across the railroad tracks and was the last business on the north side of Chicago Street.

On the South Side of Chicago Street stood the weighing scales for the elevator, next came a dance hall, DeWeese General Store, The State Bank, and a vacant building on the corner was used by the school as a gym. The train depot was to the south of the dance hall.

On the south-west corner of Chicago Street stood the Sink's General Store and continuing on south, there was a post office, the Evangelical United Brethren Church and a barbershop.

Behind the Sink's Store, and on Chicago Street, Dr. Martin had his office in his home. He saw patients in his office and he made house calls. He always seemed to know where to take the babies he carried in his little black bag. I know this for sure because he came to our house in October after my third birthday in March and when he left, he forgot to take the baby boy that came in his bag!

The Methodist Church was located behind the school and the Milligan Garage was located on the north-west corner, across from the school. The telephone office was located to the north of the garage and the Baptist Church was across the street to the

east. The pickle factory and the tile factory were located on Marion Street, east of the town square.

The town gradually changed. As people died and buildings collapsed, there were fewer businesses and when in high school, the post office was a part of the Kriz Store, the snack bar was long gone, Mrs. Ashby had died and the building was empty for several years before Kenneth Blankenbaker opened a restaurant and salvage store in that location. When Frank DeWeese died, the elevator stored grain in the lower part of the building. The Odd Fellow Lodge members met upstairs. Later the grain was removed and Yarrow Kriz opened a grocery store in the down stairs rooms.

The Baptist Church became the Church of God, Milligan's Garage became Brown's Garage and Bill Herre had a gas station in the front part of the former school gym.

There was no longer a Creamery, Meat Market, Barber Shop, EUB Church, pickle factory and tile factory. Nor was there a train depot. The dance hall was torn down and Sink's Store was a memory.

When I graduated from Mount Ayr High School in 1946, there were the two churches, one garage, two grocery stores, a blacksmith shop, an elevator, two gas stations, a tavern, and the telephone office.

In 1947, Rose and Ed Heistand built a cafe on the ground where Sink's Store once stood and in 1948, I opened a beauty shop in one room at the Brannam gas station, which was located on the corner of Chicago Street and State Road 55.

I need to elaborate more on the school in Mount Ayr, after all, it was a very real part of the town for many years. The first school was a frame two-story building with four rooms. The present building was erected in

The President's Corner

Newton County Historian **Gerald Born**

I had prepared a farewell statement for this column, when I thought I would be the outgoing president of the Society. But with the events of the June annual meeting, I had to throw that away and start anew. Prior to the annual meeting, held at the Christian Church, Brook, the Chair of the nominating committee, Gerald Born, approached me and said that he was unable to find a person wishing to run for President and that if he was unable to find a candidate by the time of the meeting, would I consider running again for the office. In a moment of weakness I said I would. Not only was the committee unable to find a candidate for president, but for secretary as well, and he must have put the same proposition before Betty Risley for she, too, agreed to run again. Donna LaCosse agreed to seek the County Historian's job, as Jim Robbins did not want to run again to fill that office. The rest is history. We three were elected by a unanimous vote and will be the new officers for the Society. The positions of Vice-president, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large will be voted upon next year in accordance with provisions in the By-laws. The other member of the Board is the Head of the Family History Division.

The past two years have been one of real growth for the Society. Membership has more than doubled. We now have 171 paid memberships and applications continue to arrive. Attendance at our monthly meetings is good. We have between thirty-five to sixty-five members attending each month. Programs have been well received. The practice of meeting at different locations throughout the county started by the previous presidents has been continued and accounts, I am sure, for the number of different members that attend the meetings. The Newcomer Committee, Gerald Born Chair, and Beth Bassett as the Editor of our newsletter continues to receive favorable comments and accolades. Many new members have had their first contact with the Society through the newsletter. Jim Robbins and the Fair Committee continue to make the Society's presence known throughout the area by their program during the Punkin' Vine County Fair. Individual members have carried the message of our past to schools, groups, friends and other historical societies. Inquiries are being received weekly on the Internet for people wanting information about Newton County and their ancestors. The publishing program continues to be active. An increasing number of people are using our webpage and it has been given an award for excellence. A Newton County coloring book has been published, "*Ralph, the Story of Bogus Island*" has been reprinted, and a compilation of Morocco History is being prepared for the Morocco Sesquicentennial. This year we received our tax-exempt status from both the Federal and State governments, so that we can accept tax-free gifts and thus encourage giving to our Society. The Old Gold and Black, the Morocco High School paper has been put on microfilm and is now available to the public. And many people have found our Resource Center and have stopped by for help in locating and tracing their roots in Newton County. I see no reason why this present activity cannot go forward and will be happy to be a part of our combined effort to preserve the local history of our area.

Nothing happens in a vacuum, and so it is with history. We are surrounded by other counties which, too, have a rich heritage of

history. We need to know our neighbors and how their history relates to ours. So for the next couple of years I will adopt a good neighbor policy and try to bring people in from other counties to present programs on some aspect of their history.

This is not to say we neglect the collection of local history, for we think this is our primary goal---the collection and preservation of our area history before it is lost.

Without people who have volunteered their time and energy, we could not have done the many things we have done in the past couple of years. Volunteers remain at the backbone of our Society. My sincere appreciation goes out to everyone who has given so freely of their time and energy to making my time in office so fruitful and enjoyable. I hope that I can serve the Society in the same spirit of those who have given in the past. I look forward to two more years of growth and accomplishment.

Family History Division

Update By Gerald Born, Director

The major focus of the Family History Division for the past few months has been the book for the Morocco Sesquicentennial. Material is still coming in and there has been a flurry of activity in putting the family histories in the proper form, typing them into the computer and proofreading. A number of members have been active in doing these tasks, including Gerald Born, who has been gathering and typing the histories Beth Bassett who is in charge of production and layout, Janet Miller, who is handling the advertising and proofreading. Carrie Evelyn Linduska has also been proofing the printed sheets, and Suzie Hall, who is doing a fine job in putting articles into digital form. Recently the photographs that will be used in the book are being scanned and placed on disc. The scanner, which Marlowe Davis gifted to the society, has been working overtime, with 200 photos having already been scanned. Janet and Beth have been obtaining estimates for the printing of the book. Printing costs continue to increase and there may need to be scaled down the scope of the book. The first consideration will be to publish material that has not been in book form before. Preliminary discussions have taken place on alternative means of publication for material that needs to be reprinted. To this end the Society has recently purchased additional hardware for the computer and a CD burner for reproducing CD's, which in turn may be sold.

Saturday, June 9, 2001 was the day that members proof read Riverside Cemetery at Brook. Members Kyle Conrad, Gerald Born, Mike Haste, Ron Humphrey, Beth Bassett and Larry Lyons accomplished this task. Kyle has also gathered over 500 obituaries from the *Brook Reporter* and other sources, which will be made available to the Society in the future. This was done in conjunction with compiling the cemetery records as a check on the actual burials. It is an invaluable tool and will greatly complement the records of the Society.

The work of the Division and the Society has been greatly assisted by Wayne Kay, Yvonne's brother-in-law, who has been installing an imaging program into the computer which will assist in converting the photos into files that can be stored economically on CD's and transmitted to the Internet. He possesses the technological knowledge that is needed in this day and age and has already been a help in sorting through the many details that we need to learn in order to utilize the full range of the computer's capabilities.

The reprint of Jethro Hatch's, "*Ralph, the Story of Bogus Island*", is already being well received. Dr. Hatch was one of the early doctors in Newton County, who became fascinated with the stories and legends he had heard of the Beaver Lake and Bogus

the Swede Cemetery. It was even more spooky coming upon the cemetery at night with tractor lights making shadows shifting between the tombstones. One night, two little red eyes came out of the cemetery right at Bob Sheldon. He was ready to lift the plow and run for home before he found out it was a owl.

Newell Johnson and his father had high class big red horses. His father was a judge at the Morocco horse fair. One day we needed a tractor that had been marooned by a foot of water from a cloudburst. Newell put on his knee high boots. We hitched the horses to the tractor. Newell cracked the whip and said, "Giddiup." The big red horses leaned into the harness, but nothing happened. Newell turned around and gave me a dirty look. He never swore or got excited. The next time he hollered I knew the tractor had to help so I let out the clutch and we sailed through the water like on a boat.

Newell's father did not tolerate drunkenness. He took two young Swedes in his buggy to Morocco. When they got drunk in Morocco, he put them out to walk home.

Andrew Sandberg was the last in Morocco to vote the prohibition ticket. Andrew fired a steamship across the Atlantic eight times. He had to scoop extra coal to make up for the coal the drunks did not scoop. He had shoulder pains so bad that one spring he had to go to Hot Springs and his young sons planted the corn. Drinking was not acceptable in Swedish church society. Those who thought they needed alcohol for their health had to drink it down in the basement or out in the barn. Relatives brought it in from the city. It would have been a total disgrace to be seen buying it in Morocco. The Donovan church ladies were proud that they voted Donovan dry forever. Around 1950, the grocery store owner said he would close the store unless Donovan turned wet. It is still dry and without a grocery store.

Floyd Grant told me the saloon was a terrible sight before they voted Donovan dry. Drunks sprawled all over the floor. I know how that happens. At an office party they asked me what I wanted to drink. They bought me a cheap bottle of wine no one else wanted and for economics sake I had to drink it dry. I just managed to crawl to a cot in the ladies room before I passed out. When I was four years old, my father took me to Cad Johnson to take the "cure". Cad poured me a big tumbler and I drank it

straight without water. It burned like fire going down. I never wanted whiskey after that. You could tell Cad drank whiskey by the red nose on his white face. You couldn't tell it on the sunburned Swede farmers. Some called Cad an "ambulance chasing lawyer". The ambulances ran regularly during the Depression when nothing else did. With Cad's help, the Johnsons bought land in the Depression when others had to sell and jazzed up the house with an imposing wide brick porch across the front.

When Newell Johnson retired, he went out of his way to rent the land to a Johnson. But this Johnson was not only not a relative, he was not even a Swede. His niece rectified that situation by renting to a distant relative who was descended from Smolanders. She solved the name problem by moving him from his Carlson house to a Johnson house. Names were not all that important in Smoland. We just added "son" to our father's name. Half of Sweden was named Yohanson (Johnson), Carlson, and Anderson because Yohan (John), Carl and Andre were common names. If you don't know J is pronounced Y in Sweden, you don't understand the conductor and will not get off at the right railroad station. My grandfather was naturalized as Johnson, then he took Swanson so as not to be confused with his neighbor, who also had the name Charles Johnson. I suppose if he had not, he would have been called "Charlie on the Hill."

These several Art Andersons were recalled by names like, "Art on the Stone Road," and "Art" Swift". Uncle Ernest, who was born in



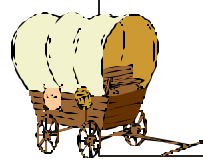
The four Sandberg brothers, Oscar, George, Henry and Bill. Photo contributed by Byron Sandberg.

Sweden was not naturalized or name changed, but he voted anyway and went by Swanson like the rest of the family. Grandfather Sandberg never told anyone his name in Sweden was Carlson. Luckily we knew the village where he was born and the date. There was only one boy named Andre born on that date. My father's name on birth records was August. He used "George". I would use another name if my name was August, too.

Another reason the Old Swedes kept



George Sandberg with his horse and buggy, ca 1912-1914. Photo contributed by Byron Sandberg.



Focus on Families

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

The Atkinson Family By Gerald Born

Recently an old *Morocco Courier*, dated August 26, 1971 came into my possession. The caption over a photo of two women in an early automobile boldly proclaimed, First Morocco Girl To Own Automobile. The two women were Edith (Davis) Atkinson and her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Link Wright. She taught George W. Atkinson (brother to Walter Atkinson) to drive it while he was courting her. She tells how a "senior citizen" of Morocco remarked, "Edith Davis just got that car to catch George Atkinson," and Edith's eyes would light up and she would chuckle, "And you see, I did."

In the photo Edith is wearing a maroon colored sweater with Mr. Atkinson's football letters, 1908. on it. He had a similar sweater in grey with his 1909 letter on it. They wore them on family outings and picnics. Their daughter said she guessed her parents were the "swingers" of their generation, and it was she who shared the photo with the *Morocco Courier* when she was in Morocco attending her mother's funeral.

Edith (Davis) Atkinson was born October 20, 1886 near Morocco and passed away July 3, 1971. Her mother died when she was only four years of age, leaving a son and three daughters, one younger than Edith, so Edith was brought up by her maternal grandmother until she was 16 years old, then she went to Shawnee, Oklahoma to rejoin her family who had been reunited after her father married again.

She graduated from Shawnee High School in 1904 and taught school in Oklahoma for three years, and two years in Morocco, from 1907 to 1909. In 1909 she married her girlhood sweetheart, George W. Atkinson who had graduated from Purdue University in the class of 1908. They were married in Oklahoma and went to live in Washington D.C. Where Atkinson was connected with the government during World

War I. The Atkinsons then moved to Springfield, Mass. to work in the Armory there. After the war ended Mr. Atkinson went to work for Goldbert and Barket, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey where he worked for ten years. He died suddenly in 1934 after the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary and was buried in Morocco.

He left two teenage daughters to be educated. Three years after his death the elder daughter, Mary Evelyn was in the senior class of Brown University, the younger daughter Syble Ann, was a freshman in Russell Sage College in Troy, New York and Mrs. Atkinson was a housemother of a sorority group in Mass., where she remained for three years taking courses in Home Economics to fit to be a dietitian. She left college after three years with the education, but not a degree, and her last job lasted ten years with the Bradley home in Meridan, Connecticut.

After her retirement Mrs. Atkinson traveled extensively. She drove her own car in each of the 49 states in the United States, made several trips to Canada, tours of Mexico, and a trip to Europe. Her oldest daughter gave her a trip around the world for



First Morocco Girl To Own Automobile. The two women were Edith (Davis) Atkinson and her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Link Wright. Submitted By Gerald Born.

her 75th birthday present. This took place in 1962 and was 104 days in duration. She celebrated her 76th birthday on board "The France" en route home from Europe.

Mrs. Atkinson's body was cremated and interred at Oakland Cemetery with her husband on whose stone was engraved "Hasta la Vista." (Till we meet again). Her daughters, Mrs. Syble A. Haswell of Waverliet, New York, and Mrs. Evelyn Brogren of New York City were at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Atkinson. An invitation to former friends, students and acquaintances was extended to come to the Atkinson home and meet with the daughters.

George W. Atkinson, too, came from one of the pioneer families of Morocco. He was one of 18 children, born in 1883. He was the son of Elias C. and Mary Ellen (Hicks) Atkinson and was born at the Atkinson homestead on a mile south of Morocco on March 19, 1883.

After finishing the Morocco school where he played on the early football teams and attending Valparaiso University, he taught in the Newton county schools. Later he entered Purdue University from which institution he received two degrees in the engineering school.

Due to his scholastic achievements and fine, clean character he received an appointment as engineer in the United States treasury department at Washington shortly after he finished at Purdue. At the beginning of the World War he resigned his position with the U. S. government to accept a position as chief engineer at the Springfield, Mass., armory.

He held a similar position with the Gilbert & Barker Manufacturing Co. for ten years and for the past three years has been a construction engineer in the U. S. treasury department with headquarters at Springfield, having charge of the construction of the Palmer and East Hampton post offices.

As soon as Mr. Atkinson was

established in Washington he married Miss Edith Davis, a Moroccan young woman who was also a teacher in the Newton county schools. He yearned to return to Washington after his busy career and almost reached that goal, but was prevented to return because of ill health and died shortly thereafter.

Elias Charles Atkinson, the father of all the Morocco Atkinsons was born September 17, 1823. He was twice married. By his first wife, Mary, he fathered fifteen children, and had three by his second wife.

James, the eldest, was born around 1846 in Indiana and he married Rhoda Wink.

John E. Atkinson was born about 1848 in Indiana and was twice married, first to Maggie Green (July 26, 1874) and next to Sarah Goodale (May 30, 1886). By his first wife he had three girls, whose names I do not have. By his second wife he had ten children, Fred, Alfred, Lottie, Ruth, Bessie, Carry and Reva E. plus three others whose names I do not know. Frank married Minerva J. Roadruck, the daughter of Charles Albert and Flora (Chizum) Roadruck and had Ethel F. (Clifford E. Zacharias), Elsie L. (Adam Styck), Bernard and Fred. Frank died in 1971 and Minerva in 1984. Lottie married Leslie Vogland. Both Ruth and Bessie lived at Danville, Illinois. Carry lived at Brush, Colorado and Reva E. married James A. Saylor.

Cornelius A. Atkinson was born July 29, 1849 at Woodville, Henry County, Indiana and married March 27, 1873 to Miriam W. Anderson, the daughter of Ward Anderson, who was the second postmaster of Morocco. He died in 1932. A large assembly of relatives, friends and neighbors of Cornelius A. Atkinson gathered at the Methodist church to pay a last tribute to an old settler, one, who was perhaps the oldest mail carrier in the state, not only in years of life, but in years of mail service.

Mr. Atkinson was 82 years of age and for 53 years had carried mail for the Morocco post office. He brought the mail to and from Morocco and St. Mary, Illinois, on horse back in the early days when Morocco had no railroad.

It was a sad day in his life three months ago when he was forced to discontinue his services because of ill health. He was able to be about his home until two weeks before his death when he contracted influenza. He was the son of Charles and Mary Atkinson. He passed away at his home in Morocco on



Cornelius A. Atkinson may have used this type of horse and buggy for his mail deliveries.

March 31, 1932 at the age of 82 years 8 months and 2 days.

When he was just a lad he came with his parents to Newton county. They were of that group of early settlers who were pioneers in the development of Newton county prairie lands into prosperous farms. The remainder of his life was spent in and near Morocco with the exception of one and one-half years spent in California.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, two died in infancy. A daughter Ora passed away at the age of eighteen. A son, Charles William Atkinson married Laura B. Rogers, the daughter of James P. and Myra Jane (Archibald) Rogers. They lived at Gary and had Cyril Lionel and Archibald Barnett Atkinson. Mrs. James Dick, of Dunn and later of Morocco also survived her father. The Atkinsons also raised their granddaughter, Mrs. Leslie Peters, whom the grandparents reared from infancy and who was a great help in their declining years.

Elias' fourth child, Ruth Ann died in 1860, only ten years of age. I have no information on children five, six and seven, O. Perry, Rosa Ann, and Sarah E.

The eighth child, a daughter, Hannah Jane married in Newton County, George H. Elder. They moved to Yeoman, Indiana.

The ninth, and tenth children died in infancy and are buried at the Murphey Cemetery, Morocco. Their names were E. Alice and Mary Atkinson.

The eleventh child, Charles E. Atkinson

born in 1864 married Jessie Dixon and had four children, Ruth, Marian, Paul and Donald.

Children twelve and thirteen were Albert R. and Evaline Atkinson, born around 1867 and 1869. The fourteenth child, a daughter, Oma Bell Atkinson married on September 12, 1894 George E. Hicks in Newton County. She moved to Chalmers, Indiana. The fifteenth child, a son, Elias Verlin Atkinson was born about 1876 and moved to Des Moines, Iowa where he was living in 1932.

Elias C. Atkinson married again around 1882 to Mary Ellen Hicks, a daughter of Solomon and Polly Hicks. She was born April 5, 1949 near Nineveh, Brown County, Indiana. They had three children, George W., of whom we have written above, Ameda M. born ca 1886 and whom married on September 16, 1903 Claude E. Holley. She died in 1967 and is buried at the Smith Cemetery, located in Beaver Township.

Walter C. Atkinson was the youngest child born February 25, 1888. He married on December 31, 1912 Fannie May Smart. Walt Atkinson held a seat on the Chicago Stock Exchange and built a lovely house for his second wife, Ruby E. (Briney) on the south side of Recher Park. Tom Atkinson was his son.

Need some help putting together your family history for publication? We'll be happy to help you get started. If you have access to a computer, visit our website to begin your journey of discovery!

Growing Up Swedish by Byron Sandberg

As a small boy I saw the painting of the home my grandparents left in Sweden hanging high on the front room wall. I learned we were from a place called Smoland and thought it must be heaven on Earth.

The Smolander Swedish accent was so different that it almost wasn't Swedish. The Swedish dialect was spoken around Donovan long after it had died in Sweden. Ralph Eckerstrom spoke at a Swedish university in the dialect he learned in Donovan. He was told it was a beautiful old peasant Swedish. That bothered him until I found out this dialect is a national Swedish treasure they want to record.

Smoland was reinvented and intelligent because you had to be to survive in Smoland.

When the crops failed, they made do with bark bread. Bark from the birch tree was ground and mixed with rye flour to make bread to fill the stomach until the next crop. It was this good practice in living on very little that enabled my grandfather to pay off the mortgage and the land from John Grant in short order.

John Grant encouraged this early payment by frequently visiting to make sure that no money or time was wasted. It must have pleased John Grant greatly when grandfather took the running water out of the house. It was replaced by the water bucket in the pantry that I filled from the covered tank by the windmill.

The water system took money to

maintain and a small boy's time was worth nothing. The water bucket saved the house when the Christmas tree caught fire from the candles. A bucket of water put it out, otherwise the house would have burned down.

We married mostly Swedish in this community until the 1930s. Our Swedish ladies were so attractive that

American boys would come all the way from Morocco to the Swede Church in hopes of the favor of a buggy ride. The Swede boys stopped that by rearranging the wheels on the buggies while the American boys were in church. No respectable Swedish girl was going to ride in a buggy made ridiculous by one large and one small wheel in front. I, Vivian Kessler, was one of the first Moroccan boys to marry Swedish. Vivian was a well-built lad that the Swedish boys were afraid to tangle with either Vivian or his buggy.

Newell Johnson told me, "Your time is worth nothing," every time I had a bright



The Andrew Sandberg Family. Grandfather, Andrew, Grandmother, Augusta (Peterson), children, Henry, Oscar, George (Sitting). Photo contributed by Byron Sandberg.

idea for saving work and time. One day Newell decided I need marriage counsel. So he told me, "If you get married, don't get a divorce. Divorces cost money." I paid careful attention because I knew Newell had studied this carefully. He was engaged for 20 years, never married. It was my wife that divorced me after 30 years. It was a no-fault divorce. I was totally innocent. It was a wonder I ever got married because most of the Old Swedes I know were brothers and sisters living together.

Divorces were almost unknown in the Swedes' community. Jesse Anderson was the only Old Swede who had a divorce. It wasn't his fault either. He married a divorcing American wife. He killed himself shortly afterward.

Delmar Brown told me the Old Swedes were backward because they kept threshing oats long after other farmers replaced the threshing machine with the combine. He didn't understand the old Swede principal that, "Your time is worth nothing." Threshing kept the whole country side busy and out of trouble for a month in the summer. The bundles had to be shocked, pitched on the wagon and off the wagon into the threshing machine. The oat had to be hauled away and scooped in the bin. I do not begrudge all the exercise except the hot and dirty job of shocking oats. I liked to shock oats in the cool of night except next to

A Collection of A Lifetime

Recently, Betty Carlson shared a grouping of old pictures that she has collected over the years. Some of them are shown here. She also has a copy of the program from the 13th Annual Reunion of Old Soldiers and Sailors of Newton County, held in August, 1898. A photocopy of the entire program can be seen at our Resource Center. It lists all veterans at that time, as well as advertising from local merchants and a few great poems and songs.

The photos shown here are the first to be seen by many of our members. The upper right is the Morocco Band on parade,



probably during a 4th of July celebration. The Kennedy & Murphey Store was located at the corner of State and Clay.

The street scene at the left is State street and Lincoln street, ca 1910, and the great picture below is the C.E. & I. Railroad depot, which was located where the present WIC building is today.

Betty had several other photos that she allowed us to copy that enable us to keep a permanent record of our county. Thanks Betty!



Ladies of the Morocco Swedish Community. L-R, ?Carlson, Hazel Johnson, May Johnson, Paul Johnson, Newell Johnson, ?Mrs. Frank Johnson, ?, Augusta (Peterson) Sandberg. Photo contributed by Byron Sandberg.

Family History Division

Island country from page six And proceeded to put them into a fictionalized account of the region. The story concerns the life of an orphan boy who is adopted by a family who lived on the shores of old Beaver Lake and his pathway in discovering his roots in New York. His adventures with the banditti, counterfeiters and horse thieves, who used Bogus Island as a hideout and center for their illicit operations is both riveting and educational, for it provides a glimpse of the area during a time long past. And of course during the quest, boy meets girl, falls in love with her and there hangs the tale. For only \$5.00 plus tax this story can be yours.

Web site directory

Research your Newton County Families, from the comfort of your home by using our website! We recently were awarded "The Purple Floppy Award" by the InGen Web group who sponsors our site - If you don't have a computer at home, visit the library, or stop by our resource center in Kentland... On the site you will find -

- New! Cemetery Records
- Newton County Census Records: 1860 & 1870, 1880, 1900 (Beaver Twp)
- Jasper County Census Records: 1850-Index
- Enter & View Newton County Queries
- Newton County Look-Ups
- Newton County Biographies Project
- Newton County Marriage Records thru 1971
- Obituaries of Past Residents
- Biographies of Past Residents
- Links To Other State & Local Sites
- Index of "The Newcomer" Articles
- "The Newcomer" Fall 1999 to Present
- ... And much more!

threshing was that it was the biggest social activity of the summer. The threshing dinners were great. You could eat a great amount of food without getting fat because of all of the good exercise. One day at dinner, I was dismayed to hear my work ethic "talked about" by Lyle Grant at the next table. I didn't know the Swedish work ethic extended to trotting horses between threshing jobs. I was walking my team, taking it easy sitting on the side of the rack wagon when I heard a great jingle of harnesses behind me. Then I saw Lyle Grant gaining on me, then passing. His horses were trotting and Lyle was standing, taking the shock of the bouncing rack wagon by standing on the balls of his feet. Lyle's mother was descended from Swedish royalty so he had to set an example. It didn't make sense because we would always be waiting while the great threshing machine was set with the wind and belted up. The threshing machine was pulled between jobs by an ancient big 15-30 tractor whose top speed was barely faster than a horse could walk. One day it failed. I was surprised to see a much smaller modern tractor had enough power to pull the belt that drove the great threshing machine.

Then there was the party line. We returned a crank to make all the phones ring at once. Our ring was two long and two short. We didn't need the five short emergency ring to call everyone to the phone. Everyone listened anyway. They called it "rubbering". I used to fake hanging up by clicking the phone, and I would count the clicks of the others hanging up. We had few secrets. Lida Johnson had two phones. She had one on the Illinois Swedish party line and the other on the Indiana Swedish party line. She ranked high in Swedish society because she could "rubber" and "talk" about everyone. The fear of "talk" kept Swedish society in line. The boss ladies who ran the church would threaten you by showing how they could talk about someone else or just by threatening, "There it stalk," Aunt Ett told me, "Noon talked about us as much since they talked about Uncle Henry when he refused the invitation to join the Klu Klux Klan."

The Klu Klux Klan was the top social organization for a couple of years. It had a ritual and a cross, just like the fraternal organization where Uncle Henry was the best in memorizing and reciting the mumbo jumbo. It was against Catholicism instead of against Negroes.

Flaming crosses were lit before St. Mary's



Byron Sandberg family. Top, l-r, Angela Lafond, Byron Sandberg, Stuart Sandberg; 2nd row, l-r, Lucas Lafond, Jenny Sandberg, Makala Sandberg; bottom row, l-r, Marta Lafond, Jenny Sandberg, Kyle Sandberg. Photo contributed by Byron Sandberg.

in Beaverville and at the housing of Catholic Italian railroad workers. Swedes have been against Catholics since they saved there formation by defeating the Catholics in the Thirty Years War. It was not until the 1940s that local Swedes married Catholic. The first Swede came here in 1851. When they founded the church in 1853, they asked for a Swedish minister, denomination didn't matter. There were enough by 1861 that a dozen volunteered in the Civil War. In 1914, there were more than 100 children on the Swedish church rolls. Now, there are only a dozen or so left who are all Swedish. This community has a large number of descendants who earned the doctorate (PhD) We have a least seven. In a typical population this size, there will be only a couple. The ones I know are Bob Munson, Roger Anderson, Roger Peterson, Ralph Eckerstrom, Howard Johnson, Burton Sandberg, and Stuart Sandberg.

Of these, Howard Johnson and Stuart Sandberg are leading inventors in their fields. Howard Johnson was inventor, president and CEO of Farm Fans, the leader in grain drying design. It had a fan Howard designed that dried grain faster than a larger fan that used twice as much electricity. Stuart Sandberg is the chief inventor of a company that does nothing but program the computer chips for high speed ADSL telephone modems. Thirty percent of ADSL telephone modems paid a royalty to

use the patents in Stuart's name last year. ADSL is now being sold in Kankakee and will eventually reach other Illinois and Indiana towns.

The phone companies first bought cheap modems from a French company. Then newspaper stories complained about modems that repair men couldn't make work. There was no way repair men could adjust the cheap modems. The latest VDSL modems from Stuart's company can be adjusted from the telephone office. They can carry two voice calls and a high speed computer Internet connection at the same time on one telephone line. (Editor's Note: The Swedish Community was located west of Morocco and continued on into Iroquois County, Illinois).



Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. Colfax Township.
2. "Colonel" J. V. Wildasin on February 23, 1904. The automobile was a Glide Run About, made in Peoria, IL. It weighed 1250 lbs., ran on a six h.p. gas engine, and was purchased for \$750. The title "Colonel" came with the car.
3. Beaver Lake.
4. At the close of the term, April 22, 1927, the school was permanently discontinued. The children enrolled in the first four grades of the Conrad School were transported to Lake Village for the year 1926-27. Lee H. Crane taught the upper grades that season at Conrad. The pupils enrolled at that time were: Grade 5: Bessie James; Grade 6: Emma Bingham, Ora Helterbride, Marie Earley, Levant Wahl; Grade 7: Joseph Balogh, Earl Price; and the last graduates of Conrad School were: Grade 8: Edwin Robinson, Delos Best and Louis Balogh.
5. The first Kentland telephone directory was issued June 15, 1896 with 28 names listed. The telephone system was owned by Will K. McCray.

How Can We Help?

If you would like to visit our resource center that has a library filled with local history books and information. Like to reserve a time? Call Ahead - we'll try to accommodate everyone! 219-474-6944 e-mail: newtonhs@fmi.com

Mount Ayr As I Remember

By Donna (Schanlaub) LaCosse (As presented to the Newton County Historical Society on February 26, 2001)

The town of Mount Ayr was established on 40 acres of farmland donated by Lewis Marion on October 18, 1882. On this acreage there was to be a school, a church and a park. He stipulated that when the school ceased to be a school, the building and the ground on which it stood would revert back to the Marion family.

The school is no longer in existence, but the building remains. It is my understanding the Marion descendants were not interested in re-claiming their property, so they gave the building and ground to the town. The town has a house for the building, so it stands idle, and will eventually become a pile of bricks.

Marion insisted the park be fenced in so the children playing there would be protected. At that time there were no vehicles so we don't know from what the children needed protection - maybe runaway horses! Now that cars and trucks have replaced horses, the park is no longer protected by a chain link fence that at one

time featured hitching posts.

The first church was Methodist. No one seems to know where they held their services before the building was erected in 1884; perhaps in private homes or in a school building.

The church underwent a facelift in 1946 and when the Methodist and the United Brethren Churches merged, this church became United Methodist and, 117 years later, is still serving the community as a place of worship.

Sometime after 1887, the name of the town was changed to Mount Ayr. The East-West streets in Mount Ayr are Rensselaer, Chicago, Marion and Wood. North-South streets are First, Second, Third and Fourth. The school, church and park are located in the center of town.

At one time Mount Ayr hosted a tile factory, a pickle factory, a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, a railroad, a depot, a hotel, an elevator, a lumber and coal yard, grocery store, flour meal and feed store, a dry goods store, a bank, a drug store, a doctor, a telephone office, a post office, a pool hall, a newspaper office, hardware store and a harness shop.

There was also a funeral home, an opera

house, a livey barn, a nice house and a meat market. Later, when a Delco plant was erected, Mount Ayr became a modern town featuring electricity.

I was born on March 7, 1928 in Mount Ayr. I lived there until 1933 when my family moved to Kentland. We moved back to the Mount Ayr community in January 1938, and lived on a farm north-west of Mount Ayr. I lived there until the winter of 1946 when I attended Selans' School of Beauty Culture in Chicago and moved back to the farm in 1947 where I remained until I was married on March 12, 1948. Harold and I lived in an apartment in Mount Ayr until August 1948. Then Morocco became my home but Mount Ayr was, and still is, my hometown.

When I was a little girl I can remember three general stores, a small snack bar where they gathered to play cards, a hardware store, two barber shops, a meat market, creamery, elevator and blacksmith shop. There was also a dance hall, a post office, three churches, a garage, telephone office, a bank and a doctor's office.

When I was two years old, I began to stay with my grandmother while my mother worked in one of the general stores. During

Continued on Page Thirteen

THE BANK OF MT. AYR
MT. AYR, INDIANA.

OFFICERS.
W. PONSLER Pres., E. L. HOLLINGSWORTH V. P., J. R. SIGLER Cashier.

DIRECTORS
W. PONSLER, JOHN M. WASSON, E. L. HOLLINGSWORTH,
JOHN N. SIGLER, J. R. SIGLER.

This bank does a general banking business. Loans money on all lines of approved security. Buys notes, pays interest on deposits, pays taxes for customers and others.

Mount Ayr Cream Station IS NOW OPEN

at Sigler's old store building. We have made arrangements to buy cream at this place two days each week,

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.

Give us a trial.

ARNOLD & HUFTY

These display ads were in a copy of "The Mount Ayr Pilot", dated November 3, 1910. Fannie Collins brought this into the Resource Center for us to look at earlier this spring.

Arriving daily, the latest styles of Dry Goods. All the fads in dress patterns. especially wash goods. They are all the rage. Our line of Hosiery is complete, all shades and sizes. In Shoes and Slippers, our invoice is complete, in every particular.

Groceries!

Our shelves contain the best and freshest line of canned goods, Teas, Sugars, Coffees, Dried Fruits, in fact everything in groceries can be found here.

Remember we sell GOLD MEDAL FLOUR and BLUE RIBBON FLOUR.

OH YES! We buy Butter, Eggs and Poultry and pay the highest market price.

Thanking you for past patronage, and honesty and courteous treatment, hope for continuance of same.

E. PERRIGO, MT. AYR, IND.

Enos Store-Continued from Page Four sandwiches for the customer. He would go back, cut the meat, slice the cheese, and put whatever toppings the customer wanted on their sandwich. One interesting fact about the store has to do with the train tracks that ran on the east side of my grandparent's house/store. Trains would go by there quite frequently.

The way the train stopped by the store was quite unique. When the train arrived, the engineer would get out and go buy his groceries. As soon as the engineer was done shopping, he would get back on the train, and pull forward. But, he would not pull away, he only drove far enough ahead so the gentleman in the caboose could get out and go purchase their groceries. Once, a tragedy happened with the trains that went by Enos Store. There was a train that derailed and hit an pneumatic tank. The people in the train died and it also caused a wreck on highway forty-one, which also was a fatality.

My grandmaw was a notary and Justice of the Peace. Many people had to appear in her court. The court was a little room off the store. Many citizens of Newton County went to her court room for various reasons of breaking the laws. She also performed several marriages for local people.

My grandpa was a great and dedicated fur trapper. While grandmaw ran the store, grandpa went out trapping. The fur buyers would go to the store on Sundays and many local trappers would gather, with many stories to tell, and sell their furs. You can pretty much say that it was a trapper's convention.

Generations of families would stop by the store before school and after to get a quick snack, or buy a thirty-five cent can of pop. Or the bag of chips that cost a quarter was a hot buy at the store. Many still tell me what a neat store it was and it was ran by two wonderful people-my grandparents.

One night, in October of 1992, somebody set fire to the "good ole" Enos Store. It was arson. Luckily my grandparents were able to escape, but the store and the house they lived in was gone. The Enos Store will always be remembered by the people around this area. The fire that burnt the store to the ground was a tragedy, but it was God's way of telling my grandpa and grandmaw to retire.

The South Newton Winner, Brandelyn Tarter, will be published in the next issue.

Mount Ayr As I Remember, Cont'd from Page Thirteen

1917-1918 and has been remodeled four times.

The gym was completed in the winter of 1937 and the first class to graduate in the new gym was in 1938. The hot lunch program was introduced in the fall of 1948 and Mount Ayr High School won the basketball sectional in 1944. The shop and music rooms were added in 1954.

In 1968, the first six grades attended Elementary School at Mount Ayr and in the fall of 1974, Mount Ayr became a junior high school. Elementary students were bussed to Morocco.

Basketball was the only sport played until 1940 when football and track were introduced. Football games were played in Matthews cow pasture, where the new Community Room now stands. Since the location was in a pasture and the cows did not need lights, the games were played in the afternoon. Later the football field was located northeast of the school where the old tile factory was once a hub of activity. Then lights were installed at the field which was also used as a baseball field.

The first graduating class was in 1921 with four members, two girls and two boys. Before 1921, junior and senior class members were required to finish their high schooling in one of the neighboring towns. In 1928, four girls graduated and the largest class to graduate from Mount Ayr was the class of 1967 with 33 class members.

A total of 748 students graduated from Mount Ayr during the years of 1921 until 1967. There have been 184 reported deaths and forty alumnus for whom there is no address. The Alumni Association was re-organized in 1958 and their meetings are held annually in the Morocco Elementary School gym.

Changes continued to be made until the town became a village without a business and what was once a thriving town became a residential settlement.

I have fond memories of Mount Ayr. I used to know everyone in town and they all knew me. Not so now-I will be 73 years on March 7 and during those years Mount Ayr has gone from a working town to a retirement town. How and why this happened, we old timers have a hard time understanding. Younger people would have you believe this is progress. Regardless of the changes, Mount Ayr is still my hometown, and I have no choice but to accept it as it is.

Visit our Resource Center!

Here, you will find a variety of research tools for the history buff and those seeking family history. Microfilm of census records, from 1790 to 1910, 2 readers are available, and plenty of room to sit down and spend some time going through other books about the county, family histories, maps and plat books. *Paul Magin of Goodland recently donated a complete library of Family Tree Maker research disks - a great place to find your ancestors!*

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

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

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
THE NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC**

Dues (Check One) Yearly (July 1 - June 30)
 Student (\$2) ___ Individual (\$6)
 ___ Individual Life (\$100) ___ Family (\$9)
 ___ Family Life (\$175) ___ Institutional (\$25)
 ___ Contributing (\$50.00)

**With society membership you may also join the
FAMILY HISTORY DIVISION NEWTON
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**
Dues (Check One) Yearly (July 1 - June 30)
 Student (\$1) ___ Individual (\$3)
 ___ Individual Life (\$50) ___ Family (\$5)
 ___ Family Life (\$75) ___ Institutional (\$15)
 ___ Contributing (\$30)

As a member, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, THE NEWCOMER free!

You will also receive notification of four monthly meetings for each division. Dues are payable yearly (July 1 - June 30), check your mailing label for status of membership. Back issues of the Newcomer are available upon request for \$2.25 each.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

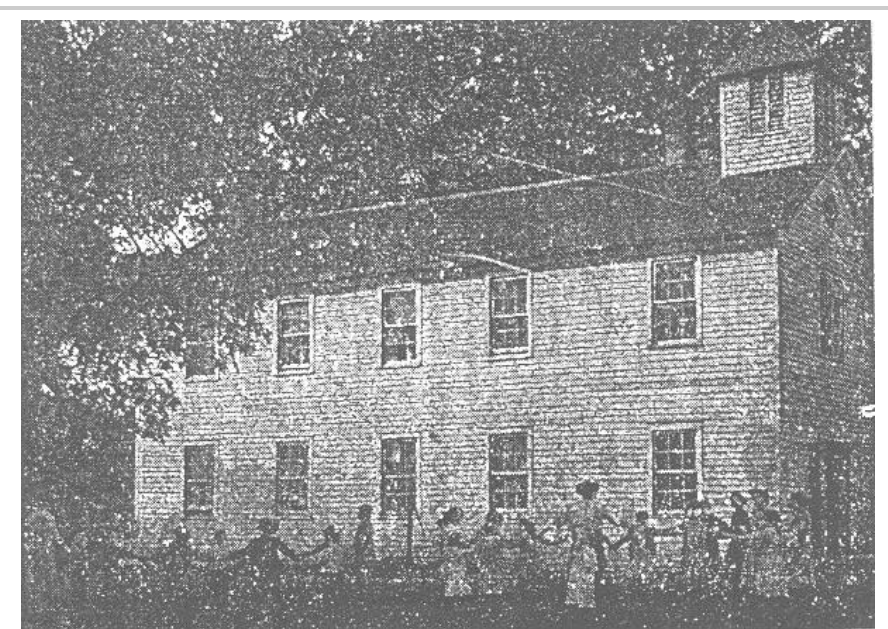
**Send Payment to:
Newton County Historical Society, Inc.
Treasurer, PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951
219-474-6944**

War, wounded and taken prisoner July 1, 1862. His release was effected September 8, 1862 at Tenton, Tennessee with the following provision, "I, George C. A. Bryant, Company K, 4th Illinois Regiment, do solemnly promise that I will not bear arms against the Confederate States of America or in any way resist the enemy by word or deed or give any information prejudicial to the interest of the said Confederate States of America during the present war until regularly exchanged under these severe penalties of death". This document along with a ballot of the Unconditional Union Ticket with Abraham Lincoln of Illinois for President, and Andrew Johnson of Tennessee for Vice-President are treasured mementos of the Bryant family.

The lives of Vietta Snyder and George Bryant are romantically inter-winded. Vietta married Adelbert Cool, and to this union were born three girls and one boy; to George Bryant and his first wife, Mary, were born three boys and one girl. His home was a log cabin, now owned and occupied by the family. To this home came Vietta Cool and children, she to act as housekeeper, and care for the family. She and George were later married and to that union were born three girls and one boy.

During the Civil War years, a number of families came to Lake Village to settle, and many of the inhabitants were Civil War soldiers. John Bunch, father of Joe Bunch, who lived south of the Mason-Dixon line, was a northern sympathizer. He received word that he was to be captured, and he fled for his life, landing in Lake Village, without family or property. He sent word back to his son, Joe, to go as far as the Natchez River with his oxen and household goods and sell them to a buyer. When this sale was going on, the other side of the river was encamped Henry Burton, a Union soldier, of Lake Village - the two men were later neighbors and lived close to each other all their lives.

In 1868, a young Dr. John F. Shronts, who often treated the swamp desperados, hung out his M.D. sign near the cemetery, which was known as the Lake Village Cross Roads, to treat "swampague" and the chills of the trappers and woodsmen. He was assisted by Dr. Keyser. In later years, Dr. George Rainford, father of Fred Rainford, doctor of the ill of the community, and the last baby he ever delivered was Lawrence Rainford. The descendants of the Rainfords still make up a good part of Lake Village's population.



LV School building, abandoned 1915. In the north end of this building was a rickety stairway that led to the upper floor. All pupils were housed in two large rooms - one upstairs and one below. From The Brook Reporter, March 19, 1949.

Transportation and Trade

Roads were few, and practically impassable in those early days, the main thoroughfare being a sand road which is now US 41. Treacherous quick sands bogged down the wagons on the back roads, and after rains, farmers drove many difficult extra miles to reach the one passable highway. People came from across the river to trade, bringing their pails of butter and eggs. Due to the lack of roads and transportation, butter often piled up on the storekeepers and became rancid. It was scrapped into barrels and sold for soap grease. The Danish immigrants were a little more cautious with their trading, and it is said that they did not think Lake Village gave very good prices so several family members would pile into a spring wagon and take the long arduous road to Momence, Illinois, some 13 miles away, where butter brought 15 cents a pound. Lake Village stores offered 10 cents for the best.

In the early days the town's literati consisted of the Jim Hallecks (father of Abram Halleck, who was the father of Charles Halleck, Congressman for this district), the John Stoners, and the John Jenkins, who lived west of Lake Village where the Gust Lazaraton family now resides. One of the questions debated in the "litteraries" was "whether we're growing weaker and wiser, or stronger and foolisher".

Only two negro families ever lived in

Lake Village, but the most interesting were the Harris's who lived in the present John Ford home. Mrs. Harris was the cook for the Union Army in the same company that George Bryant was a member. This home was later occupied by Richard Malone and family.

Mr. Malone, one of the oldest pioneers, father of Livingston Malone, drew up the first plat of the town in 1876. The place was already known as Lake Village as it was said when the farmers came to trade they stated they were "going up the lake to the village". It was bounded by Main Street on the north; Second Street on the south; Maple Blvd. on the west; and Lake Street on the east (this street later became Highway 41). Afterwards addition to this first plat were known as Stoner's William, J. & C. Hess, Hess, and the Bryant Additions.

Business and Entertainment

George Bryant owned the main sawmill business, with John Guilford owned the town's first dance hall, which was located near the site of the present Stanley Jenkins home. The ceiling of this hall was decorated with beer bottles plastered in with the open end down, the excuse for this being that it made the music sound better.

Dance halls were quite popular in those early years, one known as Lawbaugh Hall, was situated close to the present J.C. Cate's residence. Close to the Halsey Davis farm was a home where dances were often held, and at one of these dances a crowd of