

# The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

## In this issue ....

Original Survey of  
Newton County, 1834-35

Overview of Survey  
Noted Plants, Trees and Bushes

Newton County Township History

Wedding Traditions

Arrival of the Settlers

Life On The Kankakee: 1816  
Resource Center Window Display

Lowe, Jones and Zumbrum Family

Newton County  
Bicentennial Events

Bison at the Kankakee Sands

## Land Surveying of Newton County, 1834-1835

By Beth Bassett

### Measuring the Lands

The beginning point of the U.S. Land Survey System is located on private land, at a point on the Ohio/Pennsylvania border between East Liverpool, Ohio, and metropolitan Pittsburgh. As settlements proceeded westward, accuracy became a priority as opposed to speed in surveying new territories.

The establishment of one major North-South line, (principal meridian) and one East-West (Base) line that controlled the descriptions for an entire state or more was put into place. The present system of Governmental Land surveys was adopted by Congress on the 7th of May, 1785. It is the legal method of describing and dividing lands called the "Rectangular System," that is, all distances and bearings are measured from two lines which are at right angles to each.

Distances were measured in chains and links. The chain - an actual metal chain- was made up of 100 links, each being 7.92 inches long. Eighty chains constitute one U.S. Survey mile. There were two chain-men, one at each end, who physically made the measurements, one of them typically also acting as compass-man to establish correct bearing at each chain placement. Techniques were developed to expedite the measuring of forests, extremely steep terrain and water obstructions.

### Understanding Sections, Townships and Range

At the time of the survey, (1834-35), measurements of land were identified only by township numbers, i.e. T27N, R10W, not by the names they carry today. T27N refers to Township 27 North, and R10W refers to Range 10 West. Today this is the west border of Jefferson Township.

Township measures the distance north (or south) of the set base line for survey. A township usually measures six miles in size. The first township six miles north of the base line is written T1N, so the 27th Township north of the base line is Jefferson Township. The Range measures West (or East) from the Principal Meridian. The Newton County survey utilizes the 2nd Principal Meridian, located in the center of Indiana.

Ranges are also usually six miles in size. The first six miles west of the principal meridian would be R1W. The Newton County survey begins with Range 8 West, extending West covering Ranges 9 West and 10 West.

Townships are subdivided into Sections. Since each township is six miles by six miles, townships contain 36 square miles, each one forming a section. These are identified with a number based on their position. The northeastern most section is Section 1. They are numbered to the west in this northernmost row. The northwestern most section in the township is Section 6. Below it in the second row is Section 7. This row is numbered toward the east. This snakelike pattern is continued so that the southwestern most section is Section 31 and the southeastern most section is Section 36.

Sections are further divided into quarters. These are northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest quarters. Each of these usually contain 160 acres. These quarters are then further divided into quarters, which are then 40 acres. The smallest quarter is given followed by the largest quarter, then the section and the township range. For example, the NE ¼, Section 30, T27N, R10W is read as the Northeast quarter of Section 30, Jefferson Township, Range 10.

### The Survey Expedition Team

What was to be observed and recorded by surveyors during their work varied over time. During the nineteenth century, these are a few of the common landscape items that were required, or requested to be noted: the land's surface, whether level, rolling, broken or hilly; the different kinds of timber and undergrowth; description of the bottom lands as wet or dry; springs and streams of water, whether fresh, saline or mineral, and

< Continued on page 3 >



This Fur and Pelt Stamp belonged to Thomas R. Barker, one of our early settlers and important figure in our history. His great-granddaughter Linda (Barker) Schwarzlose recently donated it to us along with other Barker family material.

## 2 The Newcomer

< Continued from page 1 >

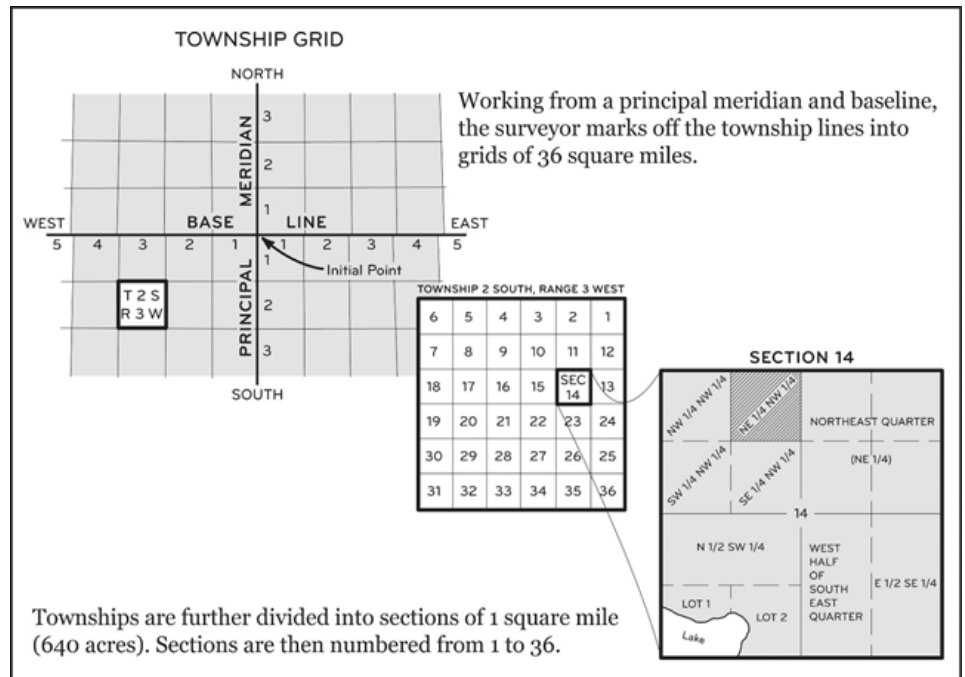
the course the stream flows; lakes and ponds, their banks and their height, also the depth of the water, whether it is pure or stagnant; improvements such as towns or villages, Indian towns and wigwams; sugar tree groves and camps; mill seats, forges and factories; roads and trails, their directions; stone quarries, and what kind of stone they afforded; natural curiosities, such as ancient works of art and mounds.

There was probably a standard list of supplies needed for a survey expedition. In a memoir written by Sam Durham, a surveyor of Iowa lands in the 1840s, provided an insight to these supplies. The list included cloth for tents and wagon covers, bags, twine and cord. The men also took paper, several pens, bottles of ink, a bucket, iron spoons, a set of knives and forks. His team carried 18 pounds of candles and also tallow for shoes and harnesses. Their provisions included 100 pounds of sugar, 60 pounds of coffee, 399 pounds of corn, two bushels of apples, 70 pounds of beans and 1,097 pounds of flour. With just two horses, the surveying crew usually walked. We can deduce that surveyors of our area carried similar, if not the same items on their journeys. The original survey of Newton County began in January, 1834, so provisions for winter environs were surely included in their packs.

Indiana was subdivided into districts by the U.S. Surveyors, assigning surveyors to specific areas. In April, 1834, Uriah Biggs was the designated Deputy Surveyor for Porter and northern Newton County lands, and in September, 1834, Samuel Goodnow was the designated Deputy Surveyor for the remaining Newton County lands. Within the notes, you also find the names of Perrin Kent, who was the surveyor for the lands south of Newton and Sylvester Sibley and Robert Clark. At this time, this area was known as unorganized Newton County.

### Original Survey of Newton County

From the dates recorded with the field notes we find that the first surveys began in Lincoln Township in January, 1834, then they made their way through Beaver, McClellan, Colfax and Lake. By April they were working Jefferson, Grant, Iroquois, Washington, Beaver and Jackson. They returned in July through December of that same year possibly finishing up the Subdivision portion of the notes that include the at random notes in the sections of the townships. By February, 1835, the survey of Newton County lands



was complete.

At the end of each township survey, the Deputy Surveyor, (D.S.), wrote general remarks regarding each township, except for Jefferson and Range 10 West of Lake Townships. He then certified in writing that the survey was complete in accordance to the guidelines set by the governmental offices. These remarks and some interesting notations within the field notes that follow, are in the order that the surveys were completed and certified. A few additional field notations are also included elsewhere in a table.

#### Grant Township, Range 8 West: T27NR8W

Survey complete and certified on, July 24, 1834

**General Remarks:** This Township the soil is generally speaking, good in its entirety. Prairie gently rolling; sloping from the South Boundary towards the Pickamink River. The vegetation is commonly grass such as grows upon the Prairies intermixed with the weed called the Rosen Weed, from which the physicians of our country say can be obtained a gum equal to the Pitch of Burgundy. There are some fewer small ponds of water interspersed that hold water a short time during the rainy season which I did not deem worthy of notice in my field notes as I passed along. Nothing further worthy of notice that can give information of. *Perrin Kent, Deputy Surveyor.*

#### Jefferson Township, Range 10 West: T27NR10W

#### Jefferson Township, Range 9 West: T27NR9W

Survey complete and certified on August 6, 1834

There were no general remarks from the surveyor for either Jefferson R10W or R9W. The comments in the notes stated that the land was gradually rolling and the soil first rate. Section 2, R9W, was noted to have first class timber, as were other sections in that area, mostly Hickory, White and Red Oak, Ash, Elm, Sycamore, Sassafras, Honey Locust, Whistleberry (large yellow apple), Black Walnut, Mulberry, Hazelnut. Undergrowth included Paw Paw trees, Spice and Huckleberry bushes. Many other trees and bushes were noted as well.

#### Jackson Township, Range 8 West: T29NR8W

Survey complete and certified on Nov. 1, 1834

This township contained a great deal of good land and some timber in the north part. In timber opens sandy and poor soil. There are no springs or stones. The prairie is covered with coarse grass and has little or no timber. – *Samuel Goodnow, D.S.*

#### Iroquois Township, Range 8 West: T28NR8W

Survey complete and certified on Nov. 16, 1834

The prairie in this Township is mostly dry and rich, nearly level and covered with prairie grass. There are several excellent groves of Timber particularly in Section 19, 20, 29 and 30, sufficient for considerable settlements. No stone or springs have come under my notice. – *Samuel Goodnow, D.S.*

#### Colfax Township, Range 8 West: T30NR8W

Survey complete and certified on Dec. 26, 1834

This township contains no good land. The prairie is all very marshy and the timber

scattering. The soil in the timber is entirely sand. I have been no place fit for cultivation. – Samuel Goodnow, D.S.

**Washington Township, Range 10 West: T28NR10W**

Survey complete and certified on Jan. 3, 1835

This township has no timber in or near of except on the Pickamink and no stone or springs. The soil is mostly good and the land is level. – Samuel Goodnow, D. S.

**Washington Township, Range 9 West: T28NR9W**

Survey complete and certified on Jan. 5, 1835

The Southern part of this township is very good. The timber on the Pickamink is sufficient for a small settlement. In the Northern part of the Township there is considerable wet land with many small groves of Oak and Hickory. No stone or springs and the land is mostly level. – Samuel Goodnow, D.S.

**Beaver Township, Range 10 West: T29NR10W**

Survey complete and certified on Jan. 20, 1835

This township contains little good land and timber is scrubby and scattering. There are however some tolerably good situations south of creek. As usual in this region there are no springs nor stone quarries and the land is generally level. – Samuel Goodnow, D.S.

**Beaver Township, Range 9 West: T29R9W**

Survey complete and certified on Jan. 20, 1835

The prairie in this township is generally rich and near the timber quite sandy. The timber is Oak of all kinds, scrubby and scattering and the soil sand and poor. No stone or springs have come under my notice. The prairie in this region, is universally covered with a coarse grass called Prairie Grass. Some old Indian trails nearly obliterated, run through this township, which I did not think worth noting. The creek running through the township is called Beaver Creek and is said to be the outlet of the Beaver Lake. I could scarcely perceive a current at any place as it spreads through so wide a marsh it is difficult many times to fix on its location. In running the line between Section 1 or 2, I could not find the corner. I afterward completed the line and corner to the notes accordingly. – Samuel Goodnow, D.S.

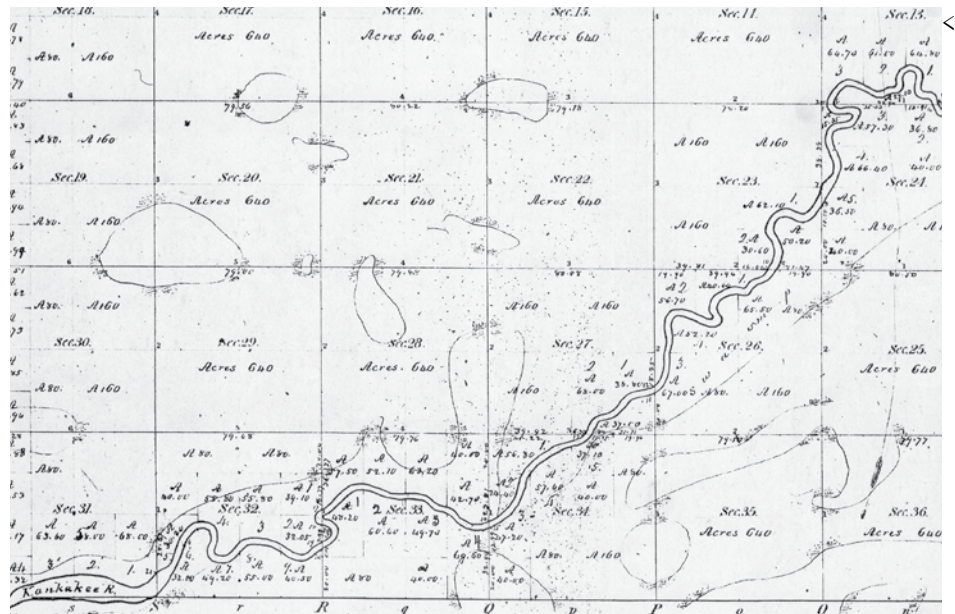
**Lincoln Township, Range 8 West: T32NR8W**

(1834-southeast corner of Porter Co.)

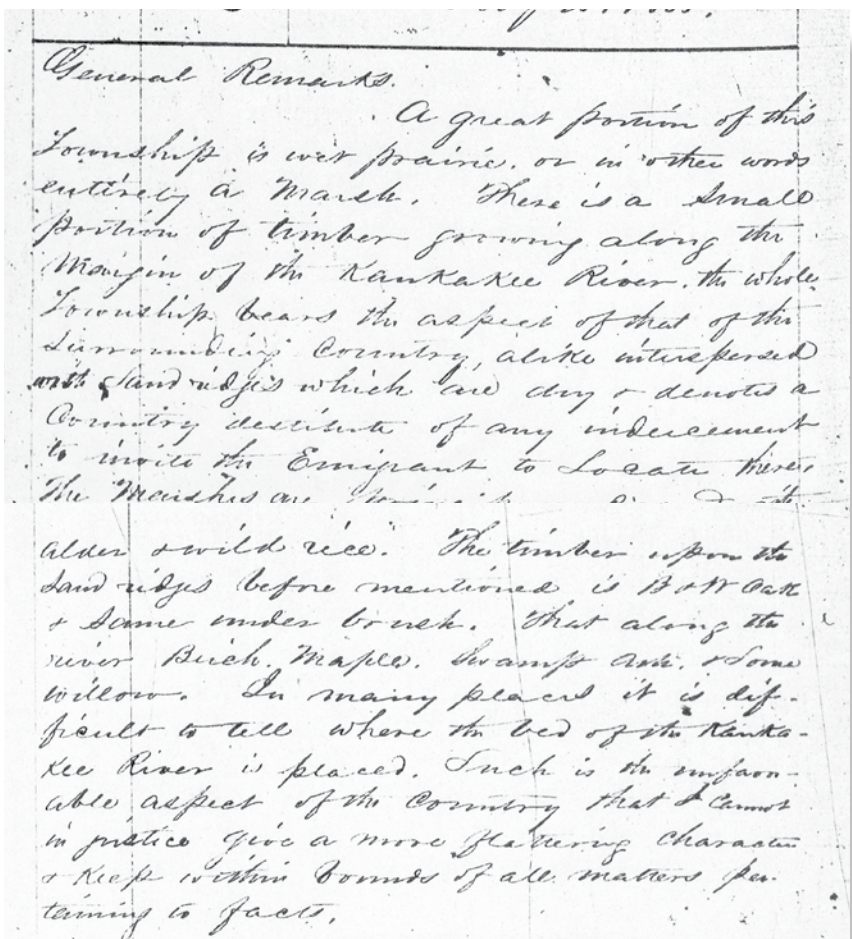
Survey complete and certified on Jan. 30, 1835

This township is an open marsh, water generally deep, excepting a small portion of the south half and north of the Kankakee

< Continued on page 4 >



In 1834, Lincoln Township, T32N, R8W, at the time of the original survey was part of Porter County. The Newton County Surveyor's office supplied this information to us, as well as digital images of the original plats and survey notes.



Handwritten general remarks were made in the survey notes at the end of each township, except for Jefferson. These are the writings for Lake Township. (see story for transcription).

# 4 The Newcomer

Continued from page 3 >

River, which is wet prairie of very poor quality, and also a few sand ridges south of the River. In Section 31, the river spreads to an unusual width though no distinct islands are formed by it. – *Uriah Biggs, D.S.*

**Lincoln Township, Range 8 West:  
T31NR8W**

Survey complete and certified on Feb. 14, 1835

T31N, R8W, 2nd M. Is entirely non-flt for agricultural purposes, the soil being mostly sand. The marshes however, are generally covered with grass. Bull rushes and the ridges are thinly covered with Y.P.M Clark. No sand growth. – *Uriah Biggs, D.S.*

**McClellan Township, Range 9 West:  
T30NR9W**

Survey complete and certified on Feb. 25, 1835

This township is all a lake, or deep marsh and morass, except a little in Southwest corner. Marsh 4 or 5 ft. deep. No outlet to lake as I discover. Timber is scattering and scrubby. – *Samuel Goodnow, D. S.*

**Lake Township, Range 9 & 10 West:  
T31NR9W & T31NR10W**

Survey complete and certified on Feb. 25, 1835

A great portion of this township is wet prairie, or in other words entirely a marsh.

There is a small portion of timber growing along the margins of the Kankakee River.

The whole township bears the aspect of that of the surrounding country, alike interspersed with sand ridges which are dry and denotes an overexerting destitute of an inducement to invite the Emigrants to locate there. The marshes are principally covered with alders and wild rice. The timber upon the sand ridges before mentioned is B & W Oak and some underbrush. That along the river Birch, Maple, Swamp Oak, and some Willows. In many places it is difficult to tell where the bed of the Kankakee River is placed. Such is the

unfavorable aspect of the country that I cannot in justice give a more flattering character and keep within the bounds of all matters pertaining to facts. – *Samuel Goodnow, D. S.*

**McClellan Township, Range 10 West:  
T30NR10W**

Survey complete and certified on Feb. 27, 1835

This township contains no good land, very little good timber, no springs or stone quarries have been discovered, it is considered as being of very little value. – *Samuel Goodnow, D. S.*

## Subdivision (Random Notes) of Original Survey

After the boundaries were set and recorded in the early months of 1834, the surveying teams returned and recorded “at random” notes as they meandered throughout the county. Distances were measured in chains and links, which were written in the margins alongside each notation, giving a more exact location of items noted. Below you will find some of the more interesting notations. We will soon have copies of the survey at the Resource Center.

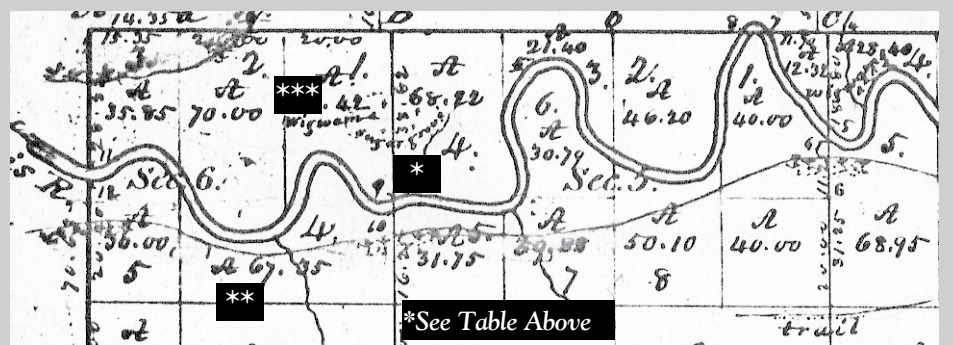
Township/Range	Note Location	Notes *see Diagram Below
Grant/R8W	Throughout	Rosinweed
Jefferson/R9W	Sec. 4	Sugar Camp/Sugar Grove *
	Btwn. Sec. 4 & 5	Wagon Trail courses East to West **
	Btwn. Sec. 5 & 6	Whistleberry Trees, Indian Wigwams ***
Jefferson/R10W	Btwn. Sec. 1 & 2	Indian trail, courses East
Iroquois/R8W	Sec. 1	Indian trail, courses Northeast
Washington/R9W	Sec. 7	Indian trail, courses Northeast
	Btwn. Sec. 33 & 34	Lacy’s Field
Beaver/R10W	Sec. 12	Indian trail, courses Northeast
Beaver/R9W	Sec. 36	Indian trail, courses Northeast
	Sec. 7	Indian trail, courses Northwest
Jackson/R8W	Sec. 12	Indian town
McClellan/R10W	Sec. 24	Lake named “Devil’s Lake,” by Indians
	Sec. 36	Scattering of trails
McClellan/R9W	Sec. 18	Lake named “Devil’s Lake,” by Indians
Lake/R10W	Btwn. Sec. 1 & 12	Indian trail, courses Southwest and Northeast
Lake/R9	Sec. 1	Random wigwams
Lincoln/R8	Sec. 12	Indian trail, courses Southwest

# Do You Know?

By Janet Miller

Answers on page 15

1. Which of Newton County’s current townships once had the name of Hess?
2. Why are many Newton County barns painted red?
3. Can you name the school colors of the five previous Newton County High Schools, Brook, Goodland, Kentland, Morocco and Mt. Ayr? Can you name the school colors of the current North Newton High School and South Newton High School?
4. Can you name the mascots of the above seven schools?
5. In which Newton County cemetery are three sheriffs buried that all share the same last name?



## Plants, Trees and Bushes Noted in Original Survey 1834-35

It was interesting to read about the variety of trees, wild berries, fruit trees and medicinal plants that were included in the field notes of the Original Survey of Newton County, 1835. All of these items were of great importance to the incoming settlers, as they would be collected and harvested for use in the homes. The majority of them are still found today in the locations noted in the field notes.



**Rosinweed:** The rosin-like jell produced in the stem was used as chewing gum by the Indians. It was compared to Burgundy Pitch, resin from spruce trees that was utilized in making medicinal casts because of its strengthening power.

**Paw-Paw Trees:** The spring flowers were



purple to red brown, with the edible fruit ready in autumn. Many of these were found near sugar groves and sugar camps in Washington Township. They do not store well, so they were consumed and cooked quickly.

**Huckleberry Bush:** Pale pink urn flow-



ers produce delicious fruit used in jams and teas. They were also called hurtleberry and whortleberry bushes.



**Spice Bush:** When leaves and stems are crushed, they give off a spicy, citrus smell, and are used in teas. The red berries are eaten by birds. The early surveyors used these as an indicator of good land, as they thrive in rich woods.

**Whistleberry Tree:** A yellow apple tree, harvested in the fall and utilized in cooking. This tree is also called the Luffness Pip-pin. Picture unavailable.

## 1849: Only Two Townships Covered Current County Area

*Submitted by Beth Bassett*

*Source: History of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, 1883, pg. 661.*

The new board of Commissioners in 1860 found the county divided into five townships, Iroquois, Washington Lake, and the oldest of which were Beaver and Jackson, (see picture, right). How the territory embraced within the limits of Newton County was originally divided cannot be ascertained. The Commissioner's records of Jasper County previous to 1849 were destroyed by fire. At that date, there were only two townships in this territory, Beaver and Jackson, and it is probable that the line of division was the Iroquois River.

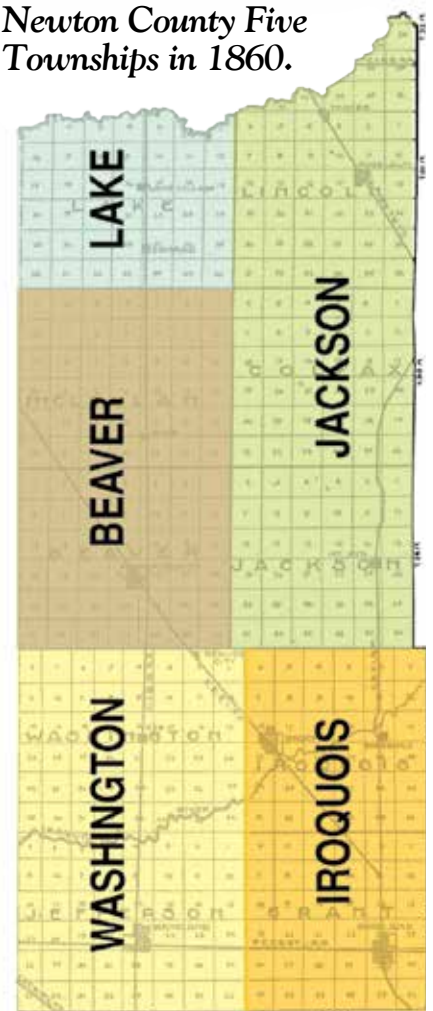
Subsequently, Hess Township was formed of that portion of Beaver lying in R8W, R9W and R10N, and north of T30N. In the March term, 1853, the Commissioners of Jasper corrected the boundaries of all the townships in the county, and at that time made the township of Jackson to consist of all the territory in R8W, T29, T30 and T31 and fractional T32N to the Kankakee; Beaver embraced all the territory in R9W and fraction 10W, T29N and T30N; Hess, its name changed to Lake, occupied the territory in R9W and fractional R10W, north of T30N; Iroquois was formed to embrace the territory in T27N and T28N, R8W, R9W and fractional 10W. In September, 1853, Iroquois was found to be too large and for the sake of "harmony," T27N and T28N, R9W and fractional 10W were struck off and formed into a township called Washington. At the session of March, 1857, Lake Township was enlarged to take in that part of Jackson lying in T31N and T32N in R8W. This was the condition of the townships when Newton County assumed control of her own affairs, April 22, 1860. The first business to come before the new board was a petition signed by Ralph Swiggert and others, for the division of Washington Township on the line of the Iroquois River, that part north of the river to retain the name of Washing-

ton, and the part south of the Iroquois to be named Jefferson, which was granted.

In September, 1861, Jackson was reconstructed, taking a portion of Lake, so that its territory should consist of T29N, T30N, and T31N, fractional T32N, R8W, leaving Lake to consist of T31N, R9W and fraction R10W.

In 1862, McClellan was formed from Beaver; In 1865, Grant was formed from Iroquois; In 1871, Colfax and Lincoln were formed from Jackson.

### Newton County Five Townships in 1860.



# President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

2016 was a busy year for the Newton County Historical Society. In the summer of 2015 plans began for the celebration of Indiana's 200th birthday. The official kick-off was held on the courthouse lawn in December, 2015, with the raising of the Bicentennial flag. We would be involved with the Bicentennial Torch Relay in September, with Larry and Becky Lyons taking charge of that event. They did an outstanding job organizing and working with the bicentennial committee to make our "leg" of the relay a success.

The legacy project for the celebration was planned for September at Hazelden, home of humorist and playwright George Ade east of Brook. Mike Davis gave an outstanding presentation of George Ade to a large gathering that day.

The Bison-tennial project also began in 2015, with artists from North Newton and South Newton high schools depicting our county heritage painted on the bison's sides. The bison travelled throughout Newton County in 2016, ending up at our Christmas Open house in December. Thanks to Economic Director and member Tim Meyers for taking charge of this project.

The Indiana Barn Foundation in conjunction with the Indiana Bicentennial Committee coordinated the Indiana Bicentennial Quilt project. Each county (92) had a quilted square represented, ours being the barn of Rich and Janet Miller of Washington Township, made by their neighbor, Deb Risley. We proudly displayed the quilt at the Resource Center the week of our Christmas Open House.

Our window display depicted life on the Kankakee in 1816, that of hunting and trapping. Members Sig, Marcia and Lynn Boezeman coordinated and created this spectacular display of local fur bearing animals and birds that were the livelihood of the Indians and hunters and trappers that resided here in 1816.

At our annual meeting at the Boezeman farm in Lincoln Township, Bernie Murphy, who presided as our President for six years, stepped away from the position. Bernie is a lover of history and has served the Society so very well. He is always ready to help in anyway with any project the Society plans. Bernie has a wonderful sense of humor, we have all enjoyed his wit and jokes. He showed up at the Christmas Open House as Santa, totally unexpected to us and was the hit of the day!



Left, now Ex-Officio, President Bernie Murphy; Santa Bernie was busy at our Christmas Open House, above right, he listens to Becky Lyons' wishes, and below, sings Christmas Carols along with Pastor Clint Fink, Rich Miller, Jay Brinkman, Ron Norris and Chris Knochel.



**Save The Date!**  
**April Meeting**  
**APRIL 24, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
Government Center  
in Morocco  
Guest Speaker  
**George Godfrey**  
*great-great*  
*grandson*  
*of Watcheke*  
**Public Invited**

We are all volunteers at the Society and we are blessed with some diligent workers. Larry and Becky Lyons spent many hours, drove many miles and at times pulled their hair out to get Newton County's Torchbearers selected, organized, and in the right place at the right time. They did a wonderful job.

Thanks to Rich Miller and Larry Lyons, our monthly meetings had varied programs: Jeff Manes read from his "All Worth Their Salt"; an archaeology site report for Newton and Benton Counties; South Newton AGBOT team brought their award winning tractor/seedler; a visit to the stone quarry; A visit to the newly opened Wash-O-Quois Museum in Brook; Janice Wilson, County Clerk, talked to us about voting. Thinking of new and interesting programs is a challenge, Rich has several ideas for 2017. In April, we will be hosting the great-great grandson of Watcheke, George Godfrey, which will be an interesting look into the life and times of the Potowattomi Princess.

Our Society functions on volunteering. If you have time, a talent, enjoy history - attend our meetings, come to our Resource Center and see what you can do to preserve the history of Indiana's "newest county."

# Historian's Corner

By Diana Elijah,  
Newton County Historian

## Dating, Courting Engagement, Betrothal Weddings, and Shivaree' - Now There's A Title!

In 1850, Wm. R. Handley was the first owner of the land via a land grant, that would be owned and farmed by the Elijah family over the decades and remains in my possession today. William married Elizabeth Lambkin in 1851 by jumping the wagon tongue. This constituted the state of marriage at that time. In 1957, I borrowed my Grandmother Lash's white Bible which I carried in my wedding ceremony. There are many traditions and customs for weddings in the United States, most of which are based on a wide variety of factors such as religion, culture and social norms.

What is the difference between dating and courting? From research I found that dating is a casual relationship with friends and acquaintances, not serious. Courtship is a developing a relationship to determine if the couple should marry and are compatible. Engagement, aka betrothed is a promise to wed, with a period of time between the marriage proposal and the wedding ceremony. During this period a couple is said to be betrothed or intended. Fiance is the term used to identify each others betrothed.

In ancient times, weddings were based out of commodity, rather than desire or love. In fact, "wedding" implies the security the groom's family provides to the family of the bride when the couple marries. Brides were chosen on their economic worth, very little with love. This trend lasted until the 19th Century, when couples began to marry for love.

In America in the early 1800s, weddings were usually small, intimate family gatherings at the homes of either the parents of the bride or groom. The weddings began to get a bit more elaborate by the 1820s and 1830s, setting the standards for today's ceremonies. The bride usually wore the best dress she owned, so it was not always white, as white dresses were impractical to own. Not until the 1850s did brides begin buying a dress specifically made for the wedding. At the same time, professionals to handle flowers and wedding cakes were used rather than making them at home.

### Traditions

*"Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue, and a Silver Sixpence in Your Shoe."*

This is an old English verse from the Victorian era and instructs the bride on how to accessorize her wedding attire to promote good luck in her new marriage. The "old" represents the past, the bond between the bride and her family. Brides may choose a piece of jewelry or other accessory from one of her elders.

The "new" represents the marriage and the couple's future. Usually the wedding gown or ring is used as the new item.

"Something borrowed" is an item taken from the families and meant to be returned, thus continuing the link between herself and her family to maintain loyalty and future comfort.

"Something blue" represents the bride's faithfulness and loyalty, such as wearing flowers in the bride's hair or in her bouquet.

The "silver sixpence in your shoe" is meant to be tucked into the bride's shoe to bring the new couple wealth in money and love in their new life together.

In the 1840s, Queen Victoria popularized white bridal dresses instead of the traditional royal silver dress. A veil often accompanies the wedding dress, symbolizing a bride's modesty and innocence, namely her virginity.

### Before the Wedding

The bridal shower originated in Holland for brides who were refused dowry from their fathers. A woman's friends would give her several gifts to allow her to have the necessary dowry to marry whatever man she chose.

The tradition of the couple not seeing each other before the wedding ceremony stems from the early days when marriages were arranged. In these cases, the bride and groom met each for the first time. Today, this is done merely to uphold tradition and superstition.

### Ceremony and Reception

Today bridesmaids and groomsmen are included in the event to share the happiness with the couple. Groomsmen originated many centuries ago when men had to capture women in order to marry them. In order to steal the woman they chose the groom had to pick the most capable man to help him, hence, "best man." The bridesmaids originated as a technique to confuse the evil spirits as to who the actual bride was.

Today, "giving the bride away" has a very different meaning. Centuries ago, fathers actually gave their daughters away to their future husbands, since females were property of their fathers.

The origin of the ceremonial kiss that concludes the ceremony today is usually just a form of endearment. In the Roman era, a

kiss was used to seal legal bond and contracts. A marriage was considered a lifelong contract between two people, hence the kiss. It was also believed that it allowed the couples' souls to mingle.

Wedding cakes were widely seen as symbols of fertility. Sharing the first piece of the cake was a way to ensure fertility for the bride in her attempts to have children. Superstition says that a bride cannot bake her own wedding cake or taste it before the wedding, or else risk losing her husband's love. If she keeps a piece of the cake after the wedding, she insures he will remain faithful.

Throwing rice originated when guests would throw nuts and grains in the hope of bringing the couple a good harvest and many children to help with the harvest.

As a symbol of luck, the bride tosses her bouquet to the unmarried women at the wedding. The one who catches the bouquet is supposedly the next to be married. With the groom, an older custom in England involved guests raiding the bride's chamber for stockings. These stockings would then be thrown at the groom. Whoever landed their stocking on the groom's nose would be the next to marry. In earlier traditions, the bride or the groom threw the bride's garter to their mar-

riage witnesses to confirm that the marriage had been consummated.

From ancient Germanic when weddings were held on a night where there was a full moon, the couple would drink the mead for thirty days until the next full moon, hence the name, "honey moon."

### Shivaree'

The definition of Shivaree states that it is a mock serenade with kettles, pans, horns and other noisemakers given for a nearby married couple.

I talked with Pauline Eckstrom and she said that she and Norman were visited and shivaree'd by a noisey bunch but then brought food for a party, that was good!

Connie Sell said her parents, Bob and Elba Akers, married in 1938 at the Methodist Church in Morocco on a Wednesday, were grabbed as they left the church, placed in back of a delivery truck and driven around Morocco. They were then deposited back at the church and left in their own truck to begin their life.

My daughter, Elaine Smith says when she and her husband returned from their honeymoon, all the light bulbs were missing at home and all the canned goods in the cupboard and elsewhere, (including dog food), had no labels.

## The History of Licensing in Indiana

By David Truby

We live in a society that seems to license all types of human activity. In all, it is reported that there are over 500 different licenses available. This seems improbably high until you take into account the occupational license (plumbers, electricians, hairdressers, etc) as well as the more ordinary license to fish and hunt wild game. Here is a short history of licensing in Indiana for the institution of marriage, and the operation and ownership of motor vehicles.

### Marriage License

Marriage laws in the state of Indiana have changed throughout the past century. Before 1958 a couple need only cohabit for a period of time and make a public declaration of marriage to be considered married (common law). Today a license, issued by a county clerk for a \$20 fee, is required (\$60 for a non-resident). The clerk cannot issue a license if the applicants are more closely related than second cousins (though there is an exception if you are first cousins and both at least sixty-five (65) years of age). You may choose either a civil or religious ceremony. The license is valid for a sixty day period and allows for marriage on the day that it is issued.

Before 1987, blood testing was required before a marriage license would be issued in Indiana. The testing was done to detect

the presence of Syphilis (causes blindness in newborns) or Rubella antibodies (three-day measles, causes birth defects). Presenting a certificate of health made you eligible to receive a marriage certificate.

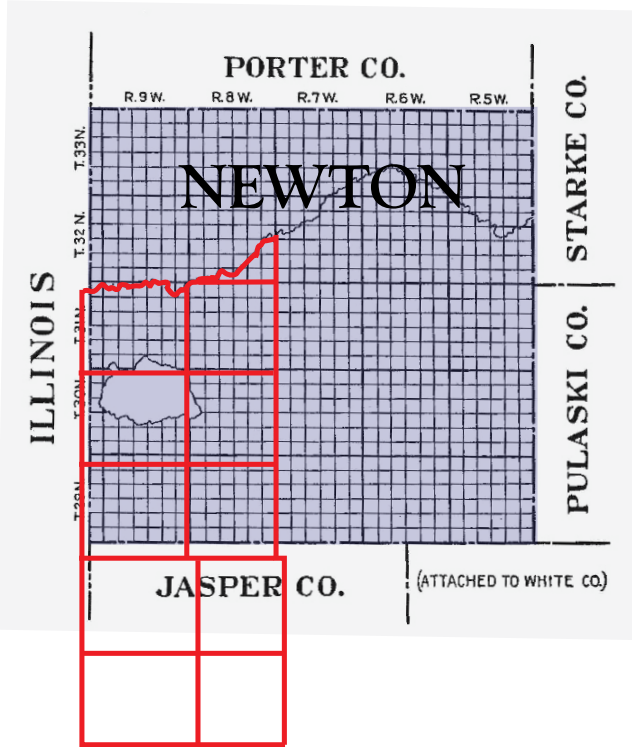
### Automotive

Indiana required the licensing of automobiles (motorized wagons) in 1905. Owners were required to display their assigned numbers, 3 inches high, in a conspicuous place on the vehicle. Most chose to paint numbers on a leather plate and bolt it to the vehicle. The first plates issued by the state in 1913 were rectangular in shape and made of steel. Indiana plates did not include any slogans until 1959 when "Lincoln's Year" was added to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. It was 1956 when plate size was standardized in size for all of the United States and Canada at 6 inches by 12 inches with standard mounting hole spacing. In 1963 Indiana began adding one and two digit numbers to the plates to identify the county where the plate was issued. This was done in accordance with the alphabetical placement of the county name. Adams county is number 1 (Newton is 56).

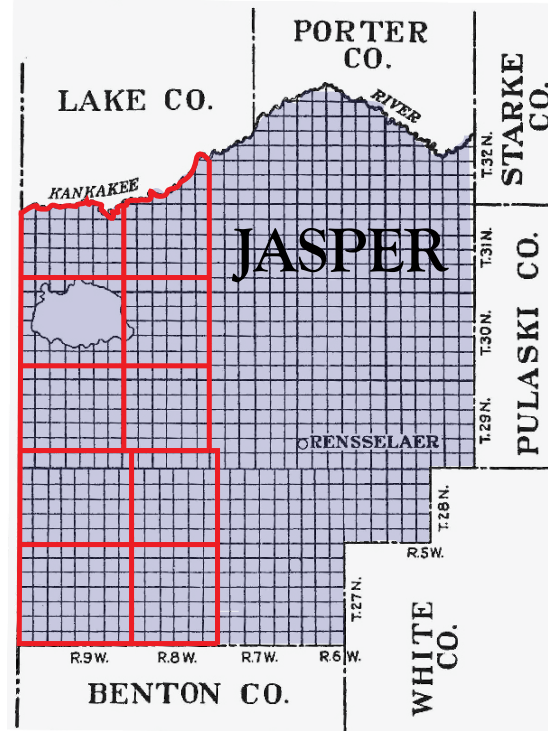
The licensing of drivers began in 1929 and required that the driver pass a test. Law enforcement officials began citing drivers for traffic law violations that same year.

# 8 The Newcomer

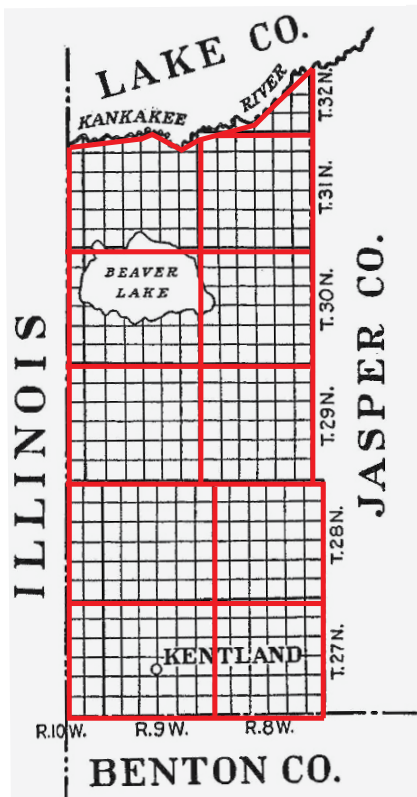
February, 1835 *Diagram 1*



January, 1839 *Diagram 2*



December, 1859  
Amended 1923



*Diagram 3*

The blue area shows original layout of lands; red diagram is Newton County today.

## The Creation of Newton County

Prior to the year 1834, the northern part of our state was unorganized territory. The state legislature, meeting in the last half of that year, passed an act for the organization of fourteen new counties, and Jasper and Newton were included in this number.

In February, 1835, the county of Newton was formed from St. Joseph County. (see Diagram 1).

In 1836, Porter County was organized, and Lake County in 1837, taking from Newton County all of the territory north of the Kankakee River. In 1840, the county of Benton was organized. (see Diagram 2).

In January, 1839, Jasper County was reorganized and the remaining portion of Newton County becoming by that act a part of Jasper County; the original county of Newton passed out of existence and remained so for a little more than twenty years. (see Diagram 2).

In 1857 parties owning large tracts of land in the north part of Jasper County made an effort to form a new county out of the northern part of that county, with the county seat to be located on the Kankakee River. Citizens residing in the western portion of the county realized that if they allowed the scheme to materialize, their prospects for a new county would pass into the discard, because of a constitutional provision prohibiting the formation of new counties of less than 400 square miles. The western residents (present day Newton County), held a meeting at Morocco, and at that time it was decided to circulate a petition for the commissioners of Jasper County, asking them to set off a new county to be known as Beaver. However, pioneer citizen Thomas R. Barker suggested that the name be changed to Newton, reflecting the friendship of Sargents Jasper and Newton of the Revolutionary War.

The petition having been rejected by the commissioners, followed by a rejection of an appeal to the circuit court, the citizens took the matter to the Indiana Supreme Court. The matter rested there until November, 1859, when the ruling of the lower court was reversed.

In March, 1860, the new county of Newton was given recognition, and the organization of Indiana's youngest county began.

March, 1923, with the completion of the dredging of the Kankakee River straightening the course, the northern boundary description was changed to follow these changes to the land. (see Diagram 3, river area). These boundaries remain in place today.



# Arrival of the Settlers in Newton County

By Beth Bassett

What would entice the settlers to the area north of Benton County, known along the grapevine as the "lost lands" by 1834? Possibly it was the Pickamink, (Iroquois River,) with its fringes of timber, that divided the vast plains of grass and flowers into two divisions. North of the river stretched a meadow out to the marshes of the Au-ki-kii (Kankakee River,) and Beaver Lake, which the Indians identified to the 1834 surveyors as "Devil's Lake." To the south was the broad expanse of the grand prairie, with wild flowers and first rate soil.

In the early histories of our area, our county bore an unsavory reputation, possibly due to the recordings of the surveyors of the State Line Survey in 1821. The impenetrable character of the swamp lands surrounding the Kankakee River afforded a safe haven for a class of criminals who were known as the Prairie Banditti. Although their degradations were not upon the people here, they made our region a resort to evade the pursuit of others, thus the area gaining the reputation for being a community for thieves. As early as 1837, there were horse thieves and counterfeiters nestled on an island known as Bogus Island in McClellan Township and the adjoining Beaver Lake Country. However, by 1858, the majority of them had been eradicated by the Jasper County Rangers, one member being an early settler, and future organizing sheriff of Newton County, Thomas Rogers Barker.

From the 1834 survey we know that Indian trails crisscrossed the area and that wigwams were found in Jefferson, Beaver, Jackson, and Lake Townships. With the arrival of more and more white settlers, the Indians who did not leave with their removal in 1838, slowly moved from the area. In 1951, "An Archeological Report on Newton County, Indiana," by Joseph E. Hiestand, published by the Indiana Historical Bureau, gives a more in-depth report of the locations of camp sites and villages of our area. Mr. Hiestand based his reports on the artifacts and Indian relics found at these sites.

The first white people began to arrive in the early 1830s. Aaron Lyons is noted to be the first white child born in Newton County in 1832. The pioneers had many inducements for making their home here. The rivers, lands and Beaver Lake offered plenty of fish, wild game such as pheasants, ducks, geese, turkeys and white tail deer. With the completion of the Official Land Survey of

## Newton County Settlers 1841-1860

1841	Brady, Daniel	Beaver	1850	Handley, Elizabeth	Beaver
1842	Ash, Jacob	Beaver	1850	Handley, Jeremiah	Beaver
1842	Deardurff, John S.	Beaver	1850	Canine, W. B.	Grant
1843	Murphey, John	Beaver	1850	Broderick, George	Iroquois
1843	Murphey, Wm.	Beaver	1850	Hershman, Wm. H.	Iroquois
1843	Crawn, Martin	Jefferson	1850	Handley, Wm. R.	Jackson
1844	Deardurff, John S.	Beaver	1850	Marion, Lewis	Jackson
1844	Kessler, David	Beaver	1850	Miller, Joseph B.	Jackson
1844	Roadruck, Benjamin	Beaver	1850	Wishard, W. L.	Jackson
1844	Burns, Edward	Jackson	1850	Dodson, James W.	Jefferson
1844	Deardurff, Daniel	Washington	1850	Kenoyer, Allen W.	Jefferson
1845	Lyons, John B.	Iroquois	1850	Mauck, David M.	Lincoln
1845	Deardurff, Geo. W.	Jackson	1850	Anderson, Joel	Washington
1846	Archibald, Robert	Beaver	1850	Law, Joseph	Washington
1846	Ash, Sr., Jacob	Beaver	1851	Archibald, David H.	Beaver
1846	Goddard, Benjamin	Beaver	1851	Ash, Daniel	Beaver
1846	Goddard, John D.	Beaver	1851	Brunton, Daniel	Beaver
1846	Johnson, Silas	Beaver	1851	Darroch, John	Beaver
1846	Bridgeman, Levi	Washington	1851	Kennedy, David	Beaver
1846	Russell, Zadoc	Washington	1851	Halstead, David T.	Jackson
1847	Goddard, Benjamin	Beaver	1851	Halstead, Michah B.	Jackson
1847	Peck, Thomas, Dr.	Beaver	1851	Kennedy, David	Jackson
1847	Shafer, Finley	Beaver	1851	Kennedy, John	Jackson
1847	Bridgeman, Geo.	Jefferson	1851	Anderson, Joel	Jefferson
1847	Whiteakker, John	Jefferson	1851	Frankenberger, Chas.	Jefferson
1848	Doty, Andrew	Beaver	1851	Rider, Geo. D.	Jefferson
1848	Graves, John W.	Beaver	1851	Staton, Joseph	Jefferson
1848	Johnson, Dempsey	Beaver	1852	Baker, Ira	Beaver
1848	Babcock Family	Grant	1852	Beabout, Albert	Beaver
1848	Lowe, John	Iroquois	1852	Murphey, Geo.	Beaver
1849	Potts, Ephriam	Beaver	1852	Smart, John	Beaver
1849	Deardurff, Geo. W.	Jackson	1852	Creek, David	Grant
1849	English, Job	Jackson	1852	Wilson, John T.	Grant
1849	Shriver, Jacob	Jackson	1852	Wilson, Ports	Grant
1850	Archibald, William	Beaver	1852	Hawkins, Barnett	Iroquois
1850	Brunton, Joseph	Beaver	1852	Hess, David	Iroquois
1850	Chizum, Joseph	Beaver	1852	Merchant, Joseph	Iroquois

Newton County Settlers 1841-1860, *cont. from page 9*

1852	Smith, G. B., MD	Iroquois	1855	Hess, Andrew	Iroquois
1852	Ham, Fountain	Jackson	1855	Jones, Ezra	Iroquois
1852	Martin, Charles T.	Jefferson	1855	Bartholomew, John	Jackson
1852	Martin, James	Jefferson	1855	Geesa, Ben	Jackson
1852	Bower, John L.	Washington	1855	Guldenzopf, J. M. C.	Jackson
1852	Franklin, John	Washington	1855	Zoborosky, George	Jackson
1852	Hawkins, Barnett	Washington	1855	Zoborosky, John	Jackson
1852	Hawkins, Edward	Washington	1855	Anderson, Joel	Jefferson
1852	Hosier,	Washington	1855	Chesebrough, John	Jefferson
1852	Lyons, Morris	Washington	1855	Gleason, Sharon	Lake
1852	Martin, Joseph	Washington	1855	Halleck, James	Lake
1852	Padgett, John	Washington	1855	Burton, Wm.	Lake
1852	Speck, Isaac	Washington	1855	Otis, Frederick	Lincoln
1852	Thompson, Young	Washington	1855	Clark, Amos	Washington
1853	Ade, John	Beaver	1855	Griffiths, Thomas	Washington
1853	Kay, James	Beaver	1855	Herriman, Geo. M.	Jefferson
1853	Kennedy, Joseph	Beaver	1856	Purkey, Clayborn	Beaver
1853	Potts, Ephriam	Beaver	1856	Russell, William	Beaver
1853	Thompson, Geo. W.	Beaver	1856	Triplett, Chas. E.	Beaver
1853	Foster, George	Grant	1856	Means, Samuel	Grant
1853	Lowe, Francis C.	Iroquois	1856	Jones, Cornelius	Iroquois
1853	Anderson, John	Jefferson	1856	Lester, A. C.	Iroquois
1853	Corbin, Travis	Washington	1856	Brenner, J. J.	Jackson
1853	Gard, A. V.	Washington	1856	Shriver, Jacob	Jackson
1853	Law, Joseph	Washington	1856	Root, Sylvester	Jefferson
1854	Archibald, James M.	Beaver	1856	White, George W.	Jefferson
1854	Corbin, Wm.	Iroquois	1856	Light, Bluford	Washington
1854	Brown, Phillip	Jackson	1856	Pierce, James	Washington
1854	Chamberlain, King	Jackson	1856	Russel, William	Washington
1854	Skinner, Alonzo M.	McClellan	1857	Branson, Joab H.	Grant
1854	Archibald, James	Washington	1857	Wilson, Blake	Grant
1854	Archibald, Pierce	Washington	1857	Warren, Horack	Iroquois
1854	Jesson, Christian	Washington	1857	Herron, Samuel	Jackson
1855	Bartholomew, John	Beaver	1857	Sharp, Alexander	Jackson
1855	Goddard, Wm. A.	Beaver	1857	Wood, Clark A.	Jefferson
1855	Graves, Benjamin	Beaver	1857	Best, Wm.	Washington
1855	Zoborosky, Joseph I	Beaver	1857	Johnson, John F.	Washington
1855	Foresman, John B.	Iroquois	1857	Russell, Pryor	Washington

*Arriving Settlers, continued from page 7*

Newton County in 1835, the lands were documented and ready for sale - lands that offered first rate soil, plenty of water, and timber for fuel and building cabins. All of these were obtainable, but took a lot of work and perseverance to make this area a permanent residence.

The pioneer experiences of Mary A. (Kenoyer) Doty, were shared in a newspaper article that first appeared in the *Morocco Courier*, April, 1915. Her parents were the Rev. Jacob and Tabitha Jane (Frame) Kenoyer, who settled north of the Iroquois River in Washington Township in 1836. The settlement became known as the Kenoyer Settlement. Her father preached in the E. U B. Church, as did her great-grandfather, Frederick Kenoyer, who also settled in the area. She writes:

"The neighbors lived far apart, but Oh! Such fine times they had taking their families in the sled to spend the winter evenings together. The young folks had for amusement, spelling schools, apple parings, etc., to pass away the evenings, always going on foot. Distance was no consideration, the boys seeing the girls safely home.

"Then the neighbors were so helpful. If a house or barn were being raised, butchering to be done, or a sack of corn taken to the mill, 16 or 20 miles away, they were ready to take their turn. About the year 1846 the farmers had a good crop. They cradled and bound the harvest by hand, placed the sheaves on the threshing floor and guided a team of horses in a circle. The treading of their feet separated the grain from the straw. This was the threshing machine of the time. Then they run it thru a fanning mill turned by hand. The grain was now ready for market. A company, my father among the number, each with a load of oats went to Chicago."

Mary Gillett, the daughter of John and Ann M. Evans, who settled on the banks of the Iroquois in Newton County in the early 1850s wrote an article dated March 25, 1901, that was re-published in the "History of Newton County, 1985," entitled "White's Grove Post Office". She writes:

"The pioneers who formed the early settlements were generally familiar with the isolation and inured to the hardships of frontier life, but with all this open prairie presented difficulties to which they had hitherto been a stranger.

"No wonder the early settlers nestled so close to the timber. One of the things most dreaded was the prairie fires, which were started by hunters, or the careless throwing away of the match with which the traveler lit

Continued from page 10  
**Newton County Settlers  
 1841-1860**

his pipe. These fires that keep the beautiful prairies unobstructed were most to be dreaded of all casualties with which the early settler had to deal. Only those who have awakened at the dead hour of night by the light of the approaching flames can appreciate the horror connected with such an event. This wall of fire from ten to forty feet in height, advancing with the speed of a race horse, and the utter helplessness in the presence of this overshadowing calamity, cannot be imagined. It must be felt to be appreciated.

"Life in a new county is everywhere subjected to the misery of malarial diseases. The breaking up of the prairie sod, involving the rapid decay of large quantities of vegetable matter, gave rise to the miasma, which wrought its sure work upon the system. Such sickness was generally confined to the summer and fall. There was but little sickness in winter, except a few lingering cases that had become chronic with these evils. We were generally forced to struggle alone in our sickness. Physicians were few - none nearer than Rensselaer - which place took a day's ride to reach. When Dr. Triplett came to the county we felt relieved. What a Godsend he was. Sometimes swimming his horse, at other times one of the family would be stationed on the bank of the river, waiting to ferry him across in the Indian canoe."

"Our neighbors in the fifties were few and far between. My parents settled on a part of what was called the Jacob Wright farm. William Brady was a close neighbor, as was the blacksmith. John Franklin lived just across the river - a half mile if you crossed in the Indian canoe, and if you could not ford the river it was seven miles by way of a bridge to his residence. To the east of us lived Samuel Bard and John VanDyke, the only carpenters on the south side of the river. Joseph Evans and wife lived for some time in the old log court house on the George Spitler farm, later owned by Elam G. Smith. The writer made her home with them and attended school one winter in a school house in Lyon's Grove, taught by Ezra B. Jones. Directly south and southeast (from my parent's home), we had not neighbors nearer than Cary Eastburn on Big Pine Creek. Down the river lived William Littlejohn and his good wife Aunt Ruth, also Ruben White, Amos White and Amos Clark, the latter being postmaster at White's Grove, Justice of the Peace, dentist for the neighborhood, Elder of the Christian Church, conducting all funerals and officiated at weddings."

The early settlers had the need to keep in touch by writing letters to their families they left behind, and with those who had al-

ready moved West. The establishment of an official post office so close to the settlements was indeed a big event at that time. From the published histories of the Jasper and Newton County post offices, we find that Brook had the first post office in 1837, which was located near the Iroquois River at the Brook settlement. The first Newton County Courthouse (then Benton County), was located, 2.5 miles south of present day Brook, at the home of George W. Spitler, who lived just east of the Brook settlement. He was the first postmaster of the Brook Post Office, which was the oldest in the county. In 1840, John Montgomery was noted as the postmaster, and his land was located just west of the original courthouse, so we can assume that the location changed to his home. Mail was supplied to the home of the postmaster by horseback, once a week.

Dempsey "Uncle Demps" M. Johnson was one of the few early settlers who shared their history of their era in written format. In 1901, he wrote a letter to the *Newton County Enterprise*, which appeared as an on-going column called "Old Friends." Uncle Demps was a circuit rider, a cabinet maker, and businessman. He took up residence in Beaver Township, coming from Tippecanoe County, owning land which grew to over 200 acres.

"In the fall of 1848, I came to Newton County, then Jasper, to make it my future home. There were twenty-three voters in Beaver Township at that time, namely John Holoway, Jesse Dollerhide, Benjamin Roadruck, Daniel Deardurff, John Dollerhide, John Murphey, James Murphey, G. W. Deardurff, Thomas Starkey, Jacob Seborn, Christian Schuck, David Kessler, David Archibald, Christian Heckerthorn, Jacob Ash, Solomon Ash, Silas Johnson, Robert Archibald, G. G. William, Michael Bridgeman, John Bridgeman, Samuel Bridgeman and David Williams. I will give the names of some of the men that at that time, or a little later, lived along the north side of the Iroquois River: Roberts, Wright, Lyons, Smith, Benjamin, Spitler and two Kenoyers; and on the south side lived Winbigler, Url, Lyons, Montgomery, Clark, Anderson, Smith and Martin. Daniel Mock lived at the west end of north timber, and Ephriam Bridgeman and Mr. Waters at the east end."

He goes on to relate: "One morning wife and I were eating breakfast, the door was open, and a wolf caught a hen within 20 feet of the door. I got two or three of the neighbors and their dogs and we caught two wolves inside of two hours. We could frequently see wolves in day time and hear them of night. Deer could be seen on the prairie, two being

< Arriving Settlers Continued on page 14 >

1858	Graves, J. W.	Beaver
1858	Jones, Morris	Iroquois
1858	Halstead, Orpheus	Jackson
1858	Harris, Henry	Jackson
1858	Brecount, Thaddeus	Jefferson
1858	Littlejohn, David	Jefferson
1859	Bassett, Sylvaniaus	Beaver
1859	Patrick, John	Beaver
1859	Patrick, William A.	Beaver
1859	Bokma, Martin	Grant
1859	Foster, William	Grant
1859	Kent, Alexander J.	Jefferson
1859	Strole, Wm.	Jefferson
1859	Kenrich, Soloman	Lake
1859	Padgett, James A.	Washington
1859	Strole, Asher M.	Washington
1859	Thompson, Abel	Washington
1860	Clark, J. J.	Beaver
1860	Hitchings, John C.	Beaver
1860	Pluimner, Wm.	Beaver
1860	Shue, Cornelius	Beaver
1860	Skinner, Jira	Beaver
1860	DeWeese, Jesse	Grant
1860	Foster, Timothy	Grant
1860	Wilson, Warren	Grant
1860	Coshaw, Joshua	Jackson
1860	Harris, John T.	Jackson
1860	Herre, Emil	Jackson
1860	Schanlaub, George	Jackson
1860	Sammons, Nicholas	Jefferson
1860	Smith, Elam G.	Jefferson
1860	West, Nathaniel	Jefferson
1860	Elliott, John	Lincoln
1860	Nichols, Jacob	Lincoln
1860	Nichols, Jake	McClellan
1860	McCarthy, John	Washington



# LIFE ON THE KANKAKEE 1816:



1.



2.



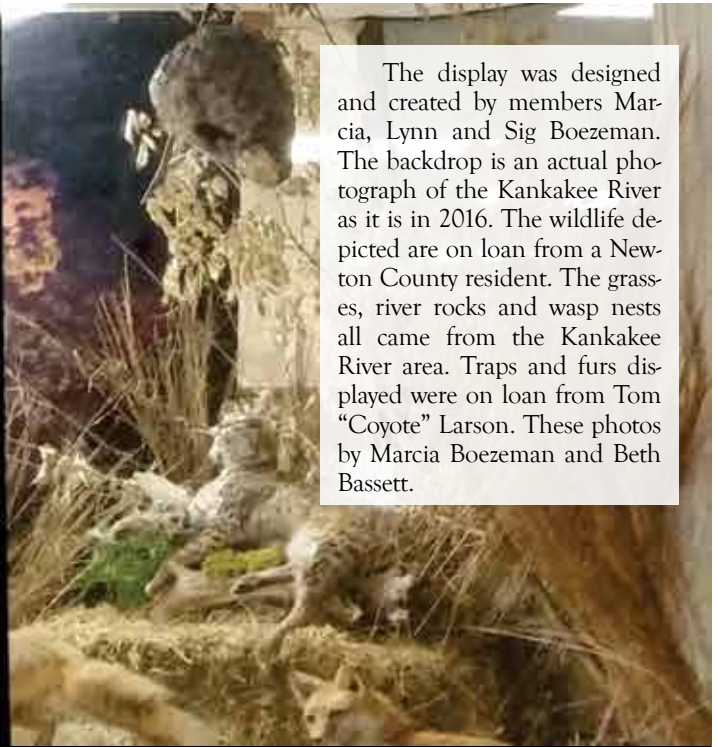
3.



4.

Top: The full display at night.  
Fowl and Fauna in display:

1. Wood Ducks
2. Bobcat and Wasp nest
3. Raccoon and Wood Duck
4. Beaver
5. Pheasant and Fox
6. Mallards and River Otter
7. Wild Turkey



The display was designed and created by members Marcia, Lynn and Sig Boezeman. The backdrop is an actual photograph of the Kankakee River as it is in 2016. The wildlife depicted are on loan from a Newton County resident. The grasses, river rocks and wasp nests all came from the Kankakee River area. Traps and furs displayed were on loan from Tom "Coyote" Larson. These photos by Marcia Boezeman and Beth Bassett.

# HUNTING AND TRAPPING



# 14 The Newcomer

*Arriving Settlers, continued from page 11*

killed within 80 rods of the house. Chickens, ducks, geese and cranes were plentiful at the time.”

Another early settler by the name of Phillip Earl, took up a claim on the Iroquois river in Iroquois Township in 1837. He had written that deer were so numerous that they were a nuisance when a man was trying to raise a small crop of grain and all kinds of wild game swarmed in all directions. In fact, so plentiful was the game, he wrote, that they grew tired of it and regarded a piece of tame meat a genuine luxury. Mr. Earl would eventually move to the Goodland area, and was known as the one of the oldest settlers in this area. By 1850, it was said that you could pull a “good round of 100 whites” in what is now Newton County.

With the implementation of the Swamp Land Act of 1852, the swampy area of northern Newton eventually opened for settlement. The book “Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby, The First 100 years, 1882-1982,” stated that “initially in this area there were only a few settlers in the area. In 1866, you could find located near the Beaver Lake Ditch in Lake Township William Burton, Section 21; James Halleck and John Jenkins on Section 16. Mr. Abraham Snyder and Mrs. Gleason lived on Section 17. The marshes were filled with water and tall grass, and there was at that time plenty of fairly good oak lumber in the flatlands. Mr. A. M. Boyle and his wife lived on Blue Grass Creek, just below Blue Grass Landing. The next house east was at Thayer’s Landing, and still further east, the Ditton place. (Blue Grass Landing and Thayer’s Landing were trading posts located on the Kankakee, established in the early 1820s by Gurdon Hubbard). The roads were wet and dry weather roads; in the wet times the ridge road was necessarily traveled and in the dry fall the marsh roads were passable.”

From the “History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships,” Jim Robbins wrote in his history of Colfax Township that “Colfax was the dividing line between the Iroquois Water Shed and the Kankakee Water Shed. Mud Lake lay in the northeastern part and arms of Beaver Lake extended into the west and southwestern part. Much of the area was swampy. Waterfowl and muskrat and mink were abundant along with prairie chickens and quail. Before the land was drained, most of the settlers depended on trapping and hunting for their livelihood.

“As the land was cheap, it attracted many land traders, speculators and livestock growers. Such names as Kent, Gregory, Lawler, Harris and Duffy appear early in township

affairs. Hunters had names for areas in the township, such as Dividing Ridge in Sections 1-6; Squirrel Island in Section 6 and Beegum in Section 30. A point on the Dividing Ridge was known as Eagle’s Nest Point. These same names were given to other locations in the area by different hunters, causing some confusion to people not familiar with the area.

“Roads were for the most part trails over high places. A trail following the high ground in Section 16 going west by northwest toward Bogus Island and south into Section 21 served the central part of the township.”

Goodland settler W. W. Gilman, arriving in 1868, stated that Grant Township was “just plain prairie. There was one little grove of timber, the land was a rolling surface to the south, generally flat. The land had an incline to the north with natural drainage on both sides to the Iroquois River.

Brook settler Isiah “Bosour” Lyons, whose family was part of the Brook settlement recalled that “prairie grass being tall enough to drive a horse into it and pull it over its head, being completely hid.”

There are so many recollections recorded

of the early times and the settlers of Newton County in the local history books. Some are featured articles, other are memories found within the family histories. Reading them I found that there were two common threads running through them – that the wilderness and marshlands were a paradise for hunters and trappers teaming with wildlife, and the fear of prairie fires prevailed in the summer and fall.

Eventually, a way of life strengthened by the hope and perseverance of the settlers would encourage new homesteads to be built and land would be cleared and cultivated. Towns and villages, the first being Morocco in 1853, consisting of only 6-7 houses, sprang up creating an economy that supported those who initially settled here. The draining of the swamplands that began in 1852; the coming of the railroad through the townships of Grant and Jefferson on December 25, 1859, and the creation of Newton County from Jasper County in 1860, and the development of farming methods, were vital parts of the shaping of our communities as we know them today.

**Settlement:** *A body of people who settle far from home but maintain ties with their homeland.*

**Town:** *a thickly populated area, usually smaller than a city and larger than a village, having fixed boundaries and certain local powers of government.*

Platted	Town and Founder
1851	Morocco, John Murphey
1860	Kent/Kent Station Adriance/Kentland, A. J. Kent
1861	Goodland, William Foster
1866	Brook, S. H. Benjamin
1876	Lake Village, Richard Malone
1882	Roselawn, Craig and Rose
1882	Thayer, Atherton and Stratton
1882	Julian, J. B. Julian
1882	Foresman
1882	Mt. Ayr, Lewis Marion
1905	Conrad, Jennie Conrad
1906	Ade, Warren T. McCray
1907	Enos, R&L Bartlett
1927	Sumava Resorts, Dvorack & others

The growth of our county began with small settlements along the Iroquois River. They were identified as the Kenoyer settlement (Washington Township) and the Brook settlement (Iroquois Township). After the threat of Indian wars, settlers located upon the prairie and timber lands. With the draining of the swamps after 1852, the northern part of the county had a new influx of settlers as well. The first platted town was Morocco in 1851. With the coming of the railroad into the county in 1859, the first railroad stops such as Tivoli (Goodland) and Kent (Kentland) would be noted on early maps.

Other small places that were milk stops for the dairymen and livestock shipping pens were known as Weishaar Switch, Dice, Pogue, Percy Junction, Perkins Switch, Julian. Foresman, Roselawn, Ade, and Enos were larger towns, with the railroad the center of their activity.

Names such as White’s Grove, (Washington Township) Pilot Grove (Mt. Ayr) and Kenney (Thayer), were post office locations, and Stringtown/Jerseyville, (Washington Township) and Fusseville/Old Chicago, (Lake Township) only appear in history books.

## Playwright Depicts 'Her-story'

**"Lillian" A New Play About Historic Sheriff, Lillian Holley** Submitted by Teresa L. Brouillette

Lillian Mae (Hatch) Holley, native of Kentland, Indiana earned her place in history as Indiana's first female Sheriff (Lake County) when she assumed her husband Roy F. Holley's post in 1933. Native of Morocco, Indiana Roy Holley had been killed in the line of duty a mere 16 days after being sworn-in for a second term as Lake County Sheriff. Within days of his death, Lake County Commissioners persuaded Lillian to serve out the balance of her deceased husband's term. The mere fact of Lillian's employment in law enforcement was by itself a significant occurrence in the 1930s, and even today it is extremely rare for women to serve as county sheriff in the state of Indiana. But fate intervened to amplify the significance of Lillian Holley's role as sheriff when Public Enemy Number One managed to escape from the newly-built, 'escape-proof' jail at Crown Point in March of 1934.

More than 80 years later, the mythic story of John Dillinger's escape still reverberates through countless publications and multiple depictions on the silver screen. Through subsequent decades, the sparse facts of the gangster's daring escape have been generously varnished with legend and the story has grown to fabulous proportion. Immediately following the escape local and state politicians scrambled to find a scapegoat. Despite having been fully absolved by federal investigators in 1934, damage was already done to Lillian Holley's reputation by national news reporters and commentators of the era who found it all too easy to assign blame to the 'female sheriff.' In a 1990 column appearing in *The Times of Northwest Indiana*, local historian and columnist Archibald McKinlay called Mrs. Holley "gutsy, tenacious and as fireproof as asbestos," qualities she needed to withstand the heat after the Dillinger escape. McKinlay also stated "With ultimate grace under pressure, Lillian Holley took more heat than any woman since Jeanne d'Arc and with much happier results." Clearly, Lillian was not one to shrink from her responsibilities. Nevertheless, from the beginning, the local community rallied to shield Lillian's and her twin daughters' reputations by keeping a tight lid on any reference to Dillinger's escape. Every effort was made to deflate the then-popular trend of glamorizing high-profile criminals. Holley's friends and neighbors adopted the attitude 'do not dignify the subject with discussion' and this practice endured for many decades. Thus, it can now be easily understood how the genuine facts of the matter have been obscured by silence from those closest to the situation and generous application of the Hollywood treatment to fill-in the gaps.

Marion Kellum, author of the soon-to-open play entitled simply "Lillian," was a 'newcomer' to Crown Point in the 1959 when he joined the faculty of Crown Point High School. There he served as art teacher and drama director for several decades. Kellum was of course aware of the Dillinger story but the scarcity of facts about the 'woman sheriff' intrigued him. Being the father of teenage daughters in the 1970s - a time when feminism and women's rights were gaining attention - Marion gently broke with Crown Point's local tradition of ignoring the 'Dillinger chapter' of its past, by directly approaching Lillian Holley with his idea to write a play telling 'HER-story.' It was Marion's wish to provide young women with a real life role model in law enforcement. Mrs. Holley, then in her 70s, generously gave her time and provided many first-hand details. However, she was not eager to participate in Kellum's effort to produce a play, preferring to maintain her low profile. Mrs. Holley quietly remained in the house she occupied with her daughter Janet - just a few blocks from the infamous jail - until her death in 1994 at the age of 103.

A few years ago Kellum's interest in writing a play about Lillian Holley was reignited when he became aware of newly surfaced first-hand, contemporary accounts. Particularly, two key books came to

his attention. *Dillinger: The Untold Story*, gives revealing insight to several significant Dillinger events, including the legendary use of a wooden gun to coerce jailers' cooperation. Immediately after Dillinger's death, advertising executive G. Russell Girardin worked with an associate of Dillinger's attorney, Louis Piquette to compile a collection of anecdotes about the activities of Dillinger and his gang. In 1990, magazine editor William J. Helmer discovered Girardin's yellowed, handwritten manuscript and published it in 2005. Similarly, *Dillinger's Wild Ride* (2011) written by Elliot J. Gorn focuses on the dizzying array of Dillinger's activity compacted into a 12 month span during 1933-1934. Both books provide information which puts the role of the 'woman sheriff' in new perspective.

Through Kellum's long years of work as a board member with the Lake Court House Foundation he was well aware that in the final years of Lillian Holley's life she provided substantial financial support toward the Foundation's efforts to restore and preserve the historic landmark structure. Lillian was instrumental in funding the rejuvenation of the clock in the old court house tower and she made a generous donation to underwrite the purchase of chandeliers for the newly created Maki Ballroom in the south wing. Now, more than twenty years after her death, it seems only fitting that a theatrical production paying tribute to this strong trail-blazing woman in law enforcement should at last be presented to support a cause that was dear to her heart.

"Lillian" will be in the Maki Ballroom of the Old Lake County Courthouse located on the square in Crown Point, Indiana. Performance are 7 pm on Fri./Sat., March 3, 4, 10 and 11; and 2pm on Sundays March 5 and 12. Tickets may be purchased through <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/>. The admission price of \$25 a person includes complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres. For more information, contact the Lake Court House Foundation by phone at 219/663-0660; through the website at [lakecourthousefoundation.org](http://lakecourthousefoundation.org); or by mail at P. O. Box 556, Crown Point, IN 46308-0556.

## Now You Know Your County of Newton!

By Janet Miller ~ Questions on page 4

1. Lake Township once had the name of Hess Township.
2. Many Newton County barns are painted red because hundreds of years ago, farmers painted their barns with linseed oil to help seal the wood and keep it from rotting. Rust was mixed with the oil to keep fungi and moss from growing on the wood. This turned the oil red. Barns today are still painted red in honor of that tradition.
3. The school colors of the previous five Newton County High Schools are as follows: Brook: Purple/Gold; Goodland: Blue/Gold; Kentland: Blue/White; Morocco: Gold/Black; Mt. Ayr: Black/Gold. The current high schools school colors are: North Newton: Blue/Orange; South Newton: Red/Gray.
4. The mascots of the above seven schools are: Brook Aces; Goodland Trojans; Kentland Blue Devils; Morocco Beavers; Mt. Ayr Ayrdales; North Newton Spartans; and South Newton Rebels.
5. The Newton County cemetery where three sheriffs are buried that share the same name is the Smith-Holley Cemetery in Beaver Township. These three Newton County residents were all sheriffs of Lake County, Indiana, Sheriff Roy Holley, Sheriff Lillian (Hatch) Holley, and Sheriff Carroll Holley. Roy and Lillian Holley were man and wife. Carroll was a nephew of Roy.

# Salt

Helen (Sizemore) Pollard  
by Jeff Manes

Originally published in April, 2010



*"... Daddy loved and raised eight kids on a miner's pay. Mama scrubbed our clothes on a washboard ever' day ..."* Loretta Lynn

*Helen Pollard was born a coal miner's daughter in Hopkins County, KY. Today, she lives in Lake Village.*

*Pollard, 90, also is a retired steel worker.*

"I'm sorry that I didn't keep the Sizemore in the middle when I married Tex because a lot of people know me as Helen Sizemore from when I was married to Skinny," Pollard began.

*Both your husbands, Skinny Sizemore and Tex Pollard, are deceased.*

*"Yes."*

*Helen, let's start from the beginning - Kentucky.*

"We were about 40 miles south of Evansville; it was tobacco and coal country. There was seven of us girls and one boy. During the Depression, my father made moonshine. We all had a chore to do."

*What was your job?*

"At 8 years old, I milked the cow. By the time I was 12, I was able to strain the milk and churn the butter. We were never on relief and never went hungry. My father didn't own the land, but he'd get a permit from the company to work the ground."

*What did he grow?*

"Corn, onions, potatoes, turnip greens - all the things you needed to survive. We had a root cellar, but there was usually extra that we couldn't store."

*What happened to the surplus?*

"We'd set it out beside the dirt with a sign that said 'Free.' I had a sister who got

diphtheria; we were quarantined for 21 days. They put a sticker on the house."

*Then what?*

"We lived in company houses. You've heard that song that goes, 'I owe my soul to the company store?' ('Sixteen Tons,' by 'Tennessee' Ernie Ford.) That's how it was for us. You got no real money."

*Scrip.*

"We called them 'flickers.' They were coins to pay bills with, to be used at the company store only. They had you tied down, but it got a little better when they finally made a union; the men had to go on strike to get it."

*Your father?*

"We'd have a tub of warm water waiting for him when he came home from the mines. We had no bathrooms. The first thing he always done was cradle that jug and take a drink of corn liquor. We were told never to touch it. None us seven girls ever drank."

*Never, even later in life?*

*"We were told not do."*

*Did your dad smoke?*

*"Rolled his own; mother dipped snuff."*

*Education?*

"I went to a one-room schoolhouse until the eighth grade; I took seventh and eighth grade at the same time."

*High school?*

"I walked five miles twice a day to get 2 1/2 years of it. Then, I married Skinny when I was 16; he was 15 years older than me."

"Skinny and I lived in a company house, too. He was working up on the tippie when the mine exploded and killed 15 men. He had two brothers in there. We moved to East Chicago in the spring of '42. Our son was 5 at the time.

*Where at in East Chicago?*

"Magoun Avenue; people in East Chicago would ask me if I was a hillbilly. I'd say I was, then walk away like I had one leg shorter than the other from all those hills and hollows."

*The mill?*

"I hired in at Inland Steel in January of 1945. I was never off sick in 30 years."

*What department?*

"The Tin Mill; there was 100 of us women in that unit flipping tin. I did that for five years; then, I became a shipping clerk. Inland quit making tin around 1970."

*Sumava Resorts.*

"We moved to Sumava in 1955, once our son graduated from East Chicago Roosevelt (High School). Skinny and I built a house right on the Kankakee River.

"There was an old trapper who lived by himself in a little shanty next to us. He lived there before there ever was a Sumava. I remember him warning us to never trust the ice on the river. I'd take food to him when I had something left over."

*How long did you live in Sumava?*

"For 37 years. But Skinny was a real bad diabetic and died in '77."

*My dad said you were a very good poker player in your day.*

"Used to be; I currently belong to four bunco clubs and a euchre club. And I've attended at least 40 Kentucky Derbies.

"I'm also a red hatter and diehard Democrat. And I do biscuits and gravy every Tuesday morning at the Lake Village Grange."

*Tex?*

"We got married in Vegas and had a few good years before he got colon cancer. He lived eight more years; they put two bags on him. I took care of him.

"We lived in my house in Sumava for a while. Tex never said anything, but he wasn't happy. You see, Tex had a father who drowned in the Kankakee River while duck hunting. Jack Sioris found him about three months later; he was hung up in a logjam under the river bridge."

*Never trust the ice on the river.*

"We moved here in '91. I've had a strange life; I married a man who was 15 years older than me when I was a young woman; I married a man who was 15 years younger than me when I was an old woman."

*Do you ever miss living on the Kankakee?*

"I've been to Sumava a few times to eat at Lukes Restaurant, but haven't gone back to the home. Out of sight, Jeff, out of mind."

*Charles Sizemore is a brilliant artist who taught chemistry at Hammond High School for 44 years. The odds of him becoming a success were favorable from the start.*

*You see, he was born the son of a coal miner's daughter who showed up for work at the Tin Mill ever' day for 30 years.*

## Newton County Historical Society Resource Center

PO Box 303, Kentland, IN 47951

**Open Monday, Thursday, Friday**

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM CST

219-474-6944

newtoncountyhistoricalsociety

@embarqmail.com

Visit our Web site:

www.ingenweb.org/innewton



Historical Newton In

### Membership Dues:

Gen. Society: \$17/yr; Lifetime, \$125

Family History Division:

(Must be society member to join FHD)

\$5/yr; Lifetime \$50

Dues for both: \$22/yr; \$175 Lifetime

Dues are January 1 - December 31





This photograph is now part of our Barker family collection. It is possible this farming scene is of the George W. Deardurff and Gallagher Barker families who resided in Jackson Township. The back of the photo was stamped M. Handley, photographer, Morocco.

## Comparison of the 1840 and 1850 Jasper County Census

By utilizing the list of names that were found in the 1850 Jasper County Census documented in Beaver, Iroquois and Jackson Townships, I compared those surnames to the Jasper County 1840 Census records, which did not specify which township the individual households were located. This may not have produced all the surnames that may have been in Newton in 1840, as they may have re-located, or were deceased by 1850, and at this point I had no other way to determine them. From what I can tell, they did not go household to household in every circumstance, but I do not know that for sure.

I have listed here the names that appeared in both the 1840 and 1850 census records, attaching them to the township that they appeared in 1850, which may not be an accurate assumption. There were a few names in 1840 that did not appear in the 1850 census, but were familiar Newton County names to me. Each given name represents a household. Not having a complete and orderly list to work from 1840 made this task very difficult. I do not feel that I have a complete list, that I may have missed some known original pioneers. I am also not sure that the settlers of the northern area of our county at that time were included in the documentations. You can view both census lists, and others at our web site, [www.ingenweb.org/innewton](http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton) and make your own determinations.

**Jackson Township:** Alexander, William; Blue, Isaac; Clifton, Elias; Dunn, Josiah, Samuel and Joseph; Elijah, Lewis; Illiff, John and William; McColloch, George; Smith, Erastus; Steward, William and Ezra; Wyat, Daniel and William.

**Iroquois Township:** Anderson, John; Crowels, John; Denton, Benjamin W.; Earl, Philip; Kenoyer, Jeremiah; Kenoyer, Fredrick and Jacob (1850 only); Lyons, John; Mallett, Robert; Mallett, William, William Jr., and Hiram; Montgomery, John; Myers, George and John; Sigler, John; Smith, Elias, William, William Jr., Thomas, Uriah, John (2), and Jo-

seph; Spitler, George W. and Wesley; Troup, Jacob; Ward, Jospeh; White, Amos, Amos Jr., William; Whiteman, Joshua.

**Beaver Township:** Ash, Jacob; Dollarhide, John; Holloway, William E.; Lane,

John and Drucilla; Reynolds, Lewis and Margaret; Williams, Lewis B., Jane, James, George, Charles. Murphy, Thomas is listed in 1840, but only find John (2) and James in 1850. **Submitted by Beth Bassett.**

*The categories recorded for both 1840 and 1850 allowed Congress to determine persons residing in the United States for collection of taxes and the appropriation of seats in the House of Representatives. Below is an analysis of the 1850 Census - Newton County Townships.*

1850 Twp.	Total Inhabitants	Total Families	Total Value Owned Real Estate
Beaver	225	41	\$15,920
Iroquois	374	65	\$49,516
Jackson	312	49	\$19,550

Twp.	Interesting Facts	Interesting Facts
Beaver	<p><b>Oldest Resident:</b> Isaac James, b. 1780</p> <p><b>Head of Household birthplaces:</b> 14-Ohio; 7-Indiana; 6 Virginia; 3-Penn.; 2-N. Carolina; 2-Kentucky; 1-Rhode Island; 1-New York; 1-New Jersey; 1-Maryland; 1-England (Smithyman); 1-Canada (Disher).</p> <p><b>Occupations:</b> All farmers, 1-Stone Mason, Thomas Peck; 1-Hatter, John Deaver; 1-Merchant, George Disher; 1-Carpenter, David Lane</p>	<p><b>Youngest Residents, born 1850:</b> Henry J. Deardurff; Sarah J. Brady; Albert Vannatta; Isiah Dollarhide; Eliza A. Dollarhide; George C. Murphy; Margaret Murphy; Elizabeth Starkie; Samuel DT Williams; George Heckathorne; Sarah Ash</p>
Iroquois	<p><b>Oldest Resident:</b> Amos White, b. 1783</p> <p><b>Head of Household birthplaces:</b> 16-Virginia; 13-Ohio; 11-Indiana; 6-Penn.; 5-Kentucky; 2-N. Jersey; 2-Maryland; 2-N. Carolina; 1-Delaware; 1-Wisconsin; 1-Conneticut; 1-England (Asher); 1-Canada (Warren); 1-Norway (Johnson).</p> <p><b>Occupations:</b> All Farmers, 2-U.B. Ministers, Frederick and Jacob Kenoyer; 1-Carpenter Benjamin Denton; 1-Laborer James Anderson.</p> <p><b>Written on page: Only colored person in county:</b> Joseph Jones, b. 1810 living with the Jacob Wright family.</p>	<p><b>Youngest Residents, born 1850:</b> Mary J. Waters; George Seward; Margaret Wright; Sarah C. Massa; Lydia Ward; Harrison Starkey; Allen W. Kenoyer; Lewis Kenoyer; Richard Anderson; Betsey Torbet; David Dunbar; Mary Anderson; Sarah Earl; Newton Lyons; David Bridgeman</p>
Jackson	<p><b>Oldest Resident:</b> James Bird, b. 1779;</p> <p><b>Head of Household birthplaces:</b> 8-Ohio; 7-New York; 6- Penn.; 5-N. Carolina; 3-Virginia; 3-Vermont; 2 Kentucky; 2-Maryland; 1-Michigan; 1-Mass.</p> <p><b>Occupations:</b> All farmers, 2-Carpenters, Elmer Wilcos and Oscar Levington; 2-Laborers, Eli Clifton and Jacob Nottingham.</p>	<p><b>Youngest Residents, born 1850:</b> Lavina &amp; Malvina Piper; Orvin Elijah; Marian Meyers; Jacob Wright; VanCamp, John; Barker, Samuel; Nancy Brown; Melinda Elliott; Cynthia Elliott.</p>

# Home is Where Your Story Begins

Lowe, Jones, and Zumbrum Families of Newton County - Submitted by Deborah Baum Crain

I knew my grandmother was born in Kentland, Indiana, but I didn't really know much about her family. So, about a year ago, I dusted off my father's genealogy work and set out to learn more. I was surprised to learn that some of her family history was from right in my backyard here in East Tennessee, as well as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana.

Francis C. Lowe Family

My great-great-great-grandfather, Francis C. Lowe, was the first of my ancestors to settle in Indiana. However, his ancestors came from Wilkes County, North Carolina. His father, John Henry Lowe, was born about 1797 in North Carolina. Between 1800 and 1817, the family left North Carolina and traveled west across the Appalachian mountains to East Tennessee. It was there, in Greene County, Tennessee, where John Henry married Polly Hutson in 1817. They had two sons, John Alexander Lowe, and Francis C. Lowe, both of whom later moved their families from Tennessee to Newton County, Indiana.

John Alexander Lowe married Margaret Jane Lemons in 1851 in Greene County. They had five of their children there: Andrew Jackson Lowe, Mary Catherine "Molly" Lowe, William Harrison Lowe, Robert Franklin Lowe, and Margaret Jane "Maggie" Lowe.

John Alexander Lowe was working as a

potter in Greene County when the Civil War began. There were both Union and Confederate supporters in this area of Tennessee; John Alexander sided with the Confederates. In late 1861, East Tennessee was the location of a series of guerilla operations by Union sympathizers to destroy strategic railroad bridges. A local group of Union sympathizers in Greene County burned the Lick Creek railroad bridge near Pottertown (now Midway). Five men were caught by the Confederates and hanged; four of them were potters from that area. One of them, C. A. Haun, was a master potter, arguably the best in Tennessee; it is believed John Alexander Lowe apprenticed and/or worked with him. In a subsequent court trial, John Alexander Lowe was called upon by the Confederates to give eyewitness testimony as to the events. Haun was court-martialed and sentenced to hang. Two days later, John Alexander Lowe joined the Confederate Army and served until he received a disability discharge in February 1862.

It is hypothesized that John Alexander Lowe left Greene County soon after his discharge because he was uncomfortable being a Confederate in an area with strong Union sympathizers after a traumatic event like Lick Creek. It is not unreasonable that he and his family moved elsewhere to start a new life, in this case, Newton County where his brother

lived, sometime between 1862 and 1865. There is no evidence that he ever worked again as a potter. Four more children were born after they settled in Newton County: Sarah Elizabeth "Sallie" Lowe, Francis Alexander "Frank" Lowe, Lewis Elmer Lowe, and David Grant Lowe. Sometime between 1870 and 1880, the family moved out to Arkansas.

In 1999/2000, John Alexander Lowe's pottery site was discovered and excavated; it contained over 3000 sherds of pottery that contained some portion of his name. The pottery was in the same style as that of C. A. Haun. A large two-handled redware jar, with the name J. A. Lowe, was purchased at auction by a private collector for \$63,000 in 2008. It is only one of two known surviving intact examples of his work. So, if you are a descendant of John Alexander Lowe, check your cabinets - you may own a pottery treasure!

His brother, Francis C. Lowe, married Sarah 'Sally' Keeney in 1840 in Greene County, Tennessee. The 1850 census for Greene County shows them with five children: James Henderson Lowe (my great-great-grandfather), John C. Lowe, David E. Lowe, Betty Y. Lowe, and Joseph W. Lowe. We learn from subsequent obituaries that, between 1850 and 1853, Francis relocated his family from Greene County to Jasper County, Indiana, settling a few miles from Mt. Ayr, in the old Makeever neighborhood. They had more children after arriving in Indiana, including Thomas H. Lowe, Hulda Keziah Lowe, William H. Lowe, and Barnette A. Lowe. Francis and his family moved to Brook, Newton County between 1853 and 1858 (based on subsequent obituaries). By the 1880 census, they were living in the town of Kentland.

Francis and Sarah also raised a "bound child," Cora Dell Hoke. By all accounts, they treated her as one of the family and had a loving relationship. At the age of 25, she married and named the Lowe's as her parents on the marriage record. However, no record of adoption has been found.

Francis Lowe was a farmer. His wife Sarah died in 1888 at age 70. Francis married again, to Julia Jay Clark, in 1890 in Kentland. Francis passed away in 1897 at age 76. Julia died in 1901. All are buried in Fairlawn Cemetery in Kentland.

Francis' and Sarah's eldest child, James Henderson Lowe, married Mary Elizabeth Jones in 1860 in Newton County. At that time, they lived with her widowed mother,



Gertrude Zumbrum (black dress) with Ella Zumbrum Warner with Wilbur Warner and Ella Zumbrum, Newton County ca. 1902.

Matilda Minshall Jones, in Iroquois Township (Brook post office), on the Jones family farm.

James Henderson Lowe served in the Civil War as a Private in Company A, 128th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry; he was living in Brook at the time of enlistment. This unit was organized at Michigan City, Indiana on December 15, 1863. They fought in some of the most iconic battles of the Civil War, from the Atlanta campaign to Nashville and Franklin. Over the years, I have walked many of those battlefields, and, until doing this genealogy research, had no idea I had ancestors who fought there. This unit was also at the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston and his army in North Carolina, and had duty in Goldsboro and Raleigh until mustered out in April 1866. James Henderson Lowe was discharged on March 18, 1866. While her husband was in the war, Mary supported herself by teaching. In the book *A Standard History of Newton and Jasper Counties, Volume 1 (1916)*, they note that Mrs. James H. Lowe was part of a group of ladies who cooked and served a farewell dinner for the soldiers before those men left for war in October 1861.

James Henderson and Mary had ten children, but four sons and two daughters died young; those six children are buried in Brook, with at least three, but likely all, buried at Riverside Cemetery. The children who survived to adulthood were Myrtis Jane Lowe, Melvin H. Lowe, Gertrude Pearl Lowe (my great-grandmother), and Matilda Levanche 'Tillie' Lowe.

James Henderson Lowe was a farmer, but had to quit due to declining health. By 1870, he and his family had moved to Kentland where he worked as a mail carrier. In 1880, he filed a Civil War pension claim for injuries sustained in the war. James Henderson also had sustained damage to his eyes,

and he went blind before he was 50. James Henderson died in 1893 at age 56, and Mary received a Civil War widow's pension after his death. Mary died in 1919 at her home on Allen Street; she was 77 years old. They are buried at Fairlawn Cemetery in Kentland.

My grandmother, Zella Zumbrum Baum, told my dad this story about her grandfather, James Henderson Lowe. After the war, he and his family lived in Kentland. He carried the mail on horseback in the wild prairie north of Kentland. One time, in a blizzard, his faithful horse "old Bill" brought him home unconscious and frozen to the saddle. Years later, nearly blind, he would sit on the porch and his old horse would come up to nuzzle him and stay with him. The horse that saved his life was faithful to the end.

James Henderson's brother, John C. Lowe, also fought in the Civil War. He was a Private in Company B, 51st Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged after fifteen months service due to illness. He returned to Brook and married Mary Elizabeth Jones Lowe's sister, Hulda Keziah Jones, in 1863. He was a farmer with a large and productive farm. He died in 1921 on the 60th anniversary of the organization of Company B, 51st regiment; fourteen of his fellow soldiers attended his funeral.

Another brother, David E. Lowe, started out as a farmer. In 1875, he married Ella Smith, daughter of Nathaniel Smith, also a pioneer of Newton County. After three years of farming, he started a drugstore in Brook, and operated it for three years before relocating to Foresman Station. He was also served as postmaster in both Brook and Foresman. The book *Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, Indiana (1883)* has biographies on both John and David.

All of our Lowe's are also related to the family that started the Lowe's home improvement retail chain in North Wilkesboro,

North Carolina...but unfortunately too distantly related for us to get a discount!

## Cornelius Jones Family

The Jones family traces its roots back to Hampshire County, Virginia (now West Virginia). David Jones moved to Ross County, Ohio in late 1803. One of his children, Moses, was born about 1785 likely in Hampshire County. Moses was a Private in the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812.

Moses had several children, including son Cornelius Jones, born in Colerain Township, Ross County, in 1810. Cornelius married Matilda A. Minshall, daughter of Ellis M. Minshall and Anna Harrel Minshall, in 1832 in Ross County. (In an interesting twist, ten years after Ellis' death in 1818, Anna Harrel Minshall married Moses Jones, father of Cornelius Jones. One can now see how Matilda and Cornelius met!)

The Minshall family has a fascinating history. Thomas Minshall and family left their home in Cheshire, England and sailed to Pennsylvania in 1682 on the ship Friendship. They were Quakers, and were among the first passengers on William Penn's ships to America. Before Thomas had left England, he secured a land grant from William Penn for 625 acres in and around Philadelphia. Thomas was also the great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather of President Herbert Hoover. Learn more about the Minshall family at <http://www.mediaborough.com/community/media-minshall-house> and <https://www.tylerarboretum.org/about-us-2/history/>.

Cornelius and Matilda's son, Ezra Bothwell Jones, arrived in Newton County in the fall of 1855 to teach. On October 1, 1856, Cornelius and Matilda Jones left Ross County, Ohio and arrived in Brook about three weeks later. Their children came with them: William Gilmore Jones, Anna Virginia Jones, Moses Simpson Jones, Mary Elizabeth



Daniel Miller Zumbrum and Getrude Lowe wedding portrait, Kentland, 1895.



Gertrude (Lowe) Zumbrum



Mary (Jones) Lowe

## 20 The Newcomer

Jones (my great-great-grandmother), Hulda Keziah Jones, Morris A. Jones, Nancy Jones, and Priscilla Ethel Olivia Jones. Matilda gave birth to another son, Schulyer Colfax Jones, soon after the family settled in Newton County.

Cornelius Jones was a farmer and stock raiser. His family is recognized as one of the pioneer families involved with sustaining the Methodist Episcopal Church in Brook. Cornelius died at age 48 in Brook, and is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Brook.

Matilda was only 45 when she was widowed. She married John Jones in 1862 in Newton County. (I am unsure if or how he is related to the other Jones'.) They lived in Julian until John's death in 1879. Matilda then lived in her house north of Brook for a few years, and later moved in with her daughter Priscilla Jones Shaeffer's family. Matilda died at age 85 in Brook, and is buried with her husband Cornelius.

The book *Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, Indiana*, (1883), has biographies about Cornelius' brothers, Ezra B. Jones and Morris A. Jones. Ezra taught school in the winters and farmed in the summers. He married Prudence J. Earl in 1858; the Earl family were among the earliest settlers in Newton County, arriving in 1837. Ezra served as county recorder between 1870 and 1880. In 1881, he developed a real estate, loan, and insurance business.

Morris Jones was a farmer also. At age 18, he enlisted in Company A, 87th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He joined General Sherman's army at Ringgold, Georgia, was in the Battle of Atlanta, and continued on Sherman's March to the Sea. In 1868, he married Sarah Whittaker of Brook, and they made their home on a farm near Brook.



Daniel Zumbrum posing for his chauffeur's license photo in downtown Kentland.

In 1897, he became postmaster in Brook, a position that he held for 12 years.

Their brother, Schulyer Colfax Jones, also lived in Brook. Schulyer married Nancy Jane Lyons in 1878 in Newton County, and they lived on their farm for about 10 years. He then purchased a hardware store in Brook and moved his family there. In 1896, he was elected Auditor of Newton County, and held that position for eight years, during which time the family lived in Kentland. For a few months, he was a cashier at Discount and Deposit State Bank. Health issues caused him to retire to a farm in Amo, Hendricks County, Indiana in 1913.

### Daniel Miller Zumbrum Family

The Zumbrum family (also spelled Zumbun) traces its ancestry back to Switzerland, where the earliest identifiable ancestor, Johann "John" Zumbun, was born about 1755. He married Elizabeth Angel, likely in Maryland, in about 1773. They lived in then Frederick County, Maryland (now Carroll County, Maryland) and had three daughters and seven sons, including my great-great-grandfather David Zumbun, who was born in 1791 in Taneytown, Maryland. He died about 1819, and she a little over a year later.

David Zumbun married Elizabeth Mayer (or Myers) in about 1813. Around 1815, the family moved across the Maryland-Pennsylvania border to the York County, Pennsylvania area. David and Elizabeth had four daughters and three sons, including my great-great-grandfather, William Francis Zumbun, born in 1820. David died in 1863, and Elizabeth died in 1872; both are buried in Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania.

William Francis Zumbun married Elizabeth Miller in 1842 in Hanover. He was a farmer. William also served as a Private in the Civil War in Company H, 50th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. William and Elizabeth had four daughters and seven sons, including my great-grandfather Daniel Miller Zumbun, born in 1861. William died in 1883, while Elizabeth died in 1894. Both are buried in Hanover.

At age 21, Daniel left York County and traveled west, settling in Newton County in 1882. About that same time, his oldest sister, Mary Magdalena Zumbun, and her husband David M. Bixler, moved to Newton County from Pennsylvania. The Bixler's lived in Newton County for 14 years, before moving to Missouri and then Kansas. Another sister, Elenora 'Ella' Zumbun, along with her husband, William A. Werner, moved to Newton County in about 1894.

Daniel Miller Zumbun married Gertrude Pearl Lowe on New Year's Day, 1895



Zella and Henry J. Zumbrum



Sisters Zella (left) and Mary Zumbrum.

in Kentland. They had four children: Zella Zumbrum (my grandmother), Cedora Zumbun, Mary Elizabeth Zumbun, and Woodrow Wilson Zumbun. Daniel worked as a bridge gang foreman on the New York Central Railroad, as a chauffeur, and as superintendent of streets and parks in Kentland for many years. He died in 1927. After his death, his wife Gertrude obtained her nursing certificate and supported herself as a nurse. She died in 1950 at the age of 75. They are buried at Fairlawn Cemetery in Kentland.

My grandmother Zella Zumbrum married my grandfather, Henry J. "Hank" Baum, in 1921. In fact, they eloped, which didn't please her father, as she later told. But, they were married for over 62 years, so it must have worked out ok. They lived in Kentland, which is where my father, Daniel, was born. Their house was next to a "Y" at the crossing of two railroads, the New York Central and the Nickel Plate. Hank worked for the New York Central Railroad; likely it was his father-in-law who got him the job. In 1934, Hank was "bumped" to another rail section, this time in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois, where they lived for many years. Hank retired from the railroad; Zella was a housewife. She, like my dad, enjoyed genealogy, and I am glad that she saved her old photos and letters, which helped me learn more about our family history.

## Pages of the Past

Submitted by Janet Miller Excerpts taken from The Newton County Enterprise, Winter-Spring, 1916

### Newton County

**McCray Candidacy Making Strong Gains.** As the date of the primary approaches the certainty of Warren T. McCray's nomination for the Governor of Indiana becomes more apparent. A number of events that have occurred this week that point unmistakably to his growing popularity, and to the strength his frank, open and manly campaign is developing.

**Vote No. 17 on Republican Ticket - Warren T. McCray for Governor.** Help Newton County place one of her citizens in the State House.

**Goodwin Wins in Race for Governor.** McCray makes splendid campaign, and only lack of time to extend acquaintance prevented success. The vote given Mr. McCray in his home county is a high compliment, and one he will fully appreciate. Mr. McCray last night conceded his nomination and sent a message of congratulations.

### Kentland

**Mrs. Henry Dieter** received a letter recently from her mother in Germany that had been censored, a portion of the letter being blue penciled beyond deciphering. Presumably the mother was imparting information that the German government deemed best to keep at home. Its great to live in a free country and say what you please.

**Keefe Wins Laurels:** Notre Dame, Feb. 20: The latest athletic honor to come to Emmett G. Keefe, is the Mayr prize for most valuable member of the Notre Dame football team last fall. Keefe, who is in line to win three monograms at Notre Dame is universally acknowledged as one of the best all around athletes at Notre Dame. He is also a crack basketball player and is a principal point winner in field athletics. Keefe will finish his course in electrical engineering at Notre Dame this year, so that he will not be seen again on any of the varsity teams. He is the son of William Keefe of Raub.

**J. W. Sullivan** has taken charge of the Hubertz Hotel, and will also continue his restaurant business, having fixed up the south room for the purpose.

**John White** has been appointed road supervisor in the first district to succeed Ocey Franklin, who has moved to Washington Township.

**Motor Bus Service:** Logansport to Efner: Fred Sawyer, Proprietor. Cars arrive at and depart from the Hotel Kentland.

**A Million Dollar Baby Exhibition.** "A Nicer Group of Babies Would be Hard to Find" say the Doctors. The Kentland Wom-

an's Club held a baby show last Thursday, and it was a surprising success in every way. The assembly room at the Public Library was filled with mothers, club members and friends. The nineteen babies, every one of which was valued at over a million dollars by their mothers, were given their inning. The weighing, measurements and inspections was made by Drs. Van Kirk and Mathews, and their report is given below: "Based on measurements of 3,448 normal babies in 23 states for male and female children from the age of 6 to 24 months, the babies that came nearest to the standard measurements are as follows: Boys: Joseph Lambert, first; Robert Simons, second, Harold Arnold third. Girls: Dorothea Elizabeth Swaim and Elnora May Detrick tie for first place, and Mabel Zellars, second. Richard Carton and Joseph Columbe received honorable mention. They looked like the prize babies but they exceeded the weight measurements for boys. Other babies entered in the contest: Harry Miller, James Pennington, Barbara Jane Neher, James Britton, Marylynn Louise Kime, Carrol Don, Kenneth Don, Richard Bowers, Verl Lontz, Margaret Rathbun, Donald Eugene Boatman.

### Kankakee River Area

**Hank Granger**, a notorious character of the Kankakee River region for many years, died Sunday at the home of his daughter in Hammond. Of late years Granger has been charged with about all the law violations that one man could easily shoulder, but prosecutions against him seldom proved successful. By reason of his notoriety the Chicago and Indianapolis papers played up his death like the last scene of a hero, picturing him as an especial friend of Lew Wallace and other noted men. It made a readable article if you care nothing for the truth.

**Dr. C. M. Rice** lost his Ford last Thursday night about midnight by the fire route. The machine was standing in front of his office. When the fire was discovered the whole top was in flames. The top and body burned and the remainder melted and was twisted about. It is thought that someone started the fire out of malice.

### Brook

**Miss Frances Hays** ended her duties as librarian Saturday night, and Miss Ethel Reed took up the work Monday afternoon. Miss Hays has been faithful and obliging in her duties during a service of four years, and to the new service of home making carries the good will of all. Miss Reed possesses splendid qualifications and a natural liking for the work and

enters upon it with enthusiasm. She spent last week in nearby towns studying the various methods.

### Lawrence E. Lyons District Chairman.

A political honor was cast on Newton County Tuesday that is well deserved. Lawrence E. Lyons of Brook was chosen a member of the Republican State Committee from the Tenth Congressional district to succeed Dr. Frank Smith of Gary. Lyons was the manager of Warren T. McCray's recent campaign for Governor.

### Mt. Ayr

**Beckwith Bros.** have opened up a garage in the Inkley building and are now ready for auto work. They will prove a great help in our town.

### Morocco

**Robertson & Smart** conducted a lunch stand at the sale north of Cherry Island, Monday.

**Ross Lucas** has a car of potatoes on the track here now and is busily engaged in distributing them about town.

### Conrad

**Embezzler caught** at Conrad Saturday: Confessed to stealing over \$1,700 from Canadian Express Companies. James A. Young, who has been serving as deputy postmaster at Conrad the past five months under the name of F. W. Smith, was placed under arrest Saturday by Sheriff Hess, and taken to Montreal Canada, to answer to embezzlement. Young had been in the employ of the American National and Canadian Express companies at St. Johns, 25 miles east of Montreal, and is reported \$1,700 short in his accounts. He admitted the shortage to Sheriff Hess and said liquor was responsible. He is about forty years of age and has a wife and two daughters residing at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

### Goodland

**Implement Men Organize.** F. A. Beeker of the *Farm Implement News* of Chicago addressed the implement dealers of northwestern Indiana at Goodland Thursday of last week in regard to forming an implement dealers' association. The object being social enjoyment and entertainment, together with such benefits in a business way as will naturally be brought about by a feeling of fraternity and good fellowship among the members. The association is to be known as the Northwestern Indiana Implement and Vehicle Dealers' Association. Articles and by-laws were adopted. Officers elected were: President, George Mitten, Goodland; Vice President, Jesse Hunter, Morocco, and Secretary-Treasurer, H. A. Reinhart, Kentland.

# Newton County Bicentennial Torch Relay: October 11, 2016

By Larry and Becky Lyons

During the summer of 2015, the Newton County Historical Society was asked to plan Indiana's Bicentennial Celebrations for Newton County. All of Indiana's 92 Counties were asked to participate in the Torch Relay, and to also plan one significant event for the county. The society officers met and asked us to head the Torch Relay. The Indiana Bicentennial Committee informed us initially that we would be given one and a half hours to run the torch relay through

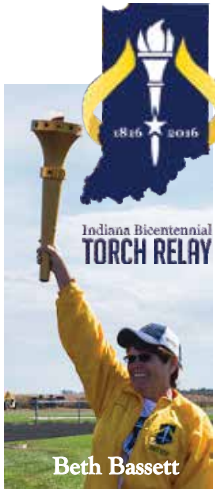
Newton County. We convinced the state committee to allow us to stretch the time to two hours. We then had to decide where the torch would go in the county. The state asked us to start the Relay at Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure. After talking to the people whom had carried the Olympic torch in the county in years past, they told us very few people got to view the relay. We decided the best place to have a large group of observers was to go to our two high schools.

The school superintendents and principals were very supportive of this plan. The only problem that might arise would be not having enough time to complete the relay before South Newton would have to dismiss the students for the day. Also, we felt we had to take the relay past the County Court House in Kentland. We hoped to complete this round within two hours, with the final pass to Benton County torch bearers.

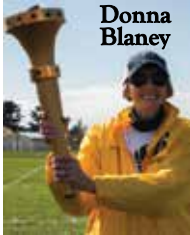
We decided the way to move our torch quickly was to take it over the miles between Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure, North Newton High School, South Newton High School, and the courthouse in Kentland, and to the Benton County bearers was to use three very capable motorcycle drivers, one modified snowmobile, one tractor, and one '39 Ford. Each of them. We must mention four very brave ladies and one man Torch Bearer who secured the torch for these fast-moving miles.

The Torch arrived on time at Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure from Jasper County, handed off to Julie Basich. Motorcyclists Dan and Linda Duvall then took the torch on to Dan Blaney, awaiting on his "made for the road snowmobile," about two miles east of North Newton High School. Becky and I rode in the lead police escort vehicle throughout the entire relay. What a pleasure it was to see students and adults from the North Newton School Districts assembled in the football stands and the ten Torch bearers assembled on the track ready to pass the Torch after each one's name and honor was announced. Those torchbearers were Beth Bassett, Dan Blaney, Donna Blaney, Sig Boezeman, Tim Loughmiller, Jeff Manes, Sherri Rainford and Dave Hensel. Sherri and Dave took off on his motorcycle, headed to South Newton, traveling very quickly South on US 41 to 1300 South toward South Newton High School's football field where the same procedure took place. The torch bearers there were Rich Miller, Greta Taylor, Diana Elijah, Susan Frische, John Frische, Kay Babcock, Tom Mattox, Carol Light, Pat Ryan and Kathy Danruther. From South Newton, Kathy rode a motorcycle on to Kentland for a trip in front of the Court House by an antique John Deere tractor driven and owned by John Taylor. Our relay ended by Wilbur and Greta Taylor picking up the torch from Rich Miller on the tractor and driving the last miles to the Benton County line to their awaiting torchbearers - and on time!

We estimate there were 3,000 students and adults able to see the Bicentennial Torch in Newton County, and its passing to worthy volunteers who represented many other volunteers who make our county a very pleasant place to live. This helpfulness and volunteerism began 200 years ago and continues to this day. *Thank you everyone.*



Beth Bassett



Donna Blaney



Sig Boezeman



Diana Elijah



Tim Loughmiller



John Frische



Jeff Manes



Pat Ryan



Tom Mattox



Kay Babcock



Carol Light



Sue Frische



Larry & Becky Lyons Organizers



Kathy Danruther



Julie Basich

Dan & Linda Duvall



Dan Blaney



Sherri Rainford

Dave Hensel



Greta & Wilbur Taylor



John Taylor

Rich Miller



**Newton County Bicentennial  
Flag Raising Ceremony  
December 11, 2015**

Commissioner Kyle Conrad, right, read a proclamation on Indiana Statehood Day that began the celebration of Indiana's bicentennial with the raising of the official bicentennial flag ceremony at the courthouse. This was the official kick-off of the Newton County Bicentennial celebration. County employee Jacob Shufflebarger, left, raised the flag.

**Newton County Bison-tennial Project**



The bison was painted by: left, North Newton High School artists: Sarah Scott, Anthony Gonsiorowski, Alex Cowley, Haley Gatewood, Haley Helton and Rebekah Schar, Bruce Cunningham (teacher). South Newton High School artists: Grace Kindig, Angelina Small, Darrin Shedrow, Lori Murphy (teacher), Jenn Barrett (teacher).

**Tours of Hazelden in September  
Serve as Newton County Legacy Project**



The society celebrated Indiana's 200th birthday by hosting a public celebration at the 1900's Elizabethan home of George Ade, Hazelden. Mike Davis as George Ade gave a presentation on the life and times of Mr. Ade. This was the county's official legacy project for the bicentennial celebration. Pictured alongside Wilbur Taylor and his '39 Ford is member Rich Miller.

**Indiana  
Bicentennial  
Quilt On Display  
In December**

The hand-made quilt contains a square from the 92 counties of Indiana. This state-wide bicentennial project was sponsored by the Indiana Barn Foundation.



Deb Risley, Kentland, created the quilt square representing Newton County. The barn belongs to Rich and Janet Miller of Heritage Hills Farm, located in Washington Township.



Mrs. Devin Green's kindergarten class from Morocco Elementary created their own bicentennial torches, proudly displaying them during the Torch Relay in October. When Indiana celebrates 250 years, at that time, these will be the students that will remember the Newton County portion of the Bicentennial Torch Relay and say, "I was there!"

**Resource Center Window Display  
The Way of Life  
On The Kankakee:1816**

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state of the United States. Our area was still considered Indian territory, and it would be 44 years before the creation of the last county in Indiana, Newton.

The display window at the Resource Center was created to depict the animals that were the livelihood of the Indians, hunters and trappers who were in our area in 1816.

Students from Lake Village elementary visited the center and were able to hold and examine many of the pelts and skins of these animals. Tom "Coyote" Larson (top left), and Larry Lyons (bottom right), assisted the students during the presentation.



### Bison at Kankakee Sands

By Alyssa Nyberg

We are all far, far, far too young to have seen wild bison roaming in Indiana. What a sight it must have been to see the herds of bison here about 200 years ago, grazing in the flats of northern Indiana and in the hills of southern Indiana. I just love to read the stories and hear the tales of the bison herds of long ago; they conjure up such romantic images in my mind.

Bison are North America's largest land mammal. They are massive, brown, hairy mammals. The males, or bulls, can be six feet at the shoulder and weigh up to 2,000 lbs. Females, or cows, are roughly five feet at the shoulder and weigh up to 1,200 lbs. Bison typically live 15 to 20 years. Both males and females have horns and shoulder humps.

Great herds of bison, estimated at 60 million once roamed the prairies of our nation. Historically, bison were found throughout Indiana and were an integral part of our grassland ecosystems.

The last bison in our area was shot at Beaver Lake in 1824; the last bison in the state of Indiana was shot in Orange County in 1830.

Kankakee Sands is an 8,300-acre prairie restoration, owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, with the goal of connecting together the three natural areas of Conrad Station Savanna with Beaver Lake Nature Preserve and Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area. To date, we have planted more than 7,000 acres of dry and wet prairie at Kankakee Sands using more than 600 species of native plants.

The movie *Field of Dreams* made famous the saying, "If you build it, they will come", and for many animal species, that rule held true at Kankakee Sands. Once we made the land wetter by removing ditches, the amphibians returned. As the native flowers, grasses and sedges began to establish, the small mammals and birds moved in. Once the small animals returned, the raptors and the larger carnivorous mammals followed. But the bison was one mammal that was not going to return on its own.

So, in October of this year, we brought 23 of these massive animals from a Nature Conservancy Preserve in South Dakota to a 1,060-acre pasture at Kankakee Sands in Newton County. The bison were brought here for a very important reason: to help us manage the prairie, which is exactly what bison naturally do. Bison are herbivores that forage primarily on grasses and sedges. We anticipate that this

simple action will have a multitude of effects. A greater number of wildflowers should grow, bloom and set seed when the grasses and sedges, which compete for light and space, are reduced. This diversity of wildflowers should attract a greater diversity of insects and animals.

The overall height of the vegetation will likely be reduced when bison graze, and this in turn will provide critical shortgrass habitat for such rare birds as the upland sandpiper.

Bison wallows, or shallow depressions, are created when the bison roll and twist in the earth. These wallows then fill with rainwater. We expect that amphibians and wildlife will be attracted to these prairie potholes. Bison churn up the soil with their powerful hooves. This disturbance on the soil may provide a spot for annual plants, such as the rare forked bluecurls, to germinate.



Sands Bison, photo by Scot Swenburg

The bison are here for another reason, too: to remind us of our history. They remind us of the nation that we once were, wild and open and the land of possibility. They remind us of the many, many that have lived in this country

before us, spending their lives on this same land that we do today. Bison remind us that we have a history, and that it is a history worth remembering and sharing with the next generation. We hope the bison at Kankakee Sands will inspire us all to learn more about prairies and conservation, as well as our local and national history.

We are thrilled to have bison at Kankakee Sands. This has been years in the making and it has taken much partnership and cooperation to make it happen. We are grateful to everyone who has made the bison herd at Kankakee Sands a reality, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Natural Resources, the donors who have made bison possible through their charitable donations, and our many volunteers who graciously give us their time and energy.

The State of Indiana was founded 200 years ago. To celebrate Indiana's bicentennial, it only seems fitting that bison be introduced to Kankakee Sands in this year. It truly was a "bison"ennial for us in Newton County!

*The Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands is 10,000 acres of prairie and savanna habitat in Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois, open every day of the year for public enjoyment. The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit organization. For more information about Kankakee Sands, visit [www.nature.org/KankakeeSands](http://www.nature.org/KankakeeSands) or call the office at 219-285-2184.*

# The Newcomer

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