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COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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As a member, you automatically receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, THE  
NEWCOMER free! You will also receive notification of our monthly meetings for each  
division. Dues are payable yearly (July 1-June 30), check your mailing label for status of  
membership. Back issues of the Newcomer are available upon request for \$2.25 each.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

## The Newcomer

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

#### Officers of the Newton County Historical Society

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#### What's On Our Agenda . . .

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

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

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

# The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Indiana's YOUNGEST County  
WINTER 2002 • \$2.25

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## Capture of A Horse Thief

By Gerald Born

Over the years there has been a continuous interest in horse thieves in Newton County. This has been heightened by the circumstances surrounding Bogus Island and the criminals who made it their hideout. In writing about the horse thieves it is often difficult for the local historian to separate fact from fiction, for very little was written about the thieves close to the time the incidents happened.

Most were known from often repeated stories that circulated around the county. Nor was it possible to place many of them within an historic context, for usually no dates were given along with the oral traditions.

However, while searching through a 1866 copy of the *Kentland Gazette* a story was found that gives the details of an encounter

with a horse thief, which not only has a date attached to it, but also gives a name to the supposed thief, and valuable details of the incident. It is quoted in its entirety, not only for a sense of immediacy it conveys, but also because it was remembered some fifty years later by our first historian of note, John Ade. This article will be followed by one addressing the same incident written by him in 1913 for his book so that the details can be compared and also to help illuminate the life of the man who caught the thief.

"On last Tuesday morning, a man stopped at the house of John K. Gowdy in Jasper County, Indiana. He was driving a pair of black ponies in a top buggy. He said that he had traveled all night, and that he was after a horse thief who had stolen a horse and buggy. He put up his horses and got breakfast. He said his name was William Clifford, and that he resided in Logansport. He was dressed in a yellowish coat and checked pantaloons and a soft black hat. After breakfast he pretended to have lost his pocket book. This circumstance and that of his ponies having on collars that were far too large excited the suspicions of Mr. Gowdy, but he said nothing, then the so called Clifford said that he would go over to Goodland a station on the L. P. & B Railroad and telegraph for money and then drove off.

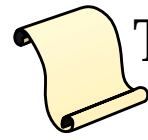
"Mr. Gowdy thought he would ride over to Brook and see if he went south to Goodland. When he came up with him he had just left Brook and was traveling north as fast as possible. Gowdy stopped him and made him go back to Brook. At this place Gowdy tried to find an

Continued On Page Three



This picture is a great illustration of a two horse team and buggy. It is a post card dated Sept. 1, 1908 sent from Hattie Teeter. "I will send you the horses and Willis. The horse on the right is Harry's, the other is Willis'. Willis went to Dakota two weeks ago to stay through threshing - Hattie Teeter.

For more about this family turn to the Focus On Families section on pages 8-9-10. Photo contributed by Gerald Born



## The President's Corner

*Newton County Historical Society By Yvonne Kay*

Waking the other morning I was aware that it was very quiet. Looking out the window I saw a landscape covered in a deep blanket of snow. All of the tree branches were covered with inches of snow as well. The whole world was a peace. It was a beautiful sight. And very welcome after a winter of almost no snow at all. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the world could always be so peaceful!

But it was a good time for contemplation and I reviewed in my mind all of the wonderful things that have been happening to the Society since it was reformed in 1991. The publications we have done come to mind, as well as finding a permanent home for donations. With the Resource center we are a long way from the Well house at the George Ade Home, which at one time housed our documents, and almost destroyed some of them. And there have been so many donations to the Society that it is difficult to recall all of them.

At our last Family History meeting, Beth Bassett, presented us with the complete 1880 United States Census and National Index. This covers the whole country. This generous gift is just the last in a long line of gifts that have been bestowed on the Society. And there is the Newcomer, one of the best newsletters in the state. We are still looking forward to having the deed to the Lucas House Museum in Morocco so we can start having programs there.



## Family History Division

Members of the Family History Division have had a couple of special sessions in addition to their regular meetings. These sessions have been devoted to the indexing project for *The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historic Collection*. What appeared to be a simple task has taken on a dimension of gigantic proportion because of the large number of family names the work contains. It was decided that an every name index would be the most useful for people researching their families. This means that every name that appears in the book will appear in the index thus providing a useful tool of locating the material relating to that individual. At last count the number of names was in excess of 10,000. When completed the index will provide a tool that few communities have.

At the last meeting of the division discussion centered around projects to be undertaken once the book is at the printers. Of primary concern were the cemetery records, which have been put on hold while the book was being completed. It was noted that Kyle Conrad is wrapping up Riverside Cemetery at Brook and that information will soon be available. Goodland needs a final proofing and that information is ready for publication. Discussion about the best medium for publishing the work concluded that putting the data on a CD would be the most economical means of publishing and it would allow for all the cemeteries of Newton County to be prepared quickly.

Born commented that it appears that this is the wave of the future, as book publishing is becoming too expensive to be cost effective.

Plans were projected for Roselawn Cemetery to be the next on the list. When the weather modifies somewhat a field trip will be planned for the gathering of information. Quite a bit of work has already been done. The trustee has supplied the Division with the records that were available, and one field trip has already taken place. It was noted that much of the data that we already have has been circulated on the Internet and that several important corrections have resulted.

The need to publicize the growing list of materials that the Division and the Society has created was noted. It was decided that order forms for *The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historic Collection* were needed to inform members and the general public that prepublication copies of the work may be ordered and prepaid for the cost of \$60.00 plus \$3.00 tax. Once printing is completed the cost will increase to \$75.00. Born noted that it was not too early to think about a similar publication for Kentland's Sesquicentennial.

The loss of yet another old house in Newton County was discussed. In this case it was a house of great historical significance as it was built by the founder of Kentland, Alexander Kent. There was a great lament for the remains of the house, a

### Vital Records

Birth and death records were began on a county basis for Indiana in 1882. State level registration began for births in October, 1907, and in January, 1900 for deaths. Marriage records have been mandatory on a county level since before 1800. For birth records before 1907, death records before 1900, and for marriage records, write to the county clerk of the county in question.

### Census Records

Federal census for the state of Indiana began in 1820, continuing every ten years and currently available through 1920.

*Update By Gerald Born, Director*

pile of rubbish and twisted lumber, which is all that remains of this once proud and beautiful structure. Nor only is it a loss to Newton County, but Kent had national significance as he was a ship's captain who traded with China and brought the first boatload of Chinese to these shores. It appears that economic progress outweighs historic appreciation in Newton County.

Most recently the Division met to file the memorial cards donated by Betty Carlson, as well as some that Martha White found in her mother's things. A lively session ensued and we were reminded much of the old blab schools where constant chatter was heard. It seems that the members of the Division believe in having a good time. Nev Carlson, who has filed countless obits, etc. expressed her appreciation for the work that was done. Now she can do other much needed tasks.

Gerald Born has undertaken a project with Velma Dart. Velma has a goodly number of studio photos taken of the Burton family of Goodland and has been wondering what to do with them. Born suggested identifying them and putting them into the computer with the new Picture It program that allows for some enhancement and touch up of old photos. The project has gotten underway with pleasing results. Copies are being printed for the files and Velma will still have the photos to pass on to her children. Everybody is thus a winner.

### *Newton County Ditch Yields Bones of Mastodon -Morocco Courier, June 17, 1927*

Bones of a prehistoric mastodon uncovered in a Newton County ditch by Jacob Hochstetler of Mount Ayr and other workmen a few days ago were stopped last week from Rensselaer to the Field Museum in Chicago for restoration.

Mr. Hochstetler and other men were digging a drainage ditch through the peaty soil near the glacial rocks between the Kankakee and Iroquois river beds when they discovered the huge skull.

The deposit included the entire skull, lower jaw, tusks and leg bones, one of the most complete fossils finds in years.

The skull is two feet wide at the narrow base and the tusks were more than five feet long but Dr. O.C. Farrington, curator of geology at the museum, said the mastodon, was a "mere infant". Dr. Farrington found two-inch "milk teeth" still clinging among the giant molars in the jaw bone.

### *Pages of The Past*

#### Goodland

Editor Kitt of Goodland was down to Kentland Monday between trains. Mr. Kitt is interested in the organization of a commercial club in Goodland, an organization that all progressive towns should maintain.

#### Thayer

George Allis was down from Thayer yesterday and made us a pleasant call. George says the price of land around Thayer has advanced in proportion to the remainder of the county. He has a fine fruit farm and is doing well. He expressed the opinion that although the sugar beet industry of the north end received a slight set back the past season, he believed it to be a profitable crop and well suited to that locality.

Weddings at Thayer: Squire Miller Opens Marriage Bureau at Little North End Village.

Thayer has been alive with gaiety the past week. William Bierly of Parr and Miss Ruth Biggs of this place were united in marriage Thursday evening, Jan. 2nd, and on Friday afternoon, Jan. 3rd, Dr. F. D. Wilson led to the altar another of Thayer's fair maidens, Miss Bertha Cyphers. Justice A. L. Miller performed both ceremonies. The boys of the town did energetic work in charivaring and received the usual treats. Mr. and Mrs. Bierley left Saturday evening for Parr where they will make their future home. Dr. and Mrs. Wilson will remain with us. Thayer, Ind., Jan. 8th



## Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?

*By Janet Miller*

1. Newton County has five incorporated towns. Brook, Goodland, Kentland, Morocco and Mt. Ayr.
2. The first name proposed for the new county was Beaver. On a motion by Thomas R. Barker, the name was changed to Newton, thereby bringing about the friendship of Jasper and Newton, as related in history.
3. In corn production, Newton County ranked 5th with 15,056,500 bu. In acres harvested, Newton County ranked 6th with 124,800 acres. In yield per acre, Newton County ranked 7th with 121 bu. per acre.
4. Brook Post Office, Jasper County, was the first post office, established August 23rd, 1837, with George W. Spittler, Postmaster. John Montgomery was the second postmaster. The second post office was established September 27, 1853, at White's Grove, located three miles north of Kentland and just a little east of the old Henry Jones farm at that time. The first postmaster was Amos Clark. Then Zachariah Spittler was post master there, then Elijah Kenoyer. This post office was discontinued in October, 1861.
5. The average size farm in 1974 was 414 acres.

## A Tribute to a WWII Soldier

*Continued from page Six*

their service, but their very lives for a just cause.

As I grew older, I came to appreciate the fact that my father served his country and to count the blessing that he survived and came home again. Countless others did not enjoy that privilege. I am humbled by the blessings I enjoy because of the willing sacrifice they made. I find that when the anthems of this country are sung, my heart swells, my eyes fill, and often a tear or two escapes. Feelings vie one with another of pride in a country unlike any other, whose sons and daughters fought so bravely to preserve; of shame that what they fought so valiantly for, we are systematically diluting by indifference, selfishness, and immorality. In many ways we have come to take for granted that which was fought for a such great a price. Just when I think that patriotism is dead, however, I see the evidence that it only slumbers and awakens readily in the hearts of the generations that follow the generation of World War II.

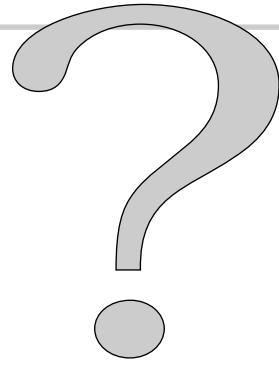
My family and I have visited the War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis. On its walls are written the names of all serving in the first world war and those who died in the second. Children and young adults walk the stairs, occasionally stopping to touch one of the names. They speak in hushed tones of wonder and respect. When they reach the top of the stairs and enter the chamber honoring the fallen, they are silent. They read the memorial plaques and often whisper a short prayer. The truth of sacrifice never returns void. My sons came home from the movie "Schindler's List" in somber mood; they spoke little of the film but pondered it in their hearts many a day. When my eldest returned home after seeing "Saving Private Ryan," he said he just wanted to say "thank you" to all who had served in World War II. He had never realized before just what they had endured that he might be who he is right now. My second son is in possession of his grandfather's dress uniform. He doesn't wear it; it hangs on his wall in tribute to a man he honors and respects.

My father, who found no glory in the medals he received, accepts with dignity the honoring of his service to his country, and weeps silently that his sacrifice might be forgotten. He is not unlike others who have served. This promise I can make to all veterans; you will never be forgotten. Your answer to the call, your unselfish devotion to duty, is steeped in the hearts of even the very young. The bells toll in remembrance of those who have gone to their eternal reward. When the last of the mighty men and women lie in rest, the bell will still toll. It will be rung by the sons and daughters, the grandsons and granddaughters, the great-grands and those beyond. The bell will never be silenced, for your sacrifice echoes through the ages and pierces the hearts of we who have reaped the benefits of your service. Honorably you served, honorably you shall rest, and as you enter the gates of eternity, so shall you hear the tolling of the bell.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter now into the joy of thy Lord."

## Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller



1. Newton County has how many incorporated towns? Name them.
2. When Newton County was separated from Jasper County, the petitioners from "western Jasper County" met at Morocco and petitioned the commissioners of Jasper County to name our new county what name?
3. In 1976, Indiana counties were ranked in number for various agricultural purposes. Can you guess the rank Newton County received for Corn Production, in Acres Harvested and in Yield Per Acre. What do you think was the average yield per acre?
4. The first post office in the county was along the Iroquois River. Do you know it's name? The second post office in the county was also located along the Iroquois River. Name it?
5. How many acres were there in an average size farm in Newton County, in the 1974 Census of Agriculture? (Answers on Page 15).

## Historically yours . . .

By Donna LaCosse  
County Historian

At this date in time, I am not sure Historically Yours is the right heading to use - perhaps Hysterically Yours would be more fitting!

Rather than listing the publication information I brought back from South Bend as promised in the Fall Issue of *The Newcomer*, I think informing you of the "guidelines" for county historians to follow would be more interesting.

Early in January I received a County Historians Guide assembled by Katherine Dill, Assistant Local History Service representative. This guide is not an outline of activities for the County Historian to follow but is meant for use as a resource that we can refer to as the need arises. Already I need help!!

The 92 volunteer County Historians are to promote local history in their counties and serve as resource people. Volunteer is the key word here - no funds are available for salary or expenses.

The roles of each historian includes:

- Acting as a coordinator of historical information for the county he or she serves.
- A resource person for historical inquiries from both in and outside the county.
- An emissary of the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau, promoting cooperation between local historical organizations while reducing duplication of effort.
- An educator able to travel within the county, available for contact, and capable of serving the needs of his or her constituents.
- A student willing to devote time and effort to learning new

## Horse Thief

Continued From Page Three

mother on the west border of Jasper County a little over a mile east of the present town of Julian, known at that time as the Salem neighborhood. From the time the President made the first call for troops to suppress the Rebellion, Jack had been uneasy and hesitating as to his obligation to his widowed mother or his county and which had the prior claim, as were thousands of other young and middle aged men debating in their own minds the same great question.

"At this time the mother of Jack sent him one day to Kentland with instructions to bring back with him a coffee pot and clothesline. On arriving at Kentland he decided that his country needed his services more than his mother as his mother had no enemies threatening her and his country had. So with that determination instead of returning home he took the train for Indianapolis and enlisted in the United States Army for three years. During the war he served in Company L, 5th Regiment, Indiana Calvary and served faithfully until the end of his term of enlistment. Before he reached his home he remembered the request of his mother to get a coffee pot and clothes line and on his way home secured each of these articles, and making the best time he knew how, arrived at his mother's home one night about midnight and knocking on the door his mother called out, "Who is there". He answers, "Jack". She at once threw open the door and Jack says, "Mother, here is your coffee pot and clothesline." (From a handwritten manuscript, "Incidents, Anecdotes and Jokes", by John Ade, for his History of Newton County, 1913).

techniques and technologies.

- A historian well acquainted with and interested in the county's heritage.
- Each historian should compile a handbook of information about statewide resources in order to provide better information to local inquiries.
- They should compile a rich reservoir of information about local resources.
- They should establish a list of information sources that include all groups and agencies interested in the county's history.
- They should compile a list of stored documents containing information relating to the county's history and culture.
- They should help promote coordination and cooperation among those groups who are interested in county and state history.
- They should notify Local History Services of events planned by the local historical society, of newly formed historical societies and, any changes in officers at the existing societies.

Oh, what have I gotten myself into? Perhaps I should become a member of the "just say no" club! No, I don't have a drug problem - yet! I just don't know how to say "no."

More responsibilities listed for the County Historian will be "revealed" in the next issue of this publication - I don't think you can handle more data right now, and I know I can't. I have to digest this information first, and that may take time. Meanwhile, let the fun begin!

## Newton County Family Queries

Subject: Adoption. My name is Richard Rosene. I have found that my grandfather, Ralph Waldo Emmerson WYBLE as adopted on Dec. 24th 1887 in the Newton County courthouse. He and his brother were adopted by the Jesse B. CONDORS and his wife. I'm trying to find out if he came from an orphan home close to the court house. He told his daughters that he was an orphan before being adopted. Is there or was there an orphanage near the courthouse. I have found, what I believe to be his birth parents, in Cincinnati Ohio. If you may know of an orphan home in this area of Indiana I could like to find the records if possible. Thanks for any information: Richard Rosene, rgrosene@earthlink.net.

I am doing a genealogical search on the family of our great -grandparents, Cyprian MAILLOUX and Elizabeth Budreau MAILLOUX. The young couple took out a Newton County Marriage License and were married June 30, 1872. They settled on a farm in Newton county and their first four children, Joseph, George, Mary Josephine, and Mary Elizabeth Mailloux were born between May, 1873 and April, 1880. The family appears in the 1880 census of Newton County, Grant township. I am attempting to locate birth records for the four Mailloux children. I understand that the Newton Health Department's records go back only to 1882. Geri Bamett 6800 Meade Rd. Downers Grove, IL 60516-318 (630) 852-3646 email:geril@mediaone.net

I am trying to trace the life of one of our early students, Wilson BECKNER. He was born in Indiana about 1830, attended Wabash College briefly in the mid-1850s, when his home was in Delphi. By 1880 he and his family show up in the census for Kentland. His wife was Mary E., age 42, born in Indiana; and their children were Hattie, 15, Thomas, 12, and John, 6. I could not find the family in the Soundex for 1900. Two of Wilson's children married in Newton County: Hattie in 1887 and Thomas in 1892. I fear that is all I know. I would be most grateful if you could search some of your files to see if more can be forthcoming. Thank you so very much. Yours truly, James J. Barnes Professor of History, Wabash College. P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933-0352; 765-361-6100.

I am researching the genealogy of the Effner/Efner/Efnor families. According to some old family records, 3 or 4 brothers

moved west from New York state in the early 1800's and one of them founded the town of EFFNER, Indiana. I do not know the name of this Effner or any more about him. Do you have any information about the origin of Effner, Indiana? Richard M. Efnor, 13101 Brook Mist Lane Fairfax., VA 22033-4407

Researching John R. LANDRETH, born about 1858, native Indiana. Searching for his mother and father. In 1875 he married a Margaret M. SUMPTER in Lawrence County, Indiana, born in 1859, also looking for her parents. Ruby M. Hodges, 4022 Colony Hills, Colorado Springs, CO 90916-3408.

Researching a SMITH that married a Rachel MAXWELL in 1880-81; Nellie and Elgor SMITH; Rachel Ella LOPP; Jessie and Nellie BARR. Mrs. Roxice C. Jones, 410 N. West St. Tipton, IN 46072

Researching John C. and Lucretia (BOHAM) CARMICHAEL. Looking for place of death and burial of Lucretia. Thank you. cfarkas@nauticom.net.

Researching Gardner ALLEN. Spouse Sarah SHEPHERD, son of John Issac ALLEN. Gardner ALLEN was born in 1847. He was married to Sarah on Jan. 5, 1876. John Issac was born on April 10, 1881. My grandmother, Bertha was the child of John Issac and Mary Calista PIERCE. Does anyone know the background of Gardner ALLEN or Sarah SHEPHERD. Thanks. Judith Irvine. e-mail: juditirvin@yahoo.com.

If anyone has information that would help these researchers, please reply directly, or contact the Family History Division at P.O. Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951, or e-mail at newtonhs@ffni.com.

## Applications Available For McCray Scholarship

The McCray Scholarship was created from the proceeds of the sale of the McCray mansion located at 501 North Third Street in Kentland. The gift was made by Mrs. William P. (Lucille McCray) Evans, the last survivor of the late Warren T. McCray.

The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage the recording of local history in Newton County.

The Newton County Historical Society Scholarship committee met Tuesday, February 5, 2002 and investigated the amounts available for the scholarship. It was discovered there were sufficient monies from the interest to fund two (2) scholarships, one (1) to North Newton High School and one (1) to South Newton High School, at \$250 each, a total of \$500.

The competition is open to high school seniors who are planning to obtain a higher education.

The committee recommends the following guidelines be used in awarding the scholarship:

1. Students shall write an essay of not less than 500 words and no more than 1,200 words about a Newton County point of interest.
2. Areas that may be historically addressed include: (1) events; (2) families; (3) businesses; (4) schools; (5) churches; (6) ranches and farms; (7) landmarks or places; (8) political figures; (9) cemeteries; (10) clubs; (11) military, fraternal and political groups; (12) trails, roadways and highways; (13) early gangs; (14) wild life refuges; (15) native population; (16) flora and fauna of the region, and/or (17) migration patterns.
3. Entries will be judged by a panel using the following points: (1) historical significance; (2) originality; (3) research; (4) documentation; (5) proper English usage; (6) content; (7) comprehension of the subject, and (8) relevance to Newton County.

Essays need to be turned into the High School Counselor no later than April 15, 2002. Yvonne Kay, President of Newton County Historical Society  
Gerald Born, President of Newton County Family History Division  
Donna LaCosse, Representative of North Newton High School  
Barbara Gerbracht, Representative of South Newton High School



## A Tribute to a WWII Soldier, and Father

(This memorial was written and presented by Gina Iseminger, the daughter of Harold and Donna LaCrosse, at the memorial service held during the recent 63rd Infantry Division Reunion that took place in Rochester, NY. Harold served in F Company, 254. Gina lives in Indianapolis, Ind. with her husband of 24 years, and their three sons.)

I grew up knowing my father was deaf in one ear. I knew it was the result of a war injury. I knew that he had been stationed in Germany and could order eggs and coffee in the German language. He could also say "I love you," "my darling," and "come here with your hands over your head." That was just about the extent of my knowledge, as a child, of my father's part in World War II. One day, when I was a bit older, I found his medals in the attic. Inside the box was a brief typed account of the action that resulted in his being awarded the honors. When I brought them down from their dusty resting place, sat them in front of him, and asked for more information; I was told that a man did what needed to be done, there was no glory in those medals, and to please put them away. In short, I was asked to set aside

curiosity and respect my father's silence in the matter. I did as he asked as well as I could, though I wondered at his reticence to proudly proclaim the honors he'd been awarded. I would visit the medals in the attic every so often and read again of his bravery in battle and ponder his reluctance to discuss it.

God speaks to a seeking heart, lifts the veil, and reveals truth when one waits patiently enough. Slowly I began to understand that there was much said in the simple statement my father had given me, "a man did what needed to be done." When he was called to fight against atrocities and evil incarnate, he responded by doing what needed to be done. He left the pursuit of higher education, the security of home and family, underwent rigorous training and left this country fully realizing there was every possibility that he would not return whole, maybe not at all. He did not go alone; hundreds, thousands of young men and women went with him. Many more had gone before him and still more would follow. The multitude I saw in imagination bore little resemblance to the implacable heroes I had viewed on celluloid. My heart told me the

actual men and women who left this shore for the unknowns of war were afraid, confused, lonely, uncertain, and even reluctant. Still, they answered the call and in so doing established themselves forever as the stalwart of this nation, as the faithful, as the dependable, and we who have benefited from their sacrifice stand forever in their debt. They did what needed to be done that our needs might be met.

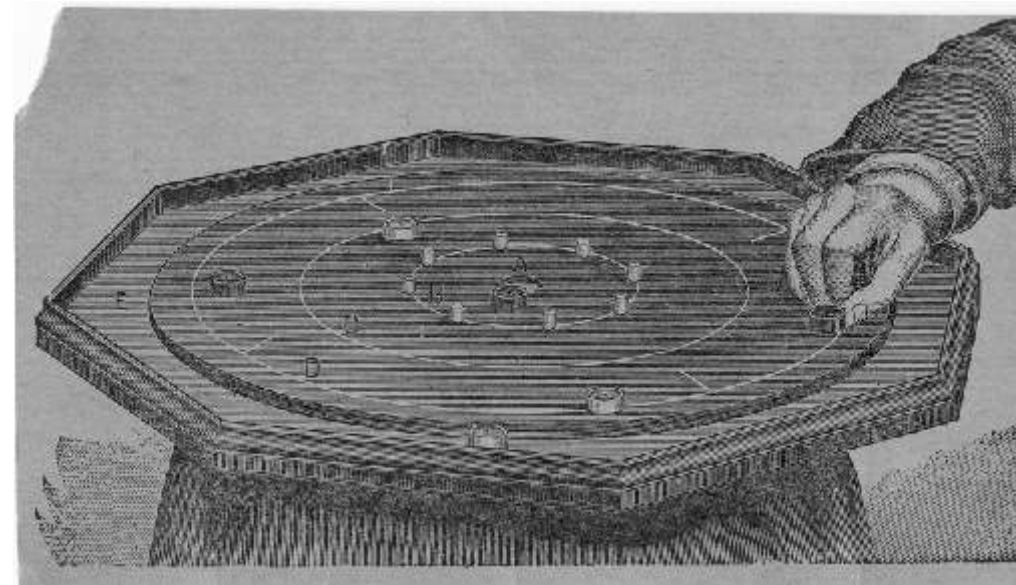
Gradually, I began to acknowledge the truth that indeed there was no glory in my father's medals. He was placed in a situation that called for a course of action, the nature of which, when accomplished, declared him heroic. Many heroes at heart were never placed in a particular set of circumstances that required them to prove themselves. Had the occasion arisen, their response would have certainly equaled those men and women who were forced to take the test. And, many heroes received posthumously the medals they could never hold. Certainly there was honor for all who answered the call, but the medals in their boxes in the attic possessed no glory. To my father they were an acknowledgment of a job well done and a reminder of the fallen who gave not only

*Continued On Page Fifteen*

## The Parlor Game Crokinole

Janet Miller's "Do You Know" column has sparked a number of replies regarding the game of Crokinole. One of our readers made us aware that today's Caram Board was used for the game of Crokinole. This past month, Don Morton of Brook, loaned a copy of the "Rules and Regulations of the Parlor Game, Crokinole". The booklet also tells us that the game was patented and manufactured by M.B. Ross.

It continues to give directions for playing the game, advice for beginners. "the most advantageous and fascinating part of the play is in forcing as many of your opponent's disks into the ditch as possible. Often, two and sometimes three disks are ditched at a single shot by *caroming* from one to the other".



Don recalls a Crokinole table in his home and playing against his father and grandmother, both of whom he could not beat. He remembers people coming to visit just to play the game and have a good time.

Thanks, Don, for clarifying our "Do You Know" just a bit further!

Do you remember games of the past, adult and children alike? Drop us a line at P.O. Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951 or e-mail us at newtonhs@ffni.com.

## NEWTON'S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

We take much for granted, especially those things that are familiar to us, which we encounter on a daily basis. They are so much a part of the background that we hardly notice them, unless they are removed and somehow we sense a vague void. A good case in point is the hedgerow. We have all grown up with the familiar sight of rows of hedge surrounding the fields around Newton County. One sure harbinger of fall is the large green, rough skinned hedge apple that litters the ground along a hedgerow. But the hedge tree, or Osage orange, is not a native of Indiana. Any tree that is found here has been planted. Few of us have asked the question, why?

Before the invention of barbed wire in 1865 they served a definite purpose. They were used to contain or exclude. Cattle roamed more or less freely once the prairies had been cleared and farmers needed a fenced in area to contain their cattle, and others needed a barrier to exclude cattle and other farm animals from their fields. The fast growing, Osage orange was the answer to an economic way of making a fence without the intensive labor required by another type. The thrifty Scotsmen were the ones who popularized this solution, and brought the idea with them when they came from Europe. They had pioneered many innovations in agriculture.

Although the Osage orange tree is a native species, it was only found in a band from southwest Arkansas into southwestern Oklahoma and south into central Texas. Because it was widely planted and naturalized by farmers from the east coast to mid-America, it is now common not only in our region, but into Canada as well. It is very hardy, being heat and drought resistant, it tolerates salt in the soil and is shade intolerant. Its very rugged nature has been both a boon to its intended purpose, but also has sown the seeds of its own destruction. Its hardy and rugged nature and its ability to adapt to harsh conditions makes it a competitor for water and nutrients. The root



is

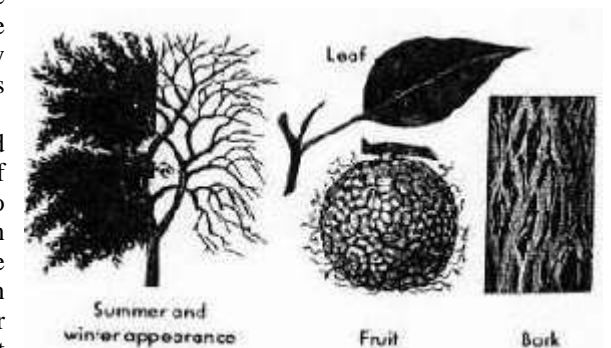
### The Osage Orange Tree

system of a well-developed hedgerow may reach between 20 and 25 feet out into the field, thus competing for resources that are also needed by crops. So one by one they are being eliminated. Not a month goes by that yet another hedgerow falls victim to the chain saw and bonfire. It is a handsome tree. Fully grown it reaches 50 feet and has a short trunk with spiny branches. The bark on older trees shaggy with deep crevices. The pointed leaves are shiny dark green above and paler below, turning yellow in autumn. The flowers are individually very tiny, green and densely packed into round clusters. There are male and female trees. The fruit on the female trees is a hard, heavy, fleshy ball green-yellow in color with fibrous hairs covering it. The flowers appear in summer and the fruit, which resembles a rough-skinned green orange, matures in the fall. It is not suitable for human consumption, but occasionally is eaten by livestock, which gives rise to another common name, horse apple. When exposed, the roots of the tree appear bright orange and the root covering separates into thin, papery scales, which the early pioneers used as a dye, producing a lovely shade of yellow. The wood of the tree was used by the American Indians to make bows, hence another popular name, "Bodark", a corruption of the French word, bois d'arc, or bow wood. Anyone who has seen a fence post made of Osage orange knows that it is very strong and will "last forever." Currently wood workers use the wood as a turning material. It's gnarled wood also makes wonderful walking sticks.

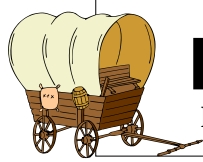
During the 40's and 50's there were two rows of Osage orange trees that served a very different function. The overarching branches of a mile long stretch of trees formed a perfect lover's lane, east of Morocco. I'm sure those who frequented it could have cared less about the name of the tree or its purpose in the distant past. Suffice it to say that the trees blocked out all light from the night sky, and formed a bower unequalled by any other natural formation. Soon there will be no more hedgerows and the sights and feel of this most familiar landmark will be only a memory. So next time you see a hedgerow, send a silent

## The Passing Scene By Gerald Born

LAKE	LINCOLN
MCCLELLAN	COLFAX
BEAVER	JACKSON
WASHINGTON	IROQUOIS
JEFFERSON	GRANT







# Focus on Families

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

## The Williamson & Teeter Family

Written by Gerald Born



Great-aunt Sarah (Nichols) Slusser, who kept the family photos.

hoping that they will be identified, we are disappointed when we find the back blank. Even we who are interested in preserving history may be just as lazy as our parents and grandparents about identifying the people in the photos. Needless to say we should write their names and dates on the back of the photo or they are useless for historical purposes. Or are they?

This is a story about how some of these unidentified photos may be key in sorting out family history. Back in the 1960's I was visiting my great-aunt, Sarah Slusser, in Pomona, CA and we went through a couple of boxes of photos she had accumulated over the years. She was born in 1880 and knew many of them, but still there were those who remained faces without names. I made copies, however,



Mary Ann (Nichols) Teeter, photo taken in 1931.

Internet from Shirley Sandlin, currently of Salt Lake City, Utah. Shirley, who was looking for the families of Williamson and Teeter, some of whom married in Newton County, I commented, "The Williamsons lived in Lake Township and there were two brothers who eventually went to California and neighbored with my Nichols family there. Uncle Arthur Nichols moved to Pomona, CA early on as did his sister Mary Ann (Nichols) Teeter. It could be that this Teeter connection was the source of their friendship. As I recall there was an Lavina Gordon who married one of them, and perhaps was the mother of the two brothers who moved to California. Again, I don't have the names and dates at hand, but perhaps this will be enough information for you to tell me if I should look further."

Shirley replied, "information sounds very much like we might have a connection. My father, Burdette Williamson, was born in Rolling Prairie (LaPorte County) Indiana as far as I know, but I haven't been able to get a birth certificate for him. His oldest brother, Guy Franklin, was born in Lake Village; another brother, Ross Dell, was born in Lake City, which is either in Indiana or Illinois; and 4 other brothers were born in

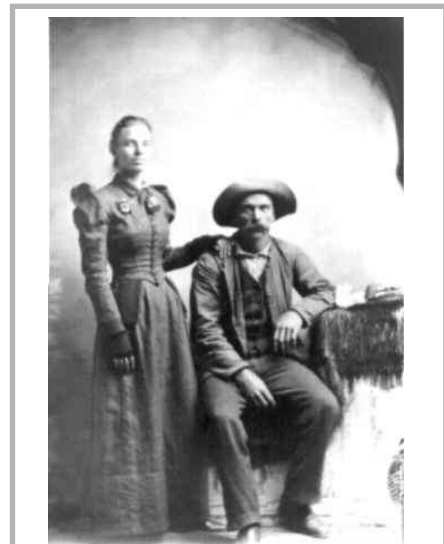


Lavina (Williamson) Gordon

hoping that I would be able to find another relative who could identify them. Her sister, Aunt Mary Teeter, was of no help. Although she was older than Sarah, born in 1872, "Those were tough times, she said, and I don't want to remember. It causes me too much sadness." Of course I honored her wishes, but was sad myself as I was sure she could have shed light on the family history.

These photos remained in a box of my own until recently. Beth Bassett, our editor, sent me a request she had received via the

We all probably have a box of old photos at home with images of people we do not know and even when we turn them over



These are Mary Ann's parents, Jacob and Mary Jane (Johnson) Nichols. It is most likely their wedding portrait. The year is 1880. The original is a tintype. He was 32 years old, and had recently returned from California's gold rush. She was just sixteen. Mary Ann certainly resembles her mother.



Frank Williamson family. Back row, l-r, Harriet (Teeter) Williamson, Mary (Nichols) Teeter, Sade (Teeter) Strange, Jim ? Teeter. Middle - Burdette Williamson, Shattuck Ray Williamson. Front - Ben Strange, Franklin Marian Williamson.

Indiana, but I don't know where. Sometime after 1902 when the last child was born, the family of Franklin and Harriet (Hattie) Teeter moved to San Bernardino, California, which is quite close to Pomona. My uncle Harry lived in Upland, California, until his death in 1952. And Upland is quite close to Pomona.

In Harriet Teeter's family I have records showing that she had 5 sisters and 3 brothers. The names of her brothers were Isaac (b. 1850), John (b. 1853), and James (b. 1857). If Mary Ann Nichols Teeter married one of them then she and my grandmother Harriet would have been



Nelson and Mary Ann (Nichols) Teeter, taken in California.

sisters-in-laws

On the 1880 census record of Lake, Newton, Indiana, I found a Frank Williamson, who could be my grandfather, living in the home of John Gordon and Luvina Gordon and he is listed as a brother-in-law. But I don't know if this is my grandfather.

I replied to her that I was sure that the Frank listed was her grandfather, "My great uncle Nelson or Nelt Teeter as he was known and his wife MaryAnn (Nichols) Teeter, went to California about 1905 and settled at Chino. It was a ranch at that time. They moved to Pomona and he died a little later. Aunt Mary worked in the orange groves sorting and packing oranges. She lived to be 99 years of age, but unfortunately did not like to talk about the old days, consequently I know little of Uncle Nelt's family. I stumbled on some of them as I worked on the Nichols family history. The picture of Lavina (Williamson) Gordon was of interest to me, since I have Gordons on my father's side of the family. I am also sure that the Frank living with them was your grandfather, as Lavina is listed as one of the children of Hugh and Rebecca, (even though the dates are a little off if you compare the two census records) and that it was he who was a friend of my mother's cousin, Arthur Nichols, Jr. Uncle Art did like to talk of the old days and he was the one who told me of the Williamson brothers. Art had a turkey ranch somewhere in the valley and loved to go to the races at Santa Anita. He did not tell me exactly where the Williamson's lived, but he did indicate that it was not far away. This would have been in the twenties and thirties.

Before Uncle Nelt and Aunt Mary moved to California they moved to a location in the eastern part of the State of Indiana and I always assumed that it may have been where uncle Nelt had relatives, but do not have an exact location. I have pictures of Uncle Nelt, first as a cowhand on the ranch and then driving a road scraper, when they were making roads around Chino. Sure wish Aunt Mary would have told me more about the family. Not sure where Lake City is, but it may have been an early name for Lake Village. The hamlet was located on the northern reaches of the old Beaver Lake, which covered 36,000 acres and was the largest inland lake in Indiana before it was drained. Now all that exists is a very flat lake bed. My grandfather, Jacob Nichols, lived on the



John and Maude Nichols family. This is the picture that Mary Ann mentioned to her mother that Maud was going to send. L-R, John, Mary, Gay and Maude (Graves) Nichols.

western edge of the lake and so much of the family history centers around that region. Just over the border from Lake Village lies the old border town of Momence, Illinois and that may well be where some of the children of Hugh were born. Many connections exist between Lake Village and Momence. I see from the 1870 census that Sarah and Frank were both born in Illinois.

While exchanging e-mails another connection came to light, "I didn't think I would be writing so soon, but last night as I lay dreaming, it came to me that I had helped another woman with Newton County relatives by the name of

*Continued On Page Ten*



This photo of Mary Ann (Nichols) Teeter with her phonograph was taken around 1915.





Teeter home, west of Conrad, Indiana. This photo may have been taken about 1905, shortly before the Teeters moved to California. It was located west of Conrad, not far from the state line. L-r, Mary Jane (Johnson) Nichols, Mary Ann (Nichols) Teeter, Nelson Teeter, Clarence Nichols, a brother of Mary Ann.



This card was sent to Mrs. Jacob Nichols, Moore Oklahoma. Aunt Mary had just started printing her own photos. She always did have a love of photography. Her grandfather had some of the earliest photos taken in 1839. "How is this for my first printing of pictures? This is the house we live in, the pad slipped and covered front of the roof. This grass in the yard is licorice. This is Nelt and I" - Mary Teeter



Another card, dated Sept. 1, 1908 was taken with Frank and Hattie's home in the background. . . . "This is our house on the side and the oats you see standing are the ones Frank got of Nelt. We threshed them on a board and got them cleaned (the rest is not legible) Hattie (Teeter) Williamson.

Williamson. Her name is Eugenie Balentine and her ancestor was George Graves, from whom my grandfather rented a farm for a couple of seasons, in Lake Township, Newton County, near the now ghost town of Conrad. Anyway, Sarah E. Williamson married George Augustus Graves in February of 1883 in Newton County, according to a query that Eugenie placed on GenForum on August 27, 1999. They had three children Augustus A. Graves born in 1877, Eugene, and Babe. Only Augustus survived. The family was rapidly beginning to take shape and Shirley sent me the family sheets for both the Williamsons and the Teeters, as well as a photo of her grandfather, Frank Williamson, which included Aunt Mary Teeter standing on the porch.

Uncle Nelson "Nelt" Teeter appears to be a son of Ralph and Rhoda (Rogers) Teeter. Both Ralph and Rhoda were born in New York State. Their children were: Anne E Teeter, born 1846, Mary Teeter, born 1848, Isaac Teeter, born 1850 all born in Wisconsin. Also Sarah J. Teeter, born 1852, John Teeter, born 1853, Minerva Teeter, born 1857, and Hannah Teeter born, all born in Iowa. Also Harriet Teeter, born 5 Sept 1864 in Three Oaks, Michigan and died January 31, 1920 in Highland, California who married Franklin Marion Williamson on June 11, 1883 at Kentland. To this list we added Nelson Teeter and Willis Teeter, who were identified in some of the old postcards that Aunt Sarah had and were probably the youngest in the family.

Frank Marian Williamson was the son of Hugh Williamson born 1829 in Pennsylvania and Rebecca G. McDonald born 1830 in New York state. Their children were Alzada, born in 1849, who married a Hopper, Sylvester Williamson, born 1850, Lavina Williamson born 1853 who married John Gordon, Sarah E. Williamson born 1858, who married George Graves in Newton County, The oldest children were born in Michigan, Lavina was born in Illinois and Frank was born at Kankakee, Illinois and died in Highland, California on June 27, 1922.

The photos and postcards give a rare view of these families and of these brave pioneers who left Newton County for California shortly after the turn of the last century.

Had I not kept those old photos which were unidentified, and some which were identified, I would not have known who the Williamsons were, and this history

could not have been written.



This post card was never mailed, but must have been enclosed in a letter. There are two cards with two different messages. They give a rare glimpse of what life was like for our Newton County pioneers . . . "This is our four horse team with Willas Williamson driving. We only have 11 head of horses, counting the 2 mules in this team. They are all our own, too, and paid for. This team is making \$6.00 per day. Their check this month was for \$156.00 and I pay Willis \$40 per month and that leaves me \$116 for expenses. Hoping this finds you well and that this team brings you a Merry Xmas. Mary Ann".

. . . "The pony Nelt is on was Frank Williamson's. The horses names are Birdie and Prince. Prince is Old Rosies' colt, the one she had in the spring we brought her out here. Birdie moved her head so that blurred her face. The mules names are Kate and Jerry. Kate is facing you, but Jerry is panting because he was behind Prince. He turned his head the other way and would not look. This is a 5 ton load, it is nearly all iron. This team is bringing in \$56.00 per day. Pinto is the pony's



The Teeters provided water to the road building crews in California. In these early days of the state, there were few roads and water was very scarce. So they saw an opportunity to bring in some much needed cash. The year is about 1908.

## Resource Center Acquisitions

Through the generosity of several individuals, the research and display items that we have received over the past months have increased the interest in the County to visitors of the Resource Center, as well as society members.

Martha (Clark) White has contributed the notes and ledgers of "The Jolly 12" club, a homemakers club in Beaver & Jackson Townships that was co-founded by her mother, Kathryn Clark. Members met on a monthly basis at member's homes. This editor's mother and grandmother were members of the Jolly 12, and these meeting minutes and members lists are quite interesting.

Paul Magin of Goodland, has donated a collection of books written by George Ade. Many of them hard to find originals. We appreciate this generous donation, and hope to have them displayed at the Resource Center very soon.

Keeping our current history files continues with David Humphrey's contribution of Life Magazine's publication, "Pearl Harbor - A Nation at Arms", The Guinness Book of World Records, Millenium Edition, and "Titanic", a pictorial essay on the making of the popular 2000 film by James Cameron.

Mr. George Dye has contributed hardbound meeting minutes of the Goodland #145 K of P Lodge, dating from the 1880's to 1940's. Also, mintues from the Goodland Masons. Many old county names can be found in these volumes.

Beth Bassett added to our CD Resource library with copies of the 1880 United States Census and National Index, compiled by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Also a CD with images of the 1900 Newton County census reports, and a print out of the index of the Newton County 1910 census records.

Gerald Born has added the Wesley Graves Family History, and the family of Bernadine Miller has supplied us with a copy of the Hanger Family History.

Diana Bell of the McCartney family continues to send memorabilia from her family when they resided here. Thanks Diana.

Betty Carlson recently brought us a group of memorial cards that were kept

by Betty Sherman while she was secretary at the Morocco Methodist Church. They represented those who were buried out of the church, and some of them were members, some where not. Other memorial cards from a scrapbook brought in by Martha White were also added to our family files.

This past spring, a very special contribution was made to the society by Mrs. Audrey(Hammond)Young. She sent this note along with a Bible that was published in 1871. "Do you think the Newton County Historical Society would be interested in having an old Bible published in 1871? Written on the flyleaf is "A Christmas present to Charley F. Gilbert from his aunt, Mrs. E. J. Clark, Dec. 25, 1875". Charley F. Gilbert was born on July 6, 1856 in Fountain County, IN to Lyman and Sarah A. (Briney) Gilbert and was a brother to Charlotte E. who married George W. Hammond in Newton County in 1872. The Gilberts and Hammonds were both living in this area by then. Charley Gilbert enlisted May 2, 1898 in Co. F., 22nd Kansas Inf. in Columbus, KS at the time of the Spanish-American War. At some time in the late 20's or early 30's he operated a confectionery store located at the corner of U.S. 41 and the street going east/west in Morocco.

Audrey is the cousin of the editor of the *Newcomer*, Beth Bassett, pictured here



accepting the donation of the bible. George W. Hammond was the son Anna (Reed-Hammond) Bassett, Beth's great-great grandmother. He was Audrey's grandfather. While visiting Newton County, Audrey and Beth met for the first time and discussed the family tree. Many updates were made to our family files. Audrey and her husband Johnny visited with old friends and neighbors, and attended the Morocco Alumni. The Bible was on display at the booth of the Historical

Society during the Christmas Craft show held at the Newton County fairgrounds this past December. Stop in at the resource center and page through this wonderful gift Audrey has made to our society.

### Visit our Resource Center - New Items Arriving Daily!

Here, you will find a variety of research tools for the history buff and those seeking family history. Microfilm of census records, from 1790 to 1910, 2 readers are available, and plenty of room to sit down and spend some time going through our other books about the county, family histories, maps and plat books.

Past issues of *The Kentland Gazette*, *Kentland Enterprise*, and *Morocco Courier*, beginning as early as 1888 are available for obituary look ups. These have proven to be a great resource for visitors to the center.

Our ever increasing family history information is filed away alphabetically, and many new items have been added to our files.

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

The county courthouse is just across the street within walking distance, enabling a researcher to access county records, and we also have a computer with internet access for other research.

We give tours of the center as well, just give us a call!

### Web site directory

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

[www.rootsweb.com/~innewton](http://www.rootsweb.com/~innewton)

## Goodland's First Doctor

In 1961, the town of Goodland celebrated their centennial, and on the front page of the *Goodland Journal*, appeared a standing featured entitled "Through The Century", written by Nellie C. McCurry. A copy of the August 3, 1961 issue was amongst a number of items donated by the McCartney family. The column for that week featured Goodland's First Physician, and it follows.

"One of the first needs of a new settlement is that of a physician, someone to care for the people when illness or other calamity befalls and whoever serves that need fills such an important place in any community that he often becomes not only the physician of the body but confident, often spiritual advisor and frequently ministers not only to the family but even the family pets and animals. A family physician, such as was known in the earlier days of settlements and communities, was one of the most important assets of any community.

So, when the settlement of Tivoli, which became Goodland was founded, the need of a physician was fulfilled by the coming of its first doctor, Dr. John A. Lovett.

John A. Lovett was born in Marion County near Indianapolis, December 15, 1839. He moved, with his family, to Clinton County in 1851, and remained there until he left to attend Thorntown Academy from which he was graduated in 1862. He studied medicine as was the practice in those earlier days with Dr. A. B. Gentry of Frankfort, Indiana and later was graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago. On May 15, 1863, he was married to Mary A. Clark at Frankfort, and two children, Justin and Alma were born to the couple.

Dr. Lovett located in Goodland in December of 1868 when the town could boast of being little more than a hamlet. He was the first physician here and, for many years, when his health permitted, enjoyed a large practice which extended not only to this immediate locality but also into surrounding counties. He was said to have been a man of great force of intellect and in the front ranks of practicing physicians of the country. He was a reader and a student, keenly alive not only to matters pertaining to his life-long profession but in the world of general literature. An ardent Republican, he took an active part in politics and was a strong writer upon political subjects. He

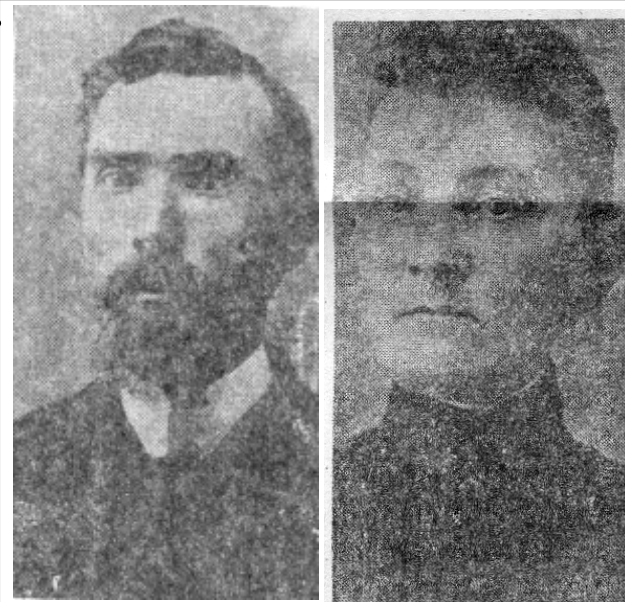
had strong literary tastes and at one time edited a small (with pen along) paper which furnished all of the news in his country neighborhood in Thorntown, Indiana. he was only about 14 years old. Dr. Lovett was a man of strictly moral habits and religiously inclined. At one time he held a position in the census department in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Lovett's health had been impaired several years prior to his passing in 1903 but he had been actively engaged in his profession and other interests until physically impossible to continue. After ill health came, however, he continued to give aid whenever possible to the sick or those who desired his counsel. His passing on August 4, 1903, left a void for a long circle of friends to whom he had long ministered. His close touch with the people, his kindly, heartfelt sympathy for the afflicted and his long ministrations to the sick, made his place not easily filled. This spirit was also exhibited toward him in his last hours by his brothers, among them Dr. B.W. Pratt, Dr. John G. Kinneman of Goodland, Dr. Hatch of Kentland; Dr. Landon of Remington, and others. Dr. Collier of Brook started his practice in the office of Dr. Lovett as a young man before going to Brook to establish his practice.

Dr. Lovett's wife, Mary A. (Clark) Lovett, his daughter, Mrs. Alma (Lovett) Garrigus, a son Justin of Huntington, and three brothers survived.

Funeral services were held at the family residence on Jasper Street at 3 p.m. Thursday, August 6, 1903, the Reverends Campbell and A. H. McDonald officiating. Pall bearers were John M. Wilson, W. B. Rowe, Joseph Monty, A. C. Tedford, C.J. Fox and Richard Hall. Interment was made in the Goodland Cemetery.

Dr. Lovett was the grandfather of Mrs. Mary (Garrigus) Anderson of Goodland and the great grandfather of her daughter, Mrs. Jean Anderson Grua; great-great grandfather of Mrs. Grua's two children of



Dr. John A. Lovett and his wife, Mary (Clark) Lovett, Goodland's first physician.

East Lansing, Michigan.

Mrs. Mary A. Lovett, widow of Dr. John A. Lovett of Goodland, lived for about eighteen years after the death of her husband. Her last days were spent with her daughter, Alma and her granddaughter, Mary Anderson, who is a teacher in Hoopeston, Illinois schools.

The *Goodland Herald* said of her passing: "with the passing of Mrs. Lovett, Goodland loses another of those fine old ladies who has watched this community grow from a vast prairie to a rich farming center that it is today-saw the few small buildings of a half century ago increase in



Alma (Lovett) Garrigus, right and Mayme Armfield Reeder.

## Where in the county was Parson's Rock?



This photo at left, was contributed by Martha (Clark) White, who brought it into the Resource Center. It is called Parson's rock and on the back of the photo the family sitting on it is called the Parsons family.

Martha remembers that it was located somewhere between Weldon's corner and Morocco on the west side of old 41. She said that the farmer got tired of plowing around it and buried it. Wouldn't you like to know where it is located?

Members of the society sure would like to know where it was located, and perhaps a few stories surrounding "Parson's Rock". Contact us at 219-474-6944, or e-mail us at hsnewton@ffni.com.

**From the Internet...**

From: "Frank & Leslie Hall"

I have just read my first issue of "The Newcomer" great job! Appreciate all of the work that goes into such a publication. Wondered if you would be interested in a family photo for "The Newcomer" the family of Hamilton Crisler and Elizabeth Mary Blankenbaker, Newton County residents from the early 1860's until their deaths in 1900. I believe the photo was taken in the last years of the 1890's (since they died in 1900 but don't have an exact photo date. Both are buried in the North Star Cemetery at Mt. Ayr.

Hamilton was a farmer living in Mt Ayr, born in Preble County, Ohio before moving to Indiana. Hamilton and Elizabeth were the parents of nine children Emily Jane (Mrs. Ben Harris); William Addison (married Minnie Delilah Hopkins); James Alfred (married Melissa English); Marjorie Ellen (married Noble Parke); John Henry (married Arretta Jane Deardurff); Sarah Alice (married Al Carter); Allison Wilson (married Maria Smith); Margaret Lillian (Mrs. J. Scott Brenner); and Archibald (married Rosa Quanstrom).

I'm attaching this photo in JPEG format and hope that you can open and use for the newsletter. I'm hoping that others can confirm the identification of all of the individuals in the photo and maybe contribute additional information about this family for me. Hamilton and Elizabeth are my maternal great-great-grandparents. Leslie Hall Waynesboro, VA; hallf@cfw.com

**We'd love to hear from you too, and publish your Newton County history or family pictures!**

## Crisler-Blankenbaker Family



To the best of our knowledge (based on my mother's and aunt's information) Front row: William Addison Crisler, Hamilton Crisler, Elizabeth Mary Blankenbaker Crisler, John Henry Crisler and Emily Jane Crisler Harris. Back row: Minnie Delilah Hopkins Crisler, Archibald Crisler, Alfred Crisler, Arretta Deardurff Crisler, Flora Harris Prior and Charles Prior. - Leslie Hall photo.



# Pages Of The Past

The following excerpts are from *The Kentland Enterprise* during the winter of 1902. transcribed by Janet Miller

Probably one of the interesting features of the world's fair at St. Louis will be experiments with the airships. \$200,000 has been offered as prizes for dirigible airships. This large amount will, no doubt, cause the experimenters in ariel navigation to do their best. No doubt before many years we will travel through the air like birds. The risk of life on a steamer is not half what it is on a train of cars, and probably an airship will be even safer yet.

The Soldiers Home at Lafayette, an honor to the State of Indiana. Dr. J. A. Hatch (Kentland) gives a good report of this important and beneficent State Institution. "Newtown county's representation (living there) is small, and I give the names of those who are there: W. H. Martin, James H. Sawyer, Wm. Simmons, Aaron H. Wilson, Mrs. Wm. Burton, Mrs. David Wood. I met nearly all these and they seemed well satisfied with their treatment and accommodations."

## Kentland

David Weldon is moving his family to the Mrs. Fitzgerald residence property on Carrol street, just vacated by Simon Leopold.

The new year slipped in on Kentland in painful quietness. Not a watch party or entertainment of any nature graced the event, and only a baker's dozen of stragglers kids who remained up to pull the numerous bell ropes in town, were seen on the streets after the close of business.

J. B. Howe informs us that he intends organizing a Horticultural and Floracultural Society in Newton County, and we think the move a commendable one. Mr. Howe is a member of the Indiana State Horticultural Society, and is quite an enthusiast on that subject. The society that he proposes to organize will be known as the Newton County Horticultural and Floracultural Society. He says that nearly every county in the state has an organization of this kind, and that he does not like to see old Newton behind her neighbors in this respect.

Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd T. Dorsey entertained the Twentieth Century Whist Club Friday night of last week, and a reorganization was perfected for the coming season. Miss Adah Bush will act as hostess to the club tomorrow night.

James White, who has been under the doctor's care for a week or ten days, left this morning for the Indiana Mineral Springs to take treatment.

Kentland Public School Building built in 1871, destroyed by fire, January 15th, 1902. A veil of gloom hangs over Kentland this morning. The substantial and stately school building that has been the pride of our citizens for many years, was burned last night, and a pile of ruins overtopped by a grim skeleton of the once beautiful building, now stands as a monument to the demon fire fiend. The alarm of the fire was first sounded at a few minutes before eight o'clock, but the fire had gained such headway that its fury could not be stayed. The tank at the water works was full to the top, and the fire company had two streams playing on the burning building within ten minutes, but their labors were in vain.

If you are seeking a new location in Montana, a change of pasture in Dakota, a speculation in Iowa, or a future home in Oklahoma, call on, or write me. I can satisfy you and be your guide wherever you want to go. Date of excursions, first and third Tuesdays of each month. W. E. Castle, Kentland, Indiana.

## Brook

"KiRam, Sultan of Sulu": A musical satire by George Ade soon to be staged in Chicago.

Felix French has sold his 160 acre farm just east of Julian to J. D. Rich, consideration \$13,000.00. Ike French, who has been farming the place for sometime, will have a sale Jan. 30th, after which he will move to Hutchinson, Kansas, where he has purchased 160 acres of land.

## Washington Township

Peter Kline of Washington township expects to leave today for the state of Oregon, where he has purchased thirteen hundred acres of land and will go into the cattle business.

## Morocco

On Tuesday eve the young gentlemen of town entertained the young ladies and the young married people by giving a reception in the opera house. The hall was transformed into a parlor. Each young gentleman contributed five minutes entertainment to the program. Mr. Hess



welcomed the guests in such words that we were all glad we were there, Rev. Troxell responded. The quartette by the Archibald brothers and Dr. Bartholomew was fine, while the comic songs by the Messrs. Castle, Crane, Camblin and Schanlaub were more than amusing. Roy Templeton rendered solos on the clarinet and saxophone for his contribution. The rest of the entertainment was so varied that time forbids the mention of. Light refreshments were served. While the bells were proclaiming the birth of the New Year, Rev. Tuggle offered the benediction then the guests wishing each other a happy New Year returned to their homes fully convinced that the young men were excellent entertainers.

Farm for Sale: The best farm in Newton county, 120 acres all under cultivation, all tiled, one and one half miles from town, good six room house, cellar, windmill, tank, good barn 32 feet by 38 feet, cow barn for five cows, two good orchards. Must be sold at once. Reasonable terms. Call on or address, Robert O. Graves, Morocco, Indiana.

School at Cox College has been closed for a couple of weeks on account of whooping cough.

## Mt. Ayr

J. H. Crisler our genial butcher has put in the foundation for a new scale.

Francis Miller, 16 year old son of B. B. Miller returned home Xmas day. He left home some 18 months ago and was not heard of in all that time. He reports having been in nearly all the Western States.

Mr. Brunner of Rensselaer has been working in this neighborhood the last few days in the interest of the Halleck Telephone Co., securing over 25 names. He expects to get 50 patrons and will then put in a central. This would be a good move for Mt. Ayr and we would like to see the work pushed right along and help our town with as many phones as possible.

## Pleasant Grove

C. T. Martin, Jr., Carrie and Emma Burton, Beatrice Kenoyer and Lela West skated to New Lisbon last Tuesday and visited the school.

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officer to arrest the supposed thief, but none could be found. Gowdy consulted with several of the most prominent citizens of the place as to the best course to pursue. They advised him to leave his horse and to get in the buggy and ride with Clifford, and if he was an honest man to help him hunt the thief he said he was after, but if he should find he was a thief to arrest him in the first town he came to.

"Gowdy got in the buggy with Clifford, they drove through Morocco, and passed through the French village of St. Ann's, Illinois. About 6 o'clock in the evening, they stopped at the house of a Frenchman a few miles from St. Ann's for supper. During supper Gowdy took the man of the house out and told him he wanted him to assist in capturing the thief, but he could not get the Frenchman to understand. Clifford then proposed to Gowdy that they should both go back in the woods to the cross road and stand picket and watch for the thief that Clifford pretended to be after. Gowdy told him that he could not see it; they then started for Middleport.

"When within a mile of that place Clifford told Gowdy to drive as his hands were very cold. Gowdy took the lines, at this Clifford hit him in the head with a pair of brass knucks and knocked him down into the bottom of the buggy and then shot him. The ball struck him just behind the ear and then glanced off. Gowdy then drew his revolver and fired five shots at the thief, but the night was so dark and he was suffering so much from his wounds that he cannot tell whether the shots took effect or not. During the affray the team turned into the underbrush and broke the harness and the tongue.

"Gowdy then had his wounds dressed and in the morning drove to Middleport and set the detectives after the thief. He then started on his road home. In Sheldon some of the town officials seeing him covered with blood, arrested him on suspicion of being a horse thief. He induced them to accompany him to this place (Kentland, IN). On arriving here the citizens soon convinced the officials of their mistake. Mr. Gowdy is lying sick at the Jones' House at this place; he is suffering very much from his wounds. He had the team he captured here. They are black ponies; the buggy has a sliding top. Mr. Gowdy displayed great courage in the affair. He has served in the army for three years and is badly disabled in one of his legs. We have do doubt but that

the owner of the team will handsomely reward him for risking his life in saving the property." (October 26, 1866 Kent Station, Kentland Gazette)

"Owner Found. The owner of the team captured by John K. Gowdy from a horse thief; an account of which appeared in our last weeks paper; has appeared, he is Mr. Hyde, proprietor of a large livery stable in Indianapolis."

Now we turn to a description of this same incident as written by John Ade some fifty years later. It is remarkable in that the essence of the story is the same even though some of the details have been omitted or changed.

## John K. Gowdy Catching a Horse Thief

"After the war (the Civil War) closed John K. Gowdy remained at home with his mother and tended the little farm on which she had been living after the death of her husband and thereby providing for her comfort in her declining years.

"It was during this time, I think in 1866, that very early one morning a man drove up to their home in a two horse buggy and asked to be given his breakfast and his team fed, professing to be searching for a man who had stolen a horse from him or from one of his neighbors. The needed supplies were furnished him. Shortly after, he started on west towards Brook. After he had started, Jack became suspicious that the man himself was a horse thief, and got on his horse and followed him, catching up with him at Brook.

"On further questioning Jack proposed riding with him in pursuit of the thief. The man finally reluctantly consented and Jack got in the buggy with him and they started in the direction of Morocco, passing through the town making inquiry of all they met along the road and once more stopping to feed their team and getting dinner for themselves.

"They drove to St. Mary, Illinois at that point the man driving the team changed his course and started south toward Watseka. Before reaching that point and while passing through the timber at the crossing of the Iroquois River suddenly struck at Jack in the attempt to knock him out of the buggy, and nearly succeeded, but Jack rallied and finally proceeded in knocking the man himself out. At this point the fight became more serious, both having revolvers. They commenced shooting at one another, but as far as known neither (were hit). In a short

time the man, becoming alarmed, broke for



This photo was taken around 1905 of Nelson "Nelt" Teeter, living in California at the time. Photo contributed by Gerald Born.

the timber leaving Jack in possession of the team. Jack went in to Watseka and put up for the night.

"The next morning he started for home still in possession of the team and in reaching Sheldon he was stopped by a company of men who were in pursuit of the man and thief. And finding Jack in possession of the team they at once concluded he was the thief. But Jack gave his statement of the case and as it was on the direct route they all wanted to go, suggested that they all go together to Kentland where Jack was well known. On arriving at Kentland he soon satisfied them that his story was a true one and they took the horses and buggy back where it belonged and Jack went to his home.

"A few years later he moved to Rush County, Indiana and afterwards was elected sheriff, then county auditor, and at one time acted as State Chairman of the Republican Party in Indiana. He was appointed minister to France which position he held for eight years at the expiration of that time he returned to Rush County where he now resides having left the farm and now lives in the City of Rushville. (From a handwritten manuscript, "Incidents, Anecdotes and Jokes", which compose the book of history compiled or written by John Ade of Kentland, Indiana during the latter part of the year 1913).

Nor does John Ade stop with the recounting of the tale of the horse thief, he adds an anecdote about Jack Gowdy that gives us a glimpse into the man's character.

## John K. Gowdy's War History

"At the breaking out of war in 1861 John K. Gowdy (known at that time as Jack Gowdy) was living with his widowed

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