

Resource Center Window



AllAboard!

Railroads brought people and business to Newton County in the opening days of our county. The first train through Newton County was on December 25, 1859. Persons contributing materials to our display were: Bob Leonard, Jeff Leonard, Bob Brooks, Phil Boldman, Roy Kindig, John Yost and Marilyn Whaley. The window was completed by Jenny Washburn, Marilyn Whaley, Esta Stevens and Janet Miller.

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.

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The Newcomer

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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 2:00 at the Resource Center at 224 N. Third Street in Kentland and the Society general meetings are held in different locations in the County at 7:00 p.m. Local members are notified of the place and time each month. Don't Forget - Memberships Make Great Gifts!!

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

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

The Newcomer

A publication of the NEWTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Indiana's YOUNGEST County
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• Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking help to "man" the Resource Center at Kentland a few hours each day. We also have many on-going projects such as census transcription and obituary extractions that can be done from your home. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Beth Bassett at 219-275-5741, Janet Miller at 219-474-5380, or Yvonne Kay at 219-285-2749.

The Newton County Hobby Club

By Gerald Born

While doing research at the Resource Center on a speech for the Society on the number of ill-fated museums formed in Newton County, a call came from NCHS member, Marilyn Whaley, saying she had in her possession a scrap book on the Newton County Hobby Club which might be helpful in showing the collections of Newton County residents. I was immediately fascinated, for I had been a charter member of the junior division of the club when I was thirteen and dues were fifty cents.

Upon arriving at her home, Marilyn brought out a thick scrap book covered by red cedar boards and held together by leather thongs. It was prepared by Mrs. Vinnie West of Sheldon, who was a member of the Club. We spent over an hour going through the book, which brought back many fond memories. For it was this group that fostered my appreciation of antique objects and my life-long interest in such artifacts as a way of understanding history and interpreting the past.

Marilyn had been given the book by former Republican Chairman of Newton County, William Pollock, for safekeeping. We were unable to find how the scrapbook reached his hands, but were thankful that it had not been discarded somewhere along the way. It contains a great deal of historical data covering the first couple of years of the Club's existence.

The Newton County Hobby Club was organized on May 25, 1949 and this article appeared in *The Brook Reporter*:

"Fifteen interested persons met at Kenoyer Cabin Wednesday night and formed an organization which will be known as the Newton County Hobby Club. Arthur Irwin has the honor of being the first President, with Wanda Herath as Vice, and Luella Strole, Sec.-Treas. Lois McCarty will act as Historian with Jean Boone, Sudie Herath, and Maxine Kenoyer assisting in publicity.

"Anyone desiring to become a charter member may do so by joining before August 1, 1949. Dues will be \$1.00, except for those under 16, who will pay 50c."

I remember this meeting well. The cabin was truly a study in pioneer life and being lit with candles and oil lamps gave the place a warm glow. I was surprised how easily it accommodated the crowd that was there.

The Club held its first meeting in June of 1949. This meeting is reported in the *Brook Reporter*:

"In a lamp-lighted log cabin, Kenoyer's Lake, Brook, Indiana, the Newton County Hobby Club held its first meeting preparatory to a bigger and better club than has been possible in the past and those who join within the next sixty days from the initial date (May 25, 1949) will become Charter Members. This Club has members from Brook, Kentland, Morocco, Goodland, Earl Park, and surrounding towns. With a place to be decided upon at some future meeting, for the monthly get-together of the members it should be convenient to anyone in the County to attend. Plans are being made for big time talent from some National Network, as a drawing card for their first Show, to be held in the near future. Anyone wishing to attend or become a member remember the date, June 23rd, 8:30 Central Standard Time, with a wiener roast after business. Bring some wieners and some buns, be prepared for a good time and a hearty welcome to anyone who wishes to attend and for further information, consult Art Irwin, Brook, President of the Club or Wanda Jean Herath, Brook, Vice-President."

Art Irwin and Wanda Jean Herath were the moving force that got the Club organized. Arthur Irwin had a fertile imagination and had many good ideas on getting the organization started and how to encourage a wide membership that crossed state lines.

His legendary career in magic was featured in our last newsletter. In addition to being a consummate magician he also was an accomplished pickpocket. At one of our meetings, Art performed this feat by mingling with the audience, glad handing and back slapping many of the members. On his return to the front of the group, he took off his jacket and displayed a

a heavy equipment operator working out of Indianapolis. Big cranes to build the skyscrapers of Indianapolis were the equipment he operated the most. They had two sons, Douglas Hampton who married Elizabeth Pollock, and Warren Jr. Hampton who married Cathy Callahan.

Robert Ellsworth Lyons (1922) lived his formative years in Brook. He worked in the Peters Feed Mill. He is a storyteller and enjoys every story he tells. He was the manager for the 1940 Brook High School basketball team. He has always been an avid basketball fan. Bob married Anna Mae Miller on February 19, 1947. They have farmed all of their married life in Jasper County near Rensselaer. They have two sons; David Lyons, married to Julia Roberts, and Ned Lyons.

Martha Lyons (1927) has been a life long resident of Brook. She has worked in the Community State Bank, FSA office, and was the Secretary for the Danruther Construction Company. She is an avid golfer and has earned the title of Club Champion at Hazelden Country Club Country Club several times as well as Champion of Curtis Creek. She also enjoys playing bridge. Martha married Wayne Danruther (1927) December 7, 1946.

"Danny" was the head of the Danruther Construction Company, which built many beautiful homes around Newton County. The Danruther Construction Company built the present banks in Brook, Kentland, Watseka, and Rensselaer. They also constructed many telephone facilities around the state. Danny was a softball enthusiast, who played and managed both a Kentland and later Brook team that played all over the state. Several of his teams participated in national softball tournament. Danny enjoys playing golf during his retirement. Danny and Martha had one son Chuck Danruther, who married Kathy Mayhew.



Top: 1957, the sons, Bob, Larry, Orpheus, Dick, Floyd. Ida in back. Bottom: Christas late 1940's, the daughters, Martha Danruther, Donna, Ida, Betty Hampton, Sue Masters, Phyllis Beagley.

Richard Lyons (1928) has lived in both Jasper and Newton County. Dick served in the Navy after World War II. Dick and Beth Dalton (1930) were married on July 8, 1950. They farmed in Jasper County for several years. During the time they lived in Jasper County, they served as Chairman of the Marion Township grade school Community Club, and Treasurer- Financial Secretary, Sunday school teachers and Trustees of Barkley Methodist Church. At Rensselaer, they were active in the Masonic Lodge and Order of Eastern Star, serving as Worshipful Master, Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Grand Usher of the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star, and Mother Advisor of Rainbow. After returning to Brook in 1970, Dick became a Newton County Deputy Sheriff and later the Director of the Newton County Emergency Ambulance Service. Beth is still the secretary for the Kindell Insurance Services, LLC (formerly the Neely Wilson Agency and PNS Agency/Brook). They have three children Debra Schrum, husband David Schrum, Mike Lyons, and Vicky Donahue, husband Matt Donahue.

Donna Lyons (1930) married Swede Lyons (1928-1998) August 27, 1947 and, taking after her mother, helped her husband manage and cook for the Hazelden Country Club, Curtis Creek Country Club, the Antelope Club, and the 100-Mile House of Fowler. They had three children Nancy Pitstick, husband Jack Pitstick, Ronald Lyons, wife Cynthia Jessup, and Diane Giacoletti, husband Joe Giacoletti. After Swede passed away, Donna married Bob Miller (1931) on March 21, 1999 in Tucson, Arizona. They are enjoying their retirement years in Brook.

Lawrence "Larry" Lyons (1939) lived his first 22 years in Brook. Upon graduation from Ball State University,

Larry married Marcia "Becky" Wikle (1943) on August 13, 1961. He took a teaching and coaching job in Tippecanoe County. He taught at Wea Junior High School, Southwestern High School, and Wainwright Middle School for a total of 37 years. His Junior High teams won over 80% of the games played. He was head basketball coach at Southwestern High School. In 1971, his team took Lafayette Jeff to overtime before losing by one point in the sectional championship game. The next year his team won the Mid Central Conference basketball



Becky (Wikle) and Larry Lyons

title. His track teams won the Tippecanoe County meet several times. Larry and Becky retired and moved back to Brook in 1998. Larry has served as president of the Iroquois Conservation Club, is on the Cemetery board, plus served on various community projects. Larry married Marcia "Becky" Wikle (1943) on August 13, 1961. Becky served the Tippecanoe School Corporation as reading tutor. She was president of her Merri Misses Home Economics Club and later she was also president of the Randolph Township Home Economics Club. She is a member of the Brook Library board and is chairman of one of the two funeral dinner committees at the Methodist Church. They have two children, Lana Wallpe, husband Stephen Wallpe, and Terry Lyons, wife Sandra Selig.

Lana Wallpe graduated from McCutcheon High School and Ball State University where she majored in English Education and minored in French. She earned her Masters Degree from Purdue University. Lana taught for two years at Hamilton Heights High School and sixteen years at Twin Lakes High School in Monticello. She married Stephen Wallpe June 30, 2001. Lana has retired from teaching to help Steve farm corn and soybeans and raise feeder cattle just southwest of Fowler. They have one daughter, Kendal Beth, who was born November 30, 2002.

It is amazing that during the first year of their existence, the Newton County Hobby Club was able to mount a major show. As I recall there was a flurry of activity, but it all came together and was very successful. The following poem was written and read by Luella Strole at the first birthday party of the Club and it puts the activities of the year in perspective:

A Year With the Hobby Club

"In May we met and made some plans
For a club for all the hobby fans,
Art was elected Pres. that very night
And he really did alright;
Because in June we had thirty-four
Some had one hobby, some had more,
After the business meeting was done
The wiener roast was lots of fun.

By July 50 had joined the gang
And our picnic went over with a bang.
In August at Goodland remember when
Dick, Mickey and Truman gave the program, then
We ate ice cream and a big cake too.
The Boones and Catherine brought for you.

In September Sudie let us all know
We were going to start work on the Hobby Show.
Billy and Miss Steele gave the program that night
Their hobbies varied, but that was alright.

On October 27 we were with Mrs. West.
You remember her coins and all the rest
Of her stamps and hobbies she had to show.
How she keeps them all straight is more than I know.

In November Sudie shoo'd us down to the gym
Where we went to work with vigor and vim,
Arranging the bugs and barns, doilies and dollies
Trains and rugs and dogs by gollies

Lamps and pot holders we had 'em all there
The weather was cold but we didn't care.
I can't remember everything right off hand

Except the terrible coffee at Cry's eats stand,
Folks like the affair and wondered when
We'd try to do a show again.

In January we didn't take long to elect Chet,
As president and you'll never forget
Our white elephant sale, Bonnie brought a pair
Of something I'll bet she doesn't wear.

In Feb. Mrs. Hess showed tea pots and glass of an antique line
And those musical numbers really were fine.
Back to Brook in March when
Our program came from Otterbein.

Now April was swell and that's for sure
With pictures of a senior tour
To New York and other eastern places
They all returned with smiling faces.
And I was smiling too
I liked the talk, didn't you?

Well for goodness sakes, now just look here
We've been a club for one whole year;
A club that can interest you
No matter what you like to do,
You can collect it, make it, grow it, we don't care,
As long as you come so we can share
Your experiences as a hobby fan
And we'll help you if we can.

Sure we talk a lot, get real yappy
But we all stay young and we all feel happy,
Yes, our club's a success, that's very true
But it wouldn't be if it weren't for you.

This photo was taken at their July, 1950 party at the Otto Boone Cottage on Lake Freeman. Front, l-r, Mrs. Sudie Herath, Mrs. Luella Strole, Miss Lois McCarty, Chester Anderson, president, Diana, Mrs. Vinnie West. Second row: Mrs. Reuben Hess, Mrs. Jesse Camblin, Mrs. Iota Camblin, Wanda Jean Herath, Mrs. Chester Anderson, Mrs. Otto Boone, Mrs. Frank Hendress, Mrs. Dave Mosier, Mrs. Imogene West, Unknown. Third row: Art Irwin, Mrs. Nellie Chizum, E.J. Brandt, Mrs. Ed. Brandt, Carol Anderson, Alice McCarty, Mrs. Ray Fenters, Miss Birdie Steele, Mrs. Belle Ackers, Mrs. Lois Webster, and Frank Hendress. Far back row: Billy Balenseifer, Allen Strole and Jimmie Bannon.



Historically Yours

Just like you, I am looking forward to Spring-this winter has been far longer than necessary and I am ready for the green look instead of the white look!

I have not been to any of the meetings of the Indiana State Historical Society since last summer, or maybe it was last fall, so I am all primed and ready to attend the County Historian Round Table in Indy on March 24. Historians will be introduced to David Bodenhamer of the Polis Center, who will tell how Indiana On-line can help when gathering information about their counties.

The electronic encyclopedia, Indiana Online, will provide current and past information about the State's people, culture, and government. Sounds as though an education is in store for me when I attend this next seminar.

County-wise, three new Historians have been appointed in the state of Indiana. Richard Bowman took office as Madison County Historian on January 1, following at mid-January by Jane Spencer, who will fill the Jay County position and Randy Wright, who became Parke County Historian.

Also reported by Katherine Dill of the Indiana Local History Services, is the acquisition of a collection of rare materials and artifacts relative to Abraham Lincoln, who lived in our state from age seven to age twenty-one.

The more than 800 items in the collection are in the process of being conserved, however digital images of some of the visual materials will be available through the Indiana Historical Society's On-line catalog within the next six months.

Now, back to Newton County-a public planning meeting concerning the Mount Ayr, Jackson Township History Book will take place in the near future. People in that area need to start gathering family histories, but first they need to be informed of the project and a workable committee needs to be formed.

Janet Burton, who was born and raised in Jackson Township, has volunteered to serve on this committee, however several of the local residents need to become involved as well. An undertaking such as this cannot be done by two or three people.

Elsie (Jeannie Were) Potter of Mount Ayr has sent several items of interest that will be included in the book and Geneva Matthews of Rensselaer has sent history about the Moses and Geneva Hayward family. She is continuing to gather information about this family so there should be quite an informative history on the Hayward family. At least this is a beginning!

I would like to incorporate Colfax Township into this book but have only a few sources from whom I can gather history concerning that area. If Jim Robbins and Harold LaCosse will get their heads together and do a "bit of remembering," that will give me a start on Colfax history, but others will also need to be involved.

Kyle Conrad's idea of using the Brook Alumni mailing list as a means of getting family histories for their book can also work for the Mount Ayr area. And, that would also reach "old-timers" in the Colfax area. Students who lived in Colfax Township attended high school in Mount Ayr and I just happen to have a mailing address for the Mount Ayr Alumni Association!

By Donna LaCosse
Newton County Historian

Golly, gee! When the Brook and Mount Ayr-Colfax books are complete, it would only be fitting and proper to filter into Lincoln, Lake and McClellan Townships gathering tid-bits of family history so the entire county would be covered. This does sound like a big undertaking, but not impossible. The people in those areas should begin to think about the possibility of publishing a book about their township. Lincoln would probably be a complete book, but Lake and McClellan could be combined for a most interesting history -remember, Bogus Island is part of the history of McClellan Township, and that is a history within itself!

And, another thing that needs to be completed is the cemetery book project. If my memory is functioning correctly, Yvonne Kay said she would continue to work on the cemetery book project as soon as the weather conditions changed for the better. Let's hope that is not far off. This is it for this issue of The Newcomer. Hang in there, spring has to arrive soon and then there will be summer with intense heat to complain about! So, for now, keep on making history!

McCray Scholarship Offered to Deserving Newton County Graduates Each Year

Newton County Seniors are encouraged to submit essays containing at least 500 words and no more than 1,200 words about a Newton County point of interest. The essays are given to the high school counselor, who witholds the name of the author so the judges do not know who has written the essay. The essays then become the property of the Newton County Historical Society; judges decide who the recipient from North Newton High School and South Newton High School will be and only then are the names revealed. A student of each school is given \$250. A scholarship is not presented to a school where an essay is not submitted.

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) wildlife refuges (15) native population (16) flora and fauna of the region, and/or (17) migration patterns.

Entries are judged by a panel using the following points: (1) historical significance (2) originality (3) research (4) documentation (5) proper English usage (6) content and (7) comprehension of the subject. The decision of the judges is final, and articles copied from other sources are disqualified, however quotes with proper source identification is allowed by the society.

How To Donate

Donations for the scholarship fund are always welcome. Without monetary gifts, the scholarship fund could cease to exist in the near future. Deserving students in the county who receive, or could receive the McCray Scholarship, need that financial boost when planning to go to college.

You may donate to this fund by sending a check to the Newton County Historical Society ear-marked McCray Scholarship Fund. Please feel free to ask questions about this fund by calling any of the Historical Society officers.

at Hazelden Country Club for George Ade until his death, and then Ida and Orph bought the Brook Hotel and ran it from 1945 to 1962. Sunday dinners brought patrons from a wide area of northern Indiana to dine. Ida and Orph's early life was quite filled with raising nine children: Phyllis, Floyd, Sue, Betty, Bob, Martha, Dick, Donna, and Larry.

The Children of Orpheus and Ida Floyd Lyons

All were born near Brook, in Newton County with the exception of Phyllis and Larry who were born in Jasper County.

Phyllis Lyons (1915-2000) born in Jasper County lived all but a year of her life near Brook in Newton County. She married Bernard "Bill" Beagley (1912-1984) in 1936. They started married life on their farm on County Road 1200 South, in Iroquois Township. Forty-one years later they retired to live in their new home in Brook. Bill and Phyllis were second in command in the Lyons family helping out Orph and Ida and their brothers and sisters when needed.

Although they had no children of their own, they certainly helped raise Phyllis' brothers and sisters. Their farm was a place where the younger male brothers finished their farming skills before going on to their own farms. The creek on their farm has given us many fond memories of fishing and swimming, especially during Orpheus Lyons, 1909



the many family reunions held there. Brother, Larry Lyons, spent at least half of his early life living with them and respecting them as his second mother and father. When his children were born, Phyllis and Bill became cherished second grandparents.

Bill was an excellent farmer, softball pitcher, volunteer fireman, and card player. Phyllis helped farm and worked for six years in the ASC office. She was an avid golf player, bridge player, and gardener. Phyllis and Bill provided the land, and several brothers and sisters planted potatoes and strawberries, which were used by all. The strawberries became a you-pick-patch for the area. Phyllis and Bill worked hard and enjoyed life to the fullest.

Floyd Lyons (1917-2002) lived in both Newton County and Jasper County during his lifetime. He served in the Army throughout World War II, seeing action in Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Floyd received the Bronze Star during the war. On June 25, 1945 he married Alice Stephens, (1924-2002) they farmed in Newton and Jasper County. In 1965 Floyd returned to Brook to take over the position of the Brook City water works maintenance man.

The first day Floyd came home from WW II, his brothers, Bob and Dick, went out in the yard behind the hotel to see who was the best man in wrestling. Bob and Dick had been working at the feed mill and both were strong, but Floyd put both of them down in about 15 seconds.

Floyd could whistle and mock any bird that he heard. He also knew the names of all the trees in this area. He knew where the best nut trees were. He also was a fine hunter, he especially like to hunt fox and coon.

He had a dog-named Spot who would hunt any thing Floyd wanted him to hunt. I observed Spot hunt pheasant, quail, coon, and rabbits all in the same day. When his younger brothers were hunting with him, Floyd would teach them the method to hunt what ever they were hunting, just as his Dad, Uncle John, and Grandpa Isaiah had done for him.

Floyd was always interested in what his brothers and sisters were doing and how their kids were doing. He was a strong family man. His riches were his family: wife, daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, and sisters whom he loved dearly. Observing his family as they took care of him the last years of his life, I decided he was a very rich man, and I was enriched for having him as a brother.

Floyd and Alice had two daughters, Dorothy Sue Nowak, whose husband is Ron Nowak and Mary Jane Parrish, who married Don Parrish.

Sue Lyons, (1919), has been a lifelong resident of Newton County. She is an excellent gardener and golfer. Sue was never afraid to try any new adventure whether it was raising ducks or glass cutting picture making. She worked on the rationing board during World War II. She married Howard



Ida (Floyd) Lyons, 1913

Masters (1919-1990) on November 15, 1947. Howard served in the Army in the Burma, India, and China Theater during World War II. Together Howard and Sue operated the Sinclair Filling station in Brook and then for many years ran a television repair shop out of their home. Sue was a long time member of the Brook Cemetery Board. Howard was a member of the Brook High School Board. They have one daughter, Jolene Raff, whose husband is Larry Raff.

Betty Lyons (1920-1994) served many years as a waitress at the Carhop in Indianapolis. Ceramics was one of her many hobbies. She married Warren Hampton (1920-1996) on November 8, 1940. Warren was in the Navy during World War II. He was

half dozen wrist watches on his arm, pulled out a couple of pocket watches from his pants pocket and dangled a bra in front of a very embarrassed young lady. They all swore that they were totally unaware of his "crime."

Wanda Jean Herath, whose hobby was raising dogs, lent her talents to the original organizational efforts. Her optimism, quick wit and charm smoothed over many objections that could have been obstacles to the formation of the Club. Her mother, Sudie, a collector of African violets, was very supportive and also lent her many talents to the fledging organization.

At the January, 1950 meeting of the Newton County Hobby Club, "Chester Anderson was elected President, Wanda Herath, Vice President, Lois McCarty, Recording Secretary, Dortha Meadows, Corresponding Secretary, and Birdie Steele, Treasurer. The new historian will be Mrs. Vinnie West of Sheldon, Illinois, while Mrs. Joe Strole will take care of publicity for the coming year.

"Every woman in the room oh'd and ah'd over Mrs. E. J. Brandt's quilts and crocheted pieces as she displayed them while telling some of the incidents which prompted the making. Everyone also viewed some of Mrs. Brandt's oil paintings and felt fortunate to have such a capable and talented person as one of their members.

"The fun and laughter of the evening started when Art Irvin held up the first white elephant for sale. The white elephants varied in size and shape but each served its purpose well by helping our treasury and through the laughter as each victim unwrapped a package which somehow never turned out the box of candy or explosives which the label hinted.

"Club adjourned to Clift's Cafe where all enjoyed angel food cake and coffee with Miss Birdie Steele as hostess. The cake was a delicious angel food baked by Deloris Meadows and bought by Miss Steele at the sale."

At the April 1950, meeting a committee consisting of Wanda Herath, Everal Johnson, Jean Boone, Vinnie West and Nellie Chizum was appointed to plan the first anniversary party of the Club. I remember being disappointed that I could not attend the party. This was before I had a license to drive a car and had to depend on others for transportation. I often hitched a ride with the Otha Millers, Nellie Chizum, Nellie Harrison, and Mrs. Dave Mosier to be able to attend the meetings. On one occasion when Nellie Chizum was driving we hit a skunk on the way to Brook. After that there was a lot of kidding that they could smell the Morocco people coming.

In August plans were made for the second fall Hobby Show on October 21 and 22, Collier Gym, Brook. Mrs. Luella Strole was chosen as general show chairman. Displays would be classified and prizes awarded, with adults and children showing in different classes. Plans were made to bring in other collectors as was reflected in this September article:

"The September meeting of the Newton County Hobby Club was held at the Brook Library Thursday evening, Mrs. Vinnie West, of Sheldon, club historian, was the speaker of the evening. She showed the lovely, informative club scrapbook, which she is working on; this book, bound in natural wood cover, contains an illustrated history of the club from its beginning over a year ago. Mrs. West is to be congratulated on the fine work in this growing records of the organization. She also gave a talk on her own hobby of coin collecting, which was enjoyed by all. Many plans for the coming show were also discussed. Among the exhibits which will be in the show, October 21 and 22, will be a collection of hand-molded wax figurines done in colors, and of famous storybook characters, by an Indianapolis librarian. This exhibit has appeared at Marshall Field's in Chicago. Another Indianapolis lady will exhibit a most unusual hobby, a collection of envelopes, post-marked with towns of unusual names and hand illustrated with designs that are suggested by the names on the postmarks. This lady is a member of a national club of these envelope collectors. An Illinois exhibitor will show some very unusual dolls, handmade from apples, and whose work was shown at the hobby show at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Craft of Watseka, will show, in addition to their lamps, some table settings of lovely old china. Among collections to be shown are the duck figurines of Joe Conn, the miniature pitchers of Mrs. Charles Chapman, the vases of Mrs. Vinnie West, the coins of Frank Hendress, woodwork of Mr. Smith of Donovan, Toby jugs of Carolyn White, glassware of Mrs. Nellie Chizum, and puppets of the Shultz family of Kentland. A replica of the Sherrlbrook Kennels will be shown, with several of the dogs on hand to greet the kids at the show."

Mrs. West was an avid collector. She entertained the group at her home in Sheldon and spoke of her collections. Among the she collected was one in particular I remember. It was made by the Rookwood Pottery in Ohio, was about twenty inches high, and had a portrait of an American Indian painted on a dark green background. In the current market

Continued on page Four

Photos from the 1950 Hobby Club Show at the Brook Gym



Chester Anderson, President and Luella Strole, General Show Manager admire Nellie Chizum's antique glassware.



Belle Acker's salt & pepper collection.



Jean Boone's display. She and Otto owned Boone's Jewelry Store in Kentland.



Gerald Born's insect collection.

Collections Of A Lifetime *Norman Jung's Chicago Collection*

By Gerald Born

NCHS member, Norman Jung of Kalamazoo, Michigan, probably owns the largest collection of Chicago materials, which is still in private hands, in the United States. It has literally been a collection of a lifetime.

I first met Norman forty-three years ago at Columbus, Indiana where he worked for the Social Security Administration and I was the Director of the Bartholomew County Library. At that time Columbus was the Mecca of contemporary architecture, and since we both had an interest in modern architecture we became friends and have remained so ever since.

Although Norman grew up in Harvey, Illinois, he is no stranger to the history of Newton County. We later found that our grandfathers bought, sold and traded cattle here at the turn of the last century. The large Jung family, which located along old Sauk Trail also had family connections in the area. And as we shall see his collection contains a large collection of Newton County's favorite son, George Ade.

Later, while in Madison, Wisconsin, Norman decided on a career change and went to Indiana University for his library degree. It was a good choice for his wife as well, who plays the piano and cello and studied with the world famous Gyorgy Sebok, who was teaching there at the time. This was the beginning of a distinguished library career for Norman, who started at Cornell, then on to Stony Brook University on Long Island, and ended his career at SUNY College at Old Westbury as Library Director.

Living at Stony Brook, Long Island, New York gave Norman the opportunity of joining the prestigious Long Island Book Collector's Club. Recently he has also become a member of the Caxton Club in Chicago, one of the premier book collecting clubs in the U.S.

The following recent interview gives some idea of the breadth and depth of his collection.

Born: Why did you decide to collect Chicago material?

Jung: Even in high school I was interested in Chicago and its architecture. As early as 1949 I would go into the city to see some of the famous old mansions that were being torn down at the time. I was interested in the history of the families who had lived in these magnificent houses and would often take a walk around inside of them before the

wrecking ball struck.

Born: Were you collecting when you went to Cornell in 1963.

Jung: Not in earnest. I still had an interest, and as you will recall there were many second hand book stores there.

Born: When did your collection really begin?

Jung: While at Stony Brook University, a former student assistant who lived in Toronto, Canada, told me of a book dealer there who had a collection of books on Chicago. With the purchase of the entire collection of 150 books my serious collecting began.

Born: What sources did you use?

Jung: I dealt primarily with book dealers on Long Island and in New York City, and received catalogs from a variety of book dealers. When visiting relatives in California, I would go to Acres of Books in Long Beach. And there were used book stores in Traverse City when we would go to Interlochen. I seldom used dealers in Chicago.

Born: Describe the scope of your collection.

Jung: Fully one-half of the collection is on Chicago history. The second largest segment consists of books by Chicago related authors. Another large section deals with fiction with a Chicago setting, but written by non-Chicago authors. I have also honed in on imprints before the Chicago fire of 1871. Smaller segments deal with private press books, post-cards, and some artifacts.

Born: How many items are now in your collection?

Jung: The collection now contains roughly 10,000 items and a few artifacts including things from the different fairs that were held there from the 1893 Columbian Exposition to the 1933 World's Fair, The Century of Progress, to programs from the Railroad Fair of 1952.

Born: I remember seeing some of your George Ade books. How large is this collection?

Jung: I have first editions of George Ade's books as well as his collected works, the plays, and other miscellaneous materials. It takes up two full shelves in my collection. As well as the George Ade material, I have a large collection of other authors, who have Indiana connections, John T. and George Barr McCutcheon, Theodore Drieser and his brother, Paul Dresser, who wrote music. They are in good

company with other Chicago authors, Carl Sandburg, Saul Bellow, Nelson Algren, and Studs Terkel.

Born: Where do you house your collection?

Jung: It has taken over the house. Most of it is in the basement where I have rooms filled with shelves, but parts of it can be found in most every other room as well.

Born: How does your wife view your collection?

Jung: We have a mutual respect. She had a horse while living on Long Island, and she has her music and instruments. Somehow we find room for them all.

Born: Are there other collections such as yours in private hands?

Jung: There are two other collections that I know of. One is housed in a high-rise in Chicago, which is about half the size of my collection and one other which has been very selectively developed.

Born: Are there other collections in the public sector that are as complete?

Jung: The Chicago Historical Society, the University of Chicago, and the Chicago Public Library come to mind, but I have not compared them to my catalogue to see how they compare.

Born: Are there items you would like to acquire that you do not have?

Jung: Well, I would like the 1909 edition of the Burnham Plan for Chicago, but this large work does not come on the market very often. However, three appeared in the past year. They sell for around \$2,000 each. I also like to collect Chicago books belonging to famous people. I have one that belonged to Cyrus McCormick, Jr.

Born: Do you have a favorite?

Jung: No, I like them all. So many things keep turning up that I don't have a plan for what I collect. I simply don't worry about what I don't have.

Born: Do you plan to publish a bibliography of your collection?

Jung: No, not at the present. Frank Jewell did one at the Chicago Historical Society in 1979, but now it is woefully inadequate, as it was based primarily on their collection and does not venture into other material that is available.

Do you have an idea for a story, family history or photos that you would like to share with our members? Contact the editor, Beth Bassett at 219-275-5741 or e-mail beth@ffni.com. Thank you!



Pages Of The Past

transcribed by Janet Miller
The following excerpts are from *The Kentland Enterprise* during the Winter of 1903.

it would fetch between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Her husband was a doctor so she could afford her hobby.

Under a headline which read County Hobby Show Draws Big Crowd the following article details the winners in the show:

"Newton County's Hobby Show is over and a lot more people have found a new interest because of it.

"The judges didn't exactly have a picnic Saturday, as they spent several hours trying to decide who the awards would go to. They judged on creative ability, artistry of design, cleanliness and unusualness. They tried to divide the awards over a large territory, the age of the individual and profession in everyday living were considered. Especially among the antique exhibits an otherwise good display was unbalanced by a piece of another period or age. The judges were very complimentary of the show and several times asked if certain hobbies were the work of professionals. That folks is a compliment to you.

"Following is a list of classes and winners: **Stamps and Coins:** 1. Geo. Varrier, Valparaiso 2. Frank Hendress, Sheldon 3. Wm. Fleming, Brook; **Woodcraft:** 1. Ellis Smith, Donovan, IL. 2. C. L. Austin, Sheldon 3. Mrs. Bublitz, Crown Point; **Fine Arts:** 1. Emory Honn, Brook 2. Sylvia Frey, Lake Village 3. Nelson Ewing, West Chicago; **Graphic Arts:** 1. Bernadine Miller, Morocco 2. Sadie Johnston, Kentland 3. Addie Padgett, Brook; **Needlecraft:** 1. Mrs. Hattie Hogle, Sheldon 2. Ella Smith, Donovan 3. Ruby Conn, Brook; **Rugs:** 1. Sadie Johnston, Kentland 2. Mrs. Hattie Herriman, Morocco 3. Elsie Clinton, Brook; **Amateur Photographs:** 1. Art Irwin, Brook, 2. Jim Strole, Brook; **Toys, Stuffed:** 1. Evelyn Murfitt, Brook 2. Dorotha Berry, Sheldon 3. Mrs. Ed Brandt, Kentland; **Toys, Mechanical:** 1. Ocey Franklin, Brook 2. Harry Lawrence, Brook 3. Bert Eckstein, Donovan; **Buttons:** 1. Mrs. Erickson, Crown Point 2. Jessie Camblin, Morocco 3. Mrs. Arch Elijah, Morocco; **Flowers and Novelties:** 1. Vera Cunningham, Brook 2. Jean Boone, Kentland 3. Mrs. Erickson, Crown Point; **Miscellaneous:** 1. William Breese, Kentland 2. Walter Craft, Watseka 3. Gladys Weston, Brook; **Paper Collection:** 1. Essie Liskey, Brook 2. Clella Henress, Sheldon 3. Mabel Mosure, Morocco; **Modern China and Glass:** 1. Mrs. Ray Peavey, Maywood, IL 2. Mrs. Ora Render, Brook 3. Venessa Chapman, Brook; **Antique China and Glass:** 1. Jessie Camblin, Morocco 2. Vinnie West, Sheldon, 3 Mrs.

Arch Elijah, Morocco; **Dealers Antiques:** 1. Craft's, Watseka 2. Tatman's, Union Mills, IN; Not Specified Antique: 1. Hattie Herriman, Morocco 2. Jessie Camblin, Morocco 3. Mrs. Arch Elijah, Morocco; **Indian Relics:** 1. Dortha Meadows, Brook 2. Joseph Wright, Fowler. **Junior Division Live Hobby:** John Dyer, Kentland; **Handwork:** 1. Sam Schultz, Kentland 2. Janet White, Kentland, 3. Gerald Born, Morocco; **Paper Collection:** 1. James Bannon, Brook 2. Allen Strole, Brook, 3. Nancy Hendress, Sheldon; **Miscellaneous:** 1. Paul Krug, Kentland 2. Alice McCarty, Brook, 3. Joe Conn, Brook; **Bird House, Single** 1. Allen Strole, Brook 2. David Wilson, Brook; **Bird House, Apartments:** 1. David Wilson, Brook; **Miniature Collection** 1. Beverly Essick, Crown Point 2. Donna Franklin, Brook 3. Judy Peavey, Maywood, IL.

"Although the attendance was over six hundred registered visitors, it was not quite up to last year. This was because many who attended last year, had the idea that the same things would be exhibited. This thought was not true."

The scrapbook ends in 1950. The Newton County Hobby Club continued its existence for some years after this, but I'm not sure when it ended, as I was away to the University by then and had turned my attention to other things. If anyone knows when it was disbanded, please let us know, or if you have any other information concerning it or its activities, please be in touch.



Sam Schultz & puppets, Kentland.



Display of antiques from members.



Above, Wanda Jean Herah's puppies, right, a pigeon display by George Flowers, Jr. of Morocco.



Mrs. Sylvia Frye (Dorothy Arbuckle's mother), with hammered aluminum trays she made.



Bernadine Miller of Morocco art display.



Mrs. Paul Weston's antique jugs.

Kentland

January 1, 1903 - Today Rural Carrier Wm. Romig started on his first trip delivering mail on route number one. Carrier Romig left the postoffice on schedule time, driving a fine new regulation wagon, and drawn by a good team which he lately purchased. He carried a goodly lot of mail, nearly every box owner having something. The mail will leave promptly every day at 10:30 a.m. which enables patrons to receive the Indianapolis and Chicago morning papers. The Enterprise will go out each week on the Thursday morning delivery. About forty families along the route have not purchased boxes, and they should do so at once. Mail will not be served except to box owners. Two families cannot receive mail in the same box.

Perry & Son have removed their harness store into their new building just east of the Enterprise office. The building was erected to meet the special needs of their business, and is one of the best in town.

Our neighboring town of Raub now enjoys the luxury of a newspaper. It is edited by George A. Gaylord, principal of the town school, and though small in size is a creditable little sheet, and well filled with news. Raub Rambler: George Plunkett, Frank Keefe, Charles Keefe, Rose Brown and Iva Booty will attend school at Kentland after the holidays.

The public schools will open Monday in the new building, just a year lacking three days from the date of the burning of the old building, which occurred on the night of Jan. 15, 1902.

If farmers who are forming the habit of arranging their day's work with neighbors over the telephone at the early hour of three or four in the morning will attend to those matters the evening before, it would be greatly appreciated at central. While desiring to give subscribers the best of service, yet only sick calls or those of great importance should be made between the hours of 10 p.m and 5 a.m. Will K. McCray

L. W. Ross & Son are conducting a little bean guessing contest for the benefit of the juvenile population. The little folks are greatly interested--a pair of skates is the reward.

Last week a minister of Kentland was engaged to perform a marriage ceremony

south of Raub. The day following the engagement was canceled by the bride's parents. That night an elopement occurred. Moral: Lock the windows before objecting.

Thayer

The commissioners were in session a short time yesterday afternoon to settle with the bidder of a bridge over the Kankakee river at Thayer.

Mt. Ayr

New telephones the past week: T. E. Willey, Ira Saylor, Randolph Wright, Jeff Smith, David Horsewood and Henry Agate.

James Haskell had a public sale December 31, and will move to Rensselaer today, where he has purchased a half interest in Kessler's hitch barn.

Mt. Ayr is again in the midst of great promises. We are to have a regular passenger train and an extra lot of freight is to be sent by way of Freeland Park through Mt. Ayr. It will also require a night operator or agent. We wonder if this is true or just a lot of railroad wind.

Lake Township

Several buildings on the J. R. Davis ranch in Lake township were destroyed by fire one day last week, causing a loss of about \$3,000.00. The fire originated in the pump house, which, together with the scale house was completely destroyed, and some cribs, a fine hog house and the water tower were badly damaged. The commodious dwelling and fine large barn were saved from destruction by heroic work of the farm hands. The Davis ranch is a model in fine buildings.

Mrs. Conrad has been busily engaged the past week hauling her immense crop of rye to the new station across the river.

Goodland

Francesville Tribune: "Newton county is still having her troubles regarding the court house question. The county seat has always been at Kentland but various factions saw fit to change it, owing to its inconvenient position in the county and through an election last spring Goodland was selected as the place. Now Kentland springs forth in her last efforts and is trying to have Newton divided, the north half to go to Jasper and the south half to Benton. At present it seems as though Goodland would win in the fight."

Brook

Rev. Zaring, pastor of the M. E. church

in Brook, died at his home there yesterday afternoon of typhoid fever and nervous prostration. He was extremely popular with all classes of people at Brook.

The Celebrated Whipping Case from Brook Quickly Disposed of by the Jury: The second case tried by jury was the State case against Mrs. Collier of Brook, charged with horse whipping a delinquent boarder. We don't know that Mrs. Collier attempted to deny the charge very strong, and it was not necessary. The jury speedily returned a verdict of not guilty.

Albert J. Bullis and Amelia Barten were married at the bride's beautiful country home Wednesday evening, Feb. 11, at half past seven o'clock. Immediately after the ceremony a bountiful supper was served to the seventy-five guests present. Mr. Bullis and wife, after a brief visit in Chicago and Winamac, home of the groom, will make their home on the farm of Charles Franklin in Washington Township.

Morocco

Morocco Courier: In the light of a forty years experience; it might not be out of place to inquire once again, "does a court house pay"-----in Newton County.

Three weddings have taken place in Morocco recently. Mr. Brace James and Miss Sara Archibald were married February 13th at the home of Esquire Pulver. Both young people are residents of Morocco and will continue to make this place their home. On Sunday, the 16th inst., at the home of the bride's parents, Miss Carrie Bolley and Mr. Allen Archibald were married by the pastor of the Antioch Church. The bride is the daughter of Mark Bolley of Washington township and the groom is a son of Pierce Archibald of the Farmer's Bank of Morocco. The third wedding was that of Miss Marie Johnson and Mr. Alfred Zoborosky, of Eagle's Mere neighborhood. They were married in Morocco on Sunday, the 16th, by Rev. Tuggle.

- 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
- Obituaries of Past Residents
- New! Complete Brook Alumni List!*

**Brook's Military History
continued from page seven**

Congressman delivering the address. Today, the monument remains one of only three memorials dedicated to the memory of the Civil War veterans in Newton County, and the cannon is housed in the Wash-O-Quois Museum in Brook.

One of the other two Civil War memorials is also located in Brook. It is the bronze memorial tablet located in the Brook-Iroquois Public Library. The tablet was presented to the library by John Bennett Lyons to commemorate the organization of Company B of the 51st Indiana Volunteers. The tablet is made of white bronze and is five feet by three and a half feet in size. It is mounted on the south wall of the library's main floor and lists the entire roster of officers and soldiers of the company, which was organized on the very site of the library on October 12, 1861. A dedication ceremony was held on the 54th anniversary of the organization of Company B, on October 12, 1915. According to the Brook Reporter, 33 out of 42 registered veterans were able to march to the Brook school where they were joined by 300 children and then marched back to McKinley Park to begin the day's program. John Bennett Lyons began the festivities by raising the flag in the park while Morris Jones sang "The Battle Cry of Freedom". The veterans and their wives were fed by the Ladies Aid society, and following lunch, the afternoon was filled with entertainment by the Brook Band and the K of P Orchestra performing in the Brethren church and the presentation of the bronze tablet and acceptance by the library board. Today, the bronze memorial remains a focal point of the Brook Library, as well as a reminder of those brave boys of Company B.

As the Civil War veterans became older and fewer in number, the next generation stepped forward to continue their work in honoring the memory of the Civil War. On May 15, 1915 in the Brook Knights of Pythias Hall, a group of men formed the Loyal Sons of Veterans and elected as their officers Fred Longwell, President, J. Bennett Lowe, Secretary, and J.B. Lyons, Jr., Treasurer. This organization continued providing military services on Decoration Day and for fallen veterans. In a few short years, this would include services for veterans of World War I.

As World War I broke out in 1917, Indiana's National Guard was called into service. A call was put out in the local papers by Lyle Constable of Goodland to all who

had military experience or training to help form the Newton County Home Guard, to keep the United States protected in the event of an invasion. Little additional information is known on the Home Guard, but reference is made in later editions of the *Brook Reporter* of the Liberty Guards of Brook, which I assume was formed for the same reasons. While little is known about the Liberty Guards, they were actively involved in the final rites for those young men brought home from the front. Such it was for the funeral of Chester Harry, where the Liberty Guards performed military honors at Riverside Cemetery in Brook. Harry was laid to rest in the mausoleum in May of 1918 and was the first Newton County boy killed in the World War. The Liberty Guards would participate in several other funeral services for Brook boys lost to the war, including Harrison Dowty and Leslie Weishaar. As our soldiers began returning home from the war, they began assisting in the services for funerals and Decoration Day.

By 1936, nothing else is heard of from the Liberty Guards, and the Sons of the Veterans are diminishing in numbers as well. But by 1938 Brook veterans of the World War were petitioning for an American Legion Post to be organized here. On March 14, 1938 a charter was granted for Brook Post #364 as well as a Legion Auxiliary. From this time on, the American Legion would be instrumental in carrying out the tradition of memorial services in the Brook community just as the members of the Grand Army of the Republic had done nearly 50 years earlier. But little did they know just what the future of their organization was to be.

Just as that Brook boy by the name of Chester Harry was the first Newton County boy killed in the first World War, two Brook boys were among the first Newton County boys lost in World War II. Wilfred Criswell and Galen Albright were among those lost during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 aboard the USS Arizona. Oris Brandt was also killed that day, having been aboard the USS Oklahoma. While Oris was a Kentland resident, he was a member of the Brook United Brethren Church. Just as their fathers and grandfathers had answered the calls to arms before them, the boys of Brook answered the call once again. In his book "And They Named Her Brook", John Connell notes a nationwide press release from July 13, 1944 by the New York Herald entitled "New York Whirls Gaily Thru War In Its Night Clubs". The article stated, "To contrast New York's

War effort with that in the heart of America, one might do well to put its war indices alongside those of the hamlet of Brook, Indiana (population 888). Brook exceeded its May War quota by 50 percent. New York was 14.7 percent short of its May quota. It was also 35 percent short in its June quota. Brook, with its 888 people, has 102 boys in the service now and none off the street. New York, with a population of 7 1/2 million, has its streets and cafes thronged with young civilians and finds itself hard pressed for volunteers."

In 1944, as World War II progressed, an effort was begun to honor those veterans from Brook who served their country. In 1945, an honor board was purchased containing the names of all who served in World War II from the Brook Community, 173 names in all. The board was encased in a brick monument and placed on the property west of the Brook Library. Weather took its toll on the board and several years later the board was taken down and stored in the Legion hall. In 2001, the Brook Park Board restored the honor board and had the brick monument rebuilt, and it once again graces the main street of town.

Following the war, the American Legion's membership grew, and a building was purchased for the purpose of using it as a legion hall. The building on main street served as a community room for many years in addition to housing the Legion. Only in the last few years was it sold due to declining membership and the increased cost of maintaining the building. The Legion, however, continues to this day.

Brook's war history doesn't end with the Second World War. Several of her men and women served in peace keeping operations following the war, as well as in Korea, Vietnam, and all subsequent conflicts. Today, the Brook American Legion continues to conduct the annual Memorial Day services at Riverside Cemetery every year, as well as when called upon due to the passing of one of their own. And very shortly, yet another generation of these service organizations will be formed with the chartering of the Brook Sons of the American Legion in 2003, marking over 108 years of tradition honoring those who have served their country on battlefields here and abroad. This community has much to be proud of, not only in the number of those brave men and women who have fought to protect our freedoms that call Brook home, but in how our community has made an effort to see they did not do so in vain.

he went first to Hot Springs, Arkansas. Obtaining no relief there he went to Los Angeles, California but died a few days after arriving in that city. His body was returned to Kalispel, Montana and buried in the Conrad cemetery, north side of the city. His age was about 68 years. He died on January 31, 1911. He was a man of an affable disposition, fond of the gun and sport. He was generous to a fault and lived the life of a bachelor.

Anna Elizabeth Lyons, the youngest daughter of John W. Lyons and Anna Jones Lyons, was born in the cabin on the old farm south of Brook on November 18, 1848. She grew to womanhood in the neighborhood of which she spent practically all her life, except for two years in Ohio.

After finishing the Common Schools, she attended the Methodist Seminary at Onarga, Illinois a short time and later attended school at the Old Methodist Seminary at Valparasio, Indiana.

Anna married John R. Hershman at the home of her brother, Aaron, on September 13, 1871. They began housekeeping two miles west of Brook. The following year moved to a newly built house and what we now call the Old Farm, one-mile south and one and three-fourths east of Brook. Here her two sons Ray Hershman and Lloyd Hershman were born and raised to manhood. She was always of a kindly disposition, devoted to her family, and very positive towards life. Anna was member of the Methodist Church, loyal to its precepts, and without prejudice towards others. She was a member of the Ladies Outing Club of Brook, always enjoying its sessions to the full extent of their intentions. She was fond of children, often joining them in their sports with as much zest as the children they possessed. Anna passed away on September 3, 1907. *John W. Lyons and Anna Jones Lyons children's information taken from the writings of John R. Hershman in 1916.*

Children of John W. Lyons and Catherine Gull Lyons

Naomi Francis Lyons was born March 21, 1862 in the old home south of Brook; she passed away in November of 1955 in Long Beach California. She married Charles Orpheus Ewan in 1881. They moved to Oakley, Kansas and in 1923 to California.

Following is part of a letter Naomi wrote to Gladys Weston in 1952:

The only living children of John W. Lyons my father's marriage with Catherine Gull, My mother was "Bosier", known to me as Isaiah and myself, he was born in 1856, and I in 1862. The term half brother or half

sister was never mentioned in the old days. We were taken in and treated as one of the family especially did Aaron and wife Solinda. He was always Brother Aaron to me and I was treated as one of his brood. Aaron and Solinda, became very dear to me, as did Ann and John Hershman and their little boys Ray and Lloyd. I stayed with Ann one summer when the boys were quite small and the little boys became very dear to me and will never be forgotten. I was quite pleased when they wrote me Lloyd had named one of his girls for me and she grew up and married a Lyons. I was glad to think there would still be an Omie Lyons in Brook.

The summer I stayed with Anna Hershman, always Sister Ann to me, was the summer Aaron's Annie and I bought our organs but I forgot the year. Aaron's Annie was known as Annie Reed to you, and I taught school in the same township, and were known as the Lyons girls. I was married at 19, Annie a year or so later.

Isaiah Lyons, was born November 11, 1856 on the farm in Iroquois Township south of Brook. He passed away October 16, 1933. His father John W. Lyons passed away when Isaiah was only 8 years old. His mother with the help of her sister, the children of John W. Lyons's first marriage, and some friendly Indians, remained on the farm to raise her children. The Indians helped the family by providing wild game. Catherine Gull Lyons would reciprocate by tending the Indians when they were sick or injured.

As a result of his older brother's delight in throwing him in the Iroquois River, Isaiah learned to swim at an early age. They would cross the river in a wagon, placing Isaiah in a wooden tub attached to the wagon by a rope, and letting him trail behind them. When they were almost across the river they would pull on the rope dumping little Isaiah into the water. Isaiah became an extremely proficient swimmer. In his adult life when he went to town for groceries, he would come back home by way of the Iroquois River. Puffing on his pipe, he would enter the water and float on his back to the other side, never getting the groceries wet nor putting out his pipe. Whenever there was a drowning, Isaiah would be called on to find the body.

Isaiah grew his own tobacco, which he cured behind the kitchen stove, some to smoke and some to chew. His chewing tobacco was cured with brown sugar. He was a lifelong farmer, using horse drawn machinery. He always walked along side his horses, never riding on the machinery except



Isaiah Lyons, 1860's

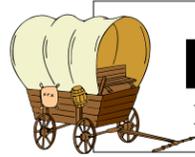
once. His sons talked him into riding on a new moldboard turning plow they had just bought. It hit a rock and threw him off. That was the first and last time he ever rode on a piece of equipment other than a wagon.

In addition to being a farmer, Isaiah was the butcher for his community. Hogs were the main commodities of the time. He built his own smokehouse to cure the hams and sausage. As a very young man he drove a herd of pigs from Newton County to Chicago, Illinois. Not an easy task but he did it and brought home hard cash for delivering live bacon. Each fall he would harness up the horses and take a rack wagon up to the Willow Slough area. Isaiah would shoot enough geese and ducks to fill the wagon. He would then dress the game and smoke it to supplement their food supply during the winter months.

On the day Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, Catherine Lyons and her family received seedling apple trees from the Lyons cousins in Ross County, Ohio. Isaiah used these to upgrade the orchard started by his father John W. Lyons. The last tree of this orchard was destroyed by the tornado in June of 1939.

Isaiah departed from this life October 16, 1933 at the Mt. Ayr home of his daughter Cecile Clark.

On August 30, 1880, Isaiah married Laura Staton, the daughter of Benjamin



Focus on Families

Family History Division • Jim Robbins, Director • Janet Miller, Treasurer

John W. Lyons

By Larry Lyons

This family history of John W. Lyons, was compiled by Larry Lyons, descendent of John Lyon. He and his wife Becky have been working on the family history since the early 1980's, and have found it to be an on-going project! This history covers the following generations and families of the Lyons genealogy: John W. Lyons (3), Morris Lyon (2), John Lyon (1), Born Oct. 23, 1806 in Hampshire Co., Virginia (West), died Oct. 21, 1863 in Brook, Newton Co., IN. Married April 25, 1829 in Ross Co., Ohio. Married Anna Jones Born Nov. 24, 1808 Died March 8, 1854 in Brook, Newton Co., IN. Children - Morris, Aaron, Sarah, Rebecca, John, Able, Samuel, and Anne. Married second time in 1855 to Catherine Gull Born Oct. 17, 1832 in Stark Co., Ohio Died Jan. 3, 1913 in Oakley, Logan Co., KA Children- Isaiah, Francis, and Naomie.

The original Lyon that came to America before the Revolutionary War was John Lyon, he was born January 1, 1745/46 in Paffendorph, what is now Germany, died March 2, 1815 in Romney, Hampshire County, Virginia (West). He married Margaret Covert who was born July 5, 1747 in New Jersey of Dutch parentage. They had eleven children; one of which, was Morris Lyon, born in May 1773 in Hoboken, New Jersey, died February 2, 1845 in Hallsville, Ross County Ohio. He grew up in Romney, Hampshire County, Virginia (West) and lived the rest of his life farming in Hallsville, Ross County, Ohio. Morris married Keziah Jones, a lady of English descent, they had eleven children, seven of which eventually came to Newton County to live out their lives.

John W. Lyons came first in the 1830's, followed by Samuel, Morris, and Abel in the 1840's; from these four brothers came all the descendents with the name of Lyons born in Newton County. Another brother, Isaiah, a bachelor, came along with two sisters and their husbands, Elizabeth Lyons, her husband David Hess, Sophia Lyons and her husband Joshua Ponsler.

John W. Lyons brought his family from Ross County, Ohio, to Indiana in 1830. He and another family went to the land office to buy land in Benton County. They were not sure where the survey lines ran, but it was near a stand of trees, which would be needed

to build a cabin on the prairie. They both agreed to share the timber on whose ever land it actually was legally on. The survey showed it was on the other fellow's land. The other fellow not living up to his agreement, caused John W. Lyons move on to Newton County. John settled on the south side of the Iroquois River in what is now Section 35 of Washington Township.

In 1832, his second son, Aaron Lyons, was born. Aaron was the first white child born in what is now Newton County. A historical marker on the north side of the river, County Road 1125 S, marks the event.

About this time, the Black Hawk War broke out. The Sacs and Fox Indians threatened the settlers of the area. About 500 Kickapoo Indians left their homes in Illinois and spent a year living in this area along the Iroquois River. John W. Lyons moved south to Sugar Grove, on Pine Creek until the Indian threat diminished then moved back to Newton County, this time to Section 29 in Iroquois Township where he lived out his life.

He had many interesting encounters with the Indians of the area. He often visited them and smoked with them. Once the squaw of an Indian chief came to John asking for meat because the chief was sick. John took her to his smokehouse and told her to take what ever she wanted. She took a brisket and some very fat jowl bacon. The chief recovered and presented John with three twists of tobacco as payment.

On a very snowy night John noticed an Indian heading west past his cabin. John called to him and asked him where he was going on such a bad night. The Indian explained he was going to Bunkum, Illinois to buy shot and powder. John told him he would share his shot and powder because it was too bad a weather night to go to Bunkum. The Indian agreed and thanked John. Later in the year a horse that John had brought from Ohio broke loose and was headed back to Ohio. John was trailing the horse when he came upon the Indian with whom he had shared his shot and powder. The Indian, upon learning of the situation, told John to go home; he would track down the horse and bring him back. The Indian caught up with the horse all the way over by Logansport and brought the horse back home to John.

Because John always dealt fairly with the Indians, the Indians would repay John in kind. The Kickapoo Indians held several religious services, which were attended by John Lyons and his family. Later, when John moved to Section 29 in Iroquois Township, his home was used as the first Methodist Church in the area. He built three log cabins in a line from north to south, with sheds to connect them. The middle cabin was the living room in which church was held for five or six years, from ca.1836-1842. The third log cabin served as a school at the same time.

A sawmill and a gristmill were brought into use as they were very essential in the improvement of the county. John W. Lyons and John Montgomery brought the first sawmill here about 1845. It was located on the Iroquois River just north of the Railroad Bridge. This mill was run by waterpower, a primitive dam of logs having been constructed across the river. Some years later a mill company was formed and steam power was used. This steam mill was located on grounds now a part of McKinley Park and stood near the site of the monument. In 1860, this mill was again moved back to the river and was run in connection with the gristmill, which had been built with a new dam, discharging the water through a flume upon a turbine water wheel, which furnished the power to run the mill. A Company was formed known as the Brook Mill Company. The members of this firm were John W. Lyons, Morris Lyons, Edgar Hawkins, Andrew Hess, and Samuel Benjamin. It is safe to say that these five men to which should be added David Hess and Samuel Lyons had more to do with the early development of this section of the county than perhaps any others of their day. These men were ready to help an enterprise that would make the community more prosperous. They were not all members of any church, but they had high moral and religious convictions. Seldom if ever was a gun heard to discharge on Sunday and all wood was chopped on Saturday to stoke the fires on Sunday.

John W. Lyons always kept an open house and was noted for sociability. Travelers made his house a stopping place, often fifteen to twenty covered wagons were found in his barn lot. They were part of the

great immigration heading west to Kansas or Nebraska. All Prairie Schooners were welcome and received with cordiality.

John W. Lyons served as a County Commissioner before the division of Jasper and Newton County. He also served for several years as Justice of the Peace in his township. This office earned him the title of Squire Lyons. He ran for the state legislature, but his party was in the minority, thus he was defeated. He was strongly opposed to slavery and became a Republican party member from its inception, backing John C. Freemont for President in 1856 and Abraham Lincoln for President in 1860. Along with his wife, Catherine, he held rallies in his home for the soldiers during the Civil War. He was a staunch supporter of Abraham Lincoln and the war effort.

Mr. John W. Lyons's death, which occurred in his 58th year, was brought on by a case of strangulated hernia. At the time, doctors had very limited knowledge of how to reduce it. In fact, operating for it was unknown. Just a few years later he could have easily been saved. Thus, passed away a man scarcely past the prime of life, who to a great extent had been a benefactor to the community in which he lived, and was mourned by all as a friend and respected neighbor. Submitted by Larry Lyons. Information gathered from writings of John R. Hershman, *Newton and Jasper County History Vol. 1 and 2, Newton County by John Ade, and Miss Ella Lyons.*

John W. Lyons and Anna Jones Lyons Children

Morris Lyons, born March 5, 1830 in Ross County, Ohio, died March 5, 1857 in Brook, Newton County Indiana. It was said that he was fond of the gun and an excellent shot. He killed many deer that inhabited the area along the Iroquois River.

Aaron Lyons. In the venerable and honored citizen who died at his home in Brook, February 28, 1915, that community possessed not only one of its oldest residents, but also a man who represented in his long career the prominent social and civic elements which compose the citizenship of this community throughout its growth from a frontier settlement. The late Aaron Lyons was a remarkable man. Eighty-three years of age at the time of his death, he was distinguished as being the first white child born within the limits of the present Newton and Jasper counties, and with the exception of two years spent in Benton County was a resident there all his life. He was both a witness and actor in the changing

development in this long time. While a substantial degree of material prosperity rewarded his industrious efforts, the honor paid to his memory is more specially due to his fine independence of character, his active influence in the social and political movements experienced at different times during the last century, and altogether he was a pioneer, a broad-minded vigorous citizen, and a Christian who lived his faith in his daily walk.

He was born February 5, 1832, in the pioneer cabin of his parents which stood on what is known as the Jerome Franklin farm and its site is now in an orchard on that place. This farm is in what is now Washington



Aaron and Solinda (Edmondson) Lyons

Township of Newton County. His parents, John and Anna (Jones) Lyons were natives of Ross County, Ohio, and they came to Newton County in 1831, and spent the rest of their days in Iroquois Twp., on the Iroquois, about 1.5 miles south of Brook, Indiana.

The year 1832 was notable in the history of the Middle West on account of the Black Hawk War. This Indian uprising caused alarm to all the settlements in Northern Indiana, and a few months after Aaron Lyons was born his parents took refuge at Sugar Grove on Pine Creek until the danger had passed. Thus, Aaron Lyons grew to manhood in a typical frontier settlement, and as a boy he frequently played with Indians as comrades. While he had only moderate advantages in the way of schooling, he was a great reader and acquired a vast amount of information. He developed the traits of personal courage, honor and straightforwardness, and self-reliance by actual contact with the rugged conditions and environment of his youth.

Most of his career was spent as a farmer. However, in 1855, he established the first store ever conducted in Brook, and that store was located on the lot where at the present time the structure known as the

Airdrome stands. He was in business as a merchant for six years, and he also served as postmaster at Brook from 1856 to 1862. In 1862, he resumed farming, at first on the farm now occupied by Samuel Conn, and then moved to the old homestead south of Brook. On this homestead stood, in the early days, a log cabin of three rooms, in which were conducted the first religious services Mr. Lyons attended as a boy, and he also attended school there. Still later Mr. Lyons moved to his own farm north of Brook, which he continued to own until his death.

In 1876, he and others established a Grange store at Brook. Bad crops, with inability to make collections, involved this concern, and Mr. Lyons and Andrew Hess shouldered the responsibilities and paid off the debts. In that time it was not uncommon for businessmen to fail and to settle at a small percent on the dollar, and this fact accentuates the sterling honesty of Mr. Lyons and Mr. Hess.

In 1899, Mr. Lyons moved into Brook and lived retired until his death. In the way of public service he was township trustee for about four years, and he made a hard fight to get the county seat located at Brook. It is recalled that he was a very able debater, and on many occasions he proved his ability in this respect.

He was also a worker for reform and a temperance leader, and when about twenty years of age he united with the Methodist Church and was always one of its most loyal supporters, serving for years as church steward and trustee. He also became a class leader at the age of twenty-eight. In the early days he opened his home to the preaching of the gospel and maintained the family altar of worship until within the last few weeks of his death.

He was a great lover of the Bible and also was fond of some of the old fashioned hymns and he would usually open the day with singing some of the old tunes.

His life was really a benediction to the community in which he lived and it is proper to quote some portions of an editorial tribute, which appeared in the Brook Reporter at the time of his death:

"The church, the schools, temperance, good government, right thinking and right living as we see them in this community owe much to Mr. Lyons and the men like him who have stood out often alone in the battle for the moral uplift of the community, and he lived to see the things he worked for and prayed earnestly for come into being. Today as we stand shoulder to shoulder in the cause

of temperance, the individual is lost sight of, but looking back through the vista of years, we see a small group of men, of which Mr. Lyons formed a part, fighting the great battle alone. How much we owe to them, how much we owe to him, we can never know, nor does it matter to him, as he now sleeps, for he took his stand on these questions not for the applause of men but because he believed them to be right. He was a pioneer in all things. He discovered the 'Promised Land' and sought to bring his world to it. His was an intelligent Christian home. What he believed he lived in his daily life, he taught his children and with courtesy impressed on his friends and neighbors. They testified their regard for him by gathering at the Methodist church at Tuesday afternoon March 2, 1915, to pay tribute to his life."

In 1854 Mr. Lyons married Sarah Smith, who died December 11, 1856. Both their children died in infancy. On April 12, 1860, he married Solinda Edmondson, who lived and grew with him into ripe old age. She was born in Hamilton County, Indiana, and a daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Box) Edmondson, who were natives of Tennessee and moved to Hamilton County at a very early day. The Edmondsons were of Irish stock. After the death of her husband Mrs. Edmondson moved to White County, Indiana, and in 1856, established her home at Morocco, but she died in Brook in 1867.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyons had eight children, but two died in infancy. All of the children received a Common School training, and some college or normal training, and all were teachers in the public schools and active workers in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Annie N. Lyons married, in 1884, Hudson Reed, who had also been a teacher. They moved to a farm about 4.5 miles southeast of Brook, where they continued to live until the death of Mr. Reed. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge and a man highly respected in his community. After the death of her husband Mrs. Reed with her three children moved to Brook. Ethel, the eldest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Reed, is a graduate of DePauw University, of Greencastle, Indiana, and holds the position of librarian of the Brook Public Library; Glenn is a student in Purdue University; and Grace is attending DePauw University.

Ella M. Lyons, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, is a graduate of the State Normal at Terre Haute, and supplemented this training with attendance at the Indiana State University and the University of Chicago, after which she taught for several

years in the grade schools and the High School. In 1904, she accepted the chair of English in the Elkhart High School. Resigning that position after nine years of service to take care of her aged parents, with her sister Grace she traveled quite extensively in Continental Europe in the year of 1908.

Grace Lyons, after attending the Indiana State Normal, taught in Newton County but, preferring a business life, entered a business college in St. Louis, Missouri, where she graduated, and afterward took additional work and training in a business college of Indianapolis. She has since been in the employ of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York and located at Indianapolis.

Luther C. Lyons, after common school training pursued a business course in the Bryant and Stratton Business College of Chicago, and is now senior member of the firm of Lyons and Hershman, hardware merchants of Brook. He married Miss Etta Burford, who studied in Franklin College and was a teacher in the Brook schools at the time of her marriage. They have three children, Burford W., Ruth F., in the seventh, and Everett A.

Flora Lyons taught a few years in the Newton County schools, and subsequently completed teachers' course of music in Chicago and still later graduated in the College of Musical Arts in Indianapolis. She is now a teacher in her Alma Mater.

Arthur H. Lyons fitted himself for a business life in the State Normal at Terre Haute, and is now engaged in the lumber and coal business at Brook and is one of the successful men of his town. He is a lover of music, and has been a member of the orchestra and band of Brook. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. He married Miss Nellie Zuck, a daughter of the Rev. R. N. Zuck, former pastor of the United Brethren Church at Brook. Mrs. Lyons was a teacher in the Brook schools at the time of her marriage, and both she and her husband are Methodists. Their three children are Virginia L., in the fourth grade of school, Alford, in the second grade, and Eleanor.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Lyons also took into their home when six years of age a little boy, Marion Hoke, whom they reared and educated, and who became a farmer. He married in the State of Washington and became a great worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church and a student of the Bible, and has frequently preached funeral services in his locality. He is a Prohibitionist and a strong advocate of temperance.

Sarah Lyons, was born February 25, 1835 near Brook and died September 7, 1835.

Rebecca Lyons was born August 26, 1836 near Brook and died March 7, 1852 in her 16th year.

John Lyons, the third son, was born November 11, 1838 near Brook. It had been said by some of the old time settlers that knew him, that he was a young man of great promise. He obtained a fair education for his day and engaged in teaching in the public schools for a time. John and Aaron, with the help of their father John W. opened a general store in Brook. While engaged in the general store, John contracted a cold shipping goods overland by wagon from Lafayette. His cold developed into pneumonia and he died after a short illness at the age of 22.

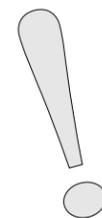
Abel Lyons was born in the old log cabin on the farm near Brook May 1, 1841. At the age of 20, he enlisted in Company B of the 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry the year was 1861. He served for about 2 years and was discharged for a disability. He came home to spend the summer of 1863 recuperating and in the fall re-enlisted. This time in another regiment the Indiana 15th which was being recruited for service. In the Indiana 15th organization he was made a Sergeant, and served to the end of the war. He married a Miss Braddock during his recovery summer, but trouble arose between them while he was in the service and soon after coming home he obtained a divorce. In 1867 his health failed and after a protracted illness he passed away at the age of 26.

Samuel Lyons was born September 8, 1844 near Brook. He enlisted during the fall of 1861 in to Company B of the 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served three years participating in the wanderings and battles of his regiment. Sam was captured at Home, Georgia when the brigade under Colonel Straight surrendered to the Confederates, but returned to service as soon as an exchange was effected.

In 1866 he went to Kansas, where he led a sort of roving life for 20 years, never settling down or staying in one place for long. In 1886 he went to Montana and in a year or so later he took a claim on 160 acres of land three miles east of and across the Flathead River from the city of Kalispel in Flathead County.

He visited his old home in Indiana in 1898 and again in 1904. I visited him in his home in 1909 and found him comfortably situated notwithstanding the fact of his being a bachelor.

About a year later his health failed and



Answers To Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

1. The author of the book, "Beaver Lake--Land of Enchantment" was Elmore Barce, Judge of the 76th Judicial Circuit Court. Judge Barce and family lived at Fowler, Benton County, Indiana. Two of our Newton County Historical members are descendants of Judge Barce, his granddaughter, Betty Barce Yost, and his great-grandson, John Yost, local historian.

2. Eagle Nest Ridge was located about two and a quarter miles east of Enos. It was formerly an island about two or three acres in extent, and rising about 25 feet above the waters. On the highest point of this island there was a giant black oak. In the forks of this

tree for a period of fifty years was the nest of a Bald Eagle.

3. The seven varieties of corn known by the Potawatomi were white corn, flint corn, speckled corn, yellow corn, red corn, sweet corn and early corn. White or flour corn was parched and pounded to make a soup, to which sugar was added. Flint corn was pulverized or cracked by means of a mortar and pestle and was kept in sacks for winter use.

4. One of the nesting places of the Trumpeter Swan in Newton County was in the Black Marsh. The Black Marsh was located about three miles south of Roselawn. The Black Marsh was an adjunct of Beaver Lake.

5. In 1840, Thomas R. Barker, built a cabin near Beaver Lake. Mr. Barker who had been born in Lincolnshire, England, was very well known in what was then Jasper County, now Newton County. He was appointed by Indiana Governor Willard to be the organizing sheriff for the new county of Newton in 1859.

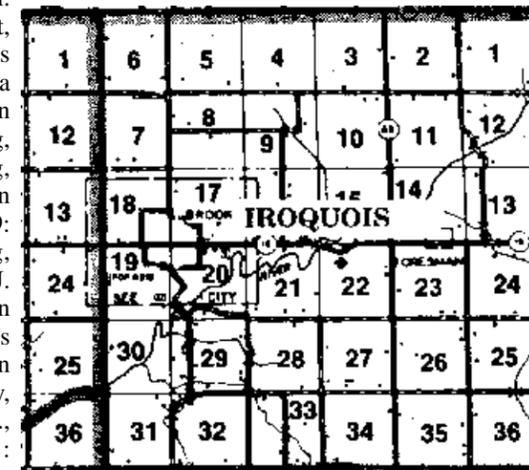
Hugh M. Light. Section 20: F. Lyons, J.A. Pence, M. E. Pence, M. E. McCabe, J. J. McCabe, Mary A. Lyons, Cemetery, Quinton M. Lyons, J. R. Hershman, Ed & Sherman Hess, (a portion of) Town of Brook, M. Mar----?. Hugh M. Light, unreadable, Cath. E. Hawkins, ? Wilson, unreadable, Albert E. Hogue, unreadable, Cath. Lyons. Section 21: Ed & Sherman Hess, Laban Lyons, Charles Waling, Mary Lyons, John Rosenbrook, Abrm. DeWees, James McClintock, Ida May Dewees, Chas. W. Levitt, George Ade. Section 22: Eugene M. Thayer, George Ade; Section 23: G. R. Foresman Est., Mary J. Thayer, John Waling, Jason R. Teter; Section 24: David Hess, Mary Antcliff, James Kendall, Medworth? & Karr, John Weiss, Martin Karr. Section 25: Martin Karr, Geo. Spalding, John Weiss, George Fleckenstine, Carl Shaeffer, A. J. Kent, John W. Sage; Section 26: William Cooper, Wm. Barton, Thomas Beecher, David W. Stockleger, Phillip L. Miller. Section 27: Sarah Stockleger, Hannah Benson, Henry Barton, Fred Stath, School #5 - Iroquois, A. J. Chapin, George L. Sawyer; Section 28: Henry Barton, J. R. Hershman, John Rosenbrook, Wm. F. Stath, Benj. W. Staton, Fred Stath, John L. Vosburg Est.; Section 29: Cath. Lyons, Albert E. Hogue, Wm. Fleming, A. J. Montgomery, J. O'Riley, B. W. Staton, J. W. ?, R. Wilson, J. M. H.?, Chas. Stair, (several small parcels - unreadable), W. P. Griggs, Salina Bruck, J. Brady, Thomas Martin, Wm. Stath. Section 30: A. Lyons, H. Tyler, J. O'Riley, B. W. Staton, T. Corbit, W. Currey, Ada D. Bush, S. C. Schwartz, J. H. Corey, W. H. Ade, Neely Wilson, S. MaKeers?, Alexander G. Bowers, unreadable, W. P. Griggs, Elisha B. Odell. Section 31: Alexander G. Bowers, William H. Ade, Albert Collier, W. P. Griggs, Warren McCray, Paul Weisharr; Section 32: Thomas Martin, William Bowers, W. P. Griggs, School #4 - Griggs; Paul Weisharr, Eliza J. Staton; Section 33: Paul Weisharr, Mary M. Reed, Riley Stair et al, Sarah ?, Thomas Corbit, George Toyne; Section 34: Henry F. Griggs, Paul Weisharr, Thomas Corbett; Section 35: George Ormiston, School #6 - Schuette, Kale S. Cooper, Henry F. Griggs, Mark Peterson, William Cooper, John Weiss; Section 36: John Putt, Henry Schuette, J. W. Sage, John Weiss.

Newton County Landowners in 1904 - Iroquois Township

By Janet Miller

Township 28N, Range 8W

Section 1: Henry O. Harris, J. C. & B. T. Harris, Jacob Eppler, Benjamin Harris, Isabella Pumphrey, John Shaeffer Est.; Section 2: Jacob Eppler, Benjamin Harris, Turner & Gilmore, Charles S. Baker, Joseph Shindler Est., Jacob D. Rich, Wilson & Emma Shaeffer, School #1 - Julian; Section 3: Charles S. Baker, Frederick Raynor, Joshua Mather Est., Margr. Leavitt et al, Emma Paulus, Howard Myers; Section 4: Joshua Mather Est.; Section 5: Joshua Mather Est., Edward Crudden, Louis E. Camblin; Section 6: Thomas Davis, John Esson, Saml. Hays, W. W. Cline, Geo. F. Merchant, James Duffey. Section 7: James Duffey, Isa? Tyler, Harrison Tyler, Ada D. Bush, J. Hess, Aaron Lyons; Section 8: Emery Wert, Joseph Fleming, Edward Crudden, Edwd. Fleming, James Duffey, School #3 - Duffy, John B. Lyons, A. J. Montgomery; Section 9: James Shaeffer, Matthew Waling, School #2 - Hickory Branch, A. J. Montgomery, G. W. McCray; Section 10: Joshua Mather Est., James Shaeffer, Harriet Fowler et al; Section 11: JWS? & N. Ulrey, Nancy Ulrey, Jacob D. Rich, Joshua Mather Est., Jonathan Mather; Section 12: Benjamin Harris, Susan P. Lowe, Jonathan Mather, E. B. Jones, Jones & Esson. Section 13: Jones & Esson, Edward Lowe, E. B. Jones, Frank A. Oden?, J. B. Foresman, James O'Laughlin; Section 14: G. W. McCray, Eliza McCray et al, unreadable, J. B. Foresman, Harriet Fowler et al, Mary J. Thayer, W. D. Foresman, Town of Foresman, School #7 - Foresman; Section 15: Harriet Fowler et al, James Shaeffer, Lewis S. Dodson et al; Section 16: Eliza McCray et al, Matthew Waling, Charles Waling, Laban Lyons; Section 17: Eliza McCray et al, John B. Lyons, David Hess, J. J. McCabe, P. Shaeffer, John A. Pence, Mary E. Pence, (a portion of) Town of Brook, A. Lyons, L. Lyons, T. Ulyet, Ed & Sherman Hess; Section 18: John B. Lyons, Jephtha V. Hess, Ezra B. Jones, A. Conn, Saml. Merchant, Marilla Wilson, Marg. McCabe, (a portion of) Town of Brook. Section 19: (a portion of) Town of Brook, Wm. B. McMillan, Edward W. Sell, Saml. Merchant, George O. Conn, Peter Herath,



Staton and Lucy Watson Staton. Laura was born May 28, 1862 near Kentland, Newton County, Indiana. Her family moved south of Brook in 1868. She was a member of the Methodist Church of Brook, the Mary and Martha Sunday school Class, and the Ladies Outing Club.

She loved to tell stories and riddles. One riddle that has been passed down through the family is: What has four stiff standers, four down hangers, two lookers, two hookers, and a switch-a-bout? Answer: A cow.

One day while telling a story to her grandchildren, she was greatly embarrassed to have a cat crawl up into her lap and promptly go into labor. Laura told the children that the cat was sick and she put it in a nearby box. The sick cat proceeded to have six kittens.

Laura Staton Lyons passed away at the Kentland home of her daughter Della Perry on October 10, 1936.

Children of Isaiah Lyons and Laura Staton Lyons

All born on family farm in Iroquois Township south of Brook

John Benjamin (X) Lyons was born on September 22, 1881. He passed away on February 28, 1959. He was married to Lillian Wampsher on February 17, 1910. They had one son Paul Lyons born on March 29, 1911.



Isaiah and Laura (Staton) Lyons, 1880

John X was a lifelong farmer and an excellent athlete. Football, baseball, and golf were among the sports in which he excelled.



Isaiah's family, front, l-r, Grace, Kathrine (Gull) Lyons, Orpheus, back, Isaiah, Anna, John X, Laura (Staton) Lyons, 1900.

He was the Club Champion in golf at Hazelden Country Club. He loved to hunt and fish, often taking his young nephews with him.

John X had an infectious "tee hee" giggle. He loved to tease. He would ask you if your pocket could hold water; then he would threaten to pour a Coke in it. Sometimes he would actually do it. Sitting next to him at the dinner table was an experience. He always passed the butter into your thumb as you reached for it. If he knew you didn't like a certain food he would give you an extra big helping of it. If you protested, he would kick you on the shin. Even though he was so ornery, he is fondly remembered by all that knew him.

Anna Naomi Lyons was born January 29, 1885, married Charles Fleming on February 5, 1902. Charles and Anna were active in farming until 1938. He then began to build houses in Rensselaer, Indiana where he eventually developed the Fleming Addition. Anna also known as Sis lived 21 days passed her 93rd birthday, passing away on February 19, 1977. Seven children were born to this marriage: Ralph, Everett, Gaylord, Wayne, Ferol married Max Comer, Faye married Lewis McCurtain, and Crestel married William Woodworth

Grace Sylvia Lyons was born August 27, 1891, married Frank Johnson on April 6, 1918. Frank and Grace farmed in Jackson Township, Newton County for many years.

In later years Frank was the custodian for Mt. Ayr School. They had no children.

Cecile Gladys Lyons was born January 18, 1896, married Elmar Clark on December 18, 1915. They were lifelong farmers in Iroquois Township, Newton County.

A son Max Clark was born September 28, 1916. He passed away on September 14, 1923. Cecile passed away June 8, 1981.

Della Mary Lyons was born November 22, 1901, married Oliver Perry on September 7, 1922. Oliver was a Kentland businessman, Justice of the Peace, Excise Taxman. Della was an excellent cook and operated a restaurant in Kentland for several years. Della always had a friendly smile and was a fun person to be around. She passed away on December 20, 1981. Three children were born to this marriage: Fanny Rita Perry who married Evert Kessler. After Evert passed away she married Maurice Collins. William Harry Perry who married Helen Rita Wagner, and John Perry who married Barbara Bedinger.

Orpheus Raymond Lyons was born April 21, 1889. He was a farmer, elevator operator, school bus driver, manager of the Hazelden Country Club, and owner/operator of the Brook Hotel. Orph was a Mason and the 50 year member of the Knights of Pythias. While acting in community plays he met Ida Floyd whom he married on November 18, 1914. Ida was the daughter of Elisha and Rosa Floyd and was born on February 27, 1898. Ida was an excellent cook, well known throughout the area for her chicken, yeast rolls, and Dutch apple pies. She cooked



Isaiah & Laura's 1930 Golden Anniversary. Cecile (Lyons)Clark, Della (Lyons) Perry, Orpheus, Grace (Lyons) Johnson, Isaiah, Laura, Anna (Lyons) Fleming, John X.

Brook's Military History *By Kyle Conrad*

For over a century, the Brook community has had a rich, proud heritage of paying homage to its war veterans. This is more evident by the attendance each year at the Memorial Day Services held at the Riverside Cemetery. These services are but one example of this community's dedication to remembering those who served, fought, and sacrificed for our great country.

The year was 1861 and the Great War was underway. President Abraham Lincoln had issued a call for 300,000 volunteers, and work began in recruiting those that would serve from the newly formed county of Newton. The first enrollment meeting was held in Kentland with John Ade presiding. Other meetings were held in every schoolhouse in the county in an effort to recruit 100 men for their service. On October 12, 1861 this group met for its final grand war meeting at the old school house in Brook where its final organization and election of officers was conducted. Within days the group decided to accept an invitation from Colonel A. D. Streight, who was organizing the 51st Regiment at Indianapolis to become Company B of the 51st. And so it was on November 5th of that year that the boys took the train from Kentland to Indianapolis to join the ranks of the Union Army. Several Brook area pioneer families were represented in Company B, including Davis, DeWeese, Hawkins, Hershman, Kenoyer, Lyons, Lowe, Meredith, Myers, and Staton.

Company B saw action throughout the south, including at Shiloh; Corinth, Mississippi; McMinsville; Gallitin; Mills Spring; Duck River; Perrysville; Stone River; Days Gap; Blunt's Farm; Crooked Creek; Mission Ridge; Strawberry Plains; Mossy Creek; Dandridge; Dalton, Georgia; Columbia, Tennessee; and Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. The total enrollment of Company B was 144, with five being killed in battle. One of these was Brook boy George Hershman, who died at Shiloh, Tennessee. His body rests in a mass grave on that battlefield today, and a memorial stone is located next to his family's remains at Riverside Cemetery. Twenty others were wounded, and 22 died from disease and wounds. Twenty-nine others were discharged due to disability and 22 were reported missing. On December 13, 1865 thirty-one men and 12 officers were mustered out at San Antonio, Texas, thus completing their service to the Union.

Upon returning to home after the war,

these boys were now men. They pursued their various avocations, and some continued to serve Newton County in public office. These included Jira Skinner, John Higgins, and John Bennett Lyons. Lyons would serve as county commissioner as well as a member of the Indiana legislature. For the rest of his life, Lyons would play an important role in making sure the memory of the great war, and the men who served in it, would be remembered for all eternity.

Following the war, the Grand Army of the Republic was organized as a veterans organization made up of those who served under the Union flag. While no records exist to provide any information, we know that the Brook post was organized in 1891 and continued until 1932, the same year John Bennett Lyons passed away. Lyons was one of the last living veterans of the civil war in the Brook community. It was the members of this organization that were responsible for the annual Decoration Day activities as well as taking part in the annual soldiers and sailors reunions and other commemorative events.

Decoration Day: The first nationally designated Decoration Day was May 30, 1868 and was proclaimed by Gen. John A. Logan, the first Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. When the first Decoration Day was observed in Brook is unclear, but we know it was observed in 1895 based on accounts in the *Up To Date*, Brook's first newspaper. A typical Decoration Day included gathering at the old Brook Community building in north Brook to hear the Brook Band perform as well as other local performers. The local clergy from the Methodist, United Brethren, and Christian churches offered words and prayers, and a guest speaker would address those gathered. This could be anyone from a local dignitary to a Judge from a distant county. Even our Congressmen would make appearances as will be evidenced later in this sketch. After the community building burned, the festivities moved to McKinley Park and often time followed a special church service at one of the town's churches. Most of Brook's businesses would close so that the businessmen, many of whom were veterans, could attend the services.

Following the music and speeches, a procession led by the Brook Band and the veterans, marched to the Brook Cemetery where a hand-made wreath would be laid at the grave of each veteran. Following the ritualistic service by the members of the

GAR, a gun salute and the playing of Taps was conducted at the grave of the most recently deceased veteran. This tradition continued through the World War I years and later until the gun salute was conducted at a central point in the cemetery. Following these services, the people would return to town where the Brook Band would perform a concert in the evening. These were considered special occasions and were attended by most of the townspeople.

Soldiers and Sailors Reunions: While little is recorded as to the origin of the annual reunion of civil war veterans, it is known that each community took its turn in hosting this special event. Not only were these an opportunity for the old vets to get together and reminisce about their war experiences, but also for the community to honor those who fought so valiantly in the great war of 1861-1865. On many occasions Brook was the host community of the reunion. Much like Decoration Day, the Brook Band would perform, guest speakers would address the crowd, and many of the old vets themselves would speak of their days in the service.

In 1908, a discussion between John Hershman and John Bennett Lyons produced an idea to erect a monument to the soldiers of Iroquois Township in Brook's McKinley Park. In the spring of 1909 a meeting was called and held at the Bank of Brook where committees were appointed to begin the work of seeing this idea come to life. J.B. Lyons and George Ade each started the fund raising effort off by pledging \$150.00 each. Soon, over \$1000 had been raised and the monument was ordered. When it arrived in July of 1909, the 11 foot tall gray Vermont granite stone was set on an 8 foot by 8 foot base in the center of a 20 foot diameter foundation. The monument is 5 ft. by 5 ft. at the bottom and tapers to 2 ft. by 2 ft. at the top. It had inscribed on it the names of every soldier from Iroquois Township, including those who moved here after the conclusion of the war. By this time the committee had also acquired an 1864 24 pound parrott gun from the Westerville Arsenal in New York to be placed near the monument in the park. Several cannon balls were also obtained, but interestingly enough, were not the same size as the gun's barrel. But the relics did make for a proper memorial for the community. The monument was dedicated in grand style on September 15, 1909 during the soldiers and sailors reunion, with the Hon. E. D. Crumpacker, 10th District U.S.

Continued on page Eight

Brook and Mount Ayr Histories In Process-Committees Seeking Researchers

Members of the Society and a committee have volunteered to begin compiling the histories of Mount Ayr, Brook and their surrounding townships.

If any of our members have historical material or photographs they think applicable, please pass them along to the committee. It would also be a good time to put together your family history to be included in the book. There is much typing and researching old newspapers that needs to be done for the book. Anyone interested?

Mt. Ayr was formed in 1883 and it will be their 125th anniversary before long, a good time to start a history. Brook will be celebrating their 150th in 2006. Washington and Iroquois Twp. will be included in this history as well. Please contact Donna LaCosse or Janet Burton regarding Mt. Ayr, and Kyle Conrad, or drop off information at the Brook-Iroquois Twp. Library for the Brook publication.

Publications For Sale from the Newton County Historical Society

"The Morocco Sesquicentennial Historical Collection" - \$63.00 Available at Sharpe's Store, The Prairie House, Morocco IGA store.

"Ralph - The Story of Bogus Island" - \$5.25
 "The Newton County Historical Coloring Book" - \$5.25
 "The Morocco Centennial" - CD only \$21.00

These items would make great gifts for everyone! Memberships to the society include a free copy of "The Newcomer" sent quarterly to members. Tax included on above prices.

Resource Center Library Needs History Books

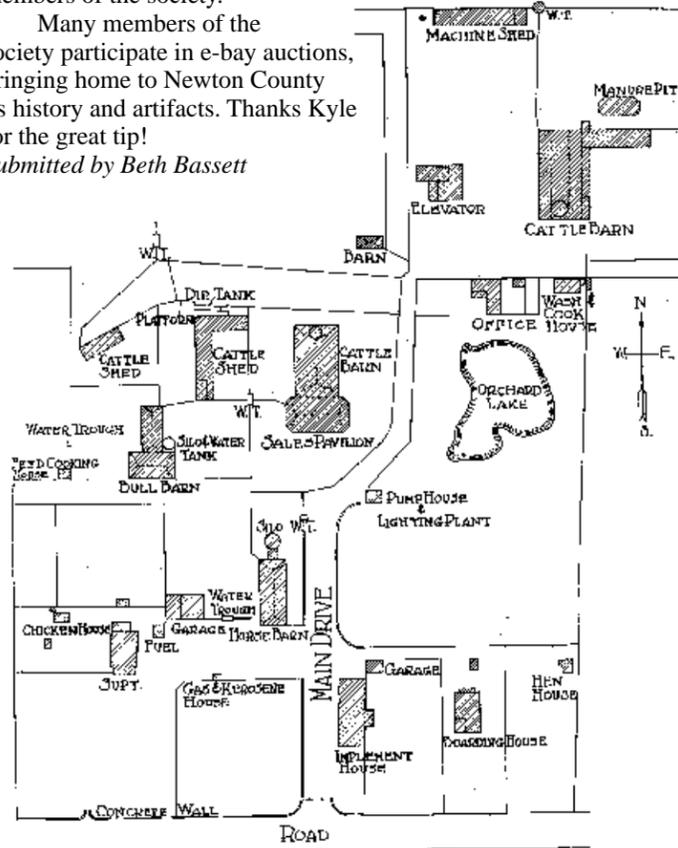
Do you own a copy of any published Newton County history books that you would like to sell? Our society is seeking particular copies of these book. Please contact us today.

E-bay Brings Life to Warren T. McCray's Orchard Lake Stock Farm

In mid December, Kyle Conrad gave me the "heads-up" on a copy of a 1922 issue of Farm Mechanics Magazine. It featured a 20 page layout on Gov. Warren T. McCray's farm, The Orchard Lake Stock Farm. Fortunately, I was the winning bidder for the auction, and now, the Society has this wonderfully preserved magazine in its possession. Crisp, clean pictures depict the buildings and livestock, as well as representations of the type of equipment used on the farm. Several paid advertisements followed the article that were from manufacturers of this equipment, all endorsed for use by the Governor himself! As an advertising salesperson in the agriculture field today - this type of endorsement is the ad person's dream! Out of all of the pages, these two were the most fascinating. A detailed map of the farm itself, as well as the wonderful full page ad for the 13th annual sale were new items not seen by many members of the society.

Many members of the society participate in e-bay auctions, bringing home to Newton County its history and artifacts. Thanks Kyle for the great tip!

Submitted by Beth Bassett



NOTABLE FARMS IN PICTURE & STORY



ORCHARD LAKE STOCK FARM

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SALE

At Kentland, Indiana June 7th, 1922
65 HEAD
 "A Fairfax Never Disappoints—But Always Satisfies"

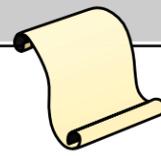
<p>Ten sons of Perfection Fairfax, the last offering of progeny of this great bull.</p> <p>Two grandsons of Perfection Fairfax, by his grand champion son Brummel Fairfax.</p> <p>Six daughters of Perfection Fairfax.</p> <p>Twenty cows with calves at side by sons of Perfection Fairfax.</p>	<p>Twenty yearling heifers, the choicest collection of young stock-show prospects and future herd matrons ever offered by this farm.</p> <p>Then two-year-olds of proven individuality and breeding and carrying Perfection Fairfax and Farmer Blood.</p> <p>Every animal offered carries a guarantee of health and breeding.</p>
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WARREN T. MCCRAY, Prop.
 JAMES HENDRY, Manager

KENTLAND, INDIANA



ORCHARD LAKE STOCK FARM



The President's Corner

Winter Quarter Update of the Newton County Historical Society By Yvonne Kay

Record At Least One Family Story!

This has been the kind of winter that we have had an excuse for staying inside visiting family and friends. I hope that you have recorded at least one family story from the past to be passed on to future generations. If not, please do so before this year ends. If you have been cleaning closets and found some past history of our county or your family you

wish to share or copies of printed articles and old photographs, these may be donated to the Resource Center. We still need volunteers at the Resource Center. We also need help putting the final proof of the Jefferson and Grant Township cemeteries together. Contact Janet Miller or Kay Babcock if you can help with the cemetery book project. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.



Family History Division

Meetings, Projects and the Web! Winter Quarter Update By Beth Bassett

The winter quarter for the Family History Division has been an active period for the group. At the January meeting, we were informed that Gerald Born had resigned all of his positions with the Newton County Historical Society via an e-mail message sent to Beth Bassett on January 2, 2003. Since the by-laws do not have guidelines for resignation, the members present accepted this as a formal resignation, and that we would need to elect a new Director of the division. Many things were accomplished under Gerald's leadership, and we thank him for his contributions.

By a unanimous decision, Mr. Jim Robbins was appointed the new Director of the Family History Division, and began his duties immediately at the January meeting. With the Family History Division acting as the publishing arm of the society, it was decided that this would continue to be a priority with the group. Plans were already in the works on re-publishing Elmore Barce's book, "Beaver Lake - Land of Enchantment". Mr. Harold Furr and the Benton County Historical Society hold the copyright to this publication. He was contacted requesting permission for reprinting the book, which he in turn presented to his historical society committee. He informed us that they would be happy to work together with us in reproducing the book, and they look forward to getting the two committees together. It was decided that the Family History Division members present at the February meeting, Donna and Harold LaCosse, Janet Miller, Beth Bassett and Jim Robbins would serve as the committee for the book. Anyone who would like to help with this project is welcome to join in on the fun! Obtaining price quotes and presentation of the project to the general society will follow.

Other projects include reproducing past society newsletters, "The Newcomer" in book form and republishing "The Kankakee - River of History", written by Marion Isaacs and published in 1964. Several family histories were presented to the group, including a hardbound copy of the Spittle Ancestry by Loring Spittle; excerpts from the scrapbook of Maggie (Van Der Karr-Bridgeman) Roberts from Rita Knecht; family group sheets on the Asa Brewer family from Phyllis Magelky will all be placed in the files at the Resource Center for future researchers.

Our County Historian, Donna LaCosse is present at these meetings and is keeping minutes of the meeting, as well as a scrapbook of articles and information from area newspapers. Thank you Donna!

Our web site has also contributed much to our files this past quarter. Inquiries from all over the nation are coming in at a regular basis, and members are answering them as quickly as they are able. Visit the web and see new items added, such as the Brook High

School Alumni list donated by Larry Lyons; Waling family obituaries; new census records 1900 Washington Township, and we have the 1930 Newton County census records on CD for look-ups. Gary Clifton, who contacted me via our web site, will be putting together a list of the members of the 51st Volunteer Infantry of Newton County. He suggested that e-mail contacts be listed with the member's names for contacts regarding their family history. My thanks to Fred Finkbiner, our webmaster, for making corrections to cemetery and marriage records, adding obits and re-organizing the page for researchers.

The Newton County Courthouse continues to bring over original records after they have them microfilmed for housing at the resource center. We recently received a box full of poor relief claims and other claims from the 1900 period. We appreciate them thinking of us before destroying them.

We invite members and guests to the monthly meetings, now beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Resource Center in Kentland, the same day of the nightly meeting of the Historical Society . . . and bring your family history!

Do You Know Your County of Newton?

By Janet Miller

The following questions were taken from the book "Beaver Lake--A Land of Enchantment". This book was published by The Kentland Democrat in 1938. It was dedicated to the pioneers and frontiersmen who made Newton County, Indiana, possible.

1. Who wrote the book "Beaver Lake--A Land of Enchantment"?
2. Have you heard of "Eagle Nest Ridge"? Do you know where it was located?
3. There were seven varieties of corn known to the Potawatomi Indians. Can you name them?
4. Are you familiar with the Trumpeter Swan, the largest North American wild fowl? One of the nesting places of this swan was in Newton County. Do you know where this nesting place was located?
5. Who was the avid outdoorsman who came to Newton County in 1840, and settled on the edge of Beaver Lake where he and his wife, Mary, raised a family of eight children? (see answers - page Nine)