

Newton County, Local News Items for Brook, Indiana, 1895–1899

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Local newspapers can hold a vast amount of information about a town and the people who lived there. Many of these papers have sections that document local happenings, brief reports that were usually delivered to the newspaper by someone living in the town. The newspapers sometimes carried notices asking citizens to report what they were doing and where they were going. The newspaper would publish the details of events to inform residents about what was going on around town and the surrounding area. These local happenings sections often include information about who was visiting the town, who from the town was visiting family or had business in a different town, who was building a new house, what a local business had to offer, and other items of interest. The information in these sections can be important for researchers, including information about where an ancestor lived, the businesses around them, or what goods were new or popular at the time. This type of information can be used to find old addresses, understand the area that an ancestor lived in, or discover when a home was built. It can also help with documenting the life of a business and its owners.

One town paper with a local happenings section was in Brook, located in Newton County, Indiana. The local paper, *the Brook Reporter*, is the only paper from this county that had been digitized and was available online as of December 2022. While there might not be very many digitized newspapers for an area, local collecting institutions such as the public library might have physical copies of a town's newspapers.

Below are excerpts of local happenings from four different months and four different years in Brook. These are not the complete articles, but they offer an idea of the information that can be found. The articles in their complete form can be found in Newspapers.com in Ancestry. If you do not have access to Newspapers.com at home, check with your local library or collecting institute, which may offer onsite access to Newspapers.com, Ancestry, and other research platforms. Other platforms that host historic, scanned newspapers are Hoosier State Chronicles at <https://newspapers.library.in.gov>; Chronicling America, at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87056251/>; and NewspaperArchive.com, <https://newspaperarchive.com>.

Notes

1. “Local Happenings,” *Brook Reporter* (Brook, Indiana), May 3, 1895; October 16, 1896; and October 13, 1899; “Gleanings from this Week’s History,” *Brook Reporter*, July 9, 1897; “‘Old Glory’ Local News,” *Brook Reporter*, June 10, 1898, all available at [Newspapers.com](#), [Ancestry](#).

Excerpts from “Local Happenings,” *Brook Reporter*, May 3, 1895

Mr. Bicknell of Foresman was in the village Friday.

P. Parr of Iroquois was on the streets of Brook this week.

Mrs. P. C. Taylor went to Chicago Tuesday to purchase new millinery goods.

E. E. Hess went to Chicago, Monday to purchase a new stock of drugs and sundries.

Messrs. Seiger and Vondersmith of Kentland made a short call on friends here Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pumphery came over from Rensselaer Friday to attend the play presented by our home talent troupe.

Clyde Taylor spent the major portion of last week with his relatives who reside in the vicinity of Mt. Ayr.

Rev. Joseph I. Berry D.D. of Chicago, who will lecture for the May Festival will tell us, “What a Tramp saw in the Emerald Isles.”

Attorney Babcock of Goodland touched elbows with the crowds on the streets of our thriving burg the latter part of last week.

R. S. Head of Lafayette is in Brook assisting the proprietors of the Gem Clothing house, in wrapping up goods.

Mrs. Josephine R. Nichols of Indianapolis, who lectures in the interest of the Brook Epworth League May Festival will tell us all about the “Boys.”

Mr. J. Parks went to Peoria Tuesday to attend the annual shooting tournament of the Peoria Gun club. It goes without saying that he will carry off a good share of the prizes.

About May 20th E. E. Hess will move his stock of drugs to the Tyler brick, opposite his present location, and make extensive additions to his already complete line of goods. This will make one of the finest drug emporiums in the county when completed.

D. Gleason the Rensselaer horse buyer was in Brook Saturday and purchased the dray team of E. Ewert for the neat sum of three hundred dollars, also one horse from the Lumber company for fifty dollars. Mr. Gleason advertised for a car load of horses, but they seem to be a scarce article in this neighborhood. Those sold however brought very fair prices.

F. T. Hawkins is now engaged in constructing a furniture store room in which to display his stock. The building will be 20x42, sixteen feet high, and in place of a second floor a gallery five feet wide will extend around the inside of the entire room about nine feet above the ground floor. A couple of rooms over the furniture store will then be fitted up to be used as living rooms.

Excerpts from "Local Happenings," *Brook Reporter*, October, 16, 1896

Miss Alice Foresman spent Saturday and Sunday with friends in Goodland.

M. J. Bailey and wife accompanied by Miss Florence Guinan, went to Kentland Wednesday.

John Schuh expects to remove to Tyler house on Jefferson, as soon as Dr. Smith's people move.

Miss Rush returned to her home[,] Lafayette, Monday. She made many warm friends during her visit with Mr Kendall's family.

Mr. Hopkins and wife, of Remington, were the guests of Will Foresmon's people Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. John Lowe and Mrs. B. Hawkins spent Sunday with grandma Jones, at Foresman.

Mrs. Harrison and daughter, of Rensselear, were in Brook Tuesday, on business and looking after their town property.

Mr. and Mrs. Furgeson returned to their home, in Rensselaer, after a two weeks visit with Mrs. F's sister, Mrs. Evans, at Foresman.

The case of replevin, Jos. Whiting vs. Chas. Vondersmith, that was set for last Friday in the Circuit Court, at Kentland, was continued until the next term.

"Bean" Lyons on his Canton trip, exchanged badges with Mrs. McKinley, at her suggestion. The one he had on the lapel of his coat, was a novelty and attracted the attention of the first lady of the land.

We learn that Wm. Alexander, a well known old farmer residing north of Goodland, died quiet suddenly near Reynolds last Friday. He was on his way to visit his son James, who resides near that place.—Press.

Mr. Frank Foresman was our only representative to Canton. He speaks in glowing terms of the trip, of Major McKinley and wife, and thinks the populace of Foresman lost an opportunity of their lifetime by not going,

Frank Hawkins was in Morocco on business Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cook of Goodland visited in Brook Sunday.

Mr. Esson of Peotone, Illinois, was the guest of his son's [*sic*] William and John, the past week.

Mr. Hagerman of Bloomington, Illinois, stayed over night, Wednesday, with his brother-in-law, Geo. Dobbins.

Marion Adair has been engaged a day or so this week, putting a brick foundation under Dr. Crisler's house. A much needed improvement.

John Chambers and wife of Des Moines, Iowa, have been visiting for the past week Dr. Smith and family. Mr. Chambers being a brother of Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. Carmichael who has been visiting relatives in this vicinity, returned to her home, Hoopston, Illinois, Thursday. While here she ordered the REPORTER for another year.

D. P. Smith returned Saturday, from Milford, Illinois, where he was called by the illness of his stepdaughter[.] he informed the REPORTER that he left her improved, but in a critical condition.

Several of our enthusiasts [enthusiasts], went out to Protzman schoolhouse, Monday evening, to attend a Republican meeting. Will Ade, candidate for treasurer, Pflimmer county superintendent and others, made the wall of the house vibrate with McKinleyism.

Mark Foresman and wife of Goodland, tarried in Brook over Sunday, the guests of the latter¹'s parents, Mr. a[n]d Mrs. Sunderland. They were homeward bound from Chicago, they witnessed the big demonstration on Friday in the city.

We are informed, that the Republicans of Goodland are arranging for an all days meeting, in the near future. They are in correspondence with the Republican National committee, also with the State Central committee to secure speakers. They wa[n]t to get Foraker of Ohio, and Dolliver of Iowa, Owen of Indiana. Such ta[l]ent would draw people from the adjoining counties in this state, also from Illinois. By all means gentlemen, keep the matter agitated, and [l]et us have an old fashioned round-up before election.

Married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sawyer, five miles southeast of Brook, in the presence of about 109 invited guests, their eldest daughter Addie, to Morton Ullery, of Foresman. The ceremony was performed at 7:30, by Rev. J. T. Sawyer, on Wednesday. The REPORTER wishes to mingle its congratulations.

Excerpts from “Gleanings from this Week’s History,” *Brook Reporter*, July 9, 1897

Mell Powell of Beaver city was on our streets this week.

Mrs. Watterman of Goodland was over between trains Saturday.

Mr. Michner of Chalmers is visiting with his brother Fred this week.

Ex-representative Spitler of Rensselaer was on our streets the 3rd.

J. D. Rich made a business trip to Oxford the fore part of this week.

Ed. Wilson made a business trip to Goodland the latter part of last week.

Charles Shilts of Chicago, came down to visit his parents over the 3rd and 4th.

Misses Bertha Jones and Della Cuthbert came over from Kentland yesterday on their wheels.

Mrs. W. L. Kellenberger [and] children spent last week with her parents at Kentland.

Morris Jones has began [*sic*] work on a barn on his property in the north part of town.

Rob Irwin and family of Remington came over to visit his brother John for a few days.

C. D. Mallatt our hustling jewelryman, left last Friday to visit his parents and friends at Fair Oaks over the 3rd.

Claude Humston will have charge of the new drug store, and all can expect courtious [*sic*] treatment from the hands of this gentleman.

Miss Furgeson of Wolcott, was a guest at the home of Wm. Hinchman last week.

Messers Esson and Warr who left here some weeks ago by wagon for St. Thomas, Canada., reached their destination last Friday.

Prosecuting Attorney Chizum of Morocco past [passed] through Saturday in-route to Oxford. No doubt the wicked in that part of the country will be made to squirm under the lynx eyed prosecutor.

There was a serious runaway in Kentland by a team driven by Mrs. John and Sallie Ade last Friday. Mrs. Sallie Ade received the most serious injuries she having her shoulder blade and several ribs broken. Mrs. John Ade escaping with a few bruises.

Chas Vondersmith and Wm. Ray packed their burdens, in the shape of ice cream and banannas [*sic*] and went to Fair Oaks, where they de[a]lt out ice cream and river water to the thirsty natives. They report a good crowd and lively time, ba[r]ring a few scraps and the usual drunks.

Our enterprising townsman Wm. Cunningham is setting the pace for our city by putting in a concrete sidewalk past his residence lots on Main St. This is what the town most needs, good side walks, and we hope that others will follow Mr. Cunningham in placing cement side walks.

Excerpts from “‘Old Glory’ Local News,” *Brook Reporter*, June 10, 1898

Mrs Haynes returned from a Goodland visit Saturday.

Treasurer Ade of Kentland was a visitor in our city Friday.

Jessie Haynes spent Sunday in Goodland with relatives.

Sheriff Wickwire was in our city Friday on business.

Otto Hess moved into his new residence property Tuesday.

Jacob Thomas spent Sunday in Rensselaer with relatives and friends.

Rakestraw received a carload of sandstone for the foundation of his new residence building.

B. G. Turner and Claude Hurnston wheeled to Goodland and returned Friday evening last.

We have two good farmes [*sic*] for sale 160 and 200 acres. W. E. Harry. John Essen

Sam Snyder’s eldest son was taken sick with an attack of Typhoit [*sic*] fever this week. This makes the fourth case in town.

Mrs. Hattie Hinchman and sister Miss Lillie Shaffer of Morocco were the guests of Mrs. William Hinchman Tuesday.

Rev. Weaver and Misses Mamie Smith, Gertie White and Loula Moffitt attended the Christian Endeavor society held at Remington Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Mrs. Ashur Strole spent Sunday at Attica Springs with her husband who is at the springs taking treatment for rheumatism. She reports him no better in health.

Miss Hattie Rush who has been trimming for Mrs. B. G. Turner, completed her work and returned to her home at Battle Ground, Wednesday, Miss Rush made many friends while here.

S. C. Jones of Kentland was in town Tuesday evening.

Gus. Armfield of Goodland spent a few hours in town Tuesday.

Alvia McCabe was in the city of Morocco between trains Saturday.

Harry Ross of Kentland was in our city over Sunday.

Bruce Pumphrey began work on his foundation wall this week.

Miss Myrtle Fletcher and Clyde Taylor drove to Kentland Sunday evening.

Mr. Ross of Lafayette is here this week looking after his farm west of here.

Dr. Chaffee's household goods arrived this week, and the doctor is now a resident of our town.

Jim Shaffer is now a full fledged Brookite, having moved his goods from Foresman into his new residence building last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinchman and Misses Bessie Saylor's drove to Wolcott Saturday evening and spent Sunday with friends.

Misses Maude Jones, Hattie Drake and Archie Vondersmith and Mr. Shonkwiler of Kentland, was in our city for a few hours Sunday.

Misses Maud Warr, Elsie Lyons, Laura Warr and Lou Lyons and Messers Fred Michner and Rhinehart Bosing drove to Kentland Sunday.

Two of W. E. Harle's eldest children and Miss Josie Marshall, working for Mr. Harry, were stricken with that dreaded disease Typhoid fever, this week, and at present are very sick, the fever not yet having had time to fully develop itself.

Monday Prosecuting attorney Chizum was in our city and has E. C. Collier and his bar tender arrested for the illegal sale of liquor. A change of venue was taken to Goodland and the case set for a hearing Friday. The prosecuting attorney claims to have evidence to convict the whiskey dealers of the charge and will undoubtedly push the sellers to the full limit of the law.

Excerpts from "Local Happenings," *Brook Reporter*, October 13, 1899

Charles Perkins of Goodland was in town Tuesday.

Harry Merrifield of Logansport was in town Tuesday.

Dr. Jacques Dessler, the optician, here all day October 20th.

Chas. Smith returned from a short visit in Ohio, Saturday.

Attorney Ted Cunningham of Kentland was in town Sunday.

Milt and Jack Graves of Morocco were visitors in town Friday last.

George Majors returned from his week^[1]s visit with relatives in Ohio, Saturday.

Rev. and Mrs. Jessee came down from Chicago Tuesday on the afternoon train.

Dr. Jacques Dessler the Rensselaer optician, will be here all day October 20th.

Ben Lowe of Kentland visited relatives in town a few days the latter part of last week.

Dr. Chas. Vick, the Rensselaer optic[i]an, left Tuesday for Goodland after a three weeks stay at this place.

It is reported that Mr. and Mrs. Jap Goble of Manchester, Tenn., will make s visit here some time during this month.

Mrs. Watts and niece of Toronto Canada, arrived Tuesday and will spend some time visiting with her brother, B. F. Warr, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Dobbins is [sic] spending the week visiting home folks at Lafayette and taking in the sights of the street fair in that city.

Eph Flemming of Rensselaer was in town Monday, and his journey through town was enlivened at every turn by "hello Eph" from every urchin in sight.

W. E. Harry made a business trip to Kentland Monday.

Frank Ross of Kentland was a visitor in our city Friday.

Mrs. S. C. Jones and children of Kentland visited among relatives here Sunday.

George Rider and wife spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spitler.

J. D. Conklin and wife of Kentland were numbered among the visitors in town Sunday.

Mrs. Hawkins and daughter Girtie returned home Saturday from a week^[1]s visit with relatives and friends in Chicago.

Mrs. George Rider of Kentland visited a few days the latter part of last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spitler.

James Davis and wife of Laurens Kan., arrived Thursday last and are visiting at the home of his brother, T. L. Davis, north-west of town.

W. P. Griggs was a Chicago visitor over Sunday. Wilse says that the jam on State street Saturday night was so dense that the pressure caused a six inch lengthening of his body.

Attorney Meggs of Iowa, has decided to locate here and has joined the law firm of Graves & Graves[.] Mr. Meggs is spoken of very highly as an attorney and orator, and he will undoubtedly, when he becomes better acquainted with our people, like the location.

Our town is steadily on the up grade in building. Scarcely a week passes but what some new building is started. Last Friday John Schofield began getting the materials on the ground for Nealy Wilson's new two story, 56 x 80 foot brick livery barn. This, when complete, will be the finest building of its kind in the county.

Rev. Belstein of Goodland was in town Wednesday looking after the interests of the Catholic church.

Nealy Wilson tore down his old livery barn and sheds this week, and will begin work on the new brick barn as soon as possible.

Mrs. Charles Lowe returned Tuesday from a visit with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Meredith at Armstrong, Ill., and Rev Snyder's at Danville, Ill.

Mark Foresman has resigned the superintendency of the Wester Indiana Telephone Co., and the company have appointed Miss Lucy Shaffer of Goodland, as manager.

W. E. Harry, L. E. Lyons, F. E. Hess, Geo. Bartly, H. Dearduff, Fred Lyons, and [several] others from this place drove to Goodland Wednesday afternoon and took the train over the Pan Handle for Watseka to see President McKinley as he passed through that place.

The town has greatly missed one of its inhabitants this week, and in consequence there has been many tears shed [*sic*] over the loss of "town bell" who Mr. Hill took to the ranch Monday.

Sidney Schanlaub has purchased and again taken charge of the Morocco Courier. We are glad to see Sid back into the newspaper field again, as he is one of the best writers in this section of the country.

Friday last Mrs. David Hess entertained a number of lady friends. The following being present. Mrs. M. L. Powell, Mrs. Huton, Mrs. Allen May, Mrs. O. M. Lyons, Mrs. Bigley [and] Miss Berthie May.

The fall festival at Chicago was attended by quite a number of people from this place, some of whom were fortu[n]ate enough to witness the laying of the postoffice corner stone and see President McKinley and his cabinet.