

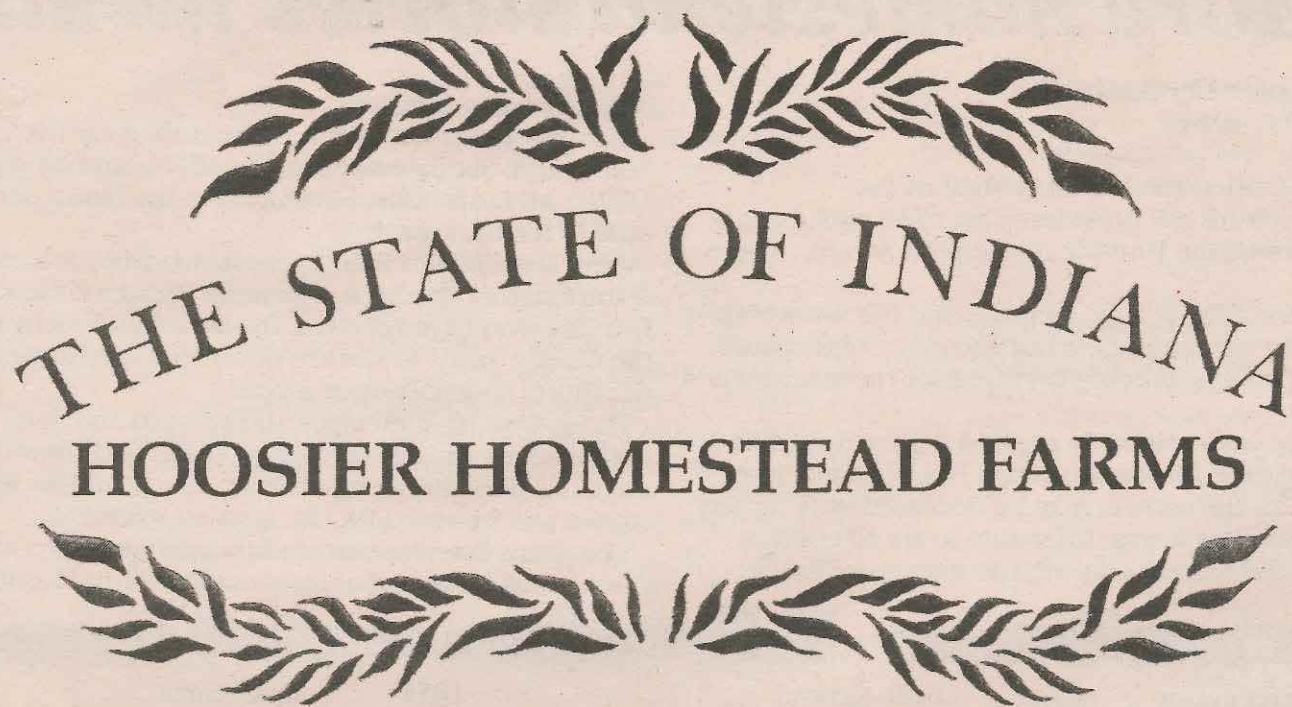
# Carroll County Comet

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In recognition of Carroll County's rich agricultural heritage, the *Comet* has produced its first special section honoring Hoosier Homesteads. These homestead honorees all have something in common - each farm has been in the family for 100 or more consecutive years. This special section features five of the 110 county homesteads. The county has many historical farm structures such as the round barn pictured, located on the Jerry Britton property in Jackson Twp.





## More homestead stories wanted

By Jennifer Archibald  
staff writer

On request from the Comet, the Indiana Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture has provided a list of Carroll County families who have received the Hoosier Homestead Award. There are 110 farms listed.

The Comet apologizes if any family has received the award but is not listed. Please call so we can update our records. Some names may have been in the process of being certified for the award when the list was compiled.

Names given are those who originally applied for the award or were the owners at the time. Since the award has been given over the last 20 years, some of the owners may be deceased now or may have sold their farm. Because it was infeasible to try to contact every person listed or the nearest relative, the names are being

published as submitted.

The year given with each name is the year the family acquired the homestead. Six date back to the 1820s, and 23 go back to the 1830s. All farms must have been in the family for 100 years to qualify for the award.

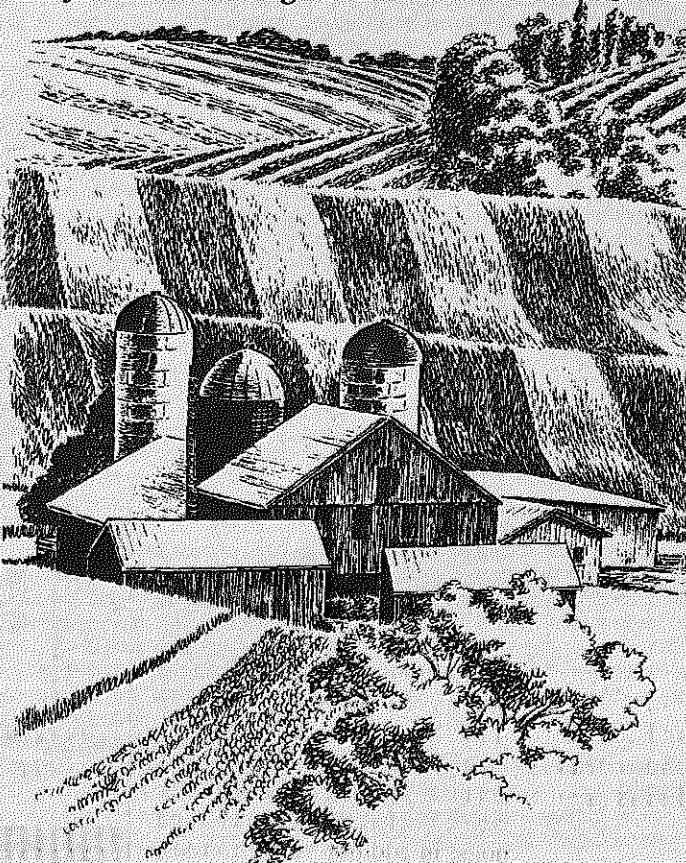
A few families and their homesteads were selected at random to feature in this special supplement. Because there are many more families who have received the award and many more stories to tell, the Comet plans to feature other Hoosier Homestead families in the future, possibly once a year.

Those who have received their award and have information compiled are encouraged to go ahead and submit it to the Comet at any time. Scheduling interviews also would be helpful. Completed stories will be saved for the next supplement.

The farms listed are located throughout the county. Carroll County can be proud of its rich agricultural heritage.

## Hoosier Homesteads

John C. & Dorothy A. McDowell	1826	Lucile Crowel	1851	Mylet Farm	1863
June Sink	1826	Marvin V. Jervis	1851	Frank Hood	1863
Eva Brubaker	1827	Cecil S. Million	1851	Janice Frey	1864
Belle Robbins	1828	Robert J. & Lola D. Bordner	1852	Fred W. & Martha Martin	1864
Linda K. Beard	1829	Nora E. Guckien	1852	Edwin Dale Koble	1864
George Mathews	1829	Kenneth E. Yeakley	1853	Leroy Robeson	1864
Fred L. McCain	1830	Richard L. Funkhouser	1853	Ina Mabel Moore	1865
Robert L. & Charles B. Wise	1830	Soyland Farm	1854	Gordon E. McCain	1865
John R. McCain	1830	Clayton Million	1855	Charles R. Shultheis	1865
Robert L. & George L. Hanna	1830	Ivan L. Scott	1855	Gladys Landis	1868
Leland G. Wagoner	1830	Kenneth Newell	1855	Effie S. Douglas	1869
Joseph K. Fouts	1831	Adriene B. McCain	1855	Thomas I. Forgey	1869
Martha Spencer	1832	Dean E. Yerkes	1856	Robert L. Wasson	1869
Marion Sibbitt Moyer	1833	Howard L. Egelhoff	1856	Mary Agnes Kennedy	1870
Ernest Martin	1834	Timothy L. Miller	1860	Mabel Snoeberger	1872
Mabel E. Mullin	1834	Steven B. Mills	1860	Tom Fouts Modisett	1872
Lewis N. Mullin	1834	Glay L. & Mamie Caldwell	1861	Robert D. Wilson	1873
Barney V. Sparks	1834	Hallie Mae Flora &	1861	Glenn A. Brown	1873
William Floyd Seward	1835	Deloris Jeanette Flora	1861	Elsie M. Peterson	1875
Luther M. Cohee	1835	John E. Snoeberger	1863	William Webster Calhoun	1875
Mabel Wharton	1835			George E. Flora	1875
Ester & Fritz Schnepf	1835			Rive Todd	1876
Margaret Mabbitt	1835			Robert W. Kearns	1876
Kenneth Cooke	1835			Taylor & Sarah Knight	1876
Thomas C. Brown	1836			William L. & Clara S. Mullin	1877
James F. & Nellie R. Sandifur	1837			Grace M. Stephen	1878
Fred P. Blue	1837			Hazel D. Hayes	1881
John M. Beard	1837			Donald J. & Charles T. Billings	1881
James N. Thomson	1838			Gordon Flora	1882
C. Gardner Martin	1842			Jack M. & Betty Flora	1882
Robert C. Wingard	1842			Bertha Mears	1882
Charline Yeager Robeson	1843			Paul E. Shaffer	1886
Robert & Elva Dillon	1844			Laurene Cohee - Gladys Ridder	1886
Mary P. Calvert	1844			J.L. Kirpatrick Beougher	1886
Benjamin S. Been	1845			Jack & Betty Moss	1886
Richard L. Grantham	1846			Donald E. & Mary E. Roach	1887
William J. Martin	1846			John T. Downham (2 farms)	1887
Cleon Smith	1847			Gerald E. & Anna Miller	1888
Evelyn Frank	1848			Joseph E. & John C. Peterson	1888
Donald R. & Elizabeth Miller	1848			Robert J. Schnepf, Mary Schnepf,	
Susan Blue Taylor	1848			Leslie Schnepf,	
Curtis Brown	1848			Patricia Vanhoosier	
Robert A. Martin	1848			Mary C. Benjamin	1889
Erdene Miller	1848			Mary McCormick	1890
Robert L. Brown	1848			Thelma Davis	1893
Thomas B. Armstrong	1850			Mildred Million Baker	
					1895





# 150 years of Grantham family ownership

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Dick and Polly Grantham's farm has been in the family for 150 years.

Dick's great-great-grandfather, John Grantham, was the first owner of the farm, and a Grantham has held title to the land ever since. Counting the Granthams' two daughters, and their grandson, who lived at the house for a short time, seven generations of the Grantham family have lived at the homestead.

The home where Dick and Polly live, three miles west of Lockport, was built in 1857 and is the original home on the Grantham farm. Most of the lumber for the house was delivered by canal barge and unloaded at the building site.

The Granthams have a family log book from the year the house was built. Among the entries are \$10 for digging the cellar, \$22 for walling the cellar, and \$50 "for the house and

boarding."

The Granthams are lucky to have the log book and a few other keepsakes. When Dick's parents lived in the home in the 1950s, a storm blew the roof off, and many old family items were whisked away and scattered everywhere. Some were recovered, but many were not.

Visitors to the Grantham home can see that they are connected to the past. In their family room are their Hoosier Homestead Award, Dick's grandparents' framed marriage certificate, and an old kitchen cupboard which they have made into an entertainment center.

In another room is a family rocking chair. Refinished, re-glued, and re-caned, no one would know it was once on a trash pile ready to be burned before Polly rescued it.

Also in their home are two paintings made from old photographs. One shows the old Mentzer Tavern, also

known as the Carrollton Inn, and another shows Dick's father and uncle in a boat, running muskrat traps in the canal bed.

The Carrollton Inn was at the north end of the Carrollton Bridge at a place where the Wabash and Erie Canal crossed the river. People didn't want to cross the river at night, so they would stay in the Inn.

The Granthams had all the old deeds from the lots of "The Town of Carrollton" when it was returned to farm land after the canal closed. They gave them to the Carroll County Historical Society.

In the 1920s, the old Inn had fallen in disrepair, and since it was on Grantham ground, Dick's dad and uncle decided to tear it down. They used the lumber to build a garage, which is still standing on the Grantham farm.

Extra lumber from the Inn had been saved, and when Dick and Polly remodeled an old back porch into a family room in 1975, they used the lumber for paneling.

Photographs displayed in their home include their own family and many of Dick's ancestors. In one portrait of his grandmother's family, some of the relatives are holding large pictures of deceased family members.

Dick never knew his grandfather, Lewis Grantham, but he has a branding iron with his grandfather's initials, L.G. Dick said everyone had rail fences then, and when the river flooded, the fences would be washed away. Farmers branded every rail so that when they gathered them up after the flood, they would know which ones were theirs.

Grantham learned more about his family while doing research for the Hoosier Homestead application. He searched the court records, gathered some of the family memorabilia in the house, and clipped newspaper stories pertaining to his family.

He has gleaned from his research that his great-great-grandfather, John Grantham, came from West Virginia. The original 64 acres were a grant from the government.

In Dick and Polly's early years of farming, they had milk cows, beef cattle, chicken, and hogs, in addition to their crops.

They did most of the work themselves.

Dick quit farming in 1992 and now cash rents his ground. He still helps farm during busy times.

Although the Granthams' Hoosier Homestead Award is for their 1846 homestead, they also have ground that they know dates back to 1833. In all, they have 128 acres from the original farm.

Grantham was born in the house across the road and has lived his whole life on the family farm.

He believes farmers are the ones who built this country, and he takes great pride in having a patch of ground which belonged to his ancestors.

He said there's something special in having a connection to your roots.

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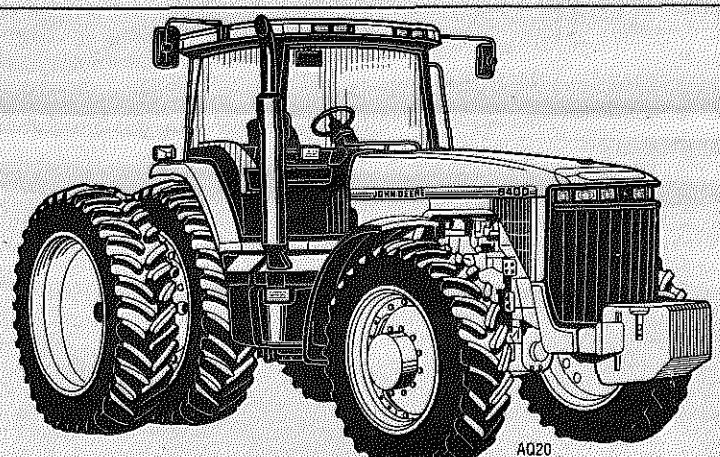
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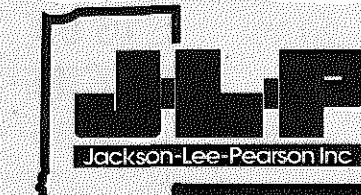
Polly and Dick Grantham are pictured in their 1857 home, holding their Hoosier Homestead Award and a family photo of Dick's ancestors. The old photo was taken in the same room where the Granthams are standing. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald



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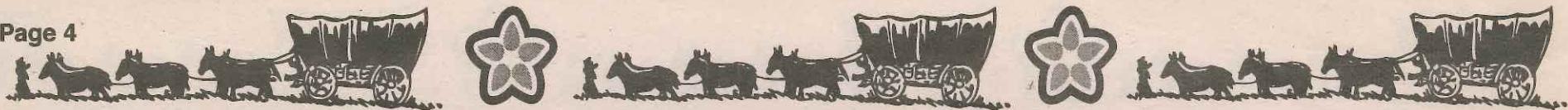
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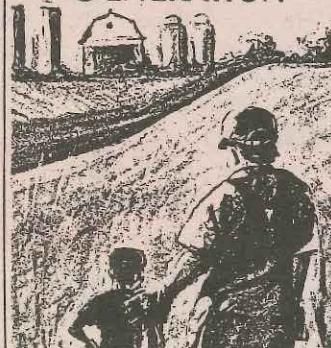


# The Newells - farming's in their blood

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Kenneth Newell had one aim in life - to graduate from high

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school, raise corn and beans, and buy the homestead like his dad did.

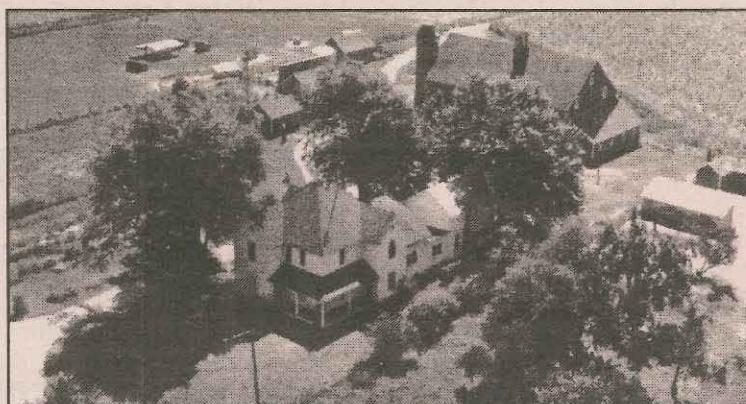
He fulfilled his dream, and now the patriarch of the Newell family, he is still doing what he's always loved to do - farm.

"I love it," he said, his eyes a little misty. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. That's the only reason for owning land - to farm it yourself."

Now in his 70's, he doesn't do the hard labor anymore. He leaves that to his son, Richard. But during harvest, he's out there working every day.

"I've slowed down," Newell said, smiling. "Instead of working 18 hours a day, I just do 12. During harvest, you have to."

Newell grew up on the family homestead, on the crooked road between Delphi and Flora. Even when he was three or four years old, he would ride along when the hogs went to market. In the 1920s, they hauled hogs to the Colburn market in a Model T truck, 6-8 hogs at a time. When they arrived, it was young Kenneth's job to get in with the hogs and drive them out to be sold.



He learned all about farming from his dad, Earl. His dad graduated from Purdue in civil engineering. He worked as an engineer for a few years, and then came back to the family farm. He worked closely with Purdue and was a pioneer in many operations of farming. He worked with Taylor Fouts in importing soy beans to Carroll County. Fouts had the first combine in the county, and Earl Newell had the second one. Newell was with the first farmers who organized a Farm Record Association in Carroll County in 1933.

When Kenneth's dad started farming, it was all with horses. Kenneth can remember when they got their first tractor, a Minneapolis Moline on steel wheels. They bought their first rubber tired tractor in 1935.

As most farmers in the area, their crops had a four-year rotation - corn, beans, wheat, and clover. Over time, they gradually raised more corn. They also raised hogs until this year.

The Newells are descended from the Baums, who were among the early settlers in Carroll County. Earl's mother was Ida Baum Newell.

Their homestead has been in the family since 1855. Counting Richard's family, six generations have lived there and farmed the land.

Their Hoosier Homestead award is for their 1855 homestead farm, but the Newells also own another 40 acres which has been in the Baum family since 1946.

The first Baum came to Carroll County in 1825. Originally from Pennsylvania, the family had moved to Ohio before coming to Indiana. With family and furniture on a flat boat, the Baums came down the Ohio River to the Wabash

for Kenneth's grandparents to live while their new house was being built. Kenneth said there used to be an orchard where the tool shed is now.

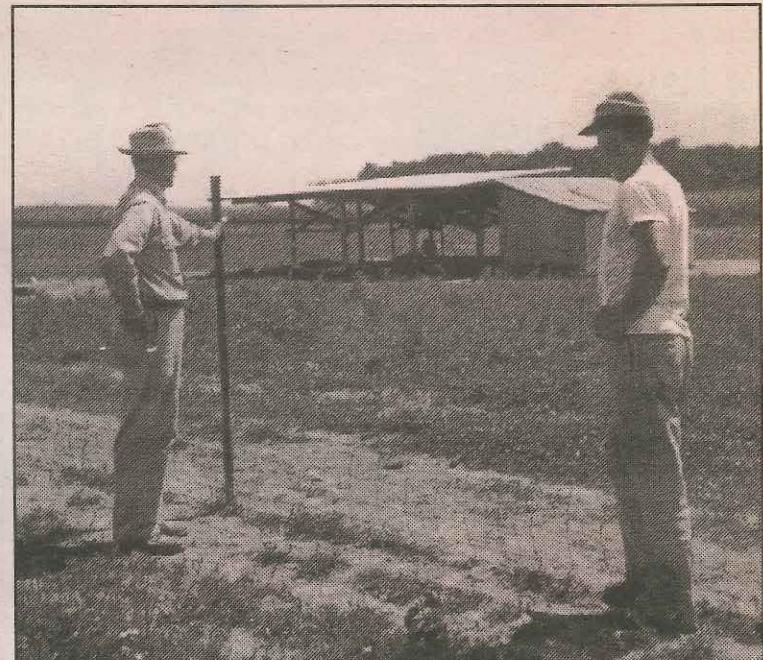
Kenneth remembers his grandmother telling about the day Amer Green was brought from the county jail, past their house on the crooked road, to be hanged for murder.

Earl bought the place where Kenneth and his wife, Marjorie, now live, in 1925. It's between 100 and 200N, not far from Richard's house.

A walk up the stairway in Kenneth's house is a walk back through time. On the wall are family portraits from several generations. They represent a proud farming family.

Although Kenneth and his wife spend some time away from the farm each year, he's always glad to get back. He can't picture himself ever completely retired or ever leaving the farm.

"They'll have to carry me off," he said.



Earl Newell, left, and son, Kenneth Newell, are seen discussing their hog operation in the 1950s. Photo provided

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The Calhoun family - Bill, Pat, Mark and Jason - received their Hoosier Homestead Award last December at the State Capitol in Indianapolis. Pictured at the far left is Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon, Commissioner of Agriculture. Photo provided

## Calhouns reside in family homestead

By Jennifer Archibald  
staff writer

Bill and Pat Calhoun of Monroe Township are living on the family farm which was purchased by Bill's great-grandfather, Jonathan Calhoun, in 1875.

His great-grandfather, who was born in Carroll County, paid \$40 an acre or \$3,200 for the 80-acre farm.

The main part of Calhouns' house and barn are the original structures built by Bill's great-grandfather, but over the years, both buildings have been enlarged.

The farm was owned by Bill's grandfather, Walter Calhoun, and his father, Irvin Calhoun, before he acquired it in 1972.

The original farmstead was 80 acres, but Bill's grandfather added 10 1/2 acres in 1910.

In Bill's great-grandfather's time, the farm had hogs, milk cows, horses, and chickens. They grew wheat, oats, clover, hay, corn, and beans.

The Calhouns' only livestock now is hogs, raised in confined buildings. The only crops are corn and beans.

In 1966, Bill's father sold 25.6 acres to the Town of Flora for the Flora Airport. The cost was \$1,000 per acre.

The Calhouns found some

interesting figures in a journal that had been Irvin's. In 1938, he sold 302 chickens, averaging 2 3/4 lbs., for 22¢/lb. or \$178.53.

In 1941, they found this entry: corn, 65¢/bu.; wheat, 70¢/bu.; beans, \$1.50/bu.

Hogs were sold a few at a time. These prices were given for Feb. 20, 1940: 2 hogs, 535 lb., .04 9/10 or \$26.21. 4 hogs, 1465 lb., .04 3/10 or \$62.99. (Bill sold hogs earlier this month for 61 1/2¢/lb.)

The going rate for custom work in 1943 was: wheat, \$3.25/acre; oats, \$3; beans, \$4; and corn, \$4.

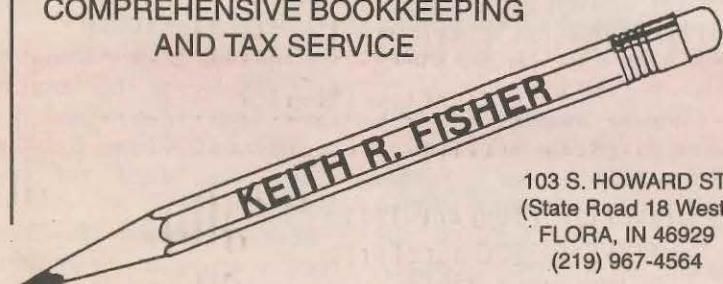
Bill went to Purdue's six-week short course in 1958.

The Calhouns' oldest son, Mark, graduated from the Purdue School of Agriculture in 1992. He now works at Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission as a community planner for a five-county area.

Their youngest son, Jason, is a senior at Purdue in the Ag School and plans to come back and work on the family farm.

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# Family farms soil for 5 generations

By Marti Dillman  
Staff writer

German born Nicholas Yager boarded a ship headed for the American colonies in 1717. He was a part of the Germanna colony. For seven years he worked in a coal mine as an indentured servant, then was given a 400-acre land grant in Virginia. Some of his descendants remain there.

Others moved west, including Landon Yager, one of Nicholas' 13 children. With a family that size, there wasn't enough ground for all of them to survive on, so they spread out. First he moved to Shelby County, Kentucky, then to Indiana where he purchased 80 acres in Carroll County in 1843. It was mostly wooded acreage which he worked to clear.

That is the beginning of the Indiana story for Charline Yeager Robeson who owns a Hoosier Homestead Farm in Washington Township. In 1976 Lieutenant Governor Robert Orr signed papers granting the award.

Charline's great-grandfather Landon Yager purchased the farm Nov. 29, 1943, from Aavon and Machel Cline. He paid \$125 for 80 acres. The land he cleared and ditched is still farmed by the family.

Roots are important to Charline who has gone to Virginia and seen the now abandoned house where her ancestors lived, met cousins still living in the area, and attended the "Germanna reunions," a large get-together of the German descendants of the area.

Some of those Virginia relatives build furniture, which Charline describes as plain, solid furniture, "Don't buy it if you don't want it to last 10 generations."

Charline says the reason the Germans were welcomed in America was because of their ability to work. She believes the German work ethic is nothing to be ashamed of.

Some of the Yeager ancestors spelled their name Yager, but Charline remembers when her parents were buying another farm, they decided to add the e on the deed. In Germany, the name would be spelled Jager and it means "hunter."

Charline is the fourth generation in Carroll County. Landon was followed by his son, Joshua, who built a house in 1855-86 to replace the original log cabin. Joshua's son, Jesse, took his first steps in that house. There is special meaning to that story, because Jesse's great-grandson Todd Robeson also took his first steps there. Charline's son and daughter-in-law, Carl and Dottye, reside on the "home place."

About her grandfather Joshua, she remembers those German roots, "I think he just worked." After he died at 63, Jesse bought the farm from his sisters, keeping it in the Yeager family.

Charline laughs about her dad's charmed life. What could have been catastrophes turned out okay. When he was dating Charline's mother, Edna, he rode back to his Camden home on horseback. At a dry gully in Camden, near the Baptist church, his horse fell and was killed. Jesse landed on top of the horse.



**Charline Robeson holds a book which includes a picture of her ancestral home in Virginia, where her great-great-grandfather was granted 400 acres of land. Her Carroll County roots date back to 1843, and she owns a Hoosier Homestead Farm. Comet photo by Marti Dillman**

On his honeymoon, Jesse and his bride traveled by train to Washington state. At one short stop, Jesse hopped off to buy a watermelon. The train started to leave and he threw the melon on the train and tried to get on, but slipped under the train. Somehow he managed to get out and ran, catching the caboose, and no worse for the wear.

Another time he fell some distance in an elevator, without major harm.

This was the same man someone told his dad would "never amount to anything." At his death at 91, he left over 800 acres to be divided among his seven children.

Charline married her high school sweetheart, LeRoy Robeson Jr., known by friends and family as Jr. Both of their families have been in the county for well over a century. Jr.'s roots are from Scotland, and he, too, has a Hoosier

Homestead Farm.

According to family stories, Andrew Robeson, Jr.'s great-grandfather, was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., on Dec. 21, 1814. He moved to Indiana because a brother ran woolen mills in Lafayette and Pittsburg. He came to the Deer Creek Mill. Andrew purchased 172 acres at \$11.14 per acre from John Cohee. He built a home in 1882 which is still in the family. Jr.'s brother, Eldon owns it and nephew Kevin and family live there. Before Andrew died, he owned 720 acres in Jackson and Washington townships.

In looking through abstracts, they discovered the families have been intertwined for generations. Andrew Robeson wrote the deed for the Yeagers.

Both extended families remain active in the farming community in Carroll County today.

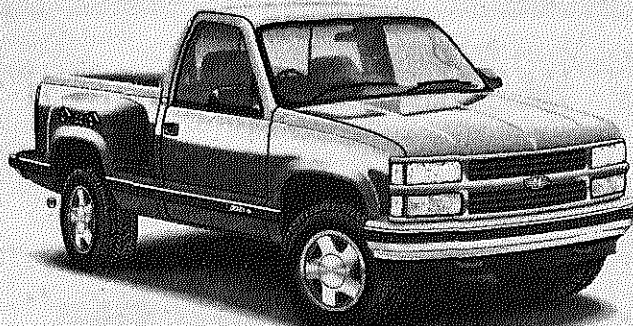
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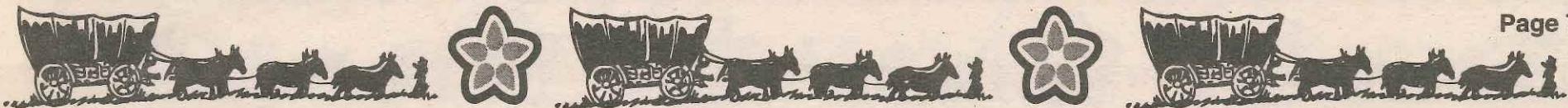
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Dick Grantham home, 1996; inset, circa 1900

## County has 110 Hoosier Homesteads

By Jennifer Archibald  
staff writer

Indiana gave its first Hoosier Homestead Awards in 1976, the year of the nation's Bicentennial Celebration. The award, then and now, recognizes homesteads that have been in the same family for 100 or more years.

Applications, along with supporting documentation, are sent to the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Statewide award ceremonies are held twice a year, summer and winter, in the Rotunda of the State Capitol building in Indianapolis. The Lieutenant Governor, who is also the Commissioner of Agriculture, presents the awards.

For that first year, in 1976, Carroll County had over fifty families to receive the award, so Lieutenant Governor Robert D. Orr came here for the presentations. He arrived by chartered plane at the Delphi Airport and made the presentations at the county's 121st Old Settlers Association meeting at Delphi Community High School.

He presented 51 awards that day and announced that four

more awards from Carroll County were being processed. Among those honored that day were the Charline Yeager Robeson family (1843 homestead) and the Richard Grantham family (1846 homestead). Both of these are featured in this special supplement.

The state keeps a record of its Hoosier Homestead farms. Since the awards program began 20 years ago, the state has recognized 3,352 100-year farms and 861 150-year farms.

So far, there are 110 Hoosier Homestead farms in Carroll County, according to the latest list supplied by the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture. They are all listed in this supplement - under the name that was on the original application for the award.

There are many more farms in Carroll County which could qualify for the award. Applications may be picked up at the Carroll County Historical Museum in the courthouse or at the Carroll County Extension Office.

The application asks for the name of the present owner and current information about the farm, as well as information

about the first owner of the farm and its major crops or products. The transfer of ownership from family member to family member must be traced, and the application must be accompanied by copies of the deed or abstract for each transfer of ownership.

The application is mailed to: Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, ISTA Center, 150 W. Market Street, Suite 414, Indianapolis, IN 46204. It is reviewed by an Award Certification Committee.

The certificate carries the name of the farm family, date of the original farm purchase, the county of residence, Seal of the State of Indiana, and the signatures of both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. It recognizes the contributions the family members have made to the heritage and economic development of the county and state.

Families also are eligible to purchase a 24" by 20" sign to put on their property, designating the farm as a Hoosier Homestead Farm.

Less than 6% of Indiana farms have qualified for the award.

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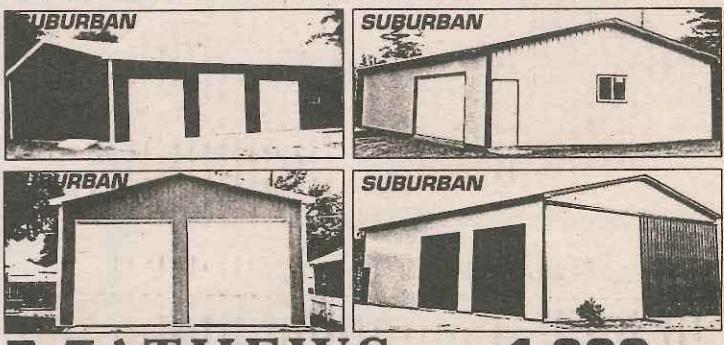
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## Soyland - soybean birthplace

By Jennifer Archibald  
staff writer

The Fouts-Bowman-Hendress farmstead, known as Soyland, has been in the family since 1854.

Located along SR 29, near Deer Creek, the farm was the birthplace of soybean production.

Solomon Fouts was the first to bring soybeans from China to Carroll County. He experimented with raising some of the seed in the late 1800s.

Solomon's son, Taylor Fouts, graduated from Purdue with a degree in agriculture in 1902 and was enthusiastic about pursuing soybean production. In 1904, he planted four varieties on four acres. By 1907 he had amassed a total of 200 bushels of seed beans. He was joined in the venture a year later by his two older brothers, Noah and Finis. Their combined farming operation became a proving

ground for soybeans.

A soybean field day was held on the Fouts farm in 1910 under the sponsorship of county agricultural agents, Purdue Soils and Crops, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture when farmers from Illinois and Ohio began to take interest in soybeans as a new crop.

In 1920, 1,000 farmers gathered at Soyland for the first midwest soybean conference. Out of this gathering came the formation of the American Soybean Association. Not surprisingly, Taylor Fouts was named the first president.

In 1925, Taylor developed one of the first combines for soybeans in central Indiana.

He was one of the first Master Farmers selected in Indiana, the highest honor bestowed by the Grange.

Fouts received the American Soybean Association medal in 1950 for his contribution to the soybean industry.

Fouts contributed to Carroll County agriculture in other

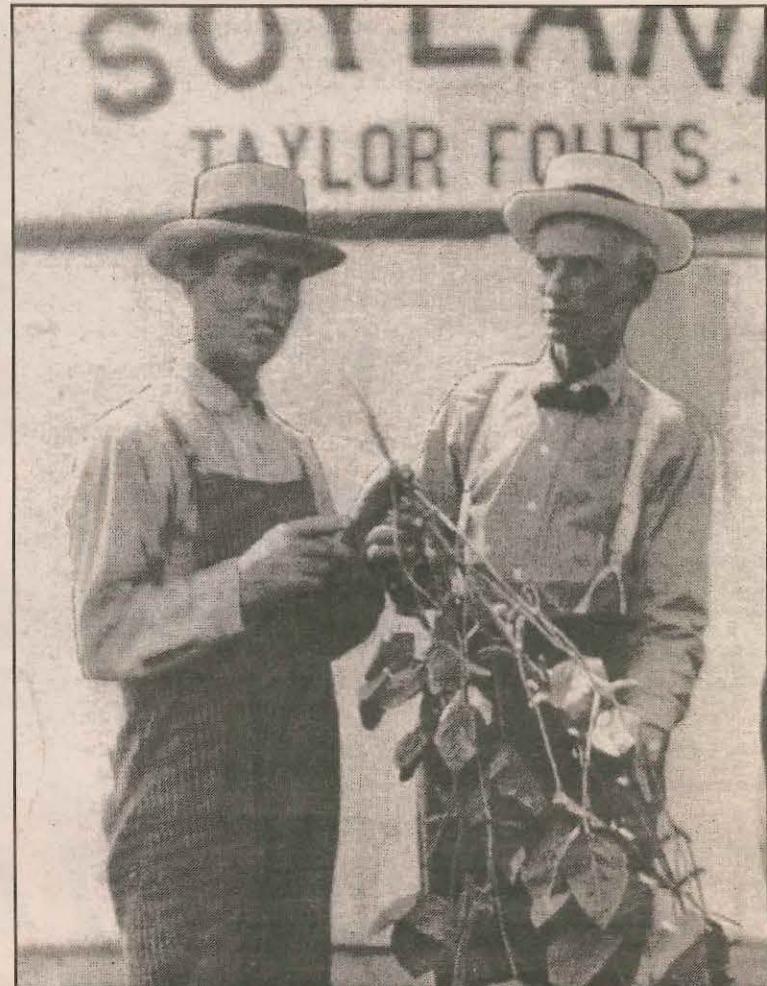
ways also. He was the first president of the Carroll County Farm Bureau and was an officer in the Carroll County Soil Conservation District, as well as serving on many agricultural committees.

Fouts died in 1952, on the same farm where he was born.

His daughter, Mary Margaret, and her husband, Leo, continued to farm Soyland ground until Leo retired in 1974. At that time, they formed a partnership with their daughter, Mara, and her husband Jerry Hendress. In 1986, Jerry left the farming business and became a sales specialist for Countrymark Co-op. He is now the feed sale and marketing manager of Excel Co-op.

Soybeans continue to be raised on the farm, although the land is now rented out.

The Hendresses and Bowmans still live on the Soyland farm, with the Hendresses residing in the original home.

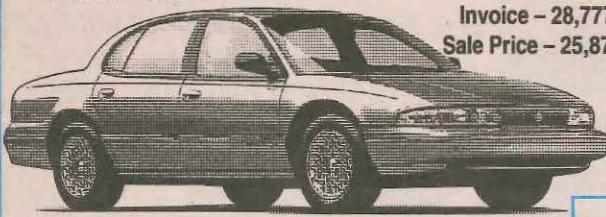


Taylor Fouts, left, and Finis Fouts examine a 1915 variety of soybeans. Photo provided

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