

1/28/16

Good evening folks,

I hope you all enjoy tonight's presentation on the history of Lake County. Jennifer Hart and the team at the Lake County Discovery Museum do a wonderful job of collecting and promoting the history of our fine county. Did you know the Lake County Discovery Museum has origins in Wadsworth? The first Lake County Museum was a private venture of Robert Vogel. Years after opening, the collections were transferred to the county. Since these early days museum staff have greatly expanded the historical record of Lake County. This was done through exhaustive research as well as further collection of historical documents and artifacts by dedicated employees and volunteers.

Sterling Township was formed in 1844 and later changed its name to Newport Township in April of 1850. At the time of the townships formation, the area had only been open to settlement for 9 or 10 years by the US government.

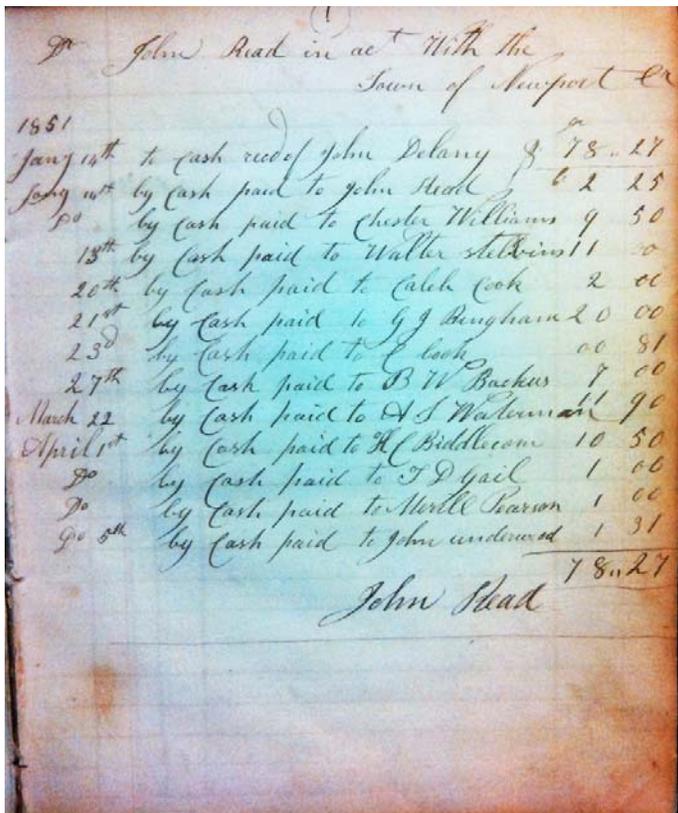


Above: Article from a Waukegan newspaper. April 9, 1957

Left: Page from the Newport Township supervisor's book. January-April 1851. John Read was the first elected supervisor for the township of Newport.

In the 1840s gold fever caught hold of some locals and they took off for California. Some did not return like Jacob Miller whom was the first settler in the township, died at Feather River California during the fall of 1849. Others came back worse for wear like John Delany whom is listed on the ledger to the left.

In 1872 the railroad first came through the township which started the town of Wadsworth as a stop on the line for water and coal for the steam locomotives. Wadsworth, Russell and Gurnee all got their names from people on the board of the Milwaukee Railroad.



Right: This picture is captioned "Town of Wadsworth, first sidewalk". The fellow with the jug of whiskey is standing on the steps of what was Lux's store and is now the Duck Inn Tavern.



Below: An early picture of a station in Newport Township, likely Wadsworth in the 1870s.



Above: Rail Crew "Gandy Dancers"
Newport Twp. 1890-1910

Below: Rail & Station Crew, Wadsworth

Below: Rail Crew





JOIN OUR TEAM!

If you have an interest in history we are in need of your help. The Newport Township Historical Society was founded in Wadsworth in 1976. We have continued through the years with the help from people like you. Keep our history alive. You can call or email me any time for information on how you can help with your time and talent.

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EMAIL: newporthistorical@yahoo.com

ON FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/newport-township-historical-society/182229458612872>

Thank you,

Shawn Ford

President

Newport Township Historical Society

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