

was known as the "King of the Hereford Sires." He died in September 1920 at the age of 17, leaving behind numerous sons and daughters found at Orchard Lake and scattered in notable herds of Herefords worldwide.

"One of the early purchases in McCray's life was a tract of 500-600 acres of marshy land, which at that time was worth little. But it turned out to be a buy that in the future was to make McCray a leader in the Hereford business. His first venture was with feeders, but after five years he gave it up. During those years he found that Herefords invariably did better than the other animals in his feed lot.

"This fact led him to purchase his first five cows in 1904. The following year he added seven cows and a bull, and the next year 18 more cows. All the purchases were from the old-timers in the pure-bred cattle business.

"Year by year the stock farm herd was built up. But when he purchased A. C. Huxley's entire herd to secure "Perfection Fairfax," then five years old, he made the most valuable purchase for the farm. Year after year he carried off blue ribbons at

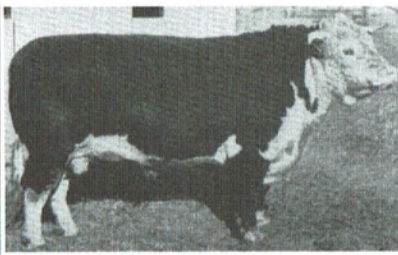
The show pavilion below in its original state, right, part of the building was dismantled and rebuilt on a farm in White County.



the state fairs and International shows.

"As the herd grew McCray improved his farm. With the increase in animals more buildings were needed, as well as land for grass and grain crops. By 1920, Orchard Lake Stock Farm contained 2,000 acres of well drained and fertile land. There were eleven complete sets of buildings on the place and he employed 30 farm hands.

"Orchard Lake was considered one of the best-kept farms in Indiana. Along the road in front of the group of farm buildings was a concrete wall which lead to the main entrance. All the buildings were just good, practical, well-constructed farm buildings. They were designed to house the herd in the winter, all weather-tight yet provided plenty of fresh air and ready access to the yards.



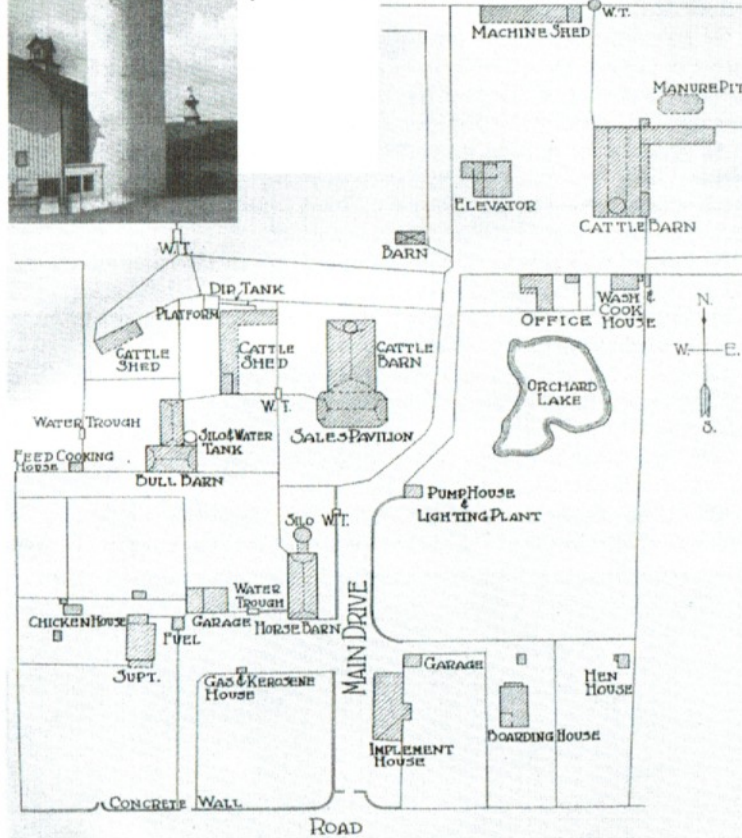
A concrete monument was erected upon Perfection Fairfax's death in 1920, it remains in place today.

"One-fourth of the farm was devoted to pasture; 500 acres produced corn and ensilage used on the farm; 200 acres were in wheat; 500 acres were in oats and 200 acres in hay. The other hundred acres are covered with buildings and barn yards. The crop rotation was corn one year, oats one year, wheat one year and clover. The fields were systematically fertilized with lime and rock phosphate to supplement the application of manure.

"The output of young stock at the farm brought many hundreds of breeders to the annual sales, which took place each spring. The sales pavilion could accommodate 1800 persons and was always over flowing on sale days. In one of the sales McCray sold \$565,000 worth of Hereford cattle." Source: *Farm Mechanics Magazine*, May 1922.



One of the unique features of the farm was a water tower (top) and silo (bottom) combination pictured left. It was located on the east side of the bull barn. Other towers (W.T.) are shown on the sketch below of the farm in 1922.



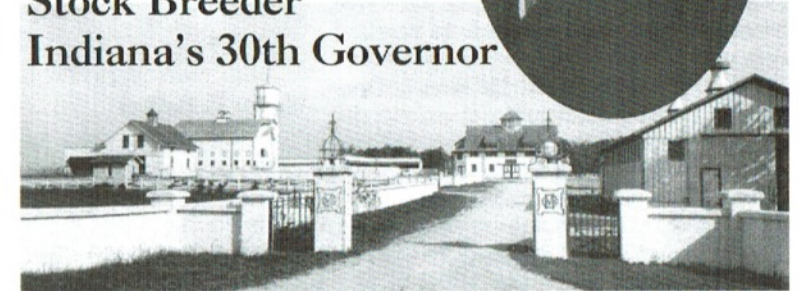
Indiana State Historical Marker

Located in Al Cast Park, Kentland, Indiana

Placed in 2019 by Town of Kentland,
Newton County Economic Development
and the Newton County Historical Society

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Businessman Stock Breeder Indiana's 30th Governor



Warren T. McCray & the Orchard Lake Stock Farm

Warren T. McCray Indiana's thirtieth governor, was born near Brook, Indiana, on February 4, 1865. At the age of fifteen, McCray finished his education and went on to work as a clerk in his father's bank, the Discount and Deposit Bank. He became a successful businessman, with interests in grain elevators, grocery stores, and Hereford cattle breeding. McCray entered public service in 1904, serving on the board of trustees for the Northern Hospital for the Insane, a position he held until 1912. He also served on the Indiana Board of Agriculture from 1912 to 1916, was chairman of the Food Conservation Committee of Indiana during World War I, and served as a trustee of Purdue University from 1917 to 1918. McCray won the 1920 Republican gubernatorial nomination and was sworn into the governor's office on January 10, 1921. During his tenure, 87 public buildings were launched, a budget law that affected both the state and local governments was passed, the reformatory at Pendleton was initiated, and a two-cent gasoline tax was enacted with proceeds going to road maintenance and highway construction. McCray was convicted of mail fraud and resigned from office on April 29, 1924. After serving three years in federal prison, McCray returned to his Orchard Lake Farm and worked on rebuilding his reputation and reestablishing his stock farm. Governor Warren T. McCray, who was pardoned by Herbert Hoover in 1930, passed away on December 19, 1938. He was buried at the Fair Lawn Cemetery in Kentland, Indiana. - *National Governor's Association*

Warren Terrance McCray

Warren Terrance McCray was born February 4, 1865. His colorful career in business and Republican politics is well documented in local and state archives. His story begins as a farm boy who went through the public schools and at the age of 15, (1880), became a bookkeeper at the Discount and Deposit Bank of Kentland. On his 21st birthday, (1886), he formed a partnership with Willis Kirkpatrick engaging in the grocery business known as McCray & Kirkpatrick. In 1889, he withdrew from the firm and in connection with R. G. Risser, of Kankakee, Illinois, established a grain trade in Kentland, eventually adding elevators in Raub and Effner.

In 1890, he purchased 250 acres in Grant Township, making additional land purchases that grew to a tract of 1600 acres known as the Orchard Lake Stock Farm. In 1904 he purchased a few registered Hereford cows, adding the first bull, Perfection Fairfax, in 1905. The herd eventually became 500 head, with the annual sales in December of 1913 amounting to more than a quarter million dollars.

On June 15, 1892, he married Ella Marie Ade, daughter of John and Adaline Ade. Ella's siblings were Anna E. (1852-1926); Alice Mary (1856-1937); William (1859-1920); Joseph (1862-1927); Emma (1863-1865); George (1866-1944).

The McCrays moved into their new home in Kentland two months after their marriage. The home consisted of 12 large rooms, each distinctively and comfortably furnished with antiques and many family heirlooms. The home would eventually be donated to the Newton County Historical Society, who sold it and established from those funds a scholarship awarded to a Newton County graduate for several years.

W.T. and Ella had four children. Gilbert, (Oct./1886-Dec./1886); Lucile Ade, (1893-1982); Marian (1900-1958); George W. (1903-1968). A detailed history of Ella (Ade) McCray can be found in the Spring, 2012 edition of the *Newcomer*, available on line.

In 1893, J. L. Morrison purchased the interests of Mr. Risser in the grocery business, and the firm became known as McCray & Morrison. They purchased



Warren T. McCray



Inside the Discount and Deposit Bank owned by McCray's father Greenberry McCray and John Ade. Warren worked here as a young man.

corn and oats in Illinois and Iowa, clipped, cleaned and then transferred it to their elevator in Kentland. They also owned elevators in Earl Park, Remington, Beaver City and Morocco. The Kentland elevator had the capacity of fifty car-loads daily, and was run by a 250 hp engine that handled five million bushels of grain daily.

W.T. was named as part of the first Newton County Council as the councilman for the first district, which was formed in 1899. At that time he was serving his third term as president of the National Grain Dealers Association which he helped organize, and was a member of the banking firm of Ade, McCray and Co. He would eventually hold the position of president of this banking firm.

In 1905, W. T. began correspondence with the Andrew Carnegie Corporation for the possibility of a grant of money to build a library building in Kentland. At that time, the town did not meet their requirements, and again in 1909, he attempted again, and this time received a favorable reaction from Mr. Carnegie. In February 1910 W. T. was appointed as one of the first trustees of the new library to be built. On January 26, 1912, the Kentland Public Library was opened to the public.

During WWI, he headed the Corn Belt Advisory Committee of the War Finance Corporation, which obtained loans on corn for farmer, and served on the Livestock Advisory Committee.

W. T.'s political aspirations surfaced in 1916 when he became a candidate for governor of Indiana. He lost the nomination but ran again in 1920 and won the nomination and election. He and Ella were the first to inhabit the governor's mansion on Fall Creek Drive in Indianapolis.

As governor, he ran the state efficiently and pushed through important legislation. He shifted road building costs from property taxes by creating a new gasoline tax measure for state and county highway construction, which was a pet project upon which he had based much of his campaign.

He induced the legislation to pass a bill to raise the appropriation for schools; set in motion better training for country teachers; pushed through an improved teacher's pension law. All of this as a result of making several unannounced visits to rural schools to investigate educational problems.

Eighty-seven public buildings were constructed during his administration, many of those still in use at the Indiana State fairgrounds and the Indiana State Reformatory.

W.T. sponsored 13 amendments to the Indiana Constitution, but only one was adopted – the one incorporating women's suffrage.

On his inauguration day, he was said to be worth three-million, one of Indiana's wealthiest farmers. When prices fell out of the cattle market in the farm



The Warren T. McCray home in Kentland, Indiana.

depression of 1921, he was seriously over-extended from his cattle and property acquisitions before taking office – his fortune soon took a turn for the worst. He was caught in a tight money squeeze - he had plenty of capital – but no one could afford to buy them. He began to borrow in a wild gamble to save his farm. By the summer of 1923, he had a debt of more than two-million hanging over his head.



The McCray family 1913, l-r, Marian, Ella, George, Warren and Lucile.

During his term as Governor, however, McCray's personal financial problems began to gain public attention. Grand jury investigations followed, and in the end, McCray was found guilty of using the U. S. mails to defraud. He was sentenced in Federal District Court in Indianapolis to ten years in prison and was fined \$10,000. McCray resigned as Governor, and later that year he went to federal prison, becoming the first Governor in American history to go to prison for a felony during his elected term of office.

He would eventually resign his office on April 29, 1924 and would serve time in prison and was paroled in 1926, then pardoned by President Hoover in 1930. He returned to Newton County and lived quietly at his farm until his unexpected death on December 19, 1938. He was interred at Fairlawn Cemetery in Kentland. W.T. is remembered as a man strong in his own convictions and contributed and boosted the communities and people of Newton County throughout his lifetime. Warren and Ella McCray and Orchard Lake Stock Farm are well documented in other editions of the *Newcomer* and urge those interested to look them up at our website www.ingenweb.org/innewton.

Orchard Lake Stock Farm

"McCray's interest in the welfare of farmers was very natural, as he was a farmer and livestock breeder long before he even thought of becoming Governor. Orchard Lake Stock Farm was built to perform at a high state of productivity; it supported more than 600 head of Hereford cattle, some of the finest to be found in the country. It was also the home of McCray's prize bull, "Perfection Fairfax," who



A concrete fence ran along the road in front of Orchard Lake Farm.