THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
Volume 63 Issue 3 July 2024 Diana Pine, Editor

"Consider MCHS in your estate planning!"

2024 Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show

(Photo Credit: M. Hull)

From Mayor Broderick's City of Anderson Government page on Facebook:**"Congratulations Madison County Historical Society on the amazing Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show on Meridian Street, May 18. Mayor Thomas Broderick, Jr., City of Anderson, was a proud Sponsor of this impressive event that attracted car owners, enthusiasts, and curious residents to enjoy the fantastic vehicles that lined the streets of Anderson's Downtown. Thank you, Madison County Historical Society for your ongoing contributions to our city."**

For the MCHS Car Show Crew, Melody Hull's response: **"Thank you, Mayor Broderick, for your support, and thank you, Jill McMillen, for the beautiful pictures showing what a great time everyone had: gorgeous cars, good weather, good food, good music, good people."**

(***Continued on Page 2)***

Society Meeting Recaps

Dr. Merle Strege, former professor at Anderson University, spoke on April 28, 2024 about the history of Anderson University. Dr. Strege explained that the Church of God created the Anderson Bible Training School in 1917 for the purpose of educating students for the ministry. Gospel Trumpet was a leading publication of religious documents and a big supporter for the creation of the school as their employees would make up the majority of the students. As time went on, the Anderson Bible Training School developed into Anderson College and Theological Seminary. Anderson College grew into Anderson University which is now a thriving campus. Students who attend are not only involved in their studies but also in building community relationships. An interesting side-note: one of the attendees related that the first time he had seen Anderson College written was in a Charles Schutz comic strip.

Please Note: there was no Society meeting in May.

On June 23, 2024, Mary Figueroa, Curator of History at the Indiana State Museum And Historic Sites, presented a program on Madison County Weavers. She began the presentation by discussing the difference between a coverlet and a quilt. A coverlet is woven while a quilt is sewn.

(Continued on Page 2)

First Sunday Meetings

The April meeting of the MCHS was presented by Stephen T. Jackson. He began the new series, "In the Beginning & The Mounds", (parts 1 and 2) based upon his book "If the River Could Talk."This book is one of a series which was designated a Bicentennial Legacy Project.

Part 1 - Approximately 12, 000 years ago, the ancient hunter-gatherers were in what is now Indiana. Mega fauna - huge prehistoric animals during the Ice Age-had all died out before these first people gradually moved in. Mound Builders arrived here at least 2,000 years ago; the Hopewell and Adena cultures were part of this group. The most popular theory for their disappearance is that they assimilated into the later Native American tribes. The Delaware Indians moved in around the 1790's and named the area "Wapahani" meaning "much white earth."

Part 2-In the last half of the 19th century, early settler Frederick Bronnenberg, Jr., who had purchased the land containing the mounds, protected the Great Mound from vandals and thieves. In the early 20th century, the area contained an amusement park. Eventually, the park closed, and in 1930 the MCHS helped save the park from development and had it transferred to the Indiana State Parks Department

(***Continued on Page 2)***

Car Show Cont.

This year's car show pulled in 100 collector cars not only from the county but also from Indianapolis, Kokomo, Muncie, Noblesville, Shelbyville, Fairmount, Westfield, and Cicero, etc. Participants began parking their vintage vehicles in the show zone before 7 a.m., and a little later when the sun peeked through the low-level cloud cover and the Motown tunes got crankin', there was dancing on the bricks under the Paramount marquee. MCHS volunteers registered participants and collected entry fees while car show friends manned gate entry, parking and other show related tasks.

Meanwhile, inside the museum's library, MCHS members provided car show volunteers with coffee, donuts, and a delicious lunch. These same volunteers conducted tours through the museum for visitors and guests.

The awards ceremony was held at 2 p.m.

Submitted by Melody Hull
Second Vice President

Society Meeting Recaps Cont.

Mary then covered the use of coverlets which were often used from the individual's childhood through the final days of their life.

She then spoke about two weavers who were in Madison County. Samuel Hicks (1804-1888) created practical, everyday style coverlets which were utilized for their warmth. He practiced his trade between 1834 to 1863.

The second weaver was William Hicks (1821-1903). He came to Indiana from Ohio and resided 12.5 miles from Anderson. William practiced the art of creating jacquard coverlets and was fond of including circus animals in his designs.Both of these weavers were farmers as well as creators of coverlets.

Submitted By Deb Weston
President

First Sunday Cont.

In the 1960s, an archeological dig found five skeletons in the Great Mound. However, today's most prevalent theory is that the mound area was used for ceremonial events.

On May 5, 2024, Steve Jackson spoke about the "River Fords" in Madison County. This talk included the 1st five (of twelve identifiable) river fords around the county; the Bronnenberg, Larmore, Myers, Boxtown, and FairGrounds Road.

Chapter 2 - River fords were used by animals, Native Americans, pioneers, and settlers as their hi-ways and by-ways. Bronnenberg ford is first located coming from the Delaware county area and is near Emerald Glen. Mr. Bronnenberg also had a mill built near the ford. Larmore ford is approximately one mile from the Bronnenberg ford and is located near the Tanglewood Conference Center. This ford was the best route between Anderson and Chesterfield from the 1870-1890s. Myers ford also had a mill just northeast of the old Mounds Mall. This ford had a bedrock base and in the 1940's the Corps of Engineers began removing the rock to help eliminate the possibility of flooding. This is also where Hagenback & Wallace circus would set up for their performances for many years.

Chapter 3 - Boxtown ford was located near Edgewater Park. Houses in this area were mostly built of dry goods boxes and the residents were itinerants and out of work individuals and families One noted individual from Boxtown included "Bluebeard" who was the unofficial mayor of Boxtown. He and his wife spent their days roaming around looking for items that could be of use (or sold). Fair Grounds Road ford near 8th and Madison was used by the fair goers to cross the river from approximately 1868-1890. In 1861, the ford was also used by the Civil War Union Army recruits to reach Camp Stillwell. Just 48 years later an airplane based on the Wright Brothers took off and landed in this same area.

On June 2, 2024, Stephen Jackson presented "Anderson's Town And Four More Indian Villages.

The Delaware Indians occupied five village sites during the twenty three years they lived in what later became Madison County. The principal village was called Andersontown by the settlers who resided nearby. Its chief was Chief William Anderson.

The other four villages were located along the White River and were smaller in size. The PowerPoint program examined all that we know of the sites and the indigenous people who occupied them from 1796 to 1821.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

Civil War Roundtable May 2024 Erich Ewald Recreates the Lincoln Conspiracy

(Photo Credit: Carol Grace)

The May meeting of the Civil War Roundtable was presented by Erich Ewald. A very enlightening speaker, this was his fourth visit to the group. His theme for the presentation was to show the connection of Abraham Lincoln's

assassination with Anderson, Indiana.

According to Mr. Ewald, there were several plots in the works. One Involved a black flag conspiracy by the Confederacy, also with the Roman Catholic church. A third plot was with an inside group of radical Republicans focusing on reconstruction.

After a military trial, Mary Suratt was the first woman hanged in US history by government officials for her part in Lincoln's death. Louis Weichmann was the main witness to accuse Suratt. Dr. Sam Mudd was the physician who patched up John Wilkes Booth in the dark of night after he escaped the commotion at the Ford Theater. Ironically,members of these very families ended up in Madison County, living quite close to each other.

Submitted by Carol Grace, Librarian

2024 Supporters of the Museum

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Friends of the Museum

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The generosity of our patrons, businesses and organizations supports visitor education at MCHS

2024 Memorial Contributions

Marllon D. Carter
Emily Carter
Mary Jane Baker
Nancy Lawler

If we missed any contributions, please remind us, and they will be included in the next issue.

Schedule of Events

Made in Madison County Exhibit:

Open for guests!
M-W-F 10:00 a.m.--2:00 p.m.

First Sunday

As the United States prepares to celebrate ***America 250*** in 2026, the Madison County Historical Society will sponsor a First Sunday Series in 2024 and 2025. "If the River Could Talk, Stories of the White River in Madison County" commemorates the nation's Semiquincentennial.

Presented by Madison County Historian Stephen T. Jackson, all programs will begin at 200 p.m. at the Museum of Madison County History, 11 West 11th Street, Anderson. They are free of charge and open to the public.

July 7, 2024
Stephen T. Jackson
"River Fords Six through Twelve"

August 4, 2024
Stephen T. Jackson
"The Moravians & the Spiritualists"

September, 2024
No Meeting due to the Holiday

Civil War Roundtable

July 15, 2020
David Finney
"Abraham Lincoln"

August 19, 2024
Nicole Etchison
"Lincoln in Indiana"

September 16, 2024
Steve Ritchie
(To Be Determined)

Society Monthly Meetings

July 28, 2024, 2:00, p.m.
Tim MClintock

"Little Known Facts of Pendleton"

August 25, 2024, 2:00, p.m.
Jared Owen
"History of Anderson Speedway"

September 22, 2024, 2:00, p.m.
Speaker and Subject
To Be Determined

You can find us at:

http://whatsup247.com
Website:
Andersonmchs.com
Facebook:
Madison County (IN)
Historical Society

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MCHS Annual Membership Form

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Membership Dues

It's time to renew your membership dues.
Rates are:
Student–$5.00
Single–$25.00
Household–$40.00
Please use the form on page 7 to submit your 2024 dues.

(PHoto credit: D. Pine)

Building Renovation

The Historic Gaslight installation has been completed.

The work on the second story back wall has also been completed. This project included installing furring, weather wrapping and siding. The window openings were also enclosed in aluminum to finish out the siding.

For the short term, we are still waiting to complete the exterior painting on our west wall.

Our remaining long term project includes the replacement of additional furnaces and air conditioning systems. Last year's projects were very expensive so this replacement is not in our immediate plan.

Submitted by Gerald Jones.
Treasurer/Building Manager

Ella B.Kehrer Profile

Humanitarian work in Madison County has taken many forms in our history. Still, the efforts on one woman and the hospital named for her exemplify the highest level of service. Named the Ella B. Kehrer Tuberculosis Hospital for the local woman who was the driving force behind its establishment, the hospital provided comfort and rest for tubercular patients of Madison County.

Today, nothing remains of the institution which was located at the east end of Tenth Street on the bluffs one hundred feet above White River. The hospital was dedicated in 1924 to the memory of the soldiers and sailors from Madison County who had lost their lives through tuberculosis while serving in World War I.

Thirteen acres in a beautiful forest of trees contained three cottages built to house twenty-two adults and twenty-five children. When it opened, the hospital was equipped with almost every convenience for adequately treating the patients. The large screened sleeping porch surrounding each cottage allowed patients to sleep protected in the fresh air essential to their treatment. The largest of the three cottages was a two-story structure measuring 36 by 42 feet, and the other two were one-story structures measuring 28 by 35 feet. The largest cottage contained a dining hall and kitchen on the first floor, the second floor was used for sleeping quarters. The other two cottages were devoted entirely to sleeping quarters.

The hospital cost $10,000. It was constructed in nine months and contained a stone pumping house, extensive refrigeration cellars, and outdoor drinking fountains. The county funded the

construction and operation of the hospital.

The years preceding the hospital's establishment were difficult for the county's tubercular stricken. Inadequate equipment, meager funds, and the necessity of combating the disease in the home of consumptives contributed to a high death rate.

When Mrs. Kehrer arrived in Anderson in 1907 from Red Key, she was recovering from tuberculosis, which had taken the lives for four family members. She began her work traveling the county by horse and buggy to speak and show stereopticon views at public assemblies, informing people about the disease.

In 1909, she devised portable tuberculosis sleeping huts called "Kehrer Shacks," designed to make outdoor sleeping popular and beneficial. Sixteen shacks were built and furnished, and they were then placed in the yards at the patient's home, thus educating the whole neighborhood and preventing the family from contracting the disease at the same time. However, more work had to be done.

In 1914, she organized the first-ever observance of "Health Day," held in Anderson. Representatives from foreign countries and public officials from many cities attended.

In 1918, an enormous influenza epidemic occurred. Mrs.Kehrer directed the county's efforts to combat the illness. She utilized the third story of St.John's Hospital to care for the afflicted. She was a tireless worker in improving the health of our county, but her strongest passion was establishing a place where persons with tuberculosis could receive proper care.

Dr. Ernest M.Conrad, the Health Officer of Anderson, knowing the great need for a suitable place to take tuberculosis sufferers for their good and the good of others, contacted Mrs. Kehrer and asked if she needed some ground. Dr.Conrad then gave her all the ground she required in the back of the Pest House (where smallpox and contagious patients were taken) on the river, which became the hospital site.

The huts were moved to the site, but needed to be improved for winter living quarters. Pipes froze, and the huts were too cold for the sick patients. A more substantial building was required, and Dr. Conrad offered the Pest House. The building needed significant renovations and was made ready early in 1927.

An essential feature of the hospital was called the Children's Preventorium. It was a summer health camp for sick children. For two months each summer, children could receive good food, medical/dental care, and education in good health habits.

The ability to pay did not affect treatment at the hospital. County residents were charged $5 weekly, but low-income people received free treatment. Out-of-county residents paid $15 a week.

Changing Indiana hospital standards and other options available to Indiana's tuberculosis patients led to the hospital's closing in 1947. Afterward, some thought of making a nursing home on the property was considered, but the buildings deteriorated. The property, now called Tanglewood, is owned by the Anderson Community Schools.

It is estimated that 3,000 patients received care at the hospital, and thousands of others benefitted from clinics conducted there during its twenty-three years of operation.

Mrs. Kehrer lived to 98 and passed away on October 26, 1962. She and her husband, Albert, are buried in East Maplewood Cemetery. Ella Bagot Kehrer's life is a tribute to what caring for our fellow man is all about. This article is dedicated to her memory.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

Madison County History Trivia

A. Two transportation related events, one on July 4, 1851 and the other on July 4, 1855 had long-lasting effects on Madison County. What were they?

B. On August 25, 1896, the Elwood Driving Park opened. What was one of its major uses?

C. On September 6, 1888, street cars first appeared in Anderson, By what means were they powered?

(answers on page 6)

Madison County Historian's Activities

(April - June 2024)

April 22 - I shared the history of the MCHS with Tamera Hemmerlein from the Local History Services at the Indiana Historical Society during her visit to the museum..

April 26 - My article about the history of Chesterfield appeared in the summer 2024 issue of the Madison magazine.

April 30 - Attended a dedication ceremony for the gas light located curbside at the Museum of Madison County History

At the request of Darla Salee, I prepared three trivia questions and answers for the following event, “On Sunday, May 18, AIMS is hosting a scavenger hunt downtown from 3 to 5 p.m. to bring attention to downtown, bolster Anderson’s image and connect the community to possibly unknown resources We want to make sure and highlight the historical society. One of the stops we’d like to make is the original gas light.. When the 6 teams of 5 people arrive throughout the two-hour window, we want them to have to answer three Anderson trivia questions prior to receiving the next clue for the next location. Would you happen to have three questions and answers you think would be good to educate them about Anderson history and create interest in learning more?

April-June - Presented programs about local history to various groups and organizations, including Anderson Public Library, Anderson Noon Rotary Club, Historic Fall Creek, Pendleton Settlement, Alexandria-Monroe Township Historical Society, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, New York Central Railroad Historical Society, Senior Lunch Park Place Church of God, Anderson Tourist Club, Elwood-Pipe Creek Genealogy Society, Young at Heart Bethany Christian Church, Sparklers Home Economics Club, Madison Park Church of God Seniors, Central Indiana Old Car Club, Chesterfield Christian Church, Anderson Noon Lions Club, Jolly Keenagers Grace Baptist Church, Primrose RetirementCommunity residents, Keystone Woods residents, Madison County Historical Society First Sunday lectures, Madison County Tea Party, Frankton Community Library, Madison County Triad, AARP Chapter 1686, Summitville Senior Social Club, Anderson Outreach Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

Who’s Who in theMadison County History Society

Ever wonder who currently serves on our advisory board or on the board of trustees? Who makes up the officers? Who are among our cadre of dedicated volunteers in this all-volunteer operation? As we start a new year, let’s review:

Officers

Deb Weston, President
Steve Fuller, 1st Vice President
Melody Hull, Vice President
Emilie Isenhour, Secretary
Gerald Jones,Treasurer
Stephen T. Jackson, Historian

Board of Trustees

Sherrie Ballinger
Diane Barts
Wilma Carey
John Dick, Jr.
Bradford Douglas
Carol Grace
Steve Fuller
Roger Hensley
Melody Hull
Don Hunt (Trustee Emeritus)
Emilie Isenhour
Stephen T. Jackson
Gerald Jones
Karen Napier
Deb Weston

Advisory Board

Sherrie Ballinger
Carol Grace
Roger Hensley
Melody Hull
Emilie Isenhour
Stephen T. Jackson
Gerald Jones
Belinda Mabbitt
Diana Pine

Dedicated Museum Volunteers (not already named above)

Suzy Chambers
Laura Gwaltney
Karon Kardatzke
Lois Killion
Nancy Lawler
Pete Mitchell
Janet Moore
Cindy Pulford
Marlaina Rhoades
Chris Rouse
Karen Smith
Corval Zeabart

Trivia Answers

a. In 1851 - The first railroad train that ran into Anderson made its appearance. It was known as the Bellefontaine RR. In 1855 - The first train over the Pan Handle Railroad reached Anderson.

b.. Horse Racing.

c. Mules

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The North Madison County Public Library System will be holding a meeting on August 17, 2024 from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Elwood Public Library. The subject is Wendell Willkie. For more information contact Elwood Public Library at (765) 552.5001.

REMEMBER: History Never Gets Old!!

Honor Your Veteran

For Veterans Day, MCHS will be recognizing our local veterans with a color promotional advertisement in the winter edition of *Madison Life & Times* magazine. If your family has a Madison County veteran, living or deceased, who you would like to see acknowledged, complete this form and include a small donation. Forward form and donation by September 13, 2024, to MCHS, P. O. Box 696, Anderson, IN 46015-0696.

Your Name_____

Address_____

City_____ St____ Zip_____

Contact#_____

Veteran Name_____

Conflict/War_____

Branch_____

Madison County Historical Society ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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Complete and mail with your remittance to:

Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 696
Anderson, IN 46015-0696

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