THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
Volume 64 Issue 4 October 2024 Diana Pine, Editor

"Consider MCHS in your estate planning!"

MCHS Out and About!

(Photo credit: Carol Grace)

Anderson Gaslight Festival

On August 24, 2024, several of our volunteers manned a booth at the Anderson Gaslight Festival. Vendors ranged from local businesses to food trucks. We met many wonderful people and were able to distribute information about the Madison County Historical Society and what we offer for the community. Of great interest were the exhibits currently on display. We were also able to provide information about ***America 250*** where the U.S.. will be celebrating its 250th birthday in 2026. Additionally, we were able to further our networking and partnerships opportunities with a few of the other vendors. It was a long day, but much fun in perfect summer weather.

(Photo Credits:: Belinda Mabbitt)

Pulse & Slingshot Cruise

On September 1, 2024, the Madison County Historical Society hosted a private group of twenty seven Pulse and Slingshot vehicle owners from nine different states who drove to our Museum from Marion, IN. They enjoyed visiting all three floors of our exhibits, while volunteer Belinda B. stood watch over the parked vehicles in front of the building. As a thank you, she was treated to a lengthy ride in one of the Pulse vehicles.

This tour group was one of the best and most appreciative we have had at MCHS, and we would welcome them back anytime.

(Photo Credit: Pete Mitchell)

Andersontown PowWow

On the weekend of September 7-8, volunteers from the MCHS hosted a booth at the annual PowWow which was held at Beulah Park in Alexandria. Much like the Anderson Gaslight Festival, we were able to promote our organization to the hundreds of guests in attendance/

Once the weather warmed up enough to discard our winter coats, we were able to enjoy the weekend. We visited with people who were not aware of the MCHS who expressed much interest in visiting the Museum of Madison County.

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in these three events. MCHS appreciates your dedication and assistance!

Deb Weston President

Society Meeting Recaps

The July meeting of the Historical Society was held on Sunday, July 28, at 2:00 p.m. The featured speaker was Tim McClintock who presented "Little Known Facts about Pendleton." Did you know:

- After the Memorial Day tornado a few years ago**,** the downed trees were taken to the Pendleton Reformatory where the inmates used it to make park benches.

- The museum at the park used to be the bathhouse for the swimmers in the river.

- Downtown Pendleton used to have a horse track, several grain elevators and a popcorn farm.

What makes Pendleton so special? The residents who are warm, inviting, proud of the culture, and thinking about the future.

Jared Owen, Vice President at Anderson Speedway, was the guest speaker on August 25. His topic was the history of Sun Valley and Anderson Speedway.

The Speedway has seen three different owners since ground was broken in the mid 1940's. The first "Little 500" was held on May 27, 1949. The first "Redbud 400" was raced in August, of 1967.

The original owner of Sun Valley Speedway was Joe Helpling. From a sheriff's sale in 1976, Trackside Associates (consisting of six individuals) became the owners, and it was renamed Anderson Speedway in 1977. The current owner, Rick Dawson, took possession in 1997. Many improvements and safeguards have been added. This quarter mile paved oval is a favorite national attraction for many racing enthusiasts.

Submitted by Carol Grace, Research Librarian

(Photo Credit: Stephen T. Jackson)

Society Meeting Recaps cont.

On September 22, 2024, Stephen T. Jackson presented "A Journey of Remembrance" about the history of West Maplewood Cemetery. The original Anderson Cemetery was opened in 1863, but it was soon realized that a larger area was needed. West Maplewood was then created which include the notables of the 19th century as listed below:

- Wesley Durbin (b. 1848 - d. 1930) was a bricklayer by trade and also served as Mayor of Anderson for two terms: 1868-1870 and 1883 - 1886).
- Dr. George N. Hilligoss (b. 1839 - d. 1920) started out as a farmer, became a drug store clerk, and finally became a doctor. He married Caroline Grawling in 1870, and they had two children, Charles and Gertrude. After Gertrude died from diphtheria, George and his wife became interested in Spiritualism. Their son, Charles, passed away six years after their daughter. Dr. and Mrs. Hilligoss then commissioned a sculptor from Florence, Italy, to carve the statues from photographs of their children.
- Dr Townsend Ryan (b. 1820 - d. 1979) married Susan Wilson who later became a Civil War nurse. Dr. Ryan was very involved in politics. He served in the State Legislature, the Indiana General Assembly, as a City Councilman.
- Roger N. Williams (b. 1820 - d. 1869) was also a politician. He served as a representative, auditor, clerk, recorder and also as the first Mayor of Anderson from 1865-1866.

Submitted by Deb Weston, President

First Sunday Meetings

Our county historian, Stephen T. Jackson, has been presenting his information talks on the first Sunday of months. In July, his topic was about seven of the river fords in the formative years of the county. He talked about the Whitinger and Baxter Fords near Moss Island Road.

Jackson Township had several fords: the Epperly, the Robinette, the McClintock-Coy, and the Wise. Some of these fords could only be crossed during the year when the weather was favorable. Steve spoke of tales of marriages, drownings, and threshing rig crossings at several locations.

The August 4th meeting was a presentation titled "Shall We Gather at the River." This was about the Moravians and the Spiritualists who arrived early in Madison County As early as 1799, the Delaware Indians.sought out the Moravians from Pennsylvania to serve as Christian missionaries for the local Indians here. By 1801, a group of eight adults had been taught the language and customs and had landed in the east northeast Anderson area on White River.

They survived five years of weather, whiskey and destructive Indian raids. These missionaries departed the area in the fall of 1806.

Eighty five years later, three miles north of the Moravians' village was another settlement on the river. The Spiritualists set up a camp on the north side of what later became Chesterfield. What started out as a church picnic on the property of Carroll Bronnenberg eventually became Camp Chesterfield. This settlement is still in existence and now has sixty-five cottage style residences as well as a visitor's center, hotel, cafeteria, chapel and beautiful grounds for walking.

Submitted by Carol Grace,
Research Librarian

2024 Supporters of the Museum

Platinum Level Donors

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Max Howard
Ricker Family Foundation

Gold Level Donors

And/Mad County Visitors Bureau
Charles & De Etta Baker
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Emily Carter
City of Anderson
David Cooper
Bradford Douglas
Craig Dunkin
Stephen T. Jackson
M.C. Bicentennial Committee
James McFarland
Sharon Bronnenberg Morehouse
Helen Nicholson
Paul & Dorothy Malone
Ron & Alice Spangler
Robert & Ellen Strickland
Steven Voss
Deb Weston
Patsy Woschitz

Friends of the Museum

Tim Allred's Collision
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Safety Tech, Inc.
Shellabarger Office Solutions
Sun Pro Roofing
UAW 1963 Retirees
White River ChemDry

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
Dr. Lawrence Allen
Elaine & Joseph Hairvat
James & Flora Orahood

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.

October 6, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"The Central and Hydraulic Canals"

November 3, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"The Mills & Of Gypsies, Vesuvius, Elephants and Buffalo Bill"

December, 2024-No Meeting

Civil War Roundtable

October 21, 2024
Stephen T. Jackson
"Remembering Seven Civil War Participants Who Gave the Last Full Measure"

November 18, 2024
General Richard Ewell
"Gettysburg"

December, 2024 - No Meeting

Society Monthly Meetings

October 27, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Jim Abrahams
"History of the Renovation of the Paramount Theater"

November 24, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"E.H. Phillips Award and a Short Program"

December, 2024 - No Meeting

You can find us at:
http://whatsup247.com
Website:
Andersonmchs.com
Facebook:
Madison County (IN) Historical Society

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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.

Building Renovation

The vintage chandelier which originally hung in the Anderson Hotel is now in our central lobby. Thanks to Steve Fuller for rewiring and installing this historic fixture.

Other pending projects for this year include the 11th Street roof gutter clean-out, replacement of the missing mortar compound on the marble exterior and repainting the alley wall. Other exterior repairs have been completed.

Submitted by Gerald Jones.
Treasurer/Building Manager

Harriet Williams Toner

Harriet Williams Toner was born on January 27, 1876, at Clark's Hill in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Her parents moved to a homestead near Lexington, Nebraska, when she was eight.

At age 15, she passed a teacher's examination and taught the fall term of school there. She returned to Indiana at 17 and attended Indiana State Teachers College at Terre Haute, after which she taught at Carlisle, Indiana, for a year and then at Frankton.

She took the position of society editor of the Anderson Herald in the early 1900s, and after three years of writing society and general news stories, she married Edward C. Toner.

Her husband died in 1927, and Mrs. Toner took over active management of the Herald Publishing Company, which in October of 1949 was merged with the Bulletin Printing and Manufacturing Company to form Anderson Newspapers, Inc.

She was Anderson Newspapers, Inc. vice president and publisher of the Anderson Herald.

Her interests included the Madison County Women's Republican Club, Anderson Urban League, Red Cross, Anderson YWCA, Anderson Christian Center, and Bill Wilson Boys Club.

Anderson College conferred on her the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

A perfect hostess, she became known to thousands as the "First Lady of Anderson."

The ability to love and be loved by all those with whom she came in contact resulted in her being entertained in the White House by several Presidents and First Ladies. In return, she entertained such notables as Eleanor Roosevelt, Vice President Charles Warren Fairbanks, Senator Albert Beveridge, Wendell Willkie, Charles E. Wilson, Governor James Goodrich, Governor Harry G. Leslie, and many others who visited the city.

Her home was located at 212 West 8th Street.

Harriet Tonner died on December 2, 1964, at age 88. her memory.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

Madison County History Trivia

A. What famous institution in Alexandria was dismantled October 7, 1938?

B. On November 2, 1906, a school opened on Indiana Avenue in what later was called North Anderson. Can you name it?

C. On December 22, 1960, a well-known church in Anderson was destroyed by fire. Can you name it?

(answers on page 6)

Madison County Historian's Activities

(July-September 2024)

July 20 - An article about the early years of the 4-H Fair in Madison County appeared in an insert regarding the fair in today's THB.

July 26 - My article about the Madison County Historical Society appeared in the fall 2024 issue of the Madison magazine.

August 16 - Attended the annual Indiana County Historians meeting in Indianapolis.

August 17 - Participated in a panel discussion about Wendell Willkie at the Elwood Public Library.

August 20 - I was interviewed by WRTV Channel 6 Indianapolis about the history of the State Theater.

August 24 - Presented information about historic events concerning 8th Street to 8th Street Gaslight Festival attendees. Two presentations were made in Funk Park.

September 10 - Attended the Madison County Commission on Public Records annual meeting in the Madison County Government Center.

July-September - Presented programs about local history to various groups and organizations, including Anderson Public Library, Alexandria-Monroe Twp. Historical Society, Anderson Noon Lions Club, Jolly Keenagers Grace Baptist Church, Primrose Retirement Community residents, Keystone Woods residents, Madison County Historical Society 1st Sunday Lectures, Madison County Tea Party, Frankton Community Library, Madison County Triad, AARP Chapter 1686, Anderson Outreach Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Village at White River, Elwood Public Library, Madison County Historical Society monthly meeting, Anderson Art League, and the Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church.

Submitted by Stephen T, Jackson
Madison County Historian

Who's Who in the Madison 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)

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. The Alexandria Hospital

b. Mt. Hope. It would be the second school building bearing that name.

c. 1st United Methodist Church at 12th and Jackson Streets.

Munching Through The Midwest

In 2026, our nation will be celebrating 250 years of independence. Our own historical society will be leading the charge in Madison County to head up the activities for the ***America 250.*** I will be provided a series of articles referencing the above subject for the next few issues of *The Gazette.*

Whether your forefathers were raised in a stately home in a historic district, a humble log cabin, or were vagabonds heading west along White River, they all shared one thing in common…the need for food. This article will be the first in a culinary journey showing how food customs in the Midwest have changed over the last two centuries.

The pioneers who came to Indiana while it was still wilderness often arrived in wagons or on horseback and brought a few cooking utensils along. They may have owned only one or two cooking vessels, perhaps an iron skillet and a stewpot. The meat would be cooked over an open or hearth fire, and bread was baked in the same skillet.

Dried beans, corn and cornmeal were necessary staples in those days. Vinegar could be used instead of fresh lemons. Sweets were usually made from molasses or honey, but only considered a luxury or served on Sunday mornings. Boiled and mashed beans mixed with plenty of nutmeg and allspice could make a suitable "pumpkin" pie.

The peace-loving Native Americans had taught the earliest settlers about succotash. Here is a recipe from the first cookbook published in Indiana in 1851, titled *Mrs. Collins' Table Receipts……*Succotash, A La Tecumseh

"Boil the beans for half to three-quarters of an hour, in water, a little salt. Cut off the corn from the cobs, boil the cobs with the beans, be sure and not cut too close to the cob. When the beans have boiled for three-quarters of an hour, take out the cobs and put the corn in; let it, then boil fifteen minutes, if the corn is tender, if not, twenty. Have more corn than beans. When it is boiled sufficiently, take a lump of butter as large as you think will be in proportion with the vegetables, roll it well in flour, put it in the pot with the beans, with black pepper enough to season it well. This is a real Western dish, and is easily made."

Submitted by Carol Grace, Research Librarian

Come Celebrate Stephen T. Jackson's Latest Award

Stephen T. Jackson has been awarded the prestigious Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award from the Indiana Historical Society. It will be presented to him at a dinner to be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The location for this event is at Ruby's Cafe and Bakery which is located at 122 W. 8th Street, Anderson

Dinner cost is **$12.00 per person** and payable on that date to Rudy's Cafe' and Bakery.

The menu choice are:

- Chicken Salad Croissant and Chicken Velvet Soup, Chips, and Chocolate Cake with Buttercream Frosting.
- Ham & Cheese Sliders (3) and Tomato Basil Soup, Chips, and Sugar Cream Pie

Coffee,Tea, or Water will be Included with each dinner.

Dinner Reservations are required by October 4, 2024.

Please contact Deb at the Madison County Historical Society at 765.683-0052 to RSVP

Madison County Historical Society ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print): _____

Spouse/Other (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____State: ____ Zip: _ _ _ _ _ -_ _ _ _

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Type of Membership (check one)

- ☐ **New Membership**
- ☐ **Renewal**

Level of Membership: (check one)

- ☐ **Student ($5.00)**
- ☐ **Single Membership ($25.00)**
- ☐ **Household/Family ($40.00)**
- ☐ **Contributing ($50.00)**
- ☐ **Sponsoring ($100.00)**
- ☐ **Gold ($500.00)**

Donation: (if applicable) $ _____ (amount

Complete & mail with your remittance to:

Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 696
Anderson, IN 46015.0696

Contact Information:

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Email: madisonchs10@gmail.com
Website: www.andersonmchs.com

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