THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.

Volume 60 Issue 1 January 2025 Diana Pine, Editor

"Consider MCHS in your estate planning!"

Photo Credit: Pete Mitchell

Photo Credit: Pete Mitchell

Photo Credit: Melody Hull

Time Capsule Sealed

The Bicentennial Time Capsule is now complete and housed in the basement of the Madison County Historical Society for the next 50 years. The capsule was officially closed on December 20th at noon. It was decided to locate the huge water-tight container inside a building this time instead of burying it in the ground. It will be much easier to access this object when 2073 approaches.

Inside the capsule are many items related to the county's Bicentennial: proclamations, banners, flyers, booklets and souvenirs. These items cover life at the Gruenwald, Gaslight Festival treasures, Pendleton mementos, Alexandria memorabilia and much more.

Additional period artifacts show the 2023 lifestyle: a "flip phone", reading glasses and torn jeans. Also included are popular kitchen and household items, toys and games. The collection would not have been complete without a packet of the 2020 pandemic supplies.

Oh, to be young again and be able to experience the reopening in 50 years!

Submitted by Carol Grace, Librarian

Family Day at the Museum

Family Day at the Museum 2024 was a tremendous success! For the last two years, the MCHS has held an open house on the Saturday between Christmas and New Years Day targeted to families with school-age children.

For the pilot program in 2023, MCHS tour guides escorted groups through the museum's exhibits explaining features as they progressed through the museum. In 2024, however, a different approach was used. MCHS volunteers were stationed in all the exhibits and public areas, and guests were allowed to roam independently through the displays at their own pace, exploring in depth these areas that interested them and asking questions or directions of our MCHS representatives if needed. This strategy worked extremely well for volunteers who were not pressured to keep up with the overflow of visitors. Plus, the museum visitors seemed to be more engaged with their surroundings. All in all, the atmosphere was more relaxed, casual, and fun-loving. Society officials plan to utilize this "free-reign" approach during future installments.

Advertising had been increased in various media platforms for this event, held on December 28th between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.. In this four hour timeframe, over 90 people browsed through most of the 23,000 square feet of our museum. That increase in attendees is something of a record for any of our events at the Museum of Madison County History.

Submitted by Melody Hull, Second Vice President

Volunteer Appreciation

MCHS president, Deb Weston, would like to thank each and every volunteer who assisted in a very successful 2024. Any amount of your time donated to MCHS, whether it was a special event (Little 500 Festival Car Show, Titanic performance, Family Day at the Museum) or regular volunteer hours is very precious to us. We appreciate you!

Society Meeting Recaps

The October membership meeting featured Jim Abraham as our guest speaker. Jim has been the primary restorer of the Paramount Theater since May 1989.

Recently, handrails have been Added to the balcony aisles. Low aisle lights have also been installed. The terrazzo floor in the main lobby has been reground and polished. The most noticeable change has been the dazzling new marquee outside. All of these additions have been made possible due to local contributors who have cared deeply about the continuation of the Paramount.

A project beginning this month will be a huge addition to the rear of the building. This will house dressing rooms and practice areas for the incoming artists. It is projected that it will take six to eight months complete with a dedication planned for August 2025.

First Sunday Meetings

On Sunday, October 6, our historian, Stephen T. Jackson, gave a presentation on the Central and Hydraulic Canals in Madison County. In 1836 the state approved canal system actually employed 87 different groups, mostly Irishmen, to dig it in various parts of the state. The purpose of the Central Canal was to eventually connect a transport system between New York City and New Orleans. In Madison County, the small communities of Victoria, Rockport and Halford originated to house the localworkers. If all of the canals had been completed, Anderson would have become the Crossroads of Indiana. However, when the state went bankrupt in the 1840's, the canal system halted and failed. Then, in 1868, the Hydraulic Canal was begun in an eight mile stretch to connect water supplies between Daleville and Anderson. This was planned to supply enough water power to ten flour mills and five fabric mills along White River. However, this system was not engineered correctly; and eventually, the investors withdrew their support.

On Sunday, November 3, Steve's talk centered around the mills located in Madison County. Did you know:

…The first water-powered grain mill in the area was built in 1837 by Uriah VanPelt at the end of East Lyn, Irondale Addition. It was called Meyer's Ford.

…The Bronnenberg Ford was in northwest Chesterfield. Back then, a millstone for grinding grain could be purchased for $1,500.

…The mill across the road from Bonge's Tavern in Perkinsville caught fire in 1884 and was never rebuilt.

…The Killbuck Mill was located across from the current Frisch's and Maxwell's Trim Shop.

…In the early 1900's a band of gypsies lived under the Moss Island Bridge.

…In 1896, Buffalo Bill brought his Wild West Show to the Anderson area.

There was no meeting scheduled for December.

Submitted by Carol Grace,
Research Librarian

From the Desk of MCHS's President:

Tribute to Suzy Chambers

The Madison County Historical Society recently lost a very valuable Volunteer when Suzetta Mae (Suzy) Chambers passed away on December 4, 2024.

Suzy had researched her own family members so she had extensive experience in genealogy. She began volunteering by doing genealogy research for the countless individuals who wanted or needed assistance when they were researching their own family histories.

Suzy would spend numerous hours on her own visiting various websites and offices, collating documents and building family trees. She also spent a great deal of time working in the MCHS exhibit "School Daze" and recording Madison County historical records alongside her best friend at MCHS, Emilie Isenhour.

In 2009, Suzy was chosen to receive the Elwood H Phillips Award from the MCHS for her longtime service in preserving history. She had previously been awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award, which is a prestigious national honor for community service. Suzy will be greatly missed.

Thanks to Nancy Lawler

Many thanks to Nancy Lawler who developed and maintained the original MCHS website. Nancy created this site in 2008 and spent many hours each month updating it. She also absorbed the yearly costs required to maintain the domain name as an in-kind donation to MCHS. Nancy recently expressed her wish to be released from this financial responsibility. Around the same time, we received a donation which enabled us to contract with a local developer to create a new and very eye-catching website. Again, THANK YOU NANCY for all that you have done and continue to do for the MCHS.

Elwood N.Phillips Award

The Elwood H. Phillips Award is the only award the MCHS bestows and gives annually in recognition for contributions toward preserving the heritage of Madison County. The 2024 recipient was Donald L. McAllister for his work co-founding the National Veterans Historical Archive (NVHA) and in recording oral histories of veterans about their life/service history. He also wrote the book "Pencil Man" which is based upon a well-known local individual. Don also cleans headstones at Maplewood Cemetery..

Civil War Roundtable

The November Civil War Roundtable, presented by Gerald Jones, detailed the Battle of Gettysburg. It was an enlightening program. This writer (who thought she knew a great deal about the battle) learned much more about the subject. Many historians consider the outcome of the battle to be the turning point of the civil war. But, was it really? The actual battle was fought in July 1863. The war did not end until April 1865..

2024 Supporters of the Museum

Platinum Level Donors

Fred E. & Thelma V. Boze Foundation
Max Howard
Ricker Family Foundation

Gold Level Donors

And/Mad County Visitors Bureau
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David Cooper
Bradford Douglas
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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
Anderson Noon Lions
Art's Trim Shop
Bickel's Locksmith
Melanie Black
Champion Awards
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Jam Printing
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Michael McDonald
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Patricia Pope
Randy's Construction
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
Phyliss (Lyons) Byerlien
Emilie Isenhour
Charles & DeEtta Baker
Barbara Voss
Emilie Isenhour
Suzetta Mae Chambers
Emilie Isenhour
Steve & Janene Jackson
Roger & Lynn Hensley
Chris Rouse
Larry & Belinda Mabbitt
Deb Westin
Herman & Anabeth Radeck
Sherry Ballinger
Linda Shelton
Harold & Maryann Gardner
Mark & Joyce McDonald
Stephen & Vada Cockrill
David & Carol Hamilton
Emily Carter
David & Peggy Dittlinger
Carol Grace
Nancy Lawler
Helen Nicolson

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

January, 2025 - No Meeting

February, 2025 - No Meeting

March, 2025 - No Meeting

April 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"Spanning the River"

Civil War Roundtable

January, 2025 - No Meeting

February, 2025 - No Meeting

March 17, 2025
Phil Saugy, "Vicksburg"

Society Monthly Meetings

January 26, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Cathy Draeger-Williams
"Submerged resources: Low head dams, mills & shipwrecks"

February 23, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Mayor Thomas Broderick
"State of the City" update

March 23, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"Historical & Pictorial Tour of Madison County"

You can find us at:

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

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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.

Building Renovation

We have completed the exterior weatherization project. This was a required maintenance activity to preserve and protect our one hundred year old building. Total project cost was $22,000.00.

We are currently upgrading our Fire Alarm System and Security System. The total cost for this project is estimated at $1,000.00

The other major expense that we must keep in mind as funds become available is the replacement of the aging HVAC units. Two of the nine systems have been updated.

Submitted by Gerald Jones.
Treasurer/Building Manager

Remembering Suzy

Papers flutter and several fall to the floor. It is so frustrating when one cannot find everything that you are searching for, especially if it has been hidden since 1830. Gathering all papers into a stack with a flourish and declaring "all done" is the signal for those around you to get busy for the the next part part of the project. A copy of all pages is to go to the person requesting the research and one copy must be retained in the Genealogy Department for the "Family Files."

Suzy Chambers had finished a difficult research for someone in Oregon who is focused on information required to obtain a DRA certification. This task has become more difficult in the past few years because rules and restrictions have changed. However, Suzy mustered on. If it was available, she would definitely find it.

It had been Suzy's mission to do this research for families who had Madison County ties through the years. Any artifact, document and or legacy from a family had been her project to save and preserve through her many years of volunteering at the Madison County Historical Society. Suzy was always determined to seek and retain those items that made up our county's history.

There is no one who gave more time as a volunteer to our organization who always gave it so joyously. For those who moved in Suzy's world,, you know that you would receive a hug when arriving and leaving the building, a smile always and thoughtful prayers when needed. Suzy will be greatly missed in our daily endeavors.

Submitted by Nancy Lawler
Genealogy Research

Munching Through The Midwest - "What's for Dinner, Mr. President ?"

In the current series to celebrate the upcoming America 250, we are taking a slight turn in the road…from pioneers to presidents. This issue will focus on foods our past presidents introduced to the nation.

During Thomas Jefferson's reign, with the help of his French chef and European recipes, french fries, spaghetti and other pasta dishes, as well as ice cream were brought to the White House. And, he reportedly smuggled foreign rice in his pocket and introduced it to the Carolinas in 1787.

Dolly Madison made elaborate ten-course meals popular with the affluent. Most Americans, however, did not really start using a fork until after the Civil War.

John Quicy Adams loved his large garden and used fresh herbs when given a chance. He encouraged the colonists to grow onions, parsnips, turnips and cabbages in their gardens to ward off scurvy.

One of Dolly's most appreciated customs was serving her guests a hot bouillon when they arrived and again before they left the White House when the weather was cold and bluster:

1 lb beef stew meat
1 beef knuckle
1 cup chopped carrot
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped turnip
½ cup snipped parsley
2 teaspoons salt
⅛ teaspoon cayenne

In a large Dutch oven, combine all ingredients with 12 cups of water. Cover and simmer for 2 hours. Strain the broth. Serve hot. 12 servings.

Submitted by Carol Grace, Research Librarian

Pioneer Kitchen Remedies

For a cough: Roast a lemon very carefully without burning it. When it is thoroughly hot, cut and squeeze the juice into a cup over 2 T. of powdered sugar. Dosage 1 T.

For Rheumatism:: Bathe the parts afflicted with water in which potatoes have been boiled, as hot as can be borne.

For fever: 1 oz. Peruvian bark, 1 oz. cream of tartar, and 60 cloves, all pulverized, and put into 1 Qt of whiskey. Dosage ½ wine glassful 3 times a day.

For bee sting:: apply sliced raw onion.

Submitted by Carol Grace, Research Librarian

The West Fork of White River from Start to Finish

If the ancients had a name for it, it has not survived. We call it White River, a name derived from the time (1795-1821) when the Delaware Indians lived in villages along and near its banks from Muncie to present-day Broad Ripple in Indianapolis.

Depending upon the Delaware language dialect used, as there were three, the names given to the river were Wapeksippu and Wapahani. Both words have multiple meanings, one of which Is 'At a Place Where There is Much White Earth,' a reflection of the color of a particular clay soil found in and along the river.

In modern-day Madison County, the White River meanders approximately twenty miles as it travels westward, traversing its width.

How old is the White River? It is a relative newcomer in geologic time as defined by fossil evidence. In round numbers, it is 12,000 years old.

If the river could talk, it would tell of the immense physical changes in Madison County brought about by the last glacier to cover our county, the Wisconsin Glacier. As the melting process proceeded, the glacier's leading edge receded to the north. Wherever undestroyed rock barriers remained, they directed the flow of water, which underlies the bed of a glacier–explaining how the flow of the White River and other streams in Madison County was determined.

In its present form, the White River has two forks. The East Fork of the White River begins at Columbus in Bartholomew County at the Driftwood and Flatrock Rivers confluence, it flows southwesterly for 192 miles before joining the river's west fork about 4 miles above Petersburg.

The West Fork of White River begins south of Winchester in Randolph County and is much longer than the East Fork, covering 312 miles. After the junction of the two forks, the river flows another 30 miles before entering the Wabash River across from Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

Madison County is shaped like a rectangle measuring thirty miles in length and fifteen miles in width.

The West Fork of White River crosses the eastern boundary about one and a half miles northeast of Chesterfield and meanders for almost twenty miles across the county in a general westerly direction before crossing the western border not far from Perkinsville, roughly one-third of the county lies south of the river and two-thirds to the north.

Packed into those twenty miles in and along the river's banks is a large part of the county's rich and colorful history. A history we can only appreciate from a distance created by time.

Our predecessors, the Native Americans who lived in what would later become Madison

County, utilized the river to sustain their way of life through hunting and fishing. The White River was a source of energy and existence in many ways.

With our modern conveniences, we are privileged to enjoy the river in an entirely different way. Gone are the struggles and difficulties they faced. We are left to enjoy its beauty and learn from its history.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

Madison County History Trivia

A. On January 21`, 1839, Andersontown was incorporated as a what?

B. On February 18, 1892, this future United States presidential candidate was born in Elwood. What was his name?

C. On March 7, 1892, this famous Anderson landmark was opened. Sadly, on March 27, 1921, it was destroyed by raging flood waters of the White River. What was its name?

Madison County Historian's Activities
(October - December 2024)

October 4 - Conducted Lantern Walk #4 for the public in East Maplewood Cemetery.

November 1 - My article about the Madison County Historical Society appeared in the holiday 2024 issue of the Madison magazine.

November 4 - Attended a meeting at Maplewood Cemetery the subject of which was the 2025 Lantern Walk.

November 7 - Attended a meeting at the Madison County Historical Society the subject of which was to plan local **American 250** activities.

November 11 - Guest speaker at the Maplewood Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony.

December 5, I was a guest speaker on WHBU's Mitch Henck morning program.

October - December Presented programs about local history to various groups and organizations, including Anderson Public Library,, 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, Madison County Historical Society monthly meeting, Central Indiana Old Car Club, Christian Men's Fellowship Chesterfield Christian Church, Masonic Fellowship Lodge #681, Madison County Civil War Round Table, Sweet Galilee at the Wigwam residents, First Friday Patrons at Ruby's Cafe & Bakery, 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:

<u>Officers</u>

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

<u>Board of Trustees</u>

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

<u>Advisory Board</u>

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

<u>Dedicated Museum Volunteers</u>(not already named)

Mike Campbell
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. With a population of 350 people, the Indiana Legislature passed an act incorporating Andersontown as a Town allowing it to organize a town government for the purposes of governing itself.

b. Wendell Willkie.

c. The Walking Suspension Bridge that was used by people going back and forth to Park Place was washed away. It was located near the site of today's 8th Street Bridge.

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:

Telephone: 765.683.0052
Email: madisonchs10@gmail.com
Website: www.andersonmchs.com

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