THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
Volume 60 Issue 2 April, 2025 Diana Pine, Editor

"Consider MCHS in your estate planning!"

Photo Credit: P. Mitchell

Oral History Workshop

The Madison County Historical Society hosted a workshop entitled "**Conducting an Oral History Interview"** on March 15, 2-25 in the Bowman Room. Shannon Powers from the Indiana Historical Society conducted the workshop which included sample questionnaires, interview methods and best practices for collecting an oral history. Discussion also focused upon utilizing appropriate scanners for the digitalization of the completed oral histories and other important historical documents and photographs.

Thirty participants attended the half-day workshop which included a broad representatiion from Grant, Hancock, Henry and Madison Counties. Anyone interested in obtaining more information regarding the Oral History Workshop, may contact the MCHS office at 765-683-0052 or at madisomchs10@gmail.com.

Submitted by P. Mitchell
Volunteer

Photo Credit: P. Mitchell

Spring Gazette Reminders

Book your passage now! A few 1st class accommodations are still available. **"A Night on the Titanic"** will be presented by the MCHS Players, **Sunday April 13, 2025,** at 2:00 p.m., at the Museum of Madison County History, at the corner of Meridian and 11th streets. Because seating is limited, ***RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.*** cALL 765-683-0052, MWF, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., or leave a message on our answering service. This presentation is free, but donations are encouraged.

Volunteers are needed! Our 7th annual **Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show** will be **Saturday, May 10th, 2025,** from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. We plan to have certain museum exhibits open for public and participator viewing. We need MCHS members stationed through the open exhibits for assistance. You may sign up for the morning session, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; the afternoon session, 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.; or all day. Come early or stay late to see some of the best collector cars in central Indiana, have lunch from our awesome vendors, and dance or sing along to '60s classic rock. Call MWF between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to do your part in promoting our Museum of Madison County History.

Submitted by Melody Hull
First Vice President

Society Membership Recap

The speaker for our January membership meeting was Cathy Drager Williams from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Her topic was Underwater Archaeology which focused on our state's rivers, dams and canals. She spoke about the problem most concerning that the waterways are becoming "dumping grounds" which require constant care. She also mentioned that dams in Indiana are becoming dangerous; they were originally constructed of wood and have deteriorated over time. She stated that the DNR is currently working with several agencies to restore them. The only dam in Madison County is located in Pendleton.

In February, we hosted Mayor Broderick for his State of the City report. With the economic status, his future concern is that property

tax revenues are uncertain so we need to be more frugal right now. The city is working on shoring up the infrastructure of our waterworks. He is seeking help for the Federal Regulatory Commission. There have been 9,000 street lights which are being changed over to LED lighting. Economic growth this year is promising as several new facilities are on the southside of the city. More building permits were issued this year. Consumers are enjoying several new cafes, restaurants and coffee houses this year.. The Parks Department is continuing to upgrade 4 of the 25 major parks. Major Broderick gave a glimpse of what could be expected at Athletic Park. The Street Department is being proactive by trimming back overhanging tree limbs and mowing vacant lots. In the area of public safety, property crimes have decreased, and fewer fires were reported since last year. The Anderson Airport was upgraded from municipal to regional status which made the city more eligible for federal funding. Federal grants have helped funding for CATS and Nifty Lift.

Our March meeting featured county historian Stephen Jackson; he shared photos of "Scenic and Historic Madison County." This was a fantastic look back with so many "Remember Whens." Do you recall:

—-the "Pest House" on old East 10th Street.
—--when the Post Office on 11th and Jackson was one story high.
—--the Grand Opera House was on 11th and Main had a basement that was three floors deep.
—--when WHBU was located in Union Building.
—--what the Blue Bridge is really called.
—--the Main Street School and Sears Department Store where Anderson Public Library is currently.
—--what was Camp Stillwell and Where it was located.
—--the Blizzard of '78.
—--the tollgate on Lindberg Road.
—--mule-driven street cars.
—--Eavy's Supermarket and the site of Anderson's first gas well.
—--Perkinsville Cemetery has the oldest marked grave in the county.
—--swimming at Falls Park in Pendleton.
—--the Wendell Wilkie parade in 1940.

Submitted by Carol Grace, Research Librarian

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Civil War Roundtable

On March 17, 2025, the Civil War Roundtable presentation was on Vicksburg, Port Hudson and Tullahoma. During May 18 through July 4, 1863 Grant's Union troops held siege on Vicksburg to gain control of the Mississippi which was a major shipping point for supplies to the Confederate troops. The Confederate's finally gave up the garrison after the 47 day siege.

While Grant was busy with Vicksburg, General Nathaniel P. Banks was at Port Hudson, tasked with laying siege to Port Hudson to help further strengthen the Union's quest to gain a hold on the Mississippi. Port Hudson was under siege from May 22 through July 9, 1863 after 48 days!

In Tullahoma, TN, William Rosencrans was working to prevent the Confederate troops from moving south to engage with Grant at Vicksburg. Between the three different battles, control of the Mississippi was taken by the Union troops. This prevented supplies of food, animals, and most importantly, guns and ammunition from reaching Confederate troops in the south.

Submitted by Deb Weston, President

2024 Supporters of the Museum

Platinum Level Donors

Fred E. & Thelma V. Boze Foundation
Max Howard
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Gold Level Donors

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Friends of the Museum

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Randy's Construction
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The generosity of our patrons, businesses and organizations supports visitor education at MCHS

2025 Memorial Contributions

Suzetta Mae Chambers
Helen Nicholson
Mary Lou Mobley
Laura Gwaltney
Nancy Lawler

Marlaina Rhodes
Deb Weston
James Epperly
Cynthia Pulford
Chris Rouse
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Sherri Ballinger
Stephen & Janene Jackson
Helen Nicholson
Milton & Barbara Otto
Ronald & Mary Kimm
Luana Wilhite
Debra Weston
Keith & Amy Olson
Larry & Belinda Mabbitt

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

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

May 4, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"Where History Meets & The T.M. Norton Brewery"

June 1, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"Celebrity &The Hughes-Curry Packing Company"

Civil War Roundtable

April 21, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Phil Saugy
"19th Indiana at Gettysburg"

May 19, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
David Sutherland
"VMI: A Living Legacy"

June 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
David Finney
"The Civil War: A Living Legacy"

Society Monthly Meetings

April 27, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Rebecca Crowe
"History of Anderson Public Library"

May 25, 2025 - No Meeting this Month due to the Holiday

June 22, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"An Official 250 Program-Causes And Events of the American Revolution"

You can find us at:

http://whatsup247.com
New 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 6 to submit your 2025 dues.

Building Renovation

Our newest volunteer, Mike Campbell, has completed the unfinished area adjacent to the elevator in the basement.

The building exterior has been stabilized and weatherized with the

exception of the mechanical room alley door. This metal door must be replaced; I have two separate estimates out for bids. Hopefully, this will complete the protection of the building's exterior.

Submitted by Gerald Jones.
Treasurer/Building Manager

Munching Through The Midwest

This episode takes us back to the Hoosier frontier. Most early settlements did not have a permanent clergyman for their church. Instead, circuit-riding bishops or other officials would show up for Sunday services. According to legend, one early Sunday morning a circuit-riding bishop dropped in on an unsuspecting family for breakfast. The resourceful wife invented a quick fruit bread, then named it Bishop's Bread to honor their guest. Here's how she made it:

2 ½ C flour
½ C chopped nuts
1 ¾ C brown sugar
1 t. Baking soda
1 t. Cinnamon
1 C buttermilk
½ t. Salt
2 beaten eggs
½ C butter
½ C raisins or currants

In a bowl, mix the first four ingredients, then cut in cold butter until crumbly. Take out ½ C for topping. Add the rest of the ingredients to the flour mixture. Pour into 2 round cake pans. Sprinkle crumbles over top. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes. Makes two coffee cakes. (Information taken from BH and G Heritage Cookbook)

Submitted by Carol Grace,
Research Librarian

Chesterfield

Almost unnoticed by today's traveler is a two-story brick house on the south side of SR 32 at the eastern edge of Chesterfield. William Dilts built it.

He is believed to be the first to settle in the area, later named Chesterfield in Madison County. He arrived from Montgomery County, Ohio in March 1821 and settled on the east bank of Mill Creek.

He remained at this site for about four years but did not have sufficient financial resources to purchase the land; Joshua Baxter claimed it from under him in 1824.

Mr. Dilts then moved to Delaware County, where he remained for four years. In 1829, he retired and purchased 160 acres of land in the same section he previously occupied, only on the south side of the road that is now Indiana SR 32. He erected a double-pen log horse, establishing the first hotel in the township. About 1833, he built a large brick house, the first in the township.

Frederick Bronnenberg, Sr. stopped in the area with his family in June 1821. He was on the way to prairie country in Illinois when one of his oxen gave out. While seeking assistance from Mr. Dilts, Bronnenberg was told there were no roads to speak of farther west; thus, he decided to locate in the area. He moved his family into an abandoned cabin previously occupied by an Indian trader named McChester. In the spring of 1822, he built a cabin north of White River. Nearby, he erected a sawmill. Burrs for grinding both corn and wheat were added later. The family eventually became large county landholders, particularly in Union Township.

A significant influence in the development of Chesterfield was the arrival of Amasa Makepeace. He and his wife, Betsey, were married about 1800 in Norton, Massachusetts. The couple moved to Chesterfield, NH, where they remained until 1818, when they and their children moved west, eventually arriving in 1823.

In 1825, Makepeace built the first grist mill on Mill Creek, affording the settlers in the east-central part of the county a place to take their grain and have it ground.

The couple's son, Allen, is credited with laying out the town in 1830. Known first as West Union, it was renamed Chesterfield in 1834. Because Allen was responsible for laying out the town, it seems natural that his influence caused the town to be named Chesterfield after his birthplace in New Hampshire in 1802. A pioneer custom practiced all across our nation.

A second son, George, built the brick house today at 5 West Main Street. Erected in 1850, it was designed to be a business and a home. It was the location of the first apothecary in Madison County. The shop was located in the front of the house on the first floor, utilizing the front and side doors.

The diligence of these three men, their descendants, and others was instrumental in developing this historic community on White River. They left their mark on Chesterfield, a community than remembers its past.

Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Histor .

Madison County History Trivia

A. Throughout our history the month of April has been popular for visits by candidates seeking the office of President of the United States,

Madison County has witnessed three; one in 1920, another in 1960 and the last in 2008. Can you name the candidates?

B. On May 30, 1930, what famous movie theater opened in Anderson?

C. On June 16, 1813, a large Delaware Indian village in what would later become Madison County was burned to the ground by orders of General William Henry Harrison. Can you name it?

Madison County Historian's Activities

(January - March 2025)

January 8 - Attended a meeting at the Madison County Historical Society the subject of which was to plan local American 250 activites

February 1 - My article about Anderson's Historic West 8th Street appeared in the spring 2025 issue of the Madison magazine..

February 7 - Attended a meeting of the Madison County America 250 and the 8th Street Gas Light Festival to discuss how both groups can work for this year's festival..

February 10 - Attended an America 250 meeting with county representatives.

March 3 - Met with Jonathan Schwier, a local musician, writer and composer, who is planning to write a play for this year's Gaslight Festival. The purpose of our meeting was to gather historical background for incorporation into the play.

January - March 2025 - Presented programs about local history to various groups and organizations, including Anderson Noon Lions Club, Jolly Kennagers of Grace Baptist Church, Primrose Retirement Community residents, Keystone Woods residents, Madison County Tea Party, Frankton Community Library. Madison County Triad, AARP Chapter 1686, Madison County Historical Society monthly meeting, Christian Men's Fellowship of Chesterfield Christian Church, Sweet Galilee at the Wigwam residents, Summitville Senior Social Club, J.O.Y. group of 1st United Methodist Church, Anderson Outreach Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Bethany Christian Church Young at Heart Group, Historic Fall Creek Pendleton Settlement, Frankton Lions Club, 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? Let's review:

Officers

Deb Weston, President
Steve Fuller, 1st Vice President
Melody Hull, 2nd Vice President
Emilie Isenhour, Secretary
Gerald Jones, Treasurer
Stephen T. Jackson, Historian

Board of Trustees

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

Advisory Board

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

Dedicated Museum Volunteers(not already named)

Mike Campbell
Laura Gwaltney
Karen Kardatzke
Lois Killion
Nancy Lawler
Pete Mitchell
Janet Moore
Cindy Pulford
Chris Roush
Karen Smith
Corval Zeabart

Trivia Answers

a. Warren Harding April 7, 1920
John F. Kennedy, Aril 5, 1960
Barack Obama, April 26, 2008.

b. State Theater

c.Anderson's Town (Today's Anderson, Indiana). After Harrison requested Chief Anderson and his tribe to relocate, it was burned to destroy food stored there that was used by renegade troublesome Native Americans present in this area forcing them to leave. It was unsuccessful.

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

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 has a Madison County veteran, living or deceased, who you like to see acknowledged, please complete this form and include a small donation. Forward form and donation by September 26, 2025, to MCHS, P.O. Box 696, Anderson, IN 46015-0696.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **St:**_____ **Zip:** _____

Contact #: _____

Veteran Name: _____

Conflict/War: _____

Branch: _____

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