THE GAZETTE

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

Volume 60 Issue 3 July 2025 Diana Pine, Editor

Please consider the MCHS in your Estate Planning

2025 Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show

This year's Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show was quite the success. Not only did the competitions peek at 108 (one of our biggest tallies), but they exhibited some of the most beautiful classics, restored originals, and hot rods in central Indiana. Saturday, May 10th, proved to have wonderful dry weather, and our DJ rocked Anderson's Dickmann Town Center, Meridian, and surrounding side streets. Food vendors offered good eats, breakfast, brunch, and lunch, and for snacking, we even had kettle corn!

Admiring the handy work of automobile experts, the public filled the closed-to-traffic competition area between 10th and 13th and then took advantage of our museum being open for touring. School graduates, with ceremonies at the Paramount, enjoyed posing for pictures with their favorite vintage vehicles.

After the 3 judges made their assessments and the results were calculated, show officials in the afternoon announced the winners for each of the 39 award plaques. The owners were named and their cars were identified as to year, make, model, and color.

The annual central Indiana car show is held by the MCHS to financially benefit and publicly advertise our Museum of Madison County History. Mayor Thomas Broderick, who helps sponsor our event, sent his media crew to record interviews with society volunteers and show participants, photograph all the activity, and then post the images to internet platforms. Our museum, our city, our county thrive on this type of positive, diverse, colorful exposure (pun intended).

Article and Photo Credits Submitted by Melody Hull. Second Vice President

First Sunday Presentations

The First Sunday series began again on Sunday April 6. County historian Stephen Jackson presented "Spanning the River." He described 27 different crossing sites of the White River In Madison County. Did you know:

…. Mustin Builders in Park Place used to be the site of a popular large baseball field.

…. The 1913 Flood was responsible for destroying 4 bridges.

…. In 1937, the Baldwin Bridge connected downtown Anderson with North Anderson.

At the May meeting, Mr. Jackson's program centered on Harter Field. Chandler Werbe's Whitehall, and the T.M. Norton Brewery. Harter Field, located around Madison and Sycamore streets and White River, was the site of early airplane test flights. For about two decades, it was popular because, when the circus came to town, that space was utilized. The huge circus train cars would unload on John Street between 8th and 3rd street, then parade down to Harter Field.

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Membership Dues

Please remember to renew your 2025 MCHS membership.

Annual Dues:

$5.00 Student
$25.00 Adult Single
$40.00 Family/Same household

Please use the form on **page 8** to submit your 2025 membership dues. Thank You!

Madison County History Trivia Questions:

1. On July 3rd, 1871, what railroad that serviced Anderson and Central Indiana was organized?
2. On August 20th, 1921, a bridge connecting Anderson to Park Place opened. Can you name this bridge?
3. On September 16th, 1843, a well-known abolitionist was mobbed in Pendleton. Can you name him?

Schedule of Events

First Sunday - 2:00p.m.

July 6, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"A River of Flood"

August 3, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"The Great Floods"

September 7, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"White River Tales"

Civil War Roundtable - 7:00p.m.

July 21, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Tony Trimble
"Cades Cove. A Community of War"

August 18, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Gib Young
"Battles of Champions Hill"

September 15, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Stephen Ritchie
"Was Robert E. Lee a Traitor?"

Society Monthly Meetings

July 27, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Darla Sallee
"Renovation of the Toast Restaurant"

August 24, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Mark Hallenback
"City of Anderson's Contributions Past and Present"

September 28, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
American 250 program "Significant Events of the American Revolution"

2025 Museum Supporters:

Platinum Level Donors

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

And/Mad County Visitors Bureau
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Bradford Douglas
Craig & Marsha Dunkin
George & Peggy Groff
Cheryl Haas
Don & Marilyn Hunt
Stephen T. Jackson
Gene & Doris McMahon
Sharon Bronnenberg Morehouse
Helen Nicholson
Paul & Dorothy Malone
Michael Seldomridge
Ron & Alice Spangler
Robert & Ellen Strickland
Janet Swartz
UAW 1963 Retiree
Steven Voss

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Tim Allred's Collision Center
Patsy Woschitz

First Sunday Presentations

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Mr. Werbe, a partner of Lynch Manufacturing, found it necessary to buy land in Anderson and have a home built along White River large enough for entertaining foreign representative and dignitaries. Whitehall was then designed to imitate Mount Vernon overlooking the Potomac River.

Steve then spoke about the Norton Brewery in Anderson. This was the first ale brewery of its kind in northern Indiana. It was located at 7th and Central Avenue. In 1900, it was the tallest structure in Anderson, consisting of seven floors. It had a capacity of 250 barrels of beer a day.

On June 1, Stephen Jackson presented a program highlighting Grandview Golf Course, the Orin Welch Airfield, the Green Lantern dance hall near Moss Island and the Hughes-Curry Packing Company.

Grandview got its name from the remarkable view from the clubhouse. The origin of the name for the Green Lantern may have been from a large green sign shaped like a lantern that hung out front. This club attracted the most popular dance bands from all over the nation. The dedication of the Orin Welch Airfield brough in any famous pilots, including Amelia Earhart and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker.

The Hughs-Curry Packing Company was a meat packing business originally located on John Street north of Nichol Avenue. During the early 20th century that business kept expanding and changing locations. It finally found a home of West Eighth Street and was eventually bought by the Emge Corporation. Emge then continued operation of that plant until 1992.

MCHS Membership Meetings

The April 27th meeting of the Madison County Historical Society featured Rebecca Crowe from the Anderson Public Library. She has been with the Indiana Room at that library since 2023. She shared many interesting tidbits about the history of the building.

The original Anderson Public Library opened in 1879 on the public square with 374 books. In 1899, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation donated $50,000 toward the building of a new structure located at Tenth and Jackson. During World War I, the basement of the library was taken over by the American Red Cross. Then, in 1983, the Sears Store on Twelfth and Main was purchased, and the library was relocated there.

Due to the holiday calendar, there was no meeting planned for May.

County historian Stephen Jackson was the guest speaker for the June 20th meeting. To promote the year-long celebration of America 250, he has created a 4-part series on the American Revolution. His topic for this meeting was Part I: Events and Causes of the American Revolution. He explained the reasons why our forefathers, who had been very loyal to England, found it necessary to gain their own independence. Unfair taxation and blocking ports finally led to skirmishes and then major battles.

The next scheduled meeting is Sunday July 27th at 2:00p.m.

Civil War Roundtable

On April 21, Phil Spaugy spoke about the action of Company A of the 19th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers who were from Madison County. McClellan called them the “iron Brigade; they were also known to have the “superior ability to forage, especially for chickens. Alonso Makepeace was a Captain in Company A. As we all know, the Battle of Gettysburg was quite a struggle. Company A suffered some injuries during the battle, however, none were killed.

May 19, David Sutherland did a presentation on the “Virginia Military Institute, Civil War Legacy.” The Virginia Military Institute barracks were originally built in 1851, then a second wing was added in 1949, and the third wing was added in early 2000’s. There is a statue of George Washington that was erected in 1857 which is still standing. Many notable men attended VMI included three generations of General George S. Patton, Benjamin Franklin Fickler who founded the Pony Express, and Mel Brooks, Dabney Coleman and Fred Willard. The first non-Virginia cadet was admitted in 1859. Typically, the first year of academia is the hardest; approximately twenty percent of cadets drop out. The first women were admitted in 1997. Stonewall Jackson was an instructor at VMI from 1851-1861. His horse, Lil Sorrel,” is buried on the grounds of VMI.

June 16 speaker David Finney discussed “Why Does the Civil War matter today.” From 1861-2011 many major events happened to shape the future of U.S.A. I am going to center on women who made major strides in the advancements for women. Dorothea Dix became the Superintendent of Nurses for the Union Army. Bell Boyd and Rosie O’Neal Greenhow were Confederate spies. Women used their silk dresses to create hot air balloons for reconnaissance purposes. Most women contributed by being nurses and teachers (which were predominately male profession before the Civil War began). Additionally, the following things improved the lives of solders during the Civil War: Borden’s Condensed Milk, ambulance service, telegraph services, How Sewing Machine (for making uniforms), photography. The Civil War also saw many songs created such as “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Morning” and “Battle Cry of the Republic”.

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Books such as “T’was the Night Before Christmas,” “Little Women,” “Ben-Hur,” “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” and “The Red Badge of Courage.” were published. The Civil War brought traditions such as placing flowers on graves, awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor, celebrating Memorial Day, and the playing of “Taps” as military funerals.

Building Renovations

The West Alley rear security door was replaced in May 2025. The original security door had deteriorated beyond its useful life and had become a safety and security concern. Fredericks Contractors completed the project with $5,500. The replacement door was made possible with contributions from the City of Anderson and the Anderson Sertoma Club. Thank you to all contributors.

The West Alley exterior wall is being programmed for a total rehabilitation project. These renovations include the removal of any unused electrical conduit, repair and resurface the entire brick wall and repaint the entire brick surface. The project’s total estimated cost is $20,000. and it is tentatively scheduled to be completed in late September by Fredericks Contractors. Approximately $15,000. of the project’s cost has been completed with pledges and donations. Any additional contributions and pledges toward the wall’s completi9on will be gratefully appreciated.

Building maintenance volunteer, Mike Campbell, has repaired and replaced several ceiling tiles in the entryway of the second storage Aladdin Vault. This project involved extensive ladder work. Mike also keeps the outside entryways clean and presentable for all visiting patrons. Thank you, Mike!!

Munching through the Midwest

This edition of *Munching* will explore how the early Hoosier pioneers preserved their foods for the rest of the year. According to the BH&G Heritage Cookbook: for winter there was the root cellar located under the house or dug out of a hill not far from the kitchen door. Here, apples, carrots, onions and potatoes, and other garden bounty stayed dry and firm for months. In warm weather, perishable went to the springhouse if the farm was lucky enough to have one. It was so named because a spring flwed over the stone floor. Crocks of milk and butter set in water escaped the midday heat. Some foods were also dried, smoked or salted to preserve them. Home canning then became popular during the two World Wars.

The recipe for this issue, Brandy Peaches, comes from the publication Midwestern Home Cookery which was popular in 1875. It reads: “Take nice peaches, pared smoothly. Scald them in an ordinary syrup until soft enough to run a straw in.. Place them in a jar. Make another batch of fresh, rich syrup. To one pint of syrup and one and one-half pints of best whiskey, mix and pour over the peaches. Let stand overnight. If the syrup looks then, boil over and add more sugar. (Editor’s note—-most recipes should actually be personally tested before publishing. I have not this one yet, but plan to really soon.

Submitted by Carol Crace,
Research Librarian

The Building of a Dream

We met at the Anderson Public Library when I joined the Madison County Historical Society of Trustees in February 1991. Discussion about the desire to have our own building occurred at most of our meetings. I would suspect similar discussions occurred during other society board meetings beginning in 1884.

Early in December 1884, Dr. William A. Hunt invited several gentlemen of well-known taste for archaeological matters to meet in his office in Anderson to organize a county historical society. From that meeting, the Articles of Association creating the society were filed in the Madison County Court House Recorder’s office at 4:00 p.m. on Friday the 20th.

On January 12, 1927, the society was incorporated under Indiana law and became the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.

The sixteen founding members in 1884 were W. A. Hunt, Stephen Metcalf, Samuel Harden, F.T. Luse, F.A. Walker, Charles B. Gerad, B. F. Spann, W. R. Pierse, William Roach, B. H. Campbell, Dale J. Crittenberger, Dory Biddle, R. I. Hamilton, O. S. Kelso, M. A. Chipman, M.A. Bosworth.

The officers they elected were Dr. William A. Hunt, president; Stephen Metcalf, 1st vice president; Samuel Harden, 2nd vice president; Frank A. Walker, secretary; Fleming T. Luse, treasurer.

The Madison County Board of Commissioners reserved a room in the courthouse for the society’s use, and the work of collecting historical relics and curiosities was begun. Much interest was taken in the matter for a shile, and many rare archaeological specimens, interesting relics, and curiosities were donated to the society by county citizens.

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These gentlemen were particularly active in collecting curiosities and classify them for the benefit of the public. There was no lack of interest on the part of the citizens of the county, and a great many people visited the society's room to see the curiosities as long as the collections was permitted to remain in the courthouse.

Over time, it became necessary to use the room donated to the society by the Board of Commissioners for county purposes. . This and the plundering made on the collection by petty thieves induced certain members of the society to consent to its removal to the Anderson High School building in the fall of 1895, where it was in charge of the superintendent of the city schools.

Various sites served as the society's home from 1885 until December 2004. Our information about where and when the society met is meager, but here are the sites about which we know.

We met in the Madison County Courthouse during the first ten years, 1885-1895. From there, the society moved to the high school building at Twelfth and Lincoln in 1895, which was the Lincoln School erected in 1890. The adjacent Anderson High School building, erected in 1898, is another possible location.

During the 1940's, they met in the YMCA building at Twelfth and Jackson, and thirty years later, in the 1970's they met in the YWCA building on Jackson Street.

At some point, the society was located in the Anderson Public Library, first at Tenth and Jackson and later in the library's present location.

In 1999, library remodeling plans necessitated a move to the Medical Arts Building on Brown Street, where the the society remained until Attorney Max Howard donated the former Citizen's Bank building at Eleventh and Meridian Streets for the society's exclusive use in late 2004.

Look for *The Dream Realized*, the continuation of this story, in the next issue of the Gazette.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

Madison County Historian Activities - May—June, 2025

April 7 - Thanks to the generous support of Lilly Endowment, the Indiana Historical Society is planning *Knowledge Indiana,* a comprehensive digital resource on the state's history and culture. *Knowledge Indiana* will include a landing page for each of the state's 92 counties to include information about the history, people, places, organizations, and events that have shaped the county and its communities. I completed a survey about Madison County for this project.

April 9—Attended an America 250 Committee meeting at the Museum of Madison County History.

April 12—I was interviewed by telephone by an Anderson University senior majoring in public history. The assignment was to interview someone in the field of history and write a paper about the findings.

April 13 - Participated in *A Night on the Titanic* presented during a public performance by the MCHS players at the Museum of Madison History.

April 15 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show.

April 25 - Conducted a school bus tour of the 1824 Indian Massacre and the Underground Railroad for members of the Frankton Junior High School History Club. I was presented with a $93. cash honorarium for the Madison County Historical Society.

April 30 - My article about Anderson's Historic West 8th Street appeared in the summer 2025 issue of the Madison Magazine.

April 30 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show.

May 14 - Attended an America 250 committee meeting at the Museum of Madison County History.

May 26 - Guest speaker for the Maplewood Cemetery Memorial Day Observance.

June 12 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show.

June 18 - Attended an America 250 committee meeting at the Museum of Madison County History.

April - June 2025 Presented programs about local history to various groups and organizations, including Anderson Noon Lion's Club, Anderson Public History Series Lectures, Jolly Keenagers of Grace Baptist Church, Primrose Retirement Community residents, Keystone Woods residents, Madison County Tea Party, Frankton Community Library, Madison County Triad, Madison County Historical Society monthly meetings, Madison County Historical Society First Sunday Lectures, Christian Men's Fellowship of Chesterfield Christian Church, Sweet Galilee at the Wigwam residents, Summitville Senior Social Club, Madison County Extension Homemakers, Anderson Arts League, Beta Sigma Phil Sorority, Riverview Church of Christian Union, Sparklers Home Economics Club, Alexandria-Monroe Township Historical Society, Central Indiana Old Car Club, Glad Tidings Church-Muncie, Frankton Senior Social Club and the Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

2025
Memorial Contributions

Wilson & Martha Bronnenberg
Sharon B. Morehouse

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

Charles Harless
Emilie Isenhour
Deb Weston

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Larry Mabbitt
Paul & Sherron Boeger
Belinda Mabbitt
Chris Rouse
Debra Weston

Jim Moore
Debra Weston

Marlaina Rhodes
James Epperly
Cynthia Pulford
Chris Rouse
TOPS IN 1927
Debra Weston

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to the families of those we've lost in 2024/2025:

Suzetta Mae Chambers
Roger Hensley
Marlaina Rhodes
Larry Mabbitt
Emilie Isenhour

West Maplewood Civil War Walking Tour—July 19, 10:00 a.m.

Join author Kevin Yaney as he leads a Civil War Veterans Walking Tour at West Maplewood Cemetery in Anderson, In. Mr. Yaney will be talking about the men of Madison County who marched from Indiana into the Civil War. West Maplewood Cemetery is the final resting place for over 200 Civil War veterans. The event is free, but registration is needed: www.CiivilWarVeteransWalkingTour.com.

Madison County History Trivia Answers:

1.) Anderson, Lebanon, and St. Louis Railroad; later, it became the Central Indiana Railroad.

2.) 9th Street Bridge

3.) Frederick Douglas

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

Many thanks to the Trustees, Officers, Advisory board members, daily and special event volunteers for their time and financial support that enables the Madison County Historical Society and Museum to be successful. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact our office or anyone of the individuals listed below.

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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 26, 2025,** to MCHS, P. O. Box 696, Anderson, IN 46015-0696.

Your Name _____

Address_____

City_____ St_____ Zip_____

Contact#_____

Veteran Name_____

Conflict/War _____

Branch _____

The Gazette

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Contact Information
Phone 765-683-0052
E-Mail: madisonchs10@gmail.com
Web Site: www.andersonmchs.com
Facebook: Madison County (IN) Historical Society