THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
Volume 60 Issue 4 **October 2025**

Please consider the MCHS in your Estate Planning

Books for Sale

MCHS is offering the following books for sale:

1. What's in a Name, How Communities Sprang to Life across Madison County
2. Historic Places in a County Called Madison
3. Historic Events in a County Called Madison, the 19th Century
4. Historic Events in a County Called Madison, the 20th Century

   Please Note: Steve Jackson will autograph his first four books listed above.
5. Madison County's 100 Greatest Athletes
6. High School Hoops, History & Highlights of Local High School Basketball
7. Perfect Game, How Carl Erskine Won the World Series, Inspired the Nation, and Came Home to Anderson, Indiana

The first book sells for **$20.00**, and each subsequent book is **$15.00**. These books will make excellent holiday gifts for that "hard-to-shop-for" person. Shop now while supplies last. **Remember**: **Cash Only**! No checks or credit/debit cards. **Please Call: 765-683-0052** for more information.

Heritage Support Grant Awarded to MCHS

The Indiana Historical Society awarded a Heritage Support Grant to the Madison County Historical Society for the installation of a fire suppression system for two of the Museum's collections vaults. Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The system will be installed in the Aladdin Vault on the 2nd floor, and in the Elevator Vault in the basement. The Ansul Norvec 1230 FSS removes oxygen and releases fire-extinguishing agents that suppress the flames but protects the valuable contents of the Museum's collections. The project is scheduled to be completed by August 2026. With the completion of the new fire suppression system, it is our hope that the fire and casualty insurance premiums will be reduced. The entire staff contributed to the securement of this grant award, congratulations and thank you to all the MCHS volunteers.

America 250 Events

The Madison County Historical Society has been chairing the America 250 campaign for Madison County. This nationwide celebration is recognizing the 250th birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Even though our country was still considered part of the western frontier that long ago, the forefathers still fought for freedom from British rule. Many of them eventually became landowners and they are buried here. Although most of the county's events will occur in 2026, there are several programs which have been presented in 2025.

On September 22nd, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Anderson Public Library hosted the program "Understanding the U.S. Constitution." The Alexandria Historical Society presented the program "Scenic and Historic Madison County." Pendleton will be featuring a Porch Music Festival on October 18th, from 12:00-6:00 p.m.

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Membership Dues

Please remember to renew your 2025/2026 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 2025/2026 membership dues. Thank You!

Madison County History Trivia Questions:

1. On October 22nd, 1894, a new iron bridge spanning White River connecting Anderson with Park Place was opened. What was it called?
2. On November 9th, 1930, a fire in the hanger of an airfield south of Anderson resulted in the closing of this well-known airfield. Can you name the airfield?
3. On December 19th, 1868, the Anderson Hydraulic Company was organized for what purpose?

(Answers on Page 5)

Schedule of Events

First Sunday - 2:00p.m.

October 5, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"You Shall Never Again See Your Sister" and Ella B. Kehrer Hospital

November 2, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
Camp Stillwell and the Morton Rifles;
Faces of the Indian Children Shone Brightly

December 7, 2025
No Meeting

Civil War Roundtable - 7:00p.m.

October 20, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Gerald Jones
Berdan's Sharpshooters

November 17, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Gerald Jones
A Season of Uncertainty, Summer & Fall, 1863

December 15, 2025
No Meeting

Society Monthly Meetings

October 26, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
The John Ellis Murder

November 23, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson,
Elwood H. Phillips Award;

Dewayne Landwehr,
The Second Continental Congress

December 28, 2025
No Meeting

2025 Museum Supporters:

Platinum Level Donors

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

Gold Level Donors

And/Mad County Visitors Bureau
Charles & De Etta Baker
Emily Carter
City of Anderson
Bradford Douglas
Stephen T. Jackson
Sharon Bronnenberg Morehouse
Helen Nicholson
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Friends of the Museum

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Don & Marilyn Hunt
Jam Printing
Milton Otto
Michael Seldomridge
Nick's Auto Service
Safety Tech, Inc.
Shellabarger Office Solutions
Sun Pro Roofing
Tim Allred's Collision Center
UAW 1963 Retirees

America 250 Events

(Continued from Page 1)

Pendleton and the DAR will also be hosting a Liberty Tree dedication at 2:00 p.m. on October 27th at Falls Park (north entrance). In November, Ruby's Café will host a historic play on November 21st and the 22nd. The exact title and time of the play is yet to be announced. The play is based on the time period of the Moravian missionaries and the Delaware Indians on the White River during the early 1800s. Upcoming America 250 events for the 2026 calendar year will be described in the January Gazette.

Submitted by Carol Grace, Research Librarian

MCHS Membership Meetings

The **July 27th** meeting of the Madison County Historical Society featured Darla and Gary Sallee, owners of the Toast restaurant. Their topic focused on the history of the Toast and how they became involved with the recent ownership and its renovation. The Toast, located at 13th and Main Streets, was the site of the very first Central Christian Church. Renovations included a full-blown internal rebuild, expanding the seating area, developing an outdoor dining area, and creating a patio for live entertainment. The necessary internal improvements proved to be more costly than originally expected. The owners felt that Anderson deserves to have nice things, and their project has really become a "labor of love." Darla and Gary are adamant about keeping with the core values of the Toast: positive attitude, attention to detail, continuous improvement, and team spirit.

The **August 24th** meeting featured Mark Hallenback, Anderson University student and MCHS volunteer. Mark's presentation was entitled: ***Anderson, Past and Present***. His topic spanned the history of Anderson and Madison County from the prehistoric mastodon era to the present day. The areas of interest focused upon wars and the conflicts affecting the Anderson citizens, innovative and outstanding local industries, as well as its interesting citizens. Healthcare, education, and entertainment facilities also served as areas of historical significance. His overall theme emphasized that the Anderson area maintains a source of pride due to its deep, rich history and resilience.

The **September 28th** meeting was conducted by Steve Jackson, Madison County Historian. The presentation focused upon the second part of his Revolutionary War series, ***Significant Events of the War***. During the Spring and Summer of 1775, the Battles of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill kept the patriots busy with establishing a viable network of strategies to engage with the British. In the latter part of 1775, the Battle for Fort Ticonderoga raged into the early half of 1776. As Spring 1776 approached, each state needed to ratify the declaration which became known as the "Lee Resolution." From July 2nd to July 4th, the *Declaration of Independence* was signed by 54 signees. The Battles of Brooklyn Heights and Trenton were fought in the latter half of 1776. Other battles fought between 1777-1783 included Brandywine, Saratoga, Valley Forge, Kings Mountain, and Yorktown. The *Treaty of Paris* was signed on September 3, 1783, officially ending the *War of American Independence*.

Submitted by Carol Grace, Research Librarian

First Sunday Presentations

The First Sunday series began on Sunday **July 6, 2025**. Madison County Historian Stephen Jackson's presentation was entitled **A River of Fun**. He took his audience back in time to the "ole swimmin' hole" (behind the Harter House), horse racing and ice skating at Foster Park (later known as Athletic Park), hot air balloon rides at Riverside Park, and a major baseball complex in the Park Place area. He also described the 1897 amusement park at Mounds Park. The park included a figure-8 roller coaster, train rides, and a dance pavilion.

On **August 3rd**, Mr. Jackson's program was entitled **The Great Floods**. In 1805, the Moravian missionaries experienced 8 feet of water flooding their cornfields. In November 1883, a covered bridge collapsed from the White River's floodwaters. The bridge had been located at north Main Street in Anderson, and was connected to the entrance gate of the West Maplewood Cemetery. The greatest flood disaster occurred in March 1913. Four days of rain produced 7 inches without the benefit of any levees at the time. The White River rose 2 feet every hour; and as a result, several bridges in Madison County were greatly damaged or destroyed.

On **September 1st**, Stephen Jackson's program was called **White River Tales**. He spoke about the Fort Wayne Trace which was the first state road in Indiana. This route was intended to connect Indianapolis with Fort Wayne, and much of that route cut through Madison County. Steve also talked about Max Miller being trapped on an island in White River near the Camp Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp. He spoke about Joseph Mix who had the uncanny ability to locate missing persons and articles including a watch, a horse, and a missing husband!

Submitted by Carol Grace Research Librarian

Civil War Roundtable

On **July 21st**, Dr. Tony Trimble gave a presentation entitled Cades Cove. This secluded community lies deep in the valley of the Great Smokie Mountains of Tennessee. The topic was chosen by Dr. Trimble due to its historic relevance of a fallen Confederate soldier and the soldier's final place. Visiting the area and conducting research, Dr. Trimble uncovered the impact that the Civil War had on the Cades Cove community, and how it forever changed the residents and the history of Cades Cove.

Dr. Trimble resides in Plainfield, IN and he is the past President of the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable. He is the author of numerous articles and essays on Civil War History as well as Indiana History.

On **August 18th**, Historian Gib Young gave a presentation on the Battle of Champion Hill. Major General Ulysses S. Grant defeated Confederate General John C. Pemberton at the Battle of Champion Hill in May 1863. This battle was pivotal as it became part of the Siege of Vicksburg and its inevitable surrender. Dozens of men from Madison County were an important part of the May 17, 1863, Mississippi battle. According to Winston Churchill's writings, this was one of the two most important battles of the Civil War.

Mr. Gib Young resides in Huntington, IN and is a graduate of Bethel College in Mishawaka. He is currently the President of the Huntington County Historical Society and a department officer for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

On **September 15th**, Historian Stephen Lee Ritchie presented a brief history of the arguments about Robert E. Lee and the assertions and allegations to whether he was a traitor or a true citizen. Mr. Ritchie clarified that General Lee was a citizen of Virginia and he was merely answering his call to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia as a citizen of Virginia, not the United States. The language regarding citizenship of the United States wasn't introduced into the U.S. Constitution until after the Civil War. Mr. Ritchie emphasized that the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution addresses the issue regarding citizens of the United States.

Mr. Ritchie holds degrees in both U.S. History and U.S. Government from Ball State University in Muncie, IN. He is a former Staff Historian for the Civil War Education Association, and for 15 years was the Historian of the Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

Submitted by Geald Jones
Civil War Roundtable Host

Madison County Historian Activities
July-September 2025

July 14 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show, "Anderson Talks"

July 15 - Conducted the Bethany Point Independent Living Community residents on a City of Anderson Tour #1.

July 16 - Attended an America 250 committee meeting at the Museum of Madison County History.

July 21 - Obtained the last of the Bronnenberg Children's Home records from the Madison County Youth Center. They are for the period 1970-1995.

July 25 - My article about Anderson's Historic West 8th Street appeared in the fall 2025 issue of the Madison Magazine.

August 14 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show, "Anderson Talks"

August 19 - Attended a gathering of the Red-tail Land Conservancy at the Hidden Canal Nature Preserve where I was asked to make remarks regarding the history of the location.

August 26 - Conducted Bethany Pointe Independent Living Community residents on a City of Anderson Tour #2.

August 27 - Attended an America 250 committee meeting at the Museum of Madison County History.

September 6 - Represented the Madison County Historical Society at the Andersontown POWWOW in Beulah Park, Alexandria, IN.

September 8 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show, "Anderson Talks"

July - September 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, Madison County Extension Homemakers, Alexandria-Monroe Township Historical Society, Ellis Family Reunion, Frankton Senior Social Club, AARP Chapter 1686, Park Place Church of God Senior Lunch, Pendleton Garden Club, Historic Eighth street Gas Light Festival, Bethany Christian Church Fresh Start Sunday School Class Picnic, and the Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

The Building of a Dream

Part II, The Dream Realized, is the continuation of the 140-year history of the Madison County Historical Society which was first introduced in the July Issue of the MCHS Gazette.

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

The building was known as the "History Center" from the beginning in late 2004 until September 2018 when the name was changed to the Museum of Madison County History. The society is administered by two boards. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly; and the Board of Advisors meets weekly.

Nearly 50 volunteers donate their time to working at the museum. Usually 8-10 volunteers are working in the building during the open hours. Some volunteers will come during off-hours to work. In a typical year over 13,500 volunteer hours are recorded.

Consider a few historical events that have occurred since our founding:

1885: First Electric Lighting in Anderson

July 1886: Two Anderson Water Works pumps begin pumping one million gallons daily.

October 28, 1886: The Statue of Liberty is dedicated in New York Harbor.

May 31, 1889: A poorly constructed dam in Pennsylvania burst open, resulting the devastating Johnstown Flood.

1892: Anderson Sewerage System completed

1893: First Telephone in Anderson -T.M. Norton Brewery Company, Assigned Telephone No. 1.

April 1896: The first modern Olympic Games are held in Athens, Greece.

May 15, 1902: Indiana Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument Dedication in Indianapolis

December 17, 1903: The Wright Brothers make the first successful flight of a heavier-than-air, mechanically propelled aircraft in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina.

August 15, 1914: The Panama Canal opens.

Recognition:

More than three dozen volunteers work behind the scenes of the Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) with a goal to preserve and share local history.

During Indiana's Bicentennial Year, the Indiana Historical Society recognized MCHS's efforts with the 2016 Outstanding Historical Organization Award. In a letter of support for MCHS's nomination, Anderson Herald-Bulletin editor Scott Underwood writes, "the Madison County Historical Society does much more than preserve history. It promotes a greater understanding of our past to help light the way to a bright future."

On March 7, 2024, the Madison County Chamber presented the MCHS with an award recognizing the society's 140 years of serving Madison County.

Jeff Harris, Indiana Historical Society Local History Services Director states, "It is easy to see why the Madison County Historical Society accomplishes so much. The organization works smart, works hard and has a lot of fun."

Yes indeed, we have come a long way in our 140-plus years!

Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

Madison County History Trivia Answers:

1.) The 9th Street bridge which stood until it was replaced by a concrete bridge in 1921.

2.) Welch Airfield

3.) To build a canal from Daleville to Anderson that would power mills along its banks with the hydropower provided by the flow of fast-moving canal water.

Summer Festivals Keep MCHS Busy

The MCHS provided an information booth at the 8th Street Gaslight Festival on Saturday, August 23, 2025. The booth offered vital information regarding the upcoming events for the America 250 Celebration scheduled for 2026. The MCHS booth also provided information for becoming a volunteer, a member, or a visitor to the Museum of Madison County History. Registration materials, books, and even watermelon slices were offered to the festival visitors. Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian, gave informative lectures on early 8th Street history in Elmo Funk Park adjacent to the MCHS festival booth. Carol Grace was the lead volunteer for organizing the distribution of materials. Other volunteers for this event included Steve Fuller, Steve Jackson, Janene Jackson, Gerald Jones, Jeff Sholty, Patricia McCullough, Belinda Mabbitt, Karen Smith, Judy Arnold, and Jim Garrison.

The Andersontown POW WOW was held on September 6th & 7th in Beulah Park in Alexandria, IN. The MCHS staff maintained an information booth during this event. The booth provided exhibits relative to the Lenape (Delaware) Indians during their presence in Madison County from 1795-1821. Other exhibit items included historical references to the development of Madison County during its past 200 years. The booth offered cookbooks, maps, DVDs, coffee cups, and other items of historical interest for sale. Pete Mitchell, Steve Fuller, Belinda Mabbitt, Carol Grace, Judy Arnold, Steve Jackson, Janene Jackson, Karen Smith, Gerald Jones, Tammy Songer, Steve Napier and Karen Napier.

Submitted by Deb Weston,
MCHS President

Building Renovations

The following photos depict the necessary steps for the completion of the West Wall renovation project. The charitable donations from the MCHS members; the Ricker Family Foundation; Levi Rinker, City of Anderson; and Terry Riggins, Sertoma Club President made the West Wall project a reality. Many thanks to all of those who contributed to this project.

Gerald Jones, MCHS Treasurer; Terry Riggins, Sertoma Club President; and Peter Mitchell, MCHS Volunteer hold the check donated by the Anderson Sertoma Club. (Photo: Diana Pine)

Munching through the Midwest

This is the time of the year to get serious about pumpkins and squash dishes. In fact, daily servings of the hardy squash helped the Pilgrams survive their first winter in Massachusetts. In the Midwest, our pioneers would have roasted whole squash in cast iron pots over an open fire before cutting into them to remove the seeds and fiber. The seeds were quite valuable to save for the next planting season. Here is one way to serve the popular butternut squash:

Baked Glazed Squash

2 1/2 lb. butternut squash
1/3 Cup brown sugar
2 Tablespoons butter
1/4 Teaspoon paprika
1/2 Teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper

Slice squash into 1-inch thick slices, remove seeds. Arrange rings in a 13”x9”x2” baking pan. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes. Meanwhile, in a saucepan combine brown sugar, butter, paprika, salt, and pepper; cook and stir until bubbly. Spoon mixture over squash. Continue baking uncovered for about 15 minutes longer, spooning glaze over squash rings occasionally.

Submitted by Carol Crace,
Research Librarian

Workers from Fredericks Contractors pressure wash the West Wall for its final preparation on July 25, 2025. (Photo: P. Mitchell)

A fabricated piece of metal was replaced in the upper lefthand corner prior to the final coats of paint being applied on August 12, 2025. (Photo: P. Mitchell)

2025 Memorial Contributions

Wilson & Martha Bronnenberg
Sharon B. Morehouse

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

Charles Harless
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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
Emilie Isenhour
Larry Mabbitt
Jim Moore
Marlaina Rhodes

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:

MCHS Board of Trustees

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John W. Dick
Bradford Douglas
Steve Fuller
Carol Grace
Melody Hull
Stephen T. Jackson
Gerald Jones
Belinda Mabbitt
Peter Mitchell
Karen Napier
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Rose McDaniel
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Janet Moore
Diana Pine
Cindy Pulford
Chris Rouse
Tammy Songer
Karen Smith
Corval Zeabart

MCHS Welcomes New Volunteers

Rose McDaniel and Lauren Cookston-Davis have joined the Madison County Historical Society staff as volunteers. Rose works in the Nicholson Research Library assisting Carol Grace, Research Librarian. Her activities include sorting pictures, historical articles, and any other reference materials related to Madison County's local history.

Lauren is a senior at Pendleton Heights High School and is currently assisting Steve Jackson, Madison County Historian. Lauren's interests at the MCHS include military history, archaeology, posters, maps, and computers. Thank you, Rose and Lauren!

The Gazette
Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 696
15 W 11th Street
Anderson IN 46015-0696
Return Service Requested

Madison County Historical Society ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Check One: New Membership_____Renewal_____(due on January 1st of each year)

Name Please Print) _____

Spouse/Other (Please Print) _____

Address _____

State_____Zip_____Telephone _____Cell_____

E-Mail_____

Level of Membership (Check One:)

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

Check if applicable: Donation_____ Amount_____

Complete and mail your remittance to:

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

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Website: www.andersonchs.com
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Madison County (IN) Historical Society