THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
Volume 61 Issue 1 January 2024 Diana Pine, Editor

"Consider MCHS in your estate planning!"

A New Year at MCHS

We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. As we turn the calendar page from 2023 to 2024, MCHS officers and volunteers are thinking in terms of continuity and change. First of all, MCHS welcomes its new president, Deb Weston, perhaps the most notable change for the new year.

An additional change in 2024 is the **new schedule for general membership meetings**. Those will now be held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. in the museum. Each month on the first Sunday also at 2 p.m at the museum, Stephen Jackson will be continuing his very popular 1st Sunday presentations.

On Sunday, April 14th, another performance of "A Night on the Titanic" by the "MCHS Players" is scheduled at 2 p.m. (passage must be booked in advance). Additional performances as well as other famous stories connected to Madison County are being considered by the "MCHS Players."

Another popular event, our annual book fair, is being renamed and restructured. To be known as "Grandma's Attic," the event's new date and location (one possibility being the Made in Madison County room) will be announced later. In addition to books, fine collectibles (not flea market/garage sale items) are being added to the event.

The 2024 Little 500 Festival Hot Rod and Classic Car Show

(continued on page 5)

First Sunday Programs

The current First Sunday series is coming to a close. However, historian Steve Jackson is planning a new series, which is scheduled to start in April.

The October program featured Stoney Creek Township. Organized in 1851, it was the last township officially established. It is named for the creek that runs through it. In addition to some Lapel history, he walked us through Fishersburg, Dismal, Epworth Center and Bethel. He also mentioned Bloomer, Johnson's Crossing and Graeber's Station.

The final program in this series was a lesson on Madison County and how it got its start. The name honored President James Madison. Steve further explained that our county changed its boundaries five times. He concluded with pictures showing the many log cabins in the county.

Submitted by Carol Grace
Research Librarian

Society Meeting Recaps

The October meeting of the Madison County Historical Society was an encore presentation of our "A Night on the Titanic." Due to an overwhelming response from our program in July, there was a huge interest in seeing it performed again. To meet the additional requests, other presentations were scheduled for October 23, November 12, December 3, 2023, and April 24, 2024.

The November meeting was our annual Elwood H. Phillips recognition. This year's recipient honored Senator Tim Lanane, ret.

Photo credit: Carol Grace

He was selected by the Advisory Committee for his contributions to the preservation of the history and heritage of our county.

Since his retirement from the Indiana Legislature, he served as the chairman of the Bicentennial Steering Committee to celebrate our county's 200 years of existence.

Photo credit: Carol Grace

Following the award ceremony and the serving of light refreshments, historian Stephen T. Jackson presented several silent film clips from the early 1900's of Anderson.

Submitted by Carol Grace
Research Librarian

2023 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
Charles & De Etta Baker
Caesars Entertainment
Wilma Carey
Emily Carter
City of Anderson
Bradford Douglas
Craig & Marsha Dunkin
George & Penny Groff
Anabeth & Herman Radeck
Don & Marilyn Hunt
Stephen T. Jackson
Gene & Doris McMahan
Sharon Bronnenberg Morehouse
Helen Nicholson
Paul & Dorothy Malone
Ron & Alice Spangler
Robert & Ellen Strickland
UAW 1963 Retirees
Steven Voss

Friends of the Museum

Alpha Air, LLC
Art's Trim Shop
Diane Barts
Bickel's Locksmith
Delaware Glass
DeVoe Chevrolet
Jam Printing
Nick's Auto Service
Milton Otto
Safety Tech, Inc.
Shellabarger Office Solutions
Sun Pro Roofing
Tim Allred's Collision Center
Patsy Woschitz

The generosity of our patrons, businesses and organizations supports visitor education at MCHS.

Schedule of Events

Made in Madison County Exhibit:
Open for guests!
M-W-F 10:00 a.m.--2:00 p.m.

First Sunday

From April through November 2024, Stephen T. Jackson will present the first half of a series based upon the book *If the River Could Talk*.

January 1, 2024
No Scheduled Meeting

February 4, 2024
No Scheduled Meeting

March 3, 2024
No Scheduled Meeting

April 7, 2024
Stephen T. Jackson
"If the River Could Talk,"
Part 1 of the15 part series

Civil War Roundtable

January 15, 2024
No Scheduled Meeting

February 19, 2024
No Scheduled Meeting

March 18, 2024
Gerald Jones "Gettysburg"

Society Monthly Meetings

January 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
"A Forest Hill Hill Tragedy"

February 25, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Mayor Thomas Broderick, Jr.
"The Mayor's State of the City Update"

March 24, 2024, 2:00, p.m.
Nancy Sumner
"History of Elwood Historical Society"

You can find us at:

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

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First Sunday History Series
2024-2025

The popular First Sunday History Series, presented by Madison County Historian Stephen T. Jackson, will resume in April 2024 at the Museum of Madison County History. Based on the award-winning book *If the River Could Talk*, the fifteen-month series will examine White River's historical impact on Madison County through the ages.

Look for additional information in the April issue of the *Gazette*.

2023 Memorial Contributions

Martha Kettron
Helen Nicholson
Nancy Lawler
Clark Rentals & Management, Inc (Charleston Commons Homeowners Association)
Nancy Sensibaugh
Steve & Janene Jackson
Suzy Chambers
Roger & Carolyn Hensley
Robert E. & Mary L. Dean
Jim & Genia Willett

Ron David
Suzy Chambers

Marilyn Hunt
Don Hunt

James Baker
Suzy Chambers
Deb Weston
Emilie Isenhour
Mary Jo & Joseph Parker

Harvey Riedel
Suzy Chambers

Barbara Riggs
Suzy Chambers

Macel Lorraine Holady
Emilie Isenhour
Suzy Chambers
Deb Weston

Nancy Korenchan Ashley
Suzy Chambers

Marsha Duncan
Craig Dunkin

If we missed any contributions, please remind us, and they will be included in the next issue.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to the families of those we lost in 2023:

James Baker
Harvey Riedel
Martha Kettron
Ron David
Macel Lorraine Holaday
Nancy Korehchan Ashley
Marsha Duncan

Building Renovations

The year 2023 was an expensive year for the Madison County Historical Society, with expenditures of approximately $40,000. Our building, which is 100-plus years old, required several major repairs, including:

- ☐ $1,300.00 for the repair and/replacement of the gutter and downspouts on the rear of the building;
- ☐ $1,800.00 for foam insulation in the mechanical room;
- ☐ $10,000.00 for replacement of the first floor build-out roof on the rear of the building;
- ☐ $5,371.00 for the replacement of the east entrance double doors;
- ☐ $9,260.00 for our one-half of the fire suppression system in the Aladdin storage area.

These repairs added up to $27,731.00. The balance of $12,269.00 came from normal operating expenses.

We have obtained the required city approvals to continue the work on installing our historic gaslight in front of our building.

Submitted by Gerald Jones
Treasurer/Building Manager

The Great Easter 1913 Flood

It was Good Friday, March 21, 1913. The *Anderson Herald* reported that a couple planning to marry in the county clerk's office had to postpone the ceremony because the prospective bride's mother could not get there due to the prevailing storm.

The storm, which was part of a mammoth weather system that wreaked havoc across twenty states, drenched our county over the next few days with incessant rains. Locally, all the rainwater found its way to White River, causing a flood that surpassed previous records. By three o'clock on Tuesday morning, March 25, the river was rising at a rate of 6 inches an hour, and more rain was forecast. The river finally crested later that day at twenty-two feet, two feet above the previous high mark set on March 27, 1904.

The bridges over the White River were subject to intense pressure created by the rising waters and debris that gathered around their supports. At least three bridges fell victim to the disaster, and many others were no doubt weakened and in need of attention.

The Ninth and Tenth Street bridges could not be used because the approaches from the east were under water. The Main Street Bridge became unusable after the water across North Main St. became too deep. One report describes men positioned on the Main Street Bridge using poles to shove down on some of the irregular pieces of debris, such as outhouses and wood sheds, to prevent their lodging against the bridge and obstructing the water.

(**continued on next page)**

Flooding in Park Place began around two o'clock on the morning of March 25. Two miles upstream was the Hughel Farm Road (Rangeline) bridge. It had been built the year before and was short in length, with long approaches made by filling each side of the river channel.

Backwater measuring ten feet deep was trapped there, which caused a part of the long approach to the bridge to give way and let the great volume of water suddenly free to strike Park Place.

Meanwhile, downriver, the two-hundred-foot iron truss bridge carrying the Michigan division of the Big Four Railroad over White River was beginning to sag in the center as a result of washed-out supports.

The center section of the bridge, erected in 1911, held firm while trains passed over during the morning of the 25th. However, the center's support began to weaken toward noon due to the immense water pressure. The center of the bridge and its train rails dropped about twenty feet when the center support finally gave way, rendering the bridge unusable.

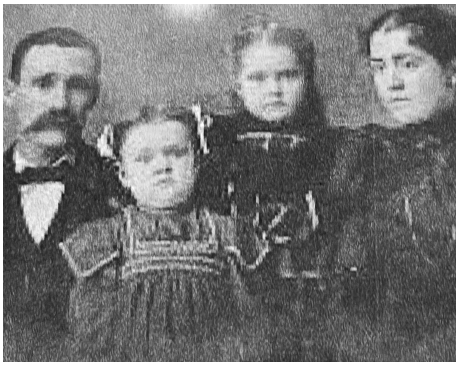
When it was over, photographers converged on the spectacular site to capture scenes of the massive devastation caused by Madison County's most memorable flood, popularly known as The Great Easter 1913 Flood.

Submitted by
Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

What's Happening in the World of Genealogy

It is so much fun to look back at the memories of my Great-grandmother, Eva Collins Reed, who was born in 1868, just a few years after the Civil War. I remember her so vividly as a spunky, hard working, and loving granny who made the best fudge you ever tasted.

I loved to spend the day with her at her apartment on 11th and Delaware (the building that looks like a Frank Lloyd Wright designed house) when I was a young girl in the early 1950's.



Eva Collins Reed Family
Photo credit: Sherry Ballinger

I was told that Eva and MC, her husband, moved to Anderson in 1920, after falling in love with the town when their train had a lay-over. They bought a drug store and talked their daughter Edith and her husband Lee Paynter, who was from Billings, Montana, to come back to Anderson. They then established the Reed Drug Company on the corner of 11th and Jackson.

My great-grandmother didn't enjoy cooking. She and MC ate most of their meals at the cafeterias on 10th Street or at Bert's. She did love to make fudge and bake cookies and pies. Every morning she would rise early to prepare her fudge or baked goods for the drug store.

After my mother, Dorothy Paynter Shine, died, I came across two old black leather account ledgers that had belonged to Eva. These books, dating from the early 1900's through the 1930's, contained some of her recipes for her cakes, pies, candies and tonics.

The Genealogy Department is collecting old recipes. If you have any old recipes from your relatives back in the day, please let me know. The recipes would be collected in a binder to complement our library's collection of old recipe books. I would also like to include some in upcoming issues of *The Gazette*.

Eva Reed's recipes for two types of fudge:

Eva's Chocolate Fudge

2 cups of sugar
½ cup of Karo
1 cup of milk
1 Tablespoon cocoa
Lump of butter

Cook Karo, milk and butter until it forms a soft ball lump. Mix in sugar and cocoa and beat together.

Eva's Divinity Fudge

2 cups of sugar
½ cup of corn syrup
½ cup of water

Cook until it forms a ball, not too soft. Test in water. Finish with beaten whites of 2 eggs.

Submitted by Sherry Ballinger
Genealogy Department

Madison County Historian's Activities

(October-December 2023)

October 5 - Appeared as a guest on the Mitch in the Morning WHBU Radio Show.

October 6 - Conducted a "Lantern Walk" in the Maplewood Cemetery.

October 11 - Attended a DAR ceremony honoring Ella B. Kehrer Madison County Board of Health.

October 18 - Attended the dedication of a historical marker at the First United Methodist Church.

October 27 - article about Madison County pioneers appeared in the Winter 2023 issue of *Madison Magazine.*

November 15 - conducted a driving tour of Maplewood Cemetery notables for the residents of Primrose Retirement Community.

(continued on next page)

October-December - Presented programs about local history to various groups and organizations, including:

Chesterfield Christian Church
Anderson Public Library
Anderson Noon Lions Club
Sugar Fork Crossing residents
Jolly Keenagers of Grace Baptist Church
Primrose Retirement Community Residents
Keystone Woods residents
MCHS 1st Sunday Lectures
Madison County Tea Party
Frankton Comm. Public Library
Alexandria Community Center
Eastside Elementary School
Beaux Arts Club
Bethany Christian Church Young at Heart Group
Edgewood Elementary School
Highland Middle School
Valley Grove Elementary School
Madison County Triad
Madison County Historical
Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

New Year at MCHS

(continued from page 1)

remains the same, the third Saturday in May, and the Phillips Award Ceremony is unchanged at the end of November. The Civil War Roundtable gatherings will be on the same schedule, but restricted from March through November.

We already implemented a change to our December schedule involving the model trains and dollhouse exhibits. Instead of being open for the two weeks before Christmas, we instead had a well-attended "Family Day at the Museum," on Saturday. December 30th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The year 2023 was the county's bicentennial, and for the MCHS and its museum, More importantly, it was the best year yet. But 2023 laid the foundation and the platform from which we will continue our community involvement and develop new activities and improvements in 2024 that fulfill our mission to document and preserve our county's history.

Submitted by Melody Hull
Immediate Past President

P.S.
2026 marks our nation's 250th birthday–its semiquincentennial. We already have a MCHS representative to Indiana's participation in America's celebratory events marking this anniversary.

Madison County History Trivia

A. On January 18, 1941, a long-time transportation service in Madison County was discontinued. Can you name the service?

B. On February 18, 1933, the Green Lantern dance hall re-opened under a new name. What was it?

C. On March 1, 1893 one of Anderson's more popular theaters burned. Can you name it?

(answers on page 6)

Who's Who in the Madison County Historical 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
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
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
Deb Weston

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

Suzy Chambers
Steve Fuller
Laura Gwaltney
Karon Kardatzke
Lois Killion
Nancy Lawler
Pete Mitchell
Janet Moore
Marlaina Rhoades
Chris Rouse
Karen Smith
Corval Zeabart

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 8 to submit your 2024 dues.

Inaugural "Family Day" Exceeds Expectations

Over the past few years, MCHS used the last two weeks of December, the holiday school break for most area schools, to be open during regular Museum hours in hopes that families would avail themselves of a great opportunity to relieve some cabin fever and visit our museum to view the dollhouse and train exhibits.

This year, instead of spreading open hours across a very busy time with access to only part of the museum, MCHS instituted our first "Family Day" on Saturday, Dec. 30.

In anticipation of the big day, on Wednesday, Dec. 27 all hands were on deck to clean corners, polish door knobs, remove cobwebs, and generally be sure the public areas were spic and span to be ready to greet Saturday's guests.

Photo courtesy of the Herald Bulletin

The doors opened that day to a steady stream of families led by our cadre of doscents that fanned out across the building. Every few minutes a new group would launch.

When the doors closed at 3:00 and the volunteers left to soak their feet, approximately 130+ visitors had taken advantage of this first-ever opportunity at the museum.

Photo courtesy of the Herald Bulletin

Photo courtesy of the Herald Bulletin

Achieving the twin goals of getting a big turnout on a single day instead of a trickle across six days AND of allowing the museum to close over the holidays and provide our staff of volunteers a well-deserved vacation, put smiles on the faces of everyone involved. Plans are already in place to do it again in 2024!

Trivia Answers

A. Interurban service, first started in the county in 1898, came to an end.

B. Green Lantern Club Royal

C. The Olympic Theater on Anderson Street (8th) suffered a fire and never reopened.

"PRK Construction" Begins New Project

Back By Popular Demand!

As we begin 2024, the staff of PRK Construction will begin the remodeling and renovation of a dollhouse with plans to raffle it off in October at the annual Bookfest, now known as "Grandma's Attic" sale.

This six-room traditional beauty was donated by Chris Rouse. As with previous dollhouses, it will be furnished and decorated when raffled off.

Photo credit: Diana Pine

Tickets for this fundraiser can be purchased during regular museum operating hours and scheduled events.

As in the past, price for tickets will be:

1 Ticket–$5.00
or
3 Tickets–$10.00

My thanks to everyone who contributed articles and photos for this issue of the *Gazette*!

Editor Diana Pine

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Madison County Historical Society ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Due January 1 of each year

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 and mail with your remittance to:

Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 696
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