THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
Volume 59 Issue 3 July 2023 Diana Pine, Editor

"Consider MCHS in your estate planning!"

Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show

Our Little 500 Festival Hot Rod & Classic Car Show, Saturday, May 20th, was quite the success and so much fun! The Madison County Historical Society puts on this event every 3rd Saturday in May to benefit our Museum of

(picture credit: H. Riedel)

Madison County History. We had "refreshing" weather, 101 registered vehicles–classics, restored originals, survivors, hot rods, street rods, former Little 500 racers–good food, great tunes, lots of smiles and laughter and joyful mini-reunions. The public turned out in quantity to see the high-quality collector cars and trucks and the new exhibits in the museum for this year's Madison County Bicentennial.

As president of the society, I am always gratified by the 50 or so volunteers working inside or outside the building, who always make this car show operate smoothly or who greet the public in our state-of-the-art museum displays.

Submitted by Melody Hull,
MCHS President

First Sunday Programs

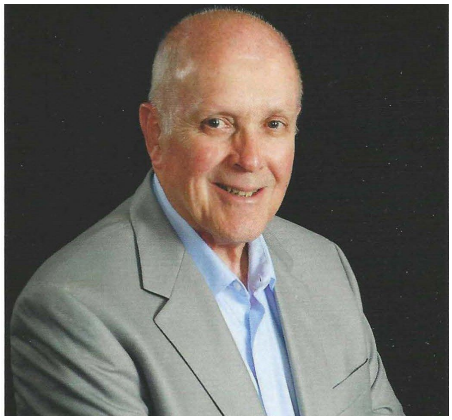
Historian Stephen T. Jackson is continuing to draw large crowds with his First Sunday talks. In April, the topic was Richland Township, The township, so named for its fertile soil, is largely farmland. In the mid-1800's it was popular for its water-powered mills–a sawmill, gristmill, carding mill, and woolen mill.

Moonsville was named for pioneer settler Zimri Moon, who came to the area because of the advertised Indiana Central Canal. Other settlements in the area were Pittsborough, Prosperity and Mt. Pleasant.

Monroe Township was featured on Sunday, May 7th. It was named for fifth President James Monroe and the creator of the Monroe Doctrine.

Nineveh Berry started the first store in Alexandria. The town of Alexandria was incorporated in 1893. It got the title as Small Town, USA, in 1943.

(continued page 7)



Society Meeting Recaps

The April 24th meeting of the Historical Society featured Kelly Morgan, who is an interpretive naturalist for the DNR. Her talk centered on prehistoric Native American gardening practices. Her presentation took us back 18,000 years for a look at humans in the Americas. She explained how the ice age and global warming have changed how we have evolved with gardening and eating.

(picture credit: M.Hull)

In May, we revisited an event that occurred over 30 years ago. In the summer of 1992, the Riddle Gravel Pit unearthed in their peat bog many mastodon bones. The Museum recently created a room to display several of these bones. Our speaker was Jackie Riddle Beverly, who owned the gravel pit at that time.

Using a talk show format, she was able to answer many of the questions about the mastodon and how the evacuation and investigation continued. She explained how the Indiana State Museum and Anderson University became involved in the process. That discovery made state and national news at the time.

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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 & Peggy Groff
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

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

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

Schedule of Events

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

First Sunday

Began September 2022 and continues through November 2023 to coincide with the Madison County Bicentennial.

July 2, 2023, 2 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson - "History of Van BurenTownship"

August 6, 2023, 2 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson - "History of Boone Town"

September 3, 2023, 2 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson - "History of Duck Creek Township"

Civil War Roundtable

July 17, 2023, 7 p.m.
Gerald Jones "Common Soldier"

August 21, 2023, 7 p.m.
Brian Dirck - "Abraham Lincoln - The Honored Dead of The Civil War"

September 18, 2023, 7 p.m.
Linda Jones - "Civil War Veterans' Pensions"

Society Monthly Meetings

July 24, 2023, 7 p.m.
Melody Hull - "A Night on the Titanic"

August 28, 2023, 7 p.m.
Ray Boomhower - "Ernie Pyle: The G.I.'s Friend"

September 25, 2023, 7 p.m.
Patti Brooks - "Alexandria's Bicentennial Events"

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Membership Dues

It's not too late to renew your membership. Dues are:

$5–student
$25–single
$40–per household

Please use the form on page 8 to submit your 2023 dues.

Condolences

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

James Baker
Harvey Riedel

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

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

Building Renovations

In our continuing efforts to protect, improve and maintain our 100+ year old building, we have installed a fire suppression system in the Aladdin Storage area. The NAALC collection is housed in this area. This represents a large, irreplaceable collection of early Aladdin lamps.

The NAALC and the MCHS agreed to share the cost of the system to help protect our building and their collection. This was an expensive project; however, our building and their collection are worth it. This project has been completed and is at work providing this valuable protection for us.

The east entrance doors mentioned in the last Gazette have now been replaced adding additional weather proofing and security to our building.

The rear add-on roof replacement has been held up due to weather but should be completed any day now.

All of these improvements cost money and would not be possible without the very generous support of our dedicated members and contributors.

Submitted by Gerald Jones, Treasurer/Building Manager

Veterans Advertisement

Once again, the MCHS will be placing an advertisement in the *Madison Life and Times* magazine to coincide with Veterans Day in November. This has been a VERY POPULAR program each time we have offered it.

This advertisement will honor Madison County Veterans, living or deceased, who served in any branch of the military (peace-time or active duty, civil war to current veterans). If you would like to honor your loved one, please complete the form below and return it to:

MCHS, P.O. Box 696
Anderson, IN 46015-0696

no later than September 1, 2023 (to meet the publishing deadline).

As we are a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers, we kindly ask that you include a donation to help defray the cost of the advertisement.

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 1, 2023, to MCHS, P. O. Box 696, Anderson, IN 46015-0696.

Your Name_____
Address_____
City_____St_____Zip_____
Contact#_____
Veteran Name_____
Conflict/War_____
Branch_____

While in the U.S. Navy in 1959, I was stationed for a year at Great Lakes NTC. I rode back and forth from Anderson to Chicago on the PRR and from Chicago to Great Lake on the Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Railroad–RPH

The Time Traveler…

The hour is late and the station is nearly deserted as I board the waiting car, which departs shortly after my boarding. There are ample seats, and I drop into a window seat on the left in the last car. We run parallel to a freight line shortly after leaving the city and I am always thrilled at watching the trains pass at night.

Our beautiful old beast squeals as her cars take the "too sharp" turns on the "l" structure as she makes her way north toward her own lines. It is there that the Motorman can let her have her head. She'll race the wind and the clock. We meet two "L" trains as we make our way to the "Mile," and then we are there! The Conductor leans out, and, with a swift motion, pulls on the retainer cable letting the trolley pole free from its clip. Then, with a practiced hand, he raises the pole until its shoe rides on the overhead wire. With a swift motion, he throws the knife switch that lets the motors draw current from poles rather than the third rail shoes. Then, *ding-ding,* the signal is passed up the train. The Motorman winds out, and we have once again made the transition from 3rd rail to overhead at better than 50 miles per hour. It is a beautiful thing to watch. Then, the door is closed, and our car once again begins to warm up as we roll Northward.

I settle back in the seat and gaze out my window watching the side streets and the grade crossing lights. In the background, I am aware of the increasing hum of the traction motors as they continue to wind up, driving our train ever faster through the night.

I gradually became more aware of the sights and sounds of the grade crossings. There is the "ding, ding, ding, ding" sound of the warning bell as we cross the streets and look into the eyes of the drivers in the waiting automobiles as they wait for us to pass. But, it is late at night, and there aren't many of them. Our train isn't long, and it is moving quickly. I still hear the motors winding out as the Motorman is letting her run. I look around at the mostly empty car and then back out the window. The crossings are now flashing past at an almost dizzying rate. The bells have become a "dinginginging" as the cars plunge faster into the darkness ahead. The Motorman runs on a clear track. He will make his schedule this night with ease.

In my mind, we still flash by the darkened commuter stations as we roll onward to my destination at North Chicago and Great Lakes NTC. And then, the ride is over.

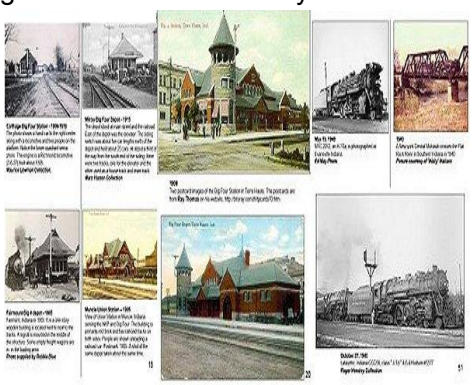
It was 1960, and the North Shore was to die shortly afterward. I would take this run again if I could. As it is, I can only try to remember what it *was* like and curse my failing memory. Who knew then that I would ever want to remember something that was so commonplace? Who knew. . .

Roger P. Hensley

Copyright 1996

"The CCC&SL and the New York Contral Railroads in Indiana"

From the early years to its closing when Penn Central came into existence, it serviced Indiana and surrounding territory well. And, for years afterward, the Norfolk and Western dispatcher for Muncie, Indiana could be heard to say into the Conrail era, "The Big Four's gonna run one ahead a'ya."



The photos in the book, which I supplied, and the text written by Maurice Lewman bring all of this to the forefront for an enjoyable read. Maurice worked up to Engineer on the Michigan Division from 1947-1981, and then followed that with the Bee Line from 1981-1992 (NYC, PC, and CR). So sit back, relax, and prepare for an enjoyable time with the book and all that it covers from then to now.

Submitted by Roger P. Hensley

The book is available at the Madison County Historical Society for $99.00 + 6.93 tax and $10.00 shipping. For more information or to place an order, call MCHS at (765) 683-0052. The History Center receives all profits.from sales of the book.

Greentown

During 2023, the Gazette will commemorate the departure of the Native Americans, primarily Delaware and Nanticoke, from Madison County by featuring the six principal villages present in the county and their chiefs during the period of Native American habitation 1798-1821. Their departure resulted from a treaty signed in October 1818. The Native American tribes in Indiana relinquished claims to land in the newly created State of Indiana in exchange for land west of the Mississippi River and other considerations.

Captain John Green was significant in Madison County's rich and colorful history. History does not record where he came from or went after living here. However, during his brief stay here, he made a name for himself.

Those who met him described how he spoke the English language readily and his own with great fluency. He was of genteel manners and accessible address, always wearing his war emblems. characteristically displayed as a mark of consequence and distinction. He was tall and well-proportioned, weighing about 240 pounds, with a dark and swarthy complexion. Although he was of French extraction through his father, his mother's Indian characteristics strongly distinguished him.

One account relates "of hearing of an Indian, whose English name was Green, say he had killed enough white people for himself and pony to swim in their blood."

The Delaware selected Sites for their villages along waterways. While most Delaware villages in central Indiana were located on the White River, one in Madison County was found on a tributary of the river. Green's town, called Greentown by the early traders, was situated on a stream of water later known as "Green's Branch."

A government survey conducted here in 1821, which located the Indian villages, does not mention the town. However, an advertisement for a Sale of Lots in Andersontown in the *Indianapolis Gazette* on August 16, 1825, stated that several villages surrounded Andersontown, including Greentown.

Our county histories mention it as well. It was situated in Mays Park on Tenth Street between John Street and Madison Avenue. Green's Branch once flowed diagonally through this area. It was along this stream that Captain John Green established his village sometime between 1806 and 1821.

When the first settlers came to Madison County, they could discern near Green's wigwam traces of the pathway where prisoners, brought before him for trial, were made to run the gauntlet.

There is a relatively well-authenticated account that Captain Green was an idolater. He had a large slab of wood fashioned to represent a human face, which was elevated to a height of some twelve to fifteen feet above the ground up on a tree, and to this image, he paid his devotion. In later years, Judge John Davis managed to secure possession of this idol and, for a time, kept it in one of the rooms of the old courthouse. Later it vanished, and its fate is not known. Some speculate it was destroyed by fire, among other relics, in the old courthouse on Dec. 10, 1880.

Captain John Green is a mystery and probably will remain so.

Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

Madison County History Trivia

A.. On July 27, 1905, an interurban car ran for the first time from Anderson to what nearby town?

B. On August 20, 1929, a famous theater in Anderson opened for the first time. Can you name it?

C.. On September 22, 1973, what future United States president was in Anderson to dedicate the new courthouse?

(answers on page 7)

Pow Wow Update

Due to staffing issues, MCHS will not be participating in the 2023 Pow Wow activities.

Madison County Historian's Activities

April 3 - Attended an orientation meeting about the filming of a Ball State University PBS *Now Entering* project in Anderson.

April 6 - Wrote a letter of

(continued page 6)

Historian's Activities (cont.)

support for the Gruenewald House landscaping project.

April 14 - Information I prepared for *Time to Celebrate*, the Madison County Bicentennial Official Guide, was published by the *Herald Bulletin* newspaper.

April 27 - Met with Pamela Storm, Anderson Community Schools, to plan historical presentations to their students in connection with the bicentennial observance.

April-June - Presented Powerpoint presentations about local history to various organizations and groups including:

Anderson Public Library
Anderson Noon Lions Club
Art Circle of Alexandria
A.J. Ringo Camp
Holy Cross 5th Grade
Sugar Fork Crossing residents
Grace Baptist Jolly Keenagers
Primrose Retirement Community residents
Indpls. Civil War Round Table
Keystone Woods residents,
Anderson Outreach Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Sparklers Home Economics Club
Madison County Historical Society 1st Sunday Lectures
Madison County Tea Party
Frankton Comm. Public Library
Summitville Senior Social Club
City of Alexandria residents
Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church.

Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

What's Happening In The World of Genealogy

The Genealogy Department has many photos on display of our loved ones from long ago. These photos are important to us because they bring to life the stories and people of our past.

The photo below is of Mollie Ethel Hart (1891-1983) AKA "Bronco "Bonnie." She was a member of the 101 Ranch Wild West Show in the early 1900's, which entertained people across the United States and throughout the world. The photo shows that she roped and rode their talented horses. She was the aunt of our own Phyllis Hart Leedom's father. Her brother was William Hart, a local shoe merchant.

Sarah Males (1857-1948), shown in the photo below, was a farmer in the late 1800's and early 1900's. She ran the farm with her two sons after her husband passed away. She was Kenny Ballinger's great grandmother. Please notice her bonnet and clothing: they were made for easy movement while she performed her many daily chores. The cow is looking longingly at the pail of food.

Please bring any family photos you might have and include the name(s) and date if possible.
Through these photos, we can all learn what it felt like to live back in times past.

Submitted by Sherry Ballinger
Genealogy Department.

(Photos are credited to the MCHS Genealogy Department collection)

Winner of "The Allison" Rejuvenated

Picture credit: D. Weston

Following the May 20th car show, we drew the winning ticket for our dollhouse raffle. Ms. Cynthia Plumber, a resident of Anderson, was the lucky winner of this rejuvenated treasure.

Submitted by Diana Pine

Thank You!

MCHS wishes to send a hearty word of thanks to all those who have donated to the fund to replace the roof. Your generosity has allowed us to meet the estimated replacement cost.

Maintaining a 100+ year old building requires continuous repair and/or replacement of vital elements such as roofing, heating and cooling, electrical and lighting, as well as fire

(continued page 7)

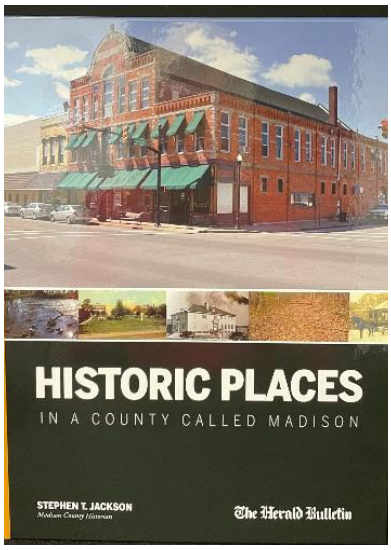
suppression applications.

Such repairs make possible the fulfillment of MCHS' mission to bring alive the history of Madison County to all our county residents, something we have been doing since 1884.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please consider us in your estate planning, to continue this legacy.

New Book Published

Stephen T. Jackson has published a new book titled "Historic Places." It is now available at the Madison County Historical Society for $29.95, including sales tax. For more information, please contact us at (765) 683-0052.



First Sunday Programs

(continued from page 1)

In June, Steve highlighted Lafayette Township. This was the only township named for a foreign-born individual. It received that title because Lafayette assisted us in battle with the French Navy. This township consists of much farmland and several small settlements. Florida Station is the geographical center of the county. At one time, tile and brick were manufactured there. Other populated areas were Keller Station/Buttermilk Station, Linwood, Myers, Ironwood, Round Barn and Elm Grove.

Submitted by Carol Grace.
Research Librarian

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Web Designer Needed

MCHS seeks a volunteer to design and assist in maintaining a revamped website. (Thanks to Nancy Lawson, who is stepping away from this task).

The website should be user friendly for the public and the administrator and managers, and allow for many pages, pictures, and content.

If you have the expertise and desire to build and design our website (or know of friends or family who do), **we need your help**! Please contact us at 765-683-0052 M-W_F from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and ask for Deb.

You can find us at:
http://whatsup247.com
Website:
Andersonmchs.com
Facebook:
Madison County (IN) Historical Society

Trivia Answers

A. Middletown
B. Paramount
C. Gerald Ford

Society Meeting Recaps

(continued from page 1)

The June gathering featured Deb Hale from the Indiana D.A.R. She spoke about the local Kikthawenund chapter. The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in the fall of 1890, and our local chapter was established in 1910. Their mission is for historic preservation, the promotion of education, and the encouragement of patriotic endeavors. In order to become a member,a woman must be at least 18 years of age and be able to prove lineage connected to a Revolutionary War patriot. Ms. Hale reported on the location of our local markers, lost markers, as well as future local and state projects.

Submitted by Carol Grace
Research Librarian

A Night on the *Titanic*

This event promises to be informative and fun-filled with audience participation included (no, you do not need to know how to swim).

There will be a presentation by Melody Hull, President of the MCHS, about the *Titanic* and one specific passenger from Anderson who survived. Additional "special" guests will be in attendance as well.

Also included will be a demonstration of the types of table settings and food service from each of the "classes."

If you'd like to attend the presentation on July 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., please contact the MCHS at (765) 683-0052 by July 19th to reserve your seating. Seating will be limited to a maximum of 50 people.

The Gazette

Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
(Located at 15 W 11th Street)
PO Box 696, Anderson IN 46015
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Anderson, IN
Permit No. 1419

Madison County Historical Society ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Check One: New Membership _____ Renewal _____ (due on January 1 of each year)

Name (Please Print)_____

Spouse/Other (Please Print) _____

Address _____

State ___ Zip _ _ _ _ _-_ _ _ _ Telephone _____Cell_____

E-Mail_____

Level of Membership

Check One:	Student	($5) _____
	Single Membership	($25) _____
	Household/Family	($40)_____
	Contributing	($50)_____
	Sponsoring	($100)____
	Gold	**($500)**____

Check if applicable: Donation ___ Amount _____

Complete and mail with your remittance to:
Madison County Historical Society, Inc
P. O. Box 696
Anderson, IN 46015-0696

Contact Information
Phone 765-683-0052
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Web Site: www.andersonmchs.com
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