THE GAZETTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
Volume 60 Issue 4 October 2023 Diana Pine, Editor

"Consider MCHS in your estate planning!"

Museum Featured in Documentary *"Now Entering Anderson"*

Back in April, MCHS officers were notified that Ball State University was planning a documentary on Anderson for the university's PBS channel. For several years, BSU had been developing and adding to its series

"Now Entering *(name of town here)"* that featured the best of east central Indiana small town life. Winchester, Alexandria, Cicero, Pendleton, among others, have all had their separate programs.

In 2023, BSU wanted to try a larger community, a city, and their neighbor Anderson was their first pick. MCHS officers realized that this was a wonderful opportunity to advertise our Museum of Madison County History to a much larger regional audience through BSU's PBS channel and through their use of the internet's YouTube platform.The sky was almost the limit!

The "Now Entering…" series uses videos and photos to show places of interest, activities, and social development while

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First Sunday Programs

The First Sunday series has been continuing during this Bicentennial year. Each month the attendance has grown due to the popularity of the subject matter. Presently, it is standing room only in the Bowman Room. In July, Steve Jackson spoke about Van Buren Township. Located in the uppermost right corner of the county, this township covers 25 square miles. The main town is Summitville, named because it is the highest point in the county. At one time, the National Drain Tile company in north Summitville (previously known as Cogglestown) was considered to be one of the largest plants in the world.

The August presentation featured Boone Township. This area contains 30 square miles located in the upper center of the county. It was named for the pioneer Daniel Boone. The earliest settlers of this township got along with the Miami Indians who occupied 12 of the 30 square miles.

September brought us Duck Creek Township. Mr. Jackson explained that this area, located in the upper left hand corner of the county, was the 13th territory organized into a township. Two-thirds of this township was previously part of the Miami Reserve. The town of Leisure included a 10-acre farm with unique soil composition that made it perfect for growing broom corn,

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Society Meeting Recaps

The July membership meeting featured the presentation "A Night on the Titanic." The audience became first class passengers who experienced being on the ship that fateful night. They learned about the life of Charles Hallace Romaine, an Anderson resident, who was also on board that evening.

There was an overwhelming response from those present to repeat this program. What started out as a one-time program has evolved into a five-time event. The next presentation will take place on Monday evening, October 23rd at 7:00. Only those with previous reservations will be admitted.

(photo credit: Deb Weston)

August's meeting featured Ray Boomhower, a history professor from Anderson University, who spoke on "Ernie Pyle: the G.I.s Friend." Ernie was a senior war correspondent during World War II. He described himself as a letter writer "who saw things so terrible he wondered why it was worth fighting." Ray gave an excellent

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2023 Supporters of the Museum

Platinum Level Donors

Fred E. & nThelma 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 Eedick Herman
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 Retiree
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 support 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

Began September 2022 and continues though November 023 to coincide with the Madison County Bicentennial.

October 1, 2023
Stephen T. Jackson -
"History of Stony Creek Township"

November 5, 2023
Stephen T. Jackson -
"History of Madison County"

December 2023
No Meeting

Civil War Roundtable

October 16, 2023, 7 p.m.
Video -
"War in Virginia, 1862-63"

November 20, 2023, 7p.m.
Stephen Ritchie -
"Jackson and Ashby - Partners in Command"

December 2023
No Meeting

Society Monthly Meetings

October 23, 2023, 7 p.m.
Melody Hull -
"A Night on the Titanic"

November 27, 2023 7 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson -
Presentation of *"Elwood H. Phillips Award"* and *"Video of Historic Anderson"*

December 2023
No Meeting

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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
Martha Kettron
Ron David
Macel Lorraine Holaday

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

The rear add-on roof has now been replaced for a cost of $10,000.

The mechanical room on the southwest corner of the first floor has now been foam insulated at a cost of $1,855.00.

We are still working on installing our historic gaslight in front of our building.

Submitted by Gerald Jones
Treasurer/Building Manager

St. John's Hospital and Its Founders

Sister M. Victoria (Mary O'Keefe) was born in Ireland in 1839, received the holy habit in 1858, and professed in 1861. She died on December 9, 1919, and was interred at St. Mary's, Holy Cross, Indiana.

Sister Victoria O'Keefe - First Administrator of St. John's

At the age of 23, Sister M. Victoria entered the ranks of the 80 Sisters of the Holy Cross. The nuns served as United States Army nurses in the war between the states. Up to that time, the Holy Cross Sisters had been engaged primarily in teaching. Their first school was opened in Bertrand, Michigan, in 1844. The Civil War had made them ***nurses.***

Sister Victoria was stationed in the Number 3 military hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, from January 6, 1862, until the following September. From that time until May, 1864, she nursed in the military hospital in Mounds City, Illinois. The Mounds City Hospital was the largest of the nine Army hospitals under the Holy Cross Sisters network as well as the best managed military hospital in the country. Sister Victoria served with Dr. George Chittenden, and she regaled many with her stories and tales of courage, faith, and tragedy on the battlefield.

Sister Victoria came to Anderson in 1883 and for eleven years was director of St. Mary's School. Three of the Sisters with her were Sister Vitalian, Sister Cointha and Sister Ethelreda. The Sisters lived in the one-story white house facing Fletcher Street behind the present church, and they were very much part of the family circle of neighbors who lived around Piety Hill. Among these neighbors were the O'Neills, Mulvihills, Carmodys, Davitts, Wallaces, Myers, and Careys.

Sister Victoria moved among all of them. She was tall, large, dark and until she smiled, appeared to be rather severe. Many said that her carriage was regal, and she could manage any situation. She was quite firm with the children and believed in the older methods of discipline. She would peer over her glasses with such an expression that everyone knew immediately her answer was "no."

Sister Victoria made a practice of visiting all the pupils in the school, from the Frees across the Twelfth Street bridge to the Reddingtons, Dearings and Brodericks in the country. She was especially interested in tending to the sick, the poor, and the distressed. The Sisters had barely enough for themselves, but when others were in need, Sister Victoria always found a way of providing for them.

John Hickey watched all of these things, and he watched Sister Victoria at his wife's bedside. So it was Sister Victoria with whom he entrusted the building of the Saint John's Hospital, which was founded in his wife Maria's memory.

Submitted by Nancy Lawler

BookFest

This year's BookFest will have several changes including moving the date to earlier in the fall. Because many people like to do their holiday shopping before December, we are planning this year's event for Saturday, October 14, 2023. The earlier date should encourage an even greater response.

Doors will open at 10:00 a.m. The drawing for the always popular gift basket raffle will be at 1:45 p.m. The raffle will include a grand prize basket provided this year by our volunteers. After all the other winners have been drawn, the tickets will be recombined to choose the winner of the grand prize!

Most of the books on sale–at giveaway prices–are new to the BookFest this year. Many have never been opened and can certainly be used as stocking stuffers. We also will have available for sale many new and used school annuals from years past. With most coming from AHS and MHHS, some of these yearbooks are many decades old.

There are many reasons to take advantage of this year's BookFest. You will get some holiday shopping done while also supporting ***your*** museum.

Submitted by Carol Grace
Research Librarian

Madison County Nanticoke Indian Villages – Nancy Town – Our Town

During 2023, the Gazette commemorates 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.

As early as the 1600's, along Maryland's eastern shore, the Nanticoke people allied with their neighbors, the Delaware Indians. Each time Delaware moved westward, so too did Nanticoke. During their brief existence in Madison County, the Nanticoke established two villages.

A government survey conducted in 1821 of the Indian towns along White River mentions a site the surveyor called Nancy Town, Nantoco, and Nanticoke. His confusion over the name stems from the fact that the village was empty when the survey was conducted. Its former inhabitants, the Nanticoke Indians, had been forced to leave the area earlier that year.The accepted name of Nancy Town was the first village of the Nanticoke Indians. It can be assumed that the traders who frequented the area named it after the chief's wife. According to Moravian Missionary journals, it was there in 1805.

The village existed until 1813, when it was abandoned by Chief James Nanticoke, his wife, Nancy, and the remainder of the tribe when they relocated to Piqua, Ohio, in compliance with orders issued by General William Henry Harrison.

Early historians contend the second site was located on the south bank of White River, on the old farm of Robert Cather, about four miles west of Anderson. The records show this farm was immediately west of CR 400W on Eighth Street Road.

In 1880, T.B. Helm wrote: "James Nanticoke had a village in this county, not far from Anderson. His wife was said to have been a very beautiful woman, and, at one time maintained the title of 'chiefess' to her tribe. She gave the name of 'Our Town' to the chief's village. James Nanticoke, in his position as chief, like Chief Anderson, represented his tribe at the treaty of St. Mary's and affixed his mark thereto."

Issac McCoy, in his "History of Baptist Indian Missions," wrote that while making a tour of the towns on White River in 1818, his party "reached this village on December 5, procured a little corn for our horses, and dined at the house of an elderly couple, the wife being a woman of note, named Nancy, who could speak English tolerably well, and who was the principal manager of matter around her."

The "Our Town" site was occupied from roughly 1818 to 1821. It was abandoned in 1821 as part of the general departure of the Native Americans living in Indiana, adhering to the terms outlined in the Treaty of St. Mary's.

Submitted by
Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

Madison County History Trivia

A. On October 14, 1942, the Civil War cannons and cannonballs that had been on display since the late 1890's were removed from the Madison County CourtHouse lawn. Why?

B. On November 6, 1920, the United States President-Elect spoke to a crowd assembled at the Big Four RR Depot in Anderson. Who was it?

C. On December 20, 1884, one of the oldest Madison County institutions was formally organized and recorded at the Madison County CourtHouse. Can you name it?

(answers on page 7)

Madison County Historian's Activities

July - September, 2023

July 10 - Met with Pamela Storm, Anderson Community Schools, to plan a historical presentation concerning the bicentennial observance to their students.

July 13 - Appeared as a guest on WHBU radio's Bruce Munson morning show.

August - Wrote an article about the 1945 military plane crash in Forest Hills, which appeared in the fall issue of *Madison* magazine.

August 9 - Conducted a bus tour of historic sites in downtown Anderson for residents of Sugar Fork Crossing.

August 9 - Attended a preview of *Now Entering Anderson,* a film produced by Ball State University's PBS station,at the Anderson Museum of Art.

August 16 - Attended the annual meeting of the Indiana County Historians at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis

August 22 - Conducted a bus tour of Pendleton's Historic Falls Park for Primrose Retirement Community residents.

August 22 - Wrote a Letter of Support for repairs of the Maxon Fellowship Hall at Camp Chesterfield..

September 12 - Attended the annual meeting of the Madison County Commission on Public Records in the Madison County Government Center.

July - September - Presented programs about local history to various groups and organizations, including:

Anderson Public Library
Anderson Noon Lions Club
Jolly Keenagers of Grace Baptist Church
Sugar Fork Crossing residents
Primrose Retirement Community residents
Keystone Woods residents
Anderson Outreach Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Madison County Historical Society 1st Sunday Lectures
Madison County Tea Party
Frankton Comm. Public Library
Anderson Living Hope Church
Pendleton Bicentennial Observance
Eighth Street Gaslight Festival
AARP Chapter 1686
Central Indiana Old Car Club
Frankton Heritage Days
Anderson Intermediate School
Bethany Point Senior Exec. Club
10th Street Elementary School
Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church.

Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

See you at the Bicentennial!

(photo credit: Melody Hull)

So far in this year's continuous celebration of our county's 200th birthday, the many events and activities sanctioned and/or sponsored by Madison County Bicentennial Committee (MCBC), have all been extremely well attended by appreciative local Hoosiers.

The MCHS's representatives to MCBC are Melody Hull, Deb Weston, Carol Grace, and Stephen Jackson, but the volunteer staff at the Museum of Madison County History (MMCH) have all been involved in supporting 2023 festivities in some fashion.

Chesterfield initiated county birthday events on March 11th at the Millcreek Civic Center with a yummy luncheon commemorating the incorporation of Chesterfield in 1858. March 11th was the actual month and day that Chesterfield was legally designated 165 years ago. Multiple displays highlighted Union Township history, pioneers, and settlers. Steve Jackson delivered, via a PowerPoint presentation, his account of the town's history, and attendees swapped stories and tidbits

Deb Dunham and her local committee followed that up with a "Tour of Historic Chesterfield" and Chesterfield Car Show (benefitting the MCHS), on Saturday July 1st. The glossy 5 ½ by 8 ½, 14 page, color tour guide of Chesterfield's pioneer homes and places of interest will be a collector's item for future history bluffs.

In the spring and summer quarters, MCHS officers and members supported these Bicentennial events:

April 15th - The Alexandria-Monroe Township Museum Open house
April 16th - the Pendleton Methodist Church 200th Anniversary
June 29th - Alexandria Veterans Remembrance
July 21st - 4-H Fair in Alexandria, MCHS booth, pictured below

photo credit: Deb Weston

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See you at the Bicentennial!

(continued from page 5)

July 23rd - Bicentennial Birthday Bash at Dickman Town Center, Anderson; MMCH open; 85+ people toured museum

August 4th - Bicentennial Checkered Gala at Anderson Speedway with dinner, drinks, dancing, and great music provided by the Flying Toasters

August 20th - Pendleton Porch Parties

August 26th - Eighth Street Gas Light Festival with good food, vendors, car show, horse-drawn carriage ride, parade, etc.

September 3rd - Edgewood Labor Day Celebration with a car tour of historic "Sears Catalog Kit Homes"

September 9th - Community Unity Night, Jackson Park, Anderson

September 17th - Frankton Cemetery Tour

September 23rd - the Madison 200 car race at the Anderson Speedway

September 29th - National Silent Movie Day, Paramount Theater, Anderson.

Bicentennial events continue through October to November 10th. For more details, please see these websites:

Madison County Bicentennial Celebration (https://madisoncounty200.com)

What's Up 24/7 (https://www.whatsup247.com)

Anderson Madison County Visitors Bureau (visitandersonmadisoncounty.com)

Facebook's "Madison County 200" page.

Submitted by Melody Hull
MCHS President

Dollhouse Exhibit's Recent Donation

Ms. Sue Sharp, a Madison County native and nationally recognized miniaturist, recently gifted our museum with three individual room boxes from her personal collection. Exquisitely handcrafted, her furniture, accessories, and decorations are prized by both private collectors and other museums.

(photo by: Diana Pine)

The Sharps carefully wrapped, packed and personally delivered these tiny treasures to us while they were visiting the area for a local reunion.

(photo by: Diana Pine)

We are currently displaying both "Ruth Ann's Bake Shop" and "Grandma's Kitchen" in our tiny town exhibit.. The third small treasure, "Waiting for Santa," will be brought out for the upcoming holiday season.

Submitted by Diana Pine

You can find us at:

http://whatsup247.com

Website:
Andersonmchs.com

Facebook:
Madison County (IN) Historical Society

Trivia Answers

A. They were being sent to a salvage yard to be scrapped for use in World War II.

B. Warren Harding.

C. Madison County Historical Society.

Museum Featured

(continued from page 1)

interviewing town officials, residents, and famous local people. Steve Jackson and I had both expressed our interest in being considered for an interview. While there was no question that Steve would be doing the historical segments of the city, I wanted them to also consider our museum as a focal point of interest, a destination site, at the heart of Anderson.

Early in May, they notified me that the Museum of Madison County History would be included.They also explained that I could send, via USB drive, many pictures, suggesting 100 so they would have a wide variety from which to choose. Photos of various displays, exhibit artifacts, volunteers, inside the rooms, outside the building– everything was under consideration. Interviews were recorded over several days in mid-May at the Anderson Public Library. On August 9th, the "storytellers" were given a preview of "*Now Entering … Anderson"* so that we would have the chance to correct any errors. The 90-minute program presented Anderson as a beautiful, cultured, diverse, inclusive, caring, progressive community. We were all amazed at how professional–of national quality,

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Museum Featured

(continued from page 6)

really–the program turned out. This is a big "win-win" development for both the city and our museum at its center.

The program first aired on the BSU PBS channel on August 17th and can now be viewed on YouTube.

Just type:

Now Entering…Anderson

into your browser bar. ENJOY!!

Submitted by Melody Hull
MCHS President

First Sunday Programs

(continued from page 1)

which is similar to sorghum cane. At one time, five broom makers worked in that small town.

Submitted by Carol Grace
Research Librarian

Society Meeting Recaps

(continued from page 1)

interesting account of Ernie's life.

The September meeting was presented by Patty Brooks from the Alexandria Historical Society. She talked about the various Bicentennial activities her town has been involved in this year as well as those upcoming events.

Submitted by Carol Grace
Research Librarian

What's New in Accessions

Like most museums and historical societies, MCHS needs much space and resources to store, organize, and display the many donations that come in almost every day from various persons and groups across Madison County. Keenly aware that space and resources are at a premium, the advisory board has implemented a few changes to help manage such donations.

Now, when someone approaches MCHS with a potential donation, one of our volunteers will go over with the donor a set of policies that we use to determine how the potential donation will be handled (see sample donation sheet). To summarize what the form explains, we now accept any donation *provisionally,* which means it goes before the advisory board at their next weekly meeting to determine whether to accept the donation as a permanent part of our collection.

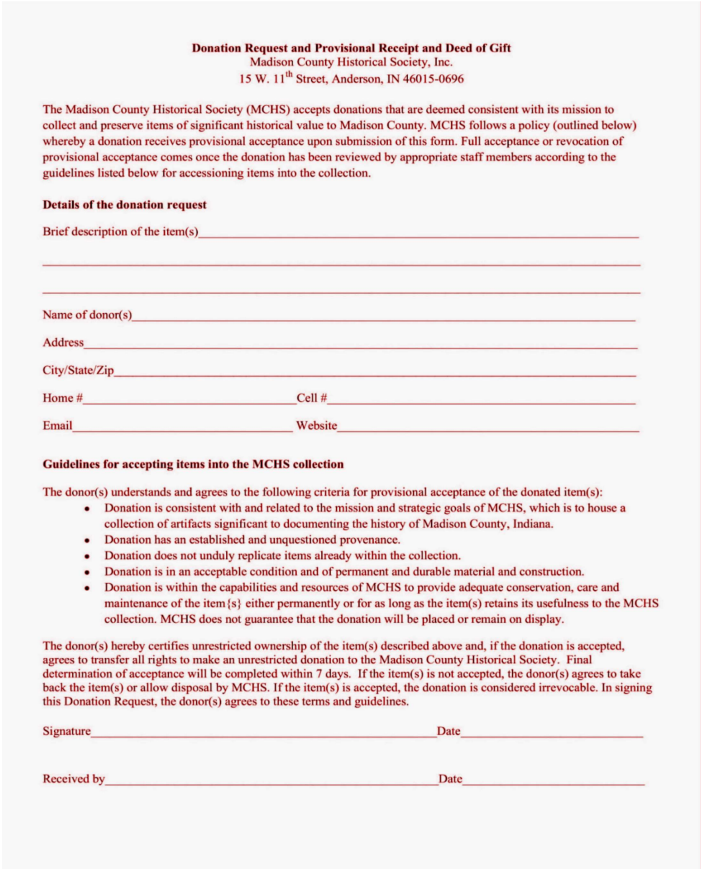
To be fully accepted, the donation should have several qualities. First and foremost, the donation should match the mission of MCHS, which is to document the history of Madison County. Additionally, the donation must be the property of the person making the donation or an executor for that person. Importantly, the donation should not duplicate other similar items already in the collection. Finally, the condition of the donation should be acceptable enough that it can be properly maintained within the resources available.

If it fails to gain a place in our collection, the donor can pick up the donation or allow MCHS to dispose of it.

With these guidelines in place, moving forward, MCHS will be better positioned to maximize our limited resources *and* continue to provide Madison County with a focused, accessible, and coherent historical collection.

Submitted by Diana Pine

Sample Donation Sheet



Donation Request and Provisional Receipt and Deed of Gift
Madison County Historical Society, Inc.
15 W. 11th Street, Anderson, IN 46015-0696

The Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) accepts donations that are deemed consistent with its mission to collect and preserve items of significant historical value to Madison County. MCHS follows a policy (outlined below) whereby a donation receives provisional acceptance upon submission of this form. Full acceptance or revocation of provisional acceptance comes once the donation has been reviewed by appropriate staff members according to the guidelines listed below for accessioning items into the collection.

Details of the donation request

Brief description of the item(s)_____

Name of donor(s)_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Home #_____ Cell #_____

Email_____ Website_____

Guidelines for accepting items into the MCHS collection

The donor(s) understands and agrees to the following criteria for provisional acceptance of the donated item(s):

- Donation is consistent with and related to the mission and strategic goals of MCHS, which is to house a collection of artifacts significant to documenting the history of Madison County, Indiana.
- Donation has an established and unquestioned provenance.
- Donation does not unduly replicate items already within the collection.
- Donation is in an acceptable condition and of permanent and durable material and construction.
- Donation is within the capabilities and resources of MCHS to provide adequate conservation, care and maintenance of the item{s} either permanently or for as long as the item(s) retains its usefulness to the MCHS collection. MCHS does not guarantee that the donation will be placed or remain on display.

The donor(s) hereby certifies unrestricted ownership of the item(s) described above and, if the donation is accepted, agrees to transfer all rights to make an unrestricted donation to the Madison County Historical Society. Final determination of acceptance will be completed within 7 days. If the item(s) is not accepted, the donor(s) agrees to take back the item(s) or allow disposal by MCHS. If the item(s) is accepted, the donation is considered irrevocable. In signing this Donation Request, the donor(s) agrees to these terms and guidelines.

Signature_____ Date_____

Received by_____ Date_____

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	(S5) _____
	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

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Facebook: Madison County (IN) Historical Society