THE GAZETTE

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

Volume 61 Issue 2 **April 2026**

Please consider the MCHS in your Estate Planning

Little 500 Festival Hot Rod and Classic Car Show Set for May 9, 2026

The MCHS will host its 8th annual Little 500 Festival Hot Rod and Classic Car Show on Saturday, May 9th, in downtown Anderson on Meridian Street. All car show exhibitors will enter for registration at 10th and Meridian Streets between 9:00 a.m. and noon. The entry fee is $20.00. All proceeds will benefit the Museum of Madison County History and the Madison County Historical Society.

This year's judging will include: the Top 30, Best in Show, Mayor's Choice, Manager's Choice, County Historian's Choice, Treasurer's Choice, Goodwill Ambassador's Choice, Best Classic, Best Hot Rod, and Best Rat Rod.

Dash plaques and door prizes will be awarded to the first 100 exhibitors. All judging and awards will be presented at 3:30 p.m. Food and entertainment will be available on site.

The Madison County Historical Society helps celebrate **America 250** with the **Random Acts of Kindness Day**. These random acts of kindness should focus upon donations of original, unexpired, and unopened packaged items for the food pantry or the animal shelter.

For further information: contact Deb Weston at 765-683-0052, Mon-Wed-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Melody Hull,

The Best of Anderson's Historic West 8th Street - Part Two

In 1826, a determined David Harris, aged 37, embarked on a journey from Licking County, Ohio to Indiana, in search of a place to settle. Among the places he visited was Andersontown, where he found the land he was seeking. Harris chose the land west of today's Madison Avenue, running to the old toll gate at about today's Raible Avenue and south of White River to today's West Eleventh Street. He then walked to the government land office in Indianapolis, where he entered or claimed the property. Returning from Indianapolis, he camped under a honey-locust tree just north of where the one-mile house was built, which is the northwest corner of today's intersection at Sycamore and 8th streets. A cabin stood nearby, and Harris brought his family to live there. About one year later, Harris died, leaving behind a legacy of determination and resilience.

In 1839, his widow built the One Mile House, a structure considered one of the area's finest taverns/boarding houses. Upon completion, its reputation was such that people from miles around were invited to see it, and hundreds attended. The house was not just a residence, but a symbol of prosperity and elegance, erected as a tavern to serve the community.

The scene along the road from early spring until late autumn was that of one continuous stream of covered wagons pulled by oxen and horses. One account states that during the course of just one year, over one thousand wagons were counted passing the one-mile house.

Nearly every team in those days stopped at the old tavern. Some of the parties, not being able to partake of the hospitality and pay money for their lodging, merely stopped for the purpose of watering their stock in nearby Green's Branch that flowed only a few yards to the east of the tavern as it made its northward trek to White River.

The One-Mile house continued to be a place of entertainment for travelers until the railroads reached Anderson.

And what about the name one mile? The tavern stood precisely one mile west of the new Madison County Court House. Both were opened in the same year, in 1839.

Stephen T. Jackson
Madison County Historian

Index

Pg. 1 MCHS Classic Car Show
Historic 8th Street - Part 2
Pg. 2 Membership Dues
M.C. History Trivia Quiz
Schedule of Events
Museum Supporters
Pg. 3 Titanic Re-enactment Notice
Pg. 4 Upcoming America 250 Events
Pg. 5 MCHS Membership Meetings
First Sunday Meetings
Civil War Roundtable Meetings
M.C. History Trivia Answers
Pg. 6 M.C. Historian's Activities
Munching in the Midwest
Family Legacy Workshop
Pg. 7 Harvey Riedel Photo Collection
Memorial Contributions
President's Appreciation Note
Board Members Roster
New Volunteers
Pg. 8 MCHS Membership Form

Membership Dues

Please remember to renew your MCHS membership for 2026.

Annual Dues:

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

Please use the form on **page 8** to submit your 2026 membership dues. Thank You!

Madison County History Trivia Questions:

1. On April 13, 1861, a meeting unlike any other was held in the Madison County Court House. What was the topic?
2. On May 31, 1913, a colossal exhibit opened in Anderson that ran for one week attracting thousands to Anderson to view its business and industrial prowess. What was it called?
3. June 19, 1851, was a historic day in Madison County's history. What happened?

(Answers on Page 5)

Schedule of Events

First Sunday - 2:00p.m.

April 5, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday - No Meeting

May 3, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
The American Revolution, How Indiana Was Impacted

June 7, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
The American Revolution, A Link to Eisenhower

Civil War Roundtable - 7:00p.m.

April 20, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Arie De Young
Lt. William B. Cushing and the Sinking of the CSS Albemarle

May 18, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Gerald Jones
Morgan's Great Raid of 1863

June 15, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Gerald Jones
To Be Announced

Society Monthly Meetings

April 26, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Carol Grace
Mills to Clothing

May 24, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Holiday Weekend - No Meeting

June 28, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Stephen T. Jackson
History of Anderson, Indiana Theaters, 1883-1942

2026 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
David Cooper
City of Anderson
Bradford Douglas
Stephen T. Jackson
Paul & Dorothy Malone
Sharon Bronnenberg Morehouse
Helen Nicholson
Greg Noland
Ron & Alice Spangler
Robert & Ellen Strickland
Steven Voss

Friends of the Museum

Alpha Air, LLC
Art's Trim Shop
Jim & Marilyn Ault
Bestway Cleaners
Bickle's Locksmith
Caesars Entertainment
Wilma Carey
Champion Awards
Craig & Marsha Dunkin
Fredericks Contractors
George & Peggy Groff
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 Local 662 & 663 Retirees

MCHS GAZETTE

April 2026

TITANIC SINKS !

Madison County's Three Titanic Connections

The Madison County Historical Society Players will present the new A NIGHT on the TITANIC: the AMERICAN CONNECTIONS at the Museum of Madison County History at the corner of Meridian and 11th streets in Anderson on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 2 p.m.

This year's production will focus upon the three Madison County connections as well as the Americans who lived through the disaster and some of the wealthy and influential Americans who didn't. It is recommended that passage be booked early due to the limited seating. Reservations are required. Call the MCHS office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 9:00-3:00 at 765-683-0052.

Madison County Celebrates America's 250th Birthday

The following events and celebrations throughout the cities and towns of Madison County are provided through the local partnerships with the **Madison County 250 Steering Committee**. For further information and clarification regarding these upcoming America 250 events, please contact the Madison County Historical Society at 765-683-0052, Mon-Wed-Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

1. **Red, White and Blue**
   Continuing Celebration through 2026
   Carol's Legacy Crystal
   526 South 28th St.
   Elwood, IN 46036

2. **America Gives, Day of Service Food Drive**
   Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
   April 11, 2026
   Drop-off Location:
   Pendleton Town Hall
   100 W. State St.
   Pendleton, IN 46064

3. **America 250 Alexandria Liberty Tree**
   Daughters of the American Revolution
   Friday, 2:00 p.m.
   April 24, 2026
   Beulah Park
   503 S. Park Ave.
   Alexandria, IN 46001

4. **Redbud Quilt Show**
   Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
   May 15, 2026
   Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
   May 16, 2026
   Anderson Museum of Art
   10th and Jackson Streets
   Anderson, IN 46016

5. **Frederick Douglass! The Lion of Freedom**
   Performance by Darius Wallace
   Friday, 7:00 p.m.
   May 15, 2026
   Friends Meeting House
   State Road 38
   Pendleton, IN 46064

6. **Early Elwood: The Growth of a City,**
   The First 100 Years!
   Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
   June 6, 2026
   Elwood Public Library
   1600 Main St.
   Elwood, IN 46036

7. **Old Tyme Country Fair**
   Madison County Celebrates America 250!
   Saturday, 12:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.
   June 20, 2026
   Beulah Park
   503 S. Park Ave.
   Alexandria, IN 46001

8. **Anderson Air Spectacular**
   Anderson Celebrating America 250
   Friday, 5:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
   July 3, 2026
   Anderson Regional Airport
   282 Airport Rd.
   Anderson, IN 46017

9. **Anderson Gaslight Festival**
   Celebrating America 250!
   Saturday, 9:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.
   August 22, 2026
   Historic W. 8th Street
   Anderson, IN 46016

MCHS Membership Meetings

The MCHS hosted Anderson Mayor Thomas Broderick's State of the City 2026 Address on Sunday, March 8, 2026. The address was presented to approximately 60 attendees in the MCHS Bowman Room. Mayor Broderick summarized his administration's past accomplishments with 21 Anderson City Departments of approximately 650 city employees. Anderson's city boundaries encompass 43 square miles for 55,850 residents inside the city limits and another 10,000 residing outside the Anderson Corporate Limits.

The address focused upon Anderson's ownership of the electric, water and wastewater utilities and its ability to modernize and maintain these utilities to ensure future development and quality of life for its residents. New water wells, service lines and a new water plant are some of the infrastructure improvements scheduled for the coming year.

Additional areas of accomplishment included fire and public safety, economic development, parks, road and street paving. Several downtown venues such the Paramount Theater, the Anderson Art Museum, the Anderson Youth Ballet Theater and the Museum of Madison County History were recognized for their cultural and recreational value. Mayor Broderick concluded his presentation with highlighting several new businesses, job creations and additional new housing starts.

First Sunday Presentations

Madison County Historian, Stephen Jackson presented ***Causes and Events of the American Revolution*** on February 1, 2026, in the MCHS Bowman Room. The presentation included the following highlights:

- Various skirmishes during the 9 -year French and Indian War (1754-63)
- The Stamp Act of 1765 & Townshend Acts of 1767
- Boston Massacre of 1770
- The Tea Act of 1773
- The Boston Tea Party of 1773
- The Intolerable Acts of 1774 were aimed at Massachusetts for the Boston Tea Party.
- The 1st Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia in 1774 to serve as the governmental body of the 13 American colonies from 1774 –1789.
- Boycotts of British goods and the Restraining Acts of the American Colonies to trade with the British West Indies heighten the tensions.
- The British attempt to secure the Concord Arsenal led to the Battles of Lexington and Concord which began the Revolutionary War.

Stephen Jackson's March 1st presentation, ***Significant Events of the War,*** highlighted the turning points of the American Revolution. Following the defeat at Lexington and Concord, the British were victorious at Bunker Hill in May, 1775. The victory caused many of the American Loyalists to become loyal to the colonies instead of Britain.

After several defeats from the British, General Washinton was able to stage a 10-day campaign in late December, 1776. On Christmas Night, 1776, Washington crossed the Delaware River into Trenton, New Jersey, and defeated the unsuspecting Hessians in the early morning hours. Washington continued with victories at Princeton, New Jersey, and other outlying areas. These victories boosted the morale of the "citizen soldiers" and gave Washington's troops a renewed cause to continue fighting.

In February 1777, France committed its naval forces to assist the colonists in their efforts against Great Britain. The French Navy's presence along the Eastern Seaboard caused the British to leave Philadelphia in order to shore up its presence in along the coastline.

Various other battles ensued in the Chesapeake Bay area as well as in the Southern Campaign regions. With the presence of the French Navy and the patriot's resurgence to continue fighting beyond their enlistments, the tide began to turn in favor of the colonists. The Battle of the Chesapeake on September 5, 1781, contributed to the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown in October, 1781. Fighting continued for the next two years until the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 5, 1783.

The Marquis de Lafayette and Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben played significantly key roles in training and supporting the Continental Army during crucial stages of the American Revolution.

Civil War Roundtable

MCHS Civil War Roundtable Chairman, Gerald Jones presented ***A Season of Uncertainty, Summer and Fall, 1863***, on Monday, March 16, 2026, in the MCHS Bowman Room. The presentation focused on the period of time after the victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. The examination of the Union's plans for achieving victories in the West and in Virginia appeared to be logical focus of the next campaigns. With the defeat at the Battle of Chickamauga in the Autumn of 1863, these plans did not come to fruition. The heavy casualties at Chickamauga was a significant cause for concern and required a reexamination of the Union's next strategy during this "season of uncertainty" in the Autumn of 1893.

Madison County History Trivia Answers:

1.) To discuss and plan Madison County's response to the Confederate States of America firing on Ft. Sumter the previous day initiating the Civil War.

2.) Anderson Industrial Exhibition.

3.) The first railroad arrived. It was called the "Bee Line". Later it became the New York Central Railroad.

Madison County Historian Activities January-March 2026

January 7 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show.

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

January 21 - Attended a meeting in Anderson Mayor Thomas Broderick's office where representatives of the Madison County America 250 Steering Committee discussed plans for the celebration seeking ways for the City of Anderson to become involved.

January 29 - Guest on Mitch Henck's WHBU Radio Station afternoon show.

February 6 - My article about **A History of Two Anderson Township District Schools** appeared in the spring 2026 issue of the Madison magazine.

February 25 - Attended an America 250 committee meeting at the Museum of Madison County History.

March 25 - Attended an America 250 committee meeting at the Museum of Madison County History.

January-March 2026 - Presented programs about local history to various organizations, including Anderson Noon Lions Club, Jolly Keenagers of Grace Baptist Church, Primrose Retirement Community residents, Keystone Woods residents, Madison County Tea Party, Frankton Community Library, Madison County Historical Society First Sunday Lectures, Chesterfield Christian Church Men's Fellowship, Anderson Art League, Madison County Triad, AARP Chapter #1686, Anderson Art League, Summitville Senior Social Club, Anderson Noon Rotary Club, Crown Pointe of Anderson Residents, Pendleton Historical Museum, J.O.Y. Group, 1st United Methodist Church, Daughters of American Colonists, and the Lunch Bunch of Central Christian Church.

Submitted by Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian

Munching in the Midwest

By the end of the winter season for our Hoosier settlers, dried corn would have been a likely staple still available in their larders. This corn was first made by the Pennsylvania Dutch, but the method quickly became popular with our pioneers.

Dried corn was made by drying fresh kernels in the sun for 5 days and then in a cool oven for 2 more days. Then, when ready to use, it had to be soaked in water, salted and simmered.

Here is a tasty salad which was sampled at the recent ***Taste of the Colonies*** program put on by the Madison County Home Extension chapter:

Dried Corn Salad

1/2 C dried corn
3 C shredded cabbage
3/4 C chopped green pepper
1/2 C apple cider vinegar
1/3 C sugar
1/2 tsp. dry mustard

In a saucepan, mix dried corn and 1 1/2 C. boiling water. Let stand for 1 hour; Do Not drain. Stir in the rest of ingredients. Simmer, cover for 30 minutes. Serve warm or chilled.

(**Source**:
Madison County Extension Homemakers, 2026)

Submitted by Carol Crace, Research Librarian

The Gruenewald Historic House Hosts: *Creating a Family Legacy Book* Workshop

The Gruenewald Historic House hosted the **"Creating a Family Legacy Book"** workshop in conjunction with the Madison County America 250 Committee on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Specific topic areas for building a family legacy book included the following:

1. Researching one's genealogy and family history

2. Recording stories passed down from the generations

3. Preserving traditions and values

4. Documenting work, education, and life experiences

5. Honoring military service and major milestones

6. Saving photos, letters, recipes, records, & keepsakes

7. Reflecting on faith and family experiences

8 Tracing one's ancestors' origins and journeys to America

Carol Grace, MCHS Research Librarian, and Cindy Pulford, MCHS Genealogy Dept, provided the expertise and insights for beginning one's own family legacy book.

If you would like to collect and preserve memories and information about your family history in a book to benefit future generations, please contact the MCHS Genealogy Dept. at 765-683-0052, Mon-Wed-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For those individuals who were unable to attend Saturday's workshop, please contact Carol Grace or Cindy Pulford for additional information.

Notice:
Please remember to renew your 2026 MCHS Membership for this year. Thank You!

Harvey Riedel Photography Collection Now Available for Viewing

The MCHS Nicholson Research Library has recently completed a 15-volume collection of Harvey Riedel photographs. The collection is a compilation of Harvey Riedel's lifetime photographic accomplishments spanning 70 years of free-lance photography. The following categories outline the breadth of Harvey's work:

Harvey Riedel, the Photographer; Anderson Cityscapes; People: Local, Regional, and National; Political: Events and People; Community Events; Sports: Competitive; Anderson Police Department; Anderson Fire Department; Automotive Industry; Boy and Girl Scouts; and Rural Moments.

During Harvey's tenure at GM Delco Remy, he also worked as a photographer with Anderson Newspapers, Inc, the UAW, and for the National Press Photographers Association covering the Indianapolis 500 for many years. He was a wedding photographer, a founding member of the Killbuck Photo Guild, as well as a photography teacher at Ivy Tech. His membership included the Sertoma Club, the Anderson Museum of Art, and the Oshkosh Air Show. His presentation of the Art Museum's People's Choice Award in Photography spanned 20 years in honor of his mother, Evelyn Riedel.

The Harvey Riedel collection was compiled and catalogued by Carol Grace, MCHS Research Librarian, and MCHS volunteer Karen Smith. The 15-volume project was a year-long endeavor with several other volunteers providing the necessary clarification and location of the individual photos. Many thanks to the MCHS Research Library staff.

In addition to the Riedel collection, **Stephen T. Jackson, Madison County Historian**, has assembled a 4-volume collection of Madison County photographs of human interest and various locations of historical significance.

Photographer Ron David has one volume of photographs entitled ***Downtown Anderson Views***. Additionally, two volumes of ***Madison County Artists and Photographers*** are on file in the **Photography** section of the MCHS Nicholson Research Library. All of these volumes are available for viewing during the MCHS hours of operation.

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

Thank you from ***Deb Weston, President:***

Volunteers: Thank you for your commitment and everything you do.

Trustees: Thank you for believing in us, and supporting our vision.

Members: Thank you for supporting the MCHS with your membership dues and helping us complete the projects as they unexpectedly rear their ugly heads.

We would not be the organization we are without **ALL of you.**

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Karen Smith
Brendan White
Corval Zeabart

Memorial Contributions

In Memory of **Suzetta Chambers**,

Memorial Contributions made by

Christopher Chambers and Bryan Chambers

MCHS Welcomes New Volunteers:

1. **Connie Dunn**
2. **Jim Garrison**

Your contributions are gratefully appreciated!

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

Contact Information

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