Starke County Historical Society

PRIDE OF STARKE COUNTY

WINTER 2005 Newsletter

Photo Indexing Project



The indexing project is now in its fourth year and going strong. Over 18,000 historic photos have been

scanned and digitized on CD discs by Marvin Allen. These have been copied and stored, not only in the

museum's fire proof safe but in two other places in the county.

Each week Ann Shearin has been indexing these



Ann Shearin photos into the computer

so one can easily find photos by subject matter. Toni Snearly has recently started to help Ann with this extraordinarily large job. You can see many of these photos, maps, phone books and histories on the Museum-Library web site. are several unidentified - if you can identify any of the people in the photos, call Marvin Allen at 772-5936.

Museum/Library photo site: www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical

You can help us by bringing in your historic photos of family, class pictures, yearbooks, phone books, or any other historical items relating to Starke County which we might scan.

Our Purpose

The Starke County Historical Society's purpose is to foster an interest in local history and to preserve historical items of Starke County. If you have photographs or other items of local historical interest that you would like to donate or loan to the museum, call 772-5393.

Video Production by the Historical Society

During the past two years, the Starke County Historical Society has made several videos. Three videos that have been completed this year are:

1. Cantata

The Historical Society was asked to video the yearly Community Cantata. This year's cantata was Comfort and Joy and was directed by Jim Oliverius. It was held at the Knox United Methodist Church on December 12, 2004, with over 500 people enjoying the hour-long Its fifty-member choir cantata. was assembled from 16 Starke County community churches. This DVD video can be checked out for viewing at the museum.

2. Grace Burch

Grace Burch, 101, has lived most of her life in Davis Township and has become the historian of that area. In this 3-part video, along

with old photos that have been woven into the story, she tells of the life of her family growing



up at Davis Station, how her father had to move his general store across the RR tracks in order to

retain possession of the building, how the steam trains would bring hundreds of hunters to the area each year and later how the steam engines would pick up water "on the fly" by the use of a trough laid

between the tracks. Sometimes she and her sister would get sprayed as the engine would go by. She tells how she attended the Fancher one-room school at the corner of 150 E and 500 N for eight years, and then completed her high school education in Hamlet

She tells about the pearls that her father would find in the Kankakee River and how, as a guide, he would escort the hunters and fishermen from the Mac-Saw-Bee hunting lodge which was just south of Davis Station.

3. Margaret Schricker Robbins

Mrs. Robbins, Governor Henry and Maude Schricker's daughter, has some wonderful tales of

growing up with her two brothers in the Governor's home, which



is now our Historical Society's museum. She tells about the guests that Mrs. Schricker would entertain in the home and how her grandfather, Dr. Brown, who lived with them for a while, would use the Governor's office to see his patients. When asked about the stories of her brothers (and her) climbing up and down the 3-floor laundry chute, she said, "Yes, they were true". Did your folks know about this? "Oh, no, of course not"

These videos, as well as many others, are at the museum and may be taken out on loan to view at home. Several

other videos are being processed and will be completed in the near future. More are in the planning stage.



Presentations

Ottawa County Courthouse (Ohio)

The Ottawa County Courthouse (Port Clinton, Ohio) was built in 1901 from the same architectural plans as our Starke County Courthouse. When one drives up in front of their courthouse, it looks just like ours. The grounds and the inside are different, but the two old stone structures look the same. The Historical Society has made a video of this Ohio courthouse showing some of the interiors as well as the tower, clock and bell, and how it compares to ours.

We have presented this video to the county commissioners and the county council, as well as several local organizations. If you would like a half hour



presentation of this video by the Historical Society for your club or gathering, call Jim Shilling at 772-4311. Website for the Ottawa Co. Court is http://www.ottawacocpcourt.com/

Starke County Historical Society Annual Meeting

Eli Roscka, Alan Selge and Marvin Allen recreated the Lewis and Clark Exploration (200th anniversary) for guests at the Historical Society Annual Meeting. Their presentation included

maps and drawings of this historic exploration of the Northwest. Dressed in period uniforms, Eli & Alan told of the great successes and dangers of this amazing journey into unknown territory. Ninety-five people attended the annual meeting.



Pulaski County Historical Society Annual Meeting

Eli, Alan and Marvin gave the same Lewis and Clark presentation in January to the Pulaski County Historical Society.



Knox School Board

The Knox School Board viewed a 25-minute slide show presentation by Marvin Allen, showing the past history of the Knox and county school systems over the past 150 years. As the board listened to Marvin, and saw dozens of old photographs from the past, they could tell that many of the issues that are faced by the school board in 2004 were also issues for our predecessors.

HCNI & NIGS

In November, Marvin Allen led a two-hour workshop on Digital Imaging at the Valparaiso Library for the Historical Community of Northwest Indiana & Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society. Marvin not only started his presentation by demonstrating the basics of scanning, but later tailored his talk to the person that may be advanced in digitizing photographs and images.

Marvin is listed in the speakers bureau of the Indiana Historical Society.



Other Presentations for Starke County

- Historic Bass Lake photos for Bass Lake Splash.
- Audio CD of Historic Bass Lake for the Bass Lake Tours.
- Kentucky Migrations to Starke County at the Washington Township School.
- History of Bass Lake for the Starke County Leadership Program.
- Maps for genealogy research to the Starke County Genealogical Society.
- The History of Starke County Aviation to the Airport Board.
- Grade School pictures for the Class of 1964 class reunion.

If anyone would like a presentation of some of the history of Starke County, call Jim Shilling at 772-4311 or Marvin Allen at 772-5936.

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday thru Friday 12 to 4 pm (when volunteers are available)



The Ice Cream Social

Our Ice Cream Social was a big success this past 4th of July. Kathy Jerrell and Tom Royce showed off their talents by providing wonderful background music with the dulcimer and accordion. Exhibitors Ray & Roseltha Hallowry, Marvin & Marge Schuster, Bob Stachura, Harold Small, Clarence and Judy Benninghoff, and Bob and Gail Yakimicki displayed everything from farm machinery and antique autos to Indian arrowheads on the lawn of the museum. Inside the museum, visitors stayed cool while looking at the new exhibits and videos.

Maybe <u>you</u> have an antique tractor, a doll collection or arrowhead collection, or perhaps a talent with an old type of musical instrument that you are willing to share. We would love to have you, also, at next year's old time Ice Cream Social, July 3, 2005.

Marvin Schuster and Marvin Allen look over some of the exhibits at the Ice Cream Social.







The flight of the Vin Fiz, the first airplane to fly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean in 1911, was the topic of a book review given by Jim Shilling to the North Judson Kiwanis and to Our Lady of Holy Cross Care Center. The flight of the Vin Fiz is important to Starke County because of its unscheduled landing just west of Bass Station so the pilot, C. P. Rodgers, could get warmed up and make repairs to the airplane. The pilot had come from Rochester and was headed for North Judson following the Railroad tracks. But because of the cold weather, he stopped in a field between Bass Station and Aldine. At North Judson, the annual Harvest Jubilee celebration was well attended with 5000 people awaiting the flyer. Because he was late, Mr. Rodgers flew over North Judson without stopping and then went on to his destination for the day, Gary, Indiana.

Christmas Time at the Museum

Marilyn McCarty at Governor Schricker's piano, along with Ed Hasnerl, led the guests in singing Christmas carols during the Museum's Christmas Open House on December 5, 2004. Other participants during the afternoon were Sarah Gates, Anita Goodan, Doris Michael, Diana Riddle and Kathy Allen. The guests enjoyed the lively singing, the new exhibits in the museum and the hot cider and home-made Christmas cookies which the board members had made.

The Memorial Tree near the entrance

of the Museum was decorated this year with 90 red ribbons in memory of loved ones.



Help tell the Story

Our membership is steadily growing each year. Last year our membership was over 500 people. This year we are again fast approaching the 500 mark. Your dues and contributions are extremely important for the upkeep of the museum and programs of the Starke County Historical Society. Checks may be sent to the Starke County Historical Society, Inc., 401 South Main, Knox, Indiana 46534.

Share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor and help tell the story and preserve the history of Starke County.



Who Pulled the Plug on English Lake?

All of Bob Stachura's books sold out during the book signings at the North Judson and Knox Libraries. A second printing is out on the book, *Who Pulled the Plug on English Lake?* If you didn't get to order one of these 433 page history books from the first printing, now is your chance. Call Bob Stachura at 219-462-3435. It is not only a book about the drainage of the English Lake area, but also a journal about the life of the Starke County and the English Lake people from the mid 1800s to the 1950s.

Ch 24 Open studio

The Starke County Historical Society was featured on Channel 34 Open Studio program again this year. Marvin Allen was a guest and demonstrated the importance of preserving photographs and digitizing the photos on CDs to be stored for the future. One graphic illustration showed the effects of light and air on photographs. He displayed two identical photographs of his g-g-grandfather. One photo had been stored for over 100 years. The other one was displayed on the wall for the same period of time. The displayed one (left, below) was faded with age while the stored photo was sharp and clear. The stored photo did have a little yellowing because of not being protected with acid-free paper.



Time does leave its mark on photographs. They just don't seem to last forever. As the illustration above demonstrates, the need for proper protection of stored photos is critical, so is the proper display of photos. There are many things to think about when displaying photos, but some suggestions are:

- Make an identical copy display this copy and store the original in an archival paper or folder.
- Display in an area that will not have direct sun on the photo.
- If framed, have a mat between the photo and the glass.
- Consider buying low ultra violet glass for a "cherished" photo.
- Don't display using fluorescent lamps.

4-H FAIR

Last year Indiana



celebrated 100 years of 4-H in In August, Denise Indiana. Shearin, Marvin Allen and several contributors put together exhibit celebrating our Starke County 4-H Fair over the years. During the early years, 4-H members, with the help of the County Extension Service, exhibited their projects at the area schools in the county. The Starke County 4-H Club Fair, Inc., held its first 4-H fair in Hamlet in August of 1945. Sponsored originally by the Hamlet Lions Club, the fair was incorporated in 1948. The first directors were Richard Ferch, Walter Vieting, John Bluhm, John Hill, Frank Black, Ralph Lotter, Chester Orr. Shideler, William Barbknecht, and Samuel Haves T.W. The fair was held in Sebens. and around the Hamlet School. In 1961, a fairground was purchased in the southwest part Today, it is a of Hamlet. fairground of which Starke County can be very proud. Congratulations to the Starke County 4-H Club Fair Board for 60 years of dedicated service.



Starke County Historical Society, Inc. 401 S. Main Knox, Indiana 46534 574-772-5393



THANKS

to our neighbors, the Winebrenners. Jim is always ready to run his snow blower down the walk in front of the museum. He has also been taking care of much of the lawn maintenance this past season.

to Jim Hardesty and Jim Kaiser for shrub maintenance this summer.

to Hensler Nursery for providing the Christmas Memory Tree and to Eli Roscka for transporting it to the museum.

to Ann Shearin, Kiyo Ikeda, June Golding, Betty Osterreicher, Lois Swanson, Janet Thompson and Marvin Allen for keeping the doors open at the Museum from Tuesday to Friday.

to Ann Shearin and Toni Snearly for their many hours indexing the thousands of photos into the computer.

to Lois Varro and Peg Brettin for decorating the Christmas tree at the museum.

to Denise Shearin and Marvin Allen for working on the 4-H Fair exhibit.

to Sue Hewlett and Betty Osterreicher for special exhibits in the museum.

to Pat Harris and the Evergreen Garden Club for the wonderful flowers on the museum's front porch.

to Wayne Emigh for helping to up-date the electric in the museum.

to Pat Atkinson for contributing part of the proceeds from the sale of her books.

Plus, we appreciate all of the other volunteers who have helped during the year. If you would like to help around the museum, please call Jim Shilling at 772-4311.

MUSEUM WEB SITE:

http://www.inmap.net/counties/STARKE/government /historical_society.htm

Board members: James Shilling, Wayne Emigh, James Hardesty, Melba Shilling, Marvin Allen, Lois Varro, Doris Norman, Denise Shearin, Clarabelle Troike, Ruby Torok, Mary Stiegal, Alice Dolezal, Helen McCarty, Marvin McLaughlin, Eli Roscka, Ed Hasnerl, Alan Selge, and Peg Brettin.



MUSEUM VISITORS

Lois Varro, above, shows a class of 3rd graders around the Starke County Museum. Each year hundreds of people visit the museum. They are often looking for something specific, like an ancestor's photo or history of the county. They may be looking for photos of old landmarks or wanting to see the old Starke County maps. Many come to see the various exhibits in the museum and hear the stories of those exhibits.

Some of our visitors are classes of school children from OD, Knox and It is always a great experience for our tour guides to watch the expressions on the faces of our young visitors as they learn about the life styles of our forefathers. The classes are shown old maps of the county. They are told about the dredging of the swampland and about the Indians who lived here before settlers started homesteading the area. They are given demonstrations about the way people lived and worked years ago.

Another group of people coming into the museum this past year was the Wanatah Historical Society. They were interested in the way we

are scanning and indexing our photographs.

(Wanatah, Hanna and LaCrosse were originally part of Starke **County** before that corner of the county was given to LaPorte County in the 1800's.) We wish them well in their efforts with this worthwhile project.

Henry F. Schricker Library Exhibit

Many of you have viewed the Schricker exhibit at the Henry F. Schricker Library and have played the recordings about the Governor and Maude Schricker. We have had some very good comments about it. We will soon be starting a new exhibit on Lewis and Clark and their Indiana connection. Many of the men who went with Lewis and Clark were from Indiana. There will be artifacts similar to the ones that they took on their expedition, plus maps and drawings. We will again have a

voice recording so one can hear some explanation of the journey.

Mark Your Calendars

June 24-25,2005

Genealogical Society Book Sale

July 3, 2005

Ice Cream Social at the Museum

November 17, 2005
Starke County Historical
Society Annual Meeting at
the Knox High School

December 4, 2005 Christmas Open House at the Museum

Thank you, Kankakee Valley REMC



and Amanda Leek for contributing the printing cost of this Newsletter.