

Starke County Historical Society

THE PRIDE OF STARKE COUNTY

Spring, 2020

Newsletter

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Hello and happy spring,

Hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and safe as we deal with the quarantine and pandemic. Let me introduce myself - I am Dolores Surfus, current President of the Starke County Historical Society Board. We have had a few changes in officers since our annual meeting in October. I have been on the board for many years as Knox School Representative.

Many things have been happening and new ideas are taking shape for this organization. Dawn Ferch and Patty Redlin have worked long hours during this quarantine, setting up new exhibits in the museum. Mariann Gappa's son Andy has graciously given us a wonderful display of Governor Schricker items, including campaign buttons, pictures and papers signed by the governor.

Just like our 'Remembrance Tree' at Christmas, SCHS will be doing a 'Veterans Memorial Tree' to honor our fallen military. Hopefully this program will be up and running soon. Along with this, a new display will be in the museum honoring our Starke County Veterans. The Ice Cream Social, as of now, is still scheduled for Sunday, July 5th. This will of course be subject to change due to restrictions by the Governor.

When we do get to reopen the museum, please come in and bring a friend to see our wonderful displays.

Thank you.



2020 SCHS OFFICERS

Diana Atkinson and Linda Schwarzlose, officers elected at the annual meeting, submitted resignations prior to assuming their offices. The SCHS Board of Directors elected Venita Cunningham as secretary in January and Dolores Surfus as President in February. Below is a photo of your 2020 officers.



2020 Officers from left to right:
Venita Cunningham, Secretary; Patty Redlin,
Treasurer; Julie Smith, Vice President;
and Dolores Surfus, President



2019 SCHS ANNUAL MEETING

The Starke County Historical Society Annual Meeting was held on October 12, 2019. The carry-in lunch and meeting took place at noon in the cafeteria of Knox High School. President Ron Vendl presided.

Lori Smith, Starke County Genealogist, gave an update of local genealogy and announced that she is available at the History Center on Saturdays. Venita Cunningham reported on the Historical Society's Facebook page which has been well received.

Mariann Gappa, retiring treasurer of the Historical Society, was honored with a certificate for her years of service to the Historical Society. She announced that she is moving out of the county. Others honored, not present, were Carl Goodrich, Audrey Kinezian, Evelyn Skronski, and Dean Wells.



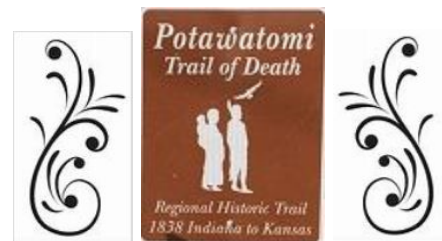
Mariann Gappa, retiring treasurer of SCHS

Gail Nichols, former Starke County resident, spoke to remind everyone that the 19th amendment to the US Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, was ratified on August 18, 1920 after a lengthy and difficult struggle. The centennial honoring this milestone will be celebrated in 2020. Gail was interested in stories about the movement in Starke County.



Shirley & Bill Willard

"Like Birds in a Wind Storm" was the title of the program presented by Mrs. Shirley Willard, Fulton County Historian, at the Starke County Historical Society Annual Meeting. The documentary told of the hardship, sickness and death during the Potawatomi Trail of Death march. Mrs. Willard was accompanied by her husband, Bill. The video presentation was well received by the approximately 80 people in attendance.



UPCOMING EVENTS

*Events are at the History Center unless otherwise noted
(Dates tentative due to pandemic)*

- May 16 Museum reopens (tentative):
 Schricker Exhibit
 Veterans Memorial Tree
- July 5 Ice Cream Social
- July 12-17 Booth: Starke County 4-H Fair
- November 12 2020 SCHS Annual Meeting @
 Knox HS Cafeteria

GLEANERS DONATE TO SCHS

The Ober Arbor Gleaners have been very generous in supporting the Starke County Historical Society. The latest gifts were a desk, glass display cases, and a new computer for the History Center Office. Members of the Gleaners gathered around the desk during a reception at the History Center.



Left to right: Mark Rippy, Jamie Shireman, Betty Vogel, Jim Falk, Judy Sinn, Paul Sellers, Cindy Sellers, and Arlene Sellers.

Other items donated recently included the covering for the front windows, postage stamps, and supplies for events held. The Historical Society is grateful for all the support received from the Gleaners over the years.

AMAZON SMILE

If you ever order through Amazon, you can help support Starke County Historical Society by placing your order through the smile.amazon.com site.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. However, it allows you to support a non-profit of your choice.

After logging in, you select an eligible charity. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Support your Starke County Historical Society by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Your support helps in many ways. Thank you.

This Newsletter has been sponsored by:

Starke County Farm Bureau Co-op



Hamlet - Brems

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1928

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<http://starkecountycoop.com>



THOUGHTS from the COUNTY GENEALOGIST

This year (2020) marks the 100th anniversary of the

19th amendment. While that seems like a simple piece of history in regard to human rights and women's rights, it is much more for those who do genealogical research on women. Comparing records before and after the 19th Amendment for female ancestors is enlightening.

Prior to 1850, searches for female ancestors are difficult. Census records prior to 1850 only list the head of the household by name; the records are overwhelmingly male. Many states denied women who were married the ability to retain assets after marriage. All of the wife's assets became her husband's - her personal property ceased to exist.

Obituaries prior to 1900 would often only list women by their married name. Their identities were not separated from their spouses making it difficult to find the maiden names and families of these ancestors. Sometimes even headstones did not list her name, only a simple wife or mother marker. She would be a mystery with no name. The voting records at the time could have been another good source but since women were denied the vote until 1920, only men are on that list.

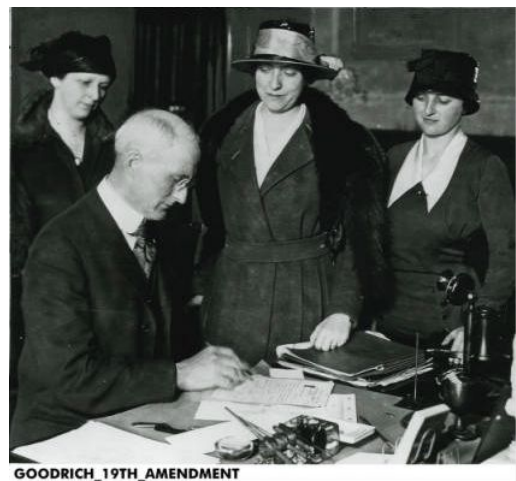
Birth, death and burial records (within church records), marriage records, and some probate records have been the scant sources to find these ancestors. You might also find the ancestor listed in church records on a committee, if the church to which they belonged allowed women to be active.

When compared with male ancestors of the same time period there are many more records. These include the same birth, death, burial, marriage, probate records, plus deeds, business listings, voting records, jury lists, military service records, bank records, etc. The list goes on.

Comparing records after 1920, the list is much longer. Women are listed by name in obituaries, voting records, church records, newspaper articles about activities, deeds, city directories, jobs, and school graduations. While breeching, some colleges would take another 30-40 years. 1920 was the turning point that opened doors and made individual voices matter.

The women who met in Seneca Falls in 1848 laid the groundwork for human equality which is easily expressed in these record searches. It was more than the right to vote, it was the right to be represented in records, to have a name, to own property of your own, to let your descendants see who you were and what you stood for.

If you need help researching any relative in your family, please stop by the history center every Saturday or email me at shakeyleaves@gmail.com.

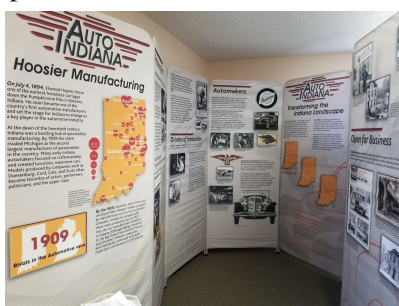


Photograph from the Indiana Historical Society files.

2019 SCHS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The annual Historical Society Ice Cream Social drew a crowd to the History Center on Sunday, July 7 last year.

On display was an exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society. “Auto Indiana” explored how the automobile became part of the American Dream and popular culture, from movies to making personal memories.



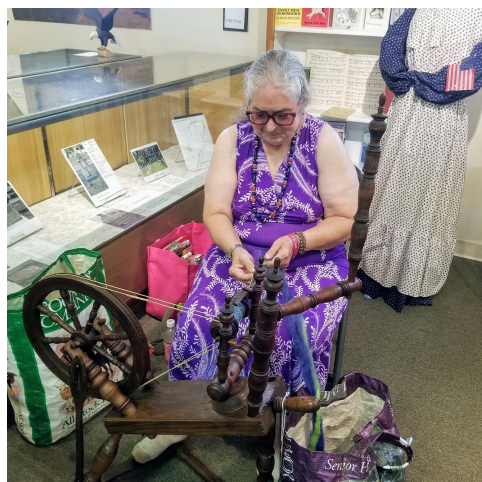
Visitors viewed the Jensen military collection, including the exhibit of ammunition made at the Kingsbury Ordnance Plant, where many Starke County family members had worked during World War II. Uniforms and items from WWI and WWII, donated to the museum, were also on display. Jeff Kenney from Culver Military Academy spoke and answered questions on World War I, including Starke County's involvement in the Great War.



*Jeff Kenney,
Culver Military
Academy*



Guests were able to enjoy and participate in different activities during the afternoon. Susie Szynalski and Nicky Mourer harmonized folk songs, accompanied by their performance on the dulcimers.



Spinning demonstrations were provided by Ruth Clark. Additionally, help was provided in the museum's genealogy room for people looking for Starke County ancestors. Children of all ages looked forward to checking out the two-headed calf and standing next to the 28-inch-tall Che Mah.

The Ice Cream Social for 2020 will depend upon whether or not it will be possible to "socialize" in July.

Spotlight on Starke County History

MAUDE (BROWN) SCHRICKER

Starke County has much pride in local son and former governor Henry F. Schricker. But let's not forget, historians have credited much of Governor Schricker's political success to his wife's public appeal. Maude (Brown) Schricker radiated a kindness and gracious friendliness, and possessed many qualities that made her an invaluable asset to Governor Schricker throughout his long political career.

There was more to Maude than her public image would have suggested. At the age of 18, having already taught at a one-room country school in Jackson Township, Starke County, she moved to North Dakota to homestead 160 acres. The story goes that she and Henry had a "bit of a spat". For whatever reason, in a show of independence rare for those days, she picked up and moved west alone. There she lived alone in a cabin, while teaching in a one-room prairie school and fulfilling her three-year residency requirement to obtain a deed to the land. Her companions were her pony, Brownie, her dog, Dewey, and her Stevens rifle.



*Maude Brown around the time
of her high school graduation*



Young Henry Schricker never forgot the girl he had first seen taking her cow out to pasture at the edge of Knox as he walked the railroad tracks to his job at the county clerk's office. During the summer of 1914, Henry boarded a train for North Dakota and once there convinced his future wife to come home to Knox. On October 21, 1914, they were united in marriage and honeymooned 3 days in Indianapolis. Later, the sale of the land she homesteaded put the Schricker children through college.

Governor & Mrs. Schricker in later years



Newsletter Contributors were Venita Cunningham, Melba Shilling, Lori Smith, and Dolores Surfus

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Starke County History Center is open 10-4 Thursdays and Fridays, 10-2 on Saturdays. We are in need of volunteers to staff during those hours, either as a host/hostess or help with other work at the center. If interested, please complete this form and return it to the SCHC or mail it to Starke County Historical Society, P. O. Box 52, Knox, IN 46534. Board members would greatly appreciate it.

STARKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

APPLICATION TO VOLUNTEER AT THE HISTORY CENTER

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email address _____

Preferred method of contact _____

I am available: (circle all that apply)

Thursdays (10:00-1:00) (1:00-4:00)

Fridays (10:00-1:00) (1:00-4:00)

Saturdays (10:00-2:00)

I am interested in:

_____ Computer _____ Working with exhibits _____ Being a host/hostess _____ Inventory

_____ Other: _____

Related work or volunteer experiences: _____

References: (Please provide the name of a Starke County Resident not related to you)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I agree to a limited background check. (sign) _____

Starke County Historical Society
P. O. Box 52
Knox, IN 46534