

Starke County Historical Society

THE PRIDE OF STARKE COUNTY

Fall, 2021

Newsletter

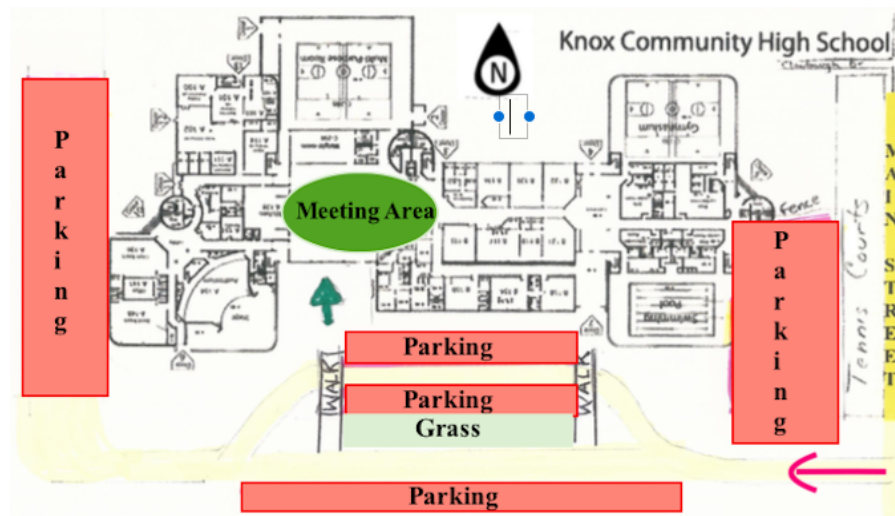
2021 SCHS ANNUAL MEETING

NO CARRY-IN - DESSERTS WILL BE PROVIDED

The Starke County Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18 at 6:30 PM at the Knox High School Cafeteria. Due to uncertainty regarding our status with the pandemic, instead of a carry-in meal, we will **serve desserts only** which will be provided by local businesses.

The business meeting will include information about SCHS during the past two years and election of officers. There will be sign-up sheets offering all members the opportunity to be on working committees. The main program will be provided by Dean Wickert, Starke County author. Wickert's books include *Families from the Beginning* and *The Story Farm: How Hogs, Dogs, and Dirt Taught a POW's Family to Live*.

There is construction at the high school. The new main entrance and parking are now on the south side of the building. Signs will be posted. Below are directions and a map of the building.



Directions: From Highway 35, turn west at the traffic light between Walgreens and the fire station (Clabaugh Drive), go to the first stop sign (Main Street). Turn left (south) on Main Street which will be behind the 5-Star complex and along the tennis courts. The entrance to the high school parking is at the end of the tennis courts, and is not well lit at night.

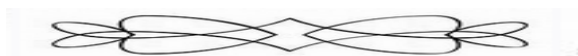
Turn west (right) into the entrance and drive to one of the parking lots. There is parking on the south, west, and east sides of the building. The main entrance is nearer the west end of the building.



2021 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Attendees at the annual Starke County Historical Society's Ice Cream Social sat in the shade, sharing stories of days gone by. The event was held on a very warm July 4 at the History Center on Heaton Street (U.S. Hwy. 35) in Knox. Ignoring the heat, guests came to view the new exhibits at the museum, to enjoy the cooling refreshments, and to meet friends they hadn't seen since the beginning of the pandemic.

Antique vehicles lined the parking lot. Exhibitors from LaCrosse, Bass Lake, Knox, and North Judson brought their lovingly-restored equipment for all to see. Inside the building, SCHS Board Members directed visitors to the Jensen military corner, the Frank Ono display, the Bass Lake bottle collection by Al Hayes, and other historical exhibits.



MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Autumn Greetings, Everyone,

I hope you have had a chance to stop into the History Center this summer and see the wonderful exhibits. Our Veterans' Memorial Tree will be up through the first part of November. The Ice Cream Social was a success this year with several antique vehicles and tractors on display.

We are asking for our membership to play a bigger part in the society by becoming part of a committee. Sign-up sheets will be available at the annual meeting for those willing to be more involved. Our annual meeting will be held November 18th at Knox High School. You will find more information further along in this newsletter. Hope to see many of you there.

This newsletter contains important information about the annual meeting, membership renewal and our Memory Tree for the Christmas season. Please feel free to call the museum at 574-772-7242 with any questions you may have or to put your name on our volunteer list.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting.
Dolores Surfus, President

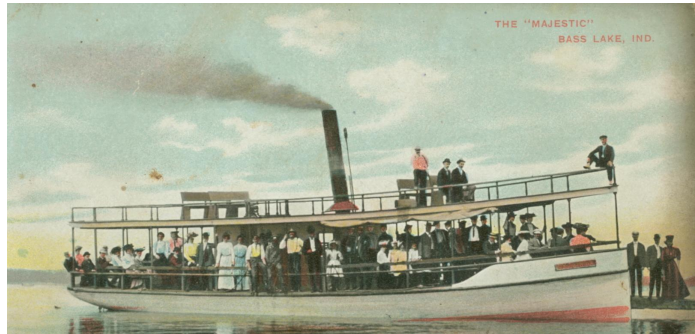
HISTORY CENTER CLOSED FOR WINTER

The Starke County History Center will be closed during the winter months of January and February. Normal hours resume in March: Thursdays 10-4, Saturdays 10-2.

Spotlight on Starke County History: BASS LAKE STEAM BOATS

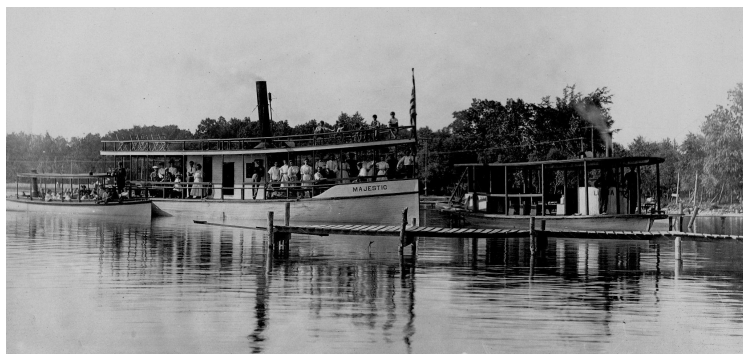
Steamboats evoke a romantic vision of times past. Steamers operated on Bass Lake around the turn of the 20th century. By June of 1892 the “City of Kokomo” was making hourly trips across the lake, with a capacity of 30 people. This little steamer continued to operate for a couple of years. However, in July of 1895, a windstorm swept across the lake, turning the steamer on its side as it was landing at the Shoup pier and throwing a number of its passengers into the shallow water. This is the last reference found for this particular boat. That same month (July, 1895), it was announced that the Chicago Editorial Club was putting a “handsome new steamer on the lake”. There are references in the newspapers to concerts by the K. of P. band being held aboard this boat over the next two summers.

By 1898, arrangements were made to launch a large steamer near the Brabrook Hotel on June 18th, 1898. Speeches were given by Judge Beeman and Simon Bybee, with music provided by the K. of P. band. This boat was 60 feet long and could carry up to 350 passengers, making it the largest vessel to be used on the lake.

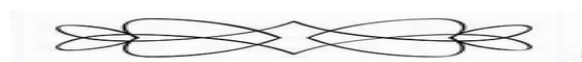


The steamers were popular, so during the winter of 1899-1900, William Atmur announced he intended to add a new steamer to the lake just for guests staying at his lodge. By September, 1900, this new steamer was complete and ready to carry passengers to any part of the lake.

By June, 1902, two trains stopped daily at Lake Park. One of the steamers met all trains at the pier. Soon there were three passenger boats on the lake - “Majestic”, “Letha May”, and “Myrtle”. In 1906, the owner



of the “Myrtle” announced he was building a new steam boat that would float in only 13 inches of water, so that the long piers used for the current boats (at the time) would be unnecessary. In 1909, there were again three steamboats operating on the lake: “Majestic”, “Letha May”, and “The City of Knox” which may or may not be the boat that replaced the “Myrtle”.

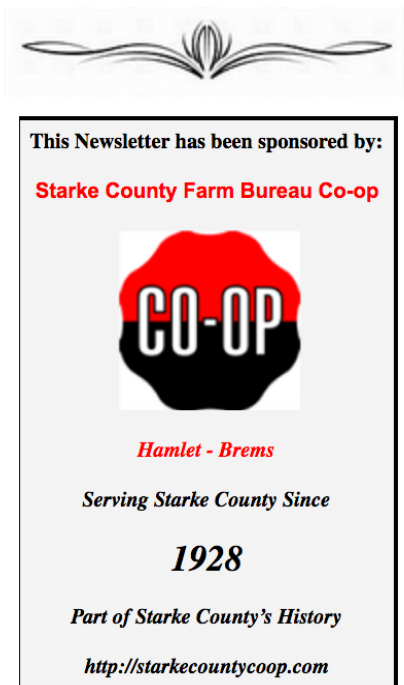


Newsletter Contributors were Venita Cunningham, Melba Shilling, and Dolores Surfus

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- Nov 11 Veterans Memorial Tree display ends
Nov 18 2021 SCHS Annual Meeting @
Knox HS Cafeteria
Nov 25 Starke County History Center closed -
Thanksgiving
Dec 2 Memory Tree display begins
Dec 25 Starke County History Center closed -
Christmas
Months of January and February
Starke County History Center closed



AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM

When looking for a unique gift, consider stopping at the Starke County History Center. SCHS has items of local interest available for sale during regular hours - Thursdays 10-4 or Saturdays 10-2. Items include Christmas ornaments, Starke County Flags, Starkeopoly, and mugs depicting local sites.

MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL AND DONATIONS

Enclosed are two forms - your membership renewal for 2022 and the 2021 Memory Tree Ribbons form. Thank you very much for your continued membership and contributions! These funds help maintain the Schricker home, the History Center, and contribute to our overall program of preserving the stories, photos and artifacts of the history of Starke County for future generations.

Please include your email on your renewal form. With the age of technology upon us, most members have email. Therefore, we plan to send newsletters and invitations electronically. We will still have hard copies available to mail to members who do not have email.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know railroads named Starke County's largest lake? The earliest reference to the name "Bass Lake" is in the June 3, 1892 edition of the Starke County Democrat.

The new station of the Chicago and Erie road, a mile and a half from Cedar Lake, will be called Bass Lake. Before long a new post office will be started there which will be named the same as the station, and perhaps the next legislature will consider the changing of Cedar to Bass Lake. Nothing like unison.

Although papers for a time would use both names, soon it was known as Bass Lake. Today many people don't even know it was originally known as Cedar Lake.



Year 2022 Membership Dues

Dues for 2022:

	Amount	
Individual Membership:	\$15.00	_____
Husband and Wife Membership:	\$20.00	_____
Family Membership (includes 17 & under):	\$25.00	_____
Donation: (tax deductible 501C3)	_____	_____
TOTAL:	_____	_____

Make check payable to:

**Starke County Historical Society
1520 S Heaton St.
Knox, IN 46534**

Phone: 574-772-SCHC (772-7242)

Name _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____



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Memory Tree ----- Honor the memory of a loved one.

A ribbon in memory of a loved one will be placed on the Memory Tree in the front lobby of the Starke County History Center during the Christmas Season. (Please print)



Name of the person you wish to remember_____

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Your name_____ Ribbons @ \$1.00 each_____ Total _____

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