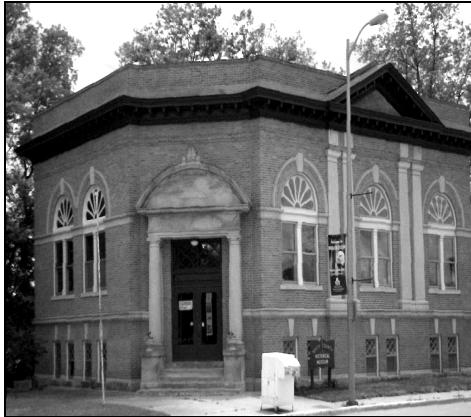


WHITE COUNTY HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

White County, Indiana

Winter 2011

Issue 12



White County Indiana Museum
101 South Bluff Street
Monticello, Indiana, 47960

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

Please note that on the front of your newsletter on the left above your name is a date. That date is the expiration date of your membership. Please contact us at the museum, 574.583.3998 if you have any questions. If it says LIFE you are a life-time member. If it says COMPLIMENTARY it means that we sent it to you free with our compliments. If it says 2011, your membership expires December 31, 2011.

“White County Historical Society: Where history is no mystery.”

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OFFICERS FOR 2011

President – Kean MacOwan
Vice President – John Baum
Secretary/Treasurer – Deborah Green
Museum Director – Judith Baker

BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2011

Ex-Officio – Julie Gutwein
Brian Capouch
Phylis Condo
Charlene Lucas
Cynthia Ostheimer
Rod Pool
Theresa Scott
Jack Ward

WEBSITE:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inwchs/>

E-mail: wcmuseum@centurylink.net

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Three words describe the Historical Society since your last newsletter. Busy, Busy, Busy!

Activities included:

- A successful and well attended Bunnell Cemetery walk which honored our Civil War Veterans.
- A tremendous turnout and successful execution for our moveable feast.
- An exhilarating extended tour of Carroll County’s 1840 Erie and Wabash canal system.
- Re-enactment of past White County residents for The White County Council on Aging.
- Finalized design, construction and vendor to build our long awaited humidity controlled Col. Isaac White display cabinet.
- A Halloween open house themed in honor of the Civil War. The Museum was packed with children.

Continued from the President,

What are we working on?

- Brochures to be distributed to the White County Community Foundation and area funeral homes for endowments, trusts and wills as well as options available for remembrances of loved ones.
- Continued focus on locating, verification and continued research on White County Civil War veterans in preparation for our next cemetery walk of the Old Monticello Cemetery.
- Committee formation to replace lost stones and markers for our Civil War Veterans.
- Launch of our early settler portrait gallery within the museum itself.
- Preparations for our Dec. 3rd open house.
- Creation of specialized rotational exhibits.
- finalizing geocache sites within White County to expand tourism and historical knowledge.

A rolling stone gathers no moss! We are on a roll!

Kean MacOwan, President

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This has been a busy and a good productive year. We are not done yet as we will be having our Annual Christmas Open House December 3rd, Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is always a fun day with the museum decorated, Christmas music and

refreshments for everyone whether you are big or small. Be sure to come join us.

The White County Historical Society organized in 1911. This has been our Centennial year. Julie Gutwein headed a special event to celebrate our 100 years in existence. We had a "Movable Feast" where we visited four different locations in the county and had a progressive dinner as we moved along. At each place a representative or a re-enactor of that location or one that existed in that town gave us an informative presentation. The event was so successful that we will continue to do another rendition of it next year at new places. Thank you for making this a success. This was Julie's idea and she did a superb job.

Everyone has worked very hard on organizing our collection of Civil War Veteran Records. This project will not be done until sometime next year but it has been our Civil War Sesquicentennial project. Our Sesquicentennial Celebration was at the Bunnell Cemetery Walk with 27 re-enactors representing all the Civil War Veterans buried there. It was a great day and we collected money enough to buy GAR markers for those Veterans who did not have any reference that they were in the Civil War. Our next Civil War Cemetery Walk will be at the Old Monticello Cemetery hopefully in May of 2012. This will be huge, as it appears that we will need about 150 people to represent this cemetery. We encourage you to come in and visit us. We still have people every few weeks that tell us that they have never been in to view the museum.

Judith C. Baker, Director



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011
WHITE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

There will be the sound, smell and taste of Christmas at the White County Historical Museum when they have their Annual Christmas Open House Saturday, December 3rd, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hot spiced cider and other refreshments will be served while you browse throughout the museum to the tune of your favorite Christmas music. Come enjoy the museum after you watch the Annual Christmas parade.



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

We have a gift area in the museum. We have many books, coverlet of White County, and some miscellaneous items. You can make your shopping simple and helping the museum at the same time. Come in and browse!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

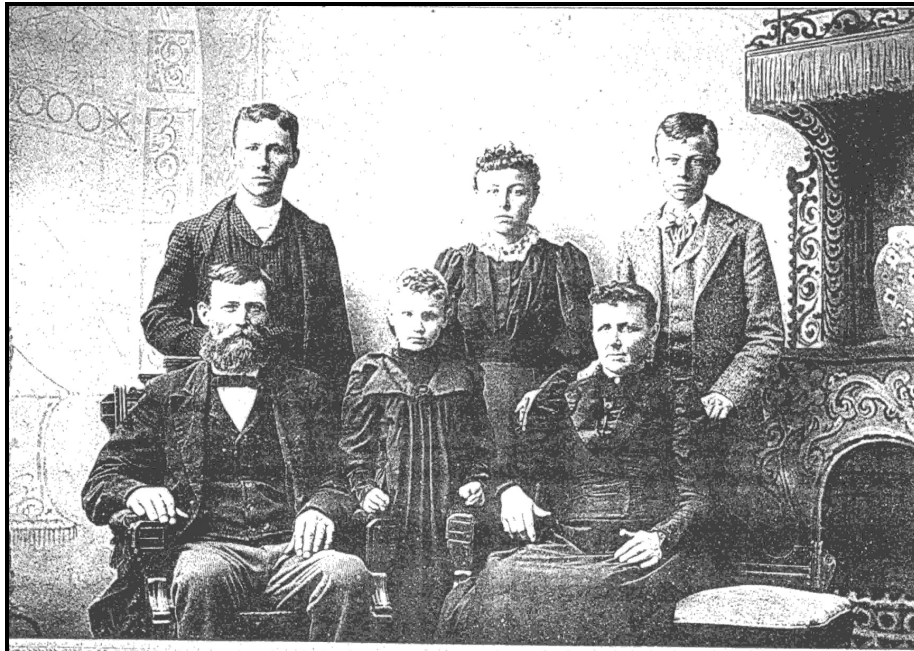
We have needed storage shelving on wheels for items that are not currently on display in the museum. We now have 4 shelving units thanks to Kappa, Kappa & Kappa and the DAR. We are still in need of at least 4 more units but we can see a definite improvement in our storage area already. ORGANIZATION, ORGANIZATION, and more ORGANIZATION!!

DID YOU KNOW?

The White County Historical Society Research Room has over 21,000 obituaries recorded in a computer program that is researchable. It identifies the individual, maiden name (if applicable), year of birth, year of death, identifies the book, page number in our obituary books, date that obit appeared in newspaper and location of death. You can then find the obituary in full. We are adding names every week including 1960's, 70's & 90's. Our oldest book at this time is from 1928. This is just one of our ongoing projects

NETTIE AMELIA STELLHORN WILSON

By her granddaughter: Cynthia Wilson Ostheimer



Back Row: William, Clara, Lawrence

Front Row: John F, Nettie, Calista Herr Stellhorn

Nettie Amelia Stellhorn was born on August 5, 1886 in Monon Township to John F. and Calista Stellhorn. Her parents had rented a railroad boxcar in 1883 and filled it with all their belongings. The train came to Monticello, Indiana where they unloaded everything into a wagon, tied the cows to the back and traveled the ten miles to the farm. A log cabin had been built there. Nettie was the youngest of four children and a surprise to all. They all attended Lowe school, which was a mile from their home. The family had a large garden and shipped apples and potatoes to Chicago. They also raised chickens and turkeys. They were very active members of the Bedford Presbyterian Church.

Nettie grew into a red haired beauty and married Guy Carey Wilson on April 25, 1906. William Wilson, Guy's father, gave them some land and a small building next to the Gopher School. The Guernsey Methodist Church was also built on land donated by William. The church sat on the east end, the house in the middle and the school to the west. The Wilsons and the school shared the outside water pump.

Nettie gave birth to 13 children with only the last two born in a hospital. Dr. Gable delivered many of them. She was a tireless worker for her family and her church which was now the Guernsey Methodist Church. It was quite a challenge keeping up with so many children and very little money.

Guy worked the farm land and was famous for his melons from the sandy soil. He also worked for others to earn extra income. In the summertime, boards were placed in the tall trees and the children enjoyed the cool night air in their makeshift tree houses. The third oldest son, Woodrow,

was killed at age twenty one when his motorcycle hit the wagon his father was driving that was loaded with logs. Daughter, Helen, died at age 19 from a lingering illness. One son was run over by another with a car, but thankfully survived. The children were always close and defended each other no matter what the consequences were. Virgil was left handed and the teacher would not tolerate that and kept hitting his hand with a ruler. The other Wilson boys roughed up the teacher for his actions. Virgil was still made to write with his right hand.

Stellhorns held a reunion every year on the river with a lot of wonderful food, horseshoes and home-made ice cream. In German families, the men were fed first and if any was left, the woman ate. My mother quickly changed that and not a word was said to her.

When the boys were old enough, in their minds, they hopped the freight trains for adventures, but always returned home. Their mother was their strength and anchor. Six of her sons served in World War II and two made careers of the military. The beautiful red haired daughters wanted the glamorous life of the big city of Chicago. Emily, being the oldest, helped the others find jobs or put them through a trade school. Edith did some modeling and appeared in a magazine advertisement.

Nettie had no running water or indoor bathroom until the last few years of her life and then the sons ran a pump into her kitchen. Thanksgiving was monumental with tables filling two rooms in a long row. When the Gopher School was closed, the school was purchased by William Wilson and given to Nettie and Guy who lived there until their deaths.

Nettie never complained about her hardships and made do with what she had. She had over forty grandchildren when she died, but always gave each of us a Christmas gift of some sort. A book, a crocheted cross, a bible with our name on it were all treasures to us.

Guy passed away in 1954 after a heart attack. Nettie went to California to take care of a grandson whose mother died at birth and stepmother died a short time later. She passed away in 1956 and was buried with Guy at Bedford. The house was torn down and the church was burned down by arson.

Nettie was a truly special woman. She had no luxuries in life, but her family and her church were the jewels in her crown. Grandma was a large woman with love for all the family and even raised some of her grandchildren. I never heard her raise her voice and her smile was always genuine and warm. She was known for her irises that lined the stone edging around the farm and some survive today in Monon as does her memory.

MUSEUM GALLERY

We have a new project!!! We would like to display around the upper walls inside the museum; pictures of early settlers of White County. If you have an ancestor or one you would like to sponsor this is your opportunity. If you have a picture that qualifies we will enlarge it to 24" X 30", mount it on foam core and hang it in the museum. We have an example in the museum of George Armstrong

Spencer. We want early settlers who came here before 1860. If you are interested in sponsoring a picture of an early or note worthy location around White County we are hoping to include some of those along with the portraits. The cost is \$100 for each portrait. Locations could run more depending upon size. We will create a brochure listing the person or location and the donor or sponsor for each picture. For more details

contact the museum and talk to Judy 574.583.3998. Below is example of picture that qualifies.



Geo. Armstrong, Spencer

CIVIL WAR MARKER PROJECT

We speculate that for every cemetery in White County that has a Civil War Veteran approximately 1/3 of the veterans do not have any reference that they served their county in this war. We are collecting monies to purchase GAR markers for those men and to replace ones that are damaged beyond repair.

The cost ranges from \$15 to \$30 each. We purchased \$15 ones for Bunnell Cemetery.

If you have someone that served and you want one placed on a grave you may donate the money and we will see to it that they are placed on their grave. Our next Civil War Cemetery project will be Old Monticello Cemetery. We want to cover a cemetery in each township in White County for starters.

You may make your donation to the White County Historical Society and mention this project.

THIS TAX-FREE GIVING OPPORTUNITY EXPIRES END OF THIS YEAR

You must act quickly to take advantage of this opportunity that expires at the end of this year. This option has been in place for several years but will end at the end of this year. An individual who is 70 1/2 years old may give up to \$100,000 from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) directly to qualified charities. The White County Historical Society qualifies! This is a great way to make a donation and reduce taxable income. Contact your tax accountant and your IRA agent.

NOW IS THE TIME TO DONATE!

Now is the time to donate to the White County Historical Society for an end of the year tax-deductible donation. We are a 501c3 Not For Profit Organization, which qualifies your donation as deductible. Your donation keeps the museum up and running. We believe that we are a place that matters to our community and a resource to those who are interested in history and people of the past. The White County Historical Society was created by people who believed that they did not want "History to be a Mystery" but wanted it to be a place where "History is no Mystery". Remember us this year and in your estate plans. Thank you for your support in the past and in the future to keep us a place that preserves White County's history.

JOIN THE WHITE COUNTY INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Support the WCHS efforts to preserve and protect White County’s history by becoming a member. You will receive notices and a quarterly newsletter for one year. Dues are from January to December.

Your membership in WCHS helps support activities at the Museum and Genealogy Library and its specific collections of artifacts, rare books, manuscripts, genealogy and photographs; as well as making the collections available, reaching individuals, students and teachers throughout the County.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual:	\$15.00 <i>**annual</i>
Family:	\$25.00 <i>**annual</i>
Single Life Membership	\$150.00
Business:	\$100.00 <i>**annual</i>
Life Business:	\$500.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Type: _____

Your E-mail: _____

Your financial donations are welcome and needed to continue further education and to preserve these collections. Please consider us in your annual gifts, Memorials as well as Wills and Estate planning to perpetuate us for the future. Contact the director Judy Baker if you can help. Phone: 574-583-3998. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am to 4 pm. WCHS 101 South Bluff Street, Monticello, IN 47960

Submit your White County stories with your membership.