



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Portage Community Historical Society' 25th Anniversary

Speaker: James B. Lane, I.U.N.
Professor, local historian and author

Historical Displays/Slide Show
Special Acknowledgements

On Sunday, February 24, 2013 at
Woodland Park - Sycamore hall we held our kick off to our anniversary year. We estimate 150 people attended and everyone had a good time.

I contacted Professor Lane and he sent me the speech he made at our dinner for our files.

- Pictures on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pchs88

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Museum News	2
Members News	2
Historical	3
New Additions	3
2013 Calendar	4

Special points of interest:

- 25th Anniversary Dinner, Woodland Park
- 25th Anniversary Summer Festival, Countryside Park
- Rummage Sale, Countryside Park
- Society Projects and Exhibits, Alton Goin Museum

Society's 2013 Summer Festival

Co-chairpersons for this year's special 25th anniversary festival are Patti Coppess and Jim Franzen

Food chairman is Bill Mesich

Membership chairwoman is Lois Mollick

Publicity chairwoman is Debbie Parker

Silent Auction chairpersons

are Kathy Heckman and Nadine Hernandez

The theme this year is **"Reunions"**

We hope many families will plan their *family reunion* at Countryside during our festival. We will have the food, entertainment and picnic tables; all they have to do is show up. For large family reunions we can designate a space for their

group. We have plenty of room in the field and behind the buildings. No parking or entrance fees, only charge may be for setting up extra tables.

Festival meetings are held at the Portage Library Indiana Room and Lois will be calling for volunteers.

We need a lot of volunteers to help this year.

New Displays



Al Goin adopted the Indian display, found a muralist for a beautiful background and really spruced up the display with help from Pat Scott and Nicole Buhr.

Joe Mollick and Drake Wertz expanded the military display. We also have a women's navy uniform in the display.

Phyllis Borg and Eva Brady adopted the school display and they have given it a whole new look.

Debbie Parker and Chrissy Bes have made over the steel mill display. Debbie even brought steel samples from her tour in the Pennsylvania steel mill. And she has pictures of the steel process.

Museum News

We are having an exciting year at the Alton Goin Museum. We plan on having something new in our museum each month celebrating our 25th year as a historical society.

We will reopen the museum the first weekend in April with a display from the Indiana Historical Society titled **"Who Do You Think You Are"**. We will have displays of our earliest Pioneer families and some history on where they came from to settle in Porter County Indiana.

June is our festival month with our festival on Saturday June 22, 2013. We have an **Abe Lincoln** impersonator who really looks like Lincoln and with all the latest publicity on the movie Lincoln; we will

have **"The Faces of Lincoln"** exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society during the month of June.

Our June festival theme this year is called "Reunions" and we hope many families will book their reunions at this year's festival.

July of course is our country's birthday and we will be having a float in the 4th of July parade in addition to driving our 1929 vintage La France Fire Truck in the parade. July will be centered on our country's birthday.

Porter County Museum Group is planning special events for 2016. Do you know the significance of 2016? See page 4 for answer.

In August we will again

be borrowing from the Indiana Historical Society the exhibit on **"The Faces of the Civil War"** and displaying it in our Alton Goin Museum.

The museum committee has come up with so many new ideas and changes to the museum but we only have 2 months before we open in April. How about "Adopt a Display"? We need at least two people to work on each display for us. We already have volunteers for the school display and the police and fire display and Al Goin has taken the Indian display. We are at the museum every Friday at 9:00 am until 3:00 pm come join us, we don't want to have all the fun.

Sign up soon.

*Who Do You
Think You Are?*

Member News

New members are Irlene Holley, Donna and Pappas

To A Town Named Portage

How shall we shape with mind and hand
 this newborn town in ancient land?
 How do we mold in our dreams
 its fields and forests, dunes and streams?

How honest are we and sincere
 with those, whose destiny we share?
 Shall we remember, that to give
 is far more blessed, than receive?

Can we construct a new wide street
 and keep on narrow paths our feet?
 Shall law with mercy tempered well
 in clear cut phrases guide and tell?

The pioneers in years of yore
 oft visioned cities on our shore.
 Their bones since long are dust to dust,
 their hopes became our sacred trust.

Let us be steadfast, kind, and true
 and build besides the waters blue
 and in the meadows of the land
 a town, not founded on the sand.

Of greedy waiting, easy spoil.
 Let us prepare with honest toil
 each cornerstone in this new town,
 that straight it stands from dusk to dawn.

The above, expressing more feelingly than prose normally does, man's usual hope for the new born, was written by Mrs. Axel Tranberg, 2556 Belmont St., East Gary (Garyton) early 1950's



2013 Board of Directors

President:

Carl Fisher

Vice-President:

Sue Cowser

Secretary:

Donna Smith

Treasurer:

Barb Borg-Jenkins

Board of Directors

Patti Coppess

Jim Franzen

Bill Mesich

Lois Mollick

Richard Turnak

Wanda Samuelson

Eva Udick

Newsletter

Lois Mollick

Kathy Heckman

KNOW YOUR TOWN HISTORY

Compiled by Portage League of Women Voters, 1961 Portage, Indiana

Portage, located in Porter County, Indiana, encompassing twenty square miles of land with 11,000 residents officially became a town June 29, 1959. Included within the town limits were three unincorporated villages -- McCool, established in 1851; Crisman begun in 1853; Garyton, platted 1940. The referendum vote on incorporation was on June 13; election of the first town board, June 27. Because of litigation against the town, a bill legalizing the incorporation was passed by the 93rd General Assembly of Indiana and signed by the governor on March 4, 1961.

The mechanics of incorporation were

carried through by the Portage Progress Committee, which was chosen by the Portage Township Inter-Club Council. This council, which represented some twenty-two township organizations, became aware of the need to incorporate through the Crisman Community Club. Members of the Crisman Club had become concerned that Portage would be unable to maintain its separate identity in the growing industrialization of northwest Porter County.

Historians say that Portage Township, in which Portage is located, derived its name from a county in Ohio, which had been the home of some of the early settlers.

**PORTAGE
COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.**

P.O. Box 305
Portage, IN 46368

Phone:

219-762-8349

E-Mail:

pchs.1@frontier.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Membership:

Individual \$20 a year

Family \$50 a year

Business \$60 a year

Lifetime \$100 forever

Bi-monthly Meetings

Bi-monthly meetings will resume on the third Tuesday in April and are held at Woodland Park at 7:00 pm in the Hickory Hollow room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

There are a few members who have not renewed yet. According to our by-laws you must renew by the end of March but we will extend the time to the end of April. These people have not renewed-Judy Holtzman, Fred Blakely, Michael Cipko, Susan Cowsert, Hazel Nagy, Janet Robbins Sharpe, Vicky Wright. We need you all!

RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday and Friday, June 13 & 14 on Countryside Park grounds and in the barn

Please start bringing your donated items to the museum when we are open. This fundraiser is important because it gets us noticed and we pass out the flyers for the festival.

You can rent a space to sell your own things for \$10, bring your own tables and you can have as much room as you need. We will be doing the publicity and have the buildings open to the public.

Help Needed

Don't forget to save us new or like new items you don't use for our silent auction at the summer festival.

Calendar of Events

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

April 5, 6 & 7, 2013

Opening weekend at the museum, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Bi-monthly meeting, 7:00 pm

Thursday & Friday, June 13 & 14, 2013

Rummage Sale on the park grounds

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Summer Festival

Please remember that any books or items sold by the Historical Society must have sales tax collected on the item.

Indiana sales tax is 7%. If members wish to order one to be shipped, there will be an additional charge for shipping.

www.facebook.com/pchs.88