



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Portage Community Historical Society, Inc.
August Bi-monthly meeting
Date changed to Wednesday, August 21, 7:00 pm

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2013 Festival

Thanks to the Portage Park department for all their help in setting up and taking down the tables, chairs, tents and stages for this year's festival. We couldn't have done it without you.

This year was the best in the last few years! We had dozens of children playing our games led by Julie Woods, we sold lots of food prepared by Bill Mesich and his family, our entertainment was great, thanks to Wanda Samuelson. We estimate our attendance was about 500 people. Thanks go to all our members and volunteers, especially Patti Coppess and Jim Franzen, Co-Chairs. We are starting early for next year to make it even better!



The dog days of summer are the hottest days in the summer season, and have that name because of an ancient belief that when Sirius, also called the Dog Star, was close to the sun, it was responsible for causing hot weather.

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, June 21, 2014
2014 Historical Festival

Portage High School Alumni Dinner Dance

Saturday, October 5, 2013
Duneland Falls Banquet Center located on Highway 149, Portage
It will be the 50th reunion year for the class of 1963 and they plan to tour our museum on
Friday, October 4, 11 am – 3:00 pm
We hope to have many pictures from the 1960's for the alumni to enjoy.
Bonnie Kraft Seaman is the contact person for the class of 1963 at
mbseaman@frontier.com
or contact Sue Smith Cowsert at 219-926-6658 or suzicnana1@yahoo.com
Do you have any Portage Alumni pictures to share for a special display in September and October in the museum?

IHS Traveling Exhibition *Faces of the Civil War* Makes History Personal

Portage – Civil War history will come alive for visitors who experience *Faces of the Civil War*, a traveling exhibition created and managed by the Indiana Historical Society. The exhibition will be on display August 3 through August 25 at Alton Goin Museum, Countryside Park, located at 5250 US Hwy 6 in Portage, Ind.

Faces of the Civil War, designed by the IHS exhibitions staff, was originally conceived as an exhibition for the Indiana History Train, which travels throughout the state each fall. Nearly all images used in the new traveling exhibition come from the collections of the Indiana Historical Society. Hands-on, interactive elements have been added to enhance the viewer experience.

The exhibition brings to life the stories of many Hoosiers whose lives were touched, and in some cases taken, by the Civil War. Not all are well known or revered – many were just everyday citizens fulfilling their duties to their friends, family, state and country. Rather than focusing on statistics and large scale battles, *Faces of the Civil War* illustrates how regular people coped with the tragic experiences of the day – all from an Indiana perspective.

Non-soldier stories featured in the exhibition include the stories of women who served both on the home front and on the battlefield. Lovina Streight followed her husband into battle and was captured more than once by the Confederate army while tending to her husband as well as his wounded and dying comrades. Streight, along with her husband, was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis with full military honors.

Hours of operation for Alton Goin Museum are 1 – 4 pm, Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, please call 219-762-8349 or visit www.facebook.com/pchs88.

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana's Storyteller™, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting and disseminating the state's history. A private, nonprofit membership organization, IHS maintains the nation's premier research library and archives on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. IHS also provides support and assistance to local museums and historical groups, publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; and provides youth, adult and family programming. (www.indianahistory.org)

Member News

Debbie Parker won the drawing for the Robbins Mansion picture; she bought a lot of tickets. If you want a restored copy of the mansion picture contact Kathy Smock.

Bob Engelhardt, member and wood carver, was unable to attend the festival this year because of heart problems. He wanted to be there, as usual, but his doctor advised him not to. We missed you, Bob and we wish you a speedy recovery.

Sad to report that Doris Wolfe McIraeth Koedyker passed away in June. She was a charter member of our society.

Bill, Sonja and Joel Mesich had a great time at their vacation at Disney World in June. They also spent a few days on the Florida Coast at a Resort.

Eva Udick has been ill and has spent a month or so at her niece Rhonda Nelson's house. We are glad to hear you are doing better, Eva!

Pat Goin recently spent 3 days at Porter Hospital and is now home and doing better! Get Well Soon All!

Myrtle Novak has recently had surgery and is recuperating at home. We wish you a complete recovery Myrtle.

Thanks again to Bill Byers for keeping our flowers at Countryside so beautiful.

Museum Happenings

Carl and Lois attended the meeting of the Porter Museum Group on July 9th. They have offered to have the next meeting on September 10th at our museum at 10 am. If anyone wants to help please let Lois know at 762-4218. We provide beverages and a few snacks.

Janet Robbins Sharpe's husband Keith has offered to transfer some of our tapes to DVD's for us. Thank You Keith!

The Historical Society recently received a donation of 2 buggies from a lady from Valparaiso named Dorothy Ingels. Lois had a call from Kevin Pazour (Valparaiso Museum) that this lady had contacted him but since they have no room for them, thought we might take them. We got in contact with Mrs. Ingels and she delivered them to us. They are in storage for now at McCool Cemetery Barn. They have been completely restored and we will be able to drive them in parades.

Museum Hours

Open every
Saturday and
Sunday 1:00
till 4:00 and
Friday's by
appointment

Civil War Soldiers and Veterans

From Portage Township Indiana

Charles S. Arnold - 1839-1929 buried McCool Cemetery - G.A.R.

Jared Blake - 1835-1923 buried Graceland Cemetery – G.A.R.

Addison Crisman - 1837-1922 buried McCool Cemetery Co. E 73rd Ind. Vol. Infantry

Isaac Crisman - 1839-1923 buried McCool Cemetery 23rd Infantry Regiment Indiana

Oliver Crisman - 1841-1927 buried McCool Cemetery – 151st Reg. Co. B - G.A.R.

Zacheus Barnum Fifield - 1842-1916 buried in St. Paul, MN Co. H Regiment: 9, 2nd Lieut.

Charles Henry Gaylord - 1826-1863 buried Knoxville National Cemetery, Knox County, TN

Henry Alonzo Gott – 1842-1923 buried McCool Cemetery – G.A.R. Co. E 1 Ohio L.A.

John M. Jones buried McCool Cemetery Lieut. Co. K Indiana Infantry

Fred L. Krieger – 1826 – 1902 buried McCool Cemetery Co. A 55 Reg. Indiana Infantry

Thomas W. McCool – 1836-1894 (unknown burial) Co. B 63rd Indiana Infantry

Frank Percy 1842-1933 buried in McCool Cemetery Pvt. Btry L 5 artillery G.A.R.

George K. Ritter - 1842-1886 buried McCool Cemetery Corporal Co. A 7th Indiana Calvary

Jerome B. Sargent - 1825 – 1899 buried in McCool Cemetery 48th Indiana Infantry

Do you have an ancestor that fought in the civil war? We'd like to honor them in the museum in August;
they do not have to be from Portage.

Dates To Remember

1860 November – Abraham Lincoln won the presidency

1861 April 12 – At 4:30 AM Confederates under General Pierre Beauregard open fire with 50 cannons on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The War Between the States begins.

1863 November 19 – President Lincoln delivers a two minute Gettysburg Address at a ceremony dedicating the Battlefield as a National Cemetery.

1864 November 8–President Lincoln is re-elected as President of the United States.

1865 April 9–General Robert E. Lee surrenders his Confederate Army to Ulysses S. Grant at the village of Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia. The war is over.

1865 April 15 – Abraham Lincoln dies



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PORTAGE
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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

Calendar of Events

**Saturday, August
17, 2013**

Museums open for the
Kibble Kitchen event
noon – 4 pm

**Wednesday, August
21, 2013**

Regular bi-monthly
meeting at Woodland
Park, 7:00 pm

**Saturday, October
5, 2013**

PHS Alumni Dinner
Dance

**Tuesday, October
15, 2013**

Regular bi-monthly
meeting at Woodland
Park, 7:00 pm

Bi-monthly Meetings

CHANGE OF Day for next general meeting.

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 21** at 7:00 pm
Woodland Park, Hickory Hollow room, invite a friend.

August speaker to be announced; refreshments served after the meeting.

We plan on having our museums open during the following event. Contact Lois or Kathy if you are able to volunteer on that day.

PORTAGE | The Kibble Kitchen Pet Pantry will be hosting an awareness day for homeless pets Aug. 17. The second annual event is from noon to 6 p.m. at Portage's Country Side Park.

The pantry is looking for vendors, shelters, and rescue/adoption groups interested in having a booth at this year's event. Business and consultants are also encouraged to take part.

Businesses are required to provide an item, basket, or gift certificate valued at \$50 or more as a donation to the pantry in return for a 10 foot by 10 foot outside booth space. All nonprofit shelters, rescues and animal adoption groups are free. Businesses and organizations will need to have an approved contract to setup this day.

Space is limited. Deadline for contracts is Aug. 1.

For more information, call (219) 734-6936 or email Kibblekitchen@hotmail.com with a subject line of August event.

The Times Online

We have several items we offer for sale in the museum: Historical House Booklet, Steel Shavings, Postcards, and we ordered and have copies of Portage Township by Jim Wright and Dennis Norman.

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.

Clement and Lynda Khan have finished the Wolf Mansion History book and are selling them for \$15.00. We will have them available for sale in the museum.

www.facebook.com/pchs88