



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Portage Community Historical Society'
25th Anniversary
Catered Luncheon
Entertainment

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

Historical Displays/Slide Show
Special Acknowledgements

**Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 12:00 Noon till 12:50 social hour
Woodland Park - Sycamore hall**

- Tickets are \$25.00 per person--(Tables are also available)
- Tickets will be held at the door when payment is received in the mail
- Send checks or money orders payable to Portage Community Historical Society to:
Woodland Park Office; 2100 Willowcreek Road; Portage, IN 46368
762-1675
- Updates will be on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pchs88
- Deadline for tickets Feb. 11, 2013

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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.

Christmas on the Farm



St. Nick told us we had 4 times the number of kids this year than in previous years. Saturday was busy all day and Sunday still had people come out. Everything was decorated so nice and it was an enjoyable event.

We had at least 20 children enter the coloring contest and in the 3 - 7 age group the winner was Anya Stone, in the 8 – 12 age group the winner was Kaydence Lancaster. Winners each received a \$10 gift card from McDonalds.

Lois counted over 100 people signed the book during the open house weekend.

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.

Member News

If you had your portrait taken the night of the installation dinner, Kathy Smock has them ready for viewing. Contact her at 763-1561 or kathy470@hotmail.com

I think the portraits turned out very nice. I've asked Kathy to include them in our power point for the anniversary dinner.

I still need bios from many of you, just 2 or 3 sentences, email them to Kheckman50@aol.com

Linda Byers is recovering nicely from her knee replacement surgery. She still has physical therapy daily but is getting around without her cane.

Joanne Schoon is recovering from a serious illness. Hope you are back to good health soon.

Welcome to new Lifetime member, Kevin Pazour. Kevin is curator of Porter County Museum in Valparaiso.

Member Ed Gottschling had a birthday in January, Happy Birthday Ed!

"We plan on having something new in our museum each month celebrating our 25th year as a historical society."

Historical Society

In the summer of 1987 Carl Fisher, Park Superintendent, put an ad in the newspaper and interested people met at the Trager Homestead in order to establish a historical society and museum on the newly obtained park property. At that time there was only the Trager farmhouse and old barn. In attendance were Carl Fisher, Lois Mollick, Jaclyn Macedo, Doris Koedyker, and others as Lois recalled 20 to 25 in attendance. The first elected board members were President-Jaclyn Macedo, Vice President-Lois Mollick, Secretary-Wilma Buckley and Treasurer-Theresa Christie. Mrs. Macedo held the president's office for 4 years and then held various positions on the board for many more years.

Gene Youngman was chairman of the board and other board members were Terry Jarosak, Norman Hamstrom, Carl Fisher, Gerald Rich, Irlene Holley, George Peterson and Doris Koedyker.

The newly formed Portage Community Historical Society, Inc. got their not for profit charter in the March of 1988. The museum was in the Trager Farmhouse and mainly opened on Saturdays and run by volunteers. They busily collected many artifacts and made displays throughout the farmhouse. Melanie Mitchell was hired by the Park Department to be Museum manager for a year or two. They also printed the first bulletins for the society.

New Additions to our Collection

Not really new but maybe "new" to you, Eva Udick has been keeping a scrapbook going since 1994. She has clipped out every article about our society and about some of our members. There is a lot of our society's history in her scrapbooks. Ask to see them the next time you are down at the museum.

We received a copy from Debbie at the McCool Cemetery office of the early Blake Cemetery Association minutes. It is interesting to read and they named some burials we did not have in our database.

We added 5 more yearbooks to our collection thanks to the Portage High School.

James/Schrock Cemetery

Watch for an article I am submitting to the Times newspaper on the restoration of the cemetery. *Kathy*

Cheryl Arver, a Sargent descendant, recently lost her mother and she donated pictures that once belonged to her grandmother who had lived here in Crisman. Some pictures are identified but some are not so we need help with the pictures. Her grandmother was Cora Sargent Ritter and her mother was Alberta Ritter Bogan who moved to Michigan.

We received political pictures, memorabilia and newspaper articles from the families of Arthur Olson, John Williams, Jack Clem and Bill Suarez.

Found Coach Dean Snyder's 1949 rules for basketball players and it is very interesting.



2013 Board of

Directors

President:

Carl Fisher

Vice-President:

Sue Cowser

Secretary:

Donna Smith

Treasurer:

Barb Borg-Jenkins

Patti Coppess

Jim Franzen

Bill Mesich

Lois Mollick

Richard Turnak

Wanda Samuelson

Eva Udick

Newsletter

Lois Mollick

Kathy Heckman

**PORTAGE
COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL
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pchs.1@frontier.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Bi-monthly Meetings

Because of the anniversary dinner in February, we will **NOT** have the regular bi-monthly meeting. We hope instead everyone attends the dinner on Sunday, February 24, 2012.

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.

2013 dues are now due. We decided to raise the dues this year slightly:

Individual \$20 a year Family \$50 a year Business \$60 a year

Lifetime \$100 forever

Questions, contact Lois Mollick at 762-4218

Facebook

We already have over 130 "Likes" on Facebook.

Please join us on Facebook to keep informed of the latest news and events.

www.facebook.com/pchs.88

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

We need someone to help us with painting a few walls in the museum. They need to be able to climb up and down a ladder. And we want to get it done in February so we can put everything back where it belongs.

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

Sunday, Feb. 24,
2013

**25th Anniversary
Dinner**

Friday, Saturday &
Sunday

April 5, 6 & 7, 2013

**Opening weekend at
the museum**

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

All Day Event

"Reunions"

2016 Indiana Statehood Bicentennial