



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

## Portage Community Historical Society, Inc. 2013 Summer Festival "Reunions" Saturday, June 22

Countryside Park, 5250 US Hwy 6, Portage, IN.  
Everyone is Welcome  
No Parking or entrance fee

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We are celebrating our 25th anniversary with a "Pioneer Families Reunions" festival on Saturday June 22, 2013, 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.

We will be honoring our early township settlers with a display of family pictures and donated articles from many of our pioneer and early family descendants. If you are a descendant from one of our early settlers, please let us know you are coming.

All buildings will be open for tours, children's fishing derby, hayrides, kids' games, musical entertainment, antique car show, antique 1929 fire truck, watermelon eating contest.

We have returning Michael O'Hare area Abe Lincoln impersonator and on loan from the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis we will feature a display called "Faces of Lincoln".

We will have a silent auction and raffling a restored framed picture of the Robbins Mansion.

Food for sale will be hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, pies, ice cream, pop and root beer floats.

Crafters and antique vendors wanted. Pick up applications for our festival at the museum on Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm. Cost is \$10 for 10x10 space. (no food) Contact us at 219-762-8349 (leave a message) or email at [pchs.1@frontier.com](mailto:pchs.1@frontier.com) for application.

[www.facebook.com/pchs88](http://www.facebook.com/pchs88)

### Special points of interest:

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Festival, Countryside Park
- Rummage Sale, Countryside Park
- Society Projects and Exhibits, Alton Goin Museum

### Schedule for festival:

10:00 AM Opening ceremonies; Posting Colors; Star Spangled Banner

10:30 AM Janet Robbins Sharpe on her keyboard

11:00 AM Scott Conner & Co. "Save the Tunes"

12:00 PM Just For Fun Strummers; Ukulele group

1:00 PM Trilly Cole; Banjo & Stories

2:00 PM Good Time Cloggers

3:00 PM Abraham Lincoln Impersonator

3:00 PM Closing Silent Auction and picture raffle

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Carnival Games

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM Fishing Contest

1:00 PM to 2 PM Group Games

2:00 PM Watermelon eating contest

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Winamac Car Show

Volunteers needed to cover the Trager house, barn and Alton Goin Museums during the festival. Sign up soon in the museum, by email or call Lois to get your preference of building and time.

## New Displays

Susan Kelly-Johnson, Portage resident, will be displaying her beautiful photography for the entire month of June. Her pictures include many scenes in and around Portage, the lakefront and the dunes. She offers many of her pictures for sale. Information is available in the museum.

Cary Anchey, Portage resident, donated a model of our Trager farmhouse that he handmade for us. It is a beautiful replica of the restored farmhouse and will be on display. He is a very talented artist and we appreciate all his effort and will cherish our newest addition.

Dean Snider's daughter, Marty Mathews, brought us some of his memorabilia "Research Notes of Dean Sniders State Courthouse History". He was teacher and coach at PHS. In the material they gave us is his personal history.

### Museum News

Trina Criswell from Miller's Senior called and they requested a tour for Friday June 7 at 1:15.

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.

### The Faces of Lincoln

*The Faces of Lincoln* is a versatile exhibit made up of three parts that can be

### Member News

Al Fabian had heart surgery about a month ago and he has had a rough time but he is getting better.

Your Society friends wish you back in good health soon, Al!

displayed together or independently.

*Developing the Image* (part Of one) traces the history of photography in the 19th century through some of the best and well-known photographs of Lincoln.

*Creating the Image* (part two) explains how photography helped Lincoln develop a presidential image. Photographs, prints and political cartoons in this exhibit portray Lincoln as a political candidate, president and family man. The exhibit also highlights important events in Lincoln's life.

*Idealizing the Image* (part three) shows how Lincoln's assassination instantly elevated him from man to

myth. Images from IHS's Lincoln collections help explain how Lincoln's face came to represent American ideals.

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.

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.

We received a donation from the Mrak family In Memory of Mary Jane Mrak. She will be remembered for all her dedication to our society.

Wanda Samuelson recently returned from her trip to England. She visited Winchester Cathedral and some of the sights she saw were Stonehenge, Bath and the Tower of London and took a bus tour of London.

Wanda said she was grateful she could make the trip and enjoyed it all.

### Museum Hours

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

June has an extra weekend that we need volunteers to help cover the museum on Saturday and/or Sunday June 29 and 30 from 1 – 4 pm. If you can fill in one of those days please call Lois or Kathy.

Vidette Messenger

May 19, 1956

Janet Robbins Heads Portage Senior Class

Crisman - Janet Robbins, valedictorian, and Larry Bradford, salutatorian, head the 1956 Portage High school class of 93 students who will receive diplomas in exercises Thursday night at the school.

Portage's baccalaureate program will be held at 2:30 pm Sunday in the school auditorium.

Other honors have been made to Bradford, the salutatorian, and John Rollins. In memory of Ricky Avery, late son of Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Avery of Ogden Dunes, a scholarship fund has been established for Portage students excelling in scholarship, athletics, character, leadership, talent and personality.

Miss Robbins, the valedictorian, has attended Portage schools for 12 years and has been a National Honor Society member two years and president this year.

Active in 4-H

She, like Bradford and Rollins, has been active in numerous school music organizations. Janet, a 4-H club member for six years is president of the Portage Latin club is active in other club and yearbook functions at the school. She attends the First Presbyterian church in Valparaiso.

Larry, a member of Portage's conference championship basketball, football and baseball teams, is Portage student council president. He plans to study banking at college and "to play professional baseball as long as I can and then put my college education to work."

Rollins, leading scorer on Portage's 1956 sectional basketball team, is treasurer of the Portage Honor Society.



Circa 1900 - The Robbins House - Built in 1897  
 Gene Robbins driving a White automobile.  
 (angle by White Sewing Machine Company)  
 Lewis Henry Robbins in next vehicle, a Geo motor car.  
 Photo courtesy of the author.

**Robbins Mansion Picture Raffle**

Drawing to be held June 22, 2013 at Countryside Park during the Historical Society festival at 3:00 pm, winner need not be present.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00 and are available at the Alton Goin museum on weekends from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Picture is on display in the museum. Information and history on the Robbins family are also in the museum.

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Here's a little ditty from Lois found from around 1930:

*When you are tired and weary try a smile*

*Should you be feeling dreary try a smile*

*You'll find it helps you on your way*

*You can't have sunshine all the day*

*But the clouds will pass away  
 if you smile!*



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**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*

***Calendar of Events***

**Tuesday June 11, 2013**

Board Meeting at Portage  
Public Library, 6:30 pm

**Thursday & Friday, June  
13 & 14, 2013**

Rummage Sale/flea market in  
the barn and on the park  
grounds

**Tuesday, June 18, 2013**

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

**Saturday, June  
22, 2013**

**Summer Festival**

**10:00 am – 5:00  
pm**

**Tuesday, August 20,  
2013**

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

## Bi-monthly Meetings

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

Refreshments served after the meeting.

## RUMMAGE / Flea Market

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.

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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 at our Festival.

### 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.

I was told you don't have to be a Facebook member to visit our page, so try it and let us know what you think.

We have requests by some members to receive their newsletter by email. Debbie Parker has offered to do this for us.

[www.facebook.com/pchs88](http://www.facebook.com/pchs88)