



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

## *2014 Historical Society Summer Festival*

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

Museum News	2	Opening ceremony will begin at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 21 with the R.O.T.C. raising the flag and Beth Franzen singing the Star Spangled Banner.
Members News	2	The Chris Nicholson family plan to dedicate the Disc Golf Course in his memory at our opening ceremony.
Historical	3	We will have some of our favorites back this year for entertainment Good Time Cloggers, Abraham Lincoln Impersonator, Winamac Car Club, Wolfgang Singers, Ukulele Strummers, and the Bonner Singers. For the kids, there'll be games behind the Trager farmhouse, fishing derby, and kids' corn hole and watermelon eating contest. For food we will have grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, pies and root beer floats.
2014 Calendar	4	

**Saturday  
June 21, 2014**

Summer Festival  
Countryside Park  
10 am to 5 pm

Beth Franzen  
singing the  
anthem

Chris Nicholson  
dedication

Wolfgang at 11

Ukulele  
Strummers 12

Abe Lincoln 1

Goodtime  
Cloggers 2

Bonner Center  
Singers 3

Winamac Car  
Club 10-3

Silent auction &  
50/50 throughout  
day

The Chris Nicholson family plan to dedicate the Disc Golf Course in his memory at our opening ceremony.

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They will also be hay rides for the family, have your picture taken on the antique fire truck, silent auction and a white elephant sale.

We will also have several vendors selling their wares and a special guest of Carrie Kozlowski Beckort, Portage native, who will be signing her first novel Kingston's Project and its sequel, Kingston's Promise. Her books can be purchased in advance or at the festival.

**Come and meet the Bean family**

Larry & Cindy Cupcake Bean will greet guests in the Alton Goin Museum and tell about their display of Urbex Photography. Her pictures are very captivating and she has her own Facebook site. The display will be taken down after the festival so this may be your best chance to see it. Cindy donated a beautiful picture she took of a window sitting on our antique trunk. We will be raffling it and the drawing will be at 3:00 pm at the festival.

We need many volunteers on the day of the festival. We are asking each member to volunteer for two hours. We need volunteers in all three buildings. Contact Lois to sign up for your time slot at 762-4218.

Julie Woods will again this year be in charge of the children's games. We appreciate her help so much.

Several friends and family of the Chris Nicholson Disc Golf course are planning to help with a cleanup of the park grounds the week before the festival on Saturday, June 14 9:00 a.m. at Countryside Park. If you are able, come out to help them as it will benefit our festival.

# Portage Community Historical Society

## Society News

### NEW DONATION FROM PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Society recently received a donation from Portage School System of all their old student records, a few as early as late 1890's, and rest from 20's, 30's and some trustee records. One book from the high school from the early 30's is amazing. It shows their birthday, where they were born, their parent's name and what he did for a living, and below were their grades, books they read, etc. One such person was Hazel Briggs Bradford. On her page was a certificate stating she had earned her graduation in 3 years. Lois called Hazel and told her about it and she said, yes, her older brother was working for a company in Illinois and said if she hurried up and finished school, he would give her a job.

We will have a school tour group from Nativity visiting us at the museums the first week of June.

We have the window display in the Portage Library for the month of June. Be sure to stop in to see it.

We were in the South Haven Fire Fest Emergency Vehicle Parade & Show on Friday, May 30, Ron Garrison and Joe Mollick drove our antique fire truck in the parade.

Would like to thank the volunteers who come to the museum on Saturday's & Sunday's so the museum is open to the community, without them we would be closed.

THANK YOU:  
Lois, Joe, Myrtle, Joanne, Wanda, Judy, Kathy, Linda, Bill (not pictured) and Debbie



### Member News

#### Museum Hours

*Every weekend*

*1 - 4 pm*

*We need more volunteers to work in the museum.*

Patti Coppess recently had foot surgery and is at home recuperating. We hope you are feeling much better, Patti.

Bill Byers has been ill lately, hoping you are better soon, Bill.

Lois Mollick fell at home, nothing broke but she is sore. Hope you are feeling better, Lois.

### 2014 Summer Festival News

Society raffle this year is a picture Cindy Cupcake Bean took of one of her pictures on our old trunk. We need to sell as many raffle tickets as possible. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. If you can sell some tickets for us contact Kathy at the museum or cell 219-771-9233.



## Portage Township Cemeteries

Brendan Clancy, Portage Township Trustee, spoke at the Portage Community Historical Society meeting April 16, about the many things his office is getting done in the township. He told us about a new road off Central Avenue that will go directly to the Bonner Senior Center and they will have a new electronic sign at the entrance on Central Avenue. He told us about the cleanup and improvements at the township parks and baseball fields in South Haven and some of the things the trustee purchased for the South Haven Volunteer Fire Department.

He told us about the improvements at the Blake and McCool cemeteries and what is being done about the James - Schrock Cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1838 and has some of our earliest pioneer settlers buried there. Because of neglect over many years and continued vandalism, there wasn't much left of the cemetery tombstones. What was there was removed to the McCool Cemetery where the plan is to install a memorial monument at McCool in remembrance of those buried at James - Schrock and the broken fragments of the gravestones will be placed in a mosaic pattern around the monument with landscaping and flowers.

The Portage Community Historical Society has been involved with the trustee and this is a culmination of several years of planning and work. The original James - Schrock cemetery will be left alone except for a few simple plantings and hedges. Mr. Clancy also plans to build a road up to the entrance of the old cemetery because it is so difficult to access it.

A dedication of the new monument is being planned and a fundraiser to help with the cost of this project.

For more information and updates watch our Facebook Page  
[www.facebook.com/pchs88](http://www.facebook.com/pchs88)

### 2014 Board of

#### Directors

President:

Valeria Roach

Vice-President:

Sue Cowser

Secretary:

Donna Smith

Treasurer:

Barb Borg-Jenkins

### Board of Directors

Patti Coppess

Jim Franzen

Al Goin

Lois Mollick

Richard Turnak

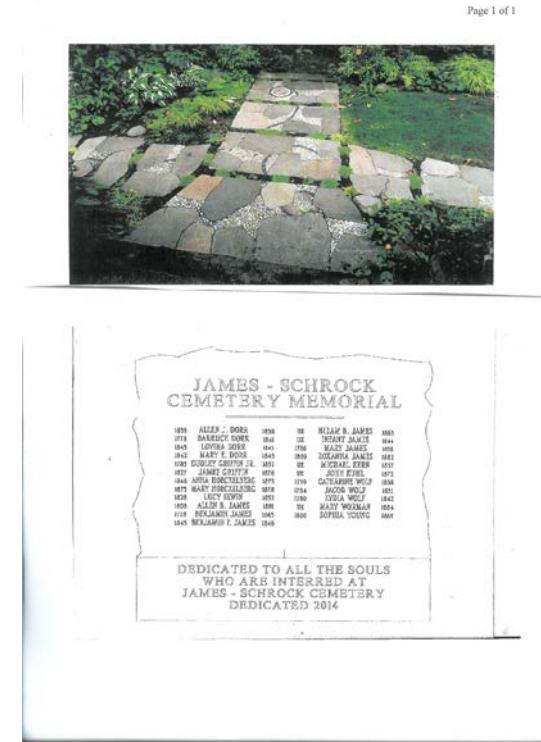
Wanda Samuelson

Eva Udick

### Newsletter

Lois Mollick

Kathy Heckman



## Found in the Museum

We have the following book "History of Lake County, Indiana Vol. X", Calumet Press, 1929

On page 77 begins several pages of history written by Darus P. Blake about the Blake family and the land they lived on. Anyone connected to the Blake family would enjoy reading it. The book is located in our bookcase near the kitchen in the museum.

**PORTRAGE  
COMMUNITY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.**

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Membership:

Individual \$20 a year

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**Calendar of Events**

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**  
Board Meeting

**Wednesday, June 18, 2014**  
General Meeting 7:00pm

**Saturday, June 21, 2014**  
Summer Festival  
10 am until 5 pm

**Tuesday, July 8, 2014**  
Board Meeting

**Tuesday, August 12, 2014**  
Board Meeting

**Wednesday, August 20, 2014**  
General Meeting 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, September 9, 2014**  
Board Meeting

**Saturday, September 27, 2014**  
Portage Alumni Banquet

## Bi-monthly Meetings

### *Portage Community Historical Society, Inc.*

Very Important General meeting

**Wednesday June 18, 2014**, will be held at 7:00 pm at Woodland Park

Public welcome

We will be finalizing our festival plans.

We need new members to help our society grow so during the month of June will be a membership drive and all new members will receive some freebies from our museum. No, they can't take our display items but we have extra copies of some of our books and postcards that we can give away. Invite someone you know to join and be active in the society.

## Volunteer Projects

We received a huge donation from the Portage Township School Media Center. It is over 50 ledgers of all the early school records and they contain a lot of information. The earliest ledgers are from early 1900 until the 1930's and 1940's. If you attended the Portage Township Schools during that time frame or perhaps your parents or grandparents, then you'll find some names you know in these ledgers. We hope to start indexing them after the festival. They are very fragile and if indexed then we can pull out any book someone is interested in looking at. We could use more volunteers for this project. We'll work on the ledgers a few days a week until they are all indexed.

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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 in our museum.

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