



Quarterly Newsletter

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Curator's Corner by Jamie Clemons

The History of Museums

Surprisingly, museums have been around for millennia. The first known museum was located in the state of Ur, located in modern-day Iraq, and dates to circa 530 BCE. That's over 2500 years ago! Archaeologists discovered the museum when they were excavating parts of the palace and temple complex at Ancient Ur.

How do we know that the room was a museum? During excavation of the Ur site, archaeologists found "dozens of artifacts, nearly arranged side by side, whose ages varied by centuries" that were 'labeled' with clay cylinder drums that were written in three different languages. It is believed that Princess Ennigaldi was the curator. Her father was Nabonidus, the last king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, who is known historically as the first serious archaeologist, an antiquarian, and antique restorer. He taught Princess Ennigaldi to "appreciate ancient artifacts...and influenced her to create her educational antiquity museum." ("Ennigaldi-Nanna's Museum", Wikipedia)

The University of Oxford received and erected a building to house, the private collection of Elias Ashmole. The collection contained much of the Tradescant collection, containing samples of everything from plants and animals to coins and paintings to mermaid hands and wood from Christ's cross. The Ashmolean Museum opened in 1683 to the public. The collection moved to a new building in the 1970s while the original Ashmolean building now houses the Museum of History of Science.

The first museum in the United States is located in Charleston, South Carolina. The Charleston Museum was founded in 1773 on the eve of the American Revolution. The museum first opened to the public in 1824 and was declared to be among the finest in America in 1852 by Harvard scientist Louis Aggasiz. The daily operations of the Charleston Museum were suspended during the Civil War, but



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reopened shortly after. Today, the Charleston Museum focuses on South Carolina's natural and cultural history and video documentary and photographic resources.

Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

I bet you're wondering what all of this museum history has to do with Syracuse. In 2017, the museum will officially celebrate its 30th anniversary! The Syracuse-Turkey Creek Museum was established during the town of Syracuse's sesquicentennial celebration in 1987. The original location was in a small storage room located in the Pickwick Plaza. It wasn't long before the museum was outgrowing its space. The renovation of the Syracuse Public Library allowed for a space within the library for the museum. Our Mier car was the showcase for the museum. The J.P. Dolan Native American artifacts collection was also featured at the library. During the museum's time in the library, our name changed to its current name, Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum. In 2002, with the completion of the Syracuse Community Center, a larger space was allotted to house the museum.

If you have been in the museum recently, you have seen that we have made some great improvements over the last few years. We have begun the process of replacing our old display cabinets with newer ones that match. Another improvement is the new office area and the rearrangement of many of our displays to give our space a more open feel. Future improvements include the continuing purchase of display cabinets and a full inventory of all of the museum's holdings. Plan to visit the museum often to keep up with our changes.

Syracuse Community Center Happenings

Do you wonder what is going on at the Syracuse Community Center this fall and winter? Check out the current edition of *The Lakeside Guide* for more details.

- The SCC has a monthly “Family Movie Night.” Bring your own seating and concessions are available. Showtime is 6:30pm.
 - *12/16—Home Alone
 - *1/20—Finding Dory
 - *2/24—The BFG
- The next community garage sale is scheduled for March 4. Reservations will begin January 11.
- Ongoing activities are
 - *Euchre—Monday-Friday 8-12
 - *Bingo—Tuesday 9-10
 - *Pickleball—Monday-Friday 10-12
 - *Craft Classes—2nd Tuesdays 10-12
 - *Walking Program—Monday-Saturday 8-12

Donation Wish List

There always seems to be something that we need at the museum. We accept everything from office supplies to monetary donations. Seldom do we turn down a contribution! The following is a short list of items that we need to help serve the community better:

- * Yearbooks: please contact museum for a list of missing yearbooks.
- * Local business memorabilia: particularly needing memorabilia from the Chinese Gardens
- * Photos and documents: historical photos pre-1980. We can digitize and return photos and documents, while you wait.

For a more complete list or to inquire about your item, please contact the museum.

Visiting Exhibits

- **December**—Fisher-Price toys, curtesy of Robert and Jean Kennedy
- **January-March**—Ice boats
- **Future Displays**—The museum is always looking for collections of items that would make a nice visiting display. Visiting displays do not have to be of local businesses or items. Examples of past visiting exhibits include *Native Indiana Woods*, *Wooden Goblets*, *Buttons*, *Hats*, *Comic Books*, *Dominoes*, *Civil War and WWII Medical Instruments*, and *Model Trains*.

Please contact the museum if you believe you have an interesting collection to display. Exhibits typically run 4-8 weeks.

Museum Upcoming Events

- December:
 - Fisher-Price toy display
 - **Christmas Break—December 23-January 9**
- January:
 - **Reopen January 10, 2017**
 - Ice boat display begins

Watch for special events celebrating the museum’s 30th anniversary! Watch the paper and our website for more upcoming events.

Please note: The museum will be closed December 23 through January 9. We will reopen at 10a.m. on January 10, 2017.

Merry Christmas!

Gift Shop items

Are you looking for some Christmas gift ideas? Look no further! Contact, or visit, for more options.

- *Eli Lilly’s Early Wawasee Days* reprint is finally here. Bring home a copy of this iconic book of the area highlighting prominent locations and pastimes around the lake. Each book features a fresh new cover and is priced at \$25. Don’t forget its companion book by Scott Edgell, *Sketches of Lake Wawasee*, available for \$25.
- We also sell reprints of a 1915 Syracuse and Lake Wawasee Journal. Ads and photos from +100 years ago are sure to spark conversations! Each copy is printed on heavy paper and priced at \$5.
- *Syracuse and Lake Wawasee* by Erin Lomax and Ann Vanderford Garceau is now in its 3rd printing. All copies are signed by Ann and are available for \$23.50.

**All gift shop prices include tax.*

Remembering Ann Sudlow by Mary Hursh



Anna Sudlow was not afraid to try anything. Her life was an adventure.

Anna, a member of the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum since 2006, lived her long life with a sense of excitement, a sense of duty, and a sense of community. Anna's death at 103 gave her family a chance to celebrate her life. Her daughter Connie Heckaman and her grandson John Heckaman reminisced about her and provided insights into the role she played as friend, mother, businesswoman, and companion to her husband John.

"Mother's life can be divided into four chapters," said John. "Life on her family farm (Cranberry Hill) north of Syracuse was the first chapter. On the 40-acre farm, Anna did the housework, took care of the gardens and the chickens, and helped raise her sister Ida. "Anna's ability to listen, cook, and keep an immaculate house came from her parents Jess Rex and Merta," said John. Soups and stews made in a cast iron Dutch oven were her specialties. "The fried dough she made stuck with us all day," said Connie. She graduated from Syracuse High School in 1931 and married John Sudlow.

"The second chapter included the six years before Mom and Dad started Sudlow's Pier Shop," said John. They rented different houses in the Syracuse area.

They lived on Vawter Park Road for several winters. Anna spent some time working at a grocery store and the golf course. At the end of this period, John and Anna bought their home on E. Vawter Park Road from Mrs. Recker, a grandniece of Ovid Butler. The kitchen was moved to give Anna a lake view while she cooked. Both Sudlows did much of the remodeling effort.

"Chapter three for Mom started in 1937 when they started Sudlow's Pier Shop. Anna kept the books, painted stringers and boards, and lifted many sections of pier. "At most, Mom weighed 110 pounds, but she was strong," said John. The Sudlows sold their first pier in 1937. During that time, they bought their Lake Wawasee home. Since both enjoyed automobiles, they co-founded the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Club. Anna enjoyed her membership in the Wednesday Afternoon Literary Club where members presented programs on books and hobbies.

"The last chapter of Mom's life was perhaps the most fun because that phase included years of travel to enjoy the spectacular scenery of England, Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada." They often spent time at their one-room hunting and fishing cabin in Canada. "The last time Mom went up to the cabin, she was 92. We stayed there for a week," said John.

Toward the end of her life, John often said it was hard to remember that his mother was so old. "Mom was never out of date. She was hip and with it. She could sit and listen for hours and respond on any and all subjects," said John. At 100, Anna washed the cottage windows from the top of a stepladder.

Anna Sudlow will be missed.



The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is completely funded by private grants and the generosity of its members and patrons. We receive no funding from local, state, or federal entities.



Why have a membership to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum?

Membership entitles you to first-hand information of Museum happenings, discounts on Museum programs, and the knowledge that you are helping the Museum carry out its mission of preserving local history.

To begin membership, please fill out this brief form:

Date:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-Mail:	

Membership Type:	Price:	Total Enclosed:
Individual	\$20 Annually	
Family	\$30 Annually	
Corporate	\$100 Annually	
Lifetime	\$150 Per Person *	
Donation		

* Lifetime Membership includes a free copy of Early Wawasee Days by Eli Lilly

Thank you for your support. Please make checks payable to “Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum” and mail with completed form to:

Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum
1013 North Long Drive
Syracuse, IN 46567

Questions? Call 574-457-3599 or E-Mail: director@syracusemuseum.org

“Sharp” Quotes

A light-hearted story from Ron Sharp’s books, *Sharp’s Chronicles: A History of Syracuse*.



One Move Too Many

“July 1941—Goose Grissom, an employee of the Syracuse Electric Co., got into a little trouble with several women of the community on moving electric stoves. Mrs. LaFlare, Front St., advertised her stove for sale in the newspaper. Mrs. Perry Sprague bought the stove, then sold her stove to Mrs. Herman Peffley. Mrs. Sprague made arrangements for Grissom to move the stoves.

“Mrs. Sprague got a key from Mrs. LaFlare and gave it to the electrician, so he could get in the house. He arrived at Mrs. LaFlare’s and took out the stove, transporting it to the Spagues’ home. All the ladies were gone from home. Goose thought he had done a very good job; he had moved two stoves and was done. Arriving back at the shop for another job, he received a message that Mrs. Sprague wanted to see him.

“Goose arrived at the Sprague home and was asked where he got the stove. It was not the LaFlares’ stove. Goose had mistakenly gotten into a neighbor’s house, removed their stove, and hooked it up in the Sprague house. The stove belonged to Mrs. Eva Bogue. Roscoe Howard, his boss, helped Goose get the stove back to Mrs. Bogue. He then took the stove from the LaFlare house back to Spragues’ and hooked it up.

“There was still a problem. Mrs. Bogue arrived home and went to use her oven, only to find she had room to open the oven door. Goose still had to go back and relocate the stove, so she could open the oven door.” (Ron Sharp, p. 455-456)

Oh, the joys of living through a simpler time...

Donations

Another great season for donations to the museum!

- ◊ Nancy (Fawley) Stoner—Syracuse High School yearbooks (9 Echo and 17 Legend)
- ◊ Wendell Beck—Brick from Syracuse High School with attached photo
- ◊ Sally Jo (Sarah) Fosbrink Tipka—Wednesday Afternoon Club memorabilia, Enchanted Hills Playgoers “Table of Comments” and playbills, Wawasee Waltz copies and news clippings
- ◊ Sam Cole—Map of Syracuse area and map of area lakes (Syracuse, Wawasee, Boner)
- ◊ Steve Sharp—Henry Carlson Diploma, The Thaddeus publications, Syracuse High School “Chatterette” publishing circa March 1938, Indiana Historic Society publications, and a book *Indiana Authors and Their Books 1816-1916* ©1949
- ◊ Patty Fisel—Vawter Park postcard
- ◊ Elaine Bokhart—Yellow Jacket Yearbooks (3)
- ◊ Judy Jarrett—July 13, 1980 South Bend Tribute supplement featuring Syracuse, 1995 Wawasee yearbook, Senior tassel, and letterman jacket
- ◊ Tom Brandt—Coast Guard Commissionaire Pennant
 - ◊ Connie Heckaman—Wednesday Afternoon Club booklets belonging to her mother, Anna Sudlow
 - ◊ Beverly Maresh—Display owls
 - ◊ Pam Kistler—Complete WWII Army uniform belonging to Alfred Kilgore, bus schedule, laundry bag, Grayson’s photo gift certificate, and a Printick card
- ◊ Tyler McLead—IN Bicentennial foam torch and torch route poster
- ◊ N. Mishler—State Bank of Syracuse money bag
- ◊ Jane Kroh Clashman—Syracuse High School Class of 1915 class portrait
- ◊ Arlen Bobeck—Farmer gathering photos, circa 1940s
- ◊ Sandra Green—*Our Army ACB* and *The Bible ABC* storybooks ©1911
- ◊ Anonymous—Vietnam era “Tiger Stripe” fatigues
- ◊





Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

1013 North Long Drive

Syracuse, IN 46567

Phone: 574-457-3599

Email: director@syracusemuseum.org

Website: www.syracusemuseum.org

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Don't forget your end-of-year donations! All donations postmarked by December 31, 2016 will receive a thank you and be credited for this year.

ICE BOATS INVADE MUSEUM!

In January, the museum will be hosting an ice boat exhibit. Rick Lemberg, Kenny Bolles, Bob Fanning, and Jeff Herdrich, members of the Wawasee Ice Squad, are diligently working to help us put together a fantastic display featuring ice boats. The display will incorporate photos and videos of ice boat racing on our very own lakes. Rick Lemberg will also have on display an Opti DN junior division racing boat. It's sure to be an exciting exhibit during the winter! The exhibit will be installed by mid-January and is anticipated to run through March.

Local ice boating group. Circa 1930s or 1940s.



Example of an Opti DN race boat.

