



1013 N. Long Dr., Syracuse, IN 46567
Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm
www.syracusemuseum.org

June 2013

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CURATOR'S CORNER

Hello friends of the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum! My name is Karen Kelsheimer and I am the new Museum Director.

I have always harbored a love for history and research, and it is with excitement that I've taken the job of caring for the Museum's collection. My first months have been busy getting acclimated to the daily activities of running the Museum; I've spent quite a bit of time organizing and learning about the local history of the Syracuse and Wawasee area. I've been busy making new signs throughout the Museum (an ongoing task) and planning a series of community events to invite you and the general community to visit.

I hope you enjoy reading through this newsletter – my goal is to send quarterly reports throughout the year to keep you informed of Museum happenings. As always, you are welcome to stop by and see what's changed – I would love to meet you! I'm always interested to hear your ideas and suggestions for making the Museum a true highlight of the community, as well as your stories from days gone by.

***A people without the knowledge of
their past history, origin, and culture is
like a tree without roots.***

- Marcus Garvey

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Spread the word to your friends and neighbors about these upcoming summer events. **Stop in or call the Museum to fill out a registration form for you or your family members.**

Youth History Club, for children ages 7 -12, Tuesdays from 11am - 12 noon. Children will have the opportunity to learn about the Museum's collection with an interactive presentation or hands-on activity. Registration is \$3 per meeting or **\$15 for all 7 meetings.**

June 11th – Museum Scavenger Hunt
June 18th – Indian Artifacts
June 25th – Music of Wawasee
July 9th – History Detectives
July 16th – Life of a Pioneer Child
July 23rd – Taxidermy
July 30th – Genealogy Workshop

Historical Bus Tour of Syracuse, Saturday, June 15th, 10 am – 2 pm. Visit historic Syracuse sites and learn more about the area. \$10 per person includes guided tour and lunch.

Preserving Community History, Wednesday, June 26th, 10 am – 12 noon, free. Come to a call-out meeting in conjunction with the Syracuse Public Library to see if you would like to help with our local Indiana Memory Project and cemetery project. No registration required.

A Visit with Chief Five Medals, Saturday, August 31st, 11 am – 1 pm, free. Enjoy a presentation by the leader of the Pottawatomie in late 18th century.

COLLECTION CURIOSITIES

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is home to some unique items with interesting historical significance:

50¢ Bill: During the Civil War, the high demand for precious metals and resultant shortage of coins prompted the U.S. Government to print and circulate “fractional currency” between 1863 and 1876. Our 50¢ bill was earned by William Appenzeller (1864-1940) for cutting 6 cords of wood in his youth.

1928 Rolmonica and Music Rolls: This musical machine allowed anyone to become a harp master by simply blowing into a casing while turning a crank. Wax paper music rolls selectively directed air into the harmonica’s individual holes, allowing the user to “play” popular tunes.

HISTORY MYSTERIES

Do you have some information to share about an item in the Museum? Please stop in and share what you know. A few particular things I am curious about right now:

- The history behind the collection of U.S. military uniforms and the people who wore them . . .
- The age of the Grandfather Clock on loan from the Syracuse Public Library – loan papers state that the clock is over 400 years old, but according to my research, pendulum time-keepers weren’t invented until late in the 17th century . .

VOLUNTEER

Would you like to spend a few hours each month volunteering at the Museum? We are currently seeking volunteers to help run the Museum during open hours and perhaps even increase public hours during the busy summer months. Stop by the Museum to inquire about donating your time.

WISHING WELL

The Museum is in need of the following items to aid in its mission of offering quality history programming to the Syracuse-Wawasee area:

- Loans or gifts of micro-cassette recorders, batteries, and tapes to conduct living history interviews
- Loan of a washboard and washtub for use during July 16th History Club meeting
- Gift of double-sided poster tape
- Gift of black print cartridges for HP Photosmart 7660 printer

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Thanks to the following people for their generous gifts and donations to the museum:

R. Douglas Grant

Nancy Harter

Jeanne E. Jones

Gary Kline

Sherry Lantz

Bob and Sandy McNary

Gary Petelle

Kip and Pam Schumm

Richard and Martha Smith

Joe Todd

Suzie Yeager

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new lifetime members! Your membership helps support the basic mission of the Museum – to preserve our local history. Thank you for your sponsorship.

Art Garceau

Garry Ringler

Become a lifetime member today – the one-time membership fee is \$150 and includes a copy of Early Wawasee Days by Eli Lilly. Membership forms are available at the Museum.