



Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum, Inc.

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Syracuse, IN 46567

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www.syracusemuseum.org

VOLUME II, ISSUE II

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Curator's Corner

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It's been a busy spring here at the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum—the Museum has been “out and about” sharing local history in the Syracuse community!

In mid-April, all four kindergarten classes at Syracuse Elementary School participated in the Museum's new Educational Outreach program. Two classes of VERY interested students learned about Miami and Potawatomie Indian cul-

ture with an interactive lesson that focused on the food, clothing, and shelter of these native peoples. Students were thrilled to touch and see REAL Indian artifacts and make their own feathered headbands. The two remaining kindergarten classes learned some musical history of Syracuse and Wawasee. They sang the Syracuse Sesquicentennial song (with hand motions!), listened to the Wawasee Waltz, composed in 1895 and played on a record player (itself an item of great interest), and made their own Easter egg percussion shakers to take home. What fun it was to get out in the school and pass on some of the rich body of historical information housed at the Museum! I'm happy to report that 3rd and 4th grade classes at Syracuse Elementary will also visit the Museum in early June as part of their end-of-the-year “park day” outings—all in all, well over 275 students will have been exposed to a bit of the Museum this spring!



Kindergarten students in Mrs. Helfrich's class enjoy the Songs of Syracuse and Wawasee Educational Outreach Program

2014 Grant Funding

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is proud to be the recipient of a \$1500 Dekko Foundation grant for 2014 in support of our Educational Outreach and Youth History Club programs!

We thank the Dekko Foundation for this generous funding that allows the Museum to carry out its mission to area youth!

Collection Curiosities



The Museum is the proud owner of a hand-sewn “Betsy Ross” flag. In honor of Flag Day, June 14th, I thought I would share with you its unique

history! The Betsy Ross flag is distinguished by 13 stars in the canton (blue field) arranged in a circular pattern. The stars represent the original thirteen colonies. The claim that Betsy Ross actually designed the flag that bears her name can neither be proven nor refuted due to a lack of historical evidence and documentation. Nonetheless, American legend passes on her story, which includes how Betsy suggested to

George Washington himself that the originally conceived six-pointed stars in the design be changed to the easier-to-make five-pointed stars of our flag today.

The Betsy Ross flag at the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum was hand stitched in the 1930s by children in the “Opportunity Room” - the first special education class in Syracuse. 5th grade teacher Edna Hess started the class.

Secrets of the Cemetery

If you didn't get the chance to hear the cemetery symbols lecture by IHS speaker Jeannie Regan-Dinius on April 24th, you missed out! Jeannie shared some fascinating facts about cemetery iconography that equipped participants with a new way of looking at cemetery gravestones and layouts. Lucky for you, I took notes! Here are just a few of the interesting things I picked up from this terrific presentation:

- In the United States, cemeteries began to be professionally designed and landscaped around the 1830s. The designs were park-like, often with walking paths, to encourage visitation and use of the cemetery as green-space. (The Syra-

cuse Cemetery began in 1835 with land donated by Syracuse town founder Samuel Crosson.)

- The age as well as the cultural affiliation of different sections within a cemetery can often be determined by headstone placement and shape. For example, Christian graves are commonly oriented so that the dead's feet and head lay east to west, in keeping with the religious notion that when Jesus returns, the resurrected dead can sit/stand up to greet Him. Similarly, the popular use of obelisk tombstones between 1830 and 1890 was inspired by the prevalence of Egyptian archaeological finds during this time frame.

- Gravestone symbols often have a cultural, religious, or personality-defining meaning for the buried. For example, flower buds were commonly carved into the gravestones of infants, indicating that those lives ended before they bloomed. Yuccas planted on top of graves might have served as sentinels—the prickly, sword-shaped leaves were thought to “keep the spirits” in the cemeteries!

Ms. Regan-Dinius's lecture kicked off a joint program of the Museum and Syracuse Public Library aimed at helping local people discover the history of the Syracuse Cemetery. Stop in at the Museum to get your own self-guided tour brochure to visit the Syracuse Cemetery on your own time—we still have plenty to hand out!

**Those who
don't know
history
are
destined
to repeat
it.**

**- Edmund
Burke**

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum will again be offering a summer local history enrichment program for elementary school children!

Youth History Club 2014

Registrations are being collected NOW; fill out the form → and mail it in to register your child or grandchild. We had a BLAST last year! All Youth History Club meetings strive to center on hands-on activities that get kids thinking about local history and its connection to the greater world. Full club meeting descriptions can be found on our website or picked up at the Museum.

Club Schedule: Thursdays, 11 am—12 noon
Open to children ages 7—12

- June 12th: Museum Scavenger Hunt
- June 26th: Archaeology with IDNR
- July 3rd: Hotels of Syracuse and Wawasee
- July 10th: Architecture of Syracuse
- July 17th: Lake History and Ecology with WACF
- July 24th: Syracuse Schools
- July 31st: Kosc. Co. Courthouse Tour **10:15—1:15 pm

Youth History Club Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____ Phone: _____

Parent Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Cost: \$3 per meeting OR \$15 for ALL

Please register me for: (circle the dates)

June 12	June 26	July 3	July 10
July 17	July 23	July 31	ALL

Total enclosed : _____

Mail to: Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum
 1013 N. Long Dr., Syracuse, IN 46567

News from the Board of Directors

We invite you to join us for our 1st Annual Member Meeting!

Who: Past and present Museum members as well as those interested in becoming Museum members!

What: A yearly update on Museum accomplishments and activities with an open forum to welcome your comments and suggestions on future Museum endeavors.

When: Saturday, June 28th, 2014, 10 am

Where: Syracuse Community Center's Celebration Hall

Why: We'd like to strengthen the link between the Museum and its supporters—come and be a part of that vision!

The 1st Annual Member Meeting will include an opportunity to meet Ann Garceau, co-author of the newly published book Syracuse and Lake Wawasee. Autographed copies of this pictorial local history book will be available for purchase.

Membership renewal forms will also be available at the 1st Annual Member Meeting for those that are still interested in renewing their Museum membership for 2014 but haven't gotten around to it yet! Thank you to the following new and renewing members of the Museum:

Renewing Annual Members: Barbara Naab, Cathy and Rick Lemberg, William Hurst

New Lifetime Members: Bette and Bud Slabaugh, John Sells, William Cast

**You
 have to
 know the
 past to
 understand
 the
 present.**

**- Carl
 Sagan**



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March 2014 Newsletter

Volume II, Issue I

Traveling Exhibits

The Museum is proudly hosting several traveling exhibits this spring and summer. If you have a collection of local interest that you'd consider displaying for a limited time at the Museum, please call!

May: 1914 Hotel Registry (likely Sargent's Hotel) and important documents from the 1826 Treaty between the United States and the Miami Indians (on loan from the Syracuse Public Library in honor of National Preservation Week).

July: Historic Fishing Lures by Garry Ringler. Most of Garry's lures are of the 1950s and 1960s and would have been commonly used around this area. Display will include Creek Chub lures (Garrett), Bite-Em Bait lures (Warsaw), Nappanee YPSI lures, South Bend lures, and Fort Wayne lures as well as Garry's patriotic lure collection.

August: Antique Croquet Set Collection by David Sheets. David's collection includes a wide variety of lawn, indoor, and tabletop croquet sets. Croquet is a derivative of ground billiards, a game known to have been popular back to at least the 14th century in Western Europe.

Wishing Well

We are currently looking for (copies of) war letters and war correspondence from the Syracuse area for our military display. We are also collecting memorabilia from Thornburg's Drugs to fill a recently donated shadowbox that was once on display at the store. Let us know if you have something to share!

Donations and Loans

Thank you to all who recently donated or loaned items or services to the Museum. Your gifts help to make the Museum grow bigger and better!

Donations: SHS pencil (F. Weisser); Dale Mock's 'I Love Indiana' song (J. Smith); Post 223 mug, pictures (J. Stoelting); Post 223 picture and Pickwick postcard (C. Wogoman); 1945 SHS Basketball Team picture (W. Beck); Foo and Faye's Restaurant pictures (C. Wong); funding for youth programs (C. Garner); ice fishing box/supplies, Hunnicutt Park Race Track pictures, BSA shirt (L. Nicolai)

Donated Services: Making Copies of Sanborn Maps, Wawasee Lake map, and Wawasee Prep survey (M. Kissinger); Substitute Museum Director (G. Ringler, M. Hursh); Handyman services (D. Sheets, G. Ringler)

Loans: 1909 SHS Diploma (M. Brower); Needlepoint pillowcase dress and doll (P. Garner)