

Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum, Inc.

1013 North Long Drive

Syracuse, IN 46567

574-457-3599

www.syracusemuseum.org

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Curator's Corner

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As summer winds down, I am happy to report that the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum had a very successful "busy season"! Over 1000 people have stopped in the Museum to check out its treasures and learn about our local history. Our guest book has been signed by people from all over the state of Indiana, as well as North Carolina, Florida, Illinois, and even Canada! I have been amazed to hear some of the stories that connect these travelers to the Sy-

racuse/Wawasee area and how this community holds a special place in their own family histories. Truly it is a small world.



Pickwick Block, Syracuse, IN, 1937

The Museum is currently open Tuesdays—Saturdays from 10 am until 2 pm.

The Museum has benefited from the addition of morning hours on weekdays, when foot traffic through the Syracuse Community Center is generally at its peak due to senior activities. Open hours on Saturdays have also been a hit; Saturday has been one of our most popular days for visits through the summer months.

I am still waiting to meet some of you—please stop in for a visit and see what is new! You are always welcome.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Join us for a FREE community event, "A Visit with Chief Five Medals", on Saturday, August 31st, from 11 am — 1 pm. Enjoy a

presentation by the leader of the Pottawatomie in the late 18th century. Donations will be accepted; refreshments will be available.

Our summer History Club for youth was a hit! Children had a great time learning about the Museum's collection through this event series that ran for seven weeks in June and July. I received a lot of positive feedback from participating families and expect to offer another series of History Club events in the summer of 2014. Spread the word!

Are you interested in taking an historic cruise around Lake Wawasee aboard the S.S. Lillypad II? Please send in your name and contact information by mail, phone, or e-mail to be contacted when we schedule our next cruise.

Collection Curiosities



Syracuse Grade School
at time of demolition
1956

*Nothing that was
worthy in the past
departs; no truth
or goodness
realized by man
ever dies, or can
die.*

- Thomas Carlyle

The renovation of the **Syracuse High School Senior Class Photo Display** is just about complete! This collection is one of our most popular exhibits here at the Museum. I am seeking photographs of individuals from the following graduating classes to fill the gaps in our collection:

1890, 1892, 1893, 1895, 1896, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1918.

Please stop in the Museum for a complete list of names.

An interesting but often overlooked curiosity in the Museum is the hand-held **Gasoline Cost Computing Machine** invented by Dwight S.

Mock, Syracuse, IN, circa 1923. This mechanical calculator allowed its operator to determine the cost of gassing up with a rotating scroll of prices arranged by cost per gallon (ranging from 12 to 27 cents). It is a wonder that gas tanks were once filled at a cost of \$5.48 or less!

Board of Directors

The 2013 Executive Board was elected at the June board meeting. Please join me in thanking these board members for their dedicated and continued service to the Museum.

Board meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 4 pm.

Executive Board Officers are:

Peggy Genshaw, President

Patrick Appenzeller, Vice-President

Mary Hursh, Secretary

Lera Reinholt, Treasurer

Board Members—At—Large include:

John Connolly

David Sheets

Jack Darr

Maryann Roth

Charlie Harris

Ann Garceau

Garry Ringler

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for something interesting and fun to do? Why not become a Museum volunteer? Volunteers have the chance to meet interesting people, learn more about the history of our community, and make valuable contributions to

the Museum. Stop by to inquire about donating your time. We have several hands-on volunteer opportunities available right now:

- Help revise the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum's Self-Guided Tour for visitors
- Help digitize old photographs, post cards, and documents from the Syracuse/Wawasee area in order that they might be published on-line and available to the public at large through the Indiana Memory Project (see page 4 for additional info).



Street Sign
Huntington
and Main
Streets



History Mysteries

Recently I ran a program for the Youth History Club entitled History Detectives. Children were challenged to determine the “who, what, when, where, and why” behind “mysterious” items in the Museum’s collection. Of course, I first had to find out the answers to the 5 Ws myself before setting the kids loose during the program! One of the “mysterious” items I chose to have our young detectives investigate was the “Running Light from the Falcon”. The Falcon was a passenger boat on Lake Wawasee in the 1920s and 1930s, operat-

ed by Jess and Laura Sargent of the Sargent Hotel. The running lights on the Falcon would have indicated the location and orientation of the Falcon to other boat traffic, providing for safe travels on the water at night. The Falcon’s running light shines through a panel of red glass on its port (left) side and a panel of blue glass on its starboard (right) side.

What? Blue? Isn’t starboard usually denoted with a GREEN light, indicating to a boat approaching from the right side of the Falcon that it would have the right-of-way? Why was the running light of this old boat BLUE? Although I engaged in

some intense internet searching, I didn’t find a hard-and-fast answer to this “blue glass mystery” - but I did find a logical explanation that satisfies me. Light bulbs of yesteryear shone yellow—more so than today’s modern bulbs—so a yellow light shining through a blue glass would projectGREEN. Naturally, the kids found this fascinating, especially when I hooked up a small clip light to turn on and off and see for themselves. Pretty cool, huh?

History is a guide to navigation in perilous times.

History is who we are and why we are the way we are.

-David C. McCullough

Gifts and Donations

The Museum has been blessed with many generous donations and gifts in the last several months. Thank you!

Of Treasures:

The Art of Flint Knapping DVD—Alex Valentine

1946 Syracuse Assessment Lists, Combination Atlas Map of Kosciusko County 1879—Steve Sharp

Leather postcard—Jack Darr

Ogden Island and Wawasee winter scene photos—Daniel Replogle

Syracuse High School Scrapbooks 1944—Dick Johnson
1954-55, 1956+—Susan Klink via Garry Ringler

Fisheries and Game Commissioner’s Report Books, 1911-12 and 1913-14—Denise Rakoci

Printing plates and negatives from Lakeland Printing Co.—Barb Grumme

Photocopied pages from J. P. Dolan diaries—David Clapp

Wawasee Inn postcard—Marcia Gillem

Of Time and Talent:

Steve Sharp, Ann Garceau, Alex Valentine, Joyce Dubach and Wawasee High School orchestra students, Bill and Dawn Jagers, Beth Smith, Dave Sheets, Garry Ringler, Peggy Genshaw

Membership

Consider becoming a lifetime member of the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum. The one-time membership fee of \$150 does not expire and includes a copy of the book Early Wawasee Days by Eli Lilly. Membership forms are available at the Museum.

If you are an annual member of the Museum, look for a renewal notice to be sent out in the December 2013 Newsletter. Membership rates will remain the same for 2014:

- Individual: \$20 per year
- Family: \$30 per year
- Corporate: \$100 per year

We thank you for your continued support of the Museum—you are instrumental to our mission of preserving local artifacts and providing historical programming to the Syracuse and Wawasee communities.



Chinese Gardens, Lake Wawasee



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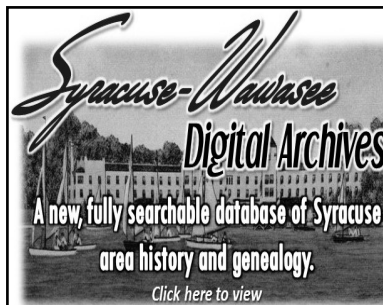
September 2013 Newsletter

Volume I, Issue II

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum invites you to check out the on-line library of old photographs, post cards, and documents from the Syracuse-Wawasee area that have been digitized and published in the Indiana Memory Project. This on-going project has been supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Indiana State Library. Access the fully searchable database by clicking on the

“Syracuse-Wawasee Digital Archives” icon on the Museum website’s Welcome page at www.syracusemuseum.org. The database can also be accessed through the Syracuse Public Library website.

We encourage you to bring in photographs, slides, post cards,



documents, maps, and other items of local historical interest to be scanned and added to the database. All items will be handled with care and returned in a timely manner. Ownership rights will be credited in the database. We expect the Syracuse-Wawasee Digital Archives to becoming an increasingly vital part of preserving our community’s history—this archive allows our historical items to be available to the general public for research, education, or reminiscing.