

# Quarterly Newsletter

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## Inside this issue

Grant Updates.....	1
Donations.....	2
Grants.....	2
Kid's Corner.....	3
Mark Your Calendar.....	4
Visiting Exhibits.....	5
Summer Feature Exhibits.....	6

## Grant Updates by Ann Garceau

### Over 4,000 Images Available on the Syracuse-Wawasee Digital Archives

Since July 2008, Indiana Memory has provided a digital library that enables free public access thru their internet website to Indiana's unique cultural and historical heritage. Content on the site is made possible through grant funding from the Institution of Museum and Library Services to the Indiana State Library under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act; commonly referred to as an LSTA grant.

In the spring of 2012, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum and the Syracuse Public Library collaborated to digitize a treasure trove of area memorabilia with the assistance of a \$9,000 LSTA Grant administered by the Indiana State Library. By the end of the one year grant period, the Syracuse-Wawasee Digital Archives included nearly 1,500 images from the museum as well as local residents. Museum volunteers continued digitizing an additional 1,500 images during the next 4 years.



As a result of local postcard collector Garry Ringler graciously offering the opportunity to digitize his collection, another LSTA grant in the amount of \$10,000 was awarded to the museum and the library in the summer of 2017. Three project assistants were kept busy digitizing and entering metadata on Garry's post cards and pictures as well as those from several other local sources. As a result of countless hours of hard work, over 4,000 images are available to the public in a user friendly way!

The grant ended in April, 2018, but digitizing will continue by using museum volunteers. Watch for an announcement of a training workshop in June. Members of the community are encouraged to bring photographs, slides, post cards, historical documents, maps and other items of local historical interest to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum (hours: 10-2 Tues. – Sat.) in the Community Center to be scanned into our online database. All items will be handled with care and returned in a timely manner. Ownership will be credited in the database.

### "A Virtual Window on the Dawn of Indiana Archaeology: Digitizing the Dolan Collection"

Efforts to preserve local history received a boost from the Indiana Historical Society's statewide Heritage Support Grant program, made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. A 2018 grant of \$17,000 was awarded to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum to preserve the J. P. Dolan Collection of Indian artifacts, which served a prominent role in developing Eli Lilly's lifelong interest in the prehistory of Indiana. Supporters of the museum added another \$3,550 in support of the effort.

The Ball State University Applied Archaeology Laboratory will help identify and categorize items to be labeled, cataloged and digitized. The information will then be entered into a database made available to the public. "The project will help develop thoroughly researched displays that communicate the full educational enrichment and research potential of this important collection," project director Ann Garceau said.



## Grants...

By Jamie Clemons

We are happy to announce the acceptance of a \$1000 grant from the Indiana Genealogical Society. This grant will pay for the digitization of the series of articles written by George Miles in 1909. The digitization of the articles will allow for the staff and public to easily search for a specific name or topic in order to do research.

George Miles was the editor of the Syracuse Gazette until 1879, an attorney for the town of Syracuse, and an Indiana Commissioner of Fisheries and Game during 1910-1914. During the 1930s, the Syracuse Journal ran the articles for a second time due to their knowledge of the history of Syracuse.

Early this year, the museum had a terrific opportunity to participate in a nation-wide project to digitize high school yearbooks between the years of 1950-1989. The Oklahoma Correctional Institution provides free shipping and digitizing of high school yearbooks, as well as a copy of the digitization, in an effort to rehabilitate and provide job experience to the inmates. Thanks to loans from Charlie Haffner and Wawasee High School, the museum was able to present a complete collection to the OCI to digitize Syracuse High School (1950-1968) and Wawasee High School (1969-1989). Yearbooks will still be available at the museum for browsing through during business hours. A CD-ROM copy of the 1950-1989 yearbooks is available for purchase upon request.

The museum received a grant in May from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation to help support its adult and children's programming during the coming year.

## Donations



Another great season for donations to the museum!

- ◊ Margaret Thomas—State Bank of Syracuse check book
- ◊ Joan Stoelting—"Master Pieces" by W.E. Master poem booklet, shoe repair kit belonging to Aaron Kettering, napkin and beverage coaster from the Wawasee Spink
- ◊ Cindy Brady—Indiana flag from old Syracuse Middle School
- ◊ Richard Green—Seth Ward items: steering wheel, 1835 abstract title, signed Torts volumes, undated plat book (1917-1920)
- ◊ Rickie J Sewell—B&O railroad items: tickets, schedules, telegraphs, cargo books, photos
- ◊ Dave Sheets—Oakwood Park items: photos, newsletters
- ◊



# Kids Corner

## Summer Fun 4 Kids By Jamie Clemons



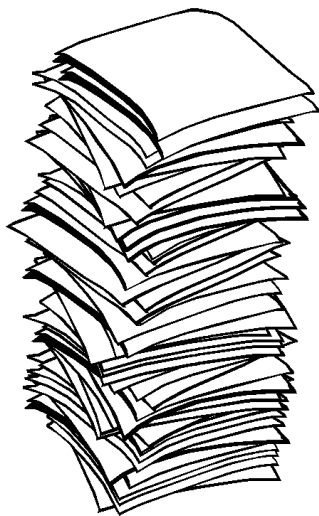
The museum offers a variety of activities for the kids throughout June and July.

**Tuesday afternoons at 1pm, the Youth History Club will meet.** This season's topics are:

- June 5—History of music instruments with Archaeologist Cathy of the IDNR, followed by Atlatl Training
- June 12—Recycling and the importance of lake health with Pam Schumm (WACF)
- June 19—The Art of Paper Making
- June 26—Music of Wawasee
- July 3—History of Photography
- July 10—Winding Up: Crank items
- July 17—Picture Scavenger Hunt

Each session will last approximately an hour. Please note that the atlatl training, paper making, and photography may take a bit longer due to the more hands-on nature of the classes.

Contact the museum for more information on these topics. 574-457-3599.



# Mark Your Calendar

- **June 2: 10:30am** Annual Meeting & Artist's Presentation featuring Susie Brandes
- **June 5-July 17: 1pm every Tuesday**, Youth History Club (See Jamie for more details)
- **July 28: 10:30am** Centennial Homes Presents: Morrison Island
- **August 18: 10:30am** Centennial Homes Presents: South Shore
- **September: Date /Time TBA** Archaeology Month Presentation



Join us Sat., July 28<sup>th</sup> to learn about Morrison Island. First settled by the Morrison family following the close of the Civil War, the island named in their honor has several 100-year-old homes. In addition to hearing personal stories about their homes, we will learn about nearby Casa Maria restaurant, Mineral Springs, the Turkey Creek Golf Course, the Kettle, John Dillinger, and the Moore family connection to several areas of the lake.



Join us Sat., August 25<sup>th</sup> to enjoy a variety of speakers on Centennial Homes along the South Shore of Lake Wawasee. The 106-year-old home at Pier 522 (left) will be featured along with owners of a cottage that has remained in the original family since it was built in 1916. We will explore the possibility of its look-alike cottage and hear the history of the Ditton Hotel. Expect to hear even more about South Shore area homes.

## Visiting Exhibits By Mary Hursh

### Enjoying the lakes at the Sargent Hotel and aboard the Falcon

As the summer of 2018 boating season at the lakes gets underway, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum will host an exhibit featuring the Falcon passenger boat which cruised Lake Wawasee in the 1920s and 1930s and the Sargent Hotel. The flag from the Falcon as well as the running light will be on display . The flag was made by Laura Sargent.

The Falcon , a 40-foot passenger boat, was built by Jesse Sargent in 1911 and remained in his possession until his death in 1950.

According to Bill Spurgeon, the unusual whistle which announced that a trip was about to begin became a distinctive North Shore sound. Many passengers were able to enjoy the music coming from the Waco Pavilion operated by Ross Franklin while sitting on the boat. Sargent would also run excursions to Buttermilk Point for fresh buttermilk. The main function of the boat was to take passengers from the train depot to their cottages.

In the 1940s when many fast boats were brought to the lake, the Falcon became a free public boat for pleasure rides. After Sargent's death, the Falcon was purchased by Herb and Dick King and then George Hay.

The Sargent Hotel, built by Jesse and Laura Sargent, was located on the north shore of Lake Wawasee, close to the Eli Lilly property. The Grill at the hotel featured Swift's frozen steaks, French fried potatoes, and country fried chicken. Over 400 guests could be seated there. The smallest post office in the United States was located on the hotel property and it was a popular meeting place for the summer residents of Lake Wawasee. Guests even bought candies, fountain drinks, ice cream, cigarettes, and cigars in the Sweet Shop.

The Sargent was a three-story frame building with outbuildings which included a dining hall across the road, a garage and employee dormitory, and a two-story hotel annex. Across the road was a meeting hall known as The Porches plus the North Shore Miniature Golf Course. Two houses west of the hotel was Bishop's Boathouse, pier and house. This business was known as Wawasee Marine Supply Company owned by Charles Irving Bishop.

The hotel was razed in the 1950s and a large auction was held to dispose of the furnishings. Over 400 bent wood chairs, 200 beds, and 1,000 dishes were included in the sale. After the auction, the WPOA was granted use of The Porches by Eli Lilly who owned the hotel property.





## Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

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Email: [director@syracusemuseum.org](mailto:director@syracusemuseum.org)

Website: [www.syracusemuseum.org](http://www.syracusemuseum.org)

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

### Syracuse-Wawasee Digital Archives

#### Steps to access on the internet

**Search:** Syracuse-Wawasee Digital Archives

Type in category/place you wish to search for, i.e.  
hotel, bank, boat.....

**Refine search:** type specific place you want to view

Thumbnail pictures: double click to see picture;  
scroll down for metadata

**Right click on picture:** copy, save, share, etc.

## Upcoming Summer Feature Displays By Jamie Clemons

As always, the museum strives to have an overall theme for the entire summer. This summer, we will have two themes!

The first main feature will be about the area ski clubs that used to rule the lakes of Syracuse and Wawasee.



The second theme will feature a "What IS it?" display. Little-known items from John Heckaman's collection will be featured throughout the museum. A fun time to come in and guess what the items are and learn about what they were used for.

If you have any information or items that would contribute to our display, please consider sharing them with us.