



Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum, Inc.

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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 culture 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



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

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 also visited the Museum in June as part of their end-of-the-year “park day” outings—all in all, well over 275 students have been exposed to a bit of the Museum this spring!

Late April brought guest speaker Jeannie Regan-Dinius of the Indiana Historical Society to town to talk about cemetery symbols. Her lecture kicked off a joint Museum and Syracuse Public Library program entitled ‘Discover Syracuse Cemetery’. Participants were sent on a “seek and find” through the Syracuse Cemetery using a newly developed brochure. Completed brochures could then be presented at the Library or Museum for a prize! The program had a great turnout of about _____ people—lots of local interest!

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 Union Jack (blue field) arranged in a circular pattern. The stars represent the original thirteen colonies



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Impulses of Syracuse from the Past

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

"We had less then but we needed less. We lived simply and there were no graduations in our society of wealth. Everybody was a friend to everybody; the people of the village were like members of a single family, each one willing to share the burdens of his brother."

- George W. Miles, Syracuse native who eventually became the 1st Indiana State Fisheries and Game Commissioner; Syracuse Journal, June 4, 1908

"I like these people in Indiana. I like the beautiful lake where I can study my botany and my biology when off duty from the railroad work. I wish I could stay here always, only the work is all done!"

- J. P. Dolan, B&O Railroad surveyor from New York who eventually settled in Syracuse and became a teacher, principal, and prominent community member; quote

B&O Capital Limited shortly after commencing service in Syracuse circa 1873 from Sweet Memo-

ries of 'Old Indianie' by Sarah Brown DeBra, IHS, 1979, page 67.

"The movie crowds were usually quite large because this was in the era of the prosperous days of the cement factory boom on Medusa Street. A large number of Hungarian people had moved into town to work in this plant and they helped to swell the crowds."

-Eloise Holloway Klink Rogers, noting her father's purchase of the "Theatorium" in 1911, which eventually became the

2014 Grant Funding

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is proud to be the recipient of the following grants for operational and programming support in 2014:

- Kenneth and Lela Harkless Foundation Grant, \$12,500
- NIPSCO Community Investment Grant, \$600

We thank these organizations for the generous funding that allows the Museum to carry out its mission!

News from the Board of Directors

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

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!

Membership renewal forms will be available at the 1st Annual Member Board Meeting for those that are still interested in renewing their Museum membership for 2014 but haven't gotten around to it yet!

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

Collection Curiosities Related to Home Delivery

On display at the Museum is a U.S. Mail Postman's hat with a "Rural Free Delivery 2" emblem. The hat was worn by mailman P. Yeager, who retired in 1919. Rural Free Delivery (RFD) began in 1896 in Syracuse; it offered direct mail delivery to farm families who would otherwise have had to travel the distance to the post office themselves or pay for private delivery of their mail. City folk had been enjoying the luxury of home mail delivery since about 1863! The emblem on the hat originally belonged to R. Deardorff, retired 1912, who delivered mail on the first rural route around the lake when it was established in 1902. Incidentally, it was in 1902 that rural delivery became a permanent service of the U.S. Postal Service; the word "free" was dropped from the title in 1906, since it was understood.



Other "home delivery" gems on display are W.A. Jones and Son Dairy bottles. The Jones Dairy was started in 1920, when W.A. Jones purchased an existing milk route from resident Cal Beck. Customers along the route were each supplied a small box marked "Jones" into which quart and half-quart bottles of milk were delivered regularly. Milk delivery by Jones Dairy continued until 1952, when it sold out to Crystal Dairy of Warsaw. Based on the round shape and embossed lettering, the bottles owned by the Museum likely date to the 1930s or earlier.

Donations and Loans

Thank you to the following people for their generous donations and loans to the Museum!

Donations: Thornburgs shadowbox (J. Rowland); Doc Miller bag, Big Wheel bag, and Oakwood Park Assembly programs (N. Harter); '49, '50, and '51 SHS Echo yearbooks, '08 WPOA Directory, '01, '08, and '09 SLA Directories, Sesquicentennial mug, and Thornburg medicine bottle (J. Darr); B. Appenzeller prints (D. Chrisman, E. Hite); A Mixed History of the Church of the Brethren (D. Kagarise); 1934 Iceboating photo (S. and C. Kroh); Mannequin torso form (K. Dukes); The Incredible Wheel of Time (A. Valentine); Entrance table and photo framing services (D. Sheets).

Loans: Pure Country—The Leon Kagarise Archives (D. Kagarise); WWI Military items (B. Grindle)

It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.
- Robert F. Kennedy



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March 2014 Newsletter

Volume II, Issue I

Programs and Events

Mr. Jack Elam gave a terrific presentation on January 11th, 2014, entitled "A History of Syracuse and the Indians of Kosciusko County." The event was well attended and enjoyed—over 50 people braved the cold temperatures to hear Jack's talk in Celebration Hall. Thank you, Jack!

On Saturdays during the month of February, guided tours were offered on the hour to visitors. About 15 tours were conducted!

Join us in April for a two-part cemetery program offered in conjunction with the Syracuse Public Library! On April 24th at 11 am, a lecture focused on cemetery symbols will be presented by Indiana Historical Society speaker Jeannie Regan-Dinius at the Syracuse Public Library. Following the lecture, a Syracuse Cemetery Tour Brochure will be provided to all attendees. Tour participants will have the opportunity to visit the graves of prominent Syracuse citizens, investigate local gravestone symbols, complete grave rubbings, and discover how gravestone data can help tell the story of Syracuse's past.

The Syracuse-Wawasee Museum Board and staff invite you to attend the **1st Annual Member Board Meeting**, to be held Saturday, June 28, 2014, at 10 am. All Members and guests are welcome; please RSVP prior to the event by calling or stopping by the Museum so we know to expect you. Meeting agenda will include a yearly update on Museum accomplishments and activities, a presentation and book-signing by Ann Garceau, author of a new book on the Syracuse-Wawasee area from Arcadia Publishing, and an open forum period for suggestions. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. Membership renewal services will also be available. Hope to see you in June!