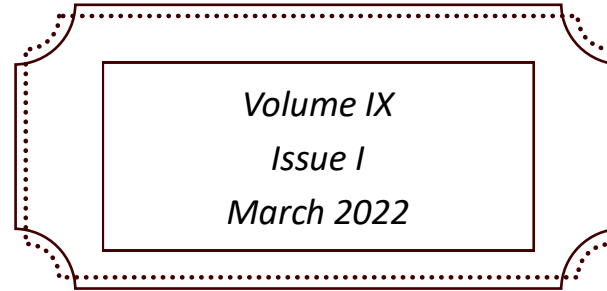


# NEWS

There are a LOT of new things going on at the museum. The biggest being our brand new brochure and our new logo. Museum director Jamie Clemons and board members Mary Hursh and Kip Schumm put in many hours along with The Papers design department to create these wonderful eye-catching designs. We hope you like them!



## The Seth Ward Legacy By Mary Hursh

The museum is currently showcasing the life of Seth Ward, a local lake legend. Norma Baugher, his housekeeper for years, kept many of his books, pictures, and personal items. Harlan Steffen, a local realtor and minister, brought the many items Norma saved to the museum last month. His personal photograph albums, family pictures, and his many books are on display.

Seth was a native of Princeton, IN. He graduated from Indianapolis Shortridge High School and later attended Purdue, West Point, and IU. He received his LL.B degree from Indiana University where he was a member of the Sigma Chi social fraternity. "I have

defended everybody from insane newspaper editors to the nation's largest railroads at the bar of justice." He practiced law in Indianapolis with Elmer Lockyear. Their offices were at 704 Fletcher Trust Building. They specialized in probate matters, wills, guardianships, settlement of estates, trusteeships, and appeals to higher courts in addition to their general practice of law.

As a lawyer, he battled for the little guy and his bizarre courtroom antics helped reinforce his eccentric image. As a young lawyer, his use of a wiretap led to the capture of Ku Klux Klan leader D.C. Stevenson when the Klan was centered in Indiana.



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The Syracuse Library and the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum sent this update on the progress of their LSTA grant to digitize the local newspapers from the late 1800s through 1990. The microfilm reels have been sent to a vendor for digitization and are now back at the library. They hoped the newspapers would be immediately uploaded to Hoosier State Chronicles so you could enjoy them in the comfort of your own home, but alas, you'll have to wait until early 2023 due to the Indiana State Library budget. Many Indiana newspapers have been added to the website and as a result of its success, hosting costs have risen. For the remainder of 2022, we hope you will use the microfilm at the Syracuse Library, while looking forward to 2023 computer access to this searchable database made possible by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Indiana State Library.



- **Norma Baugher**—Seth Ward items
- **Debbie Conner**—Personal Typewriter
- **Ann Garceau**—Marise's plastic pot strainer
- **Joan Stoelting**—Spink Coaster
- **Jack Darr**—Jack's Sunoco flyswatter, Louie's Bar & Grill multi bottle opener



## Centennial Homes Programs (2016-2021) Now Available By Ann Garceau

After a lot of hard work, all of the Centennial Homes programs (12 of them) have been edited and are now available to the public in digital format. This Spring and Summer as residents return to the lake, Ann Garceau will see that each presenter receives a USB stick that will play on a computer or television. Ann feels this will be a great addition to documenting the history of the lake and hopes that additional families will want to add this to their collection. They are available for purchase (**\$30**) at the museum. For purchase, please call ahead and allow 2-3 days as the USBs are created on a by-purchase basis.





Early in his career, he negotiated the sale of the Sargent Hotel to Eli Lilly. Lilly paid \$80,000 for the property to Mrs. Laura Sargent.

Seth and his wife moved to Lake Wawasee in 1947 and settled in



Nordyke Park. He designed and built his home which included a palatial library and a grass-covered beach house. He referred to his three-building estate as "The Compound." The beach house had a dome roof and belfry and housed an old locomotive bell purchased in Brown County for \$10. The dome roof and belfry was made as a replica of Independence Tower which housed the Liberty Bell.

Ward's house was a cluttered collage of items he held dear. Relics included an olive-green leather table and chairs

imported from France and three Seth Thomas clocks. He decorated the outside of the property with a three-dimensional cross, a Paul Newman poster, and Christmas lights. He had 11 televisions in his home. They were never turned off and apparently the noise did not bother him.

The library within the house was always a point of interest for visitors. It was an imposing structure which had at its entrance the columns from the doorway of the old Syracuse School which once stood on the

parking lot across from the Syracuse Public Library. He purchased the pillars of the Syracuse School in 1956 before the building was torn down. Over his long career, he was not only a lawyer but also a Republican politician and a sheriff. Seth Ward died when he was 74 at his beloved Lake Wawasee home.

Years ago there were one-room

log school houses with dirt floors and puncheon-seats. There were two one-room log school houses built in Miami County for the Indians. Here the Indians and a few of the pale-faces went to school. Back of one of these school houses was a large swamp filled with water. Hundred of reptiles and turtles could be found in this swamp anytime during the year.

One day late in the fall while school was in session a noise was heard in the swamp. The water splashed and splashed. Hearing this noise the school children wondered what was happening. When the teacher heard it and the splashing did not stop, he said that he would dismiss school so they could go out to see what was causing all the splashing around the water.

All the school children and the teacher began to search for the trouble. To their amazement what do you suppose they found? It was just two mud turtles fighting in the water!

## School Day's

**Astonishment** Story taken from *Miami Indian Stories* by Chief Clarence Godfroy



## Crow's Nest may be gone, but the Nathaniel Crow family will not be forgotten!

By Ann Garceau

On behalf of the museum, Ann Garceau would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Ross Heil for his tremendous effort in documenting and digitizing memorabilia of the Nathaniel Crow family. A little over a year ago, Ann and Ross first met each other when he contacted the museum for information on the Crow family since he had grown up in the Crow's Nest area and was purchasing a building lot there. In spring, 2021, Sandi Fick Ulery, great-granddaughter of Nathaniel Crow, flew from

Florida to meet with us and other family members. With her, she brought a carryon suitcase filled with family genealogy and pictures! We knew the contents needed to be documented for local research before they eventually made their way back to Florida. Ross has diligently been working on the project which provides a lot of insight into the life and times of the Crow family with several descendants still living in the area. The museum invites you to stop by to enjoy the collection.



- June 2—August 4—Youth History Club, Thursdays, 10:30 am
- June 18—Open House All Day
- July 9—Centennial Homes, 1pm
- August 13—Centennial Homes, 10:30 am
- September 1—Archaeology Month Program, 5:30 pm
- September 2—Archaeology Month Program, 5:30 pm
- September 3—Archaeology Month Program, 10:30 am