



Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum, Inc.
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Inside this issue

- Curator's Corner.....1
- Collection Curiosities.....1
- Did You Know...?.....2
- Thank you, Karen!.....2
- Quotable Quotes.....3
- Museum Pet.....3
- Recent Donations.....3
- Donation Opportunities.....3
- Visiting Exhibits.....4

Curator's Corner Jamie Clemons

As we head into the fall, school is starting for many, the last of the summer vacations take place, and we think about having to drag out our cold weather clothes. I love it! Having grown up in South Mississippi where we think we're freezing when it's 50* out, I love living where the leaves actually change to pretty colors, instead of being green one day and brown the next. I love (surprisingly) to shovel snow, especially when my son volunteers to help, and it ends up in a snow fight, or he wants to shovel the elderly neighbor's drive (sometimes both!). By March, definitely April, I'm done with the cold, but

mostly because I want to go play in the dirt and plant something, as well as go barefooted!

With school starting back, I'm reminded about how vital education is in everything we do. With that in mind, I'm gearing up to continue going into the classroom to help the elementary students understand and appreciate the local history. I am learning about the area along with them.

I also wanted you to be aware that September is designated as Indiana Archaeology Month. There are activities going on all over the state, so check them out

on <<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3674.htm>>. We will also be having some activities at the museum in honor of Indiana Archaeology Month, so come in and see what we have to offer.

So, what is going on at the museum this quarter? Well, we will be working toward producing a detailed inventory of everything that the museum has acquired over the past 28 years. Also, the plan is to arrange our display and office areas to a more functional arrangement. So, if you come in one day, and we've made a bit of a mess, please excuse the mess and be patient with us. We want to make coming to the museum a more enjoyable and educational experience for patrons of all ages.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

September is Indiana Archaeology Month! To find out what activities are planned throughout the state, visit:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3674.htm>

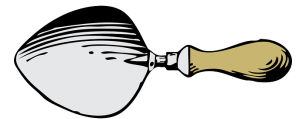
Collection Curiosities

The museum is proud to house the Native American artifact collection of J.P. Dolan. In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Dolan made the decision to donate the collection that spanned 35 years, to the Syracuse Public Library for exhibition in the community.

Mr. Dolan began his collecting of artifacts in 1873, and he became a huge influence on the archaeological community. He caught the attention of Eli Lilly, and the two became friends. In 1937, Mr. Lilly, in part, dedicated his book *Prehistoric Antiquities of*

Indiana to Mr. Dolan: "To his honored friend, the late J.P. Dolan [...] the author is especially obliged for having introduced him to this absorbing subject."

Our collection includes multiple examples each of arrowheads, spears, axes, mortar and pestle sets, awls, gorgets, and other Native American items.



Did You Know...?

You know what a fantastic lithic (stone) artifact collection we have. Many people come into the museum asking what types of materials were used to manufacture the artifacts, and how they were made. Knapping, or flint knapping, is the process of manufacturing these stone tools.

So, what goes into producing a good lithic point? The first step is to select the proper stone for the job. When most people think of stones for tool making, they immediately think “flint”. While flint was, and still is in some cases, a popular stone for tool making, it is not the only type of stone used. My personal favorite stones are chert and jasper, simply because they can have some interesting and pretty marbling of color from the sedimentation process. Other stones that can be used are obsidian, various agates, dacite, and petrified wood. Really, any stone that will break with a conchoidal fracture will usually work. You can even use glass! These materials will give varying results in sharpness, which means that some are better for certain jobs than others. The worked material that is the sharpest is obsidian, so it works



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well for items like knives, but it does have a tendency to break easily, where a material like flint, chert, and jasper are sturdier and are better for spears, scrapers, and the traditional arrow point.

After selecting your stone, many of them need to be heat-treated to varying degrees in order to make them more usable in the knapping process. After heat-treating the stone, the knapper will use a percussion stone, which is usually a harder stone like granite (called a *hard hammer*), to break off smaller blanks that will be used to make the various tools, depending on the size.

Native Americans, as well as modern knappers, waste little in the debitage (flake pile) and will sift through the smaller pieces in search of usable sized pieces. Using various tools such as antlers (called a *soft hammer*), the knapper will take these blanks and create the various lithic points used in everyday life.

What are some uses of these tools? Well, most are pretty obvious. Spear points are for spears, arrow points are for arrows, knives are knives. There are also scrapers, which were used in the process of tanning animal hides, which would have been made from the same materials. Axes and

celts were used for breaking marrow bones, cutting wood, and hunting, but were typically made from harder igneous stones such as granite, or metamorphic rocks such as gneiss, as well as mortar and pestles. Gorgets would have been made of finer sandstone and used, mostly, as decorations such as necklaces.

For more information on the manufacturing of stone tools, visit YouTube where there are plenty of videos to help the novice learn. Or, if you have a couple of hours to sit and watch, the museum owns a copy of *The Art of Flint Knapping* with D.C. Waldorf, an expert in flint knapping with almost 30 years of experience when the video was made in 2006.



Thank you, Karen!

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum would like to thank Karen Kelsheimer for her dedication and service for the last two years as director. During Karen’s time here, she has increased the museum’s relationship with the schools and established the Youth History

Club for 1st-6th grade during the summer. She is also responsible for beginning the publication of this newsletter. Karen is now a part of the music ministry at her church. The Board of Directors and I would like to wish Karen all the best in her new endeavors.

*Our greatest glory is not
in never falling, but in
rising every time we
fall.*
~Confucius

Museum Pet



During our “Fish Tales” week of Youth History Club, we got a pet betta fish. Suggested names for him were Miles, Spink, Mier, Crosson, JP, or Eli. The winner, by a landslide, was Spink.

Recent Donations

Chris Carboneau (two framed Erie-Michigan Canal Ways replica maps); Blair “Roddy” Laughlin (Native American axe head); Class of 1955 (Recess bell and Study Hall bell from SHS); Judy Kalaich (SHS photos, sweater, town photos, WHS yearbooks—1975-77); Ana VanCuren (Air Force and Army uniforms from Vietnam era); Michael Zollinger (two photos of Wawasee Airport c. 1940s, South Shore Inn rubbish bin, 1950 SHS class photo, Barbara Bowser’s suitcase); Jack Clark (1976 “Sounds of Hope” record); Amanda Toress (Wabash Railway and NY Central Way-Bills); Tom & Bonnie Webb (*Memories of Webster Lake* book); Richard Pawlich (Smith-Walbridge Majorette Originals records, 1972-76, 1978-79)

*His talent was as natural as the pattern
that was made by the dust on a butterfly's
wings. At one time he understood it no
more than the butterfly did and he did not
know when it was brushed or marred.*

~Ernest Hemingway

Donation Opportunities

Do you use Amazon? Did you know that you can contribute to SWHM just by purchasing items through Amazon? Through the AmazonSmile program, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice. To use AmazonSmile, go to <http://smile.amazon.com> to set up where your donation will go. In the “Your Account” drop box, select “Change Your Charity”, input our name into the box, then “Select”. It’s that simple!

We have been running a sponsorship drive campaign. So far, the campaign has

been a great success, and we are still taking donations. This campaign is separate from your membership. The sponsorship drive is a one-time monetary gift.

The museum is putting together a “Wish List” of items we need or would like to have in the museum. Some of these items include a flat-screen tv, a wall mount for the tv, DVD/VCR combo, and various office supplies. For a more detailed list, please contact the museum.

We hope you will choose to continue to support the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum!

*I'm not an historian
but I can get
interested -
obsessively interested
- with any aspect of
the past, whether it's
paleontology, or
archaeology, or the
very recent past.*

~Penelope Lively





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Visiting Exhibits

Did you know the museum has a visiting exhibits showcase? In the past few months, we have showcased horse figurines, 1930s-era hats, Syracuse High School alumni items, Syracuse Flotilla shirts and memorabilia, wooden goblets, buttons, dominoes, and comic books.

If you have a collection of interesting items, why not let us showcase them for a few weeks? A typical exhibit will last 4-6 weeks. Please contact the museum if you think you have something interesting to showcase! 574-457-3599

