

MARSHALL COUNTY



HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
& MUSEUM

123 N. Michigan Street  
Plymouth, Indiana 46563  
574-936-2306

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# CROSSROADS

Spring 2024  
Volume 18, Issue 2

www.mchistory.org (COMING SOON)  
mchistory@mchistory.org

## Casino Night Fundraiser & Silent Auction

### “Back to the Pine Tree Inn”



**All Proceeds  
Benefit  
Community  
Outreach!**

April 19, 2024 ~ 5:30-9:30 pm ~ At The REES

**Doors Open at 5:30 • Games from 6 - 9**  
**1920s and 1930s Dress Encouraged - Put on your Glad Rags!**

**Tickets  
are  
Limited!**

# \$50

**Includes \$25 in CHIPS  
and Refreshments**

Tickets are available at the Museum or call 574-936-2306.

**You can help by donating Silent Auction Items!**

Unused Season Tickets

Gift Certificates - Cash

Free Services ~ Lessons

Art & Jewelry

Sports Memorabilia

**Can we talk?** You may be wondering why the upcoming Casino Night Fundraiser on April 19 is so important. Let us explain...

Our Board of Trustees and staff have been hard at work for the last year formulating a 5-Year plan. As part of that, we have surveyed countless Marshall County residents about how we can serve them better. One of the key take-aways from this analysis is that people would love more community outreach and events. One way we can accomplish that is through more programming, such as Kid's Days and Brown Bags. It is our fundraising that pays for all that programming. Consequently, to expand our outreach, we need additional dollars..

We have also recently recognized the need for a dedicated technology fund. We are, to a large extent, the record keeper for Marshall County and its history. And in this digital age, that takes a lot of technology. In fact, we use technology in nearly every aspect of our work.

So, since we have to raise funds, we thought we might as well have some FUN! Come join us. The committee has a terrific evening planned, full of prizes, surprises, song, dance, food and games. Get your tickets today!

## Many Thanks to our Fundraiser Sponsors!



Robinson Cook Insurance, Inc.

FERNBAUGH'S  
Diamonds ▼ Fine Jewelry



In Memory of Joe Spehar

Anna & Russ Kietzman

Hungry Historians





### Annual Meeting 2024

Join us at 10 a.m. on May 11 for our Annual Membership Meeting. We look forward to welcoming you in the Community Room. Come and vote for members of the Board of Trustees, hear a recap of 2023 activities and learn about upcoming events along with enjoying some great music and delicious refreshments.



### Brown Bag Season Got Off to a Great Start!



Barbara (*center*), pictured with Museum staffers **Iris Fry** and **Anita Boetsma**, is the sister-in-law of Museum members **Dave & Chris Morrow** and **John & Susie Krieghbaum**.

**Author Barbara Olenyik Morrow** was the presenter at the March 8 Brown Bag event. She spoke about her most recent book, *Army Guy, Red Cross Gal*, a biography of two Auburn residents during World War II, based on letters that they each wrote to their families back home. Barbara's book is available in the Museum gift shop or by going to her website: [barbaraolenyikmorrow.com](http://barbaraolenyikmorrow.com)

### Welcome New Members

Cal & Patty Barker  
Tammie Berkey  
Jeff & Jenny Dietrich  
James & Deb Emans  
Dennis & Karla Engbrecht  
John Fishburn  
Bruce Jennings  
Mike & Paula Neidlinger

### Two Birds with One Stone?

As you are doing your spring cleaning please consider donating vintage or gently used items to our annual Side-walk Sale. Bring in items anytime the Museum is open. (No clothes please!)

### YEAR-END GIVING 2023

(Cont'd from Winter 2024 issue)

Many thanks to the following generous donors whose year-end gifts make it possible for the Marshall County Historical Society to continue doing all we can to collect, preserve and exhibit artifacts and information about our county's fascinating history. As always, our success depends on YOU!

#### PATRON

Derek Jensen  
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#### SPONSOR

Bill and Linda Killian  
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Robert and Deborah Wise

### Our Deepest Condolences to the Families of:

Phyllis Hessler Gray  
Tim Griewank  
Delbert Weakly  
Robert Whitmer

### Thank You Friends

Tri Kappa Sorority and the LaPaz Lions both made recent donations to fund Museum programs.



**Spring Break Kids Day** was an all-out BEACH PARTY! Nearly 150 children and adults came to enjoy a full slate of crafts, games, puzzles and activities on March 20. **Volunteer Barbara Rockaway** (*at left*)

encouraged a young visitor to drop the clothes pin into the milk bottle. **Volunteer Jenny Harness** (*below*) helped the kids turn paper plates into “fancy fish,” while a grandmother and a young grandson (*below, right*) enjoyed a visit to the Train Room.



## Circle the Wagons!

Anyone who has ever undertaken a move, whether across town or across the country, knows that it is an arduous task...all the packing, the sorting, the decisions - what to take and what to leave! Now imagine doing just that, except that it is the year 1850 and you are packing your whole life into a 16'x4' covered wagon for a trip across the country.

Thanks to a partnership with the Tri Kappa Sorority, Menominee Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders got just that opportunity at the Museum in March. After a presentation by Tri Kappa volunteer Anna Kietzman, students worked together in small groups to ‘pack’ miniature covered wagons with the essentials, while leaving behind what was not useful or would not fit. Several Museum volunteers offered guidance as the students made tough decisions about treasures that had to be left behind in favor of tools, food barrels and basic necessities.

Following the covered wagon session, students toured the Museum, sometimes catching sight of the actual items they saw in the wagon kits, such as an oxen yoke and a spinning wheel.

The combined Covered Wagon/Museum Tour format was a big success, so we hope to expand next year to more 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes throughout the county. A big thanks to the many volunteers who made it a priority to work with the kids. If you are interested in helping out with this program next year, please let us know. You can email [sue@mchistoricalsociety.org](mailto:sue@mchistoricalsociety.org) or call us at 574/936-2306.





## Never a Dull Moment!



**Bicentennial bison, Jibby, (below, right)** was treated to a nice warm scarf created by two students - Winsley Withey and Allison Talcott, 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Webster Elementary. The girls are learning yarn crafts at the Blueberry Cottage in downtown Plymouth.

**MCCHS Member John Fishburn (left)**, social studies teacher at Argos Junior High School, recently brought his genealogy class to the Research Library to learn about all the available resources. **Staffers Iris Fry and Anita Kopetski** spent a pleasant afternoon introducing them to the various resources available.



**“He did WHAT?”** A multi-year project came to a close when **Tim Good, long-time member and volunteer, (below)** returned the last batch of history file index cards in February. Tim has been working from home entering the more than 10,000 cards into an electronic database since October 2017. Congratulations to Tim on a job well done!



More than 30 firefighters (*left*) from all over Marshall County gathered in the Community Room for their February meeting. They perused the **Marshall County on Fire!** exhibit in the Marshall Gallery and enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation by **Communications Manager Anita Boetsma.**

**Local militaria collector Greg Champion (right)** set up a portion of his WWII collection in the Military Room to commemorate D-Day (June 6, 1944). Stop in and see the many artifacts that bring that day in United States history into sharper focus.

**Volunteer Brent Kaufman (left)** has become very well acquainted with the Museum’s basement workshop. He has refurbished several new-to-us display cases that will replace some older cases. We very much appreciate his skill, and his willingness to use it here at the Museum.



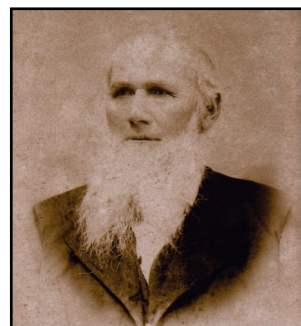
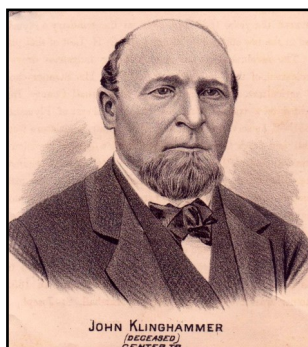


**History Tidbits** – Anyone driving south on State Road 17 out of Plymouth has probably noticed the stately old brick Victorian home on the hill at the curve. Known as the Hoham-Klinghammer-Weckerle House, it has a storied past that includes a short stint during Prohibition as a speakeasy. However, rumors that it had been a stop on the Underground Railroad are false, as the house was built around 1880, 15 years or so after the end of the Civil War.

### *House with a History: The Brewery*



Situated on Plymouth's southwest side, the legendary Hoham-Klinghammer-Weckerle house was constructed in 1880 as the logical result of a very successful brewery business that had been operating on the property since 1857. The first commercial beer brewers in the county, German immigrants, John Hoham and John Klinghammer, brought the skill of brewing beer with them when they emigrated.



*Johan Hochheim  
Americanized his  
name to John Hoham.*

They first built two large underground brick fermenting vaults and a frame business building.

There is no record of which family actually built the house.

The legend that the property had been a stop on the Underground Railroad likely grew because the vaults would have made a great hiding place. But in the

years before and during the Civil War, the vaults would still have been in use for fermenting beer. The property's proximity to the Yellow River added to the mystique, as escaping slaves often used rivers to guide them north.

Hoham sold the property and his interest in the brewery to Klinghammer in 1867 for \$15,000. Klinghammer operated the brewery alone for only five years then sold the property and brewery to Jacob Weckerle for the same price. Weckerle owned and operated a saloon on Michigan Street in Plymouth during the 1860s. A catastrophic fire destroyed his saloon in 1866, along with most of the downtown buildings.

Weckerle continued operating the Plymouth Brewery until 1888, when he closed it and moved to Chicago, selling the property to Wert Beldon. A 1900 fire destroyed the brewery building. At the time Beldon was using the vaults to store eggs and mushrooms.

### *House with a History: The Speakeasy*

The most notorious use of the Hoham-Klinghammer-Weckerle property occurred during Prohibition Era (1920-1933). By the 1920s the property was a roadhouse called the "Pine Tree Inn." In 1928 officers led what was considered the county's greatest raid on the roadhouse. Evidence suggested that beer was being sold there.

Two officers and three deputies entered the inn just before midnight on July 28 and took patrons by surprise. Officers found "Monte Carlo-style gambling and free flowing liquor." No one attempted to flee, and officers took 35 violators into custody from as far away as Ohio, seized 38 cases of beer and found two slot machines.

Large headlines in the *Plymouth Daily Pilot* on July 30, 1928, read, **14 Arrested in Raid on Local Gambling House**, with a subtitle reading, **Officers Stage Cleanup - Minors Brought to Court**. In large print the newspaper called the event the **County's Greatest Raid**.



*Pictured above is one of two underground brick vaults built to ferment beer.*

The article stated that practically all of the boys and men arrested had brought girlfriends with them to spend the evening. Many of them were “prominent in their communities.” The house was being leased by Bertha Bozarth from W.J. Hayes, who lived in Chicago and pled innocent of any knowledge of the use of the property. Bozarth was assisted by Robert Wolcotte. Both were arrested and charged with operating gaming devices and the possession of intoxicating liquors.

The article also stated that the business had grown until it became more publicly known (assuming this means that the public knew of the illegal activity), at which time the county prosecutor took steps to investigate. Judge Albert Chipman of Marshall County then ordered the establishment padlocked for one year. The *Plymouth Daily Pilot* ran these front page headlines, **Padlocks Pine Tree Inn for One Year and Chipman Ends Career of Pretty Lake Road House.** The paper reported, “Pine Tree Inn has come to the end of its short but hectic career.” The padlocking of the establishment included the “brick house and garage, all out buildings, the tunnels (vaults) and the frame house to the west of the brick (house).” A bond was placed on the property for \$1,000 stating that only the owner, W.J. Hayes of Chicago, could use it.

Bozarth claimed under oath that she paid “protection money” to Justice of the Peace Walter A. Zeroll. After the raid, Zeroll left the city in the middle of the night, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. A month later Bozarth was found guilty. She was fined \$150 and sentenced to 60 days at the Indiana Women’s Reformatory. That was the end of the speakeasy.

Eventually, Hayes’ widow sold the property to Milton Bottorff in 1945. There is no evidence that the house was ever reopened as a legitimate road house.

In 1954 a local architect, Alves O’Keefe, purchased the property from Bottorff. O’Keefe’s father, Arthur O’Keefe, was a contractor who had been responsible for the construction of a number of large public buildings in Plymouth including St. Michael’s Catholic Church, the Carnegie Library and Lincoln High School; he was also a historian. Alves was born in Plymouth on September 11, 1904, and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1922. He studied architecture and graduated from the University of Michigan. His first commission was the Centennial Gymnasium addition to Lincoln High School, a Works Progress Administration project. Alves designed several buildings in Plymouth including the Church of the Brethren, the Conservation Clubhouse, and the renovation of the Art Deco-styled Rees Theater in downtown Plymouth.

Alves O’Keefe had an appreciation for the architecture and history of the old brewery property, as was evident when he showcased the home for an *Indianapolis Star Magazine* publication in 1958. O’Keefe is seen in a photograph in the magazine inspecting the large vats inside the vaults. It was stated that O’Keefe and his son planned to raise trout minnows in the vats. He also stated that the vaults would make an excellent bomb shelter.

The article also said that the house had a “charming air of antiquity. O’Keefe’s wife, Doris, had furnished the home tastefully with antique furniture and other objects.” Mrs. O’Keefe operated an antique store from a small building northwest of the house for a brief period called the Cozy Corner Antique Shop.

Alves made the only significant alteration on the home, the renovation of the bathrooms on the second floor. The changes included the creation of the two aluminum hopper style windows on the second floor of the south façade. O’Keefe’s restraint in light of his architectural training indicates he perhaps understood and wanted to protect the architectural significance of the house and be a steward of its historical importance. Sadly, Alves and Doris were killed in an automobile accident in 1964, leaving the property to their children, Donal and Cheryle, who lived in the home until 2010.



MARSHALL COUNTY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Call 574-936-2306
Or email:
mchistory@mchistorysociety.org



2024 Brown Bag Lunch Event

2nd Friday Every Month from 12:00 until 1:00

- April 12 ~ Kurt Garner - The Evolution of Roads: Their Names and Numbers
May 10 ~ John Houghton - Daniel McDonald, Al Toner and the Vandalia Railroad
June 14 ~ Derek Jensen - The History of Bremen
July 5 ~ Mark Senter - Mayoral Mishaps CHANGE OF DATE - 1ST FRIDAY!
August 9 ~ Monty Peden - 1066! What Does the Norman Conquest Have to Do with You?
September 6 ~ Sue Irwin - Marshall County's Architectural Gems CHANGE OF DATE - 1ST FRIDAY!
October 11 ~ Anita Boetsma - Marshall County Mysteries & Mayhem

label

Model trains run Saturdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

School Groups Welcome!



Please keep your address current.
Returned mail is costly.

Address Service Requested

Marshall County Historical Society, Inc.
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