



January-February-March
2010

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EDUCATES, INSPIRES, PRESERVES

1865 Grand Ball, November 2009

The Crawfordsville Masonic Temple was a flurry of beautiful ball gowns and authentic Civil War uniforms on November 14, 2009 at the Ball sponsored by the Montgomery County Historical Society. Below are excerpts from a great article by Arnie Aurellano of the Journal Review.

Grand Ball provides look into yesteryear

By Arnie Aurellano - Journal Review -
Crawfordsville, Indiana

The Union soldier, the dust from the battlefield washed clean off his face and his best dress blues pressed to perfection, extended a white gloved hand to the seated girl, the ruffles of her muted pink ball gown flowing down to the floor from her waist.

She looked into the young man's eyes and gave a slight nod before extending a dainty hand, accepting his invitation and joining him on the ballroom floor.



Together, lady and gentleman clasped hands and smiled as they stepped, swayed and spun, the hardships of the ongoing conflict left outside the grand ball's doorstep.

A slice of life from a century and a half ago? Maybe a scene from a History Channel documentary, or from the pages of Margaret Mitchell?

None of the above. As it turned out, it happened in Crawfordsville this past weekend. The Masonic Lodge hosted the Montgomery County Historical Society's inaugural 1865 grand ball on Saturday, taking guests



144 years back into the past and into the world of former Crawfordsville resident and U.S. Representative and Senator Henry S. Lane.

“With Lane being a Civil War senator, we have such a wonderful connection to this time period and to Lane Place,” said the Historical Society’s Tamara Hemmerlein. “There’s so much rich history from that time period around Montgomery County that we wanted to highlight all of it by doing something a little different.”

The ball’s guests were all in period attire, with several men bedecked in Union blues and garbed in Confederate grays and women wearing their finest silk gowns. Music was provided by the Sugar Creek Woodwinds and Montgomery County Civic Band Director Gary Ketchum, who composed original arrangements based on piano arrangements of Civil War music.

The Historical Society, which had been planning the event since January, took great care to ensure that even the smallest details of the dance were accurate to era specifications.

“There’s so much you have to pay attention to that I didn’t even know where to start,” said Ann Harvey, who Hemmerlein described as the “driving force” behind organizing the



ball. “There are so many customs from that era that we wouldn’t normally think about.”

To help bring the event to life, the historical society brought in period re-enactors from several troops, including the 44th Tennessee, 42nd Indiana, 14th Indiana and 33rd Virginia Company A.

Hemmerlein said that the ball was mutually beneficial to the society and the re-enactors because it isn’t very often that the reenactment

troops get to break out their formalwear during performances. Hemmerlein and Harvey, for their part, were encouraged by the turnout and participation.

“I think this is definitely one we can do again,” added Hemmerlein. “I smell a new tradition.”

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A special thanks to board members and volunteers who donated time and/or refreshments for the ball:

Don and Jan Avery

Mike and Brenda Barton

Janice Clauser

Becky Degitz

Ruth Evans

Carol and Kurt Homann

Ruth Johnson

Richard Merriman

Dian Moore

Ernie Patrick

Joann Spragg

Mary Jane Swank

2nd Annual 1865 Grand Ball and Fundraiser

When: Saturday, November 6, 2010, 8 to 11 pm
Where: Masonic Temple, 221 S. Washington Street, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Cost: Registration/payment before October 15: \$50 couple - \$25 single
At door or after October 15: \$60 couple - \$35 single

Are you interested in the Civil War era and 19th century American culture? Learn the intricacies of 1800s etiquette and enjoy several different styles of authentic period dances. The dances, from waltzes to reels, are taught by a professional dance teacher. The authentic Civil War era music provided by the Sugar Creek Woodwinds from the balcony of the gold and white ballroom will accompany the dancers. Refreshments of cookies, punch and coffee will be served and door prizes will be given throughout the evening. You will enjoy the beautiful dresses and military uniforms worn by the re-enactors but you don't have to wear period costumes to attend. Register for the Second Annual 1865 Grand Ball hosted by the *Montgomery County Historical Society*.

Montgomery County Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors

Mike Barton, President
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Doug Dawson	Dian Moore
Kurt Homann	Ernie Patrick
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Staff:

Tamara Hemmerlein, Executive Director
Ann Harvey, Assistant Director
Alison Wright, Curator/Collections Manager
Thomas Warn, Know Indiana Intern
(Wabash College)

VISION STATEMENT

The Montgomery County Historical Society seeks to educate the public about the rich historic and cultural heritage of our county and to preserve the sites and artifacts that reflect the county history.

Upcoming Events

Strawberry Festival

June 11, 12, 13

ArchiCamp

June 23-24

Civil War Encampment

July 9-10-11

Annual Meeting & Dinner

Wednesday, October 27 - 6 p.m.
Crawfordsville District Public Library

1865 Grand Ball

Masonic Temple
Saturday, November 6 - 8 to 11 p.m.

Closed:

Easter - April 4
Memorial Day - May 31
July 4th
Labor Day - September 6
Thanksgiving - November 25 & 26
Closed for Season - December 15

2009 Tour attendance continues to rise

A total of **20,364** toured the home, used the grounds at Lane Place, or attended an event sponsored by the MCHS in 2009 which was an increase of 1,346 from 2008. The number of visitors touring Lane Place was 1,821 in 2009 up from 1,656 in 2008 and 1,596 in 2007. Events included the Strawberry Festival, Civic Band concerts, Pattison Pavilion weddings, preschool classes, school luncheons, PRIDE Corn Hole tournament, and ArchiCamp.

Montgomery County	926
Indiana outside Montgomery County	579
Other States	286
Other Countries	30
Total Lane Place Tours	1,821

Alabama	1	Maryland	13	South Dakota.....	1
Arizona.....	8	Maine	4	Tennessee	2
California	9	Michigan	13	Texas	4
Colorado.....	3	Minnesota.....	8	Utah.....	2
Connecticut	5	Missouri	11	Virginia	1
District of Columbia.....	1	North Carolina.....	4	Wisconsin.....	20
Florida	11	Nevada	2		
Georgia.....	9	New York.....	4	<u>Other Countries</u>	
Iowa.....	17	Ohio.....	14	Canada.....	3
Illinois	67	Oklahoma	3	China.....	1
Kansas	8	Oregon.....	4	Germany.....	22
Kentucky	5	Pennsylvania	1	United Kingdom.....	4
Louisiana.....	28	South Carolina.....	3		

What's happening at the MCHS

by Tamara Hemmerlein, Assistant Director

2009 was a great year for the Montgomery County Historical Society and 2010 promises to be a year for some exciting changes. We are involved in the repair and restoration of four rooms at the museum: Helen Elston Smith's bedroom, the east storage room, the office, and workroom. The staff has been busily packing, moving, and protecting artifacts and office furniture and we are excited about the restoration project.

The mourning exhibit is a great new perspective on Lane Place and events that took place here. Alison's changes to the main rooms of the museum give a new perspective to our old house. I encourage you to visit Lane Place to see the changes.

We are looking forward to some very interesting programming this year with Civil War reenactment events and another year of the award winning ArchiCamp. Ann has already begun planning the 2010 grand ball and a re-enactors' military summer encampment. You should definitely mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Thanks to everyone who supported the MCHS in 2009 with your attendance at events, your memberships, your contributions, and your time and talents. We appreciate all that you do!

Coffins, Crepe, and Cakes: 19th Century Mourning at Lane Place

by Alison Wright, Curator/Collections Manager

The Montgomery County Historical Society is pleased to present our 2010 exhibit: **Coffins, Crepe, and Cakes: 19th Century Mourning at Lane Place**. The detailed exhibit is designed to take a step back into history and experience the rituals associated with death and mourning in the 19th century. The attire, the music, the service, and the burial were all performed as a necessary and outward show of respect for the dead.

Much of the focus centers on the death of Henry Lane in June 1881. Joanna painted the exterior of Lane Place gray after Henry passed and the home remained that color for the rest of her life. She died in 1914.



Mirrors on landing and in the formal parlor as well as other mirrors are draped.



Sylvia Elston's Funeral Invitation

Artifacts on display include Joanna's jet bead necklace and funeral invitations for both Sylvia and James Elston. Learn why the mirrors are covered, why the doorbell is muffled, some interesting Victorian superstitions, and what the different stages of mourning entailed in the manner of clothing.

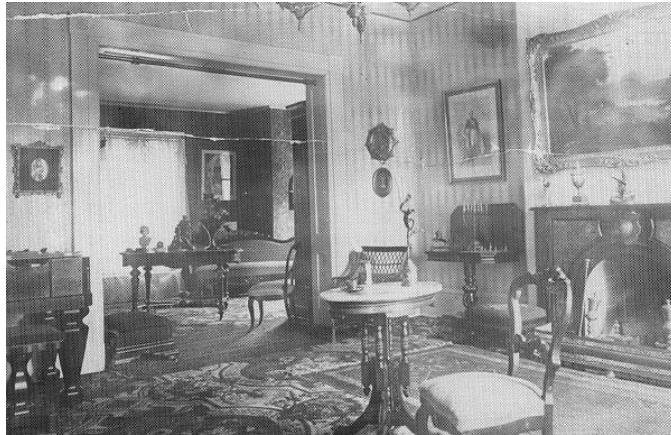


CURATOR'S CORNER

by Alison Wright, Curator/Collections Manager

This space highlights an object from the collection of the MCHS. We are rediscovering old items and receiving new donations and this is a chance to take a peek into our vast holdings. This edition describes some shifts in artifacts at Lane Place.

A photograph taken in 1912, when Joanna Lane was still alive, captures the formal parlor and part of the library. Many of the pieces still exist as part of the collection at Lane Place and



Lane Place Formal Parlor, 1912

Digital image © 2008 Crawfordsville District Public Library. All Rights Reserved.

replicating that moment the photograph was taken gives visitors an opportunity to view a flash of history in the present time.

The significant changes involved moving the portrait of Henry Lane from over the fireplace in the formal parlor to the north wall. The Hudson River Valley painting was moved from over the fireplace in the family parlor to above the fireplace in the formal parlor. The lithographs of Emperor Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie of France now hang on either side of the fireplace. The sculptures and the fireplace implements have been rearranged to mimic the photograph.

Other changes, unrelated to the 1912 photograph, have taken place. The portraits of Isaac and Maria Elston are now above the fireplace in the family parlor. In the library, the Native American lithographs have been removed to storage. The 1865 edition of the Crawfordsville Journal announcing the death of Abraham Lincoln hangs in their place. The portrait of James Wilson was transferred to storage to make room for the lithograph of the Andersonville Prison Stockade. The gavel made from Andersonville stockade timber rests in the display case below the lithograph.

The Montgomery County Historical Society is fortunate to have such a magnificent collection of artifacts. Rotating these objects around provides new exposure and further education for our visitors.



Lane Place Formal Parlor, 2010

Farming: from horses to tractor

by Ann Harvey

Mary Bayless was a member of the Montgomery County Historical Society and she will be missed. I had the opportunity to interview her in 2006 for an article in *The Paper of Montgomery County*. Following are some excerpts from my article that provide an interesting peek into the past.

Bayless worked at Donnelley's for 30 cents an hour in the 1930s. Out of that she paid room and board and saved \$2 every week.

"I was left with \$6 a week to spend but I could buy a wonderful lunch, including a drink, for a quarter. I could top that off with a delicious piece of pie for five cents," Bayless said

"I met Irvin and he was the love of my life. We were married in 1939 and we bought a four-room house in New Market for \$400 near the Christian Church," she said. "In 1941 we decided to go into farming full time. We bought my grandfather's F-20 International tractor for \$300. In 1943 we bought a John Deere. I don't remember how much we paid for that," she said.

She left her Donnelley's job to work full time farming with her husband. She was raised on a farm and knew that farming was hard work, but it is a very positive vocation and she enjoyed it.

"I helped my dad farm with horses and it was a big change in 1941 to farm with a tractor," Bayless said. "In addition to farming, Irvin had his own business driving a stock truck and hauling grain. He got burned severely in 1943 and couldn't drive so I drove the truck to deliver the stock and grain and he rode with me.

"What did I do on the farm? Well, I did everything. I drove the tractor and trucks and that was in the days when women didn't do much driving. We didn't have hired hands. We only hired some boys at hay-baling time to help with the baling. That is one job that two people can't do," Bayless said.

"Irvin never put his equipment away until all of the neighbors' crops were in. In those days nobody locked their doors or vehicles. We left the keys in the truck and if a neighbor needed a truck they could just take it and bring it back when they were through. The neighbors did the same thing for us," Bayless said.

"We were probably ahead of our time because we both worked outside and inside. He helped me clean the house and he never left the kitchen after a meal until all of the dishes were done. He was a wonderful husband," Bayless said. "He was 74 years old when he died in 1983."

"I stayed on the farm for four years after he died and then moved to Crawfordsville. I enjoy life. My mom always said, 'Be friendly and live each day as it comes' and that is what I try to do," Bayless said.

Bayless was 90 years young and extremely active when this article was written. She was a very young-looking 90 and lived alone at the Durham House. She liked to sit on the wide veranda and enjoy the hustle and bustle on Main Street.

"My motto is work hard and don't get mad. Life is too short to be mad," Bayless said. Her favorite quote: "Good works cost nothing and are worth much".

Bayless was born in Waynetown and graduated from Wingate High School. She died November 1, 2009.



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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2009**

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR 2009
IF YOU HAVE ALREADY JOINED FOR 2008, PLEASE PASS THIS ALONG TO A FRIEND

The Montgomery County Historical Society maintains and staffs the Lane Place home and grounds, publishes books on history, records oral history, and is the home of the Strawberry Festival.

Members receive free admission to Lane Place and discounts on programs and publications. We are classified by the Federal Government as a 501(c)3 charitable and educational organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Benefactor	\$100
Patron	\$250

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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I would like information about volunteer opportunities. _____ Yes _____ No

Please fill out this form and mail it in with your payment to:
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