



SUMMER 2009

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EDUCATES, INSPIRES, PRESERVES

New Market – located in three townships

By Elijah Sanders, “Know Indiana Intern”, Wabash College

New Market’s written history begins with local folklore dating back to 1816. At that time the area was inhabited by a tribe of Shawnee Indians. A group of people from Kentucky came up to the area to explore the land for possible settlement. The Shawnee Indians surrounded them and all but one small boy, Sammy Van Cleave, were killed. They showed mercy and admired the young boy because he followed his fathers teachings in showing no fear, even when he was

- faced with certain death.



For three years the Shawnees raised Sammy as one of their own. He accompanied them on hunting trips where he impressed the Native Americans with the large game he was able to kill. He soon gained their full trust. One night, the Native Americans blindfolded Sammy and walked him around in circles for what seemed like miles. Once they reached their destination, they removed the blindfold to reveal a cave full of chests filled with jewels and silver. After some time of chipping silver from the cave they put the blindfold back on Sammy and, once again, walked him around in circles in order to confuse him of their exact whereabouts.

Sammy soon began to take three to four day hunting trips on his own. He took some of the food the Shawnee’s gave him and hid it nearby. When he felt the time was right, he decided to make his return back to Kentucky. He tried his best to cover his tracks, wading the streams and swinging on vines when possible, but eventually a search party from the Shawnee tribe caught up to him. He decided to hide in the trunk of a large hollow log. The Native Americans kept coming closer to where he was hiding and actually sat on the trunk that he was hiding in. After talking at great length, they believed him to be dead and returned home. Sammy, thinking this might be a trick, waited in his hiding place for what felt like several hours. Eating what the forest provided him and what he had stored; Sammy eventually made it back to Kentucky to tell his harrowing tale.

In time, Sammy returned to the New Market area and purchased 40 acres of land where he felt the cave might have been. He earned his living through a saw mill and grist mill he built. He searched for the lost cave and treasure, but was never able to locate it. This story has often

captivated many young boys in the area to go out in search of the cave and lost treasure. The legendary cave is yet to be found.

The pioneers of New Market, mostly farmers and stock raisers, began to settle around the area in the 1820s and 1830s due to its fertility and a small creek. Many of these settlers received government land grants from Presidents Monroe and Jackson. This included the settlement of Rev. Joseph White who carried out the formation of the Methodist Church in the area in 1828; along with Rev. Jonathon VanCleave who settled in the area in the 1826 and became the minister at the Baptist Church from 1846 to 1899.

In 1850 Y.P. Hall or "Uncle Yellie" as they called him, purchased 80 acres of land, built a log house and was determined to clear the land by hand. He was responsible for CR 700S being built, along with playing a key role the construction of the Old Hickory School House.

In 1869 surveyors were beginning to survey the area for the construction of a railroad that would go to Logansport via Crawfordsville to Terre Haute with connections to Evansville. The construction of the rail began in 1870 and was completed in 1872.

The railroad going through town was called the Logansport, Crawfordsville and Southwestern Railway, but due to the sharp curves that were placed throughout the tracks it was also known as the "Long, Crooked, and Short-Winded" railway. These unforgettable curves also coined another nickname for the tracks, "The Pumpkin-Vine Railroad." Eventually, though, the tracks would be straightened.

The first rail road through New Market traveled from Frankfort to Terre Haute. The passengers on the train rode in cattle cars that were cleaned and covered in cheap muslin. Only one of the carts had a top, while the others were covered by tree branches. The train arrived in Crawfordsville when it was supposed to be at its final destination in Terre Haute. On the return trip, a downpour of rain hit the area, lengthening the trip even further so that the train arrived back in Frankfort at five in the morning. All the problems along the railroad were worked out and it was later sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad and abandoned in the 1970s.

The creation of the railroad brought many residents to the area. New Market was officially platted on July 1, 1872 by Joseph White Sr., William K. White, Carson Wray Sr., and Joseph M. Kelsey. The town was part of Union, Brown, and Scotts townships. The post office was established in December of 1872.

New Market had multiple potential names. Carson Wray had a large family and told his children he would give them a plot of land if they built a house on it. Eventually there were so many Wray's in the town that many thought about calling it "Wrayville." Another possible name came from the hundred Irishmen who helped to construct the railroad. During the construction, the greatest need for these workers was food. A family who lived in the Leroy Carr house sold the campers buttermilk and other provisions. The rail workers enjoyed the buttermilk so much, they thought of calling it "Buttermilk Town." Instead, due to the trip that was saved to the nearest town for food and provisions by these workers, the area was called New Market, as it was a new market for these men.

The Crawfordsville District Public Library states that two articles were written about the picture on the right. They are: "Students in 1890s - The entire New Market Grade School - three rooms - pose for a school photo in the 1890s. Teachers were Ephraim E. Vanscoyoc, Miss Harding, and Miss Kennedy. Photo courtesy of Paul Johnson." The other article is: "First School - New Market's first school built in 1873, with donated timber and labor. It began with one room but had expanded to three rooms before it was replaced in 1898. Photo courtesy of



"Students in 1890s – Photo courtesy of CDPL

Ruth Blakeslee." There are three copies of this photograph in the CDPL collection. The image shown is the better quality photo.

A set of by-laws and ordinances were ordained to govern the town on July 11, 1892. The original roads in town were established as Main, Pine, Locust, Vine, and Linn, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Street. With the town only having 660 citizens, the law stated that every male resident between the ages of 21 and 50 were required to work on the streets and alleys of the town two days a year in the months of May and June.

Many businesses began to enter the town once the railroad was finished. The first doctor to have an address in New Market was Dr. Benjamin F. Hutchings in 1872. He continued his practice until 1881. A Sawmill was built in the town by Mr. Klein. Mr. VanCleave operated a pump factory and Planing Mill. Jap Rush operated a buggy and wagon maker shop from 1872-1905. A blacksmith shop was opened by Jimmy Foster and the first general store was opened by Samuel Wray on 4th street near the post office. Unfortunately, the store would later burn down.

In 1882, W.R. Childers started a tile factory. The clay from the tile came from the lot behind the factory and was fired in kilns. It eventually had to shut down in 1918 due to a lack of raw materials and demand for local products.

Joe White originally forbade the sale of zealous spirits in New Market. For a few years there was no tavern in the town, but in time one would open up on 4th street. The local mothers asked the saloon keeper to close the tavern or they would burn it down. The threat caused the keeper no strain as he passed them off as being "old busy bodies." The saloon later burned due to "spontaneous combustion." Another tavern would open up and receive a similar fate. Since then, no liquor store has opened in New Market.

Many of the town's citizens served in the various American Wars. During the Civil War Harrison Doyle participated in the "March through Georgia" wearing gunny sacks for shoes. 17 residents served in WWI, while many served in World War II. LeRoy White was at Pearl Harbor



The Sunken battleship USS California after being hit by the Japanese during their sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941

on the Battleship California. He received orders to abandon ship and had to swim ashore. He was thought to have been killed in action, but weeks after the attack his family received a censored letter from him stating that he was alive. During the war, the schoolhouse was used for residents to apply for ration books. A few residents also served in the Korean and Vietnam War.

From harrowing tales of encounter with Shawnee Indians to settlement and stories of American War heroes, the small town of New Market has a history that we can all enjoy. The 659 residents of this town share a history that is similar to many other towns throughout the Midwest; their main connection being their goal of striving to obtain the simple life that we all enjoy.

Excerpts from New Market's A Century of Progress, published in 1972

Shaun Lighty joins elite group of researchers

Research Associate Shaun Chandler Lighty recently joined five previous recipients in the “Lincoln Corps of Discovery” that is part of the “Papers of Abraham Lincoln” project. To gain membership in this elite group of researchers, a staff member must discover a previously unpublished document written by Lincoln that is unknown to the repository in which it is housed.



Shaun discovered two notes written by Lincoln in the records of the Treasury Department at Archives II in College Park, MD.

Shaun moved to Washington D.C. to research papers in the National Archives for the “Papers of Abraham Lincoln” project in 2008. Prior to his current position Shaun served as assistant director at the Montgomery County Historical Society and as a History Education Specialist at the Indiana Historical Bureau in Indianapolis.

At MCHS Shaun researched Henry S. Lane’s congressional record and created a database of the vast book collection, including inscriptions and condition reports. Extensive work with the collection of photo albums and *cartes de visites* was a great help in the documentation of artifacts at Lane Place.

Shaun assisted in the historic marker program at the IHB. His first assignment was researching the Carnegie Museum’s application for an historical marker.

Montgomery County was pleased to have him attend the dedication of the marker and recount his memories of the library.

Upcoming Events

**American Association for State and
Local History Annual Conference**

Day Trip
August 26

Annual Meeting & Dinner
October 28

1865 Grand Ball
Masonic Temple
Saturday, November 14

Closed:

Labor Day – September 7
Thanksgiving Day – November 26
Closed for Season – December 15

Montgomery County Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors

Kurt Homann, President
Mike Barton, Vice President
Don Sperry, Treasurer
Janice Clauser, Secretary

Don Avery	Dian Moore
Doug Dawson	Ernie Patrick
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Richard Merriman	

Staff:

Tamara Hemmerlein, Executive Director
Ann Harvey, Assistant Director
Alison Wright, Curator/Collections Manager

First half of 2009 sees record number of visitors

A total of 323 visitors toured Lane Place during the week of the Strawberry Festival. The number of visitors for the first six months of 2009 is 1,142, setting a record for the first half of any year.

Visitor demographics for 2009

Montgomery County.....	715	Maine	2
Indiana.....	298	Michigan	6
Alabama	1	Minnesota.....	8
Arizona.....	5	Missouri	2
California	3	Ohio.....	7
Colorado.....	3	South Carolina	1
Connecticut	1	Tennessee.....	2
Florida.....	6	Texas.....	1
Georgia.....	7	Utah.....	2
Iowa.....	15	Wisconsin.....	10
Illinois	31		
Kansas	2	<u>Other Countries</u>	
Kentucky	3	Canada.....	3
Louisiana.....	1	China	1
Maryland.....	4	United Kingdom.....	2

Thanks to Strawberry Festival volunteers

A special thanks to the volunteers who shared information with visitors about the house during the Strawberry Festival.

Don Avery	Mary Lou Dawald	Ruth Johnson	La' Shar Sharp
Jan Avery	Becky Degitz	Ivan Lancaster	Praise Sharp
Don Bickel	Bill Degitz	Irmi McKinney	Bob Smith
Delmas Chadwick	John Hardwick	Richard Merriman	Chuck Sommer
Jean Chadwick	Mary Hardwick	Dian Moore	Don Sperry
Janice Clauser	Carol Homann	Ernie Patrick	Dottie Sperry
Doug Dawson	Kurt Homann	Sharon Sharp	Joann Spragg

Winners of the 2009 essay contest

"Abraham Lincoln: The Indiana Years" was the topic for the Montgomery County Historical Society's Jane Kessler Memorial Fourth Grade Essay 2009 Contest and many good and thoughtful essays were received by the reading committee. Congratulations to the winners!

The students awarded \$100 savings bonds were:

Katharyn Sabens — Sugar Creek Elementary — teacher, Mrs. Gephart
 Scout Groves — Sugar Creek Elementary — teacher, Mrs. Gephart
 Benjamin Mikek — Hoover Elementary — teacher, Mrs. Kirtley

The students awarded \$50 savings bonds were:

Christopher Baer — Hoover Elementary — teacher, Mrs. Kirtley
 Braden Acton — New Market Elementary — teacher, Mrs. France
 Andrew Webb — Ladoga — teacher, Mrs. Mingus

Fundraising

The response to the 2009 Annual Summer Fundraising Campaign has been great. The MCHS received funds in July (at time of publication) from:

Charles & Isobel Arvin
Don and Jan Avery
Don & Elizabeth Backe
Towne Bannon
Mike and Brenda Barton
Patrick R. & Joyce L. Burnette
Dr. Frederick A. Cantrell
Janice Clauser
Robert and Angela Cooley
Mary Emily Davisson
Robert Foote and Cheryl Hughes
David & Sheridan Hadley
Tobey & Peggy Herzog
Bernard and Cristina Manker Jr.
Laura Jane Manson
Dale & Clara Lou Milligan
Irmi McKinney
Ernie Patrick

Robert and Gail Pebworth
David and Prudence Phillips
Joe Pointer
Roxie Remley
Gerald Risk
John and Georgia Siamas
Chuck & Eatha Sommer
Jon and Patricia Sommer
Don and Dottie Sperry
Joann Spragg
Olive Steele
Robert & Carol Titus
Peter and Bronna Utterback
Dr. Vic and Margaret Viray
Dick and Jeanne Ward
Robert Whalen
Virginia Wilcox
Barbara Wilson

What's happening at Lane Place

by **Tamara Hemmerlein, Executive Director**

I would like to add my personal thanks to everyone who contributed to the Montgomery County Historical Society this year. Your support helps us to continue to preserve and maintain Lane Place, the Speed Cabin, and the Pattison Pavilion, to welcome visitors to the museum, and to offer history programs for the local community.

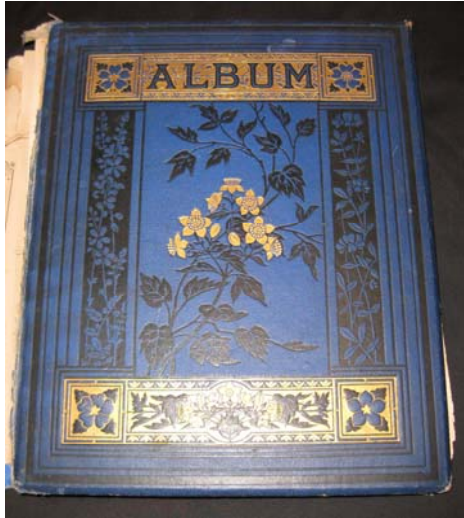
A special thanks to Wabash College interns, Elijah Sanders and Thomas Warn, who have been great additions to the MCHS museum staff this spring and summer. They have given tours, helped design programs, answered research requests, and worked with collections – taking on any task willingly and with great professionalism.

The Historical Society will host visitors from the American Association for State and Local History Annual Conference in Indianapolis this August. The day trip includes four Crawfordsville museums that will highlight our successful community collaborations and the wealth of history and culture that Montgomery County has to offer.

We are excited about our fall programming with the annual dinner and meeting on October 28 and the 1865 Grand Ball on November 14. The staff and committee volunteers have been hard at work brainstorming and planning. The fall events are sure to be fun, informative and exciting for everyone. Mark your calendars - we look forward to seeing you there!

CURATOR'S CORNER

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 features Joanna Lane's scrap album that found its way back to Lane Place.**



Joanna Lane's album was inadvertently packed up with the personal belongings of one of the former caretakers of Lane Place and was not touched for many years. Once discovered, the book was immediately sent back to its home at Lane Place and is displayed on the desk in the second floor foyer.

The album contains newspaper clippings, mostly related to Henry Lane—his appearances, speeches, and obituaries—however there is one in particular written in 1912 about Joanna which stated that she acted as Henry's secretary during his U.S. Senate years. Additionally,

"She is remembered as a brilliant conversationalist, a woman of marked individuality and great intellectual force, and held an eminent position in Washington society by merit of her kind and gracious manners as well as through her intellectual ability."



A sweet article, twice pasted into the album, was written about the death of "Kitty Clover" the beloved pony of the late Henry Lane. Kitty died at age 36, and was buried on Christmas Day under the beech trees.

Tucked in the front pages of the book are notes written in Joanna's hand in 1909 of some recollections. It is possible that she was writing her memoirs or at least wanted to capture some of her memories. One excerpt reads as follows:

After the battle of Shiloh April 6-7, 1862 the report came to Washington that Lew Wallace was killed in that terrible slaughter. Mr. Lane hearing it went up to enquire of Sec Stanton if true - he found President Lincoln there at War Office on the same errand. Later they learned it was Wallace from Illinois who has been killed. Mr. Lane said he was thankful it was not our Wallace; But replied Mr. Lincoln, "it is somebody's Wallace," He sympathized with all who mourned the death of this true patriot in that fearful battle - As you have heard many times his distinguishing characteristics was gentleness and humility.

Strawberry Festival a huge success



The children's area was a big hit!



Briana Howard of Darlington decked out in strawberries



2009 Strawberry Festival – June 12-14
The Lane Place grounds held the largest crowd in the history of the festival. The weather was beautiful with only a sprinkling of rain falling throughout the three-day festival. Thousands of people came to hear the concerts and taste the great food and evening crowds overflowed into the streets to hear the music. The ticket sales were the highest ever and the crowd was estimated at 18,000 or more.

ArchiCamp 2009



Students with Elijah Sanders, Wabash College intern, on downtown tour



Students in above photos on the courthouse square and at the Ben Hur building learning about texture rubbing.

2009 ArchiCamp - July 15-16

Lane Place hosted another successful ArchiCamp with campers learning about Crawfordsville's local history and architecture. There were nine energetic campers in attendance. Day one began with arts and crafts. A scavenger hunt followed with a foray around the Lane Place grounds. After lunch, a class teaching 19th and 20th century architecture was followed by a tour of Elston Grove. The campers were asked to identify the styles of various homes in the Grove.

On day two they studied the Underground Railroad in Montgomery Country. After exploring the Speed Cabin, where the Speed family hid slaves, the campers went on a tour of downtown Crawfordsville that featured texture rubbings on various buildings and statues. The camp wrapped-up with the campers designing their own buildings out of cardboard boxes and tape on the rear balcony of Lane Place.

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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: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ ZIP: _____ E-mail _____

I would like information about volunteer opportunities. _____ Yes _____ No

Please fill out this form and mail it in with your payment to:
Montgomery County Historical Society, P.O. Box 127, Crawfordsville, IN 47933