



WINTER 2009

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EDUCATES, INSPIRES, PRESERVES

Roof repair continues restoration

The fall edition of the Montgomery County Historical Society newsletter reported on the extensive damage at Lane Place that requires restoration. The roof repair was scheduled on the agenda and began on a sunny, but cold, day in late November. Board member Doug Dawson was on site to observe the progress of the repair.

The roof had to be stripped down to the bottom layer to determine if there was any damage to the sub roof. Thankfully the sub roof was fine and the crew from Hinshaw Roofing was able to install the new EPDM roof, copper fascia and tie-ins.



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Staff:

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

The chimney has been repaired and the downspouts have been replaced. The next step is opening the walls up in the Turnipseed room. After the walls are opened up they will be left open for a few months to let them completely dry out and determine if there is any more leakage. As shown in the last newsletter, there is extensive damage to the walls in that room.

The Society continues to seek funds for the remainder of the restoration. The Board of Directors and staff have worked diligently with preservationists to assure that the repair and restoration work is done professionally and appropriately.

Wedding Vow Renewal successful

By Ann Harvey

A crowd of 140 people spent Valentine's Day afternoon at the First United Methodist Church for a close-up look at re-enactors in Civil War costumes. The occasion was in honor of Senator Henry Lane and his wife, Joanna. The MCHS presented a portrayal of a renewal of the Lane's wedding vows. There were men in uniforms and frock coats and ladies in beautiful 1860s dresses for guests to admire.

The afternoon began with a procession of guests introduced by Benjamin Ristine, a son of one of Crawfordsville's founders and played by Kurt Homann. The procession included notable people of 1865 including Governor Oliver P. and Lucinda Morton; General Lew and Susan Wallace; Mayor Wilson H. Laymon, who was mayor in 1865; Dr. Thomas and Maria Fry, the 11th Indiana surgeon; Pastor Lucias Nedeker,



L to R: Henry and Joanna Lane (Kathy & Roger Ricketts) and Susan and Lew Wallace (Perry and Leann Ruch)

pastor of the Church in 1865. Friends and family followed in the procession.

Pastor Lucias Nedeker was portrayed by Michael Swift and he performed the vow renewal using *The Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, the same 1844 edition that was used when Henry and Joanna were married on February 11, 1845.

The MCHS is grateful to all of the re-enactors who made this event possible by their wonderful portrayal of the 'honored guests'. Rusty Adams, president of the 33rd Virginia Infantry re-enactors, was especially helpful in recruiting members to portray guests. Shela Simpson served as a catalyst in making this event possible. She and Michael, her husband, were active in re-enacting in Georgia. They moved to Montgomery County over a year ago and continue their involvement in re-enacting.

A DVD of the Valentine's Day Vow Renewal filmed by Dr. John Zimmerman will soon be available at Lane Place. Call (765) 362-3416 to order. \$7 picked up or \$10 mailed.

Upcoming Events

Strawberry Festival
June 12, 13, 14

Archicamp 2008
June 24-25

Civic Band
Pattison Pavilion - Lane Place
June 7 and 21
July 5 and 19 and August 2
All performances at 3 p.m.
FREE admission

1865 Ball
Masonic Temple
Saturday, November 14

Closed:
Easter Sunday - April 12
Memorial Day - May 25
Independence Day - July 4
Labor Day - September 7
Thanksgiving Day - November 26
Closed for Season - December 15

A special thanks for contributions to MCHS

The MCHS recently received a significant contribution from the Central Indiana Community Foundation Anonymous Donor Fund. The donation will allow the Society to focus on the fundraising effort for the restoration and repair that is necessary to maintain Lane Place.

Other donors who contributed this year are:

Mike Barton

Pat and Bill Broshears

Janice Clauser

Forrest Crawford

Bill and Becky Degitz

Marcheta and Bob Dixon

Ruby and Earl Elliott

Marlene Elmore

John and Pat Hardwick

Kurt and Carol Homann

Shannon Hudson

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Bill and Martha Lewellen

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Jerry and Cindy Smith

Robert Smith

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Chuck and Eatha Sommer

Don and Dottie Sperry

Kathryn Turner

Peter and Bronna Utterback

Virginia Wilcox

In memory of Martha Cantrell

Janice Clauser

Bill and Becky Degitz

Eleanor Herr

Bill and Martha Lewellen

Keith and Marian Lindow

Irmi McKinney

Mrs. Fritz O. Meyer

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Sue Rickett

Donald and Gwendolyn Shoemaker

Chuck and Eatha Sommer

Turchi Family

Pamela Utterback

John and Elizabeth Young

John and Margaret Zimmerman

Thomas Warn creates great interactive teaching tool

Tamara Hemmerlein, Executive Director, set a daunting task for Thomas to create a teaching tool that was informative and allowed students to participate. Thomas is a Wabash College student who served as an intern in the summer of 2008 and returned to help this winter. Thomas tried several ideas but none of them seemed to be right so he scrapped them.

The MCHS was asked to make a presentation to 16 fourth and fifth grade classes at Hoover Elementary School in February. That request sent Thomas scurrying "back to the drawing board" to get something ready. Tamara told him it should include facts about Henry S. Lane, Abraham Lincoln and Lane Place.

Thomas created a slide show that included a "Jeopardy Game" and had all of the students raising their hands and participating and impressed the teachers. We had a full day at Hoover with Tamara giving eight presentations and Thomas and Ann Harvey giving four presentations each.

Kudos to Thomas for his creativity!

Adopt a spot for landscaping

Would you like to see the Lane Place sign at the corner of Wabash and Water streets stand out with beautiful plants and foliage? We are looking for volunteers to donate funds for the beautification of that area and other areas on the grounds. If you would like to volunteer to pick up sticks that fall from the trees, weeding, or any yard work, please call 362-3416.

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 Susan Elston's wedding fan.



Susan Elston and Lewis Wallace were married on Thursday, May 6, 1852. Susan carried this white silk fan with pink and green painted flowers on her wedding day. The skeleton of the fan is white bone with carved flowers and pierced designs.

Most weddings in the Victorian era in the United States occurred on Sundays or weekdays, not on Saturdays, as is the custom today. Saturdays were deemed unlucky!

Come see the exhibit “**To Have and To Hold...**” **Wedding Ceremonies in Victorian America**” at Lane Place to learn more about wedding customs and see the beautiful wedding gowns.

2008 Tour attendance edges above 2007

Attendance for Lane Place tours in 2008 was 1,656, compared to 1,596 in 2007 with those attending from Montgomery County, 795; Indiana - outside Montgomery County, 594

Alaska.....	3	Minnesota	2	Rhode Island	1
Arizona	2	Missouri	9	South Carolina	3
California.....	7	North Carolina	3	South Dakota	1
Colorado	6	Nebraska	2	Tennessee.....	4
Florida	22	New Jersey.....	2	Texas.....	5
Georgia	4	Nevada.....	8	Utah.....	1
Iowa	2	New York	2	Vermont	3
Illinois.....	92	Ohio	17	Wisconsin	5
Kentucky	10	Oklahoma	3	West Virginia.....	3
Maryland	2	Oregon	3	Total Other States..	252
Michigan.....	20	Pennsylvania.....	5		

Visitors from foreign countries included: Canada, 3; India, 5; Japan, 1; Israel, 2; Mexico, 3; and the United Kingdom, 1. Attendance other than tours included: estimated Strawberry Festival attendance, 15,000; estimated Civic Band Concert attendance, 1,000; weddings at the Pattison Pavilion, 1,200; First Methodist Preschool, 75; Willson Kindergarten lunch, 30; PRIDE Corn Hole Tournament, 50; and ArchiCamp, 7. A total of **19,018** toured or used the grounds of Lane Place in 2008.

The MCHS notes the passing of a member whose second home was Lane Place. Whether setting up five Sunday county bus tours, searching the countryside for rare facts, or giving tours in costume, she was always treading new ground. Following are memories by our first Executive Director and Curator who sent this tribute from his home in Florida.

Martha Cantrell's greatest gift

by Michael Hall

“Martha Cantrell is fondly remembered by many. I certainly can speak to many great recollections. She, in fact, was responsible for bringing me to Crawfordsville and nurturing my growing fascination with the field of museum science. Thanks to her, I stayed in Indiana for almost fifteen years. She gave me, my family, and the whole community a great gift.

“Martha endowed the same legacy to Lane Place. For over seven decades the *Montgomery County Historical Society* had proved a faithful custodian to the antebellum mansion. However, it was Martha Cantrell who introduced professional museum standards to the running of Lane Place as a historic house museum. She encouraged the same professionalism in the Historical Society's programs as well. She brought the MCHS into the community of Indiana museums. She set a high standard. In doing so, Martha always strove to see that the MCHS managed Lane Place and its programs in partnership, when possible, with the State Historical Society. Modeling state museum practices, Martha also oversaw the development and training of volunteers to accommodate many local school groups that opened up the museum to a whole new generation.

“During Martha's long tenure as a volunteer, board member, and finally President of the MCHS, she helped with initiatives. Most significant of these involved a restoration of the mansion. Funds were always a commodity in short supply, but with the endowment by Max Tannenbaum a sincere restoration of the Lane Place began. Martha and a host of volunteers had already made some significant strides forward in stabilizing and reconditioning parts of the grand old Lane mansion. But with the help of the Tannenbaum money, more substantial structural repairs could be completed as well as a phased restoration. There were many people involved in that restoration. Most were volunteers like Martha, who was a guiding force through it all. She proved a constant and always kept everyone's spirits high and focused on a goal. She not only emphasized historically appropriate work on Lane Place and its grounds, but she conducted much of the painstaking research herself that was required before a detailed restoration plan could be followed.

“Some of that research came from the work on a very popular book authored by her called the *Quilt Chronicles*. That book remains an inspiration to future generations on the special place in time that was once Elston Grove. Martha also supported the good work of many other volunteers in a huge do-it-yourself production.

“I cannot remember Martha without being reminded of her husband Dr. Fred Cantrell. He was a leader in the community as well as a constant supporter of Martha's work at the MCHS. I
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will never forget that whenever I needed any kind of help at all, Dr. Cantrell was always available - as was Martha. Many times the Cantrells loaned tools or used their vehicles as well as their own home to assist me and others in our work for the Society.

“While Martha Cantrell is probably most remembered for her work on the restoration of the Lane Place, my most vivid memories of her were of her continual preoccupation with history. She loved studying and researching history. Yet, the Elston, Lane and Wallace family histories were not her only preoccupation. She made a very valuable contribution to documenting black history. She valued diversity in a community long before it became such a central part of our 21st century daily life. In coordination and partnership with the congregation of Bethel A.M.E. Church, she uncovered the long lost history of African Americans in Montgomery County which had been an overlooked and underappreciated chapter of the community’s rich heritage.

“Heritage, in fact, is the one word I am reminded of the most when remembering Martha Cantrell. She valued the heritage of Indiana and America. In doing so she gave everyone around her a great gift. It was the gift of learning. There is none greater and her gift was not only generously provided to the handful of us who worked with her but the entire community. She brought heritage to life for us all not just by writing about it or restoring old things. Martha made people appreciate their heritage by showing them that it was a part of them. She often focused on reenactments and used Lane Place as a living example of what it was like to live and work during the formative years of our country over 150 years ago. She loved to see it filled with people, many in historic costume acting in period displays which brought the house alive. In doing so she attracted many young people to the Historical Society and its projects. And to this day those people and many others live a much richer life, as I do, because of Martha Cantrell and her greatest gift.”

Tribute to two loyal MCHS members

Sherman Kessler

MCHS recently lost a supportive member and friend - Sherman Kessler. The New Ross area agricultural economist loyally attended our events and supported the Society along with his wife, Jane. She was an indefatigable board member and he enjoyed acknowledging the annual winners of our Jane Kessler 4th Grade Writing Contests for all county students. Sherman was a retired Trustee of Purdue University and shared his ideas with MCHS and embraced its mission. We will miss his humor and enthusiasm.

Joseph Timmons – fair to middlin’

Joseph E. Timmons was a past member of the Montgomery County Historical Society board of directors and was very active in the community. He was born north of Darlington near Turnipseed Corner and proud of the history of that area. He supported the Boy Scouts of America and was a Scoutmaster for 30 years. He was active in the Crawfordsville Kiwanis Club, Montgomery Lodge #50 F&AM, the Scottish Rite of Indianapolis and the “Do Nothing Lunch Bunch” and other organizations. He was C.E.O. at Union Federal Savings & Loan.

Kat Burkhart remembers his great personality and sense of humor. “If you asked him - how you doing today Joe, he would always reply “oh, fair to middlin”. That was one of the things people remember about him. He was really a great guy!” Kat said.

New Board Members

Doug Dawson

Doug joined the Board in 2008 and brought his knowledge of restoring old buildings to Lane Place. He is the proprietor of Thelma's Bed & Breakfast. The B&B is the result of five years that he spent restoring the 1873 Italianate house that belonged to his grandmother. Doug loves old architecture and is saddened by the many homes and buildings in the County that are falling down from disrepair. He lived in Montgomery County most of his life but spent 15 years in California. Kurt Homann invited him to join the Board and his expertise of restoration is a valuable asset to the MCHS. Doug has studied Yoga for 19 years and is a Yoga practitioner.

Dick Howell

Dick's love of history is rooted in his love of trains. He served on the Indiana Transportation Museum Board for many years as chairman and managed the museum for a few years. He loved trains as a young child and said he hung around the rail yards and watched trains and talked to the men who switched the rails as the trains came through. There were three different trains that ran through Crawfordsville then so there were always a lot of trains to watch. He retired from Indiana Printing Company and has lived in Montgomery County all of his life. He brings a lot of knowledge about the County to the MCHS.

Joann Spragg

"I have been interested in history all of my life. It was my favorite subject throughout my school years," Joann said. "When I was 16 or 17 years old, we were asked to write an autobiography using genealogy. I began asking questions and have never stopped."

She has lived in Montgomery County since 1946 when her parents bought Branson's Grocery in Alamo. The store was located right in the middle of Alamo and her father operated it until the late 1960s. Joann worked part-time at the Alamo Post Office before she joined the staff at the General Lew Wallace Study where she served as Museum Coordinator for almost 16 years. She became an avid researcher of Lew Wallace history and continues to study his life. She served on the Study board of directors and is the Montgomery County Historian for the second time. She wrote articles about Montgomery County history for the Journal Review and Montgomery County Magazine for many years. She is looking forward to serving on the MCHS board.



**Random
Pictures
Vow Renewal**



A gift for two museums

By Ann Harvey

A monumental and long-awaited task of moving three artifacts from Lane Place to the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County (CMMC) was recently accomplished. Elders Winburn and



Nisson, two missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS), have volunteered their time for several projects at the Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS) and the CMMC. They moved a Santa Claus to the CMMC in December for display and learned about a sleigh and large safe that needed to be moved.

They spoke with Stanley Himes and Bill Baldwin, two LDS members, who visited Lane Place to assess the situation. The sleigh had to be moved to the rear balcony and lifted over a railing and then lowered to the ground because it was too large to take through the house. B&L Engineering donated the use of a flat-bed truck and a heavy-duty fork lift and Himes operated the equipment while Winburn, Nisson and Baldwin moved the sleigh into position to be lowered to the ground. It was then taken to the CMMC where it can be viewed by visitors.

Baldwin brought a moving dolly the following week and helped the missionaries take the heavy safe down the back stairs and deliver it to the CMMC.

“The staff and Board of Directors of the MCHS are very appreciative of the help from missionaries and members of the LDS church and to B&L Engineering for the loan of their equipment. I know that visitors to the Carnegie Museum will enjoy the artifacts that we were unable to display at Lane Place because of limited space,” Tamara Hemmerlein, Executive Director, MCHS, said. “It was a great and unexpected Christmas gift.”

“We were very excited when we learned that help was on its way to get the sleigh and safe moved as a volunteer effort by the group from the LDS church. Our funds are very limited and we have had to delay the move because of lack of funds,” Alison Wright, Curator-Collections Manager, MCHS, said.

“I wanted the sleigh and Santa Claus before Christmas for our display and was thrilled to get it delivered for the holidays. The safe is a very important part of Montgomery County history and we are grateful to the MCHS for loaning it to us,” Kat Burkhart, Curator, CMMC, said. “The gift of the Santa Claus and the sleigh are very much appreciated because the items are a valuable historical contribution.”

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The horse-drawn sleigh dates from the mid to late 19th century and was used on a farm in New Richmond. An interesting story accompanies the sleigh robe that was given to the Carnegie Museum along with the sleigh. Marian Lindow, a member of the MCHS, donated the sleigh robe to the Society. Marian's parents, John and Ora Behrends Glick, were married in 1917 and Ora's parents gave John a cow as part of her dowry. The cow only lived six months after the marriage. Ora's parents felt bad because the cow died so they took the hide and had it tanned and made into a beautiful sleigh robe for the couple. The robe was passed down to Marian and she treasured it so much that she decided to share the story and the robe with others.



The safe is a green-painted steel document safe that was made by Globe and has two doors and a combination lock. The interior has several drawers of varying sizes, including three file drawers. The safe originated at the Elston Bank and was later moved to the Elston Homestead where it contained Elston and Lane family documents. In 1962, Blair Taylor and Isaac C. Elston III had the safe relocated to Lane Place. The safe is on loan to the museum because of its historic value to the County.

Hardware Store here in Crawfordsville beginning in the 1940s. An electrical mechanism inside Santa powered the arm with the pointing finger to move.

The automated Santa Claus was used as a Christmas window display at the Galey

Flat Stanley adds whimsical touch in December

Flat Stanley visited Lane Place in December adding a whimsical touch to the Christmas season. Flat Stanley is an international literacy and communications activity for primary and junior students, teachers, and families.

In 1995, Dale Hubert, a Grade 3 teacher in London, Ontario, Canada, began the Flat Stanley Project. He invited other teachers to take part by hosting flat visitors and to encourage their students to write their own Flat Stanley journals.



Students make paper Flat Stanleys and keep a journal with him for a few days. Then Flat Stanley and the journal are sent to another school where students treat Flat Stanley as a guest and complete the journal. Flat Stanley and the journal are then returned to the original sender. Students can plot his travels on maps and share the contents of the journal. Especially creative hosts send the Flat Stanleys back with pictures, souvenirs, stories and reminders of the visit. Flat Stanley is the title character of a 1964 children's book by Jeff Brown.

Montgomery County Historical Society

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EDUCATES, INSPIRES, PRESERVES

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2009**

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR 2008
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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