

Newsletter Title

Haynes - Cooper- and Newcomer

by John Morr, county historian

Editor's note: As our community celebrates the 4th of July, we are reminded of Elwood Haynes and his contribution to the automotive industry and its impact upon our heritage. When the HCHS receives questions related to the Haynes family, we never know where it will lead and if we will learn something new about this notable family.

History questions cause us to search and strive to understand our past.

While serving as the county historian, I realized very quickly that I will never know it all, but I am committed to learning and sharing my community's historical legacy.

Recently I received a request from a woman in Georgia regarding the family names of Haynes, Cooper, and Newcomer that reportedly lived in the Kokomo area in the 1800s and early 1900s. The woman had obtained an old trunk that was shipped to Georgia in approximately 1920 from Kokomo, Indiana.

A 1920 *Kokomo* newspaper was found in the trunk. The trunk contained numerous articles of clothing, most of which had notes attached referring to who owned



Elwood Haynes test drove his "Pioneer" automobile on Pumpkinvine Pike on July 4, 1894.

and wore the clothes and even some interesting information about some of the folks. She included in her query a summary of the notes and what they contained. The surnames include Haynes, Platt, Newcomer, Cooper, Hart, Harmon, and even a Great-Grandma Brown.

My first thought was, "Wow! Maybe some of these Haynes folks are relatives or family members of the Elwood Haynes family."

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Mason Motors	3
Movable Feast	4
HCHS Members	5
Hall of Legends	6

Howard County Hall of Legends

Friday, July 8, 2011

Come and hear the story of Margaret Hillis, founder of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and one of this year's legends.



Photograph from the Rosenthal Archive of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

Continued: Haynes - Cooper- and Newcomer

My initial investigation yielded no connection to Elwood. There is a slight chance that they may share a GGGGGGG-grandfather from England in the 1500s by the name of Walter Haynes, but I'm not putting much faith in that one. I did discover, however, that they could be related to a Civil War colonel from Ohio.

William E. (Elisha) Haynes was born October 29, 1829, in Hoosick Falls, New York, to John P. and Mary Ann Haynes. William and his family moved to Lower Sandusky (now Fremont), Ohio, in 1840 where he served in the printing business until joining the mercantile firm of John P. Haynes & Son in 1850.

William married Mary H. Harmon, of Fremont, in February 1855; the couple had three children: Julia, William, and George. When the Civil War began, William enlisted in the 8th Regiment of the Ohio Infantry, commissioned as a captain. The captain served in the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the Cumberland, ultimately earning the honored rank of lieutenant colonel.

When the war was over, Lt. Colonel Haynes served in the Ohio state government for awhile and then returned to the mercantile business. By the 1870s, he was involved in the banking industry and became vice president and manager of the Fremont Savings Bank in 1888.

Haynes became deeply involved in politics, ran for, and was eventually elected to the United States Congress. He served in the Fifty-first and Fifty-second congresses, but declined to run for a third term, returning, instead, to the banking business in Fremont. The colonel, sought service through community organizations such as the Binchard Public Library, State Institute for Feeble Minded Youth, and Loyal Legion. He resided in Fremont until his death in 1914.

So....the names connected to the notes in the trunk? Well, it seems that they are indeed relatives of our Civil War officer! Perhaps some of these names will ring a bell in your own family belfry: *Julia Haynes Platt* (aunt of Col. William Haynes), *Ruth (Haynes) Cooper*, *Grace Newcomer Haynes*, *G. E. Cooper* (Gayl E. Cooper, a farmer turned traveling sales agent), *Barbara Cooper*, *Andrew Hart*, *Maria Harmon Haynes*, and *Richard Haynes Cooper*.

In my last communication with our trunk owner, we found that the Haynes family trunk was owned by Ruth (Haynes) Cooper, the colonel's granddaughter, who lived in Kokomo, Indiana. The trunk was taken to Georgia by Ruth's granddaughter sometime after 1920. There were even items in the trunk that belonged to the colonel's mother-in-law, Priscilla Merrick, who was born in 1804.

The trunk's owner has since discovered that there is a small museum in Fremont, Ohio, that is actually located in the Haynes family home built in 1867. The museum has only been open for a couple of years. She contacted the museum; they are very excited about the trunk and its contents and, she has decided that perhaps the trunk and its contents may just find their way to ol' Lower Sandusky, Ohio, and a new home – back home!

Archivist's note: The HCHS does not have any information about or photographs of the original owner of the trunk, Ruth (Haynes) Cooper.

Please call Bonnie Van Kley at 452-4314, if you have additional information or photograph to share related to this story.

Mason Motors

The following information was gathered from Kokomo city directories provided by the HCHS, and the research was conducted at our very own local history archives on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, by Mr. Henry E. Weller, who then sent the HCHS a written report on his findings.

Do you remember Mason Motors? Mason Motors began operations in Kokomo, Indiana in 1940. The automobile dealer handled Ford, Lincoln, Lincoln Zephyr, and late 1939 Mercury brand automobiles.

The company's founder, J. Ralph Mason, served as the company secretary-treasurer and also as the company's president, according to the city directory listings over a 25-year period of time.

J. Ralph Mason was also listed as a sales manager for the Pennell Automobile Company in 1938, just two years before he founded Mason Motors. In addition prior to 1938, Pennell Automobile Company was listed in the city directories as a Ford Motor Company agency.

In 1938 something changed, the city directory lists both Pennell Automobile Company (with no automobile brand association) and a Ford agency with no dealership name attached.

The next year, 1939, the Ford agency is listed again with no associated dealership name. The following year, the 1940 city directory lists Mason Motors. It appears that the Pennell Automobile Company lost their Ford franchise sometime in 1937 or '38, continued as an auto repair and used car business in 1939, and went out of business prior to 1940.



Welcome Wagon hostess Norma (Mrs. Robert) Cutler, on the right, and hostess-to-be Lillian (Mrs. William) Cheek are standing beside a 1949 Ford, 4-door sedan, from Ralph Mason Motors, bearing the sign, "The Welcome Wagon - Courtesy Mason Motors, Inc."

Mason Motors appears in the city directory in 1940 at 219-223 East Sycamore Street, at the same location as its predecessor.

The 1965 city directory lists Mason Motors at the East Sycamore address, which was on the southwest corner of Sycamore and Market streets,

plus a used car operation at 226 South Washington Street.

The 1966 city directory carries a listing for Mason Auto used car operation at 226 South Washington Street but deletes the new car location at the corner of Sycamore and Market streets. The 1967 city directory shows no listing of any kind for Mason Motors.

It is amazing the amount of history contained in the city directories, giving clues to the history of our community.



This photograph was donated to the historical society in 2005. The donor stated that this could be the interior of Ralph Mason Motors. Please call 452-4314 to share additional Mason Motors information.

The Movable Feast

On August 19 explore the gas boom and automotive heritage of Kokomo during our *Movable Feast*. Tours and food will abound, and it is sure to be a great evening get-away for foodies and historic-site buffs.

At 5 p.m. begin with a tour of Kokomo Opalescent Glass. Originating from Indiana's gas boom, Kokomo Opalescent Glass is America's oldest art glass company. See colored glass being poured the way it was when the company was founded in 1888. Participants will also see glass being blown and glass being made into decorative pieces such as sun catchers. Appetizers will be served here beginning at 6 p.m.

At 6:45 dinner will be served at the Elliott House, a

property maintained by the Howard County Historical Society. Participants will then be able to tour the grand Seiberling Mansion, located next door. Completed in 1891, this is another living testament of the opulence that the gas boom brought to us.

The evening will end with dessert and a tour at the Elwood Haynes Museum. Haynes was an American industrialist who, along with the Apperson Brothers, is credited with manufacturing the first commercially built car. Haynes is also the inventor of stainless steel.

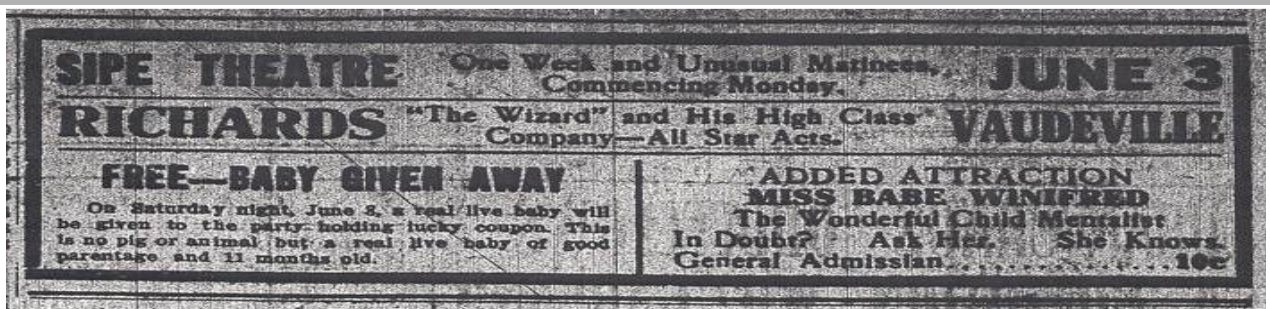
This event is being sponsored by Russell De-

sign, Bucheri McCarty & Metz, the Howard County Historical Society, and Kokomo Opalescent Glass. The cost of the event is \$35 for members of Indiana Landmarks and \$50 for non-members (this includes a discounted one-year membership to Indiana Landmarks).

For more information or reservations, contact Cathy Wright, north central field representative at (260)563-4534 or cwright@indianalandmarks.org.



Research Surprise!



While researching the Underground Railroad, Howard County Historian John Morr recently found this advertisement in the June 1, 1912, edition of the *Kokomo Dispatch*. If you know the history around this ad, please call the HCHS.

Free—Baby Given Away

On Saturday night, June 8, a real live baby will be given to the party holding lucky coupon.

This is no pig or animal but, a real live baby of good parentage and 11 months old.

HCHS Memberships

Thanks to all who renewed their memberships or became new members of the Howard County Historical Society.

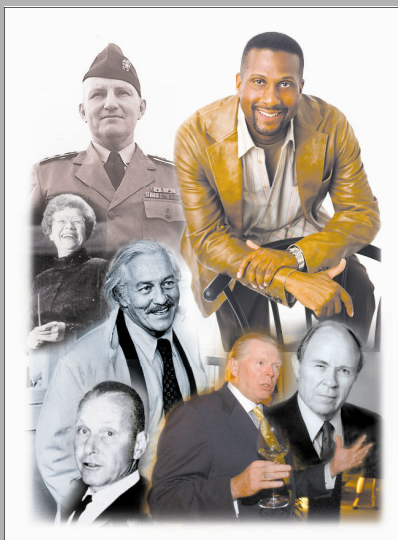
Jim Aikman	Sarah Heldman	Barbara Shelby
Gary & Lola Akers	Gladys Helhorst	Shirley & Stout Funeral Homes
James Allman	Mauri & Janet Henricks	Bill & Lyn Shirley
Richard & Suellen Aniskiewicz	Robert & Mary Hingst	Charles & Sharon Short
Ralph & Jeannie Baer	Jeff & Cassandra Hauswald	Ron & Sue Siler
Ron & Pam Barsh	Teresa Johanning	St. Joseph Foundation
Tom & Dee Bartley	Richard & Marguerite Kadlec	Syndicate Sales
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Brown	Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc.	Sally Tate
Larry & Mildred Brown	Beta Lambda Chapter	Don & Anita Tenbrook
David & Susan Bulin	Kokomo Animal Hospital	Art & Shirley Ward
Kevin & Hilda Burns	Chris Kellum	Clare Emily Wilson
H. C. & Mary Ann Byrd	Wayne & Susan Luttrell	Keith & Jeannie Wright
Margaret Cardwell	Edward & Vickie Martin	Michael & Nancy Wyant
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Cheryl Currens	Jerry & Colleen McDaniel	
Jack & Judy Dean	Gene & Nancy McGarvey	
Ted & Janet DeGarmo	Judge William & Marty Menges	
Robert & Janet Duchateau	Jan & Bill Miller	
Joe Dunbar	Mark Miller, owner of Miller's Landscaping	
Robert Lee Earlywine	Alyce Moore	
Dale & Barbara Ellis	Charles & Gloria Nipple	
Beryl Etherington	Doug & Roma North	
Harold & Joyce Fields	Ken Nowak	
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Beth Harshman	Darrell & Jule Rider	
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Howard County
Historical Society
1200 W. Sycamore St.
Kokomo, Indiana 46901

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Upcoming Events

Pastarrific Restaurant
6 p.m. Reception
7 p.m. Dinner & Program Tickets
\$40 per person



Elwood Haynes "Bud" Hillis
Margaret Hillis
James R. Malone
Strother Martin
Don Pardee Moon
Dr. Harold W. Ritchey
Tavis Smiley



Marcia Nelson, member of the HCHS board of trustees, brought the band members of the California Transit Authority to tour the Seiberling Mansion, after their performance on June 11, 2011, at Foster Park. Marcia said, "They were very impressed with the mansion and our community's heritage."



GenFest 2011

John & Cindy Morr represented the HCHS during a two-day, state-wide event focused on genealogy and family history. The historical society photograph collection was made available to researchers via a laptop computer. John gave a presentation on pioneers, and the HCHS publications were featured at the booth. Special thanks to the Morr's.