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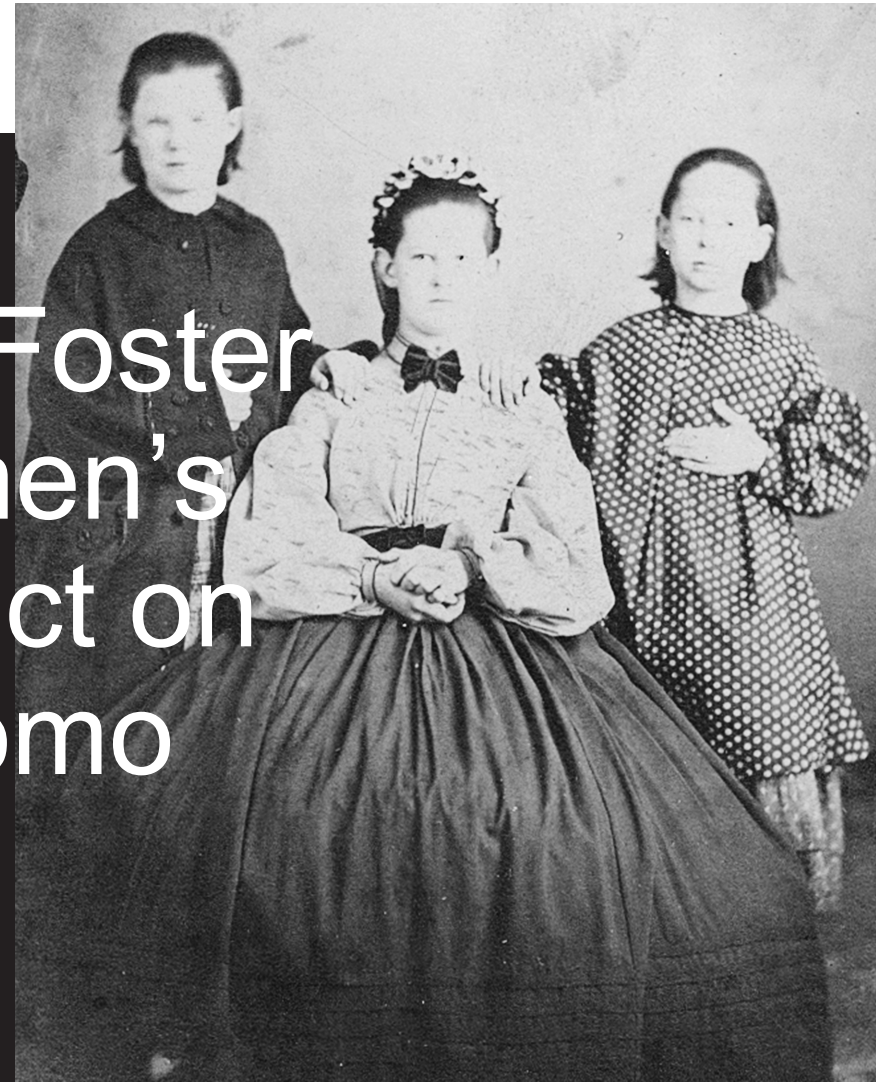
# Footprints



Inside: Christmas  
Decorating Winner!

## The Foster Women's Impact on Kokomo

Story on page 6



*From the Director*  
New developments at the museum

Hello all,

You may notice machinery and blowing plastic sheets under the left side of the Seiberling as you drive by on Sycamore Street. I am happy to report that Midwest Maintenance Inc.’s historic carpentry crew is hard at work, through some very nasty weather, to repair and restore the mansion’s porte cochere. Traditionally the porch where vehicles would stop to discharge passengers, it is part of the Seiberling’s architectural charm. Thanks to many generous donors, many of you, and state grants such as the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and Indiana Historical Society heritage grant, and local grantors, such as the Efroymsen Family Foundation, Community Foundation of Howard County, the historical society has been able to begin the work necessary to continue to maintain the structural integrity of the mansion.

And right behind that project is the building of a new access ramp on the east side of the mansion, which will begin this spring by Hearn Construction. This ramp, made possible by funds from Howard County, will be made of composite Trex-like material for better maintenance and durability. The ramp’s railings will match the mansion’s iron rail-

ings and try to match the color scheme. This addition will allow visitors with mobility challenges to access to the first floor. It cannot come soon enough. Today, as I write this, we had a group of visitors with mobility issues, and it was tough for them to get inside.

Since taking a breath after Christmas, it has been full steam ahead preparing for the February 18 opening of the fourth and final phase of *Howard County African American History Revealed*. It has been gratifying to work with a number of community volunteers, such as Angela Washington, who has collected beautiful hats from women at her church to display as part of the new exhibit. We appreciate all those who have shared stories for our new Story Kiosk. Our curator Stew Lauterbach and I have been working with Brad Larson Media to create this interactive opportunity for our guests.

Another new development is a map guide for visitors. This handy, easy-to-read guide will help guests navigate the museum throughout their visit. Office Manager Heather Fouts did a great job on the graphic design.

History has been a busy occupation for staff and volunteers at the HCHS this winter. We hope you can come into the museum soon and see some of the fruits of our labor.

Catherine Hughes  
HCHS Executive Director

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# You are Invited

## ELAN FURS TRUNK SHOW



### ELAN COATS

### 60% - 70% OFF RETAIL

AT THE ELLIOTT HOUSE  
1216 W. SYCAMORE  
MARCH 17, 2022  
11AM – 7PM

ELAN FURS WILL DONATE 10% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Howard County Historical Society

THREE OLD HOUSES:  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

go, probably by lumber magnate George Snow for a new warehouse in 1832, balloon-framing used less lumber and made construction faster and easier on workmen. Found in many older homes built in this area, generally between the 1870s and 1920s, balloon-framing was the predecessor to modern platform framing.

The next article will take a look at the two other early farmhouses, their owners, and their histories, and will discuss timber-framing, the technique used to build them. ■

*Special Acknowledgements:*

*The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings, Bruce D. Bomberger/Technical Preservation Services, National Parks Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior*

*The Kokomo Early History Learning Center David Foster, President, Cabin owners*

*Kokomo Tribune: Family, page 9, Sunday, July 23, 1989, 1850s cabin coming to life, Dawne Lisa Putt*

# New Exhibit: continued from page 13

office manager and graphic designer; and photo technologist Gale Leiter for their contributions to the exhibit.

“This project is by no means comprehensive, but it is a positive start toward equitable representation of people of color in Howard County history,” she said. “The goal is to find ways to incorporate new information and objects to the story of Howard County.”

The first phase of the exhibit opened in February 2021 with exhibits taking a deep dive into the lives and accomplishments of several prominent African Americans throughout Howard County’s history. The second phase opened in June, focusing on the neighborhood around Carver Center. The third phase launched in September with exhibit on the life and music of Kokomo bandleader Baggie Hardimon.

“We hope that more local residents will come and see the exhibits and realize how rich and varied local history is here in Howard County,” said Hughes. ■

# Donations and Memorials

Don and Gail Beaton  
Ken and Linda Ferries  
Sandy Grant  
Kappa Kappa Kappa-Beta Lambda Chapter  
Dave and Linda Kitchell  
Shirley Lee  
Mary Peabody  
David and Melody Rayl  
David Summers

Memorials  
In memory of Dave Broman  
Kelly Karickhoff  
Joyce Cylkowski

In memory of Mary Ann Bollinger  
Dr and Mrs Ron Thompson

# Check out new gift display and welcome desk



Next time you visit the Seiberling Mansion and Howard County Museum, you will get your ticket at the new welcome desk in the first floor foyer. And on your way out, you can purchase something that caught your eye, as a memento of your visit. Here is Jill Snyder, Volunteer and Membership Coordinator, showing off the new additions.

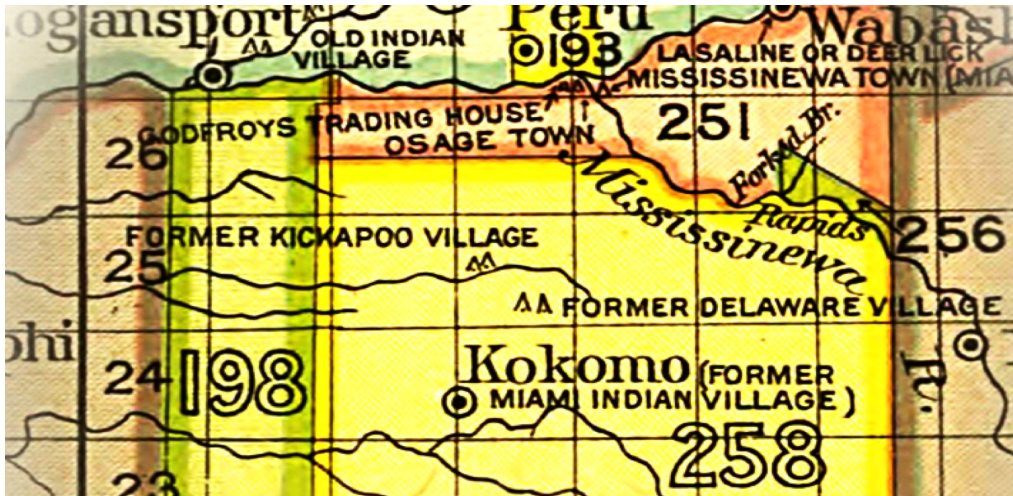


Membership		
Our new and renewed memberships		
Evan Barker	Harry and Roberta Hanson	Marshall and Donna McCay
Andrew Barker	Nancy Harper	Thomas and Linda Miklik
Harold and Elizabeth Beal	Sarah Heath	Larry Newlin
Laurence and Janice Blanchard	Robert and Mary Hingst	Alyssa Pier
Phillip and Victoria Conwell	Larry and Judy Ingle	Beth Rider
Sandra L. Cross	Gloyd Johnson	Michael W. Rodgers
Dr. Matt Dillman	Mike and Kelly Karickhoff	Jonathan and Amy Russell
Ken and Linda Ferries	David and Janice Kellar	Ashley Schneider
David and Jennifer Foster	Medora Kennedy	Darrell and Tonia Sherrod
Todd Picton and Deanna Gifford	Travis LeMaster	Rick and Diane Smith
Glenn and Nancy Grundmann	James Lopez	Greg and Melody Sumpter
	Thomas and Marsha Maple	Douglas and Lynn Vaughn
	Don and Gloria Martin	Michael Whiteman
	Anita and John Matthews	Pamela Yohn

# 2022 HCHS Calendar of Events

<b>February 18</b> - New Exhibit Opening: Phase 4 Howard County African American History Revealed	<b>October 21 &amp; 22</b> - <i>From Dark Pages</i> ; Gothic-themed promenade performances
<b>June 10 &amp; 11</b> - Automotive Scavenger Hunt, free outdoor event	<b>November 15</b> - HCHS annual meeting
<b>June 19</b> - Juneteenth Celebration, free museum admission	<b>November 26</b> - Christmas at the Seiberling opening night
<b>July 3</b> - Celebrating Veterans, free museum admission for veterans	<b>December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 &amp; 16</b> - sponsored free admission evenings
<b>August 18</b> - HC Hall of Legends	<b>December 17</b> - Candlelight Sponsored free admission evening

*Don't miss this important event on April 21, 2022!*



# Kokomo Native Project Heritage & Homeland

Top: Indian Land Cessions in the United States, 1784-1894. United States Serial Set, Number 4015. Bottom: Source: Series: Field Notes for Public Land Survey Township Plats. 1789-1946. Record Group 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management, 1685-2006. Foster Family location added.

Join us Thursday, April 21, 2022, when delegates of tribal nations gather on ancestral homeland in Kokomo, IN to discuss the history and heritage of Native peoples past, present and future. Watch for more details on social media.



was their one day of rest, a day of worship and celebration. It was a day to trade aprons and bandanas for brightly colored dresses and decorated hats.

“These heaven-reaching hats were designed to ‘catch God’s eye’ in hopes He would hear their prayers,” Kori Miller, executive director of the Evansville African American Museum, said in an interview for the exhibit. “Culturally, church hats became a strong symbol of the ability to triumph over hardships.”

While Angela herself is not a wearer of hats, her appreciation goes back to her mother “who was very meticulous with her hats” and who passed away in 2011. She also remembers Mrs. Gayton, an elderly member of the church Angela attended when she lived near Chicago as a young adult.



Lillie Quarles of Second Missionary Baptist Church captures memories of the “church crowns” on display. (Kelly Lafferty-Gerber, Kokomo Tribune)

“She told me a woman is not completely dressed unless she has her hat and gloves,” Angela remembered with a laugh. “She said I needed to wear a hat to church, but I was young and thought that was an old lady thing. She was insistent. She told me we were going ‘hatting.’ And we went ‘hatting’ – shopping for hats – at least once or twice a month. I had to give into that!”

In a partnership with HCHS Executive Director Catherine Hughes, Curator Stew Lauterbach and Assistant Curator Randy Smith, An-

gela helped create the beautiful display that her Second Missionary Baptist friends viewed with pride. Angela said she considers them all her mothers and sisters in Christ. She noted that as younger women become older women, they are carrying on the tradition of wearing their “Sunday crowns.”

The focus on the women of the Carver Neighborhood also includes a look at Mrs. Ludie Brown, who housed Black and Hispanic baseball players who played for the Kokomo Dodgers in the 1950s, among others.

As with all phases of the exhibit, QR codes leading to additional information can be found on signage throughout the museum and can be accessed via smartphones and tablets while touring the exhibit. The additional information, including photos and videos, can also be accessed on home computers through the museum website at <https://hchistory.oncell.com/en/index.html>.

Phase 4 of the Howard County Historical Society’s “Howard County African American History Revealed” exhibit includes an interactive “story kiosk” that features interviews with community leaders and residents about the Carver Neighborhood and allows visitors the opportunity to record their memories for possible inclusion in its archive.

“We are so excited to be able to offer the kiosk as a way to share and collect more community memories and history,” said Catherine Hughes. “This technology, enabled by a grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County, Inc., is an important step in the growth of the historical society in representing our community.”

At the Feb. 17 preview, Dr. Hughes noted the importance of a local community group of advisors who have informed the exhibition process with their experience and contacts and thanked staffers Stew Lauterbach, curator; Randy Smith, assistant curator; Heather Fouts,

## New exhibit honors traditions, stories of Carver Neighborhood

By Linda Ferries,  
Chair of HCHS Publications Committee

Tina Stone gazed up at the beautiful navy blue hat on display in the Seiberling Mansion – part of the Howard County Museum’s expanded exhibit titled “Howard County African American History Revealed” – and choked up just a bit.

Deaconess Stone, along with other women from Kokomo’s Second Missionary Baptist Church, was on hand Feb. 17 to preview the exhibit that includes seventeen elaborate “church lady hats” from their personal collections. Some were hats they have worn. Others were hats worn by their mothers. All are symbols of family and faith, and their emotions filled the second-floor room where the hats are on display.

“It was such an honor to be asked to donate a hat,” Tina said. “I feel like I’ve made a footprint on history.”

That was exactly why Stone’s fellow church member and HCHS volunteer, Angela Washington, helped pull the collection together. It’s all part of the last of the four planned phases of the local African American history project opened over the last year. Phase four focuses on four historic pillars of Kokomo’s Carver Neighborhood – Carver Community Center, Wayman Chapel, Second Missionary Baptist Church and the Douglass School, as well as the impact of women in the neighborhood. The exhibit opened to the public Feb. 18.

Angela’s first experience as an HCHS volunteer came during the 2021 Christmas at the Seiberling celebration when she stepped up to decorate the mansion’s parlor, using a Kwanza theme. “That was so much fun,” she said. “I just love to tinker around with decorating and I enjoyed meeting the different people there, whether fellow volunteers or the

many visitors.”

“I really love history,” Angela said. “The bits and pieces that I picked up while working on the Christmas project was just the start. I’m like a kid in a candy store.” Her interest piqued, she’s now in training to serve as a docent, greeting visitors and answering questions. So it should have been no surprise when Catherine Hughes, HCHS executive director, asked her to help on this project, gathering a collection of “church hats” from her fellow congregants.

The elaborate “church lady hats” are part of the ensemble African American women are known for wearing to church, Angela noted. “Shoes, gloves, purse, dress – all go together for the desired look.”

“There’s a long history to this,” Angela said. “I was taught that when you went to church on Sunday, you gave God your best and that meant you were covered in your best from head to toe. That included the hat, and the hat was your crown.”

Indeed, the history goes back to the days of enslavement. For enslaved women Sunday



HCHS President Cathy Stover tries out the new story kiosk on the Seiberling’s second floor. (Kelly Lafferty-Gerber, Kokomo Tribune)

## Meet one of the newest members of our Volunteer Corps

Marilyn Ayers is a new HCHS volunteer. Marilyn lives in Greentown and is a long-time resident of Howard County.

Her daughter Jaclyn was an HCHS employee from 2008 to 2014 as Volunteer and Membership Coordinator. Marilyn’s mother lived in the Old Silk Stocking neighborhood and often told stories of playing by the mansion, which piqued Marilyn’s interest in the area and its history, as well as in the Native American life that is part of Kokomo’s past. She and her husband walk the Native American trails in this region to gather folklore.

Marilyn recently retired from her career as a veterinary technician after 20 years of service. She has been a GOP volunteer during elections.



### The HCHS needs you!

Find out why HCHS volunteers are so passionate and excited to share stories and history. Join the HCHS corps of hosts who greet and talk with visitors at the Seiberling.

Can you or someone you know become a volunteer? We are seeking people who love history and learning, enjoy talking with people, and who have time to give one afternoon a week from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Contact Volunteer Coordinator Jill Snyder**

765-452-4314 or [jill.snyder@howardcountymuseum.org](mailto:jill.snyder@howardcountymuseum.org)

# The Foster Women’s Impact on Kokomo

*In memory of Jack Lee Foster (July 8, 1934 – Nov. 19, 2021) -- Great-great-grandson of David and Elizabeth Foster. Jack and Beverly Barnett Foster were married for 67 years and raised the current family in Kokomo. Jack was the last living Foster to speak with his great-great-aunt Amanda Foster Welsh, daughter of David and Elizabeth, before her death in 1946.*

**Author’s Note:** This new genealogy is based on primary source records from the Foster Family Bible, in private possession of the family in Kokomo, Indiana. The photographs are from the Webb Family Bible, donated to the Howard County Historical Society in 1983 by descendants of David and Elizabeth Foster. The Webb bible and photographs are in the historical society’s archive.

\* \* \*

**Prelude:** On Jan. 15, 1844, Richardville County was created by the Indiana General Assembly as the last-named county in the state. Two days later, Allen Hamilton of Fort Wayne, Indiana, deeded the 640-acre Reserve No. 6 at the Rapids of Wildcat in the heart of the new county to David Foster. On May 15, 1844, Foster signed a title bond agreeing to donate 40 acres from his reserve for the unincorporated county seat, which was named Kocomo by the first county commissioners on Aug. 17, 1844. The name has always been thought to have come from David. Until now ...

**By Gil Porter**  
HCHS Publications Committee Member

Actually, Elizabeth Foster probably named the place. Sometime in the summer of 1843, a Methodist preacher named Jacob Colclazer was exploring the Great Miami Reserve in north central Indiana, looking for congregants and converts in the last communal land of the Miami Tribe of Indians. This 1,200-square-mile tract was taken from the Miami by a federal treaty signed at the Forks of the Wabash in November 1840 and many Miami families were soon to be forcibly removed from their homes and sent to Kansas and later again removed to Oklahoma.

At the 1840 treaty, a 640-acre section within the reserve at the Rapids of Wildcat had been set aside for Miami akima (civil leader) Francis Lafontaine. The akima never lived on this small private reserve, and within a year Lafontaine deeded the parcel to the lawyer and trader Allen Hamilton of Fort Wayne, one of the two unofficial U.S. commissioners at the 1840 treaty.

In all likelihood, Reserve No. 6, as it was later designated, was never intended to be

anything but a section suitable for a county seat (which, per Indiana statute, needed to be in the center of a county). Named for Miami Maawikima (principal chief) Jean Baptiste Richardville, Richardville (later renamed Howard) County had been designated by the Indiana legislature in February 1839, contingent on getting the rest of the reserve land (hence the 1840 treaty) and finding a landowner to deed some property to start the county government. The county was finally formed in January 1844.

But before then, uninvited squatters were pouring into the reserve. By 1843, word had no doubt reached Hamilton about a white family at the Rapids of Wildcat assuming a leadership role among a growing group of squatters near the Miami Indian village there. The Methodists, he may have learned, had even put the place on their circuit map as a named preaching point.

To do that, the church would have needed a stabilizing force on site. The head of that family at the Rapids of the Wildcat, David Foster, was of Quaker stock but was never much a churchgoer. His wife was another story.

Elizabeth Matilda Grant was born in Bath, New York, in 1814 and sent as a young girl to live with relatives in southern Indiana after her

more Road,” to the present site on Indiana 22, just west of County Road 820 West. It remained in that family until the early 1980s. Society.

Log structures, especially the proverbial “cabin,” were often considered to be temporary dwellings, used until a “more substantial house” could be built. When no longer needed as a home, they were either torn down or used for a more utilitarian purpose, such as a barn.

Unlike western log cabins, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century log houses in the eastern part of the country were most often covered with either wood clapboards or stucco that protected the log core from the weather and inhabitants from drafts.

The Alexander house had been sided, as seen in the photo, but that was torn off when the house was sold to another owner in 1989, who preferred the look of a rustic log façade. The lean-to addition was also removed and the remaining roof over the original section was covered in cedar shakes and new doors were installed. The original doors were four-panel, walnut doors. (The photo, circa 1989, shows a door with a window. This was a later modification to the original door.)

A descendent of Joseph still living at the time of the 1989 renovation, granddaughter Margaret Hawkins, the daughter of Ruben Presley, aka “Pres”, said that she was told her grandfather and a helper built the house by themselves. Until the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most men could build their own house, often a practice that was handed down through stories and practical experience.

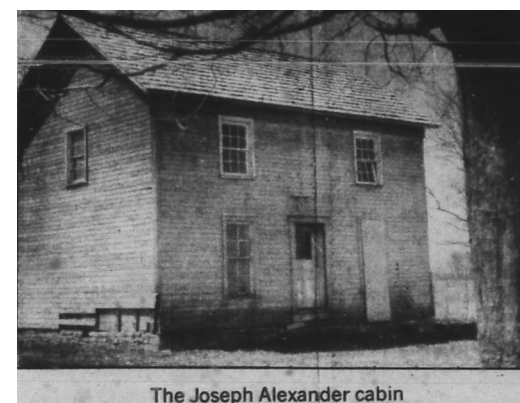
The logs used to build this house came from native yellow poplar (aka Tulip Poplar). Mrs. Hawkins had called Hollingsworth Sawmill to find out how tall a tulip poplar would need to be to provide a log that measured nearly 30 feet long, by 19 inches wide, by 8 inches thick. Their answer was “75 feet tall, and the tree was probably 200 years old” at the time it was cut.

Historically, horizontal log houses were not the first type of shelter built by all colonists in America. The technology of building either horizontal or vertical log buildings was not invented here either but was developed in Northern and Central Europe and brought to the colony of New Sweden by Scandinavian settlers. New Sweden, which

existed from 1638 to 1655, was located in what is now part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware along the lower reaches of the Delaware River and Bay. The Swedes would later pass their building techniques on to the Welsh Quaker settlers in Pennsylvania (1682), who passed it on to others.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, settlers from Switzerland, Germany and Eastern Europe brought their forms of log building to America. The Scotch-Irish, who had no such building traditions, adapted the layout of their native stone structures to log

**The photo, circa 1989, shows a door with a window. This was a later modification to the original door.**



building and spread it throughout the frontier. Native Americans also built log cabins and such structures were commonly found in the Big Miami Reserve, parts of which became Howard County. Not only were houses being built of logs, but also commercial buildings, schools, gristmills, churches, barns and corncribs.

Though some parts of the country never stopped building with logs, by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, most of the more populous areas of the country had adopted “balloon-framing,” making log construction, and another early framing method called “timber framing,” obsolete. Developed in Chica-

➡ p. 19

# THREE OLD HOUSES: A LOOK AT THREE EARLY FARMHOUSES IN HOWARD COUNTY

## Part 1: The Log Cabin Jonathan Russell, Howard County Historian

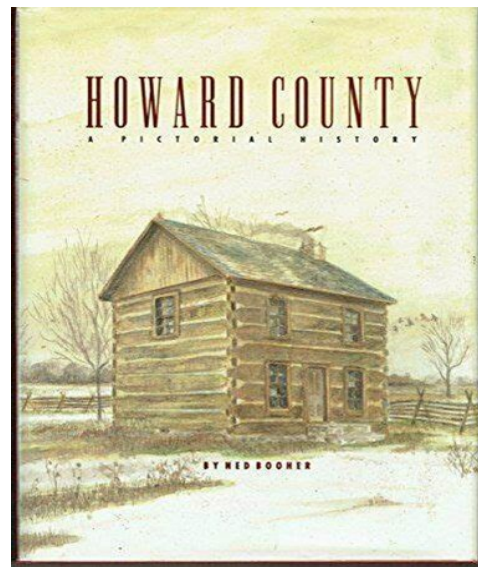
If a “picture is worth a thousand words,” then what a story is told when we have the actual object! The buildings that have survived since the earliest years of Howard County are the “living examples” that make the past relevant.

Lately, I have had the opportunity to study three examples of early Howard County homes. All were built before the Civil War, within the area referred to as the “Seven Mile Strip,” not long after Howard County was established (originally as Richardville County). The first is a rare, surviving example of a full-two-story log house. The second, built sometime around 1850, has connections to one of early Howard County’s more prominent individuals. Our third example, also a farmhouse, has a long and colorful early history tied to a prominent Quaker family.

We will focus on the first structure in this article – the log farmhouse built by Joseph Alexander about 1853. Joseph had moved his family to Howard County from Maysville, Kentucky, by way of Rushville, in 1852. The land he bought had been granted about 1845, but earlier owners had gambled away the title, making Joseph the first to hold on to the property for more than two years.

According to the 1860 census, which recorded their ages, Joseph (40) and his wife, Louisa Foutch Alexander (36), had seven children: John (16), Lucinda (14), and Rowland (11), Louis F. (8), James D. (5), Theodore M. (4), and Ruben P. (8 months.). With the excep-

tion of John, who left home when he was 16, the 1860 census shows all were living in the two-room house; one room upstairs and one down, dimensions 25 by 30 feet. A final child, daughter Annie, was born there in 1864. As time progressed, they would build a framed addition off the back with a tiny bedroom and indoor kitchen. They also walled-in space for another bedroom downstairs in the log section, but “the bath” was still *out back*. The last Alexander to live in the house was mother Louisa, and when she died in 1902, the house was willed to her sister’s family. About 1903, it was moved from its original site near “Old Syc-



Featured as the cover of “Howard County: A Pictorial History” by Ned Booher published by the Howard County Historical Society. Watercolor by Jon Russell, 1994)

mother died. She met and married another East Coast migrant (from Virginia) in Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana, in 1832. She and husband David soon took the Michigan Road north to live for a time as traders in Burlington, Carroll County, on the western edge of the Great Miami Reserve.

By 1840, Foster’s stock of pelts, gunpowder and groceries had become so tailored to the area Native tribes that he had little that white people wanted. Bucking the westward trend, the Fosters went east six miles, right into the heart of Miami homelands, stopping as squatters at the Rapids of Wildcat in the fall of 1842.

\* \* \*

In 1843, Elizabeth Foster was 29 years old.

For 11 years she and her husband had been on the move, and now their double-sided cabin on the northside of Wildcat Creek (where Superior and Main streets meet today) was both a home and a business. Sources speak of an affinity between the Fosters and the Native tribes, and we know a Miami Indian village was within sight about a quarter mile south of the Wildcat Creek. Incidentally, this proximity between Native and squatter would likely influence the survey boundary on the government’s official plat from October 1843, which seems to have been scaled to preserve most of the land around the Indian village. (This was the survey of Reserve No. 6, that Allen Hamilton deeded to David Foster in January 1844.)

Natives near and far were surely the primary customers at Foster’s trading post, but now other squatters were also on scene, relying on Foster merchandise and reputation. While David tended to their trade, Elizabeth sought to soothe souls. Which caught the attention of the Methodists, who saw an opportunity for a church here.

Now, the story that follows is imagined. But plausible enough, based on the documentary evidence.

It’s easy to envision a scene at the Rapids of

Wildcat, mid-summer 1843. David was probably genially disinterested in dealing with the preacher on horseback, content to support Elizabeth’s decisions regarding home, health and hearth. Besides the responsibility for their own family’s welfare, the Fosters apparently were becoming reluctant leaders in this expanding community, and the preacher must have been told to seek them out about starting a church.

Rev. Colclazer has arrived and reached agreement with that stabilizing force – Elizabeth Foster – who assured him enough people were available (there were 10 people, according to church sources) to eventually support permanent preaching. “We will meet in our home,” we can imagine Elizabeth telling him.

Back on his horse and ready to leave, Rev. Colclazer, remembering he needs a name for the church records, quickly turns to Elizabeth and asks a simple question destined to define local history. “By the way, what do you call this place?”

The name he heard would appear in print for the first time – ever – in a Methodist conference report that October (1843). Yet we must remember that the modern county and city we know today is just the latest chapter in this area history story. Humans have lived here for centuries, hunting and fishing and raising their children in homes along the Wildcat. So, the Native tribal name this young mother spoke seemed to represent either someone or something that the Fosters wanted to preserve.

David Foster was in the other half of the cabin, or maybe visiting Šaapontohsia, a well-documented Miami here, over in the village. The rest of the Foster brood were either helping their parents or playfully underfoot -- Eliza Jane, who turned 10 that year; William, 8, who would be killed in the Civil War; Margaret, nearly 6, and the toddlers, John Buster, almost 4, and Mariah, not yet 2.

Elizabeth Foster, with future son James four months in her belly, replied quietly, but firmly. “This is Kokomo.” ■

## The New Foster Genealogy

By Gil Porter

HCHS Publications Committee Member

*Author's Note: Names and dates are from the private Foster Family Bible.*

### THE PARENTS

**David Foster** – Born: July 20, 1808; Died: Nov. 27, 1877

**Elizabeth Matilda Grant Foster** – Born: April 29, 1814; Died: Jan. 29, 1871

David and Elizabeth were married Jan. 17, 1832 in Mooresville, Indiana

### THEIR 11 CHILDREN ...

**Eliza Jane**

**Born: Jan. 16, 1833; Died: April 10, 1874**

Eldest child. Born in Mooresville, Indiana. Married Thomas R. Calhoon in Kokomo, 1852. Successfully managed the family business interests after her husband's death. Died unexpectedly and suddenly in Kokomo at the age of the age of 44 – a “shock,” according to the Kokomo Tribune, April 14, 1874.

**William Worthington**

**Born: Jan. 10, 1835; Died: July 14, 1864**

Likely born in Mooresville, Indiana. Married Jennie Keiser in Kokomo in 1860. Was a private in the U.S. Army, Company A, 5th Cavalry Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, during the Civil War. He was taken prisoner near Atlanta in June 1864 and reportedly killed in a guerilla ambush at the age of 31. His body was never recovered. Some genealogies render the middle name incorrectly as Washington.

**Margret (Margaret) Moore**

**Born: Sept. 7, 1837; Died: Nov. 16, 1904**

Born in Burlington, Carroll County. Married Isaac Price in 1854 in Kokomo. In 1870, she married Garah Markland in Johnson County, Missouri; they returned to Kokomo after 1872. Much of the land that became Markland Avenue was donated by her as South Kokomo developed. When she died in 1904 at the age of 67, she was considered to have lived longer in the city than any other resident.

Anyone who has been to the mansion sees our caretaker staff at work. Bill Baldwin and his new assistant Neil were on hand to help anyone who needed it. We owe them a big thank you too!

We also appreciate our sponsors, including The Wyman Group, opening night, and the seven sponsors of our evening events – Community First Bank, Duke Energy, Financial Builders Credit Union, First Farmers Bank and Trust, Indiana University Kokomo, Ivy Tech Community College Kokomo, and Security Federal Savings Bank. In the end, the museum had 2683 visitors for Christmas at the Seiberling over the course of evening events and normal open days.

All in all, I think Christmas 2021 was a big success. I look forward to chairing the Christmas Decorating Committee in 2022. I will be meeting with the decorators soon to talk about any changes they would like to see and to pick rooms! If anyone is interested in being considered as a decorator for 2022, please call or text me at 765-661-9410. I would love

to speak to you. It can be an organization, club or an individual.

Again, thank you. I will see you at Christmas 2022! ■



Marella Williams's Snowbaby collection was featured in the First Floor Butler Pantry decorations by Williams and Eunice Jackson, who were the winning decorators with the most “votes” this year! Congratulations Marella and Eunice.

## Committee Corner

# *It was a very merry Christmas*

By Teresa Fields  
HCHS Christmas Decorating  
Committee Co-chair

Christmas at the Seiberling 2021 is now in the books and I can say it was a success! There are a lot of people to thank.

I want to thank Peggy Hobson for co-chairing the Christmas Decorating Committee with me, as well as Beth Martin for serving on the committee. Thanks to the board members and friends that helped with the first Jingle Bell Boutique. The boutique, filled with handmade and donated items, brought in more than \$2,100 for the historical society! Not bad for being the first year!

Thanks to our executive director, Catherine Hughes, for putting together the video and the online voting, as well as arranging the sponsors. Thanks to Heather Fouts for handling ticketing. Thanks to Jill Snyder and her volunteers for working in the mansion during the Christmas event. We couldn't do this without them!

And most importantly, I want to

thank the decorators. They work their magic for two weeks before the event begins so that the mansion will be beautiful at Christmas. This year there were a number of new decorators, which added new energy to the event.

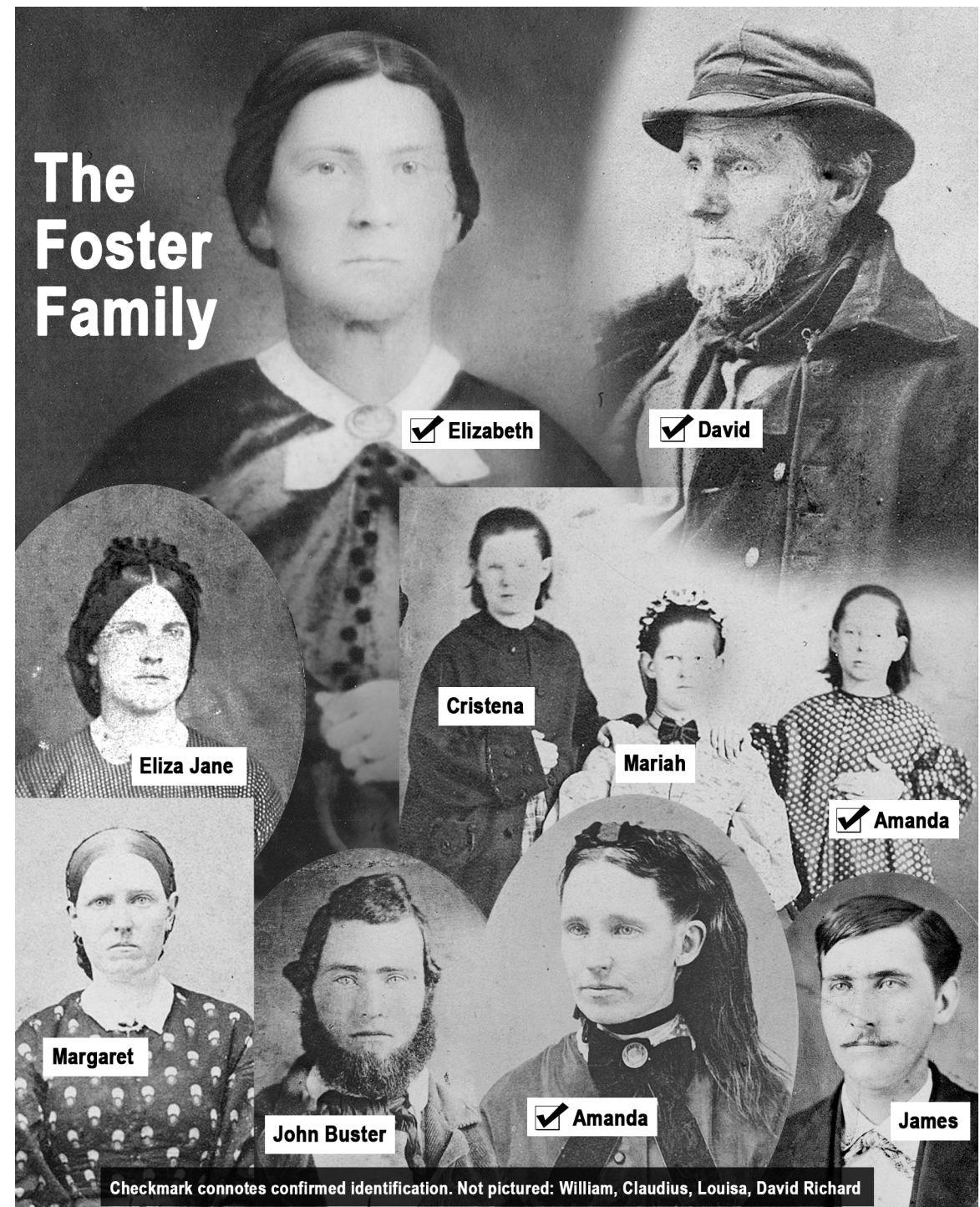
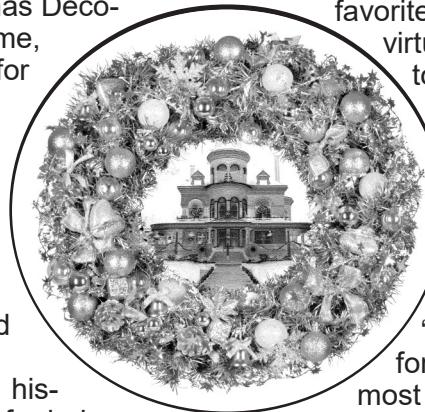
In each room in the mansion, there was a collection jar. There was also an online voting page on the HCHS Facebook page. Guests were asked to vote for their favorite room; a dollar in the jar or virtually online was a vote and a total of \$1,225.56 was raised in donations to the historical society!

Thanks to our guests for participating in this by voting. There wasn't a prize for bringing in the most money, but there were "bragging rights" to be had for the decorators with the most collected. So ... who won?

**First** was First Floor Butler's Pantry! Ma-rella Williams and Eunice Jackson! They collected \$284.37. Congratulations, ladies! Great job!

**Second** was Walnut Room/Symposium, Julie Epp and Mary Tetrick, with \$217.34.

**Third** was Second Missionary Church, Angela Washington, with \$140.34.



## The New Foster Genealogy

### ***John Buster***

***Born: Oct. 26, 1839; Died: March 5, 1886\****

Often called “Jack.” Born in Burlington, Indiana. Married four times. The current family in Kokomo are his descendants -- the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of John Buster’s great grandson Jack Foster, who died in November 2021. A Civil War veteran, he wrote the letters to the U.S. government requesting headstones for other family members who had also served. John Buster died of consumption at the age of 46.

### ***Marier (also written as Mariah, Marah) Elen***

***Born: Dec. 22, 1841; Died: Sept. 15, 1872***

Either born in Burlington or else she was the only child born in the Fosters’ temporary trading post located on the boundary line between the Seven Mile Strip and the Great Miami Reserve. Married O.P. Downs in 1858; the marriage record and very little documentation about her have been found as of this writing. She died young in 1872, just short of her 31st birthday. Her daughter, Clara Belle Downs, married William J. Webb in 1891. The bible and the Foster family photos in the Howard County Historical Society archive are from this family.

### ***James Madison***

***Born: Dec. 5, 1843; Died: July 2, 1873***

Born in the Foster cabin at the Rapids of Wildcat 41 days before Richardville County came into existence. Civil War veteran. Married Hettie Jones in 1868; she preceded him in death. He died in Kokomo of consumption in 1873 at the age of 29.

### ***Claudius Palmer***

***Born: March 24, 1846; Died: Jan. 2, 1848***

Lived 21 months and eight days. His death is also recorded in the Abstracts of Obituaries in the Western Christian Advocate 1834-1850, published by the Indiana Historical Society in 1988.

### ***Cristena Lorain***

***Born: Feb. 26, 1849; Died: Feb. 27, 1916***

Married Edward Freeman in 1866. After moving to Michigan and being separated, she married Nathaniel Morris there. Though a non-resident later in life, she main-

## The New Foster Genealogy

tained an active interest in Kokomo and Foster family affairs. Her daughter was private secretary to the president of the United Mine Workers for many years. The name, including signatures, is often rendered as Christeen or Christene. She was living in Chicago at the time of her death at the age of 67.

### ***Amanda Caroline***

***Born: May 6, 1851; Died July 6, 1946\****

The spirit-keeper. Our source for so much of the Foster – and Kokomo – history, with precise provenance and detailed descriptions about the location of the Miami Indian village and her family’s relationship with the Native community. The last living Foster to reside on the original Main Street property between Superior Street and the Wildcat Creek. Amanda sold the last of the first lots to the county commissioners in 1880. Widowed at age 28, she then lost her only child when daughter Emma died in 1910. A seasoned and adventurous traveler, she lived in Canada, California, and New York state before returning to Kokomo around 1928. An honored guest during the Howard County Centennial events in 1944, she was 95 years old when she died in 1946. Amanda Foster Welsh lived a life devoted to others and faithful to her family’s – and her hometown’s – memories.

### ***louisa (Louisa) Ugene (Eugene)***

***Born: Oct. 7, 1857; Died: Aug. 25, 1934\****

Known in later life as Ida Foster Baker Clark; married Thomas A. Baker (Indianapolis) and later William Henry Harrison Clark (Florida). Active and prosperous in Indianapolis business and real estate. Never lived in Kokomo as an adult. She donated the well-known portraits of her parents to the Kokomo Public Library and City Hall in 1921. Family bible birth year is later than subsequent sources. Died from injuries after being struck by a taxicab on a street in Niagara Falls, New York, at the age of 76.

### ***David Richard***

***Born: Dec. 7, 1859; Died: April 16, 1860***

Lived four months and nine days. Nothing is known of this last child beyond the vital record notations in the family bible.

*\* Date added from other sources; not recorded in the Foster Family Bible.*

*Photo composition and design by Gil Porter.*