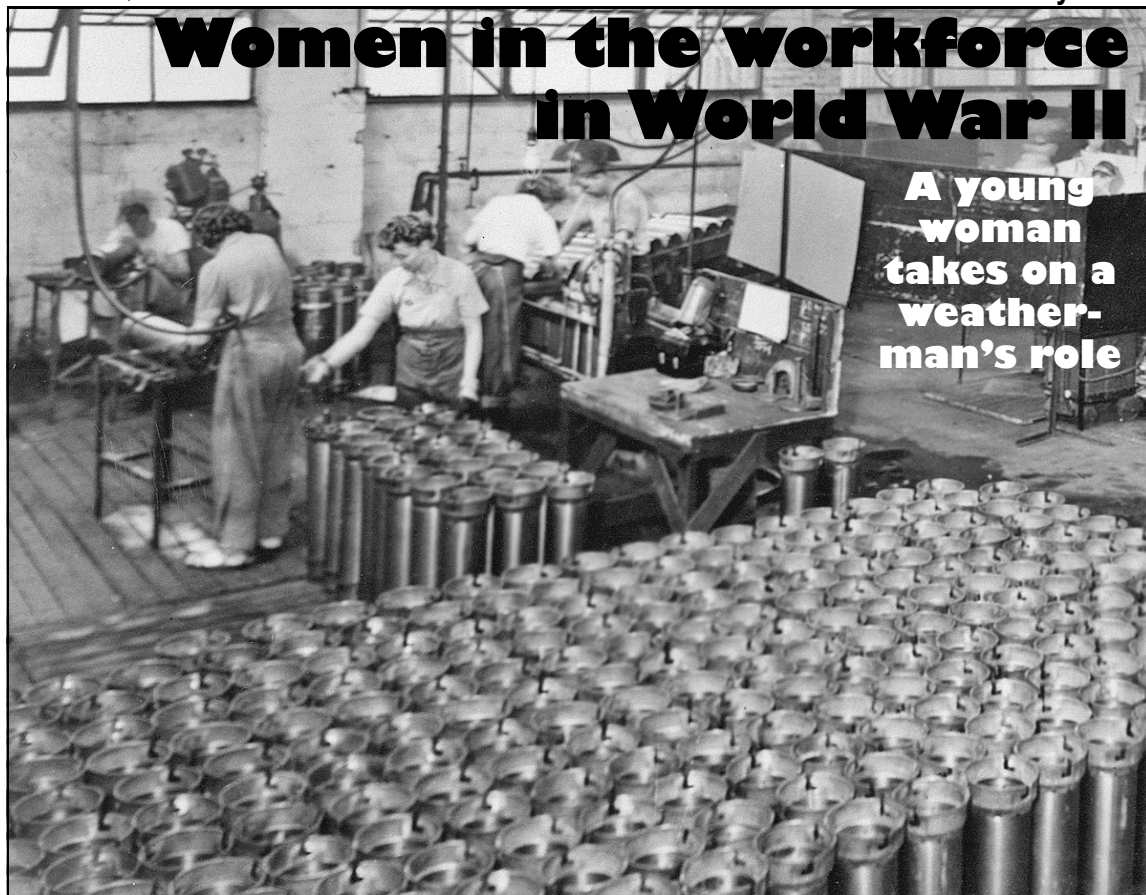


# *Footprints*

*A publication of the Howard County Historical Society*

Volume 3, Issue 2

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## **Women in the workforce in World War II**

**A young  
woman  
takes on a  
weather-  
man's role**

### **In this issue**

**Three Kokomo-born people with extraordinary lives: Margaret Hillis, Nellie Keeler and Thomas Carr Howe**  
**The courthouse bombing oral history project**

*From the executive director*

## Truth and consequences

As I was reading up on the 1881 shooting of the mayor of Kokomo recently, I found myself wondering about the news reports of the event.

There were confusing discrepancies between Mayor Cole's position and reputation in the community and the accusations against him, but the newspapers of the time made it seem as though he was a criminal mastermind who was caught in an act of burglary.

That may very well be true, but I question information that is largely based on those news reports and driven by the testimony of the people who shot Cole.

If "history is written by the winners," Mayor Cole was a loser, fatally so, and the story was written by the men who shot him.

History and journalism are kissing cousins, and both are built on decisions made by humans — with human failings.

Both involve telling stories, one from recent events and the other from years past. When journalists report on current events, they're hampered by the myopia of time and the veracity of their sources.

Historians have the luxury of time, which helps flush out the trivial, but they have the same problem with sources. They're often limited to questionable news reports and second- or third-hand accounts.

At the HCHS, we curate our history in much the same way that reporters curate current events, making decisions about what is significant and what is trivial and then sharing what we deem to be most important. But how do we tell an accurate story if the facts are questionable? And for you as a consumer of news and history, how do you deal with someone else's choices about what is important and how it's presented?

One of the ways the HCHS deals with this is to preserve multiple first-hand accounts of recent events, providing future generations with greater context and the opportunity for a more nuanced understanding.

The recent oral history projects undertaken by the HCHS are an example of this approach. From the Palm Sunday tornados, to Continental Steel, to the controversy surrounding Ryan White, we've given our descendants a better understanding of our lives and times. Perhaps we've given ourselves a better understanding, too, and a chance to come to terms with our legacy.

**Dave Broman**  
**HCHS Executive Director**

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# Discover planned giving and create a legacy

**By Jane Williams**  
**Community Foundation of Howard County**

A few years ago, Bette Bannon, a faithful supporter of the historical society, included a bequest for an endowed fund within the Community Foundation of Howard County that provides permanent support for the maintenance and improvement of the landscape beauty around the Seiberling Mansion.

Many generations of Howard County residents will enjoy that beauty because Bette cared and wanted to continue her support HCHS work.

Bette is just one of the donors who have created or contributed to endowment funds that benefit the society.

The HCHS has many faithful supporters and appreciates everyone's annual giving – both to the endowments funds and to the annual campaign.

For supporters who would like to see their support continue beyond their lifetime and create a legacy, planned giving makes it possible.

Here are some of the most common planned gifts you can make:

**BEQUEST**—Your will may include a gift of a specific asset, a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to a new or existing fund in the Community Foundation of Howard County, Inc. that supports the Howard County Historical Society. Your gift will provide permanent support for the historical society. While many may think philanthropy is reserved for a select few, the truth is that every bequest that benefits this organization helps it continue its work.

**CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES**—A charitable gift annuity that benefits you and the historical society can be managed through the Community Foundation of Howard County. When you transfer cash, stock or other assets to the foundation's gift annuity program,

fixed payments will be made to you (and/or a loved one) for your life. A portion of the payments could be tax free and you will receive a charitable deduction for making the gift. The amount remaining after the life term will benefit the historical society and the Community Foundation.

**LIFE INSURANCE POLICY**—The gift of life insurance can be made by simply naming one of the HCHS's endowment funds within the Community Foundation of Howard County, Inc. as a beneficiary of your policy. Beneficiary designations can range from 1 percent to 100 percent. Your life insurance proceeds will help further our good work and your estate will benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction based on the value of the proceeds paid.

## **IRA 401(k) or other qualified retirement plan**

The easiest way to donate retirement plan assets is to meet with your plan's advisor and simply designate an endowment fund within the Community Foundation of Howard County that benefits the HCHS as a beneficiary. You can give a specific amount or percentage that will benefit the HCHS and the rest to other beneficiaries. Because qualified retirement plans are subject to federal, state and local income taxes, making charitable gifts from retirement plans reduces taxes and leaves more for family members and charitable giving.

If you would like to explore these options, the Community Foundation also offers a free on-line planned giving resource at [www.cfhoward.org](http://www.cfhoward.org) that will help you to create an estate and charitable giving plan that is right for you.

Planned giving can benefit you in many ways. Contact the Community Foundation for assistance in discovering the right plan for you.

For more information, call the Community Foundation of Howard County at 454-7298.

## Items for multi-talented Margaret Hillis added to HCHS collection

**By Lindsay Eckert**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Member**

“A lot of people consider me a pushover. But when things count, my back is made of that same stainless steel my grandfather invented.”

Margaret Hillis, granddaughter of famed Kokomo inventor Elwood Haynes, uttered these words to *People Magazine*, with likely the same intensity which she applied to flying a U.S. Navy plane, conducting a major chorus,

founding the American Choral Foundation and the Chicago Symphony Chorus and arranging Grammy-winning performances.

In February, the HCHS received material relating to Margaret Hillis from the personal collection of Helen Lilley of Kenosha, Wisconsin, who passed away last year at the age of 90. As a reporter for the Kenosha News in the 1960s, Lilley knew Margaret Hillis and reported on her and the Kenosha Symphony, which Margaret conducted for several years.



Photos of Hillis during a rehearsal in Kenosha, Wis., during the 1960s were among items donated to the historical society in February.

Her roots were planted in Kokomo in 1921. Hillis, who led the musical world of symphonies with charisma and character, was born to Glen and Bernice Haynes Hillis. Hillis' hometown of Kokomo birthed a spirit of pride in her community that carried through her moving performances as a conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and, even, a global moment of resonating success. In 1977 Hillis filled in for Sir Georg Solti, conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the Mahler Eighth Symphony in New York's Carnegie Hall. One of the first women to conduct a major symphony orchestra, she received a 10-minute standing ovation for that performance and her talent soon met the pages of newspapers and magazines, which dedicated headlines and text to her incredible stature on the music stage.

Ladies Home Journal named Margaret Hillis "Woman of the Year" in 1978; that same year Hillis earned her first of seven Grammy awards – her first honor being for her RCA release of Verdi's "Requiem". Although music drove Hillis to world renown, her inquisitive interest in the world unexpected for her built her character.

Elwood "Bud" Hillis told the *Kokomo Tribune* his sister was capable of anything.

"She was unflappable. Whatever she made up her mind to do, she could do it and do it well," Bud Hillis said of the sister who taught him how to fly.

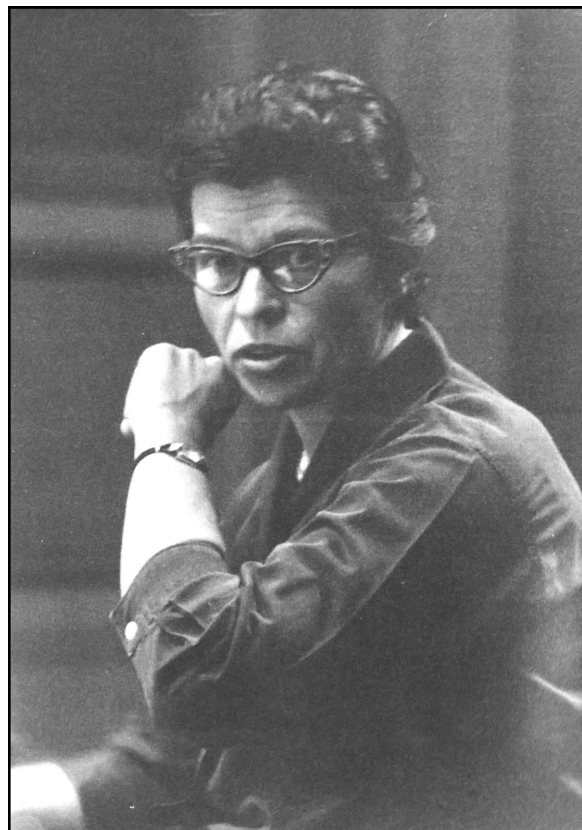
Because, yes indeed, Hillis could fly a U.S. Navy plane and, teach others how, as well. In fact, Hillis was the only female naval aviation pilot instructor out of 27 at Ball State University. In an ironic twist, Hillis left a distinguished graduate school education – after earning her bachelors at Indiana University – at Julliard Music School to take that job.

Although hobbies took Hillis to sky-high opportunities, music was the sound that sang the most successes for Hillis, whose legacy lives on in the many halls where she conducted and in the award for Choral Excellence as established by Chorus America in her honor.

No matter what stage Hillis graced, no matter

the number of unknown faces in her audience, Hillis was always happy to come home to Kokomo. And she did just that in 1994, just four years before she died, when she was the grand marshal of the celebration parade and reenactment that honored her grandfather's historic drive on Pumpkinvine Pike 100 years earlier.

In those moments, Hillis sat full of the pride she had in her community and with a backbone "made of that stainless steel" her grandfather invented. It would be the last time she'd be healthy enough to visit her hometown.



**In addition to being a Grammy-winning conductor, Margaret Hillis was also an accomplished pilot, serving an aviation instructor at Ball State University for a time.**

# Tiny shoes tell a pretty big story

**By Judy Lausch**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Member**

Now on display in the Howard County Historical Museum are the tiny shoes of Nellie Keeler, who was born in Howard County and became a sideshow performer in P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth.

The shoes were recently acquired from Nellie's great-nephew, Max Mullen, who surprised the museum staff with the donation during a visit to help identify photos for the Elks Lodge collection.

It is fascinating to see the size of the small, black, lace-up shoes, but they tell an equally fascinating story about Nellie.

Nellie Keeler was born on April 6, 1875, and died at age 28 from tuberculosis. Her parents were Ezra and Maria Keeler of Kokomo. Her father was a farmer and had served with the 4th Indiana Calvary during the Civil War. Nellie had three older siblings. All of her family members were of normal size.

By the age of three, Nellie came to the attention of master showman P.T. Barnum through a Nov. 16, 1878, article in the *Kokomo Tribune* about her small size. According to a *Kokomo Tribune* article from Oct. 26, 1975, she weighed only 11 pounds and stood just a few inches over 2 feet tall. Interestingly, she aged seven years, and lost more than 3 pounds by the time Barnum's publicity came out in 1879.

After a successful four-week tryout, she began touring with Barnum's circus, in the company of her father.

Barnum placed Nellie on a stage about three feet above floor level. Next to her he placed the "Middlebush Giant," a man named Arthur James Caley Goshen, who Barnum claimed stood nearly eight feet tall and weighed in at more than 600 pounds. Putting Nellie next to

this large man must have provided quite a contrast for spectators.

Nellie's contract with Barnum stipulated that "should the said Nellie be sick or become



Kokomo-born Nellie Keeler was billed as "Little Queen Mab" in P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth. Barnum's publicity stated, "Should our little elf ever enter the state of matrimony, she will not prove an expensive wife to dress, for it requires only *one yard and three-quarters* of cloth to make her a dress after the most fashionable style."

peevish or disagreeable to exhibit, this contract shall be null and void". Bad childhood behavior could void her contract and deprive her family of a potential \$100 per month, which enabled her father to become an independent farmer, free of mortgage. This was quite a salary for a small person. Tom Thumb received just \$5 per week.

The circus paid for Nellie and her father's board and transportation and her dresses. She also received one-half of the sales of her photographs.

Curator Stew Lauterbach said he and the museum staff found the brochure promoting Keeler interesting reading.

"As a staff, we had a lot of fun seeing the hype, the pitch, the spin that Barnum used," he said.

Some of the many titles publicizing Keeler included "the Indiana midget," "the smallest and prettiest dwarf ever introduced to the public," "Little Queen Mab," "a sweet girl with golden hair," "a little elf," "a fairy beauty" and a "pocket volume of humanity".

Barnum describes Nellie's birth: "Little Nellie, when born, weighed only *fourteen ounces*, and when the fact of her birth and diminutiveness of her person became known, people flocked from far and near to look upon her fairy form." He went on to say, "After her birth, this microscopic bud of humanity was presented to her mother on a tea plate, and she could comfortably sleep in the leg of her father's boot."

Nellie's employment with the circus came to an end at age 12, as she was "no longer a tiny little girl". According to the Barnum museum, she began a growth spurt at that time and was a

little more than 5 feet tall at the age of 16.

Local files trace her career through the spring of 1882 when she returned to Kokomo for a rest before an engagement at Coney Island.

Her obituary, which appeared in the *New York Times* on June 18, 1903, said she had been in declining health since her teens and died of tuberculosis.



Nellie's family were all of normal size, and included her parents, Ezra and Maria Keeler, her brother, Edward, who was reported to weigh 13 and a half pounds at birth, and two sisters, Dora and Alfrida.

## Witnesses recount courthouse bombing in HCHS oral history project

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of the county courthouse in Kokomo, the Howard County Historical Society began work on a new collection of oral histories to preserve the stories and memories of people who were in the courthouse at the time of the explosion or who were directly affected by it.

Some of those most involved in the bombing are gone now, but the society's Oral History Committee was able to identify and interview 19 people who were willing to share their recollections. The stories they told give relevance and humanity to the artifacts and documents that are also part of the courthouse bombing collection, as evidenced by Barbara Todd's story:



One man was killed and several others seriously wounded after the defendant in a court case detonated a bomb on April 14, 1987. The photo shows how rescuers found the offices when arriving on the scene.

*"All of a sudden there was the loudest, loudest, I wish I could convey how loud it was, but the bomb went off and the whole wall of the courtroom where the double French doors with the glass were exploded. The whole wall just disintegrated and just came inward toward the courtroom. Well, the people that were sitting back there, of course, the screaming started, the screaming started immediately. I remember looking up at those lights and they were swinging, well, I just knew they were going to come down, and if they came down on top of somebody, they were going to kill somebody because they were big and heavy, and I just remember, I was almost mesmerized by those lights, just swinging. And meanwhile, stuff is just flying everywhere, the glass in those doors broke open in big pieces of that glass went flying across the room. "*

Along with Todd, the participants included Gary Ashenfelter, Karen Beatty, Jerri Bourff, Alan Brubaker, Joe Coate, Pat DiSalvo, Jake Grimme, Randy Hainlen, George Hopkins, Scott Kinsey, Martha Lake, Robert Morr, Steve Rogers, Lynn Rudolph, Craig Todd, Marvin Van Kley, Jim Whited and Dannie Zehner. Tapes and transcripts of each participant are available for present-day researchers as well as future generations.

# 19 Interviewed about fateful day in Howard County History

**By Judy Lausch**  
**HCHS Oral History Committee Member**

**A**pril 14, 1987 began as an ordinary day in the Howard County Courthouse. But everything changed in a moment when the defendant in a drug trial ignited three pipe bombs, killing himself, seriously injuring five others and traumatizing those in the building.

The HCHS Oral History Committee has completed interviews with 19 people, many who were in the courthouse that day more than 25 years ago, and others who responded to the explosion.

In interviews for the oral history project, witnesses tell of their actions and feelings leading up to and following the deadly blast that shocked the community, brought national attention to Kokomo and changed the way the county looked at security.

The explosion blew out the west side of the third story of the courthouse. The only person killed in the explosion was Robert Gray, the defendant who flipped the switch to set off three pipe bombs contained in a briefcase he carried into the building. Five people were seriously injured. About 10 others were less seriously injured physically, but many were emotionally affected by this traumatic event.

Though many more were present at the scene and seriously affected, the oral history project focuses on 19 interviews believed to give a good representation of the events that occurred on that fateful day.

The historical society is appreciative of the time and effort provided by the participants and pleased to make this contribution to the preservation of an important event in Howard County's history.

All of the complete interviews are available to listen to or to read in the archival library of the Howard County Historical Society.

**Gary Ashenfelter:** Ashenfelter was a captain with the Kokomo Police Department. He worked in the narcotics bureau and participated in the investigation of Robert Gray. Ashenfelter was scheduled to give testimony at Gray's trial. His partner, Jack Adams, was severely injured in the explosion and eventually lost an eye a result of the explosion. In his interview, Ashenfelter describes removing Judge Alan Brubaker from the scene.

**Karen Beatty:** Karen was the wife of Howard County Sheriff J.D. Beatty. Her husband was standing within five feet of the explosion and was critically injured. In her interview, Beatty describes her experiences of getting to the hospital and living through her husband's rehabilitation and return to work. Beatty tells how the bombing changed the life of her whole family.

**Jerri Bourff:** Jerri was a clerk of the Circuit Superior and Howard County courts. She was in her courthouse office at the time of the explosion. Bourff describes moving from the courthouse and tells the story about being allowed to return to the scene to get her purse.

**Alan Brubaker:** Brubaker was the Howard County Circuit Court judge presiding over the Gray case. He tells about his concern for the jurors, and how people tried to protect him because they thought he may have been the



# WW II weather girl witnessed history while taking on a 'man's' job

*...All the day long, whether rain or shine  
She's a part of the assembly line*

*She's making history  
Working for victory  
Rosie the Riveter*

*Keeps a sharp lookout for sabotage,  
Sitting up there on the fuselage*

*That little frail can do  
More than a male will do  
Rosie the Riveter*

*Rosie's got a boyfriend, Charlie  
Charlie, he's a Marine  
Rosie is protecting Charlie  
Working overtime on the riveting machine*

*When they gave her a production "E"  
She was as proud as a girl could be  
There's something true about red, white and blue  
About Rosie the Riveter!*

From the Rosie the Riveter song  
By Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb  
Paramount Music Corp. 1942

**By Emily West**  
**Footprints Editor**

When World War II began and men of military age throughout the nation joined the armed forces in droves, women left their traditionally feminine occupations, stepping up to fill the jobs left by the men and necessary to fuel the war effort.

An image of "Rosie the Riveter," a woman working in a factory, using power equipment, became the symbol of this shift.

Kokomo was no different from other places in the United States, with women filling jobs men left behind.

A number of local companies were not only hiring women, they were manufacturing items necessary to the military. Some of those local companies included Haynes, which produced turbo charger parts for high-altitude bombers; Globe,



To help recruit women to the workforce during World War II, Westinghouse commissioned artist J. Howard Miller to create several posters, including the "We Can Do It!" poster. The company used it briefly in February 1942. Years later, it became the symbol for Rosie the Riveter.

which built lifeboats and artillery shells; Kingston, which produced a variety of items, including artillery and radios; Reliance, a dress factory that now made military jackets – other Reliance locations produced parachutes; and Delco, which continued with radios, but manufactured other "top secret" products, possibly radar detection devices. In addition, Continental Steel collected scrap metal for use in the war effort.

While many of the Rosie the Riveter jobs were in manufacturing, women

throughout the county also stepped into other "manly" roles.

Former Kokomo resident Eleanor Hutchens Tyre was one of these women.

Her daughter, Roberta Hite, is an HCHS volunteer and former history teacher who has written her mother's story for a book published by the American Rosie the Riveter Association, *Rosie the Riveter Stories: The Legacy Lives On!*

Raised in Texas, Eleanor was a college student at West Texas State College (now West Texas A&M) when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. Soon after the declaration of war, the college began to look like an all-girls school as young men and even professors began enlisting in the military. A little short on college funds, Eleanor's mother told her of an easy test she could



**Former Kokomo resident Eleanor Hutchens Tyre was a meteorologist with the Civil Aeronautics Administration (now FAA) during World War II.**

take and would be paid \$25 for doing so.

"In December of 1941, \$25 was a lot of money," Hite said.

Eleanor soon realized that by taking the exam, she had actually enlisted in the Civil Service and was told to report for duty in Fort Worth, Texas, within two weeks.

She was now an employee of the Civil Aeronautics Administration and began classes in meteorology and aeronautics. She and her fellow female students

were the first women to ever participate in the meteorology program. Women were wanted to give the weather reports so more men would be available to fight.

After completing her training in Fort Worth, Eleanor was assigned to Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida panhandle, and later to a base in Mobile, Alabama. She was housed with other women and, as a government employee, was given an abundance of ration cards, a luxury during the war.

"My mother said they had ration cards coming out their ears," Hite said. "Because they worked for the government, they were not restricted to gasoline or sugar or anything. They were well taken care of."

Her job was to give the weather forecast for aviators. Navigators were surprised to hear the voices of women on the radio and sometimes the pilots would make unauthor-

ized landings at the base just to see the woman who was giving the weather forecast, Hite said.

Eleanor had the chance to see notable airmen during her meteorological career.

At one point, a group of pilots began practicing very short takeoffs and landings and would fly very low, just over the tree tops – a practice called hedge hopping.

"They weren't told any more about it, just give them weather clearance," Hite said.

Then one day, she was told the squadron was coming through and to provide accurate weather all the way to California.

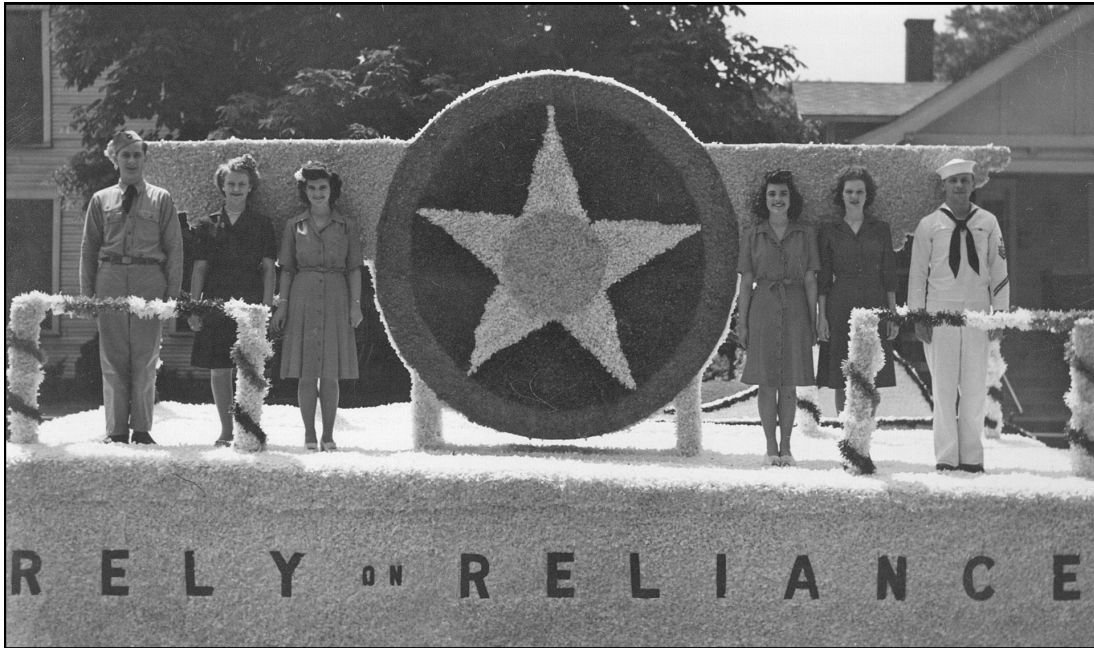
"My mother said she just didn't know," Hite said. "She gave them clearance, and as the planes came down the runway, she ran out to wave at each pilot."

Eleanor learned it was the crew led by notable aviation pioneer Jimmy Doolittle. They were practicing for the first retaliatory raid into Japan, to be made from an aircraft carrier and flown under the radar.

Another time, a flight crew made an unscheduled landing. As a result, the crew had to register



**Women went to work at the Reliance Dress Factory, which was located on North Washington Street in Kokomo, to make military uniforms during World War II.**



**The women factory workers at Reliance Dress Company rode on a float with servicemen during a wartime parade.**

with the office. As the men each signed in, she notice one man in particular had very large hands. As she looked to his face, she realized it was boxer Joe Louis.

"She said he was the nicest, most polite man," Hite said.

The men asked for a recommendation of a good place to eat. However, when they arrived at the diner, the business refused to serve Louis because of his race. Word spread that the famed boxer was denied service. The restaurant was boycotted and closed soon after.

Most of the time, Eleanor checked the equipment and provided the weather forecasts to pilots in the area, using her code name, EH. At night, she often dealt with the boredom by chatting on the radio with members of flight crews or using Morse code with pilots, who also used their initials as code names.

One night, a pilot radioed in to report he was lost and had no bearings. As Eleanor tried to help him, he told her his last known location was North Dakota. Apparently an unusual atmospheric system was sending his signal to the southern United



**An employee of Stellite inspects a part while working in the factory during the war. About half of Stellite's employees were women during those years.**

States. Eleanor called flight headquarters in Atlanta, who asked her to keep talking to him until he could be located. After a time, those in Atlanta were able to locate the pilot on radar and assist him in finding an airport.

"She never knew the end of the story, other than he was safe," Hite said.

She spent several months talking on the radio to a navigator with the initials RT, during night flights. Then one day while riding the base bus into town, she recognized a voice among a group of men in the back of the bus. She turned around and called, "Is RT on this bus?"

"She said this man stood up and said, 'Who the blankety blank wants to know?'" Hite said.

Eleanor said, "It's me, EH." The two began dating. She and Robert Tyre planned to marry in the spring after the end of the war.

During their 45 years of marriage, Hite said that every so often, her father would call her mother "EH".

After Robert left the service, the couple made plans to wed.

"He said he would meet her in Jackson, Mississippi on a certain street corner. My mother said she went up there and drove right past him because it was the first time she had seen him in civilian clothes and didn't recognize him."

They were married in a pastor's living room with just his wife as a witness.

"The pastor and his wife told them, 'We do this all the time for soldiers leaving and going up north,'" Hite said.

When the war ended, so did Eleanor's career as a meteorologist. Like many "Rosies," once the men returned from the war, she finished her job and stayed at home.

"I think she was a typical woman for that time and wanted to start a family," Hite said.

After their marriage, Eleanor and Robert moved to Indianapolis, Robert's hometown, and had two daughters.

However, Eleanor had skills unlike other mothers.

"She always forecast the weather for us," Hite said.

"If she would hang clothes up on the clothesline, she would tell us, 'These will have to come

off early in the afternoon because the sky looks like it's going to rain,'" Hite said. "In the winter, she would say, 'These aren't snow clouds, so you better get ready for school.' And we just thought every mother could tell the weather."

After both of her daughters were in school, Eleanor returned to work as a secretary and administrative assistant, but not to the weather.

Eleanor's husband worked in the auto industry, which brought them to Kokomo from 1966 to 1976. When Robert retired in 1976, the couple returned to Eleanor's hometown of Pampa, Texas, where she lives today. Robert passed away in 1991.

Hite said her mother has enjoyed being a member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association. As her daughter, called a "Rosebud", Hite is a member as well. The organization has more than 4,500 members, a newsletter and a website and recently held a convention at an aircraft plant in Detroit. For more information, write to 1975 Cahaba Valley Rd., Indian Springs, AL 35124 or go to [www.rosietheriveter.net](http://www.rosietheriveter.net).



Today Eleanor Hutchens Tyre lives in western Texas and is a member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association. Her story has been told in several publications, including her local newspaper and a collection of stories on "Rosies" who took on what was considered "manly" occupations during World War II>



Debris hangs from a window in the Howard County Courthouse, above, and fills a hallway leading to the sheriff's office, below, after the bombing.



target. Brubaker provided a sound bite of the actual explosion recorded in his court room. He also tells of asking Kokomo Police Officer Lynn Rudolph, who was in charge of the command center, to take him back to his office so he could get his briefcase, which contained his tax returns due the next day.

**Joseph Coate:** Coate was an Indiana State Police sergeant waiting to testify in the Gray case. He was an undercover agent for some time before the bombing in 1987 and describes his work leading up to the arrest of Robert Gray. According to Coate, Gray was involved in dealing LSD, marijuana and cocaine. Coate was suspicious of Gray's briefcase and thought it probably contained a gun. Coate asked Gray's attorney to have it examined. So Sheriff Beatty, attorney Charlie Scruggs, and the defendant Robert Gray went to the sheriff's office to examine the case. Coate received severe lacerations to his leg when the blast blew him over the rotunda railing.

**Pat DiSalvo:** Pat, a well-known Kokomo radio personality, was at the Sound of Music, a shop on the square. She heard the explosion and describes the aftereffects of the event.

**Beryl "Jake" Grimme:** Grimme was president of the Board of Commissioners who oversaw the reconstruction of the courthouse.

**George Hopkins:** Hopkins, who is now a Howard County judge, was in his law office across the street from the courthouse. In addition to his impressions at the time of the bombing, he discusses security issues in detail.

**Randy Hainlen:** Judge Hainlen was on the third floor at the time of the explosion, and describes his experiences.

**Scott Kinsey:** Kinsey was a Howard County deputy prosecutor assigned to present evidence at the Gray trial. He describes seeking refuge in the closet with Barbara Todd following the explosion.

**Martha Lake:** Lake was Howard County treasurer at the time. She discusses the emotional impact of the bombing. Lake tells how impressed she was with the orderly way people exited the courthouse after the explosion, even though it was a very frightening event. She describes locking the vault and securing county monies before leaving the scene.

**Bob Morr:** Morr was public relations director of Howard Community Hospital and called as a prospective juror for the Gray trial. He describes his first impressions of Robert Gray. Because he was related to KPD officer Jack Adams, he was dismissed from jury duty and did not return after lunch. Morr had returned to Howard Community Hospital when the bomb exploded and relates how the hospital went on "disaster plan", although most of the injured were sent to St. Joseph Hospital, which was closer to the bomb site.

**Steve Rogers:** Rogers, who is now Howard County sheriff, was a deputy in 1987 assigned to the patrol division. When he learned of the explosion, Rogers said he rushed to the scene and was one of first officers who arrived. He describes what he saw and what he did. He also discusses other security threats and concerns at the time.

**Lynn Rudolph:** Rudolph was with the Kokomo Police Department and headed the investigation of the courthouse bombing. He describes his dealings with Robert Gray, and speculates that one of the informants on the case, Jim Wicks, was the intended target of Gray's bombing.

**Barbara Todd:** The Howard County court recorder for Judge Brubaker describes the explosion and its aftereffects. It is her recording device that provides the sound bite of the actual explosion. She provides a vivid description of the event and tells a funny story about returning to her desk for her shoes and a "large Coke", and then hiding in the judge's closet behind his black robes.

**Craig Trott:** Trott was a Howard County sheriff's deputy who took photographs of the scene and assisted with screening debris in search of evidence following the explosion.

**Marvin Van Kley:** Dr. Van Kley was the Howard County coroner at the time and gave the official pronouncement of death. He describes Robert Gray's body among the rubble. Van Kley also discusses Gray's autopsy.

**James Whited:** Whited was the proprietor of Jamey's Soda Fountain, which was located near the square. He was alone in the store at the time of the explosion and said he thought one of the boiler's had exploded. Whited describes the national media arriving and being interviewed. He also was able to see the courthouse after the explosion and provides a description of that as well.

**Dan Zehner:** Dan was a Kokomo fireman and one of the first responders to the scene. He describes treating attorney Charlie Scruggs and Sheriff J.D. Beatty and the impressions they left on him. He also describes inspecting the building. Of all the disasters he has dealt with, Zehner said he ranks the bombing as one of the most devastating as far as physical and psychological damage. He said he believes the bombing has forced us to look more carefully at possible hazards and to be better prepared to handle these situations.

# Monuments Man's Howard County connection

**By John Morr**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Member**

A motion picture released in February tells the story of a portion of a large group of people selected and placed on special assignment for the Allied Forces during World War II: *Monuments Men*.

More than 340 men and women were tasked with the mission to protect and salvage artistic monuments that were stolen by the German army and believed to be hidden in numerous war theaters.

One of these elite Monument Men had connections to Kokomo and Howard County. The initial connection is as simple as it can get. He was born here.

Thomas Carr Howe Jr. was born in Kokomo on July 23, 1904 to Thomas Carr Howe Sr. and Jennie Etta (Armstrong) Howe. Following his birth, Howe was raised in Irvington, a suburb of Indianapolis, where his parents lived. Thomas' father was president of Butler University, then located in the eastside suburb, and they remained in that area for some time.

Thomas Jr. graduated from Shortridge High School and continued his education at Harvard University where he earned bachelor and master degrees in Art History.

In 1931, Howe joined the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, one of San Francisco's fine arts museums, and held the title of assis-

tant director.

The details of Thomas Howe Jr.'s service are characterized in *Monument Men*. For a more personal perspective of the efforts of which he was a part, you can read his book, titled *Monument Man in Salt Mines and Castles: the Discovery and Restitution of Looted European Art* (1946).



Thomas Howe, Jr., who was born in Kokomo, was one of the real "Monuments Men" as depicted in the recent movie release. Monuments Men Foundation website photo

Howe's birth in Kokomo came through family connections. Thomas's mother, Jennie Etta Armstrong, was the daughter of Addison F. Armstrong. Addison Armstrong was part of the family that founded a business with Dr. J.A. James which, by 1874, became known as Armstrong, Pickett and Co., a hardware firm. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the company became known as the Armstrong-Landon Co., a name we are familiar with yet today, known as one of the oldest businesses in Howard County.

Once again, an American story of honor, courage and historical significance is connected to our home, our coun-

ty and even some of our citizens.

History has been made many times in the past, is being made as we speak and shall continue to be made in the future. Take a moment every now and then to reflect on how our lives, our families and our dreams can, and do, make a difference in our world.

## Nominations underway for Howard County Hall of Legends

The Howard County Historical Society is accepting nominations for the fifth class of the Howard County Hall of Legends. The new members will be inducted during a banquet in August.

Among the Legends selected since the Hall was inaugurated in 2010 are auto pioneer Elwood Haynes, author Norman Bridwell of "Clifford the Big Red Dog" fame, journalist Steve Kroft, actor Strother Martin, talk show host Tavis Smiley, renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Emily Craig and Grammy-winning choral conductor Margaret Hillis.

A complete list, with biographies and photographs, is available at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org).

The Hall of Legends is open to individuals who have achieved significant recognition in the areas of Public Service, Commerce and Industry, Science, Technology, Health Sciences, Art, Literature, Journalism, Humanities or Performing Arts.

To be eligible, the nominee must have been born in Howard County, lived in Howard County, worked in Howard County or established a reputation as being a contributor to the good reputation of Howard County.

All nominations must include supporting documentation. Submissions should be delivered to: Hall of Legends, c/o Howard County Historical Society, 1200 W. Sycamore, Kokomo, IN 46901 or [director@howardcountymuseum.org](mailto:director@howardcountymuseum.org).

## SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 21-24, 2015

PRESERVING  
HISTORIC PLACES

INDIANA'S STATEWIDE  
PRESERVATION CONFERENCE  
COMES TO KOKOMO & HOWARD COUNTY

## HCHS offers free admission to active military personnel and their families

The Howard County Museum is one of more than 1,800 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense.

Free admission will be provided to active-duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day in 2014.

"The people of Howard County have a long history of military service to America and we're proud to celebrate and support the contributions of the men and women of the armed forces. This is one small way that we can say 'thank you,'" said Dave Broman, executive director of HCHS. "We're pleased to be able to share our community's heritage with a group of men and women who've made such a strong commitment to our national heritage."

"The Blue Star Museums program is something that service members and their families look forward to every year and we are thrilled with the continued growth of the program," said Blue Star Families CEO Kathy Roth-Douquet. "Through this distinctive collaboration between Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts and more than 1,800 museums across the United States, service members and their families can connect with our national treasures with this unparalleled opportunity to visit some of the country's finest museums for free."

Museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative, including more than 450 new museums this year.

The complete list of participating museums is available at [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card, or a DD

Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps — and up to five family members.

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, dedicated to supporting, connecting and empowering military families. With partners, Blue Star Families hosts a robust array of morale and empowerment programs, including Books on Bases, Blue Star Museums, Operation Honor Corps, Blue Star Careers and Operation Appreciation.

Blue Star Families also works directly with the Department of Defense and senior members of local, state and federal government to bring the most important military family issues to light.

Working in concert with fellow nonprofits, community advocates, and public officials, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable.

Blue Star's worldwide membership includes military spouses, children, parents and friends, as well as service members, veterans and civilians.

To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit <http://www.bluestarfam.org>.

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

# Membership

Thanks to all who joined the Howard County Historical Society  
or renewed their memberships in January through April.

Tom & Ellen Anderson	Kirk & Wendy Daniels	Mark & Jennifer Lyons	Craig & Kristi Severns
Dr. Robert & Sally Bratton	Jack & Judy Dean	Edward & Vickie Martin	Jeff Stout
Tom Cleaver Exteriors	Dr. Matt Dillman	Eugene & Nancy	Shirley & Stout Funeral
Sherry Hord	Dillman Chiropractic	McGarvey	Homes
Crume Evans Insurance	John & Betty Ekle	Sondra Neal	Goldie Snavelly
Jim Aikman	Omar England	Jerry & Marcia Nelson	Patricia Sottong
Gary & Lola Akers	Jack & Betty Feightner	Ken and Stacey Nowak	Mary Lou Stephenson
Barbara Alexander	Ken & Linda Ferries	Fred & Elizabeth Osborn	Linda Stout
Andy & Mary Baker	Jack & Nancy Fivecoate	James & Brenda Papacek	Phyllis Stucker
Bill Baldwin	Garrett & Vivian Floyd	Dr. Phillip Pate	Marge Swing
Tom & Dee Bartley	Diana Goodnight	Mary Ann Peabody	Ellen Tate
Milton Beach	Sandra Grant	Dody Pickett	Jean Thomas
Marsha Berry	Kent Kaufman & Jan	Wendellyn Plummer	Macon Dale Traxler
Kappa Kappa Kappa	Halperin	Richard & Virginia Rea	Dianne Waggaman
Beta Lambda Chapter	Joan Hardesty	Ruth Reichard	Rick & Sandy Warner
William & Gloria Blackburn	Thomas & Jeanne Harrell	Chris & Libby Riesen	Harlo & Dixie Westlin
Kent & Marcia Blackledge	Robert & Joan Hoch	Ed & Carolyn Riley	John & Carol Wilkinson
Glen Boise A.I.C.P.	Dean Hockney	Patricia Roberts	Clara Emily Wilson
Dan & Barbara Bourff	Rachel Jenkins	Dr. Allen Safianow	David Wilson
Henry & Phoebe Carter	Suzanne King	Paul Sandy	
Steve Daily	Dick & Shirley Lee	Ronald & Sally Schafer	

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