



Footprints

A publication of the Howard County Historical Society

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From the executive director

Links to our amazing past just might be in your attic

I've been seeing references to minimalist living more frequently over the past of couple years, an idea that would have been laughed out of the room in the 1960s. It seems that we went through a phase of "bigger is better," and now the pendulum is starting to swing in the other direction. The minimalist credo says that a happy, fulfilled life doesn't come from one's possessions, and that we can free ourselves from the burdens imposed by "our stuff".

There are some things, important things that can get lost in the drive to divest ourselves of the mounting piles. Those are things that bear witness to our past, guide our journey into the future and give depth and meaning to our relationships. We all have them, those little pieces of our history tucked away in boxes, attics and closets.

I'm quite sure that there are treasures buried in homes across Howard County, and the owners of those treasures don't know what they have. I don't mean valuable, Antiques Road-

show, treasures. I do mean letters, photographs, documents and objects that can breathe life into the stories of Howard County and its residents over the years. For example, as we observe the centennial of World War I, there undoubtedly are family heirlooms of those who served and those who died in the Great War. If I had such a treasure in my own family, I'd make sure it was revered and cared for.

I'm not asking people to give their family treasures to the museum, although that could be one way to preserve them. Nor am I suggesting that we all become hoarders. What I'm asking people to do is not destroy potentially priceless historical artifacts in a rush to clean out the attic or down-size. Find out what it is and what it means before you take it to the dumpster. You may think it's just an old photo or an old military ID, but it could be the missing link in an amazing story.

Dave Broman
HCHS Executive Director

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Explore the ‘Nooks & Crannies’ of the Seiberling Mansion

Ever wonder what’s hidden behind closed doors in the Seiberling Mansion? Are there skeletons or a dungeon? Clandestine passageways?

Find out when the Howard County Historical Society conducts a Nooks and Crannies Tour of the mansion on Sunday, May 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to go behind the scenes at the museum and will see, among other things, some of the areas affected by the deteriorating roof.

The historical society is now engaged in a campaign to “Save Our Seiberling” by replacing its original slate roof. Admission to the museum and mansion will be free of charge during the special tour, but donations to the roof campaign are suggested and will be appreciated.

The afternoon will include an old-fashioned ice cream social on the museum porch and grounds featuring live entertainment and

homemade and “storebought” cakes along with ice cream donated by Sam’s Club. Servings of cake and ice cream will be available for \$3 and soft drinks and water will be on sale for \$1 each. Some beautifully decorated cakes will be available for purchase along with a spring plant sale.

It may be years before this opportunity comes again, so don’t miss the fun on May 7. The mansion is located at 1200 W. Sycamore St. in Kokomo. Off-street parking is available, with entry from West Walnut Street. For further information, contact the historical society at 765-452-4314 or by email at info@howardcountymuseum.org.

Spoiler alert: no skeletons, sorry, and no dungeon, but the basement is kind of cool. The passageways aren’t the least bit clandestine, either, but the stairs to the attic are pretty freaky. Did we mention the hidden treasures?

Mark your calendar!

Enjoy these upcoming events from the Howard County Historical Society

Nook & Crannies Tour Sunday, May 7, 1 to 4 p.m.

Free admission but donations to the roof campaign are encouraged. Ice cream social (\$3 for cake and ice cream; \$1 for soda or water), cake sale, live entertainment, plant sale

Seiberling Fiber & Artisan Market

Saturday, Aug. 19

Needle arts, crocheting, knitting, quilting, handcrafts of all kinds and much more – hands-on workshops and many vendors with

needle art and craft supplies. More information to come.

Hall of Legends Banquet Friday, Aug. 25

The annual celebration of Legends of Howard County at Patsarrific’s Bel Air. Banquet, program, silent auction.

Koh-Koh-Mah/Foster Living History Encampment Saturday - Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17

The historical society will again be offering rock painting and candle

dipping – and perhaps some new surprises – at this annual event in western Howard County (100 S. 1000 West).

HCHS Annual Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 17

More information to come

Opening of Christmas at the Seiberling Saturday, Nov. 25

This year’s celebration promises to be bigger and better than ever; through the end of December.

\$100,000 donation benefits Save Our Seiberling campaign

The campaign to preserve Kokomo's iconic Seiberling Mansion took a major step forward in March, thanks to a \$100,000 commitment from James Long.

Long is a long-time supporter of the historical society, with a particular affection for the mansion. His family roots in Howard County go back to the 1830s. He was born in Kokomo, but grew up in Clinton County, and remembers driving by the Seiberling on childhood visits to his Aunt Maxine. He went to school in the mansion when it was home to Indiana University's extension center, but moved on to graduate at Bloomington, with subsequent studies at Northwestern and Harvard universities.

After serving during the Vietnam War, he started his insurance career in San Francisco. Numerous corporate transfers took him to Philadelphia, Jacksonville, Chicago, and finally to Boston, where he resides today.



He retired in 2009 as vice president of Underwriting Operations for one of the world's largest insurance companies.

In 2002, Jim became a member of the historical society and wrote an article for our newsletter about the Togstad Company in Kokomo, where his aunt worked. In 2007, he established an endowment in the Community Foundation of Howard County to honor

his mother and aunt. The Madge Morrison Long and Maxine Morrison Memorial Fund benefits the historical society. Jim has been a generous donor to the society's annual campaign, and now has extended his generosity to the "Save Our Seiberling Campaign."

The mansion's 126-year-old slate roof has been a problem since the late 1960s. A recent assessment by the preservation experts at RATIO Architects called it a "crisis" and said, "The poor condition of the roof poses a major threat to the building's interior."

With work expected to commence this summer, the fundraising campaign is shifting into high gear. Weekly or monthly gifts that will add up over the course of time can be pledged at <http://hchistory.networkforgood.com>. One-time gifts can be given there as well, or by contacting the historical society at 765-452-4314, info@howardcountymuseum.org, or by mailing or dropping a check off at the Howard County Historical Society, 1218 W. Sycamore St., Kokomo, IN 46901.



James Long

Submit nominations for Hall of Legends

The Howard County Hall of Legends is now 43 strong. The list of future Legends is even longer, and growing month by month and year by year.

In past years, the Hall of Legends has recognized a wide range of inventors, leaders, entrepreneurs and artists, from author Norman Bridwell to inventor Elwood Haynes, newsman Steve Kroft, artist Misch Kohn, Lt. Gen. William Kepner, Rev. Henry Perry, and Dr. Emily Craig, among others. Information about each of the Legends and their accomplishments is available at howardcountymuseum.org.



**Hall of Legends member
actor Strother Martin**



**Hall of Legends member
journalist Steve Kroft**

The Howard County Historical Society is accepting nominations for induction in 2017. The Hall of Legends is open to individuals who have achieved significant recognition for accomplishment in public service, commerce and industry, science and technology, health sciences, art, literature, journalism, the humanities and the performing arts. They must have been born in Howard County, have lived and/or worked in Howard County, or established a reputation as being a contributor to the good reputation of the county.

All nominations must include a rationale and supporting documentation. Nominations should be directed to: Howard County Hall of Legends, c/o Dave Broman, 1200 W. Sycamore, Kokomo, IN 46901 or to info@howardcountymuseum.org.

celebrate in style

Elliott House

weddings - receptions
showers - anniversaries
birthdays - reunions
reserve now for Sept-Dec.



1216 West Sycamore Street, Kokomo, IN 46901
howardcountymuseum.org - [pinterest.com/hchistory](https://www.pinterest.com/hchistory)

Historic YMCA building finds new life as urban housing

By Gil Porter
HCHS Publications Committee Member

In a few years' time, a select group of residents in Kokomo will be living in modern apartments within historic walls, when turnaround construction is completed and the original Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building is re-purposed as a downtown housing complex.

Developers announced in February that the four-story building constructed in 1910 at 200 N. Union St. will be saved and will be outfitted with 18 apartments. According to the City of

Kokomo website, the 1957 additions to YMCA building, including the pool, second gymnasium and office space that had fallen into disrepair, will be demolished. New construction on that land will add 28 units, with an exterior designed to complement the historical architecture of the 1910 building.

It won't be the first time the building has served as a domicile. As was the case at YMCAs around the nation at the time, Kokomo's original YMCA included 57 rooms available for short-term occupancy or as overnight lodging for traveling men. Modest athletic

THE KOKOMO DAILY TRIBUNE

PART ONE

VOL. XXVII—NO. 236 4 O'CLOCK EDITION KOKOMO, IND., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1910 TEN PAGES

IN PRESENCE OF GOVERNOR

And Assembled Hundreds the Stone is Set.

WITH NOBLE RITES

The Cornerstone of the Y. M. C. A. Building is Laid—People Manifest Great Interest in the Event—Day's Program Goes Through Without a Hitch—Great Meeting in the Court House Yard.

This is Y. M. C. A. day in Kokomo, the day which formally marks the beginning of the work on the hundred thousand-dollar edifice which is to be dedicated to the moral and physical improvement of the youth of Kokomo and Howard county. This afternoon, at the building site at the corner of Union and Walnut streets, the cornerstone of the noble structure was set into place. The big block of limestone was lowered into position and cemented there in the presence of Governor Thomas R. Marshall, E. E. Stacey, secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Indiana, and hundreds of citizen-representative of every line of professional, commercial and industrial endeavor known to the community.

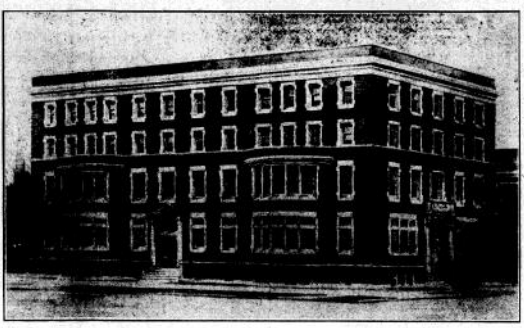
The day has been an interesting and meaningful one to all who are in sympathy with the Y. M. C. A. move ment—and it is difficult to conceive how anyone could help being in sympathy with it. Because of the colim-

OUT THIS YEAR FOR A RECORD

June 8, 1910 - YMCA Day!

With visiting dignitaries and much acclaim, the cornerstone ("the big block of limestone") for Kokomo's first Y.M.C.A. building was laid formally in a ceremony at the corner of Union and Walnut streets marking the start of work on the \$100,000 edifice. Because of the limited space at the building site, the formal meeting and speeches were held in the Courthouse yard.

Y. M. C. A. Building as It Will Appear When Completed



Cornerstone Contents

The June 8, 1910, issue of the Kokomo Daily Tribune duly listed the contents of the “small casket” or receptacle that was placed as the cornerstone occupying “the most conspicuous point on the foundation – the southwest corner” (of the building site).

- Name of the President of the United States (William Howard Taft)
- Name of the Governor of Indiana (Thomas R. Marshall)
- Name of the Mayor of Kokomo (“in this good year 1910”) (John L. Puckett)
- A Silver Dollar
- Fractional coins down to and including the penny
- A copy of the *Kokomo Tribune* containing “a report of the organization of the modern YMCA movement in Kokomo and showing the names of those who served on committees ...”
- A copy of the *Kokomo Dispatch* containing “an article by Judge Lex J. Kirkpatrick on the early YMCA work in Kokomo”
- Various documents related to the YMCA associations in Indiana and Kokomo, past and present
- Photographs of Addison F. and Mary Armstrong, for their “early association work in Kokomo and later in the state.” (This would be the Armstrong of Kokomo’s notable Armstrong-Landon business partnership. He died in 1903. She died in 1919.)

amenities were offered, women were excluded, and children only allowed to use the gymnasium for one hour every Saturday. The Y’s decades-long evolution towards a more family- and community-services-oriented mission is reflected in the new 83,000-square-foot Delmar E. Demaree Family site, which opened in February 2016 in a new location one block south on Union Street. The impressive facility features an aquatic center; Life Fitness and weight training; community rooms and children’s play area; and an indoor track that offers runners a view of the entire facility interior (nine trips around the circuit equals a mile).

The YMCA of Kokomo began meeting in 1875. Active in Sunday school and teaching, it was evangelical in winning souls for the church, though it had no permanent space to call its own, according to the history page on the Kokomo YMCA website. This organization died out after a few years. A rejuvenated effort for a permanent YMCA presence and physical building began in the early 20th century. A front-page headline in the Kokomo Daily Tribune on Saturday, May 25, 1907, announced “THE PROJECT LAUNCHED (For A Y.M.C.A. In This City).” Committees were formed, approvals garnered, and by 1909, a fund-raising project was underway. “CAPTAINS ARE CHOSEN (For The Campaign For The YMCA Fund)” was the front-page headline in the Friday, Sept. 10, 1909, issue of the Tribune. Campaign team captains were Earl Barnes, W.R. Voorhis, Ed M. Souder, Fred Trees, Harry Davis, Dr. Charles Adams, Frank Crick, John Harbaugh, W.J. Dixon and Will H. Arnett, all well-known business and civic leaders in the community, Mr. Souder being the editor of the Kokomo Tribune.

Their work continued apace. On Oct. 1, 1909, the Tribune reported the campaign building fund was close to its goal on the last day of the campaign: “Kokomo is going to have a Y.M.C.A. building and it is going to be a good one. ...” On Oct. 21, the Tribune ran an article soliciting a request for “suitable lots” for the proposed YMCA building: “No lot of less dimensions than 80 by 100 feet will be considered, as any lot of less size than that would be too small. The general feeling is that the



Y.M.C.A. should have a quarter of a square, though it is admitted that it could get along on somewhat less space." And finally, on Nov. 10: "SITE IS CHOSEN FOR Y.M.C.A."

"Kokomo's Y.M.C.A. building will be erected on the A. K. Wilson lot, northeast corner of Union and Walnut streets," the newspaper reported. The property's purchase price was \$10,500 for the 66 by 132 feet lot, "the front being on Walnut street." (After selling, Alonza K. and Elizabeth Wilson moved to a new residence on North Market Street. Wilson owned a livery stable on East Mulberry.) Building work would start the following spring "as the weather conditions permit," and the structure would be ready for occupancy in the fall.

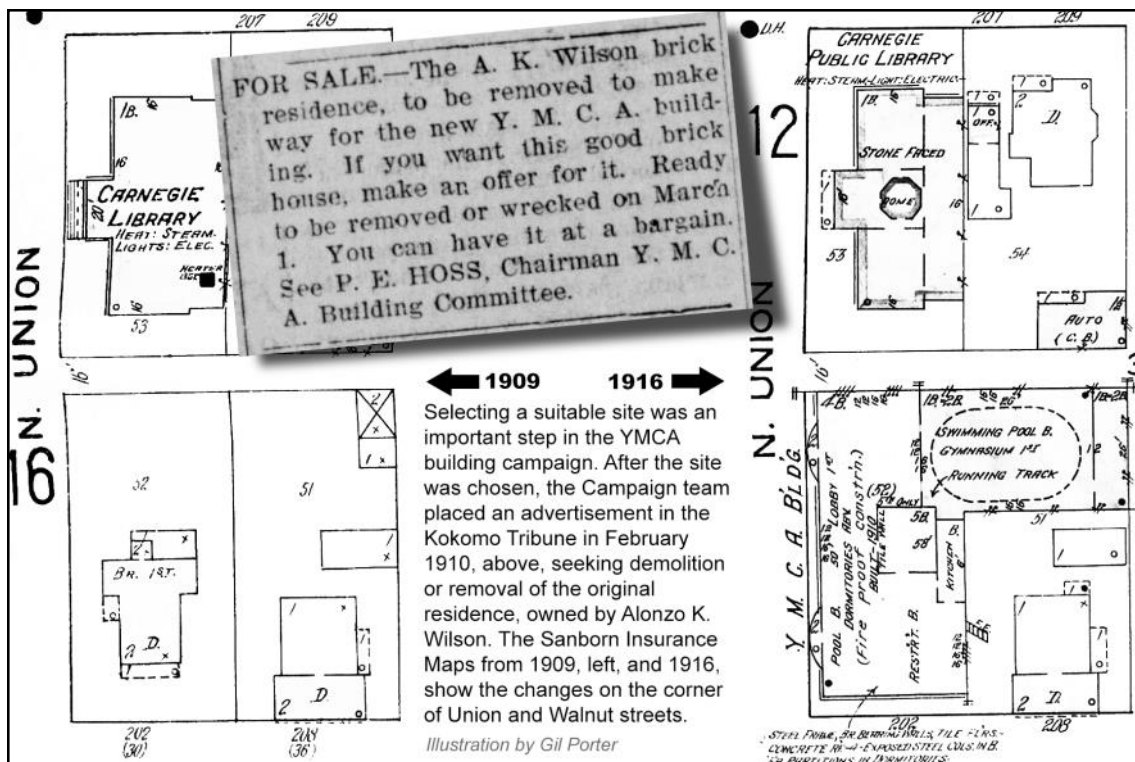
The Chicago-based architects Shattuck and Hussy were selected to design the new building. Their plans were ready by February 1910 and construction began in early spring. In April,

the Tribune reported good progress was being made on excavation, and that Indiana Governor Thomas R. Marshall had accepted the invitation to be present for the cornerstone-laying ceremony scheduled for June 8.

The big day arrived and "IN PRESENCE OF GOVERNOR" and "WITH NOBLE RITES" the cornerstone ("the big block of limestone") for Kokomo's first Y.M.C.A. building was laid formally in a ceremony at the corner of Union and Walnut streets marking the start of work on a \$100,000 edifice dedicated "to the moral and physical improvement of youth of Kokomo and Howard county." Given the lack of space for an assembly at the building site, the formal meeting and speeches took place on the courthouse lawn. G.W. Landon (of Kokomo's notable Armstrong-Landon business partnership, see also "Cornerstone Contents" sidebar) pre-



See 'YMCA on page 18



Chief Kokomo: Time and place

(Editors note: The following article is a continuation of a series of articles about the man known as “Kokomo”.)

By Gil Porter
HCHS Publications Committee Member

In the latter half of the 18th century, the man known as “Kokomo” was born to parents who were likely a Miami Indian and a Potawatomi Indian.

Researchers at the Myaamia Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, have created a family history that provides valuable clues to the village or band leader Kokomo, a source of much speculation since the mid-19th century, and of special interest to residents of the town in Indiana named for him.

Working from the best available evidence, including the few known documented oral and written sources, as well as the 1873 Meshingomesia Testimonials, which established land ownership rights on the Meshingomesia reservation in Grant and Wabash counties after the forced removal of the Miami nation from Indiana, the Myaamia Center researchers are able to identify a person with a similar-sounding name in the area at that time.

The accompanying chart illustrates the “kinship” lines around this “Kokomo.” However, according to George Ironstrack, a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the assistant director of the Education and Outreach Office at the Myaamia Center, it’s important to understand the concept of family within the tribe. “The best way to view a Myaamia person is through the lens of ‘kinship,’ which to the Myaamia includes close and extended kin,” he said.

For example, kinship can be translated as being either related to someone or allied with someone, Ironstrack noted, and striving to maintain a balance as an individual defines one as someone who acts properly and who is thus seen as a good relative. This would include immediate and extended family members, like aunts and uncles, helping with parenting duties, or caring for the

elderly. Kinship then is central to the balance of a web of relationships and mutual respect, and literally directs one’s actions within the family or village unit.

In their paper “kokomo neehi eeweemaacih” (A Brief History of Kokomo and his Family), Ironstrack and co-author John Bickers, a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and an incoming graduate student in the Department of History at the Ohio State University, have created a unique record that moves beyond the known (and often unsubstantiated) stories about “Chief Kokomo” to focus on his family. Though not entitled to an allotment as part of the Big Miami Reserve, Kokomo and his family were in fact related by intermarriage to the two large and influential Meshingomesia and Richardville families (Howard County, Indiana, was originally Richardville County, with Kokomo as the county seat).

Ironstrack notes that while Kokomo’s name and much of his life remain a mystery to us today, the family lived on for a time, and a direct descendant of Kokomo – Pimweeyotamwa (Eli Goodboy) — served with the U.S. Army’s 101st Infantry Regiment in the Civil War. Sadly, as Ironstrack and Bickers write, no children of Pimweeyotamwa and his wife, Tahkamwa, survived infancy, so “no direct descendants of Kokomo exist among Myaamia people today.” But viewed through Myaamia kinship, descendants of Kokomo’s nephew, Thomas F. Richardville, as well as relatives among the Meshingomesia relatives through Tahkamwa (Mary Mongosa) “can be found living throughout Indiana and the broader American Midwest.”

The Myaamia Center, formerly the Myaamia Project, was created in 2001. It is a tribal initiative located at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, to advance the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s language and cultural revitalization efforts. More information is available here: <http://myaamiacenter.org/miami-tribe-and-university/>)

STARTING WITH THREE KNOWN SIBLINGS in the Miami Nation, researchers at the University of Miami have uncovered a rich history that provides valuable clues to the village or band leader named Kokomo. The village was related by intermarriage to the two large and influential Miami families: Meshino and the Waapimaankwa family, as follows: **Kaapeenohkwa** was the wife of akima (chief) Mihtohseenia and mother of the first son of akima Pinšiwā. And their sister **Lo-pu-ge-quah** married the village or band leader, Kokomo, and their siblings; and the equal signs indicate marriage. Thus, Wahseehkamohkwa was the wife of Kokomo's marriage for Kokomo's son Nkotikaapwa (whose first wife was Eepinsahkwa). Kokomo's son, Waapimaankwa, the great-grandson of Pinšiwā.

THE THREE SISTERS

Katakimaankwa

Lo-pu-ge-quah = Kokomo — Angelique =

Waapimaankwa (7)

Meehciniikia (La Gros)

Eepinsahkwa = Nkotikaapwa = Wahseehkamohkwa

Pimweeyotamwa (Eli Goodboy) = Tahla

Nkotikaapwa — Kin

the Myaamia Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, have created a family tree. The Miami concept of “kinship” helps provide an understanding of how Kokomo, Waapimaankwa, and Richardville. The three sisters connect Kokomo to the Miami leaders of the time, including the Miami leader of akima Mihšiiinkweemiša. Her sister **Katakimaankwa** married Waapimaankwa, the Miami leader Kokomo. In the chart, vertical lines show children; the horizontal lines denote marriages. Kokomo's first wife of Mihšiiinkweemiša's brother Mahkwaahkonaka. She was the second wife of Kokomo's sister Angelique was the wife of Pimicinwa and their son was

Pinšiiwa (Jean Baptiste Richardville)

Pinšiiwa
|
Pinšiiwa = Waapimaankwa (Joseph Richardville)

Pinšiiwa
|
Pinšiiwa = Pimicinwa

Thomas F. Richardville)

Kaapeenohkwa = Mihtohseenia

Kaapeenohkwa = Mahkwaahkonaka — Mihšiiinkweemiša

Kaapeenohkwa = Mary Mongosa) Pakankia — Aahtowaata

ooseensa

Data Courtesy Myaamia Center. Chart Design by Gil Porter

Discovering Kokomo

How they unraveled the mystery of the legendary chief

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To better understand how the Myaamia Center research team at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, unraveled the mystery of Chief Kokomo, HCHS Publications Committee member Gil Porter spoke with George Ironstack, a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the assistant director of the Education and Outreach Office at the center, and John Bickers, also a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and an incoming graduate student in the Department of History at the Ohio State University. Here's a synopsis of the interview:*

GIL PORTER: aya (Hello), George and John. On behalf of the Howard County Historical Society and everyone interested in the history of Chief Kokomo, we appreciate your taking the time to speak with us.

GEORGE IRONSTACK: aya Gil, you are quite welcome. neewe (thank you) to you and the folks at the Howard County Historical Society for engaging us in a constructive dialogue about our history.

JOHN BICKERS: aya Gil, we're glad to be to be able to talk to you and the Historical Society regarding Kokomo.

PORTER: First of all, how confident are you in the conclusions we've reached about the historic Native American named Kokomo?

IRONSTACK: I am fairly confident of our conclusions about Kokomo and his family. There's still a lot we don't know, and may never know, about Kokomo. But the historical record regarding his descendants is pretty reliable.

BICKERS: As George said, there is not a lot that we do know about Kokomo, himself. However, his relatives, by blood and by marriage, are well documented through various sources, such as the Meshingomesia Testimonials.

PORTER: The 1873 Meshingomesia Testimonials is an amazing historical document. I suspect many people were surprised to know (Kokomo founder) David Foster was actually an interviewee. How did he describe the man Kokomo?

IRONSTACK: iihia (yes) the Meshingomesia Testimonials are an amazing record of life in Indiana for Myaamia people in the latter half of the 1800s. We owe a huge debt to my friend and relative Dr. Scott Shoemaker for transcribing the testimonials during his dissertation work. The testimonials are focused on land issues tied to the Meshingomesia family's reserve lands. The Meshingomesia family was partitioning their shared reserve into individual holdings, and the U.S. government appointed a commission to solicit testimony to determine who should receive a part of the reserve. Because of intermarriage and tightly interwoven kinship bonds, the testimony touches on just about every Myaamia family living in Indiana in one way or another. In his testimony, Foster does not describe Kokomo in much detail. Other witnesses appear to know more about Kokomo's personal background. For example, both Pakankia (the son of Mihšinkweemiša) and Samuel McClure testify to the fact that Kokomo had one Potawatomi parent and one Myaamia (Miami Indian) parent. David Foster is called on to testify on seven cases, including the claim of

Kokomo's grandson Pimweeyotamwa (Eli Goodboy). While testifying on behalf of Pimweeyotamwa, Foster is recorded using the name "Ma-ko-ka-ma" to refer to the man we know as Kokomo. In every other case he is recorded as using some variation of "Kokomo" to refer to him. All of the Myaamia people who testified, most of whom were fluent speakers of their language, are recorded as using some variation of "Kokomo" in their testimony. As a result, the testimonials do not bring us any clarity regarding Kokomo's name, but they do tell us a lot about Kokomo's family.

PORTER: Can you describe the importance of "kinship" as it relates to the Miami culture?

IRONSTRACK: Kinship is one of the most important social bonds for Myaamia (Miami Indians). Unlike most nations of the world, our tribal nation was established and is maintained through kinship. Nearly all of our people are related to each other if one goes back six or seven generations and even those that aren't directly related usually are interlinked through marriage.

Due to our shared history of forced removal and land loss, Myaamia people live all over the United States and internationally. It is our web of kinship that continues to hold us together despite this dispersal. Historically, when Myaamia people lived in village communities, kinship structured an individual's entire life. People had many mothers (birth mother and all of her sisters), many fathers (birth father and all of his brothers), many aunties (birth father's sisters), many uncles (birth mother's brothers), and uncountable numbers of grandparents (everyone in the village who was older than one's parents' generation).

All of these folks had different responsibilities based on their kinship connections, and this complicated weaving of kin created a communal support network that nurtured the develop-

ment of youth in a way that sustained the community. Of course, this historic system was heavily disrupted by warfare, land loss, forced removals, and population fragmentation. That said, kinship continues to be one of the strongest elements of Myaamia (Miami Indian) community to this day.

PORTER: According to your research, Kokomo and his wife Lo-pu-ge-quah's direct line of descendants apparently ended with their grandson, Pimweeyotamwa, whose children died in infancy. Is that the end of family line completely, then?

BICKERS: In terms of direct descendants, yes, that is the end of that line. But from a Myaamia perspective, Kokomo's family line continues through his relatives, such as his nephews Mihšiinkweemiša and Waapimaankwa (Thomas Richardville). Like George discussed earlier, in Myaamia culture, the family is composed of much more than the nuclear family we are accustomed to in American culture.

And much in the same way, the family line or descendants is much more expansive in Myaamia culture.

PORTER: George and John, on behalf of the HCHS, we appreciate your time and for sharing the research with us. neewe!

IRONSTRACK: neewe to you as well Gil. It has been fun visiting with you about our history, and I hope that this is but the first of many such "chats."

BICKERS: neewe for talking to us. There are so many places like Kokomo that connect to Myaamia people and Myaamia places. It's heartwarming to be able to have a dialogue about those people and places that can connect Myaamia people and Hoosiers in our shared history in Indiana.

— *To learn more about the Myaamia Center and its research activities, visit myaamiacenter.org*

World War I: Remembering the “War to End All Wars”

By Jon Russell
Howard County Historian

I remember my dad talking about his life as a boy. Though usually filled with humorous reminiscences, you still got the idea that times in Summitville were remote, simple and tough. His home had no electricity, no running water and no central heat. His mother stayed home with four small children while his father worked as a section hand (aka “Gandy Dancer”) for the New York Central Railroad. For the most part, that was Indiana 100 years ago: 1917.

In Europe, a war had begun in 1914, though as a small boy, my dad knew nothing about it. In fact, it seemed of little concern even to most adult Hoosiers. America had considered itself neutral, trying not to be drawn into a conflict “between kings and emperors”. That was soon to change.

Not all was “neutral” for the U.S. during those early years leading up to our official entry, as America was an industrialized nation and had been supplying the Allied efforts in Europe. In 1915, the RMS Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine with heavy loss of civilian life, including many Americans, and public opinion began to shift against the “Triple Alliance”.

Across the nation and the state, citizens with German ancestry began to feel the discrimination and mistrust that had previously been given so many ethnic and minority groups in our history. German organizations such as the Turnverein gymnastics clubs in Indianapolis began to change their names. Even the German Baptist Church in Delphi dropped the

“German” from its name, becoming the “First Baptist”, according to Mark Smith, Carroll County historian.

On April 6, 1917, the United States officially entered World War I. There were 135,000 Hoosiers that served in “the Great War”, and 3,000 paid the ultimate sacrifice including my dad’s uncle. There were 2,376 Howard County citizens who served, and 38 died in service.

Howard County did its part to aid the war effort. Industry produced supplies necessary for war and Kokomo ranked second in Indiana for the number of war contracts with at least 14 firms involved in making munitions and other products. Some of these were quite innovative, such as the first incendiary aerial drop bomb with fins. These fins helped with the bomb’s accuracy.

Residents accepted rationing of goods and purchased “thrift stamps”, war certificates and bonds. Food production was high on the list of government priorities, and Howard County farmers helped to supply the food needed for the military. For residents, it became a necessary part of the war effort to conserve, and certain items were restricted for use, including meat, bread, and sugar. And, they raised money through the Liberty Bond Drives that began in 1917. These bond drives were a symbol of patriotic duty and introduced the idea of financial securities to many citizens for the first time.

Yet it is a “forgotten war.” There are no living veterans. And the few people left who did live at that time would have been quite young and now more than 100 years old. Kids may read about it in history class, yet there is no World War I Memorial in Washington D.C. dedicated to a war which, in barely a year of U.S. battle-



Above is a well-known photo of Gunnery Sergeant Opha Mae Johnson inspecting three Marines taken in 1918. She is wearing her (possibly one-of-a-kind) women's dress blue uniform. The three Marines she is inspecting are wearing standard uniforms. While a women's Marine dress blue uniform never may have been authorized by regulations, it clearly was, at least in one instance "allowed."

field participation, took more American lives than Korea and Vietnam combined and changed our country and the world forever. (There are plans to build a national memorial in Pershing Park, D.C., and dedicate it on Nov. 11, 2018. Visit www.worldwar1centennial.org to find out more.)

On April 6, 2017, Indiana and the Nation began the commemoration of our official entry into World War I. Many events and programs will be offered during the centennial years, and Howard County will be involved.

The Howard County Historical Society will sponsor an event that we hope will become an endorsed project of the commission. And during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Darrough Chapel/Veterans Memorial Park, we will honor

all women veterans, including the first female U.S. Marine: WWI veteran Opha May Johnson (nee: Jacob), born in Kokomo in May 1879.

Join with Indiana and Howard County as the nation honors its participation in "the War to End All Wars." Many events are planned for this celebration, and efforts in Indiana to honor the memory of World War I will be on a par with our state's bicentennial celebration.

Visit www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-ww1-centennial-home.html, to see what's being planned for our state. It's in the early stages of planning at this time, so keep checking the website, or follow local information for programs being planned in Howard County.

New Idea Company inventors included John Powell of Kokomo

By Joyce L. Alig
President
Mercer County (Ohio) Historical Society

Creative individuals are thinkers and dreamers. They are the ones who come up with the light bulb moment when they invent a product that changes history. Too many times, individuals who create ideas and are leaders in their field are forgotten by the very individuals who use their inventions or their services to their own economic advantage.

Who are inventors? Many school students know that Benjamin Franklin invented the lightning rod in 1752, and they know that Thomas A. Edison invented the phonograph in 1876 and the practical incandescent bulb in 1879. Most adults are aware that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, the year of our nation's centennial celebration.

Most farmers know that Cyrus H. McCormick invented the reaper in 1831, and John Deere introduced the steel plow in 1837. A generation ago, when children were playing spy games, they were using the Morse Code influenced by Samuel F.B. Morse's invention of the practical telegraph in 1832.

Many give credit to Joseph Oppenheim for inventing the manure spreader. However, Oppenheim's contribution was placing the paddles at an angle at the back of the spreader. This idea changed agricultural implements as of 1899. Joseph Kemp had filed patents on manure spreaders as early as 1877, and continued with more patents for another three decades.

In 1925, John Powell of Kokomo, Ind., invented the first successful mechanical two-row

P.T.O. corn picker and approached New Idea Company in Coldwater, Ohio, about producing it. By 1928 New Idea produced that machine commercially. How many people remember John Powell's name in light of the fact that his invention contributed to the success of the New Idea Company's producing corn pickers?

How many farmers know the name of Martin O. Ronning? Ronning's name should rank right up there with Oppenheim and Powell's names, for the inventions resulting in jobs for hundreds of New Idea employees in the past century.

In the 1920s, Ronning began his successful career with Minneapolis Moline Co., a manufacturer of farm equipment/implements. Ronning gained experience as he was chief mechanical engineer of the MM Co.'s Power Machinery Division from 1934-1956, and chief engineer of the Product Research Division from 1956-1960. Ronning invented the Minneapolis Moline Company's "Uni-Farmor System," a tractor on which numerous farm machines could be interchangeably mounted. This line of equipment had been introduced in 1951, through Ronning's efforts. Ronning was granted more than 30 patents by the U.S. Patent Office for inventions of farm implement equipment, including uni-combines and corn pickers.

New Idea Company purchased the patent for the Uni-System power unit from Minneapolis Moline in 1963 and improved its design. In 1965, New Idea revolutionized the small farm industry by marketing the Uni-System power unit, a single power source to which may be attached interchangeable special harvesting implements for a variety of crops.

How many farmers are inventing new agricul-

tural products today? Many farmers have created improvements without filing for any patents. How are county industries, county schools, county offices related to agriculture and county entrepreneurs working to encourage and support new ideas for agribusiness inventions today? The LIA was initiated to create solutions for Lake Improvement. Is there an Agricultural Inventors and Ideas Association? Has anyone taken the time to seek

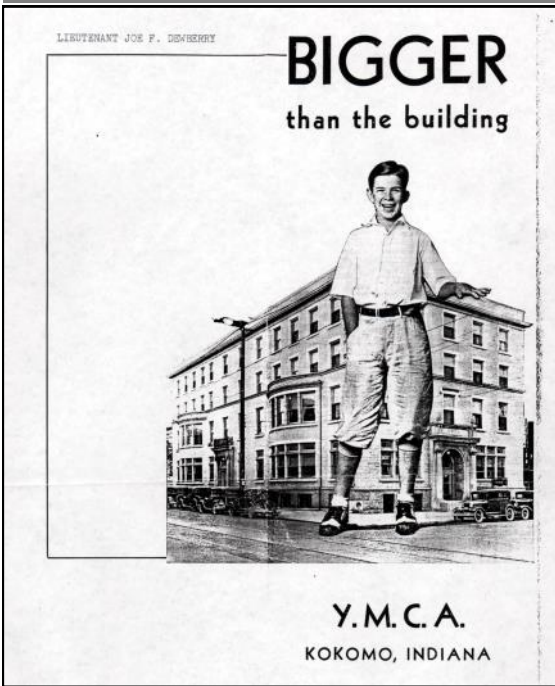
these ag thinkers and creators and meet with them today? You are always welcome to email me with your suggestions.

Reprinted from Our Old Bookcase, a publication of the Mercer County Historical Society in Celina, Ohio. Mercer County Historical Society President Joyce Alig may be contacted at 3054 Burk-St. Henry Road, Saint Henry, OH 45883 or hystalig@bright.net or 419-678-2614.



Ed and Ron Homan of Coldwater, Ohio with their 1928 New Idea Two Row Corn Picker. The picker was invented by John Powell of Kokomo, IN in 1925, the first corn harvester to use a power take-off. Instead of using belts connected to the wheels for power, Powell's design connected to a tractor's engine through the PTO, providing continuous, consistent power to the mechanism. New Idea Company of Coldwater, Ohio, produced the harvester, beginning in 1928.

YMCA, continued from page 8



As a child, Lt. Joe F. Dewberry's photo was used for a YMCA fundraising campaign.

sided over the event.

Hope that the resulting structure would be preserved was presciently predicted by the Tribune writer in the 4 p.m. edition of that day's paper: "It is reasonable to assume that the building will be staunch and beautiful long after even the youngest of those who looked upon the laying of its cornerstone has passed away."

Reusing the original building was a priority for the city more than 100 years later. "Downtown Kokomo is a perfect place for market rate apartment redevelop-

ment," said Jon Anderson of AP Development LLC, an Indianapolis-based developer that will manage the \$6.5 million redevelopment project, in February. "The downtown area is an exciting, unique place. The historic building provides a great foundation for the project and will complement the other development taking place."

In announcing the redevelopment, Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight said the preservation of historic buildings is important. "Much like we did with the train depot, the former ice factory and the Mikalas building, the city will continue to take the lead in saving Kokomo's historic buildings and landmarks," he said. Redeveloping a 117-year old building with a storied past is a priority."

AP Development has similar projects in development including the 1913 YMCA in Evansville, Rock City Lofts in Wabash, the UB Block in Huntington and the Ben Hur Building in Crawfordsville. According to the city's website, construction on the project will begin in April 2018 with completion set for July 2019.



In this photo from the HCHS collection, Lena Hall served behind the front desk at the YMCA.

You can be part of the heart and soul of the HCHS

By Dave Broman
HCHS Executive Director

It's all about people. First, last and in-between, our history and the historical society are all about people. Our history tells the stories of the people of Howard County, and the historical society is the people who preserve and share that history, most of whom do it for fun and not for profit. They share a pride in our heritage and a desire to share it with the world. Does that describe you?

With just a few hours of volunteer time, or a few more, you can be part of that society. There are important (and fun!) jobs to do behind the scenes or in the spotlight. We need future board members and leaders, committee members and leaders, hosts, designers, woodworkers, researchers, writers, digital experts and more. You can help plan and present spe-

cial events like Christmas at the Seiberling or Hall of Legends, research and write articles for our quarterly publication, Footprints, build exhibits, help manage our website and social media, host tours, maintain the flowers and trees on the grounds and much more. There's probably a position that fits your passion and skill and we want to talk with you about what you love to do.

Stop by the Seiberling Mansion and talk with our hosts about what they do and why they do it. Learn more at howardcountymuseum.org or find us on VolunteerMatch.com. Our email address is info@howardcountymuseum.org or call 765-452-4314 and talk with volunteer coordinator Kelly Mavrick.

Howard County is an amazing place and you can help make it even more amazing by spreading the word as an HCHS volunteer.

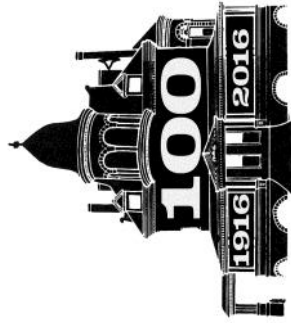
Membership

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

Curt Alexander, Spectrum Photography
Milton Beach
Laurence and Janice Blanchard
Henry and Phoebe Carter
Karl and Cathy Clearwaters
Kirk and Wendy Daniels
Norma Dunn
Teresa Fields
Cary Hiers
Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc., Beta Lambda Chapter
Dana Osburn

Dr. Phillip and Ruth Ann Pate
Todd and Deanna Picton/Gifford
Gilbert Porter
Malea Powell
Psi Iota Xi Sorority
Sherry Rahl
Jane Richardson
Goldie Snively
Dianne Waggaman
Bill and Elaine Wanke
Chad West
Jon Zeck

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