

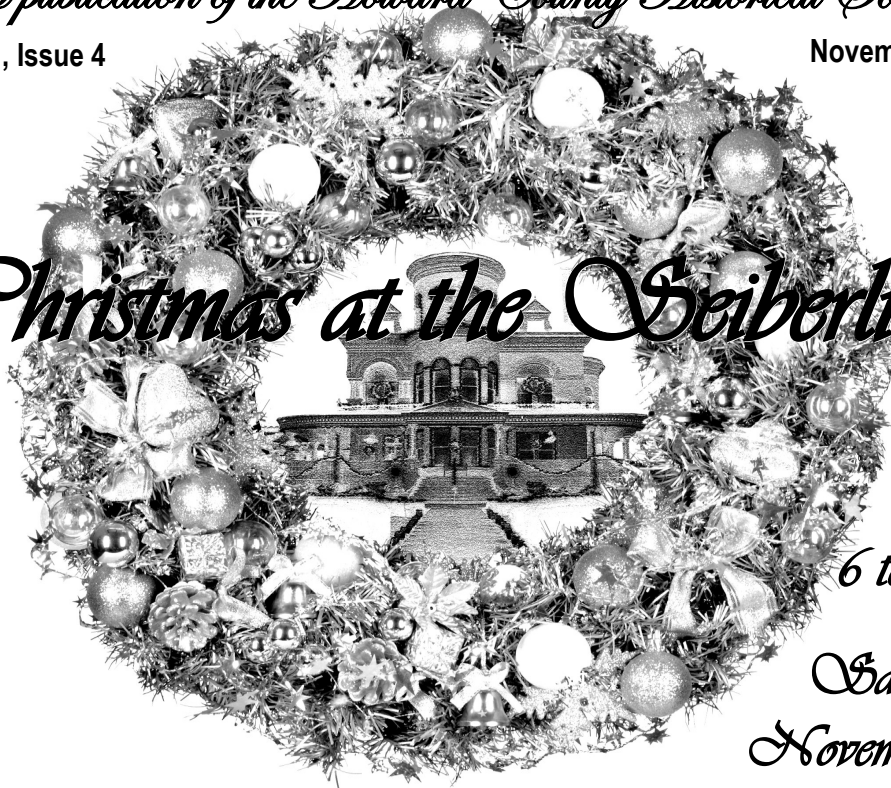
# *Footprints*

*A publication of the Howard County Historical Society*

Volume 1, Issue 4

November 2012

## *Christmas at the Seiberling*



*6 to 9 p.m.*

*Saturday,  
November 24*

***Also in this issue:***

**Fighting Hoosiers: Civil War exhibit to open**

***Where did the time go? Courthouse turns 75***

**HCHS annual campaign kicks off**

## More than lights and tinsel can be found at the Historical Society right now

**I**t's hard to believe it happened so fast, but Christmas and all the great holiday activities at the Howard County Museum are right around the corner.

"Christmas at the Seiberling" will kick off the season on Nov. 24, the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Many families have made this a part of their holiday traditions. And it's a great way to get in the Christmas spirit with an evening of holiday music, wassail and cookies, a visit with Santa, carriage rides through the Old Silk Stocking neighborhood, and, of course, a tour of the beautifully decorated mansion.

Other activities will follow, including the "Holiday Spirits" wine and beer tasting event on Dec. 7, and the opportunity to have family portraits at the mansion by Lausch Photography on Dec. 1.

But, holiday preparations are not the only thing underway at the Howard County Historical Society.

A Civil War exhibit using many items from Craig Dunn's vast collection will open this

month. Be sure to see the many photos of Howard County men who served in the war, their letters home and the weapons they used.

Volunteers are continuing to conduct oral histories with those involved in the courthouse bombing that took place 25 years ago as we mark the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Howard County Courthouse.

The annual campaign is also underway to help support the historical society and its mission. Proceeds from a new Seiberling Mansion tree ornament featuring the design of the West Balcony of the mansion, as well as the raffle of the latest necklace created by Jeff Watson will go toward the campaign, as well as your generous donations.

The holidays are approaching fast. As your schedule begins to fill, be sure to make the many events at the Seiberling Mansion and the historical society a part of your holiday plans.

**Emily West**  
*Footprints* editor

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From the executive director

## Keeping the community scrapbook

**H**istory. It isn't free. We pay for it as we make it... on the go, bit by bit, with our time, energy and money. Once in a while, we look back and think, "Wow. We need to remember that." So we pay some more to make sure we don't forget, buying photo prints and frames, scrapbooks, cabinets, shelves and boxes.

The difference between preserving your personal history and that of the community is largely a matter of scale. In your own life, it's creating the photograph albums and sharing them. It's setting aside the objects that have special meaning and sharing the stories around those things. It's the legacy of your life and memories on a pay-as-you-go plan.

The Howard County Historical Society, its members and supporters, have embraced the responsibility of preserving and sharing our heritage. We're maintaining the community's "photo album" and heirlooms. Not for nostalgia, but for the lessons we can learn – and because sharing the history we have in common can bring us together and help heal the divisions in society.

The greatest division in our country's

history, one that we're still learning from, was the Civil War. Our society, politics, and economy still bear the scars of that horrific conflict. The staff of the society has been working for the last two months on a new exhibit that tells a few of the stories from Indiana's involvement in the war. Their work provides a good example of the cost of preserving and sharing history – through staff time and energy, climate control, floor space, and customized display furniture that secures artifacts and protects them from the environment.

If we're to continue with exhibits like the new Civil War display and programs like the Continental Steel project and "Christmas at the Seiberling", we have to be able to pay for them. If we're to maintain the Seiberling Mansion and Elliott House, we can't do so for free. That's why I'm asking for your support during the annual campaign. Please review the campaign packet we sent and join us in preserving and sharing Howard County's unique heritage.

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

# *Christmas at the Seiberling*

*Saturday, November 24, 6 to 9 p.m.*

*Lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival—6 p.m.*



*Sponsored by The Wyman Group*

*Enjoy the holiday decorations throughout the mansion*

Live holiday music ✎ Carriage rides ✎ Visits and pictures with St. Nick ✎ Cookies & wassail

*Historical Society members—free*

*Non-member admission: Adults, \$4, and kids younger than 12 years, \$1*

## Schedule a horse-drawn carriage ride



A favorite activity during the annual *Christmas at the Seiberling* opening night event is the horse-drawn carriage ride. Beautiful white horses pull a Victorian-style carriage through the Old Silk Stocking Neighborhood, which will be lit by luminaries. Each ride lasts approximately 15 minutes. Each carriage holds up to six people, and four adults can ride comfortably. The covered carriages provide protection from the weather, making this activity possible in rain or snow.

The cost is \$50 per carriage, whether it's for a romantic ride for two or a family experience. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. So, make plans for a carriage ride on Saturday, Nov. 24, between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. If you would like to be a part of the holiday fun, we will be happy to schedule a time for you to ride.

Please call the museum office at 452-4314, Monday–Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. MasterCard and VISA are welcome.

## Santa Claus is coming to town



Anticipation fills the air each year on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Families gather on the front lawn and listen for the clop, clop, clop of the horses' hooves as Santa approaches the Seiberling Mansion in a horse-drawn carriage.

After the jolly old fellow and his helpers arrive, they join our visitors on the front porch and lead them in a countdown (10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1) to the lighting of the mansion and the beginning of *Christmas at the Seiberling*.

During the event, Santa is in the Elliott House, where he visits with hundreds of children. He takes his time with each child, asking them questions and listening to their requests with a twinkle in his eye.

Make plans to attend on Saturday, Nov. 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. and bring that special child in your life to meet the best Santa in town.



## 2012 SEIBERLING MANSION CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



THIS LIMITED EDITION GOLD PLATED CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT FEATURES THE WEST BALCONY OF THE MAJESTIC SEIBERLING MANSION AND IS FIFTH IN A SERIES. DISPLAY THE BEAUTIFUL ORNAMENT BY ITSELF OR ON YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE. NOW AVAILABLE FOR \$20 WITH ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORTING THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ITS MISSION TO PRESERVE AND SHARE OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE.

## Seiberling Inspiration 5 ...



***A stunning one-of-a-kind fashion pendant created by artist Jeff Watson, featuring a design motif taken from the magnificent Seiberling Mansion. An elegant natural black pearl is centered in the white and yellow gold setting, highlighted by sparkling black diamonds and hung from an 18-inch white gold chain.***

Just \$20 will purchase a 1-in-300 chance to own this original, custom-designed piece of artwork from a master jewelry craftsman. Its retail value is \$3,000. The winner of Seiberling Inspiration 5 will be selected by random drawing on Dec. 21. The pendant is composed of 14k gold, with .30 carat tw diamonds and 9.8 mm natural pearl. Participants need not be present to win. In addition to ticket purchase, an entry form must be complete to be eligible for the grand prize drawing. Complete rules are available at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org).

# *Holiday Spirits*

**The Howard County Historical Society's "Holiday Spirits" wine, champagne and beer tasting event will be Friday, Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Hors d'oeuvres will also be served.**

**The party is sponsored by Soupley's Wine & Spirits and Rozzi's Catering.**

**Listen to music and sign up for items in the silent auction as well.**

**Cost is \$20 per person for members and \$25 per person for non-members. For tickets and information, call 765-452-4314 or go to [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org).**



## **Family Portraits at the Mansion on Dec. 1**

*Sponsored by Lausch Photography with proceeds to benefit the HCHS*

### **Package A:**

2-5x7s, 16 wallets—\$65

### **Package B:**

2-8x10s, 4-4x5s—\$70

### **Package C:**

1-8x10s, 2-5x7s, 16 wallets—\$75

### **Package D:**

2-8x10s, 2-5x7s, 24 wallets—\$85

### **Package E:**

2-8x10s, 50 Christmas cards w/ envelopes—\$100

### **Additional reprints with a package purchase:**

8-wallets—\$ 30

4-4x7s—\$30

2-5x7s—\$30

1-8x10—\$30

1-11x14—\$85

1-16x20—\$130

25 Christmas cards w/envelopes—\$50

All packages incl. a Facebook file. Frames will be offered for all sizes.

Payments can be made with MasterCard, VISA, check, cash or money order and are due when the portraits are taken.

Call (765) 452-4314 for an appointment. A \$20 deposit, required when scheduling, will be applied to your photo order.

## Ryan White oral history project to receive Indiana History Outstanding Project award

The very first issue of *Footprints*, in March 2012, included an article on the society's Ryan White Oral History Project.

The multi-year project was our most extensive thus far, and resulted in 22 oral histories from a wide variety of people who knew Ryan or were involved in the controversy over his schooling.

Almost immediately upon the completion, we began to receive research requests for use of the collection.

Dr. Allen Safianow, chair of the Oral History Committee, announced at the annual meeting that HCHS will receive the 2012 Indiana History Outstanding Event or Project Award for the Ryan White Oral History Project. He also told the crowd that his article on the project is due to be published in the Indiana Historic Society's magazine, *Traces*, in early 2013.

The award will be presented at the IHS Founders Day Dinner in December at the Glick History Center in Indianapolis. Tickets will be available from IHS later in November.



Allen Safianow, chair of the Oral History Committee, announced during the HCHS annual meeting that the Ryan White project was selected as Indiana History Outstanding Project for 2012.



Historical Society members and staff gathered in the Howard County Courthouse for the annual meeting in October.

# Membership

**Thanks to all who joined the Howard County Historical Society  
or renewed their memberships in August through October**

Dr. Alan & Phyllis Adler	Mayor of Kokomo Greg	Larry Moss
James & Karen Alender	Goodnight	Larry Newburg
Barbara Alexander	Cheryl Graham	Larry Newlin
Alpha Delta Kappa—Tau Chapter	Glenn & Nancy Grundmann	Doug & Roma North
Jaclyn Ayers	Alan & Prudence Harnish	David & Melody Rayl
Jerry and Connie Basham	Beth Harshman	Beth Rider
William & Gloria Blackburn	BethAnn Heuermann	Michael Rodgers
Laurence & Janice Blanchard	Jeff & Cassandra Hauswald	Jay Ross
Morris Boyce	Robert Hill	Randy & Mary Rusch
Judy Bradburn	Jeff & Kris Himelick	Emily Golightly Rusk
Jan and Jim Briscoe	John & Mary Ann Holmes	Dick & Myra Sanburn
Dave Broman & Joyce Cylkowski	Patti Host	Donald & Joni Sanders
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Brown II	Carol Hynds Shallenberger	Todd Scoggins
Larry & Mildred Brown	Mike & Brenda Imbler	Shallenberger Realty, Keith Shallenberger
J. Herbert & Barbara Buchanan	Jill Jeffries	Barbara Shearer
Senator Jim and Judy Buck	Richard & Marguerite Kadlec	Thomas & Judy Sheehan
James & Marvel Butcher	Kathy Kennedy	Dr. Charles & Alice Simons
Henry and Phoebe Carter	Steve & Rhonda Kidwell	Rick & Diane Smith
Kevin Clevenger	Jerry King	Goldie Snively
Mike and Suzie Crawford	Phillip & Diane Knight	Mary Lou Stephenson
Kenneth Crockett	William & Margy Kring	David & Carla Summers
Hilary Crook	Ed Lausch	Rheld & Lorina Tate
Cheryl Currens	Ivy Le	Dr. Ronald & Amy Thompson
Dorothy Dague	Jack & Maureen Lechner	Tom & Carol Trine
John & Kathy Davidson	Gale & Donna Leiter	Edward Trobaugh
Joe and Diama Davis	Mary H. Lewis	James & Kathryn Trobaugh
Juanita Martin Davis	Jean Leyda	Joanne Trobaugh
Pat DiSalvo	Paul Linder	Mike & Laura Ullery
Charles and Mary Duncan	Marsha Maple	Betty Underwood
Norma Dunn	Reggie & Lois Martin	Douglas & Lynn Vaughn
Orren & Barbara Dutton	Bob Massey	Bill & Elaine Wanke
Ken & Linda Ferries	James & Diane McCord	John & Emily West
First Farmers Bank & Trust	Elwood & Margaret Miles	Michael & Nancy Wyant
John & Connie Floyd	Richard & Marsha Miller	Paul & Shelly Wyman
Dr. David Gibson	Ann Millikan	
Bob & Rosalie Gollner	John & Cindy Morr	

***howardcountymuseum.org***  
***facebook.com/hchistory***

## Civil War exhibit opens November 28

**By Randy Smith**  
**HCHS Curatorial Assistant**

The Civil War brings up many emotions. It was the war that determined if and how our country would survive. Survive it did, but at a terrible cost — approximately 600,000 deaths in four years of fighting.

Earlier this year I learned that the Howard County Museum was planning an exhibit on Hoosier involvement in the Civil War. Military history is an interest of mine, and I was looking forward to what the exhibit would bring.

Because I am a volunteer — and a fairly new one at that — I was unsure what my role in the exhibit was going to be. I didn't even know what would be included in the exhibit.

Stew Lauterbach, museum curator of artifacts, was patient in answering all of my questions about what we were going to do. He told me that Craig Dunn, a local Civil War collector was going to be loaning the museum a part of his collection to put on display.

Dunn is noted for having the largest collection of identified pictures of Hoosier Civil War veterans. He also has many other interesting artifacts, some of which will be part of the exhibit, along with items from the historical society collection.

After we received the

artifacts and pictures from Craig, the real work began: researching the items and the people. Research can be very exciting because you never know for sure where it will lead.

Dunn has loaned us several edged weapons with straight and curved blades. You would call them all swords, but there are differences. Straight-bladed weapons are swords, curved-bladed weapons are sabers, a fact I didn't appreciate until I began my investigations into the weapons.



**HCHS Curator of Artifacts Stew Lauterbach and Jaclyn Ayers, volunteer coordinator/deaccession clerk, place a sword in a display case in preparation for the Civil War exhibit, which will open Nov. 28 in the Howard County Museum. Craig Dunn, who owns an extensive collection of Civil War artifacts, photos, letters and other items, has loaned items to the museum for the exhibit, which will be open through June 2013.**

One of the people featured in the exhibit is Howard County's ranking Civil War veteran, Brigadier General Thomas Harrison. Thanks to one of his descendants, the Howard County Historical Society has copies of about 60 letters he sent to his family during the war. These letters speak to us 150 years later about the trials of war. In his letters, he praises his troops. He also has a refrain in some of his letters that I can identify with as a veteran myself: He is not hearing enough from home. Today, communicating with loved ones is much easier thanks to e-mail, Skype and a whole host of other instant communications. In 1862, the mail was the only way to communicate with your loved ones. One hundred and fifty years from today, most likely we will not have the troves of letters for researchers to look at and read like those Harrison left for us.

My research also revealed the extent to which Hoosier veterans were involved in many of the well-known battles of the Civil War. General Harrison was involved in the first major named conflict of the war, The Battle of Phillipi.

Other veterans showcased in the exhibit were involved at Antietam, Chancellorsville, Shiloh and Gettysburg - battles that are known to even to people who do not have interest in the Civil War. The veterans in our exhibit were involved in many other lesser-known battles as well.

Some Hoosier veterans witnessed the start of a new type of naval warfare: the first battle of naval ironclads at the Battle of Hampton Roads.

Speaking of research, Dunn also loaned the museum two artillery rounds from his collection, but we had no picture of a Hoosier artillery officer to display with the artifacts. After some digging, I found that Dunn had a photograph of a Hoosier artillery officer, Asahel Bush, which he could loan. While researching Asahel Bush to

learn more about him for the exhibit, I was led to a blog of the Washington State Library that had quite a surprise. To find out what that surprise is, see the exhibit.



**The stories behind the Civil War exhibit are not just about men in battle and the weapons they used, like those above. They are about families as well.**

**One local story involves the Kirkpatrick family. Thomas Kirkpatrick left his home to fight in the Civil War. Later, his wife received a telegram, notifying her that he had been killed. But, in fact, he had only been wounded. He later returned home, to his wife's disbelief. Apparently the news of Kirkpatrick's death, along with the shock of his return, unhinged Mrs. Kirkpatrick. Upon his return, she would never acknowledge his presence, even though they shared the same house. According to the story, she would not allow him to ride in the same carriage as her, making him follow on a horse behind her.**

## *Do you know the history of your courthouse?*



People gathered on the courthouse square in Kokomo for a high school pep rally prior to the construction of the present building.

**By Judy Lausch**

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Howard County Courthouse. In October, the annual meeting of the HCHS took place in the beautiful rotunda of the building, and Judge George Hopkins spoke to us about the history of the building.

Now you can test yourself as to your knowledge about the history of the courthouse. Some of the answers may surprise you. Answers are on page 14.

1. The Howard County Courthouse is celebrating its \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary this year.

- a. 25th
- b. 50th
- c. 75th
- d. 100th

2. Final Cost of the present building was:

- a. \$300,000.00
- b. \$450,000.00
- c. \$500,000.00
- d. \$950,000.00

3. The last of the bonds was paid off in:

- a. 1947
- b. 1954
- c. 2012
- d. We still owe money

4. The architect of the courthouse building was:

- a. Christopher Alexander
- b. Robert A. M. Stern
- c. Frank Lloyd Wright
- d. Oscar F. Cook

5. The reason the new Court House was built was because:

- a. The old courthouse burned down
- b. The old courthouse was too small
- c. The county received a grant from WPA
- d. The old courthouse did not meet Indiana's fire code

6. Which noted occasion drew a large crowd to courthouse square in 1948?
- President Harry S. Truman's campaign train stop
  - A speech by actor Spencer Tracy
  - An appearance by Olympic decathlon winner, Bob Mathias
  - Margaret Sanger made an appeal for Planned Parenthood
7. The Dedication of the Courthouse was sponsored by:
- Howard County Commissioners
  - The American Legion
  - The Masonic Grand Lodge
  - The Indiana Bar Association



The present Howard County Courthouse, shortly after it was built.

8. Which of the following adorn the present courthouse structure?
- Two bronze doors on the east entrance
  - A lithograph of Elwood Haynes with his first automobile on the south entrance

- c. A lithograph of David Foster, the founder of Kokomo, and of Foster meeting with native Americans in the wilderness with a log cabin in the background.
- d. All of the above.

- the name of the person who set off a pipe bomb in the Courthouse on April 14, 1987?
- Charles Scruggs
  - J. D. Beatty
  - Jake Adams
  - John D. Gray, Sr.



The former courthouse, built in 1870, was later condemned by the fire marshal and razed in 1927. Two one-story brick buildings, on the left and right of the courthouse, were used until this structure was completed.

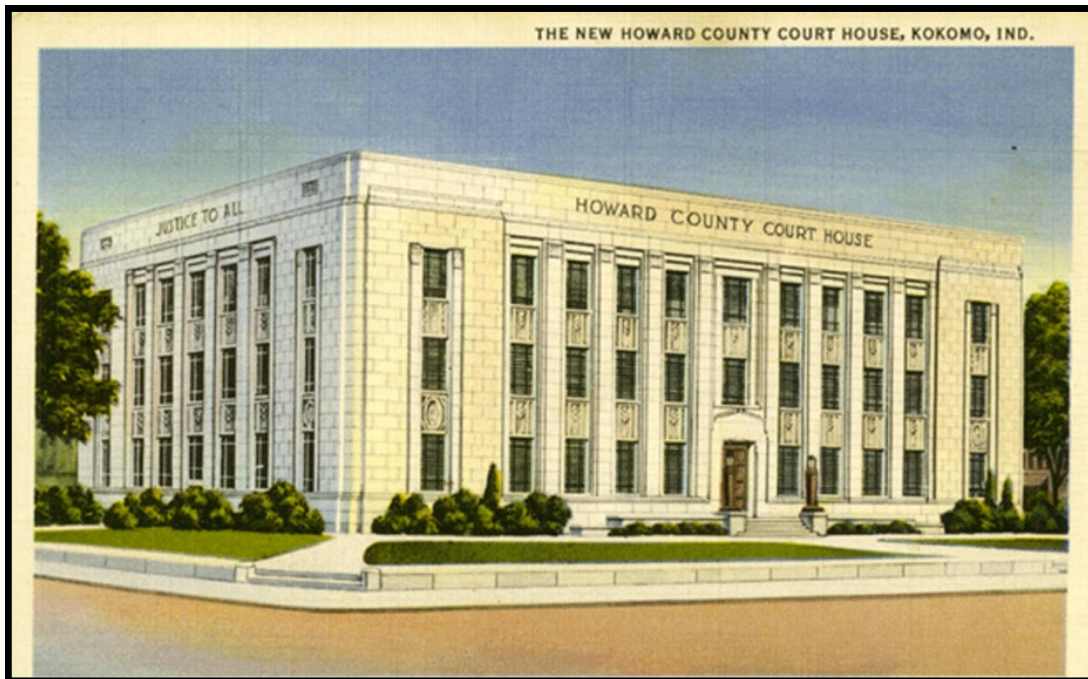
9. Which of the following has been housed in the present Howard County Courthouse?
- Kokomo Orphans Society
  - Kokomo Friends Church
  - Howard County Museum
  - Kinsey Youth Center
10. What was
11. How large was the 1844 courthouse building (on land donated by David Foster)?
- 24 square feet
  - 42 square feet
  - 124 square feet
  - 450 square feet
12. Where was court held between the years 1851 and 1869?
- In the first log cabin Courthouse built in 1844
  - In two brick buildings which replaced the first courthouse in 1851
  - In various locations including churches and halls
  - In a new Victorian structure

## Answers:

- c. 75th. The courthouse cornerstone was laid Aug 12, 1936. The first county records were taken into the building on Sept. 27, 1937.
2. b. \$450,000. Officials appropriated \$300,000 for the construction. With the country in the midst of the Depression, the county received a \$29,000 grant from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to hire workers to dig the basement. Architectural Plans were based on \$500,000. By the time the building was dedicated in 1937, the total cost of the structure was \$450,000.
3. c. 1954. The Howard County Council authorized the issuance of a bond issue of \$353,000.
4. d. Oscar F. Cook. This is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture, which was very popular at the time. Cook also designed many other business, religious and fraternal buildings in this community and elsewhere in Indiana. For example, he drew the plans for the Masonic Temple, the Kokomo Elks Club, Union Bank & Trust Building, Kingston Products Factory, First Baptist Church, Union Street Friends Church, the Haynes-Stellite Office, Research and Factory, the Armstrong-Landon Building and Carver Center. He also designed additions to the Howard Township School, Howard County Jail and Continental Steel Corporation
5. d. The old courthouse (built in 1870) did not meet Indiana's fire code. Many changes were made in the interior during the course of the building's 57 years, but unfortunately this distinguished building was allowed to deteriorate and was condemned by the state fire marshal. It was razed in 1927, and the people of Howard County were without a courthouse for another decade. During this period, the county rented office space in various locations including the Citizens National Bank building.
6. a. President Truman's campaign train stopped at the southwest corner of the square. Truman was campaigning for election, and a crowd estimated at 10,000 to 15,000 showed up to see him. Other campaigning presidents who made stops at the courthouse include Franklin D Roosevelt (then Vice Presidential nominee), Woodrow Wilson, William McKinley, Richard Nixon, and John F. Kennedy.
7. b. The American Legion sponsored the event which drew a large crowd on October 20, 1937. The cornerstone was positioned in a ceremony with rites exemplified by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Indiana on August 12, 1936.
8. d. All of the above. Additionally, the rotunda contains a magnificent stained glass ceiling, made at Opalescent Glass Factory of Kokomo.
9. c. Howard County Museum. The Courthouse housed the Howard County Historical Museum in its basement until the museum was relocated at the Seiberling Mansion in 1972.



A visitor looks over the artifacts in the Howard County Museum when it was located in the county courthouse.



This postcard is one of hundreds of postcards featured in the book, *Howard County History In the Mail*, available for purchase online or in the HCHS office.

10. d. John D. Gray, Sr. Gray's attorney, Charles Scruggs, Sheriff J.D. Beatty and Kokomo Police Department Captain Walter "Jack" Adams were all severely injured in the blast that killed Gray and did extensive damage to the third story of the west side of the courthouse. Repairs cost upwards of \$1 million. Gray was on trial for drug use. Witnesses of the explosion have attributed the sound structure of the courthouse as being a deterrent to more extensive damage and loss of life.

11. a. 24-square feet. The two-story rustic log structure was built by Rufus C. Blouser. Ac-

ording to early history, on property donated by David Foster, it was built at a cost of \$26. (The bid was for \$28 but the commissioners deducted \$2 due to some deficiency in the work). Later estimates place the cost at close to \$300. It stood on the south half of the square near the center, facing Sycamore Street. There were three rooms on the first floor. One room was for the county clerk. The other two were leased to several business interests, including a doctor, a tailor, a saddlery and harness shop and even a liquor distributor. The second floor contained the courtroom and was also used as an assembly hall, for church services, and occasionally, for school.

12.c. In various locations including churches and halls. The rustic log structure was replaced in 1851 by two one-story brick buildings, each 18 x 36 ft. One was on the north-east quarter of the square and the other in the northwest quarter. They were separated so that in the future another structure could be constructed for courtrooms. These buildings were found to be too small to conduct court, but continued in use by government offices until the construction of a Victorian structure with a 126-foot clock tower in 1870. The Victorian structure was used from 1870 until it was razed by order of the state fire marshal in 1927.

## *HCHS bids farewell to Archivist Bonnie Van Kley*

**By Bonnie Van Kley**  
**Curator of Archives**

Fifteen years ago, when I was a returning adult student at IU Kokomo, I could not imagine where one simple question would lead.

My history professor, Dr. Allen Safianow, asked me one day if I would consider an internship at the Howard County Historical Society. While taking Dr. Safianow's class, I began to realize how interesting history is to me. Even though all that I knew about the historical society at the time was that it was housed in the beautiful mansion on Sycamore Street, I said "Yes." And the rest is history.

During my first internship with the historical society, Director Kelly Karickhoff gave me the assignment of researching Victorian kitchens. The following year my internship required numerous hours at the public library searching their newspaper archives, with many additional hours spent poring over the material in the society's Kokomo Woman's Department Club Collection. I learned so much about life in Kokomo during the years before women were able to vote, while very few were able to attend college. Their club was comprised of the movers and shakers of that day, and I felt like I got to know some of them personally. But the most invaluable piece of information I found was contained in an envelope taped inside the back of one of their record books. It is handwritten and details many facts about the club's activities, with the writer stating that the club was instrumental in the organization of the Howard County Historical Society and the museum in the Carnegie Library. Finding those notes was a turning point for me, and I was hooked on local history.

So when Kelly told me that the board planned to hire a part-time assistant curator, I knew I had come home. Over the years, my job evolved into curator of archives, and my duties became concerned mainly with the responsibility of establishing the Howard County History Archives. During the past 13 years, I have utilized my organizational skills to the max. I



**Bonnie Van Kley**

have had the immense privilege of spending time with and getting to know many of you while we have worked together sorting and resorting two-dimensional artifacts, especially photographs, into collections. I've been able to develop a system of artifact storage, and many of you have spent numerous hours carefully labeling folders and entering data into PastPerfect, with the rewarding result of making Howard County history accessible to anyone. As of this month, we have processed more 16,000 photographs documenting Howard County history, comprising nearly 400 photo collections. Our historic photos can be

viewed in local offices and business-

es, such as Half Moon Restaurant, McAlister's Deli and Kokomo Animal Hospital. They are also available for anyone to view via our website.

Our archives also contain numerous other holdings, such as manuscript collections, postcards, tintypes, slides, videos, oral histories, books, maps and historic atlases, scrapbooks, telephone directories, abstracts, yearbooks, magazines, negatives, videos and compact disks, to name a few. At this time, nearly 7,000 archives records, comprising nearly 400 manuscript collections, and 1,700 books are entered into PastPerfect. Sometimes the work has seemed endless and overwhelming, and at other times it has been immensely rewarding. Often I have felt like I was searching for hidden treasure and have even felt like I found it.

Recently I was asked to name the most interesting artifact that I have come across, and several come to mind. Soon after I began working for the society and my office was still in the mansion, it was near the end of the day, and I was the last one to leave. An elderly lady, Jacqueline Kerby, who was visiting friends in Kokomo, came to the back door with a small box in her hand. In it were 15 photos of the Courtland Hotel that were taken during her childhood years, while her father was manager of the hotel. That afternoon while recalling her memories, she pointed to an overstuffed chair in an image of

the hotel lobby and said, "Amelia Earhart sat there." If I had left work a few minutes earlier that day, I would have missed meeting her.

I remember the day that I opened an envelope from Margaret Butler, the widow of Seiberling descendant Charles Butler, containing a small sheet of stationery with a handwritten Lord's Prayer signed by Thomas Edison. A little bit of research revealed that Sarah Seiberling's niece was Mr. Edison's second wife.

Or there is the morning I found a small scrap of paper in Fay Cover's scrapbook bearing Eleanor Roosevelt's signature, penned when Mrs. Roosevelt visited our city in 1940.

The C. V. Haworth Collection fills a large box, but the piece I find most interesting is a handwritten journal by Sophronia Haworth, recounting her family's journey from New London to "the far off Texas" in 1856. Also in this collection is a handbook giving information about Tod Sloan, the jockey from Kokomo that the song "Yankee Doodle Dandy" was written about.

Discovering interior images of the Cora B. Miller Medicine Company in the early 1900s and the 1921 photos of Broadacres Estate, especially the one of Alton Seiberling sitting inside his automobile, are very noteworthy.

I also experienced a thrill one day when I found an entry in a store ledger that reads "Monro Siberling – one pair of shoes." He actually shopped in Kokomo!

Then there are the many letters written to Helen

Ross by her former students serving in the military during World War II. The collection contains 157 letters from several males and only one female, Ethel Kerlin. Because Ethel's letters paint a very vivid picture of her experiences during that time, I was filled with a desire to meet her. Thankfully, I was able to find her, and she and I spent a pleasant afternoon together. Reading her letters and getting to know her brought about a cemetery walk script that is one of my favorites.

During my 13 years here, I have been privileged to serve on various society committees, such as special events, ceme-

tery walk, oral history, collections and publications. It has been my privilege to write several articles for and help edit our society's monthly and quarterly publications. And I have been able to work with others and be a part of the publication of a few books – *Looking Back: Howard County-The Early Years* and *Howard County: History in the Mail*, as well as the *Howard County Interim Report*.

Researching and writing the cemetery walk scripts and helping with all of the tasks involved in its organization, while being very time-consuming, was richly rewarding. During a period of five years, we held four cemetery walks. The community embraced our project by researching and writing scripts, donating their acting and directing talents, volunteering their help in taking care of the multitude of details for this event and by their attendance. While being a very deep learning experience on many levels, it gave me an awareness of the rich history and values that became the foundation of our county.

Soon my work in the archives will be history, and I will move on to other activities. Gale Leiter, Cindy Morr and I, with the help of volunteers Jule Rider, Lilli Elliott and Weezie Cook, as well as students Alyson Goldner, Taylor Nichols and Abby Rolland, have been frantically processing collections, trying to get as much of the work as possible completed by the end of the year. Of course, not all of it will get done, and history will continue to be made.

For 13 years, working in the archives has been a very significant part of my life. Even though this was

a part-time job, many times it provided full-time pleasure and dominated my thoughts. It has been an honor to work for the Howard County Historical Society with the task of preserving our county's two-dimensional artifacts.

I count many of you as friends and will miss all of you and my "job" very much. But I am very thankful for all that I have learned, for the fulfillment I feel as I reminisce about everything we have accomplished during this time, and for all of you who have worked and will continue to work to preserve Howard County history.



## Winter Woolens Workshop is Feb. 23 & 24

Beth's Main Street Folkart will present the seventh annual Winter Woolen Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Seiberling Mansion and the Elliott House.

Participants may enjoy the all-day workshops and demonstrations in early samplers, colonial

painting, punch needle embroidery, rug hooking, spinning and weaving, hand quilting, tatting, rug punch, needle felting and knitting and crocheting.

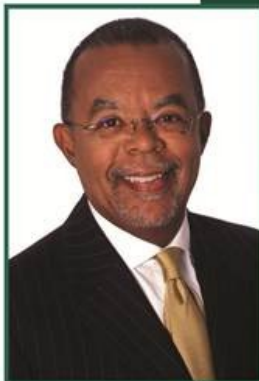
Bring a project from home to work on or try something new.

Enjoy the many vendors selling their wares.

Cost for a two-day admission is \$10. Proceeds will benefit the Howard County Historical Society.

For more information, contact Beth Notaro at 765-236-1000 or go to [BethsMnStFolkart@aol.com](mailto:BethsMnStFolkart@aol.com) or [www.picturetrail.com/bethsmainstreetfolkart](http://www.picturetrail.com/bethsmainstreetfolkart).

## *Finding your roots, Jan. 25*



### **Mark the date**

In conjunction with *Doing the Dream: Celebrating Our Roots* and Ivy Tech's 50th anniversary celebration, Ivy Tech Community College Kokomo Region presents

### **Finding Your Roots, with Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.**

**Friday, Jan. 25, 2013**

**7 p.m.**

**Kokomo Event & Conference Center**

**1500 N. Reed Road (U.S. 31)**

**Kokomo, IN 46901**



Reflecting on our roots as a college, celebrating where we have been and the advances we have made, it seems most fitting to host a nationally renowned expert in examining the past. Harvard professor, author and host to several PBS programs, Dr. Gates' presentation, *Finding Your Roots*, will captivate and inspire you to find your roots.

Tickets to this celebration, including dinner, are \$50 per person. Your reservation(s) can be made online at [ivytech.edu/kokomo/gates.html](http://ivytech.edu/kokomo/gates.html). For more information, including sponsoring a student ticket, call Susan Maxson at 800-459-0561, ext. 221, or email [smaxson@ivytech.edu](mailto:smaxson@ivytech.edu).

# Do you know...?

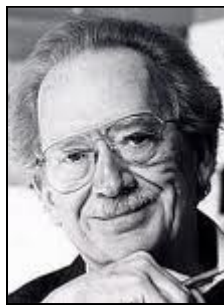
Someone big is celebrating a big birthday this year.

Someone 25 feet tall — and really red.

That's right, Clifford, of only one name, like Cher and Madonna, is turning the Big 5-0 (or the Big 3-5-0, if you are counting in dog years).

*Clifford the Big Red Dog* sprang from the imagination of Kokomo native Norman Bridwell in 1962.

Bridwell, a 1945 graduate of Kokomo High School, was an aspiring artist living in New York who was attempting to illustrate children's books.



Kokomo native and author Norman Bridwell

According to a story from NPR Books, Bridwell took 10 paintings to various publishers, but all were rejected. Finally, at one publishing company, a young woman told Bridwell he wasn't a very good illustrator, so if he thought that was what he wanted to do, he needed to write his own book. She pointed to a painting he had made of a red dog and told him that might be a story.

He went home and wrote, choosing the name "Clifford" at the suggestion of his wife, Norma, after her childhood imaginary friend.

The little girl in the story — Emily Elizabeth, who raised the runt of the litter so well that he grew into a giant — was named for his young daughter. Naturally, it would seem, she is now a dog-care expert, as well as a preschool teacher near Boston.

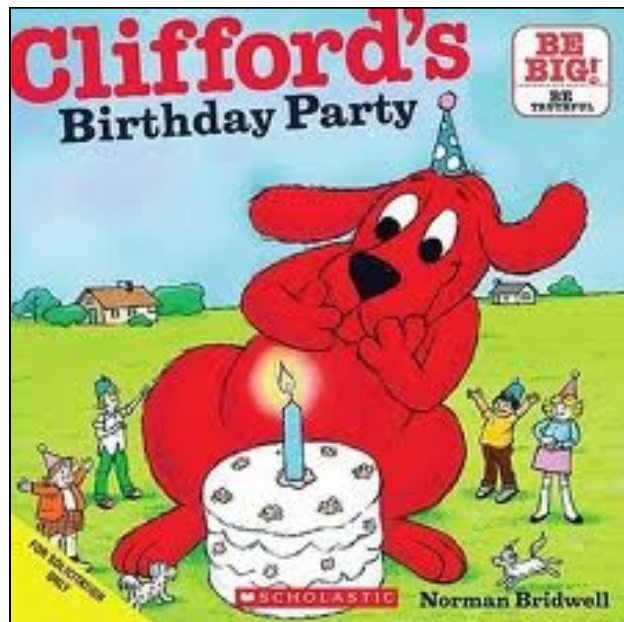
Fifty years later, Bridwell has written about 100 *Clifford* books and sold more than 126 million copies in 13 languages.

Bridwell was born in Kokomo in 1928. After graduating from KHS, he studied at Herron School of Art in Indianapolis before moving to New York.

In addition to his daughter, Norman and Norma also have a son, Timothy, who writes screenplays.

Bridwell lives in Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. He was inducted into the Howard County Hall of Legends in 2010.

*Clifford's* animated series on PBS is seen in 65 countries around the world. In September, *Clifford's* publisher, Scholastic Press, reissued the original stories under the title *Clifford Collection*.



**Howard County  
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Kokomo, Indiana 46901**

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