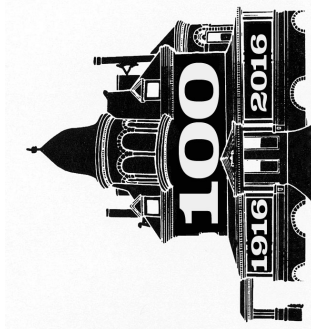


Howard County  
Historical Society  
1200 W. Sycamore St.  
Kokomo, Indiana 46901



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Volume 5, Issue 4

November 2016

## *Sounds of the Seiberling*

Join us for our  
Christmas events,  
beginning Nov. 26

Inside this issue:

**Howard County's Oscar-winning art director  
Farm implement inventor had a 'first' for Kokomo**

From the executive director

# Be a part of our mission

During a recent vacation trip, I was reminded again of how young our community is. Perhaps we came late to the game, but we've played hard and fast to catch up.

The great gas boom of the late 1800s provided the fuel for our blast-off, and the people who followed the jobs to Howard County lit the fire. Those people brought the ideas and elbow grease that kept the economic blaze burning long after the gas wells dried up.

We can carry on that tradition of innovation if we open our minds and hearts to new ways of thinking and create the kind of community that will attract new people with innovative ideas and the grit to make them happen.

On a smaller scale, the same idea is important for the historical society itself. Our

sustainability depends on more than money (although that's pretty important). In order to preserve our history and its lessons, we need to meet the future head-on, engaging the community and finding relevance in new ways. We need people with innovative ideas and the passion to bring ideas to life. We need volunteers for projects, events and committees, as well as future members of the Board of Trustees who can help guide us into the future. The historical society doesn't only need memberships and donations; we also need ideas and energy.

You can be part of our mission to preserve and share Howard County's remarkable history – to help make sure our past has a future. Let's talk.

Dave Broman  
HCHS Executive Director

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# Membership

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

Dr. Alan & Phyllis Adler	Heather Fouts	Thomas & Mary Donna Morr
Richard & Betty Alexander	H. Lee Fritz	Larry Newberg
Robert & Robin Auth	Jane Goerges	Larry Newlin
Ron & Pam Barsh	Cheryl Graham	Charles & Gloria Nipple
Larry & June Barton	Judith Graham	Roma North
Don & Gail Beaton	Beryl & Jacqueline Grimme	Jim & Brenda Papacek
Doyle & June Beck	Glenn & Nancy Grundmann	Mona Plymate-Graham
Marilynda Bennett	Alan & Prudence Harnish	Tom & Betty Poppas
Darlene Berry	Bill Harter & Jody Shortle	Gilbert Porter
Cynthia Bizjak & Hope East	Kenneth & Diana Hill	Philip & Carolyn Rankin
Jim & Jan Briscoe	Mark & Peggy Hobson	Beth Rider
David Broman & Joyce Cylkowski	John & Mary Ann Holmes	Robert & Diana Rostron Jr.
Nancy Brown	Patti Host	Dr. Thomas & Carol Scherschel
Sam & Mary Pat Burrous	Richard & Marguerite Kadlec	Thomas & Judy Sheehan
Don & Ann Button	Mike & Kelly Karickhoff	Darrell & Tonia Sherrod
Barbie Casler	David & Janice Kellar	Bill & Lyn Shirley
Mayor Greg Goodnight,	Wayne & Jane Kincaid	Dr. Charles & Alice Simons
City of Kokomo,	Jerry King, King's Heating &	Rick & Diane Smith
Linda Clark	Plumbing	Joan Stein Jenkins
Phillip & Victoria Conwell	Phillip & Diane Knight	Edward & Dixie Stone
Rosemary Pike, DAR General	William & Margy Kring	Greg & Melody Sumpter
James Cox Chapter	Judy Kruggel	Del Demaree, Syndicate Sales
Dorothy Dague	Keith & Judy Lausch	Rheld & Lorina Tate
Del Demaree	Jack & Maureen Lechner	J. Alan Teller
John & Marla Dennis	Gale & Donna Leiter	Don & Anita Tenbrook
Dean Despinoy	Paul & Emily Linder	Ronald Tetrick
Joe Dunbar	Wayne & Susan Luttrell	Tom & Carol Trine, The Windmill
Charles & Mary Duncan	Thomas & Marsha Maple	Grill
Craig Dunham	Juanita Martin Davis	Major General U.S. Ret. Ed Trobaugh
Orren & Barbara Dutton	Judge William & Marty Menges	Douglas & Lynn Vaughn
Ken & Linda Ferries	Ann Millikan	Larry & Janice Waddell
Claudia Fike	John & Cindy Morr	Charlotte Young

## Legends, continued

was the title cut of her recently released CD "It's All in the Family." and rousing memories from her audience, she concluded with a spirited rendition of "Nobody," the 1982 hit that sold more than two million copies, earned her a Grammy

nomination, and propelled her to stardom.

"This year's class was one of the most diverse classes we have had," said Susan Sciame-Giesecke, chairperson of the Hall of Legends Committee. "It was important for our community to recognize the wide range of legends we have. and

I look forward to more nominations in years to come from all sectors of our city and county."

**(Editor's note: Extensive biographies of the 2016 "Legends" can be found in the August edition of Footprints and at hchistory.org)**

From the Howard County Historian

# ‘Myself’: An Introduction from Me to Thee

By Jonathan Russell  
Howard County Historian

As the newly appointed Howard County Historian by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau, I was asked to write a column for *Footprints*.

So, I thought about it for a while, and came to the conclusion that there may be some of you, maybe even most of you, who don't know me at all. Therefore, as this inaugural column has proclaimed — this is “all about me”!

I am a native of Indiana, born in LaPorte, but grew up, literally, all over the place. By the time I had graduated from high school, I had gone to nine schools in four states, including two first grades and two second grades in three states (in two years). My dad, a Presbyterian minister and former Army chaplain (130<sup>th</sup> Engineer RGMT, Burma), had a wanderlust, and we moved nearly every year. He, likewise, was a native Hoosier, from a long line of native Hoosiers — possibly even before there was an Indiana to be from, and the only other member of my immediate family who could claim this title. That is why, ultimately, all moves eventually led back to Indiana.

This, however, was the nucleus for my interest in history. Many of the churches were located in historic areas, or were historic themselves: Mingo Presbyterian in western Pennsylvania, for example, was the site of the origins of the “Whiskey Rebellion”. The church records, dating from 1787, were a history lesson in themselves, listing the amount of corn given to the preacher, which he took to a distillery in Pittsburgh, on the “other side of the hill”. They bought the corn, which paid the parson. Their “new building” dated from 1836. I had a swing hanging from the historic oak tree where the Mingo Creek militiamen had met to plan their strategy for the nation's first armed insurrection (1791-1794).

Going to school in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois had its advantages and disadvantages. Most classmates were simply

“acquaintances”. Meeting new people became commonplace and easy. Long-term friendships were rare until after the moving stopped in the mid-1960s, when we settled in Cutler and near historic Adams Mill.

(You may have noticed I missed Ohio in the list going from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. I lived there, but before I went to school.)

My “acquaintances” often included the historic figures who had lived in the places where I was living, who roamed the streets and fields where I also roamed. History seemed a most fascinating subject — something intangible, yet real in those pictures your mind could envision. It was all there, and the buildings offered a sense of immediacy with the historic events to which they had given silent witness. From this, I developed my sense for historic preservation and the necessity to maintain the original character of those structures.

As I approach my term as Howard County historian, I hope to continue to promote those programs that we now enjoy, while expanding efforts to include the historic venues in the greater area. The history of our county is indelibly linked with the history of the surrounding area, and they should be promoted together.

As my future *Footprints* articles develop, I plan to include topics that examine our historic “spaces” as well as the personal histories of those characters that once occupied them — and made them into the historic places we revere. I will cover topics that focus not only on historic persons, but genealogy, archeology, monuments and events, architecture and historic preservation.

As the purpose of the county history program is to better historical communication in the state, I believe there is much we can do to promote this area of Indiana and its variety of historic places and events. I look forward to all that the county history program offers.



# ‘Save Our Seiberling’ update

The community is stepping up to help “Save Our Seiberling!” The following donors have contributed to the campaign and we're eternally grateful for their support:

- |                                |                              |                                |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dr. Alan & Phyllis Adler       | Joseph Holtson, in memory of | Darrell & Jule Rider           |
| Richard & Betty Alexander      | Stephanie Drake Holtson      | Chris & Libby Riesen           |
| James Allman                   | Bob & Betsy Hoshaw           | Robert & Diana Rostron, Jr.    |
| Robert & Robin Auth            | Patti Host                   | Randy & Mary Rusch             |
| Ron & Pam Barsh                | Cliff Hunt                   | Dr. Allen Safianow             |
| David & Mae Bastin             | Jacqueline Hunt              | Myra Sanburn                   |
| Milton Beach                   | Dr. David & Barbro Jarrell   | Craig Severns                  |
| Glen R. Boise                  | Steve Johnson                | E.P. Severns                   |
| Joseph & Traci Broman          | Richard & Marguerite Kadlec  | Bill & Lyn Shirley             |
| David Broman & Joyce Cylkowski | Jay & Marjorie Katzenmeyer   | Ron Siler                      |
| Ed & Judy Brown                | Joan Kellum                  | Jeff & Michelle Simmons        |
| Judy Brown                     | William & Julie Killingbeck  | Dale & Nancy Slaubaugh         |
| Dr. Phil & Connie Borgan       | Suzanne King                 | Lynn Smith                     |
| H.C. & Mary Ann Byrd           | Dale & Grace Kingseed        | Rick & Diane Smith             |
| Bill & Sharon Carter           | Charles & Diana Lambuth      | Patricia Sottong               |
| Linda Clark                    | Keith & Judy Lausch          | Joan Stein Jenkins             |
| Rosemary Pike                  | Jack & Maureen Lechner       | Phyllis Stucker                |
| Hilary Crook                   | Rebecca Lepper               | David & Carla Summers          |
| Dean Despinoy                  | Paul & Emily Linder          | Greg & Melody Sumpter          |
| Charles & Mary Duncan          | Thomas & Marsha Maple        | Marjorie Herr Swing            |
| Orren & Barbara Dutton         | Margaret Miles               | Ellen Tate                     |
| Marion Eller                   | Janet Moore                  | Rheld & Lorina Tate            |
| Omar England                   | Richard Moore                | Don & Anita Tenbrook           |
| Garrett & Vivian Floyd         | Shirley Moore                | Don & Louise Thomas            |
| Heather Fouts                  | Larry Newberg                | Dr. Ronald & Amy Thompson Jr.  |
| Tim & Susan Garner             | Larry Newlin                 | Macon Dale Traxler             |
| Ted & Paula Goff               | Charles & Gloria Nipple      | Edward Trobaugh, Major General |
| Diana Goodnight                | Friends of Beth Notaro       | U.S. Ret.                      |
| Joan Hardesty                  | Fred & Elizabeth Osborn      | Conrad & Karen Uttis           |
| Mary Ellen Harnish             | Julia Parrish                | Mike & Laura Ullery            |
| Bill & Jody Harter             | Dr. Phillip Pate             | Dr. Marvin & Bonnie Van Kley   |
| Charles & Patricia Hinders     | Dody Pickett                 | Douglas & Lynn Vaughn          |
| Mark & Peggy Hobson            | Tom & Betty Poppas           | Pat Waymire                    |
| Robert & Joan Hoch             | Don & Marti Pries            | Dixie & Harlo Westlin          |
| Peggy & Helen Hollingsworth    | Sherry Rahl                  | Charlotte Young                |
| John & Mary Ann Holmes         | Philip & Carolyn Rankin      |                                |

The mansion was built in 1890-1891, and 126 years later, still has its original slate roof. The years have taken a toll and a new, historically and architecturally correct roof is necessary. Thus far, the roof campaign has benefitted from a \$50,000 grant from the Indiana Historical Society and Lilly Endowment and a \$10,000 grant from the Efroymsen Family Fund in the Central Indiana Community Foundation. The Community Foundation of Howard County has committed to a \$50,000 matching grant, which will double all individual gifts up to that cap. Learn more about the “Save Our Seiberling” campaign and make a donation now at [hchistory.networkforgood.com](http://hchistory.networkforgood.com).

# ‘Sounds of the Seiberling’ to fill the mansion during holiday season

**By Linda Ferries  
HCHS Publications Committee Member**

The music of Christmas will fill the Howard County Museum this holiday season as the annual Christmas celebration features “The Sounds of the Seiberling.”

From “Silent Night” to “Angels We Have Heard on High,” from “Here Comes Santa Claus” to “Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer,” the decorators will be adding to their festive designs with themes taken from musical holiday favorites, according to Peggy Hobson, chair of the historical society’s Events Committee and lead for the Christmas at the Seiberling celebration, and a number of evenings will include music provided by area vocalists and instrumental performers.

The museum will be closed to the public from Nov. 12 to 26 as volunteers transform the impressive Gas Boom treasure into a holiday paradise for the eye and, this year, for the ear.

Admission during Christmas at the Seiberling will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (free admission is a benefit for HCHS members) during regular museum hours of 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays and for a special “candlelight” tour set for Saturday, Dec. 17.



**Left to Right: Andrew Burkhart; Herb Miller and Sue Sciam-Giesecke; Kathleen Ligocki, Sylvia Hutton and Marjorie Moon; Douglas and Josephine Harter; Sylvia.**

“I’ve always said, ‘If you want to get something done, hire a Hoosier,’” Ligocki said, as she discussed the life that has grown from her Kokomo roots.

In his remarks, the ever-entertaining Dr. Miller recounted his arrival in Kokomo in 1960 to become the sixth faculty member – and the first African-American professor – at what was then known as the Indiana University Extension Center.

“I planned to stay two or three years and go on to somewhere else and possibly better,” Miller said. and though opportunities presented themselves to the scholar of European languages and cultures – from the CIA and the Foreign Service to prestigious universities like Indiana at Bloomington and Penn State, he said, “I found there was no place better than

Kokomo and Howard County and IU Kokomo, because of geographic place and the wonderful people who live here.”

Coming to the podium, Marjorie Moon said, “What I want to you to know, almost more than anything else, is I love Kokomo.” Though she left more than 30 years and has lived a extraordinary career in the New York City theatre scene, she has maintained close ties with regular visits “home.”

“So many of life’s values of giving and sharing and respecting each other were values that were taught here,” Moon said. “I remember watching a puppet show at age 5. I was mesmerized, captivated. I thought this is really kind of magical and I decided then that I would be in theater.”

Moon said she wanted to help nurture others in the craft and has been doing that for 42 years. “How fortunate I am!” she exclaimed.

The successful country singer Sylvia, known by just her first name, wrapped up the evening with reminisces of her beginning as a little girl named Sylvia Kirby who grew up in a trailer court on the north side.

“I am so proud to be a native of this city,” she said. “I talk about Kokomo, Indiana, all over the country.”

Sylvia then shared three songs, accompanied by her musical collaborator John Mock. First was “Every Time a Train Goes By,” harking back to the noisy trains that frightened her as the rattled past her childhood home. Second

# 2016 Legends a diverse, outstanding group

By Linda Ferries  
HCHS Publications Committee Member

From the bright lights of New York and Nashville to the pinpoint light of an eye exam, from the high school and college classroom to the corporate boardroom, six outstanding citizens were recognized as Howard County "Legends" on Aug. 26.

Nearly 200 people gathered at Bel Air to celebrate the members of the Howard County Hall of Legends' Class of 2016. Added to the growing list of luminaries were living legends Sylvia Hutton, Kathleen Ligocki, Dr. Herb Miller, and Marjorie Moon, as well as the late Dr. Irvin Borish and C.V. Haworth. It was an evening of memories and reminiscences by the honorees and their representatives, capped when award-winning country music star Sylvia was joined by her accompanist for several songs.

"We are so pleased to have been joined by our living honorees and many family members and friends of all six of the new 'Legends,'" said Dave Broman, executive director of the Howard County Historical Society, coordinator of the Hall of Legends event. "We now have a total of 43 individuals who have been honored as 'Legends' since the program began in 2010 with a committee led by Craig Dunn.

"As with many of those honored before, the members of the Class of 2016 all have at least one thing in common: a commitment to help other people develop their own talents and skills," Broman continued. "That commitment is entirely consistent with the goal of the program: to provide our young people with role models and examples of character traits that engender success and contribute to a better

world."

Kokomo optometrist Dr. Andrew Burkhardt spoke on behalf of the eminent Dr. Borish, known as the father of modern optometry for his work with contact lenses. Dr. Burkhardt's connections with Dr. Borish go back to his birth (Andrew's father, Dr. Thomas Burkhardt, came to Kokomo to work in Dr. Borish's practice – known for years as Borish, Burkhardt, Fawcett and Reed – after he graduated from optometry school in the 1970s) and continued through his own education at the Indiana University School of Optometry where he studied from the weighty textbook authored by Dr. Borish and still in use today.

A champion of the founding of the IU optometry school in 1953 and namesake of the school's Borish Center for Ophthalmic Research opened in 1994, Borish also was remembered as an actor and a painter and, as a one-time journalist, a formidable opponent in a game of Scrabble.

"He looked a lot like Albert Einstein," Burkhardt said, "and with their intellectual properties and push for excellence, they had a lot in common."

The Hall of Legends honor for C.V. Haworth, who served for 33 years as superintendent of schools, was accepted by his great-grandson, Douglas Harter, who acknowledged the personal impact the long-time Howard County educator had on him. "His legacy was so strong for me, that's one of the reasons I decided to go into education myself," said Harter, who now serves as an administrator for Hamilton Southeastern schools.

"I wish he was here to accept this honor, to understand the impact he had on this commu-

Begin the holidays with  
a visit to the magnificent  
Seiberling Mansion and a  
romantic horse-drawn carriage  
tour of the historic district

## Old Silk Stocking Carriage Rides

Saturday, November 26 from 6-9 p.m.  
following the mansion lighting ceremony  
Reservation only - call (765) 452-4314 for information

Local businesses and organizations are sponsoring six special evenings during December when the museum will be open to the public without charge.

Here's a look at activities planned for Christmas at the Seiberling 2016:

**Friday, Nov. 25** - A free sneak preview of the decorated mansion – for historical society members only. Anyone who is not already a member may attend by registering for a membership and paying dues at the door that evening. The sneak peek will run from 5 to 7pm.

**Saturday, Nov. 26** - The traditional lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival is set for 6 p.m. and the museum will be open until 9 p.m. Santa will greet his fans in the Elliott House from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Horse-drawn carriage rides in the Old Silk Stocking Neighborhood will leave the mansion beginning at 6:15, with the final ride at 8:45 p.m. Carriage reservations are required and can be made by calling the HCHS office at 765-452-4314. Spots are limited and fill up fast.

**Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, and Fridays, Dec. 2, 9, and 16** - Museum is open to the public without charge from 5 to 8 p.m., courtesy of six sponsors whose donations have made it possible. Local musicians will provide live performances during select evenings. The community supporters include:

Dec. 1 – Community First Bank

Dec. 2 – Solidarity Federal Credit Union  
Dec. 8 – First Farmers Bank and Trust  
Dec. 9 – Ivy Tech Community College  
Dec. 15 – To be announced  
Dec. 16 – To be announced

**Saturday, Dec. 17** – From 6 to 8 p.m., guests will enjoy a special "candlelight" evening at the Seiberling, with the opportunity to explore the museum in the softer light of a by-gone era. The holiday admission -- \$10 for adults and \$5 for children will be charged.

The celebration wraps up when the museum closes for the season at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31. For more information, call 765-452-4314.





# Lights, camera, art direction!

## Kokomo native was nominated for 17 Oscars & 2 Emmys

By Gil Porter  
HCHS Publications Committee Member

**Y**ou may have a favorite "Twilight Zone" episode you enjoy, such as "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" with William Shatner as an airline passenger convinced he sees a creature on that airplane wing. Or, perhaps you never tire of watching movies like "All About Eve" or "How The West Was Won." If so, did you know that the visual style and imagery — the set decoration and lighting and so on — for those and many more film and TV classics was the work of a Kokomo native — the Academy Award-Winning Art Director George W. Davis?

Davis, whose father worked at the Kokomo Trust Company, was born here in 1914, but moved west with his family in his teens. He graduated from Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles and majored in art at the University of Southern California. Davis worked in the art department of Warner Brothers studios for many years and also Fox Studios in the 1950s.

His prolific career spanned several decades and ranged from television shows like "Dr. Kildare" and "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." to movies like "Demetrius and the Gladiators" and "Viva Las Vegas." Such varied work was not uncommon during the "studio system" years, when film crews generally worked exclusively for the studios on multiple projects in a year, just like employees in a corporation.

For film work, Davis had 17 Academy Award nominations (three in 1962 alone), and won Oscars for "The Robe" in 1964 (Best Produc-

tion Design) and "The Diary of Anne Frank" in 1960 (Best Art Direction—Interior Decoration, Black-and-White).

In TV, Davis received two nominations for the Television Academy Emmy Awards: Individual Achievements in Art Direction and Allied Crafts - Art Direction in 1966 for "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." (NBC); and Outstanding Achievement in Art Direction and Scenic Design in 1963 for "The Eleventh Hour" (NBC).

Davis started as a sketch artist at Warner Brothers Studio and, like many in the entertainment industry at the time, interrupted his career to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II (he attained the rank of colonel).

During the course of his career at both Warner Brothers and Fox, he worked on some 50 films and collaborated with most of the well-known directors and stars of the golden age of Hollywood, everyone from Joseph Mankowitz and John Ford to Audrey Hepburn and Sidney Poitier.

According to his Wikipedia entry, Davis was also the initial project manager of Disneyland Tokyo and the primary designer of Park City, Utah.

He was married to Barbara Louise Davis, who died in 1990. They had two children, Karen Louise Hoy, born in 1940, and George Christopher Davis, born in 1943.

Davis reportedly lived in the same home in Santa Monica, Calif., from 1948 to his death in 1998.

Davis was a cousin to noted Howard County/Kokomo historian Ned Booher. Davis is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles.



Foster unveils the more realistic depiction of "Ma Ko Ko Mo", created by Florida artist Marcia K. Moore during the annual meeting.

memories of David Foster's story of Chief Kokomo were captured in the 1921 *Kokomo Tribune* article that Foster used as the basis of his historical interpretation.

Also joining in the evening celebration of the new artwork were members of the local First Nations community, including Sally Tuttle of Kokomo, a member of the Choctaw Nation

and chair of the Native American Indian Affairs Commission for the State of Indiana; Sarah Siders,

tribal secretary for the Miami Nation of Indiana based in Peru; Justin Barnard, a member of Kispoko sect of the Shawnee Nation; and Georgiana Lowe, fifth granddaughter of Frances Slocum, known as Maconaquah by the Miami Nation.

On behalf of the state commission, Tuttle said, "I would like to thank the Foster Family for bringing to life the real look of the native people of Indiana."

**(Editor's note: Check the next edition of *Footprints* for stories detailing the Foster Family's efforts to learn more about the legends behind the naming of Howard County's seat and how the striking new depiction of "Ma Ko Ko Ma" was created by artist Marcia K. Moore.)**



Created by Marcia K. Moore, a Florida artist who works in digital media & has a great interest in depicting "the ancients" based on historical research & anthropological evidence.

**D**uring the Howard County Historical Society annual meeting Oct. 18, Howard County Commissioner Brad Bray presented a resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners officially declaring Howard County Historical Society Day in honor of the organization's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The resolution acknowledged the society's many contributions to the community since its founding in 1916.

Executive Director Dave Broman reviewed the successes and challenges of the past year, emphasizing steady progress in meeting professional museum standards and the important role of partnerships at the state and local level. The society's stewardship of the Seiberling Mansion, Elliott House and their associated carriage houses is focused on raising funds to replace the 126-year-old slate roof on the mansion and he encouraged the audience to support the project.

In official business, HCHS members reelected seven members of the HCHS Board of Trustees. Selected to serve additional three-year terms were Judy Brown, Linda Ferries, Mary Ellen Har-nish, Peggy Hobson, Lynn Smith, Cathy Stover and Shelly Wyman.



# New, more realistic image of Chief Kokomo unveiled at HCHS annual meeting

By Linda Ferries  
HCHS Publications Committee Member

David Foster and Chief Kokomo were front and center at the 2016 annual meeting of the Howard County Historical Society – in more ways than one.

About 75 people crowded into the Elliott House for the evening that featured visits from historical re-enactors and living descendants of families tied to the early years of Kokomo.

First came the visit from the David Foster and Chief Kokomo of the past in the form of Al Conner and Joe Cross. The two Kokomo men regularly don the attire of the 1840s pioneer merchant and the Miami Indian whose name, legend says, became the name of the new Howard County seat. They are long-time fixtures at the Koh-Koh-Mah and Foster Living History Encampment in western Howard County each September, where they share the stories and legends of the men who are forever tied together in the founding of Kokomo.

A real David Foster then came forward to move the story ahead about 170 years. Foster, a Koko-



Al Conner, David Foster re-enactor, and Joe Cross, Chief Kokomo re-enactor, shared stories at the event.

mo police officer, was on hand to share some of what he has learned about his great-great-great-grandfather with the same name – and unveil an exciting new addition to the Howard County Historical Society collection.

With the family connection back to his hometown's founding, Foster has long had an interest in history. Several years ago, he began a quest "to re-create a likeness of the chief who this city holds as it namesake – 'Ma-Ko-Ko-Mo.'" He described the research and travel he undertook – "an incredible journey of discovery" – that brought him to Florida-based artist Marcia K. Moore, and the unveiling of the "Ma Ko Ko Mo" depiction she created. The goal: To create a depiction more true to the Woodland Indians that lived in Indiana than previous traditional depictions of Chief Kokomo.

As Foster and Moore pulled the drape over the frame, audience members were treated to a new image of Chief Kokomo based on their research into the legends of Kokomo and the history of the Miami Nation. Moore shared her thoughts on the project, which represents a continuation of her work over the last four years "recreating the ancients."

"It was a real honor to work with you," she told Foster. Moore uses a digital process to "sculpt" her subjects like a forensic artist before digitally drawing and coloring the details that form the portrait.

Foster was joined by a number of family members who supported the project along with members of the family of Harrison Stewart, whose



David Foster is the great-great-great grandson of the founder of Kokomo.

# George W. Davis' Academy Award nominations

To see a list of art direction credits from his prolific career, look up George W. Davis on [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com).

(\* Denotes win)

**1950**

*All about Eve*

Art Direction (Black-and-White): Lyle Wheeler, George W. Davis

**1951**

*David and Bathsheba* Art Direction (Color): Lyle Wheeler, George Davis

**1953**

\* *The Robe*

Art Direction (Color): Lyle Wheeler, George W. Davis

**1955**

*Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing*

Art Direction (Color): Lyle Wheeler, George W. Davis

**1957**

*Funny Face*

Art Direction: Hal Pereira, George W. Davis

**1959**

\* *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Art Direction (Black-and-White): Lyle R. Wheeler, George W. Davis

**1960**

*Cimarron*

Art Direction (Color): George W. Davis, Addison Hehr

**1962**

*Period of Adjustment* Art Direction (Black-and-White):

George W. Davis, Edward Carfagno

*Mutiny on the Bounty*

Art Direction (Color): George W. Davis, J. McMillan Johnson

*The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm*

Art Direction: George W. Davis, Edward Carfagno

**1963**

*Twilight of Honor*

Art Direction (Black-and-White): George W. Davis, Paul Groesse

*How the West Was Won*

Art Direction (Color): George W. Davis, William Ferrari, Addison Hehr

**1964**

*The Americanization of Emily*

Art Direction (Black-and-White): George W. Davis, Hans Peters, Elliot Scott

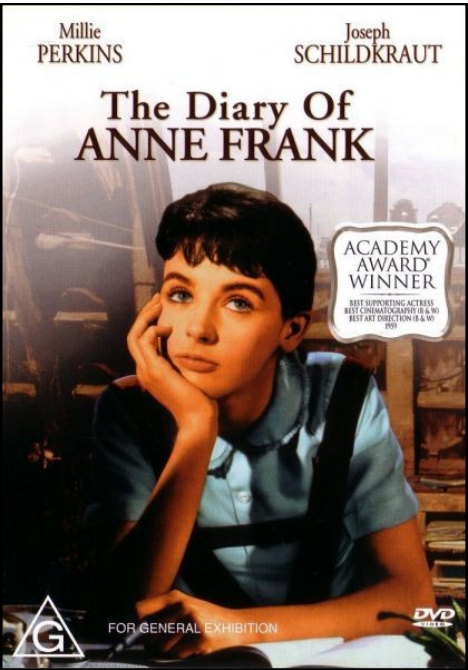
*The Unsinkable Molly Brown*

Art Direction (Color): George W. Davis, Preston Ames

**1965**

*A Patch of Blue*

Art Direction (Black-and-



*The Diary of Anne Frank* was one of two Oscar wins for George Davis for Art Direction. He also won an Academy Award for *The Robe*.

White): George W. Davis, Urie McCleary

**1966**

*Mister Buddwing*

Art Direction (Black-and-White): George W. Davis, Paul

**1968**

*The Shoes of the Fisherman*

Art Direction: George W. Davis, Edward Carfagno

# Kokomo inventor credited for revolutionizing modern corn harvesting

By Emily West  
Footprints Editor

**D**ust clouds billow in Howard County fields each fall as huge combines harvest the corn and soybean crops.

As the giant machines roar across the acres, taking in as many as 24 rows of corn at once, one may think of a time when the harvest was a much more painstaking process. Not so long ago, dry corn was cut by hand; later one-row harvesters were pulled behind a tractor, throwing corn and pieces of stalks into a wagon. Power for these machines came from a belt-and-pulley system that wasn't especially efficient.

A Kokomo inventor changed all that.

John Powell did not achieve the fame of other Howard County inventors, like Elwood Haynes and George Kingston. In fact, outside of the farming industry, he was not well known at all.

But, Powell is credited with inventing the first corn harvester using a power takeoff. Instead of using belts connected to the wheels to provide power to run the machinery, Powell's system connected to a tractor's engine through the PTO.

Powell's inspiration came after a neighbor complained to him about his unpicked corn and told him of his disgust with mechanical cornpickers that would not work in muddy fields, according to an article in "New Idea Company's Corn Pickers: 1925-1982." Powell went to the field, noting how when the wheels of the tractor wouldn't turn, the machine had no power. This event led to the development of his idea.

Powell used concepts he had learned working in the oil drilling industry.

According to a 1958 Kokomo Tribune article: "As a young man, Powell worked in the oil fields and supervised drilling operations, working in the United States and in Central America. He became thoroughly familiar with drilling equipment and pipeline construction.

"He used his knowledge of drilling operations and equipment in the application of the power takeoff principle for operating mechanical corn pickers. Stationary steam engines had been used for many years to power the drilling rigs and it occurred to Powell that a tractor could supply the power to operate a corn picker in much the same manner as power was applied in oil drilling."

Powell met another of Kokomo's inventors, Elwood Haynes, when Powell was young and neither had yet become successful inventors. During the gas boom, both worked in the gas industry, pumping natural gas from Central Indiana to Chicago during the late 1880s.

"Haynes left the gas company to perfect his 'horseless' carriage and later to manufacture Haynes automobiles, perfect stainless steel



The Powell two-row power-takeoff corn harvester

and other valuable alloys," according to a 1955 *Kokomo Tribune* article. "Powell left to go into oil drilling....He turned his inventive interests to drilling tools, several of which he improved.

"In the early 1920s he made tractors at Indianapolis and then his interest turned to the invention of a machine that would pick corn," the article stated.

After rejections from several farm implement manufacturers, Powell demonstrated his machine to New Idea Implement Company in Coldwater, Ohio. "Engineers of the company were delighted when Powell proved that a little Ford tractor had enough pull to operate his power takeoff."

New Idea bought the manufacturing rights. However, Powell did not sell the exclusive rights. As other manufacturers began to take an interest, he contracted to them as both an engineer and consultant.

According to an interview in 1955, Powell said he didn't appreciate the full value of his power takeoff idea. If he had capitalized on it,

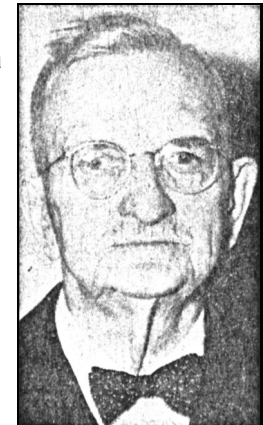
Powell said he would have earned more than a \$1 million. Powell tried to seek business advice from Haynes as his corn picker was gaining notice. A meeting was scheduled between the two in 1925, just as Powell was putting the finishing touches on his idea. However, Haynes became ill and died before they could meet.

"All the same, Powell is philosophical about the matter," the article stated. "He has made a comfortable living out of his inventions and has enjoyed the freedom to work at his ideas without interruption."

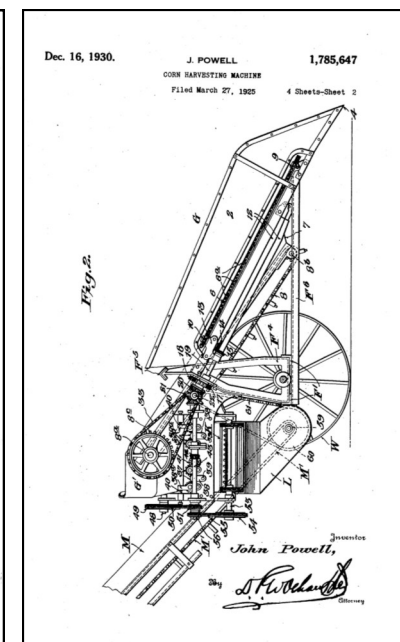
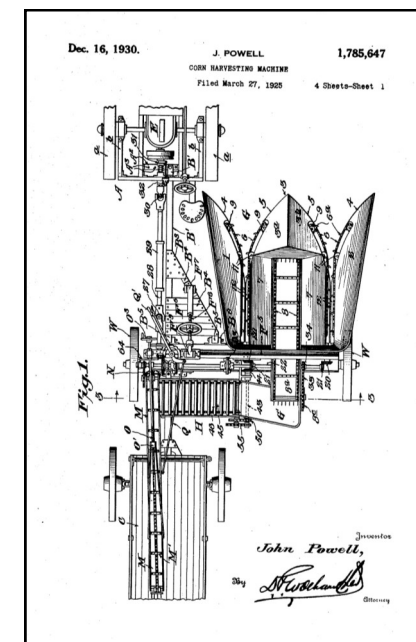
Powell continued to work at his inventions into his 80s. He had several patents for farm equipment. Described as "neat in his appearance and having many

gentlemanly qualities, a quiet, elderly man with an alertness of face and the powers of concentration and patience required of all successful inventors, at 83, he was working to perfect a tomato seed planter.

Powell, who lived in the 900 block of South Armstrong Street, died at home in 1958 at the age of 86 after suffering a stroke. He was survived by his wife, Stella. His son had died in 1956. Powell is buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Greentown.



John Powell



Drawings from Powell's 1930 corn harvester patent