

# Footprints



**Off with the old,  
on with the new**

126-year-old Seiberling roof  
replacement underway

# How can we preserve old skills?

**O**ur work at the historical society, in and around the Seiberling Mansion, offers an interesting juxtaposition of technologies. As a person who has used and managed modern tech for many years, I've had the opportunity to see it from different points of view and think about how it affects – and often controls – our lives.

At HCHS, we use digital equipment constantly to manage our collections and record images of historical artifacts, documents and images, as well as for the more mundane aspects of business management. Yet those things were created using lower tech techniques and skills.

The biggest recent example in my life has been the Seiberling Mansion, as I've watched the roof replacement proceed. The mansion was built with the technology of the time and much of the repair has to be done in a similar manner. Which brings up my real reason for writing about this topic: we're losing skills, all kinds of skills, as we adopt new technologies.

The loss is worrisome. The new technologies

are useful and, for the most part, a great boon to society, but what happens when the electricity goes off? When the gas can is empty? What happens when there is no energy to power the computer or the kitchen range?

I have a personal interest and bias in such things. I like being able to make and fix things. I'm fascinated by old tools and old ways of doing things. Their simplicity is deceptive and the products of those oldtime craftsmen and craftswomen are strikingly beautiful, in a way that mass-produced objects from factories and automated CNC machines can never be.

I've said and written many times that the historical society's job is as much about preserving stories as about preserving things. We collect, preserve and share the stories that are the foundation of our community's identity. Perhaps it's time for us to think about how we can preserve and share the old skills and crafts that first built the world we live in. They are part of our foundation, too.

**Dave Broman**

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# Seiberling to celebrate with 'Christmas Around the World'

**By Linda Ferries**  
**HCHS Publication Committee Chair**

**W**ith displays hailing from Norway to Mexico and Russia to the Mediterranean, visitors to the Howard County Museum's annual Christmas at the Seiberling celebration this year will be treated to "Christmas Around the World."

"Our decorators are busy putting together new displays to celebrate the many places around the world that have contributed to our holiday traditions," said Peggy Hobson, chair of the historical society's Events Committee and lead for the annual month-long holiday event.

The museum will be closed to the public from Nov. 11 to 24 as volunteers deck the Seiberling halls for a festive celebration.

On Saturday, Nov. 25, the traditional lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival is set for 6 p.m. and the museum will be open until 8 p.m. Santa will greet his fans in the Elliott House from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students (free admission is a benefit of



**Santa and his helpers will greet families on opening night.**



**Kokomo Men of Note performed at the 2016 Christmas at the Seiberling.**

HCHS membership). After opening night, the museum will then be open during regular hours of 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

Here's a look at activities planned for Christmas at the Seiberling 2017:

On select Thursdays and Fridays, the mansion will be open to the public without charge from 4 to 8 p.m., courtesy of community-minded sponsors, including:

Nov. 30 – Community First Bank

Dec. 7 – Ivy Tech Community College

Dec. 14 – Duke Energy and Kokomo CEO

Saturday, Dec. 9 – Duke Energy's "Seiberling By Night" 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 bygone era. The holiday admission has been reduced for this one magical evening thanks to Duke Energy's support — \$5 for adults and children free.

The celebration wraps up when the museum closes for the season at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30. A full schedule can be found on our web-

# Seiberling's Surprising Roof 'Reveals'

**By Gil Porter**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Member**

**A**s work on the long-awaited, \$440,000 Howard County Museum roof restoration continued through the fall, the project has revealed some fascinating bits of hidden history regarding the 127-year-old Seiberling Mansion.

According to Dave Broman, executive director of the Howard County Historical Society, the fundraising project team and the hired contractor – Hinshaw Roofing & Sheet Metal Co. Inc. of Frankfort – knew they would find some level of decay as they removed the old slate. But a structure that old, with its original roof dating from 1890, was bound to offer a few surprises.

An initial discovery was that while the majority of the slate covering was original to the building, a small section on the west side had been replaced, probably in the 1980s. What workers then found underneath all of it spoke to the quality of the original construction.

"When the slate was removed, the team found that hardwood planks were used for the underlying 'decking,'" Broman said. More durable than today's common chipboard decking, at the time hardwood was plentiful and common.

"Monroe Seiberling had connections with local lumber suppliers, so he was able to use it throughout." Sturdy and inherently longer-lasting, overall the hardwood decking is "in good shape," Broman said, adding with relief, "I had expected to find more damage."

However, deterioration was found around windows that peek out from the roof and on the wooden east circular tower, not unexpected given that the building has endured more than 125 years of rain and freeze-thaw cycles.

The areas around those distinctive "eyebrow" windows suffered significant damage over time;

the slate around these was "like Swiss cheese," Broman said. Originally those openings were louvered vents designed to facilitate air flow throughout the house. With the advent of central heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, the windows were added.

Broman noted new copper gutters and valleys will be installed to replace the galvanized metal originals. "The copper will be unpainted so eventually it will have that nice patina of age," he said.

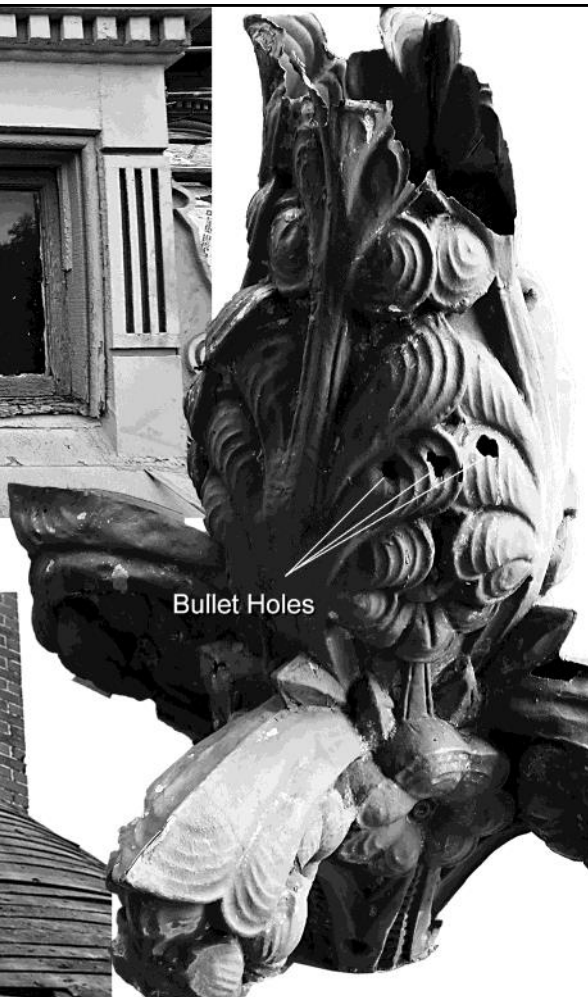
An interesting find was the condition of the more than three-foot-tall finial that has adorned the top of the bell-shaped dome on the south tower, the highest point of the building. Made of galvanized sheet metal, the original finial was "blown out by a lightning strike" at one point, Broman said, and the remaining shell also revealed seven bullet holes. "Probably someone shooting at pigeons," Broman said.

The new finial is custom-made of copper using a die from the late 1800s. "It's very close to the original," he said.

Broman noted donations are still being accepted to the "Save Our Seiberling" roof restoration campaign to cover additional repair work that may still be discovered.

Disposition of the removed slate is also an ongoing project. "Some of the slate from the 1980s work is being retained to repair the Seiberling Carriage House," Broman said. Pieces of the original slate still in good condition may be used for memorabilia or available for later fund-raising activities, Broman added.

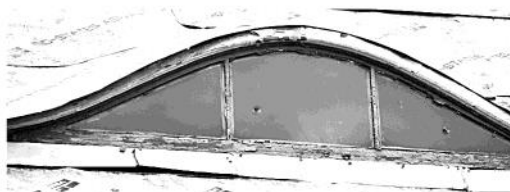
Throughout the project, the restoration work is being "well-documented" to ensure the due diligence of how the money has been spent and also to have a complete photographic record for the archives. This will be helpful for any future repairs or updates, Broman noted. "Once



Bullet Holes



**FINDINGS:** Upper left, damage around window frames and the east circular tower. Below left, hardwood plank decking. The original finial, at right, will be replaced by a custom-made version based on an 1890s die. Below, deterioration around the distinctive “eyebrow” windows.



# 'From the Dark Pages' Night of Mystery haunts Seiberling

**By Linda Ferries**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Chair**

Spirits "From the Dark Pages" haunted the Seiberling Mansion on Sept. 30 as the Howard County Historical Society presented a "night of mystery" sponsored by Thermodyn Inc.

Board member Dana Osburn took the lead on putting the evening together, an event that included a masquerade ball in a festive tent between the Seiberling and the Elliott House. Guests dressed in their finest Victorian attire, as well as a variety of characters appropriate to the Halloween theme, enjoyed a beautiful fall evening that included a stop with an exotic fortune teller played by volunteer Teresa Fields.

Centerpiece of the evening was the mystery tour through the mansion that followed Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, as they sought to end the reign of terror by the villain known as Jack the Ripper. The dimly lit walk through the past in the ornate mansion included "visits" with Queen Victoria and her personal physician, William Gull; author Edgar Allan Poe, haunted by a persistently beating heart; author Mary Shelley and friends (including her most famous creation, Frankenstein's monster); and even

the "murder" of London "lady of the night" Mary Kelly. The solution to the mystery was revealed once Holmes and Conan Doyle reunited with Dr. Watson in the mansion's ballroom.

Guests, including a group of Halloween enthusiasts from the Wabash area, praised the event as a fun kickoff to the Halloween season. They were welcomed to the mansion mystery tour by none other than Monroe and Sarah Seiberling, roles reprised by long-time reenactors Jerry and Marcia Nelson.

"The actors did a wonderful job in creating an atmosphere and mood that entertained and thrilled their audiences," Osburn said. "Under the direction of Elizabeth Carter McQuiston, they put on a show that really made the event!"

Winners of the costume contest were Dracula (aka David Summers of Kokomo), first; Cruella DeVille (aka Beth Metcalf of Kokomo), second; and Miss Steampunk (aka Kellie Haley of Wabash), third.

Osburn extended special thanks to sponsor Kris Airgood and Thermodyn Inc, noting Thermodyn donated a new furnace and its installation as first prize. Door prizes were donated by Z92.5, Solutions Day Spa, Granson's Jewelers, Jitterbug & Co., and Wings Etc.

Credit also goes to Choo Choo McGoo's for the baked potato/taco bar and s'mores dessert, Hainlen Orchard for



Edgar Allen Poe (Jason Kelly) confers with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Steve Bachmann)

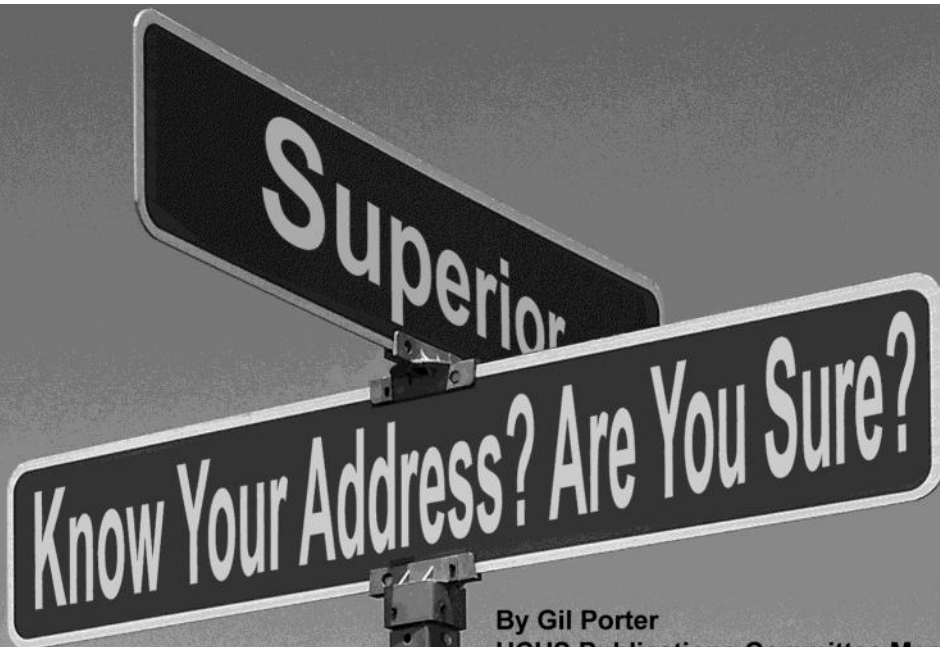
applies, Brad Williams aka DJ Brotherbad as deejay, as well as HCHS curator Stew Lauterbach who served as history authenticator and Frankenstein's monster. Other volunteers included Peggy Hobson, Randy Rusch, Judy Brown, Mary Ellen Harnish and Lois Martin.

Members of the cast included Steve "Snake" Bachmann as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Tucker Metcalf as Sherlock Holmes; Sara Holloway as Queen Victoria; Josh Ashcraft as Dr. Gull/Jack the Ripper; Jason Kelly as Edgar Allan Poe; Alexandra Metcalf as Lady Byron; Anna Ely as Claire Clairmont (Pearl Shelley); Cheree Bachmann as Mrs. Polidori (Dr. Polidori); Toni Betzner as Mary Shelley; Kylie Betzner as Madam Alexandra; Sarah Ferenc as Mary Kelly; and Aubrey Drake as Dr. Watson, along with David Phillips as the butler and Judy



Beth Metcalf, David Summers and Kellie Haley, above, were winners in the costume contest. Bottom left, Frankenstein's monster (Stew Lauterbach) scares the maid (Judy Lauterbach). Bottom right, Dracula (Summers) finds the neck of Mrs. Seiberling (Marcia Nelson) delectable.





By Gil Porter

HCHS Publications Committee Member

**Kokomo's automotive heritage amounts to more than 100 years of manufacturing capability and technological innovation. Indeed, some of the world's first mass-produced vehicles were tested on dusty roads in Howard County.**

By the start of the 20th century, Kokomo's own transportation network was growing along with its expanding town boundaries. Ancient Indian footpaths were transformed into dirt and sometimes gravel roads; horse and buggies shared (often uneasily) the right of way with all sorts of mechanized vehicles; free mail delivery, which began in Kokomo around 1887, was becoming critical for commerce; and public safety was improving thanks to new technology and equipment to fight fires or respond to break-ins.

Passions ran deep regarding progress, especially on topics like the need for new and better roadways. Debates about the best material for paving – brick, asphalt, or macadam - were inspired, contentious and often downright divisive. News accounts reveal neighbors on opposite sides of a street often were equally divided over the best paving method.

Those controversies were nothing compared to the issue of street names.

Kokomo has a long history of dutiful government, efficient businesses and industrious citizens. But the method for naming its streets was curiously inconsistent and strangely sloppy.

The issue seems to have been detected early on. At a “regular meeting” of the Kokomo City Council on the last day of 1888, a three-person committee was formed to “consider the propriety of renaming the streets and make report of recommendations.” That the town’s thoroughfares were experiencing growing pains was evident in other items on that New Year’s Eve night’s agenda: to wit, approvals for select street improvements and various sidewalk repairs; an assessment to report on the “benefits and damages resulting from the widening of South Main street;” and a motion that the council “procure four maps of the city including the new additions.”

The street-renaming report, however, apparently had little traction. The committee made a short follow-up request on Jan. 29, 1889, for more time to study a proposal, but, in fact, nothing substantive seems to have come of it.

For the next 15 years or so, the issue of street names rarely rose to any level of sustained discussion, even as the city council during that time regularly reviewed public conveyance topics like street expansion, maintenance and sewer implementation, railroad regulations and dealing with an exciting (and frightening) new phenomenon — fast-moving horseless machines all over the place. (The Aug. 23, 1904, council meeting featured first reading for

an ordinance regulating the speed of street cars, automobiles and interurban cars through the city — to 10 miles an hour.)

In 1906, former judge and then-Kokomo Mayor Macy Brouse joined an informal meeting of the city council on the evening of March 26 and shared information about concerns that were bubbling up in the business district. Merchants, the mayor said, were complaining that Kokomo’s system for designating properties was creating “confusion in making deliveries” and needed to be addressed in some way.

The problem was obvious. As Kokomo grew and new neighborhoods were platted, a somewhat haphazard method of assigning names had led to some streets and avenues having

sections with two or even *three* different names. For example, on the rapidly expanding southside, if you were traveling west on Reserve Street, after a slight bend at Courtland the road became “Virginia” (it was solely East and West Virginia after the changeover).

The problem was particularly pronounced for north-south lines that crossed the Wildcat. On the south side

of the creek, you could start heading north on “Armstrong Avenue.” On the north side of the creek, the same geographic line was “Clay Street,” while farther north the street was named “Fremont.” (Today, it’s Armstrong Street all the way.) Or, starting out on the south side from the public school on the northwest corner of Markland and then-“Palmer Avenue” (today they are Webster Street and the Palmer [School] Apartments), you proceeded north to the Wildcat Creek on Palmer. Directly on the north side, the same section of street was Webster. Heading north on Webster and after a slight jog to the left at Jefferson, you suddenly were on Smith Avenue!

Some 50 other streets had “shared” names, i.e. one name in one section, another name altogether in another place, even though geographically they followed roughly the same line. This understandably led to concern about mail



delivery and emergency responders. What's more, the original "numbering" system for houses and buildings by this time was also out-of-date and full of inconsistencies.

City leaders agreed on the need to "re-chart the city." The original plan from the March 1906 meeting was to *completely* rename Kokomo's streets by replacing existing names with this outline: streets running north and south would be numbered; streets running east and west would be named. After several months of reviews and delayed readings of a proposed ordinance, in October 1906 the council settled on a draft ordinance to adopt the "Metropolitan System" for renumbering buildings and residences, which aroused little emotion.

However, the proposed "renaming" plan was accurately predicted to be "sweeping and startling," and the opposition was equally swift and vocal. Alternate proposals were presented, including variations on an idea put forward by Charles B.F. Clark, a local map-maker and former justice of the peace. Clark proposed a system to designate east-west streets as "East A," "West B," sequentially from a starting point at Main and Walnut (with those streets retaining those names). Then, again using Walnut and now Sycamore (name retained), north-south streets would be named "South First," "North Second" and so on.

As word of the plan – and other variations like Mr. Clark's — spread, a number of objections were raised. For example, renaming all the streets would have many practical and costly implications. Telephone directories and the city directory would have to be updated (although that would occur anyway). Changing every street name would affect citizens directly in terms of insurance policies, land title, deeds and mortgages. Additionally, all existing maps would be immediately obsolete. Plus, many long-time residents simply didn't like the idea, and weren't shy about saying so.

The idea did have supporters. The Post Office Department studied the issue and present-

ed a similar proposal in December 1906: to number east-west streets beginning at High Street and numbering north and not change the names of north-south streets — "there are not enough through streets running in that direction" was the reasoning offered.

Quite aware that Kokomo's citizens were happy with the status quo, the city council committee reviewing the issue in early 1907 nevertheless twice delayed and deferred the readings of a street-renaming ordinance. Then, at his regular turn during the city council meeting on Monday, March 4, Councilman Edward Hockett of the Streets and Alleys Committee announced formally that "the committee had

arrived at a plan." Our idea, Hockett said in his presentation, is to make the "Wildcat" (Creek) a dividing line and streets running east and west on the south side would be lettered like this: Water="A," Carter="B," Murden="C," Vaile="D" etc. Northside streets would be numbered sequentially from High Street as "First," Sycamore "Second," and the like. What was interesting was

Hockett's suggestion for the streets running north and south: the plan would be to "let them retain their present names" except to give all streets on the same line the same name (eliminating the multi-name problem).

When the proposed ordinance was held over for further readings, a remonstrance group began to gain momentum. By April 29, a petition against renaming the streets was already officially on file with the city. "Seldom has any move of the council been more unpopular," said the *Kokomo Daily Tribune* on May 21.

For the next six months, the issue whipsawed between a city council (supported by the Post Office) convinced the idea was sound as they tweaked and modified the plan in an effort to gain public support, and a loud and lusty opposition that by November had garnered hundreds of names on the petition against the ordinance (the total of all circulated petitions may have been closer to 1,000 signatures). The



opposition camp was heavily weighted as well by sheer standing in the community — dozens of prominent lawyers, doctors and Kokomo business owners were against the ordinance. For several days, the *Kokomo Daily Tribune* ran the verbatims of the opposition leaders. A sample of opinions on the subject:

*"I can't find words to express my opposition to this plan strongly enough. I would cheerfully work day and night against changing the names of the streets, and for the life of me I can't understand why anyone wants it done. I have been here I don't know how many years, and I know the present names. If they were changed I would have all the painful learning of the names to go through with again."* — John A. Jay

*"I don't want the name of my street changed, and I suppose others are the same way. I see no need of changing the names. I believe, of course, that any confusion should be cleared up, and I am disposed to favor the renumbering ordinance, but why change the names of our streets?"* — Judge Lex J. Kirkpatrick

*"I think that the idea is preposterous, and I hope it will be defeated. I am against it, first, last and all the time."* — Dr. J.M. Moulder

*"This street renaming talk is tomfoolery."* — Judge C.N. Pollard

By early November 1907, the opposition clearly was the majority, even as the Post Office continued to point out the problem of "a lack of system" in the numbering of houses and the confusion of street names. Thus, "the ordinance, for the present, at least, is dead" and "sentiment is overwhelmingly against the measure" was the conclusion in the Kokomo newspapers at that time.

But a remarkable "Letter to the Editor" in the *Kokomo Daily Tribune* on Nov. 23 would play a major role in an eventual solution for what to do about the street names in Kokomo.

Dr. J.R. Morgan was the "well-known" manager of the Johnson Abstract Co., and thus qualified to address the issue from the unique perspective of a "competent abstractor ... whose certificate carries sufficient moral and financial support to make it dependable" (text from a prominent *Kokomo Daily Tribune* ad listing at the time).

Acknowledging the emotions the ordinance proposal had generated that year (1907), in his letter Morgan laid out the council's street-renaming plan, in all fairness, and gently dismissed it "as there is no system about it at all." If the goal was to eliminate the confusion resulting from streets on a line having two or

more names, was a "radical change" to rename every street really necessary? Morgan offered a simpler idea aimed at "harmonizing the name of streets that are now different, but which may sometime become continuous through the

city, and should bear the same name. ..." By affecting only 25 multi-named streets that he further identified, "there will be no new names to familiarize ourselves with."

The ordinance was due to be voted on at the next city council meeting the following Monday, Nov. 25, and a "monster protest" was planned for the event. The remonstrance group petitioned at J.W. Webb's grocery store (126 Myrtle — this street name was abandoned after Harrison Street was reconfigured. The store was located on the northeast corner of Buckeye and Harrison) now boasted 650 names

#### Kokomo's first three streets

"High," "Sycamore" and "Main" were the first street names selected as seen in this record from the October 1844 meeting of the "Richardville" County Commissioners.

“against the proposed renaming ordinance.” The *Tribune* that day further re-listed the names of most of the prominent citizens so opposed – a list that amounted to a mini-Social Register of Kokomo at the time. An elderly gentleman, “one of the oldest and most respected citizens of the town,” even was helped from his “sick bed” the previous Saturday and made his way to Webb’s southside grocery store to add his name to the remonstrance.

### **Kokomo City Ordinance No. 1285**

“An Ordinance providing for the renaming of certain of the streets of the city, providing also for the renumbering of the buildings of the city and the placing of numbers upon the same and all matters connected therewith, and providing a penalty for the violation of certain sections thereof.”



—  
“THE ORDINANCE IS DEFEATED” was the front-page headline in the *Kokomo Daily Tribune* the morning following the Kokomo City Council meeting on Nov. 25, 1907. “The ordinance providing for the renaming of the city’s streets was defeated ... (and) postponed ‘until some future meeting.’”

The lead editorial in that day’s paper praised the city council for agreeing on a plan to “take the conflict and confusion out of the street naming.” Two things were desired regarding an ordinance, the editorial said, renaming streets and renumbering houses, and people favored “these two things.” But it was “equally plain that anything more than this is not wanted by the people of Kokomo.” Acknowledging the voice of the people and rejecting any “radical action” (renaming all the city streets) was “constructive and commendable,” and people would approve of the two propositions, the editorial said, concluding with a nod to high-minded civic responsibility: “... and it is the people’s business they are attending to.”

The “radical” street renaming plan was defeated, the building renumbering proposal approved, and yet many streets ultimately were

renamed. So, what happened?

At the council meeting, faced with the overwhelming remonstrance (two petitions alone, including the one from Webb’s grocery, totaled 938 names), a motion to postpone “indefinitely” the renaming ordinance was approved, and as that meeting represented the measure’s third reading before the council, the motion to postpone a further reading “effectively killed the proposition.”

At that point, the “renumbering” plan was presented as an “omnibus” measure. Councilman Hockett of the Streets and Alleys Committee immediately introduced an amendment “providing for the changing of the names of a score of streets, so as to clear up confusion existing in the names” (he essentially lifted Dr. Morgan’s Nov. 23 “Letter to the Editor” plan almost to the letter). After a few more ancillary amendments were discussed, the “Kokomo City Ordinance No. 1285” was passed by a vote of seven to two.

Mayor Will H. Arnett signed the ordinance on Dec. 10, and the law would take effect June 1, 1908, allowing time for the city engineer “to get the work done.”

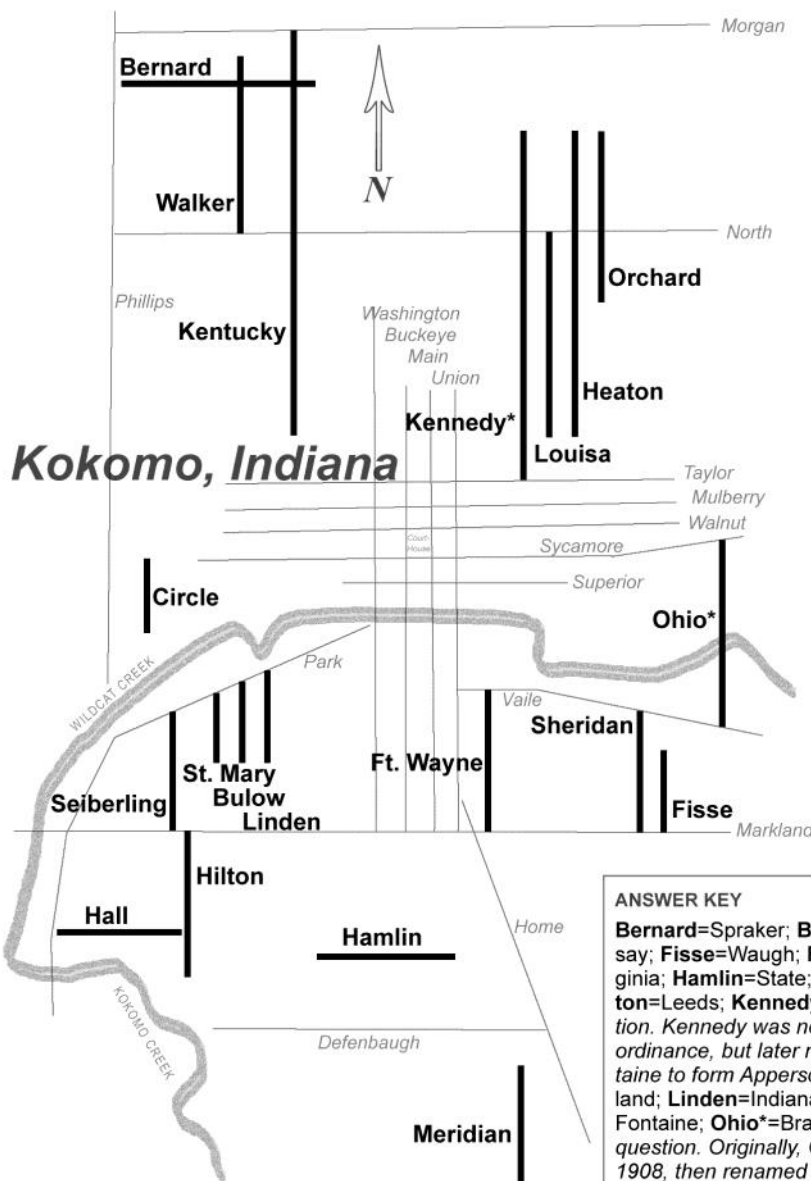
End of story? Not quite.

Sometime between 1902 (according to the Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Maps) and when the street renaming and renumbering plans took effect in 1908, a sub-division in the “Columbus & Ironton Addition” just north and west of the Wildcat Creek (which today includes the Kingston Road roundabout a block south of the Howard County History Museum) included a street geographically on line with High Street downtown. The west side extension street was named “Superior.” Harmonizing these two into one name — “that the streets of the city of Kokomo now known as High and Superior streets shall be named and hereafter designated as Superior street” — just happened to be first one listed of the 35-street listings when the complete “Ordinance No. 1285”

See “Streets” on page 19



# Street Savvy Survey ...



In November 1908, the Kokomo City Council approved "Kokomo City Ordinance No. 1285" that provided for the renumbering of the buildings of the city and renaming of certain city streets. The effort to "re-chart the city" had been a topic of concern since at least 1889; the final agreement was designed to "harmonize" the streets that had acquired multiple names across common geographic lines. How many of the original 20 street names on the map can you name today? Check your answers with the key in the box below.

## ANSWER KEY

**Bernard**=Spraker; **Bulow**=Wabash; **Circle**=Lindsay; **Fisse**=Waugh; **Ft. Wayne**=Market; **Hall**=Virginia; **Hamlin**=State; **Heaton**=Purdum; **Hilton**=Leeds; **Kennedy\***=Apperson (A trick question. Kennedy was not part of the 1908 renaming ordinance, but later merged with parts of N. Lafontaine to form Apperson Way); **Kentucky**=Courtland; **Linden**=Indiana; **Louisa**=Bell; **Meridian**=LaFontaine; **Ohio\***=Brandon=Ohio (Another trick question. Originally, Ohio was renamed Brandon in 1908, then renamed Ohio again by 1916!); **Orchard**=Jay; **Seiberling**=Lindsay; **Sheridan**=Locke; **St. Mary**=McCann; **Walker**=Indiana

Design By Gil Porter

# HCHS marks 'Howard County in World War I' at annual meeting

By Linda Ferries  
HCHS Publication Committee Chair

**F**or Leland (Lee) Baxter and his wife, Bonnie, the 2017 annual meeting of the Howard County Historical Society had special meaning. A focal point of the Oct. 17 meeting's commemoration of "Howard County in World War I" was the story of Lee's great-uncle, Edgar Franklin Reed, one of 38 Howard County residents who were killed during the Great War.

Learning that the Howard County Historical Society's program had been selected as an official part of Indiana's commemoration of the war, Baxter contacted program chair Peggy Hobson earlier this summer with information about the Distinguished Service Cross bestowed on E.F. Reed posthumously for his heroic service. His offer to share those artifacts for display at the banquet later turned into an outright donation to the HCHS collection.

"My mother had a brother who had had the documents and the medal," Baxter remembers. "Several years after he passed away, his wife, my aunt, called me out to their house and gave them to me. Fortunately, they did keep them. To be honest, all I did was put them in a safe, dry place."

But Baxter, who retired after 35 years with the state employment service, and his wife have no children, and as the years have gone by, he says, he has become more aware that there was no one to inherit these historic artifacts.

"When I saw the newspaper article about the World War I program, I thought, 'You know what? I need to do this,' he said, "and I am so happy that I did. I just didn't want to see this history perish." He said he is "absolutely elated" to know these family treasures can now be preserved for the education and understanding of Howard County residents. And he knows his mother, who was born the year her uncle E.F. Reed went off to

From "History of Howard County in the World War," by C.V. Haworth (Page 222):

*Reed, Edgar Franklin (54), son of William and Jane Reed, was born in Howard Co, Ind., May 19, 1888. His service in the United States Army began in September 1917. He was seriously wounded in battle on the afternoon of Oct. 30, 1918, and died at the Mobile Hospital Nov. 1, 1918. His body lies buried in the U.S. Cemetery No. 673, Grave No. 35, Esnes, France, and the Distinguished Service Cross which was awarded him was sent to his mother. Corporal Reed of Co. E. Sixty-first Infantry had been recommended for second lieutenant shortly before he was wounded. On Oct. 29, 1918, he was sent with twenty-five picked men from his battalion to hold the town of Aincville, France, about three miles west of Dun on the Meuse. At the time he was sent on this perilous expedition he was suffering from a deep and painful burn on his knee from mustard gas. It was very difficult for him to walk, but he never complained and went willingly to his duty. Even after he was wounded, and at his own request, he was carried to a corner of the building where he was stationed and there on a stretcher, he continued to shoot until dark, when it was safe to be taken to a hospital.*

war, would be proud.

Since their display during the annual meeting at Rozzi's Continental Ballroom, the artifacts are a permanent part of the HCHS collection. Along with the medal, the collection includes a photo of Reed found in the Indiana Book of Merit, a large volume that deals with Indiana men and women who were awarded "Official and Individual Decorations and Commendations" for "Service in the World War;" a panoramic photograph of Reed's Army unit; the citation recognizing his ultimate sacrifice along with a sentimental etching "signed" by President Woodrow Wilson; and other relics of his service.

The story of Reed's final days also was recounted as part of the "Howard County in World War I" program that highlighted the annual meeting. Howard County educator C.V. Haworth (played by volunteer Bob Webb), who penned the "Howard County in the World War" book that served as the basis of the program, shared the dramatic events that ended in Reed's death in a mobile Army hospital near Ainceville, France. Reed was honored in death as a hero for continuing to fire on the enemy to provide cover for his fellow soldiers, while severely injured and propped on a bed in a home they were defending. (See sidebar)

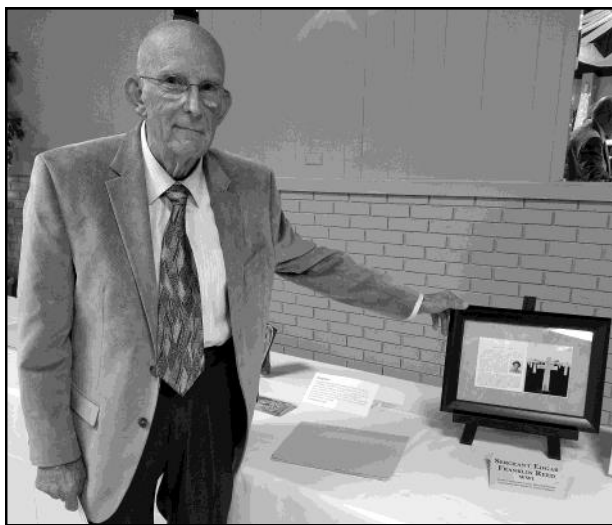
Using the historical society's archives and Haworth's book, event planners Hobson and HCHS board president Judy Brown uncovered many stories of individuals and organizations that contributed to the war effort. A number of re-enactors took the parts of various historical figures to share vignettes of history.

Among the "ghosts" who were represented by the storytellers were C.V. Haworth, who also talked about the war support offered by such organizations as the YMCA, Knights of Columbus and the Chamber of Commerce; Charles Munkenhern (played by Merrell Kenworthy), whose entrepreneurial efforts

helped secure government contracts for Howard County businesses; Ora Butler (played by Jerry Nelson), Howard County sheriff in 1919-1920, who helped run the county's chapter of the American Protective League; and Mrs. Jane Cosler (played by Marcia Nelson), the mother of soldier/dentist John Cosler.

Marsha Maple, representing the P.E.O. Society, and Amy Russell, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Kokomo Public Library, discussed how their organizations supported the war effort. Howard County Historian Jonathan Russell spoke on the significance of the World War I commemoration event, focusing on the history of Kokomo native Opha May Johnson, who became the first female Marine when she enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1918.

"The Howard County Historical Society is proud to have been chosen by the Indiana World War I Centennial Committee as the county's representative in honoring those people and those events from 100 years ago," Hobson said. "We were excited to share the



**Leland Baxter with a portion of his donation to the historical society's World War I collection.**

# Kokomo Fire Department celebrates 150th anniversary

## *Events through the years*

### Early days

#### 1867

- Began as volunteer force
- J.M. Leeds elected as first chief
- Era of "Bucket Brigades" of volunteer citizens

#### 1870s, 1880s

- The Kokomo City Council approved the purchase of fire extinguishers placed in the following locations: Simon Stern Store, Andrews Brothers planing mill, A.J. Norton store and residence, Russell, Jay and Dolman bank, Worley Leas mill, George Price residence and the train depot at the Junction (North Main and East Elm).
- First equipment purchased: two hose carts and a steamer engine (steamer engine lifted water from a source and pumped it onto a fire)

#### 1872

- Old No. 1, "City of Kokomo" purchased, Clapp & Jones Steamer, \$5,000

#### 1883

- Old No. 2, "City of Kokomo" purchased, American La France Steamer, \$3,000

#### 1884

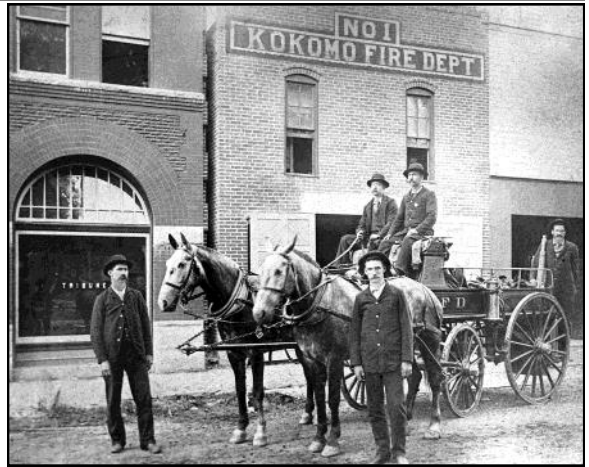
- No. 3 "Sparky" purchased, American La France Steamer \$3,000
- Early volunteer chiefs were Dr. Hency C. Cole, D.P. Davis, William H. Sellers, George McGowan and David Duke

#### 1892

- First organized fire department formed with paid firefighters
- First paid chief was Ed Shauman. Members included John Petty, Milton McCrae, Clinton Draper and Elsworth (Al) Wells

#### 1915

- First motorized equipment bought: A Haynes car and and Ahrens-Fox fire engine (remained in



service until 1952)

#### 1916

- Two new Ahrens-Fox engines added

#### 1939

- First fire department ambulance added

### Fire stations

Kokomo had three fire stations until 1955. Each were built between 1903 and 1904.

**Fire Station No.1** was at 121 E. Walnut, between Main and Union streets (the southwest corner of Union and Walnut where the parking garage stands now). It moved to the City Building in 1894.

**Fire Station No. 2** was on the south side at Home Avenue and Union Street (the building still stands).

**Fire Station No.3** was on North Street between Armstrong and North Washington streets (the school and parking lot of St. Patrick's church to-day). It was moved to its present location on North Apperson Way in 1961.

**Fire Station No.4** was built at Lincoln Road and South Webster in 1955 and moved to South Dixon Road in 2013.

**Fire Station No.5** was built in 1961 at West Sycamore Street and Dixon Road, then moved further west on Sycamore in 2007.

Fire Station No.6 was built on West Boulevard and U.S. 31 (now) U.S. 931 in 1963.

### **Notable fires**

1890 - Casting Plant, Plate Glass  
1893 - Enameling Works  
1897 - Great Western Pottery Works  
1897 - Strawboard Mill  
1900 - Snider Paper Mill  
1904 - Sellers Furniture Factory  
1904 - Globe Stove and Range Works  
1905 - Jenkins Glass Factory  
1906 - Apperson Automobile Works  
1910 - Kokomo Brass Works  
1911 - Haynes Automobile Works

Up to that time the Haynes Automobile Works fire was the most extensive in terms of loss — \$750,000 at the time (about \$19.5 million in 2016 dollars).

1923 - Armstrong-Landon Hardware Store

1948 - H & K Appliance, Kokomo Lumber Yard

This fire consumed two adjacent businesses and the total loss was valued at about \$600,000 (\$6 million today).

### **Modern notable fires**

Businesses or buildings that sustained significant or total losses included some of the following:

Continental Steel, Cuneo Press, Leath Furniture, Kingston Corner, College Building, Wayne Hotel, Courtland Hotel, Frances Hotel, Moose Lodge, Main Street Christian Church, Main Street Methodist Church, Miller Furniture.

### **In memoriam**

Firefighter William Crumbaugh died from head injuries in March 1914 when his carriage and team hit a wagon parked in the middle of Jefferson Street.

Former KFD Chief Raymond "Pat" Gammans died from smoke inhalation while fighting a fire in 1941. A son and grandson later served on the force.

### **Of note**

Jay L. Foster, the great-grandson of Kokomo founder David Foster and grandson of Kokomo Mayor John Puckett (1910-1913), joined the Kokomo Fire Department in 1928 and served as assistant chief for nine years. After retiring from the department in 1953, he was called to duty



**1971 fire at the Frances Hotel, corner of Buckeye and Mulberry**

## Six honored at 2017 Hall of Legends



Howard County celebrated its 2017 Hall of Legends class at a banquet on Aug. 25 at Bel Air Events. Left to right are Sam Rhine, Marilyn Skinner, Alicia Berneche, Bill Hunt, Becky Varnell and Marjo Biddinger. Hunt and Biddinger are the son and daughter of Virgil Hunt, and Becky Varnell is president of We Care, both included in the Hall of Legends.

## Koh-Koh-Mah encampment

Stepping back in time, the HCHS participated in the Koh-Koh-Mah/Foster encampment in September by offering candle dipping, rock painting and corn on the cob. Staff and volunteers dressed in period costumes and shared history with those attending. Below, children enjoy painting rocks. At right, HCHS Curator Stew Lauterbach assists a young candle dipper.



# Membership

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

Richard and Betty Alexander  
Robert and Robin Auth  
Ron and Pam Barsh  
Larry and June Barton  
Don and Gail Beaton  
Doyle and June Beck  
Marilynda Bennett  
Cynthia Bizjak and Hope East  
Sam and Mary Pat Burrous  
Don Button  
DAR, General James Cox  
Chapter, Kokomo, Ind.  
Del Demaree  
Dean Despinoy  
Joe Dunbar  
Charles and Mary Duncan  
Craig Dunham  
Orren and Barbara Dutton  
Harold and Joyce Fields  
Heather Fouts  
Jane Goerges  
Mayor Greg Goodnight  
Judith Graham  
Beryl and Jacqueline Grimme  
Glenn and Nancy Grundmann

Alan and Prudence Harnish  
Kenneth and Diana Hill  
Bill and Ginny Hingst  
Robert and Mary Hingst  
Mark and Peggy Hobson  
Richard and Marguerite Kadlec  
Glenda Kamosa  
Mike and Kelly Karickhoff  
David and Janice Kellar  
King's Heating and Plumbing  
Phillip and Diane Knight  
Bill and Margy Kring  
Judy Kruggel  
Keith and Judy Lausch  
Gale and Donna Leiter  
Mary Lewis  
Paul and Emily Curry Linder  
Wayne and Susan Luttrell  
Thomas and Marsha Maple  
Juanita Martin-Davis  
Judge Bill and Marty Menges Jr.  
Margaret Miles  
Ann Millikan  
Thomas and Mary Donna Morr  
Jerry and Marcia Nelson

Larry and Marleta Newberg  
Larry Newlin  
Charles and Gloria Nipple  
Roma North  
James and Brenda Papacek  
Julia Parrish  
Tom and Betty Poppas  
Don and Marti Pries  
Phillip and Carolyn Rankin  
Thomas and Kathryn Rethlake  
Beth Rider  
Michael Rodgers  
Robert and Diana Rostron, Jr.  
Ashley Schneider  
Thomas and Judy Sheehan  
Darrell and Tonia Sherrod  
Bill Shirley  
Lynn Smith  
Rick and Diane Smith  
Edward and Dixie Stone  
Greg and Melody Sumpter  
Del Demaree, Syndicate Sales  
Alan Teller  
Ronald Tetrick  
Tom and Carol Trine

## Streets, continued from page 12

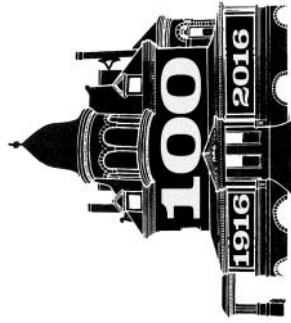
was published for public viewing in the Kokomo newspapers in early 1908.

And this just happened to be seen by one Sarah E. Leeds, a divorced seamstress who lived at 90 High Street (414 E. Superior after the name change, today roughly across the street from Memorial Gymnasium). Convinced that High Street should remain as is, Leeds gathered 87 names on a petition asking for an amendment to exclude High Street from the changeover.

When the petition was formally presented at

the March 30, 1908, council meeting, the amendment sponsors were joined by Jeremiah "Jerry" McCool, who operated a boarding house at 25 High Street (123 W. Superior later, the southwest corner of Superior and Buckeye Street). McCool, who came to Kokomo in 1858 and had served as a council member himself in 1887, said he supported the Leeds remonstrance, and noted that High Street was very likely the first street named by Kokomo founder David Foster. Given that provenance, he urged the council to amend the ordinance to leave

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



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