

Volume 7, Issue 4  
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# Footprints

A publication of the Howard County Historical Society

## Christmas at the Seiberling



*Nov. 24 - Dec. 30*

### **Also in this issue:**

- Historic house added to National Register
- Restoration continues on 1850s railroad house
- 'Little Hoosiers' lights a fire for history in local 10-year olds

## From the executive director

# Stories of the past can open the curtains to new ideas

**E**very now and then, I'm presented with an idea or explanation that defies my understanding of a topic and opens my eyes to new possibilities and new ways of thinking. It also serves as a much-needed reminder of my own fallibility and the limitations of my experiences and education. Sometimes it's deeply disconcerting, other times it's like drawing back the blinds to let in the light. Sometimes it's both.

Learning the stories of the past can open the window or close the curtains – can bring new understanding or be used to justify our biases and preconceptions. In *Footprints*, we've punctured a few sacred balloons, including some of the famous "firsts" and the racial stereotypes embodied in the images and legend of Chief Kokomo. We've also shed some light on the combination of luck and elbow grease, heavy

on the luck, which built Howard County. Our exhibits in the Seiberling Mansion are meant to do the same.

For this issue of *Footprints*, we present the second part of Jon Russell's investigation into a small, workingman's house and a piece about a wealthy businessman's home. The articles weren't intended to illustrate economic disparity in the 1800s or to compare poverty and privilege, but the contrast is stark. Also in these pages, Gil Porter looks at how one teacher is working to make the past (our history) relevant to the future (our children), and at two men who have witnessed a significant part of the county's history and left their mark on it.

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

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# Celebrate Christmas with 'Seiberling Snowman Spectacular'

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

**D**eck the halls with hundreds of snowmen  
... Fa la la la la, la la la la.

That's the tune running through the heads of the more than 20 groups and individuals who plan to bustle through the Seiberling Museum in November to prepare for the Howard County Historical Society's annual Christmas at the Seiberling.

"With this year's theme of 'Seiberling Snowman Spectacular,' our designers are hard at work, planning for another memorable Seiberling Christmas," said Peggy Hobson, chair of the historical society's Events Committee and lead for the annual month-long holiday event.

"Every year, they work to make the event bigger and better than ever before."

Hobson noted that the HCHS is happy to announce the traditional horse-drawn carriage rides will return to the opening night celebration on Nov. 24. And, she said, children up to the age of 12 will be encouraged to "count the snowmen" and enter their guess in the annual Christmas at the Seiberling contest. The one whose entry comes closest to the number of snowmen filling the mansion indoors and outdoors will win the prize package of toys, games and books.

The museum will be closed to the public from Nov. 10 until opening night as the volunteers deck the Seiberling halls for the month-long holiday celebration.



Admission during Christmas at the Seiberling will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (free admission is a benefit of HCHS membership) during regular museum hours of 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays Nov. 25 to Dec. 30 (closed Christmas Day) and for a special "candlelight" tour set for Saturday, Dec. 8.

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 special activities planned for Christmas at the Seiberling 2018:

**Saturday, Nov. 24 —** Opening night, sponsored by The Wyman Group. 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, with cookie treats for the young ones. Reservations are necessary for carriage rides and usually fill up early. Anyone interested in making a reservation should contact the HCHS office at 452-4314.

**Thursdays, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 and 13, and Fridays, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 and 14 —** The museum is open to the public from 4 to 8 p.m. without charge, thanks to the generosity of six sponsoring businesses and organizations. Local musicians will provide live performances during the evening open houses. The community supporters include:

**Nov. 29 —** Community First Bank

**Nov. 30 —** Financial Builders Credit Union

**Dec. 6** – CEO Night, sponsored by Duke Energy

**Dec. 7** – tbd

**Dec. 13** – Ivy Tech Community College

**Dec. 14** – tbd

**Saturday, Dec. 8** – From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., guests will enjoy a special “candlelight” evening at the Seiberling, sponsored by Duke Energy, with the opportunity to explore the museum in the softer light of a bygone era.

Holiday admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. HCHS members are admitted without charge.

The celebration wraps up when the museum closes for the season at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30.

Transformation of the Seiberling Mansion into a holiday spectacular takes the work of dozens of hard-working volunteers. Be sure to say “thanks” to these creative community members and vote for your favorite room when you visit.

Organizations include:

Altrusa

Beta Sigma Phi

Daughters of the American Revolution

Great Faith Christian Center

Haynes International

Ivy Tech Community College

Kokomo-Howard County Public Library

Leadership Kokomo

Symposium

Tri Kappa

Individual volunteers include:

Darrell and Bruce Blasius

Barbara Bothast

Teresa Fields

Connie Hess

Peggy Hobson

Jane Kincaid

Rebecca Lepper

Dana Osburn

Janet Schick

Lynn Smith

Goldie Snavelly

Stunning portraits  
at the historic  
Seiberling Mansion,  
Sunday, November 25.

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# ‘Living history’ shared at genealogical society event

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

**H**istory came alive Sept. 10, when the Howard County Genealogical Society welcomed former Kokomo Mayor Bob Sargent, retired Howard County Deputy Jon Zeck and Kokomo Police Officer David Foster, the sixth-generation namesake of the city's founding family, for a program at the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library.

Some 45 guests attended the event, hosted by local writer Gil Porter, and were treated to an hour-long discussion that was at times serious, sometimes sobering and frequently funny. Many in the audience were long-time Kokomo residents themselves who remembered the names and memories being shared. Indeed, the stories related by the three featured panelists led to a lively conversation with lots of laughter and an overall strong sense that their decades of service – past and present – have

greatly contributed to the continuity of our community.

Sargent, the genial self-described “hoodlum from the north end” who in 1987 was sworn in as the 32<sup>nd</sup> mayor of Kokomo, shared how one of his most satisfying experiences as mayor was using federal Housing and Urban Development money and some friendly persuasion with the local water company to get water lines installed for a section of northside residents (“We worked together and all those people got water”). The mayor himself has never forgotten growing up without indoor plumbing, and he vividly remembered the Works Progress Administration project in the 1930s that brought outdoor toilets to the houses – including the Sargents’ — along the back alley on North Market Street.

Another proud achievement for Sargent was working one-on-one with the Kirkendall family to create Jackson Morrow Park and the Kirkendall Nature Center, as was helping lead the

Gil Porter, left, recently hosted a living history discussion panel of former Kokomo Mayor Bob Sargent, former Howard County Deputy Jon Zeck and Kokomo Police Officer David Foster, member of Kokomo's founding family, for the Howard County Genealogical Society at the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library.







**Robert Sargent grew up on the “tough north end of town” and ultimately went on to serve as Kokomo’s 32nd mayor from 1988 to 1995. A World War II Navy veteran and long-time Kokomo police officer, Sargent was twice elected Howard County sheriff and elected to City Hall in 1987. One of his proudest achievements as mayor was being part of the successful city-county effort that resulted in the then-Chrysler Corp. transmission plant expansion.**

bipartisan city-county effort for the billion-dollar Chrysler Corporation plant expansion.

Both Sargent, who also was twice elected as Howard County Sheriff, and Zeck, who served with him, related law enforcement tales, at times good-naturedly joking with each other about who sent who out in the bitter cold during the brutal blizzards of 1977 and 1978

“Sargent sent me out in the weather,” Zeck said, to laughter.

And both recognized and praised the awesome efforts at the time by both professional first responders and civilians with snowmobiles who helped deliver medicine and get medical personnel to the hospitals.

A question from the audience led to the evening’s most serious moments, when Zeck described in detail the events of the tragic afternoon in April 1987 when a man detonated a bomb at the Howard County courthouse. The bomber was killed instantly and several near him – including then-Sheriff J.D. Beatty and attorney Charlie Scruggs — sustained severe injuries, though thankfully all survived. Deputy Zeck himself spent hours working with the federal investigation and was even spotted by his sister in California on a television news broadcast from the scene.

Zeck had a habit of being in the right place at the right time, going back to the days as a youngster working at his father’s Shell American Petroleum service station. The station was in operation from 1929 to 1966 on the northwest corner of Washington Street and Markland Avenue (today the location is immortalized as “Zeck’s Corner”). Being ideally positioned on a busy intersection (Washington Street was



**Retired Deputy Sheriff Jon Zeck grew up on the west side of Kokomo. His early life revolved around his father’s Shell American Petroleum filling station on the northwest corner of Washington Street and Markland Avenue (today the location is immortalized as “Zeck’s Corner”). Jon served 35 years with the Howard County Sheriff Department. Since retirement, he has been instrumental in recording and preserving Howard County law enforcement history.**



Kokomo police officer David Foster represented the Foster family. He shared stories about his dad, Jack, who grew up on the north side with a bow and arrow and 16-gauge shotgun. From the Wabash to the Wildcat, Jack knew the land by heart, whether hunting, fishing or trapping. Jack worked 42 years as a lineman and a superintendent with the electric company. Jack's firefighter father served as Indiana state fire marshal, he is the great grandson of a notable Kokomo mayor and surgeon, and his great-great-grandfather founded the town of Kokomo.

U.S. 31 at the time), Zeck said the location afforded him the chance to meet and pump gas for a number of notable individuals, ranging from wrestlers on their way to the nearby Armory to the governor of Indiana, who stopped in late one evening on his way back to Indianapolis. "I thought he looked familiar" brought chuckles from the audience.

Representing the Foster family (Kokomo was founded by David and Elizabeth Foster in 1844), current Kokomo police officer David Foster described the unique upbringing of his father, Jack. Like Sargent, Jack Foster grew up on the north side and was hunting, fishing and trapping in the county from an early age.

"West of Phillips Street and you were in the

country," David said.

Jack Foster is well-liked and well-respected locally, and was a "horse of a man," Sargent recalled, prompting David to relate the story of Jack bringing down a bear with bow and arrow on a hunting trip in Wisconsin. Jack had depleted his arrow collection in pursuit, and actually finished off the bear with an arrow broken in half. Reflecting on it later, David said his dad allowed as how "maybe that wasn't too smart!" to much laughter.

David himself learned to be an "outdoorsman with dad" and has always had an appreciation for the Native American history of the area. He noted part of the new downtown development is built on the family's original home location, creating a connection with the past.

Relating a long-told family story about how members of Ma-Ko-Ko-Ma's Indian village south of the Wildcat Creek once helped David and Elizabeth Foster get their wagon unstuck from the muddy creek, the current David reminded everyone of the heritage of the local tribes – like the Miami and the Potawatomi – forever reflected in the state's name: Indiana, the land of the Indians.

"This was their land," Foster said.

As the program drew to a close, Zeck summarized how all the tremendous events that happened during their lifetimes – good and bad – really reflected on the quality of the public servants who solved the problems and met the challenges. Names of those in law enforcement lost in the line of duty were shared, solemnly. Near the end, host Porter led an ovation for the three guests and thanked them for making the community better.

A final word from Zeck about his former boss, Sargent, could easily apply to each of the three men featured that evening: "Howard County was lucky to have him."

(Video of the program and audio transcripts are available for viewing at the Genealogical Department at the Kokomo Howard County Public Library.)

# Starr/Tate home added to National Register

By Linda Ferries  
HCHS Publication Committee Chair

**D**orwin Starr fell in love with the grand old lady on East Jefferson Street in 1976. She had great bones but the years had not been kind. Bit by bit, with tender loving care, Dorwin brought her back to life and, more than 40 years later, that love and dedication has been recognized on a national level.

The grand old lady, otherwise known as the George and Helen Tate House, was named to the National Register of Historic Places, an honor setting what is now 114 E. Jefferson St. among the most significant structures across the United States. And on Sept. 26, members of the Howard County Historical Society Board of Trustees were among the guests at the unveiling of the official plaque noting the designation. Others joining in the celebration included Dorwin's partner, Indianapolis artist Steve Redman, and long-time friend Marvin DeLong.

With Dorwin proudly looking on, Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight and Howard County Historical Society Executive Director Dave Bro-



**Under the tender care of Dorwin Starr, the Tate House was restored and recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.**

man shared their thoughts on the significance of the home, to Kokomo, to Howard County, to Indiana, to history. Together, they solemnly removed the flag that shrouded a plaque recognizing the home's new status. The flag, very appropriately, sported 38 stars, a replica of the American flags being flown in 1878, the year the construction of the Tate home began, having just added a star for Colorado as the latest state added to the Union.

The Tate House was already 98 years old when Dorwin, a designer known as much for his dramatic floral arrangements and interior design as his dramatic talents on the stage, decided it was something he had to have. A huge fan of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, Dorwin was fascinated with the lyrics of "If I Were a Rich Man," where the protagonist Tevye mused about building "a big tall house with rooms by the dozen, Right in the middle of the town ... There would be one long staircase just going up, And one even longer coming down ..."

The bedraggled three-story Italianate on East Jefferson Street, with its grandly carved, curving front staircase and utilitarian servants' stairs



**Sitting in his elaborate kitchen, Dorwin Starr, recounts the history of his home to HCHS board members.**



in back, filled the bill.

Over the next four decades, with the help of friends like Walter Kritch who expanded Dorwin's appreciation of fine art and antiques, the Tate House was restored and filled with the paintings, prints, statues and objects d'art appropriate to the late Victorian era and his sense of style. In 1989, the walls, ceilings and windows – even the kitchen – got a dramatic makeover when the house served as that year's Designers' Show Home.

And through it all, Dorwin continued researching what he found was the legendary history of the home built by an early Kokomo entrepreneur, George Tate, and his wife, Helen. A quick list of historical high points:

**1878** – Construction began on a grand frame home at Washington and Taylor streets for George and Helen Tate, under local builder J.H. Watson. Tate was the son of a successful carpenter

who owned a lumberyard in Lawrenceburg, Ind. While not the first son – whose place in the birth order ensured his inheritance of the family business, George Tate decided to carry on the trade in a bustling new community up north, Kokomo, in 1867, where he too found success. It was only fitting that the best woods, most elaborately carved, would decorate the grand home he had constructed. Tate's business activities would extend far beyond lumber during the Indiana gas boom, and he served 12 years on Kokomo's city council. Imprints in the wood and other evidence indicate decoration was handled by A.S. Wright of Indianapolis, a supplier of wallpaper, paint, and blinds hired by L.S. Ayres, a firm favored by the crème de la crème of Indianapolis society.

**1889** – Anna Tate, George and Helen's daughter, was married in the home to Alton Seiberling, son of Monroe and Sarah Seiberling, builders of what we now know as the Seiberling Mansion, home of the Howard County Museum on West Sycamore Street. When one of the upstairs rooms was being renovated, removal of wallpaper revealed an inscription by those who had done the original decoration. "The Belle of Kokomo Anna Tate, 1881," followed by their signatures.

**1922** – Ownership of the home transferred from the Tate family to Citizens National Bank.

**1930** – The corner of Washington and Taylor streets was being given over to commercial development and the Tate home, at the southwest corner, was moved about four blocks to its present location on East Jefferson Street. The move was handled by the contracting company of Guy Watson, coincidentally the son of its builder. Its lot was purchased by the Lincoln Oil Company in 1932 and served a number of enterprises; into the 1970s, it was home of Mouser's Marathon gas station.



Visualize Anna Tate descending this curved staircase in her wedding gown to marry Alton Seiberling in the front parlor.



# Western Elementary School club helps 'Little Hoosiers' embrace history



Members of Little Hoosiers, a program offered at Western Elementary School, at Forks of the Wabash in Huntington.

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

**W**ith their still-developing sense of space and time, "history" to most 10-year-olds is something that happened last year.

The need to study mathematics and geography is easy to understand and even basic computer programming is now being taught in elementary school. But engaging young minds around long-ago people and places takes imagination, scholastic support and a few dedicated adults who commit hours and resources to help with the patient pursuit of the past.

In Howard County, the "Little Hoosiers" club at Western Elementary School, a part of the Western School Corporation, has been lighting those creative fires to illuminate the past for nearly four decades.

This club for Western fourth- and fifth-grade students explores Indiana history through presentations, field trips and activities. The group meets monthly and has ample opportunities for parents to be involved. According to Randy Messner, a language arts and history teacher who serves as one of the teacher volunteers/organizers, the club consists of young-



sters “who definitely want to be here.” Messner said students interested in joining tend to be highly motivated and in fact have to submit a 50-word paragraph describing their history interests and what they hope to learn from the experience.

The goal is to “have fun and learn history,” Messner says. And fun isn’t limited to a school building on C.R. 250 South between New London and West Middleton. Trips during the most recent school year included an afternoon at the Wabash & Erie Canal Museum in Delphi, day trips to the Anderson Mounds northeast of Indianapolis and Quayle Vice Presidential Learning Center in Huntington, even an overnight foray to Corydon in southern Indiana (the state’s first capitol).

On site at Western, a typical club meeting might include a Civil War soldier re-enactor describing what he carried into battle, a blacksmith demonstrating 19<sup>th</sup> century tools or a fur trader telling tales about life along the Wildcat even before Richardville (later Howard) was a county.

Little Hoosiers has a history itself (the statewide program is affiliated with the Indiana Historical Society). Once a popular extracurricular activity county- and citywide – Northwestern had 221 students participate one year in the early 1980s – Western today has the sole remaining club. Parents are busier and children



**Club members learn to use an atlatl, a device for throwing a spear made from a rod with a hook on the end that holds the weapon in place until released, during a visit to Mounds State Park near Anderson.**

generally lead more scheduled lives now, although making time for activities like “Little Hoosiers” produces tangible educational benefits. For example, according to the National History Day (NHD) organization, history-related activities and projects help students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, improve research and reading skills, and are a natural boon for self-esteem and building confidence.

What’s more, students involved in history programs like National History Day outperform their non-NHD peers on state standardized tests in multiple subjects, including reading, science and math, as well as social studies, according to [nhd.org](http://nhd.org).

Western’s program continues to thrive thanks to a growing student population (in the 2018-2019 school year, 200 children are enrolled in fourth grade and 210 in fifth) and plenty to do locally. Messner says the Air Force Museum at Grissom north of Kokomo is on the schedule, and it’s not really Christmas without a visit to the Howard County Museum at Seiberling Mansion and Elliott House during the holiday season.

The longevity of Little Hoosiers is really a testament to the students, Messner says.

“The kids who participate really take owner-



**Students learn how to build a barrel at Adams Mill, near Burlington.**



# If walls could talk

## Part 2: Continuing the search

**By Jonathan Russell  
Howard County Historian**

**A**s with any old — possibly historic — house, we continue to search for answers to the history of the little house on North Buckeye Street. Local legend has it as being built to house railroad workers who constructed the Peru & Indianapolis Railroad in the early 1850s. But, legends are just stories, unless documentation can back them up with facts.

In addition to history, which is always interesting to the homeowner, there is architecture, and our project presents some interesting architectural characteristics even though the house doesn't have that "WOW" factor.

The interesting and unexplainable character of the "railroad house" lies in its structure. It is obvious to any visitor that the front part of the building was its original part. It's much different, appearing more "finished" as compared with the back, later addition.

The building sets on a rubblestone foundation and a hand-hewn log sill. The random floor boards, each varying on 5½ inches by 1 inch thick, are tongue and grooved and nailed down by hand-cut flooring nails into floor joists that were notched into the sill log. On each corner, upright posts, each approximately 4 inches by 4 inches, are mounted to the log sill using mortise and tenon joinery. Each cut wall stud (these also varied in thickness) was attached to the sill in the same fashion, mortised, filling in the space between upright posts. Bracing across the wall studs was meant to keep the building "square", which after 150 years needed work. Over this frame was nailed the weatherboard siding using square "cut" nails, no underlayment. On the inside, wooden lath was nailed to the studs and horse hair plaster fin-

ished the interior. However, this plaster was applied with a rather thin coating, making us believe it was built as a temporary solution for some need no longer remembered.

The roof, covered by oak shingles, has been attached to the top plate of the wall system. These shingles were probably machine-made at a sawmill, by the date the house was built, and were smooth. Shingles for houses and other commercial-use buildings considered "permanent", were smooth, the rough-cut ones left to cover chicken coops and small barns. "Rustic" wasn't considered a fashion statement back then. Shingles were split along the grain, then shaved down to smooth in order to assure a tight, weather-resistant fit. The frame of the roof was made of rough-sawn lumber, some with the bark still on it, cut to "approximately" measure 2 x 8 inches. Shingles were then nailed to lath boards, some with "natural" edges. Plywood underlayment didn't exist.

That part of the structure shows no evidence of a loft or second floor, though there was enough space for one. The ceiling height in the front rooms is, consequently, more than 10 feet. Later on, two large arches were added — for some unknown reason — that opened up the two front rooms into an awkward layout of unexplainable usage. What purpose did such a room configuration have for the owner who had them built? The arches had been nicely trimmed out with machined woodwork that was typical of the patterns used in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They just were not of the same period as the original woodwork, which was of a much simpler, hand-made pattern found in houses built early to mid-19th century.

After consulting with a friend from Plymouth, Kurt Garner, an architectural historian specializing in National Register nominations and the



advice of the state preservation office, we removed that woodwork and the narrow tongue-and-groove flooring to find the original, random width flooring, which was still in good condition. Doing this allowed us to study wear patterns and the location of the original doors and their widths. We then knew the original configuration of the rooms and that it was, basically, in the hall-parlor design (two rooms) with doors front and back, directly opposite each other. The exterior of the building was “vernacular”, or based upon local traditions. The windows, made in the four-over-four pattern, were popular locally and probably built by the sash, door and blind factory that was on Jefferson Street just to the west of the railroad tracks, about a block south of the house. The four-over-four window treatment was common to the Kokomo area, though not so much in other locations.

As a small side note: A small house also is sitting next to the railroad track in Plymouth, the same railroad once a line to Chicago was built (then becoming the Indianapolis, Peru and Chicago Railroad). It has been documented with a build date of 1858. Original ownership is also vague, which seems to be a pattern with this railroad scoffingly called the “PeeWee Railroad” in an 1856 newspaper report found in Logansport, after the larger Cincinnati & Pittsburgh Railroad passed through Kokomo, and crossed, the Peru & Indianapolis, on its way to Logansport. Like the “PeeWee”, which eventually would become the Nickel Plate Railroad, the Cincinnati & Pittsburgh would become the Pennsylvania Railroad that ran through Kokomo. Its merger in the 1960s with the New York Central System formed the Penn Central, a massive but not well managed line, who’s passenger division became, along with other lines at the time, AmTrak. Nickel Plate would go on, through mergers and acquisitions, to become part of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, one of the nation’s largest lines today.

So, what could the “railroad house” have been used for? We are still researching, though the record keeping seems to have been rather loose. It’s possible it may not have originally been a house. Due to its location along the first northern-bound railroad in Indiana, it probably had a railroad connection and may have been a railway agents office and living quarters as early as the 1852 arrival of the section crew building the railroad through the small, rural town that was Kokomo.

By 1876, many railroad buildings were in the area, but we believe that by that time this building had already been used as a private home.

Among its early owners were Isaac Price, who bought the property in February 1860. Isaac Price sold it to Franklin Price, the first clerk of the county when it was still called Rich-ardville County. From there, it had many owners until it was bought by the City of Kokomo and is now being restored to its possible appearance when the addition was added about 1875.

A long, and arduous history, both from its life span and its restoration.



**Work continues on the tiny structure thought to be the first house in Kokomo — most likely a home for railroad workers. Front windows have been installed as well as reproduction siding to replace any siding that could not be salvaged.**

# 2018 'Legends' honored at annual banquet



Six new members were inducted into the Howard County Legends during a banquet in August. The inductees included, from left to right, Stephen Daily; Reba Harris; Don Smith, grandson of Donald B. Smith; Larry Gephart, representing the Kokomo Park Band; and Brian Harlow. Opha May Johnson, who died in 1955, was also honored.

## A note of appreciation

A special thank you goes to two groups from local businesses who recently volunteered their work days to help with landscaping on the museum grounds.

Volunteers from Bucheri McCarty & Metz included Scott Voorhis, Amy Lucas, Stuart Wood, Susan Robertson, Ken Ahlfehl and Brady Dolezal.

Volunteers from GMCH Finance included

Laura Brumbaugh, Karen Flint, Cesare Turrin, Marietta McWhorter, Kim Kuntz and David Winslow.

Museum Caretaker Bill Baldwin said he is very grateful for the help from the groups.

"If it wasn't for these groups, I'd be really hurting," Baldwin said. "I count on these groups to get things done. I can't express enough how thankful we are."

## Tate House, continued from page 9

**1976** – Dorwin Starr purchased the home after a variety of owners, including the well-known fortune teller Mae Wikle. After years of neglect, restoration began.

**1989** – The home served as Kokomo's Designers' Show Home and the city's top decorators added the background of Victorian-era flourishes that serves the home today.

**2018** – The home is placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dorwin credits Indiana Landmarks' Mark Dollase, vice president of Preservation Services, and Community Preservation Specialist Sam Burgess for their efforts to successfully achieve National Register designation for the house. Burgess added his extensive research to

Starr's and wrote the nomination and rationale for designation.

Dollase talked about the process and the 12 structures in Howard County that have reached National Register distinction at the annual meeting of the Howard County Historical Society membership in October. Other designated places include Memorial Gym, the Seiberling Mansion, the Elwood Haynes house, the renovated train depot on North Buckeye Street and the Old Silk Stocking Neighborhood Association. More recently, the Masonic Lodge has been nominated, and downtown Greentown was awarded Historic District status.

The entire Tate House nomination makes for very interesting reading and can be found at <https://bit.ly/2OuPymf>. Additional information also is available in the *Kokomo Tribune* account of Starr's interview with reporter Carson Gerber published July 24, 2018, and found here: <https://bit.ly/2PEMMHN>

# Membership

Thanks to all who joined or renewed their memberships from August through October

James Allman	Thomas & Judy Sheehan	Charles & Gloria Nipple
Ron & Pam Barsh	Bill and Lyn Shirley	Beryl & Jacqueline Grimme
Psi Iota Xi Sorority	Macon Dale Traxler	Edward & Dixie Stone
June Beck	Charlotte Young	Phillip & Diane Knight
Charles & Mary Duncan	Gale & Donna Leiter	Mayor Greg Goodnight,
Phyllis Hedrick	Ed & Judy Brown	City of Kokomo
Roma North	DAR General James Cox	Hilary Crook
Don & Anita Tenbrook	Chapter	Judy Kruggel
Rex & Kara Gingerich	H.C. & Mary Ann Byrd	Richard & Betty Alexander
Tom & Lynn Folkers	Alan & Prudence Harnish	Orren & Barbara Dutton
Jerry King, King's Heating & Plumbing	J. Alan Teller	Greg & Melody Sumpter
Dr. Marilyn Skinner	Kenneth & Diana Hill	Larry & June Barton
Don & Gail Beaton	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Wooldridge	Larry Newlin
Weezie Cook	Don & Marti Pries	Thomas & Marsha Maple
Joe Dunbar	Marcia Ford	Marilynda Bennett
Glenn & Nancy Grundmann	Dr. Thomas & Carol	Larry & Marleta Newberg
Joan Hardesty	Scherschel	Major General Edward
Larry Hayes	Craig Dunham	Trobaugh
Mark & Peggy Hobson	Laurence & Janice Blanchard	Ronald Tetrick
Rachel Jenkins	Jack Garrigues	Thomas & Mary Donna Morr
Richard & Marguerite Kadlec	Glenda Kamosa	Rick & Diane Smith
David & Jan Kellar	Tom Trine	David Wilson
Bill & Margy Kring	Charles Short	Linda Clark
Keith & Judy Lausch	Wayne & Susan Luttrell	Brent & Mary Jo McClellan
Paul Linder & Emily Curry	Sandra Grant	Cynthia Bizjak
Reggie & Lois Martin	Heather Fouts	H. Lee Fritz
Juanita Martin-Davis	Curt Alexander, Spectrum	Sam & Mary Pat Burrous
Judge Bill & Marti Menges	Photography	Dave Dubois
Jerry & Marcia Nelson	Larry & Janice Waddell	Judith Graham
Fred Odiet	Tom & Betty Poppas	Carl Van Dorn
Dr. Phillip & Ruth Ann Pate	Patricia Waymire	Gilbert Porter
Philip & Carolyn Rankin	Michael Rodgers	Teresa Fields
Darrell & Jule Rider	Tom & Kathryn Rethlake	Christopher Wisler
Ed Riley	Dr. Don & Deborah Zent	Glenn Rodgers
Robert Jr. & Diana Rostron	Marion Eller	Derek Thieke
	Harold & Fields	Jim Horoho

Little Hoosiers, continued from page 11

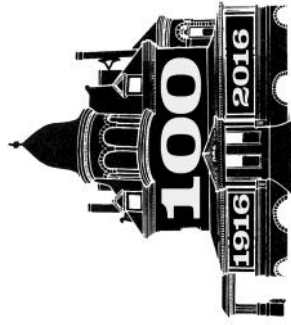
he said. For example, members organize and sell ice cream on Fridays as a fundraiser, and, crucially, "parental involvement is great."

The best part, Messner added, is watching

ship of the club,"

children learn and grow by experiencing new things. "They get to meet new people and be exposed to new eras they might not learn about otherwise." Being part of an active history club, Messner concluded, really "opens up the world for them."

**Howard County  
Historical Society  
1200 W. Sycamore St.  
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