

MORGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM



Vol. 3, No. 4

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025

Underground Railroad

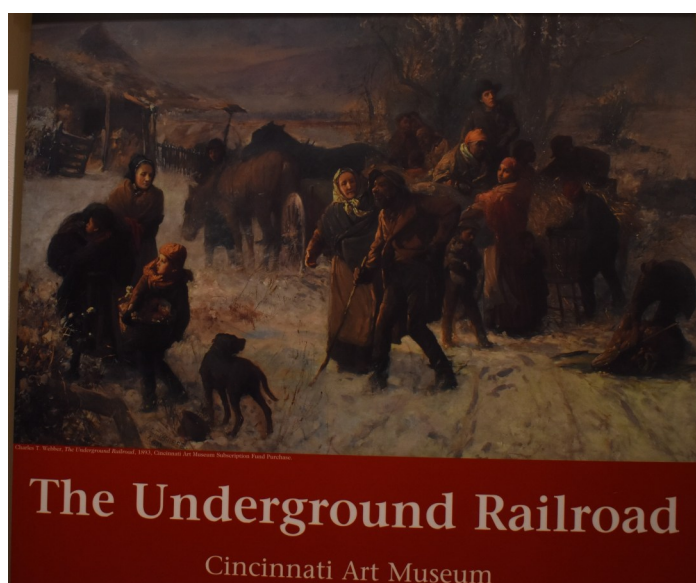
Sharon Haydock, Pittsboro, NC, donated a portrait of Hannah Thompson Haydock painted by C. C. Webber in 1882. The portrait was donated in memory of Thomas Carmichael Haydock's family. Hannah was born to Quakers Thomas A. & Elizabeth Benbow Thompson. They belonged to the White Lick Monthly Meeting and are buried at West Union Cemetery outside of Monrovia. She married Zeno Haydock in 1840.

The Morgan County Bicentennial committee reported that the West Union Friends were declared abolitionists. Their deep belief in freedom inspired many of the Friends to help slaves escape to Canada through the Underground Railroad system. Children who attended the West Union Schoolhouse would catch glimpses of slaves waiting for assistance in the heavy woods near the school.



The Underground Railroad depicts Hannah with Levi Coffin and his wife aiding slaves. The original painting by C. C. Webber hung in the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Over the years five locations have been identified as underground railroad sites in Morgan County: Porter's Cave, northwest of Paragon; a site in the Morgan Monroe Forest; West Union Church area, Monrovia; the Morgan County History Center & Museum (the Blackstone house), the cellar; the original Black homestead, Brooklyn. These may or may not have been stops on the railroad.



Our Contact Information

Address: 127 S. Main St. Martinsville, IN 46151

Telephone: 765-315-6982

Facebook page: Morgan County History Center and Museum

Email: morgancountyhistorymuseum@gmail.com

Web page: morgancountyhistorymuseum.org

Open Hours:

Monday 10:00AM-2:00PM

Thursday 4:00PM-7:00PM

Saturday 10:00AM-3:00PM

The **Martinsville Cookie Stroll is December 13, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Many activities will be taking place around town during the Cookie Stroll. Any child visiting the museum is welcome to a free Patriotic tile which they may color and take home. These are compliments of the Morgan County America 250 group and the Ten O'clock Line Chapter of the D.A.R.

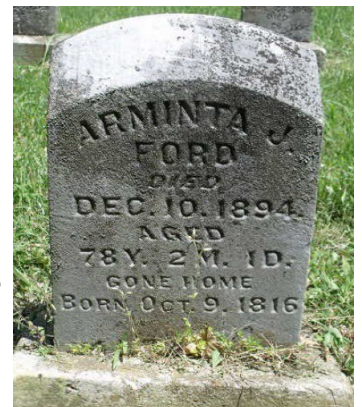
The Morgan County History Center & Museum will be open to all during the cookie stroll with a live weaving demonstration.

Coming Soon Video Clips

Volunteer Paul North is working on short video clips that museum patrons may view at the museum. One of those clips is the story of Arminta Carpenter Ford. Iva Dell Eudaly Carver shared the following story:



“When Araminta was a little girl her family crossed the Ohio River into Indiana (from Kentucky). Her father or grandfather was clearing land, probably in Dearborn County, and a large bear attacked her and her sister, Sarah. The father killed the bear and rescued the girls. Another time Araminta was scalped by Indians and left as dead.” The scalping story is what caused Paul and Barbara North to seek out Arminta’s grave, which is located in the Samaria Baptist Church Cemetery, Paragon. A picture of Arminta is shown above, A scalping did not remove the entire scalp and hair.



Annual Museum Membership Meeting

December 2nd, 6:30 p.m., Morgan County History Center & Museum

Speaker: Perry Rusch, American Revolution re-enactor

Light Refreshments

Christmas Gifts

If you are looking for Christmas Gifts, the museum has a few suggestions:

- Crosses made from stained glass from the Old Baptist Church which was located on Jefferson Street, Martinsville. Various sizes \$20
- Morgan County Scrapbooks I & II, \$35 each
- The History of An Indiana Railroad by D. J. French, \$20
- The Indiana Flag by David Reddick, \$15
- Package of old Morgan County postcards, \$2.50
- Package of Notecards with Morgan County photos, \$10

Would you like to help the museum?

The museum has an entire tote of pictures taken over the last 50 years. Many of them are unidentified. If anyone is interested in helping to identify and sort these pictures please let us know. Call us at 765-315-6982 or come in during our regular hours. We have a “picture identifying party” scheduled for November 15, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Live Demonstrations

November 22, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Ellen Wilson Pruitt and the China Painters will be painting platters for the State of Indiana State Parks. Come observe and ask questions.

Ellen has also made arrangements for a lace maker, spinner, and weaver for future demonstrations. Look for the “Arts & Crafts Demonstration Today” sign in front of the museum which will identify the days involved. If you are interested in demonstrating a craft please

Martha Washington

As part of the America 250 Celebration (our nation’s 250th Birthday), the Ten O’clock Line Chapter, D.A.R. will host Martha Washington a.k.a. Elaine Sholty, **November 18, 6:00 p.m.** at the Morgan County Library, Martinsville. The program is open to all. **Rembrandt Peale** painting of Martha Washington



Martinsville’s Sanitariums

Bill Martin, museum volunteer, will present a program November 12, 6:30 p.m. about the history of the many sanitariums that existed in Martinsville.



What is it?

The What is It in the Summer issue was a butter paddle used in the late 1800's.

Can you identify this issue's what is it?



Martinsville Third Graders learn about Morgan County

Barbara Boys, Marcia Hodges, and Jill Coffey, retired school teachers, are visiting the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville third grade classes. Students learn about Grassyfork Fisheries, Martinsville Candy Kitchen, and Old Hickory furniture. Five Indiana State Standards for social studies are covered during their presentations.

The children were treated to goldfish that appear almost real when placed in water and candy pillows from the Candy Kitchen. Next Spring the children will board buses to tour downtown Martinsville and the Morgan County History Center and Museum.



Poetry & Story Project

Tell your own story in poetry or short story dealing with some aspect, experience, personal or family history, living in Morgan County, Indiana. The museum would like to publish a booklet to sell at the annual banquet as a fund raiser. Send your submission, which will be juried, to MCHCpoems@gmail.com by March 1, 2026

Membership Form

The Morgan County History Center & Museum is a 501(3)c organization.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Membership Categories: _____ Single (\$35) _____ Family (\$50)

_____ Business (\$100) _____ Life Member (\$250) _____ Patron (\$500)

Make Checks Payable to: Morgan County History Center & Museum, 127 S. Main St., Martinsville, IN 6151

OR

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ CVC _____

Donations may also be made through the Community Foundation.

Coming soon on-line payment capability.