

MORGAN COUNTY

# HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM



Vol. 1, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER

## **Morgan County History Center and Museum — We love our location!**

The Museum board would like to acknowledge the First Christian Church for the use of the Blackstone house as our museum facility. Many patrons have remarked at the appropriateness, historic significance and beauty of the building and how fitting it is to house Morgan County history. We can think of no better place to share our county's past. We also have displays at Wilbur Schoolhouse and the County Administration Building. Thank you, First Christian Church, for your support and continued partnership.

## **Morgan County — County of Historic Events**

### **Mooreville Old Settlers Fair—August 3-6, 2023, Mooreville Pioneer Park**

Rides, games, live musical performances, and community booths

The first Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic were held Oct. 18, 1877 at the Mooreville District Agricultural Society fairgrounds which eventually was known as the Old Town Park along South Street near the East Fork of White Lick Creek. It was organized by Samuel Moore, founder of Mooreville, John D. Carter and other pioneer settlers. For more information: <https://www.visitmorgancountyin.com/event/2023>

### **Paragon Homecoming—September 2-4, 2023, Union Street, Paragon, IN**

The Paragon Homecoming began in 1924 and is a festival for the whole family. Featured are a queen contest, parade, car show, free nightly entertainment, food and craft vendors, carnival rides, games, antique tractor show. Car show. Town-wide yard sales, adult and kid contests. For mor information <http://www.facebook.com/paragonhomecoming festival>

### **Monrovia Festival—September 8-10, 2023, Town of Monrovia, IN, 4:00 p.m.– 12:00 a.m.**

The Monrovia Festival features the Alma Smock Arts & Craft Show, music, food and craft vendors, car show, Cow Patty Bingo, Sunday Worship Service, kiddie tractor pull, parade—something for everyone. For more information: [secretary.monroviafestival@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.monroviafestival@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:morgancountyhistorymuseum@gmail.com)

Web page: [morgancountyhistorymuseum.org](http://morgancountyhistorymuseum.org)

Open Hours:

Mondays 10:00AM-2:00PM

Thursdays 4:00PM-8:00PM

Saturdays 10:00AM-3:00PM

Private viewings may be booked

(Historical Events continued)

**Colonel John Vawter Day**—September 9, 2023, Washington St., Morgantown, IN, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event is in honor of one of Morgantown's most successful merchants in the 1800's. Features music, food and craft vendors, parade promoted by Morgantown Merchants. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/ColonelVawterDay>

### **Waverly Fest at Old Town Waverly Park, September 23 & 24, 2023**

As a fund raiser, the museum will have a food tent

This family oriented event features the Lost River Renegades Wild West Show, Kids and Farm Towns, Historical trade demonstrations, an Historical encampment, Riverview golf cart tours, a car show, live music, craft and food vendors—all with FREE admission. For more information: [Old Town Waverly Park Festival & Car Show - Morgan County Parks](#)

### **Martinsville Fall Foliage Festival—October 12-15, 2023,**

Courthouse Square, Martinsville, Main Street, 5:00-9:30 p.m. Features carnival rides, food and craft vendor booths, 5k run/walk. Car show, parade at 1 p.m. October 15. The tradition of an annual autumn celebration began in **1960** after local shoe merchant J. William Alexander proposed the idea — which he believed would draw tourists to downtown businesses — to the board of directors at the Martinsville Chamber of Commerce. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/FallFoliageFestivalMartinsville/>

### Metropolitan School District of Martinsville third grade classes

Barb Boys and Suzi Horan are working on a program for the 2023-24 school year with the MSD of Martinsville third grade classes. There will be orientation of teachers, classroom visits by museum personnel, field trips to the museum by the classes, and a follow-up with teachers to evaluate the program. Stay Tuned—History in the Making!

## Cabin Project at Waverly Park

The Shannon Summers family of Eminence donated their family cabin to the museum. Darrell French is heading up the project to move the cabin to Waverly Park. He is in need of volunteers to help with the rebuild and the museum is looking for donations to help fund the electrical and interior wall shiplap. When finished the cabin will be used for our History Center outreach. We plan to furnish the cabin and have representatives available during festivals to relate the early life of Morgan County. Historically George, Austin, and Lewis Summers moved to Morgan County from Kentucky between 1850-52 and settled on Shumaker Ridge where Thomas Shumaker had purchased land in 1826 from the U.S. Government in Adams Township. Lewis Summer's second wife was Thomas' daughter Gemima. Lewis & Nancy Baldwin had 9 children before she died in 1865. Lewis had 8 more children with Gemima, of which number 4 was Henry, Shannon's grandfather. Henry and wife Edna Smith eventually farmed 140 acres. The Summers log cabin was moved to a wooded area overlooking the farm pond in the 1970's. Darrell French and Kenny Hale are dismantling the cabin.



If you are interested in helping please contact Darrell French at [morgancountyhistory-museum@gmail.com](mailto:morgancountyhistory-museum@gmail.com)



The walls have been framed and rafters are up at Waverly Park. Contact Darrell French if you would like to help or donate funds.



## Meet our Volunteers

Darrell French	Suzi Horan	Randy Marsh	Vickie Kivett
Patty Dow	Barb Boys	Bill Martin	Sandy Cox
Janice Kistler	Sue Collins	Lori Chivington	Jacki Shields
RaAnn Gadd	Jill Coffey	Ellen Wilson-Pruitt	Keith Steinway
Judy Brusseau	Brenda Hill	Linda Stiver	Mick Wilson
Paul & Barbara North		Margie Porter	Sue Levell

Would you like to become a museum volunteer? Ask for an application at [morgancountyhistorymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:morgancountyhistorymuseum@gmail.com)

The historic agricultural tool featured in the first newsletter is a corn shucker.

No one came forward to identify the class picture.

Can anyone identify the men in this photo taken by The Ewing Studio, Martinsville, approximate date of picture and where it was taken? We believe it is of American Legion Post 230, Martinsville, IN and know that the gentleman second from the right, seated is Floyd Harper.

