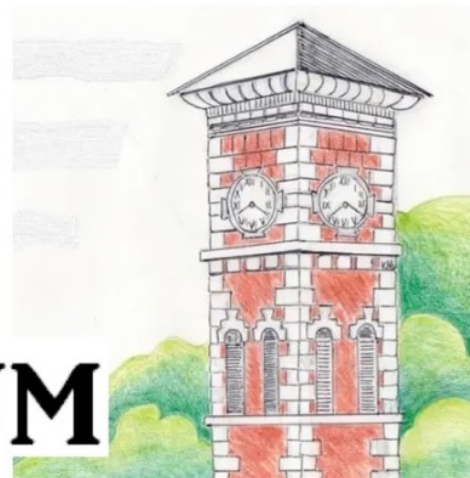


# MORGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM

Vol. 1, No. 3

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



## Education Outreach to MSD Third Graders



Barb Boys, Crystal Chandler and Marcia Hodges have been busy sharing the history of Grassyfork Fisheries, Old Hickory Furniture and the Martinsville Candy Kitchen with the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville third graders. Every third grade in the district will re-

ceive a visit. Next Spring the children will have a field trip to Grassyfork, the Candy Kitchen, and the museum to learn more about our county history. The pictured students at Paragon each received a gold fish and candy pillows following the presentation. We are excited to have this cooperative opportunity provided by the MSD and our retired teachers. Museum flyers were sent home with the students with additional information about the museum.



Pictured above is a Paragon Third Grade Class.

Teacher Amber Rawlins, Brooklyn Elementary, shared bulletin boards with the kids comments made following the program. She stated the children really enjoyed the program. The teachers were able to incorporate the program with a grammar lesson by having the students write their facts in complete sentences.

### 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

### John R. Wooden Middle School History Students Visit Museum

October 10 & 12, 2023, 260 John R. Wooden Middle School history students and seven educators visited the museum. Students participated in a scavenger hunt and learned more about the history of the Morgan County Hoosier Homesteads, WCBK radio, our award winning golf coach Sharon Most, Fall Foliage Festival, and when the Blackstone house was built. A few students were able to identify family members in pictures that were displayed. This is the second year that JRW Middle School has visited.



The museum has added to our collection framed 1875 and 1950 maps of Morgan County from the Morgan County Community Foundation. We now have four large Morgan County maps. Come peruse the maps for your ancestors and see if you can locate several of our Hoosier Homestead Farms. The homestead farm genealogy reference books will aid you with the township and section and original owner names.



## Fall Foliage Festival

The Fall Foliage Festival display will come down soon. We look forward each year to displaying Joyce Hamilton's Fall Foliage director's jacket and sweater. She was such a dynamic part of the festival activities. The 1960 scrapbook picturing the first festival was a hit with our patrons. Pictures of the Queens and Hostesses, several of the old Reporter-Times festival newspaper inserts, the bicycle, diaper derby, and bed race pictures, a banner, a barrel and a baton from early festivals will go into our archives to be resurrected next year.



### THE INDIANA FLAG

*Who Really Designed It?*



DAVID B. REDDICK

The Indiana Flag by David B. Reddick, one of our Morgan County History Partnership members, is available at the museum. Who was Lizzie Callis and what is her connection to Morgan County? Was the current flag the original proposed state flag? What did the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Grand Old Army have to do with Indiana's flag? This well researched and documented book is sure to give you new insight into the history of Indiana's flag.

Mr. Reddick is available for programs, [dbreddick@comcast.net](mailto:dbreddick@comcast.net).

## Martinsville Cookie Stroll

Join us December 9, 2023 as we participate in the Cookie Stroll. The museum will be all decked out for Christmas. You may even find a few Christmas stocking stuffers in our small gift shop. The always popular Morgan County Scrapbooks I & II, The Flag Book, The History of an Indiana Railroad: The Fairland, Franklin, and Martinsville Railroad, stocking kits, postcards, and notecards will be available. If you have a cookie passport you can pick up your cookies.

Visit <https://www.rediscovermartinsville.org/cookie-stroll.html> to get your Cookie Stroll pass.



A candlestick holder? A masher? These were the students' guesses.

**What do you think?**



## Inquiries

Who built your house or owned your farm? Does it have historic significance? Several people have visited the museum inquiring about their homes. We do not have many pictures of old homes in the county nor a lot of information. If you are researching your house or property start with GIS Elevate/Morgan County. This website is free to search as a guest and will give you the names of the owners back to 1988. (The file will say 01-01-1900, but the actual date is 1988). The property transfer books are held in the Morgan County Auditor's Office, while the deed books are in the Clerk's Office, both of which are located in the County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St., Martinsville, IN. The auditor's office is in the process of digitizing their records so that they will eventually be available on your computer. For large properties or farms the Indiana State Map site <https://www.in.gov/library/collections-and-services/indiana/map-collection> is an excellent source of historic information. The number of maps is limited, but many contain the property owners' names and can afford a clue as to when property changed hands. This will help narrow down the search of deeds. If you have access to old county plat maps they are helpful. Old Reporter-Times newspapers contained lists of property transfers. US Census reports occasionally would list the street name in the margin of the pages. The museum has several years worth of Robinson's Martinsville City Directory, which can be used to verify that a family lived at an address. If your family was one of our Hoosier Homesteads, the Homestead applications with deed information is on file at the museum.