MORGAN COUNTY
HISTORY
CENTER & MUSEUM

Third Annual Morgan County Museum Banquet

We will be holding our third annual banquet fundraiser April 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the River Valley Church, 4295 Egbert Road, Martinsville, IN. The meal will be prepared by the church's excellent cooks.

Tickets are $25 each and may be obtained at the Morgan County History Center & Museum beginning March 1, during our open hours. Vickie Kivett may also be contacted for tickets at 765-341-9215. If you know a business or family that would like to be a banquet sponsor, please contact Vickie. Sponsor levels are $100, $250, $500, and $1000.

We will hold a silent auction during the banquet. If you would like to donate items for the auction, please contact Sandy Cox or Suzi Horan: jdx444@gmail.com for sandy or suzi at suzii.horan@comcast.net.

The banquet is our main fundraiser for the year. Come have a very enjoyable evening.

Morgan County History Center & Museum Presents

STEVE REEDER ON MONROVIA HISTORY

Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30p.m.
Monrovia Elementary – 395 S. Chestnut St.

Program
2024 Community Outreach Program
March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Monrovia Elementary School, 395 S. Chestnut St.
Monrovia, IN

The museum is planning community outreach programs this year. We hope to hold them in different areas around the county. The first program will be hosted by Steve Reeder as he shares the history of Monrovia.

We welcome ideas from our members to help us better serve your historical interests. The programs will be held quarterly. Please call or email the museum with suggestions: 765-315-6982 or morgancountyhistorymuseum@gmail.com.

Book your Organization, School, or Business

We have a school, 4-H Jr. Leaders, and a non-profit organization booked for viewings of the museum this year. If your organization would like to hold their meeting at the museum and have a private tour please contact us. Our volunteers are eager to share their knowledge.

We've Been Busy

We were closed during the month of January, reorganizing exhibits, rearranging our storage area, and making plans for 2024. Sandy Cox and Suzi Horan have been coordinating our storage effort. Here's a peek at our Main Storage area upstairs. We have a very limited space for storage. Most items are stored on shelving in containers. Large items such as maps are in the map storage units. Linda Stivers has built rolling, adjustable storage units for large picture frames. The gals have done a fantastic job of using all available space. Randy Marsh has mapped our rooms showing display case locations.

The storage on the far end is items that have been donated but not yet entered into our museum software. Another room houses the clothing, uniforms, and hats.

How Did Morgan County Influence Racing?

Learn about the beginning of the Indianapolis 500 Speedway track and the connection to Morgan County. Do you know who Arthur Newby was?

Our newest rotating exhibit is all about racing. Highlighted are our citizens' involvement in racing. We begin at a young age with the Fall Foliage Diaper Derby, progress to tricycle races, dirt track competitions, and then the BIG time with Edd and Belle Sheppard's Paragon Speedway.

Communication Room

The Hoosier Cabinet with oil lamps and pitcher and basin are in our Communication Room. Other household pieces of furniture are displayed.

An array of telephones and old Robinson City Directories complete with information on residents, including people in the household compliment the old switchboard. The wall crank phones transport you to eras past. Is your family listed in the directories? Grandpa's livelihood may be listed. Did you know Beverly Brooks, who is featured in the telephone display? She was a switchboard operator. Bring your children and ask them how to dial a rotary phone.
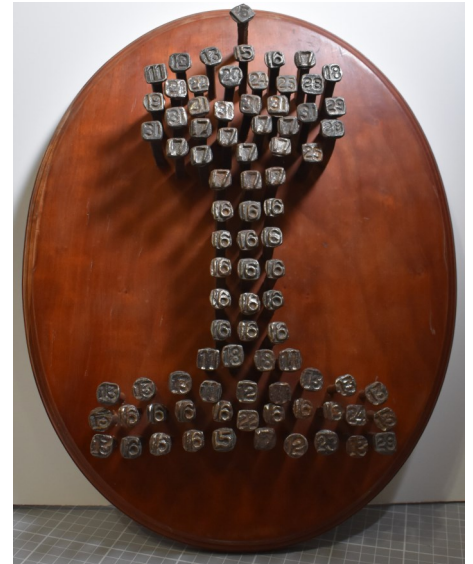
What is it?

The antique hog scraper featured in the last newsletter was used to scrape the hair from a hide during butchering. Can you identify this issue's what is it?

Morgan County History Center & Museum Meetings

The annual MCHC&M meeting was held at the Grace Worship Center, Centerton, in December. During the election Volitta Fritche and Randy Marsh were re-elected to their positions. In the January board meeting, Randy Marsh was elected chairman of the museum, Patty Dow, vice chair and secretary, and Darrell French was elected treasurer. The board officially meets every first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is February 6 at the museum.

The museum operating committee meets every first Monday of the month at the museum. During January planning meetings were held every Monday.

We Are Here to Help

Indiana Department of Natural Resources recently contacted us trying to locate the Nebo Mill. A quick call to Becki Hamilton in the County Assessor's Office resulted in an answer and a picture of the mill which is still standing. DNR department of historic preservation and archaeology is currently working on resurveying Morgan County for historic resources to locate many of the older sites that were surveyed back in 1990's .

Wayne Haase came in for assistance with his Hoosier Homestead Application. He's awaiting the Indiana Department of Agriculture final approval.

Several people have been in looking for genealogical information. Our files are small but growing.

The museum assisted the Morgan County History and Genealogy Association with their graveyard sonar project. We are eager to be of assistance and appreciate your input.