

Winter

2019

North Manchester HISTORY

*Interpreting the History
of North Manchester
and the Eel River Valley*



Smithsonian Exhibition Coming to the Center for History

The North Manchester Historical Society has been selected by Indiana Humanities to host a Smithsonian-curated traveling exhibit “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” as part of the Museum on Main Street program. The exhibition, which examines the evolving landscape of rural America, will be on display at the Center for History March 21, 2020—May 2, 2020.

The traveling exhibition will tour six Indiana communities from September 7, 2019—June 21, 2020. In addition to the exhibition we will receive \$2,000 in project funds to develop our own companion exhibit that explores change in our community. We will be hosting at least three community programs around the themes of the exhibition.

We are very excited to host this exhibit and look forward to bringing you more information as we get closer to the grand opening.

To learn more about “Crossroads” and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org.

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The Center for History

122 East Main Street

Tuesday through Friday, Mar—Dec

10:00a—4:00p

Saturday 10:00a—2:00p

Visit Thomas Marshall House

409 North Market Street

First Saturday Apr—Dec

1:00p—4:00p

Hello!



Dear NMHS members:

I am thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization. Having long held an interest in history, I enjoy sharing my passion with the public. My history degree from Ball State University has prepared me well for this position, gaining experience while working on several interdisciplinary student projects with topics ranging from civil rights in northeastern Indiana to advocating for mass rail transit.

My passion for history was fostered in a previous position as an Interpretive Naturalist at Mounds State Park—preserving Indiana’s natural and cultural history. The opportunity to gain experience with a nonprofit museum is greatly welcomed. Any occasion to develop my learning within this fascinating field is highly valued.

I know that we would not be so successful without dedicated volunteers and members like you! I look forward to preserving our community’s history together.

Ariel Wagner, Director

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE CENTER FOR HISTORY

A decision was made by the Board of Directors and staff at the Center for History to change museum hours at the Center as follows: Tuesday—Friday 10:00a—4:00p and every Saturday 10:00a—2:00p. This will take effect when we reopen on March 18. The office will be open Monday—Friday 9:00a—4:00p. We believe this will provide an opportunity for more community engagement.

Christmas displays are put away and the windows have been professionally washed on the inside. Thank you Denny Unger, Clearview Windows, for donating this service. Now my job is to gather ideas for new exhibits in our two east windows.

Along with taking over the newsletter, the Communication Committee has been working on our Facebook and Instagram page, trying to post more frequently with photos from our collection and information about our events. If you have Facebook, we want you to ‘Like’ our page (North Manchester Center for History), Instagram is [north_manchester_history](https://www.instagram.com/north_manchester_history). We hope to make it possible for donations and membership renewal to be made directly from Facebook to us. We are in the learning process.

Paula Dee, Museum Coordinator

Crede Haskins Calhoun and the Panama Canal

by his granddaughter, Brittmarie Janson Perez



Born in 1885, Crede H. Calhoun descended from the Calhoun family who, with the Simonton family, were among the early settlers of North Manchester.* Crede graduated from North Manchester High (Union) School in 1904.** Thomas A. Peabody was a good friend.

Crede, a writer by calling and training, went to work in the construction of the Panama Canal in 1907. In 1916, his appointment was as the first Chief of Civil Affairs, supervising the civilians who worked on the Canal including civil defense, the postal service, customs, police, fire department and the Canal Zone school system. At the same time, as a journalist, he updated readers in the United States on the progress of the Canal's construction. With its inauguration in 1914, the Canal acquired enormous strategic importance and Crede's primary objective was its defense.

Before the outbreak of World War I, Calhoun devised a censorship plan to prevent information from reaching enemy hands. The use of this plan continued into World War II. In 1926, he was also in the employment of the New York Times covering not only the Canal but also northern South America and Central America. As a result, Crede Calhoun wore "two hats," as a high Panama Canal government official and as journalist whose own work had to pass censorship during wartime.

Wearing "two hats" enabled Calhoun to function as a spy catcher.

During the war, wearing "two hats" enabled Calhoun to function as a spy catcher. He was responsible for catching one of Germany's most important spies in South America. In addition, Crede played an important role in the "Battle of the Caribbean," when German submarines, using "wolfpack" tactics, fired on oil refineries and torpedoed tankers carrying much-needed high-octane fuel for the Royal Air Force. By knowing German language taught to Crede by his grandparents, Edmund (Ed) and Lavina Grube, Liberty Mills, he was able to detect the radio transmissions of a spy on the Colombian coast who was providing shipping information to the German submarines.

(continued on page 5)

*The Johnston Calhoun and John Simonton families traveled together from Preble County Ohio pioneering land in Northern Wabash County in the 1830s.

**Union High School was located on Fourth Street between Market and Walnut, location of the present North Manchester Public Library.



- **write an article for our newsletter. 300 words related to North Manchester history, may include a photo.**

- **join our docent team. 3 hours/week or bi-weekly, morning or afternoon hours available now! Orientation will be held March 6, 2p at the Center.**

- **join 'Team Eel' which will produce our local companion exhibit to the Smithsonian exhibition.**

- **for clean-up day! We want to make our museum shine before we reopen on March 18.**

**CALL TO VOLUNTEER!
982-0672**

2018 Annual Fund Gifts

Thomas Marshall Circle \$1000+

Thomas Brown
Darlene Bucher
Mary Chrastil
Eloise Eberly
Art & Ellen Gilbert
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Scott Strode
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North Manchester
Public Library
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Calhoun retired as Chief of Civil Affairs in 1947 and as New York Times Panama Bureau Chief in 1953. Calhoun wrote on his retirement, "One of the high spots in my work was the Latin American flight of Colonel Lindbergh, who was also the pilot of my first airplane flight."

Charles Lindbergh was an American aviator who gained world fame by making the first nonstop flight from Long Island, New York to Paris, France in 1927.



Photo, Crede Calhoun, Lindbergh and Bliss, February 6, 1929, Box 7, Accession #5607, Crede H. Calhoun Collection, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.

First Air Mail, United States to Canal Zone, FAM 5, Delivery at Cristobal, 4:00 P.M. February 6, 1929.
Pictured left to right: Crede H. Calhoun, Director of Posts, The Panama Canal; Chas. A. Lindbergh, Airmail Pilot; Gerald D. Bliss, Postmaster, Cristobal, CZ; Stacey E. Russell, Post Office Inspector, The Panama Canal.

Crede Haskins Calhoun
B: 25 April 1885 Liberty Mills, Indiana
D: 6 July 1978 Panama, Panama
Attended Indiana University and
University of Wisconsin



L to R: Allan White, Brittmarie Janson Perez, and Joyce Joy

Crede Calhoun's descendants visited North Manchester in early May of 2018 because, impressed by his integrity, they wanted to see where he grew up. The family also wanted to personally thank Allan White who selflessly spent many months doing research, providing Brittmarie, an anthropologist, all the information on her grandfather's youth. Joyce Joy made the arrangements for the trip, a perfect hostess and friend. Allan White discovered that Thomas A. Peabody and wife, Mary Makemson, were Crede's good friends and had visited him in Panama in 1924.

The first Calhoun's of this branch to arrive in America were Johnston Calhoun and his wife, Jane Donnehay, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1790, when Philadelphia was the capital of the United States and George Washington, the president. The family settled in northwest Pennsylvania and the next generation went to live in Preble County, Ohio.

The Calhoun-Simonton party arrived in this area, which developed into Liberty Mills and North Manchester, in 1835. Allen C. Simonton's chronicle: *On September 15 1835, our people started from Grandfather Simonton's old farm in Preble County, Ohio, to migrate way out west to the wilderness of Indiana. The distance of about one hundred and fifty miles. It took four weeks to make the journey, as it supposed, they had to cut their way through the woods in many places. It was truly a wilderness, game abounded everywhere. The land was covered with dense and almost unbroken hardwood forests. None but brave and hardy people could face the wilderness and its hardships. Let us here transcribe a few words from the pen of the only survivor of that party — speaking of their entrance into and through Wabash County, the end of the tedious journey.*

Simonton follows these words with an account by Rachel Calhoun, daughter of Johnston Robert and Susannah, born in Preble County, Ohio in 1826: *We left Father Simonton's old place in Preble Co. Ohio for the west on the 15th day of September 1835. We were four weeks on the road. When we came through Lagro, Wabash Co., the town was full of Irish. They were just finishing up the old Wabash and Erie Canal to that place. From the town of Lagro to Eel River, a distance of 13 miles, the men had to cut a road as we went. When we got to the river our Uncle John Simonton shot a deer in the river. We all had a feast that evening. We crossed the river and camped on the side where the beautiful town of North Manchester now stands.*

With the permission of Brittmarie Janson Perez

THEN and NOW

1904



North Manchester Center for History Collection

Above: Main Street, looking east. On the left is Bixler's Art Gallery, 108 West Main. Next is the Francis Eagle house, 104 West Main (home of Joseph and Eva Bixler) est. 1847, a small sign on the home reads "S. Silbiger, the tailor." 102 West Main is the J. P. Noftzger Marble and Granite Works, est. 1880. 104 East Main a sign can be seen reading "Wines and Liquors." On the right side of the photo shows Martin's Printing Office, 101 West Main and Town Hall, est. 1901, 103 East Main.

Below: Firehouse, 108 West Main; For Sale, 104 and 106 West Main, Sheer Obsession, 102 North Market; Mr. Dave's, 102 East Main. At the light on south side is Town Hall, 103-107 East Main.

2019



Photo by Scott McAlpine

North Manchester Historical Society
P. O. Box 361
122 East Main Street
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

Jeanine Wine:
Preserving Cultural Heritage
through 3D Digitization
Timbercrest Assembly Room
February 11, 2019
6:30 p.m.



HS Center for
HISTORY
North Manchester

North Manchester Center for History

Mission Statement

The North Manchester Center for History of the North Manchester Historical Society serves to promote the Society's mission as a nonprofit educational association that collects, preserves, and interprets the history of North Manchester and northern Indiana (the area of the Eel River Basin) from the arrival of the first Native Americans in the region to the present day through the collecting and preserving of books, documents, artifacts and other cultural objects. The Center interprets its collection to the public by means of a museum facility, educational programs, lectures, public events and publications and encourages others to help collect, preserve and interpret the history of North Manchester area.

Please share this form with a friend!! MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please Make Checks Payable to North Manchester Historical Society
PO Box 361
North Manchester, IN 46962
260.982.0672

New Member Renewal
 Individual \$30 Couples \$50 Sustaining \$75 Supporting \$100

In addition to membership, I would like to give a donation of \$ _____ to be used for:

Where most needed Center for History Thomas Marshall House
 Other (Please specify)

Name _____
Address _____
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Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by Email? Yes

We are a 501-(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
Note: Membership dues provide specific member benefits and are not the same as Annual Fund gifts, which provide purely philanthropic support.