

Spring

2019

North Manchester HISTORY

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



Growing up on the Wrong Side of the Tracks

Jack Miller spent the first sixteen years of his life in North Manchester. Born in 1916, he lived on West Third Street within sight of the Peabody factory, the Syler elevator, and the Baldwin Tool Co. (handle factory) on West Main. He watched the Big Four trains switching tracks on Beckley Street.

He lived a kind of Tom Sawyer existence. An only child, he “hung out” with Raymond of the neighboring Gill family. One of their first contacts with the “east” part of town was attendance at the Mission Chapel on West Third. When the boys, four years old, turned their programs into confetti, they were escorted out of the chapel by the same persons who had welcomed them to the service.

“Skinny dipping” in a local gravel pit was a favorite activity for the boys and visits by Earl Heeter, Town Marshall, deterred them only momentarily. It is said that Tom Peabody was able to authenticate the activity with his camera. The boys roamed freely about town checking out the Strauss’ Ice House, South Market Street, the Eel River grate which held back such sights as dead cows, and the watering trough at Mike’s Service station at Main and Market.

At six, he crossed two railroad tracks to attend West Ward School, South Buffalo Street, where he learned vowels and sounds from Martha Winesburg, a wonderful teacher. Regularly he met the 3:15 train, then ran to the other depot for a 3:30 train arrival. At eight, Jack began weeding onions in Claypool from six in the morning to six at night, an experience which led him ever after to judge jobs from the standard of weeding onions.

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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

A Note from the Director

The museum staff and volunteers have been working together to complete our grant that was awarded to the NMHS by Indiana Historical Society. With this grant we were able to put in security cameras, exit signs, ceiling fans, and are currently working on putting in a fire system—ensuring the safety and security of our artifacts, museum guests, staff and volunteers.

These next coming months, staff and volunteers will be working on future programming, hosting our Volunteer Recognition Reception, and preparing for our Annual Fund. We have many ideas that we would like to bring to the museum and share with the community! Being awarded the *Crossroads* grant by Indiana Humanities and the Smithsonian Museum, has made us very eager to start planning programs and events. I am asking that you join us in making a financial commitment to the museum to support our program growth and our dedication to preserve the unique history North Manchester has to offer. It is because of your support that we are able to be successful.

Ariel Wagner, Museum Director

What's happening at the Center for History

We held a docent orientation on March 6 to introduce everyone to new procedures in preparation for the *Crossroads* exhibit next year. There are statistics we need to gather before and during the exhibit for our end report. Shirley Mishler and Ruth Anne Frieden have joined us as new docents.

Hours opened up when Diane Eshelman transferred to the office and Joan Fahs took the Saturday hours. We have two college students that will be working with Joan.

The 3rd grade field trip has been scheduled for May 22 and 23. This is the first time the students will not come if it rains. With funding cuts they simply do not have money for a bus driver. We look forward to hosting the children as part of our commitment to interpret the history of North Manchester to the community.

When I started this writing we were only days away from opening after our winter hiatus. In past years as we approached December I would look forward to a relaxed working environment. Instead the winter was full speed ahead with projects, training for the Smithsonian exhibition, and planning for spring and summer events. It's good to be busy.

Paula Dee, Museum Coordinator

A MEDICAL HISTORY OF NORTH MANCHESTER

Excerpts from a program presented by Ladoska Z Bunker, M.D.
to the North Manchester Historical Society

April 9, 1984

The pioneer was beset with all the rigors of the climate. Sunstroke and fevers in the summer, frostbite and lung fever (pneumonia) in the winter. He battled against malaria (ague) and milk-sick, which came from cows eating poisonous weeds. The last buffalo in Indiana was killed in 1816, but there were wolves, wild cats, panthers and venomous snakes for many years. Along with cholera was typhoid fever. A smallpox epidemic decimated the American Indians in northern Indiana as early as 1733.

Early practitioners coped as well as they could without much training, few medications except quinine, calomel and a few herbal remedies. There was no anesthesia. Whiskey was the universal remedy and anesthetic. There was no treatment for tuberculosis and many people died of it. Appendicitis was fatal. Hernias could not be repaired. Few people owned glasses. Even soap was made of lye and caused no end of small miseries.

The first hospital in Indiana was established at Vincennes in 1787 by Major Hamtramck of the British Army for his garrison. This is the only hospital of record until the State Lunatic Asylum was built in Indianapolis in 1845. Care was custodial. Goiter was endemic and caused much wild insanity. This was later prevented by the use of iodized salt.

The pioneer doctor was limited in his practice by transportation. He rode on horseback and could only treat people within a short distance. Midwives took care of childbirth often with poor results. For many years the mortality rate for childbirth was one in one hundred. Death occurred from miscarriages and hemorrhages; all preventable today.

It is not known who was the earliest physician in North Manchester, but there is a record of the Upper Wabash Medical Society in 1841 listing as members, Dr. William E. Willis of North Manchester, Dr. Cyrus Lent of Liberty Mills, and Dr. Henry Eichholtz of Laketon. Dr. Cyrus Lent was the only physician in the northern part of the county who served as a surgeon in the Civil War. Dr. Henry Eichholtz was a medical doctor who felt that his practice was too strenuous, so he devoted himself to inventions and a woodworking facility which made butter churns. Around 1876, he constructed a working telephone, but no one else had one so there was no one to talk to. He solved this problem by creating an extension and he would talk to his wife at their residence.

An 1854 practitioner in North Manchester was Dr. Daniel M. Marshall, who had his office and residence at 124 East Main Street. He sold a tuberculosis cure and there are still bottles with

Free Treatment!
So confident are we of success, that we will treat those who apply in time,
— ONE MONTH FREE —

DR. PREZINGERS' New System of Rectal Treatment and Medication does away with all the old methods of cutting, slashing, burning and clamping. Cures Piles in a few painless treatments. \$1000 for FAILURE to CURE. The cure of Piles guaranteed. \$200 for 10 Years

CANCER and PILE SPECIALIST

Ulcer and Tumor Specialist. Over 30,000 Cures made and no evil effects follow. It is a wonderful remedy, perfect and scientific. A failure is out of the question. Cancers, Tumors, Big Necks, Enlarged Glands and Goiter permanently cured in a few weeks. Rectal Ulcers, Fistula and Piles, Blind Piles, Itching Piles, Bleeding Piles, Protruding Piles, Stricture and Hemorrhoids positively cured and no interruption of business necessitated. \$200 For illustrated circular address Dayton, Ohio.

N. B.—You will please take notice, we do not get our recommendations from abroad, but give you home References.

I refer you to the following well known persons treated and cured, and others:

Joseph Crabbs, Banker, Wabash.	M. Saldeman, North Manchester.
P. Keys, Wabash.	J. H. Butterbaugh, North Manchester.
Carry Cowell, Wabash.	R. P. Jourdon, North Manchester.
Cap. J. W. H. McGuire, Wabash.	David Hay, North Manchester.
Mark Lowman, North Manchester.	Samuel Studelsaker, North Manchester.
Rev. W. S. Jordan, North Manchester.	H. L. Myers, North Manchester.
John Hanley, North Manchester.	Wm. Lowman, North Manchester.
John Mishler, North Manchester.	W. L. Kester, North Manchester.
David J. Butterbaugh, North Manchester.	John Ross, North Manchester.

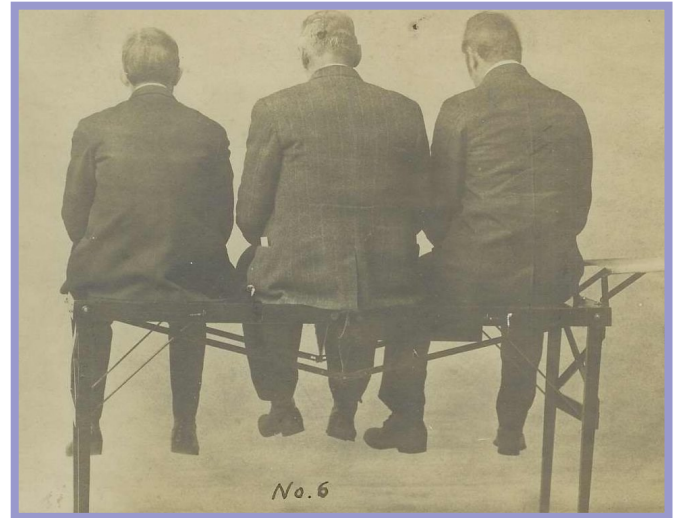
— WILL BE AT —
Grimes Hotel, North Manchester, Indiana.
Monday, April 30, 1888.

Photo of the sign that was on the door of Dr. Lower's office. circa 1895



1900 (L-R) Dr. Frank Kitson, Dr. M.O. Lower, and his brother John

Dr. Lower invented this operating table. The photo advertises how much weight the table could hold.



his name on them found hereabout. He was the father of Thomas R. Marshall, the Vice President under Woodrow Wilson and Governor of Indiana.

Practitioners in the 1880s was Dr. Melvin O. Lower. Dr. Lower removed cataracts, tonsils and did mastoid operations in home successfully. He died in 1908 of diabetes for which there was then no treatment. Two of Dr. Lower's pupils were Dr. Frank S. Kitson and Dr. Leila Andrews. Both Dr. Lower and Dr. Andrews made house calls on bicycles.

Along with trained practitioners, North Manchester had a self-styled healer, Rufus Schoolcraft (also a dry goods merchant). There were also pow-wow doctors and hexers. Medicine shows traveled through town in the summer setting up locally at Henney's lot on West Main Street.

In the late 1890s, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Oldfather became Christian Science practitioners and set up a reading room and church in their barn at 201 North Market Street. They attracted numerous people who were displeased with previous medical treatment. The couple was reviled by the medical profession but probably did more good than harm.

Gradually medical practice was changing. Hospitals were established. St. Joseph in Fort Wayne in 1869. Mental hospitals opened in Richmond in 1883 and Logansport in 1888. More doctors studied at medical schools. As is often the case, happenings far away influence the lives of persons in small communities. Before 1881, there was no State effort to control epidemics, improve sanitation or keep records of vital statistics. All of this was done or not done on a county level. Records in many places were nonexistent. In Wabash County much was destroyed by fire when the court house burned in 1871.

Dr. David Ginther was probably the last to practice in North Manchester without a formal extended education. What he lacked in this was made up by experience and natural ability. He was probably the most loved and revered of any of North Manchester's doctors.

Artifacts of more recent physicians are featured in our front window. Come by to see the exhibit, come inside and tell us what you remember.

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THEN and NOW

1928



North Manchester Center for History Collection

Above: 104 Wabash Road, was built in 1924. It was first started as a grocery store by Tella Swihart; then a restaurant by Sam Amberg; as a tavern by Bert Lavengood, then Joe Conrad, finally an electrical appliance store by J.D. Butterbaugh. Left to Right: Bryce Sherburn, Tella Swihart, Angeline Holben, and Benjamin Holben. The building was taken down by Farm Bureau Co-op in 1965.

Below: Hucks Food & Fuel Store

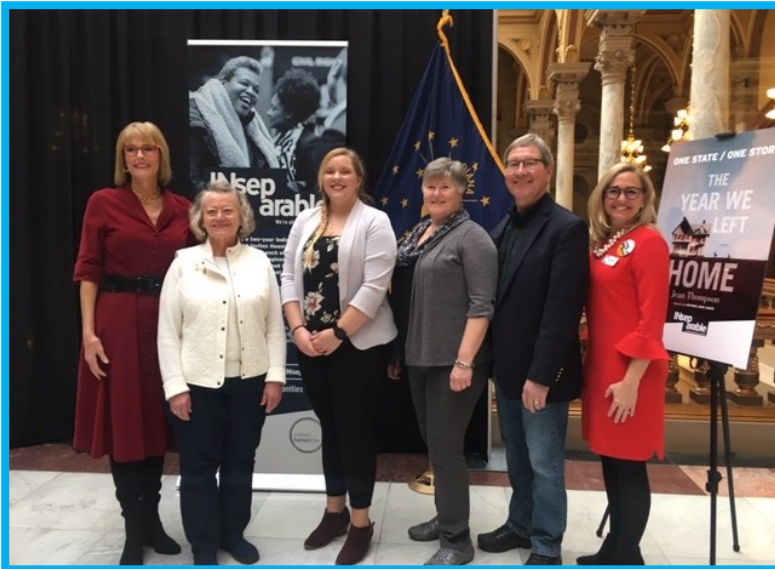
2019



Photo by Scott McAlpine



Smithsonian



March 12, 2019 Indiana Humanities announced at the Indiana Statehouse that North Manchester Center for History is one of six sites across Indiana selected to host a Smithsonian-curated traveling exhibit called "Crossroads: Change in Rural America." Pictured L to R: Lieutenant Governor Susan Crouch, Paula Dee, Ariel Wagner, Kathy Prater, Jeff Hawkins, and Keira Amstutz, President and CEO of Indiana Humanities.

INseparable revealed their 2020 statewide read (*The Year we Left Home*, by Jean Thompson) and poster (100 years of Change in Indiana).

About INseparable: We're all in this together. Whether due to real or perceived differences, Americans see each other differently depending on whether they live in rural, suburban or urban communities. The conclusion drawn from the near-constant polling, media commentary, and academic analysis of the past two years is that America is culturally divided by its geography.

In 2019 and 2020, Indiana Humanities invites Hoosiers to dig into these divides, exploring how Hoosiers relate to each other across boundaries and considering what it will take to indeed be inseparable, in all the ways that matter. Learn more at www.IndianaHumanities.org/inseparable.



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

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 PLACE
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 HERE

**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.

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 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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 North Manchester, IN 46962
 260.982.0672**

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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 _____
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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.