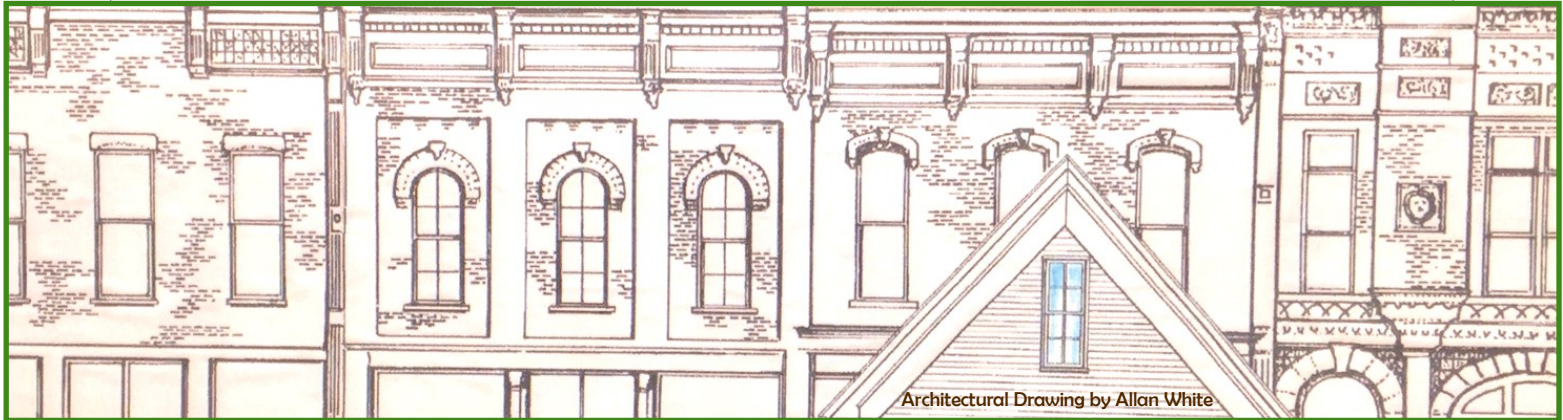


Fall

2020

North Manchester HISTORY

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



Architectural Drawing by Allan White

We love our Heroes

As a museum our mission is to “collect and preserve ... artifacts and other cultural objects.” As a *Center for History* we are charged with “interpreting our collection by means of a museum facility, educational programs, lectures, public events and publications.” Hosting the *Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street* exhibit taught us how to think on our feet, keep the ball rolling and be creative. Your interest in our mission encouraged us to have more programs, create new exhibits and broaden our outreach. Funding provided by our partners made 2020 one of our most visible years ever – and during a pandemic! We need you to keep the ball rolling. In 2021 your help will make possible a major, new exhibit and additional meeting space. Expanding partnerships and programs all require resources – and **you** are the most important asset we have. This year has not been easy for any of us, but please continue to be our hero and give generously when you receive our annual fund request.

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nmhistory@cinergymetro.net
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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

Winning the Vote for Women

The 19th amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and protest. Beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of woman suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans considered a radical change of the Constitution. Few early supporters lived to see final victory in 1920. Between 1878, when the amendment was first introduced in Congress, and August 18, 1920, when it was ratified, champions of voting rights for women worked tirelessly, but strategies for achieving their goal varied. Some pursued a strategy of passing suffrage acts in each state—nine western states adopted woman suffrage legislation by 1912.

Source: ourdocuments.gov

The North Manchester Center for History is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment with a retrospective of over 25 women past and present from our community. Stories of women that took the path less traveled include everyday women from all walks of life. In many cases their experiences were an outgrowth of this amendment. The exhibit showcases the door of opportunity that was created for women. The amendment changed women's lives in several ways including support for health care for mothers, labor reform for women, education reform and allowing participation in judicial processes in many states.

Amongst the featured women Mary Travelbee ran away to join the circus at age 16 and Sarah Kelton Browne, thought to be the only female

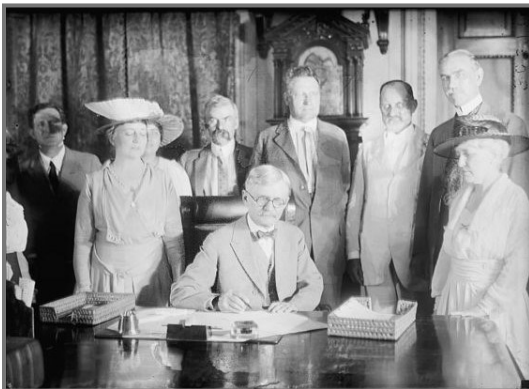
Here's to the new voter. May she come into the political arena with a freedom of thought, and honesty of purpose and that guileless simplicity that will bring to us all new and more noble ideals of government by the people for the people. And women like, she can best wield that influence, not by organizing, but by injecting into politics that quality which has made woman the power she has always been in the world—that sphinx like insolvability that has ever and always been her strength, and her ability to at the last moment do the entirely unexpected, making it turn out all right in the end.

What We Hope From the Women, W.F. Billings Editor, North Manchester News, March 22, 1920

attorney in Wabash County for over 30 years, passed the bar without attending law school at age 38. Contemporary women included in the exhibit are: Alison Matheny, Dr. Peggy Lewis, Carrie Mugford, Nancy Alspaugh, Christa Kolster-Frye, Doris Ebbinghouse, Dr. Pam Higgins, Susan Ring, and Jena Oke.

North Manchester had an Equal Suffrage Association in 1914. In April of that year a meeting was held in the library auditorium that featured Mrs. Noland, who had been president of the state association for six years. In July of that year another large meeting was held with many local speakers including Dorothy Noftzger, Dr. Emma Holloway, George Gaddis, Cora Freeman, Mrs. W.D. Bruner, and Rose Noftzger.

Over the next year, many meetings, parades and rallies were held to advocate for a constitutional amendment giving women full suffrage. By 1916, almost all major suffrage organizations agreed to the goal of a constitutional amendment. New York adopted women's suffrage in 1917 and in 1918 President Wilson supported an amendment; political balance shifted.



Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, the suffragists packed the Senate gallery as senators finally approved the national amendment with two votes to spare, 56 to 25. Vice President Thomas Marshall, serving as President of the Senate, joined prominent suffragists for a signing ceremony in his office in the Capitol. The amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920. It was then certified on August 26, 1920, changing the face of the American electorate forever.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

On November 2, 1920 five sisters, the youngest one 73, cast their first votes for Harding and Coolidge. Four of the sisters voted in Wabash County. Olive Marine, 96, Catherine Harter, 91, Rowena Harter, 84, all of North Manchester; Abie Thorne, 94, of Wabash, and Ellie Rhodes, 73, of Colorado. They were the daughters of Amos and Edith Mendenhall Cowgill.

Summer FUN at the Center for History!

Hosted by Sandy Bendsen



North Manchester Parks and Recreation provides youth camp services multiple times each year, the longest being their summer camp program. In past years the campers would visit Center for History once or twice but generally as a visit. This year, with the pandemic, many of their activities had to be canceled leaving them with a lot of swimming and playground time but not much else. The Center had been looking for opportunities to expand our youth outreach so we contacted park director, Jennifer Hotchkiss, and suggested a partnership to provide a series of summer programs for the kids.

The children were broken down into two age groups, 5-8 and 9-11 year olds, and then walked to the Center one day a week for special activities. Both groups were given guided tours of the museum and told stories of how things came to be here, like the Miller Barn exhibit. The younger group created themselves by tracing, coloring, stuffing and stapling images of themselves to post around the Center. Making butter was a fun activity they share and the bonus was they got to eat the project! Other gatherings included listening to music through the ages and history lessons about North Manchester.

The 9-11 year olds began their Center experience with an Indiana History quiz with history lessons to go along with the answers. One week we looked at maps of Indiana and found various special cities, a skill they had never learned before. No electronic help finding things! The last week the kids were given maps of the downtown and took a Main Street tour comparing pictures of the town in the early 20th Century with how those same places look now.

Our favorite takeaway from the experience was Hotchkiss describing the day *after* the campers had first visited. She said they came running into the building and asking, "Do we get to go to the museum today?" Special thanks to *Sandy Bendsen* for creating the lesson plans and working with the kids on a weekly basis. She did a great job and the kids are looking forward to coming back next summer.

New Partnerships Plans are already in the works for expanding our youth outreach for the summer of 2021. We met with staff members from the North Manchester Public Library at the Thomas Marshall house and talked about ways to better use that space and grounds. It was a great brainstorming session and we all agreed that it is an opportunity to share resources and provide new opportunities for area children. We think you'll see a lot more activity around the Marshall house next summer – be on the lookout for outdoor art projects and expanded gardening displays.



 **Smithsonian**

The **Smithsonian** exhibit, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* was an experience like no other for the Center for History. We welcomed new guests, forged new partnerships, created more new exhibits than we would have thought possible all the while developing a greater love of our community. It took so many “extras” to keep the museum open 7 days a week for five weeks, our staff thanks all of you that had a part in making this adventure a success. Many members of our community came forward as volunteers and several of those enjoyed themselves so much they have become a part of our regular schedule. We thank the hundreds of visitors that came during a pandemic, we appreciate the many donors that made the exhibit possible and we thank you for being a part of the Center for History.





Ashley Sanson
*Fiber and Miniature Artist
from North Manchester*

Just one of the local artists in our revamped gift shop is Ashley Sanson; she uses wool, wire, polymer, and natural clays for her figural pieces. Wool roving is shaped using different gauges of steel needles. Each piece takes many, many hours to complete and is totally hand sculpted. Ashley works in all sizes, however, her passion is miniature. Ashley has been featured in two national/international publications for her miniature work; *American Miniaturist Magazine*, and *Dollhouse World Magazine* in the UK.

[AfterAllArt/Instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/AfterAllArt/)

[AfterAllArt/Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/AfterAllArt/)

Also in The Bee Hive are: Brad Barnett, Peggy Herendeen, Susan Ring, and Elizabeth Wamsley

Are you interested in being part of our 'local artist gift shop' or know someone that would?

Send us an email including a photo of your work to: nmhistoryinfo@gmail.com

Holiday Market

The Center for History will be hosting an artist's marketplace December 1-12. Many of our area artists have lost their venues as the pandemic has escalated. In an effort to support our community we are offering them space to showcase their artistic works. You may visit ***Market @ the Museum*** during our regular hours T-F 10a – 4p and Sat 10a-2p. If you are a local artist interested in participating please contact us at 260.982.0672. Spaces are limited.

FREE Admission Sponsored by:



HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS

Many of you are aware that we have suspended our monthly in-person programs. Did you know that you can still see a new program each month virtually? Our monthly educational series has not stopped and if you want to find links to see or revisit our programs, visit our website: www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org and click on the “Events” tab to find links for our programs.

Welcome

to our new supporting and sustaining members

Marcy and Jim Haist, Main View Inn

Stan Scantlin, North Manchester

Karen Garrett, Eaton, Ohio

Sandra and Donald Billmaier, Perrysburg, Ohio



Face Covering Requirement

ALL HOOSIERS MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING over their noses and mouths when:

- Inside a business, public building, or other indoor place open to the public. This does not apply to private offices and workspaces in which social distancing can be maintained.
- In an outdoor public space wherever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing.

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**Please consider receiving
your newsletter by
email to reduce cost to the
Center for History**
nmhistory@cinergymetro.net



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.

Memberships Expire December 31

**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 _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Phone _____ Total Enclosed _____
Email _____

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.