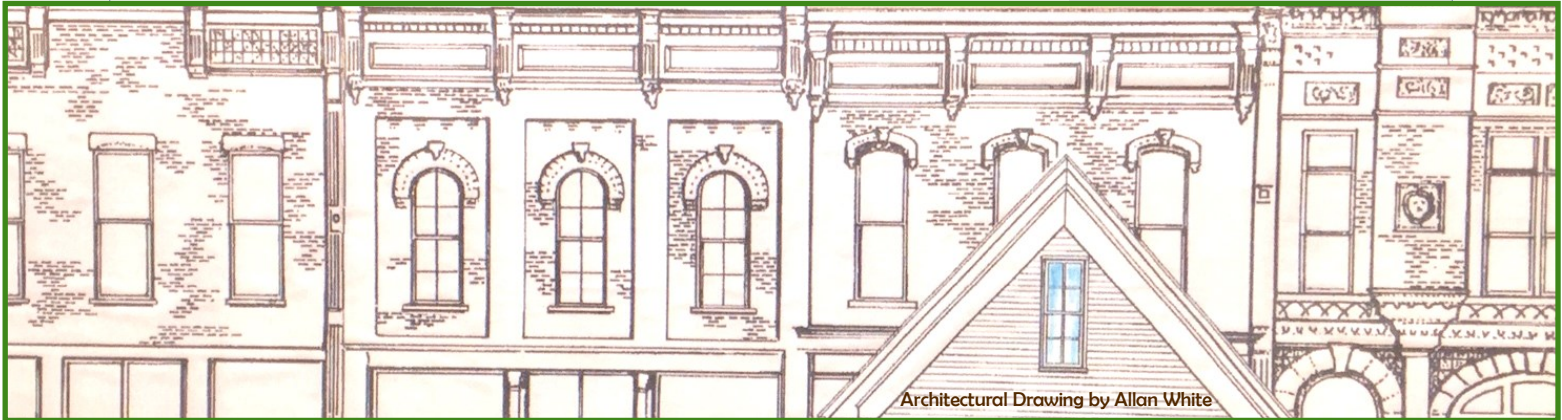


Spring

2021

# North Manchester HISTORY

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



Architectural Drawing by Allan White

**To: A.W. Machen. Gen. Sup't  
Washington, D.C.**

**From: George R. Craft, Post Master  
14 March 1903, North Manchester**

Dear Sir:

I am obliged to report the inability of our rural carriers to make their full trips during the past week. The oldest inhabitants state the roads in this section have not been in such awful condition during the past forty years. Graveled roads that are in excellent traveling condition ordinarily have been filled with sink holes during the past week and in this respect are worse than the regular mud roads. The carriers have been out every day and have put in their usual time but the mud is so deep that it is impossible to drive faster than a walk. In many places the horses can scarcely drag the wagons through the mud and are obliged to make frequent stops for rest. The drivers are compelled to walk over portions of their routes and lead the horses.

Not knowing what course to pursue in an emergency of this kind I have directed the carriers, where it is impossible to cover the entire route, to so divide the route as to serve the patrons at least every other day. I have heard but two complaints, and they were certainly unwarranted. The patrons, almost without exception, have encountered and approved my course in the matter and I trust it will be satisfactory to the Department.

Two of the carriers whose routes aggregate fifty eight miles have paid one of the substitute drivers from their own funds to take part of their routes in order to serve all of their patrons.

At this writing the roads are drying somewhat and I think within three days the carriers will be able to cover the entire distance without interruption.

I would like a reply.

Yours truly, *Geo. R. Craft*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1903 Letter .....	1
Manchester Mascot .....	2
Metzger Pt. 1 .....	4
New Exhibits .....	6
From our Director .....	7

## OFFICERS AND BOARD

Jim Myer, *President*

Mary Chrastil  
*President Emeritus*

Nancy Alspaugh  
*Vice-President*

Karen Hewitt, *Secretary*

Matt Mize, *Treasurer*

Tom Brown  
Bernie Ferringer  
Kathy Prater  
Jeff Pyle  
Jack Schuler  
Tim Taylor  
Abigail Van Vlerah  
Joe Vogel

## ADMINISTRATION

Laura Rager  
*Director*

Joyce Joy  
*Archivist . Office Manager*

Paula Dee  
*Museum Coordinator*

## DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Laura Rager . *Editor*

Paula Dee . *Designer*

Tom Brown . *Contributor*

Social Media :

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

North Manchester Center for History  
Instagram: [north\\_manchester\\_history](https://www.instagram.com/north_manchester_history)

Website::

[northmanchestercenterforhistory.org](http://northmanchestercenterforhistory.org)

Email:

[nmhistory@cinergymetro.net](mailto:nmhistory@cinergymetro.net)

Phone: (260) 982.0672

### 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



## Main Street Mascot

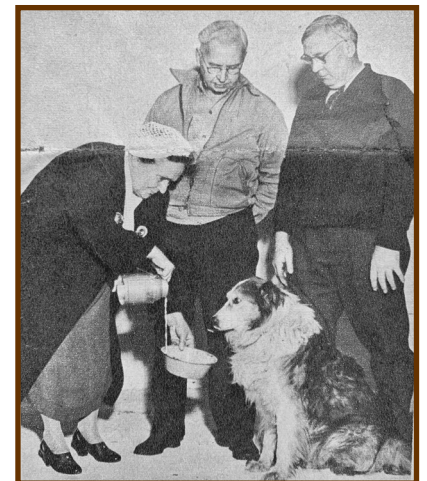
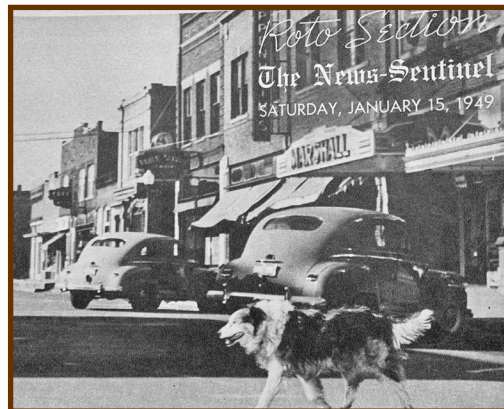
George, the stray dog, probably illustrates North Manchester as the town with a heart better than anything else could.

In February or March of 1947 a big friendly, long-haired, stray dog showed up in town. He had obviously been abused and was afraid of women. Joe Urschel, vice-president of the Indiana Lawrence Bank & Trust Co., took him home and nursed him back to health. Miss Jo Joyce Urschel named him “Georgie” for a nurse who had helped her after an auto accident. In the summer of 1947 a fully recovered George moved to Main Street. The bank and Stuckey’s Garage were favorite hang outs but he was at home anywhere on the street. Many of the merchants on the street allowed him to enter their establishment. George was old and growing blind in one eye so an effort was made to keep him on the south side of the street.

Richard Hornaday bought him a collar and Mike Stuckey “passed the hat” to buy a license. Then came a rabies scare. Mrs. D. C. Hayden

The Stuckey’s brought him milk from their farm.

Story and photos were printed in the Fort Wayne *News-Sentinel*, January 15, 1949.

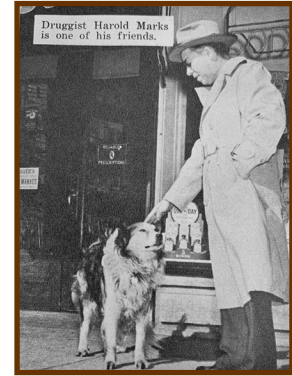




Below: Bernie and Barbara Bender say 'hello' to George.



Veterinarian John Wright and Daisy Hayden.



Druggist Harold Marks is one of his friends.

Druggist Harold Marks is one of George's friends.



Louie Longo gives George ice cream.



Mike Stuckey and Richard Hornaday



took him off the street and kept him in her apartment, Veterinarian John Wright vaccinated the town pet. He was confined for 30 days. Friends sent him food, bones from Faurots Grocery were especially appreciated. People said he smiled when the quarantine ended and he was back on the street. Like a person back from a long vacation he called on friends up and down the street: the fire department, Frank Ryan; the barber, his best friend; Oscar, the dog at the lumber company, Louis Longo who never refused ice cream when he begged, druggist Harold Marks, and especially the children who sometimes took rides on his back.

George eventually resided at the home of Daisy Hayden on East Main Street.

# *A Brief History of the Early German Baptist Brethren, Pt.1*

by Tom Brown

The 1880 Indiana census identified nearly every landholder in Northern Chester Townships, as well as all of Lake and Jackson townships as belonging to Dunkards. Due to doctrinal differences that occurred in the early 1880s, two congregations (Eel River and West Manchester) made multiple splits, with most becoming church of the Brethren Congregations and one becoming First Brethren, making a total of nine congregations of Brethren by 1900. The influence of the Brethren Church was of utmost importance to the founding and development of the North Manchester community and has a lasting influential affect today. Since I am the 5th generation of the Metzger family to have lived in the North Manchester community, I decided to research my family heritage and learned that church was at the center of who we were and why we came here. Most of you are familiar with the basic background of the Brethren Church, following is a brief summary of the history of the Brethren Church, as there is a definite pattern that members of this Church have followed, especially as it relates to immigration into various parts of our country and how it relates to North Manchester. I have deliberately chosen to follow the Metzger family as that is my heritage, but parallels most Brethren who came to call the North Manchester Community their home.

The Metzger's, like most Brethren at the time, immigrated from Morrison's Cove, Pennsylvania, a small town near Martinsburg, eventually settling in Montgomery and Darke Counties, just west and north of Dayton, Ohio. This occurred in 1811, just prior to the War of 1812. One of the main reasons for moving to Ohio was to escape the wrath of their neighbors in Pennsylvania, who supported the war. The Brethren were pacifists and patriotism was very high at this time, especially in the eastern regions of the country and reprisals for not joining the American cause was common.

The Brethren found life very favorable in southern Ohio, where land was fertile, inexpensive and they were isolated; their religious practices were accepted as they were the only ones living there. As it was the practice of the Brethren for the parents to provide suitable farm land for each son, land soon became scarce as well as expensive, especially since the average family provided farms for 5-6 sons.

Jacob Metzger (1781-1862) my 4th great grandfather, was the father of 10 children, 5 being boys. In 1835, Jacob, along with 7 members of their local church congregation, walked to north-eastern Indiana from Dayton, Ohio. Because there were no established roads, the journey took more than a month. Since land was selling for \$1.25 an acre, they bought considerable acreage with the idea of providing farm land for their sons, as was the Brethren custom of the day. Jacob purchased 2 quarter sections of land, containing 160 acres, which cost \$200. Land in Montgomery County, Ohio, was selling for \$20 an acre, so that was the main reason the Brethren were willing to endure hardships to journey to Indiana.



Below: Ellis and Anna Miller, Grace and Ruth (children) standing in front of the house

Above: Minerva Heeter, Ralph Miller, Sam Montel, David Miller, Ellis M. Miller, Sherman Metzger, Edward Herendeen, Lydia Miller, Rebecca Frantz Miller, Alma Miller, Elbia Miller, Grace E. Miller, Elva Kline, Anna Metzger Miller, Elizabeth Metzger, Ruth Hostetler Miller, Allie Pyle, Elizabeth Cowpetzger, Emma Warnick, Laura Miller, Sarah Metzger, at the side of the original house that was southeast of the Ellis Miller house/farm. House was built by Anna Swank and Jacob and Daniel, who sold it to Joseph Metzger in 1893.



When Jacob returned home to Ohio in the spring, he reported that northeastern Indiana was an unbroken forest of the finest walnut, poplar, oak and elm trees. Trails and other traces of Indian life were in evidence. The Indian tribes that had inhabited this area were the Miami and Potawatomi, who recently had been removed from their homeland by a series of treaties. The final treaty was the Forks of the Wabash in 1834, granting all land north of the Wabash River to the State of Indiana. Revenues from the sale of this land was used to finance canals that were being constructed to improve transportation, which in turn would bring more settlers to Indiana. The largest canal was the famous Wabash and Erie Canal, which connected Lake Erie to Terre Haute, located on the Wabash River in west central Indiana. This canal was completed in 1849 and spanned 375 miles, one of the longest canal systems in the country. By 1835, it was completed as far as Lagro, which is approximately 12 miles south of North Manchester, (which did not become a town until 1836) and opened up the Wabash Valley for settlement. Transportation of goods via the canal, inexpensive rich land, and isolation from others was attractive to the Brethren.

*This is a 4 part series with emphasis on the Metzger family, one of the first families to settle in the Eel River Community.*



THE BLACK DRESS  
NEW  
EXHIBIT

OPENING MARCH 16 2021 | 10 AM

ADMISSION IS FREE



From the estate of  
Eloise and William Eberly,  
75+ pieces of vintage  
silverware

1847 Rogers Bros. ss Triple  
Vintage - 1904



Over 200 glass negatives added to our  
collection from Edward Kintner

---

## *Highlights from the Director*

*"You can wear black at any time. You can wear black at any age. You may wear it on almost any occasion. A little black frock is essential to a woman's wardrobe."* Christian Dior, 1954

The Center for History reopens this month with a celebration of the Little Black Dress. This new exhibit displays one hundred years of frocks worn by local women. If only they could tell us where they went and who they went with!

During the winter hiatus staff and volunteers have worked creatively to update exhibits and design new ones that expand your view of our collections. We are caretakers of over 33,000 items each with a history and story to share. Our team loves sifting through the many treasures our archives hold and sharing them with you!

For the first time you can see a collection of glass negatives from photos that were taken by Edward Kintner in the early 1900s. The donation came to us from Mr. Kintner's daughter, Rebecca King. Some of the image locations are in Ohio and northeastern Indiana, therefore many of the people photographed are unidentified. Nonetheless it is a very interesting look at the lives and times of our communities a century ago.

There are more new things in store for you now and in the months ahead. Our hope is that you will find reasons to visit us many times during the year. Remember to check our website, [www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org](http://www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org), for information about exhibits and links to our monthly education series.

We want to welcome you back—come visit us!

*Laura Rager*

**Museum Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-2.**

---

## **FREE Admission Sponsored by:**



FORD METER BOX  
FOUNDATION, INC.



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.

*Is this your last newsletter?*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.