

The Historical Society NEWS

January ~ March 2024

Huntington County Historical Society

315 Court Street, Huntington, IN 46750

Phone: 260-356-7264 / <https://huntingtonhistoricalmuseum.com/>

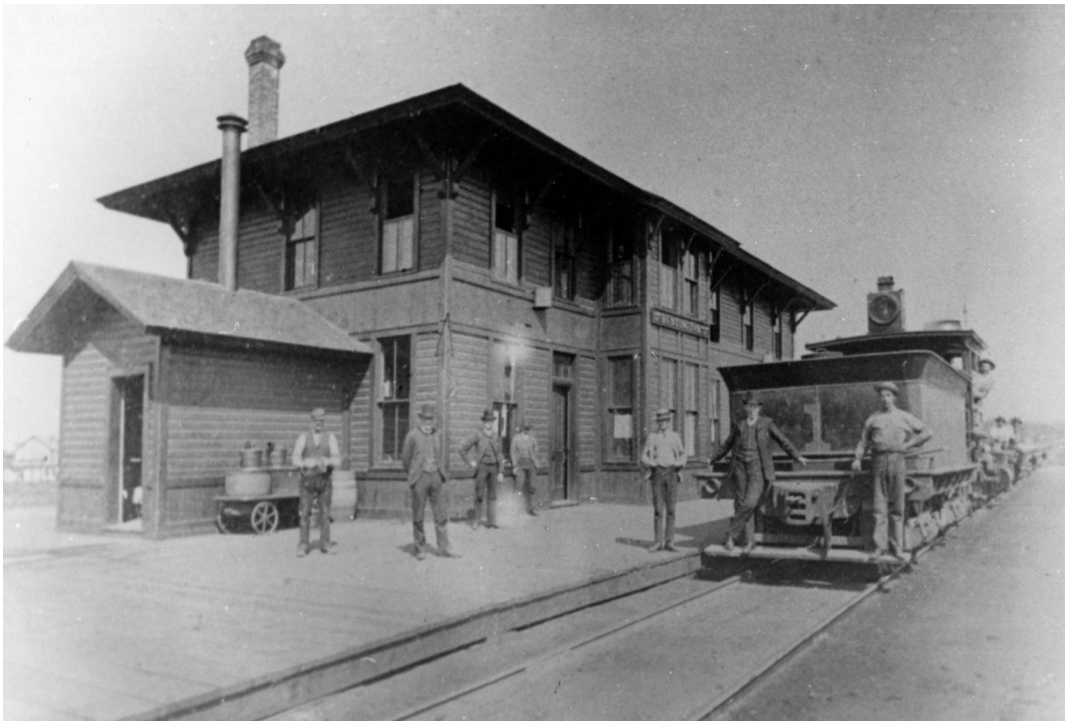
Museum Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Huntington's Railroads

The March 20 program - By Craig Berndt

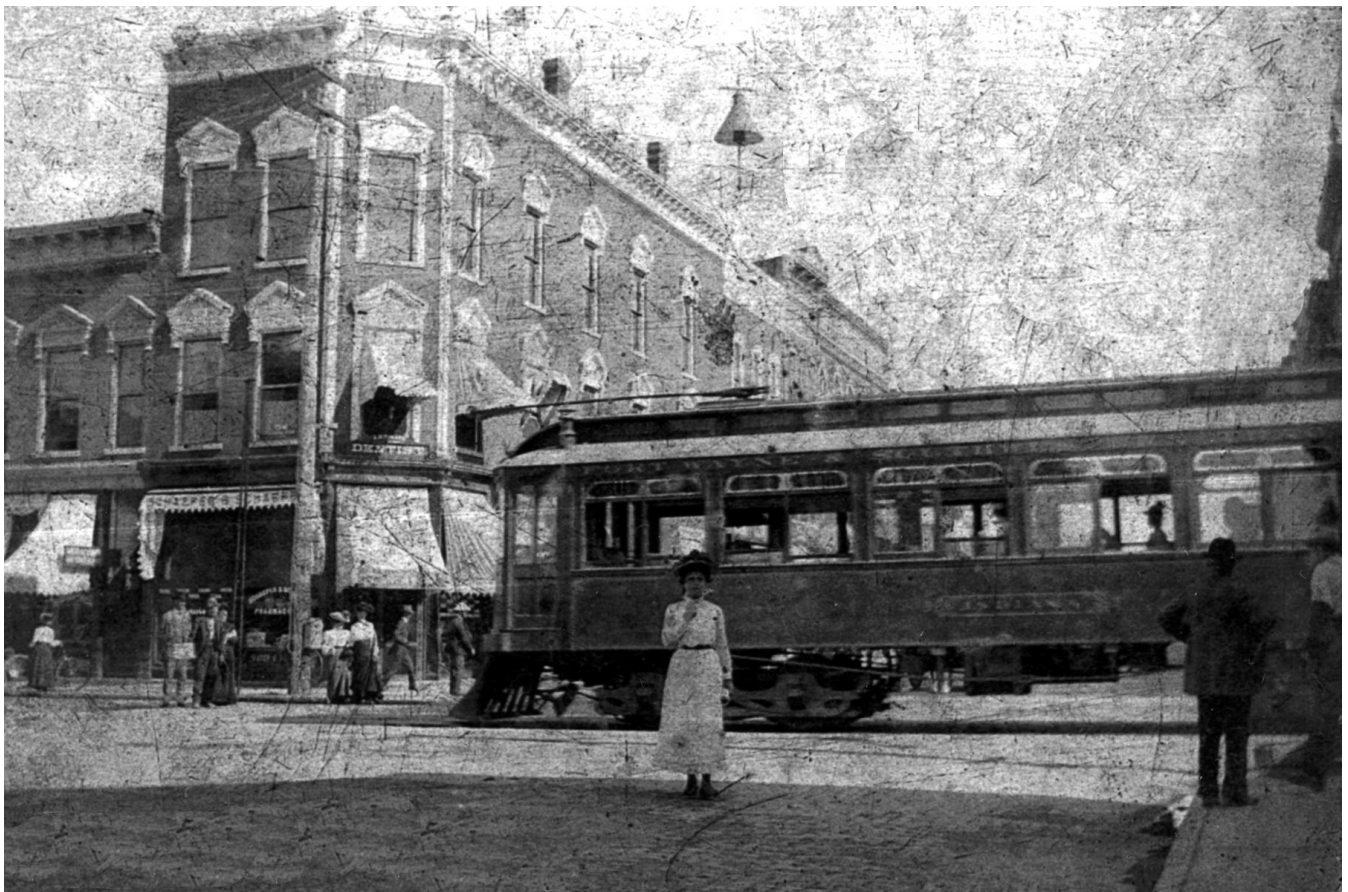
Northeast Indiana native Craig Berndt has researched the railroads in Indiana's northeast and southern counties since the 1980s. He is the author of six railroad history books and has lectured extensively about them.

On Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m., Berndt will present a Power-Point program on Huntington's steam and electric railroads at the Huntington Historical Society Museum, 315 Court Street. Please bring your photos and memories of our railroads and share them with others.



The westbound
Erie Railroad
steam
locomotive No.1,
at the Huntington
depot, c. 1900.

Depot #2 was at today's 201 Court St, at left in this photo. The #2 is the only depot still standing.



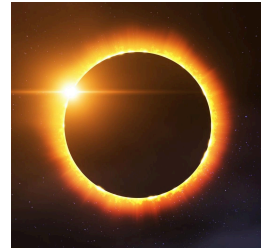
On December 11, 1901, Fort Wayne & Southwestern Traction Company interurban coach "Indiana" made the first trip to Huntington, seen here at the intersection of Market and Jefferson streets.

Huntington County History in The Making

A Solar Sky Show

Steve Hart - HCHS Board Member

Do you know where you will be on the afternoon of April 8th? If not, you may want to plan to watch a total solar eclipse that will envelope the southeast portion of Huntington County. The rest of us will see an almost total eclipse. What is a total solar eclipse, you ask? A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and earth, and those within the shadow path are in darkness. When the moon blocks the entire sun, it is known as a “total solar eclipse” and lasts only a few minutes, as the shadow is traveling across the earth at a speed of 1,920 miles per hour. The moon’s shadow is cast on a very narrow slice of the earth. Southeastern Huntington County will be total, while the northwestern two-thirds of the county will observe a sliver of sun, known as a partial eclipse.



This is one of nature’s rarest events and has not occurred in Huntington County since before Indiana became a state, the last one being June 6, 1806 (I missed that one). The next one will be on September 14, 2099 (I will probably miss that one, too). The eclipse will enter the U.S. in Texas, traveling northeast, and finally exiting in Maine. Huntington County is on the northern edge of totality, a line extending slightly north of Banquo in the southwest, to north of Markle, on the northeast. Warren will enter darkness at 3:08 p.m., lasting 2 minutes, 9 seconds while Markle will see totality at 3:09 p.m., lasting for 80 seconds. It will get very quiet. The birds will stop singing, cows will head for the barn, stars and planets will appear in the sky, automated lights will turn on, and the temperature usually drops 5 to 10 degrees. It is truly a spectacular sky show.

One final note: **Do not directly at look at the eclipse without proper eye protection, as it may cause permanent eye damage.**

For more local information visit: <https://visithuntington.org/where-to-see-the-eclipse-april-2024>.

President’s Report

Chris Whitacre - President

As we move into a new year, I thank the members for their support and encouragement this past year. There were many museum events, articles, and programs that made Huntington’s demi-semi-sept-centennial a spectacular year.

I also thank the professors and students of the Ball State School of Architecture for their first-rate work on ideas for a possible new museum home. Their creativity provoked a lot of thought among Historical Society members and our community at large.

As we begin 2024, we welcome some new additions to the Board of the Huntington Historical Society. Mark Stouder is our new vice president in addition to serving as chairman of the Operations Committee. As vice president, Mark will oversee our programs, which will begin with a visit from Butler native and Indiana railroad historian Craig Berndt on March 20. A popular speaker, Craig will talk about the railroad and his recently published book, his third about railroad history.

Historical Society board member and volunteer Linda Scheiber is our new Board Secretary, and we welcome Gene Lahr as our Board Treasurer. Both are off to an impressive start in their duties. As we welcome them, I also thank the officers they are replacing, Secretary Amy Richert and Treasurer Steve Hart, for their past tenure and their continued work on behalf of the Historical Society. My appreciation also includes the efforts of our outgoing vice president Bruce Lemar.

Local history buffs will probably recognize the name and work of Lyla Spath. She is a new member of the board, and is a published author who has been active in local history. As I welcome her to the Board, I recognize the continued contributions of the 10 returning members, each of whom contributed a great deal to the success of this past year.

It is not too early to begin thinking about the events of spring, and the welcome return of Nelson's Chicken at the museum during Saturday of Heritage Days. This well-received 2023 fundraiser will return on June 15 this year, and we hope you will reserve your lunch preparation for us after the parade.

One immediate change for 2024 that you need to be aware of is a change of hours at the museum on Saturdays. After talking with a number of patrons, Executive Director Barb Rupley asked the Board to move the hours the museum is open on Saturdays to the earlier time of 10 a.m. through 1 p.m. We think these hours will be helpful to patrons visiting on weekends.

Director's Report

Barb Rupley - Director

Happy Spring!

We are looking forward to a fun-filled 2024, with changes in some of the Museum's exhibits. We have updated hours Wednesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



We have a Rickert Collection exhibit that greets you as you enter the Museum, and we will feature a traveling exhibit from the Indiana State Historical Society, titled “Pencils to Pixels – Hoosier Cartoons and Comics,” from March 4th to April 2nd. We will have a second exhibit, “Auto Indiana,” from May 1st to June 4th. Please stop in and check out these displays.

We are working on several projects with our volunteers. They are helping with scanning the Rickert Collection, cataloging items and unframing photos for archiving, changing out exhibits and cleaning. If you can spare a few hours a week or a month, please stop in at the Museum and we can get you started helping, too.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 15 – we will again be hosting Nelson’s Chicken at the Museum for Heritage Days.

HCHS Officers

Chris Whitacre – President, Mark Stouder – Vice President,
Linda Scheiber – Secretary, Gene Lahr – Treasurer

Board Members

Charles Chapman, Dan Drummond, Mike Perkins, Dr. John Regan, Jim Wilson, Barb Feters,
Kevin Bledsoe, Eric Bruce, Linda Scheiber, Lyla Spath, Steve Hart

Newsletter Staff

Editors: *Charles Chapman & Mike Perkins*

Contributors: *Chris Whitacre / Barbara Rupley / Mike Perkins / Jean Gernand*

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Director Barb Rupley - 356-7264 or email: huntingtonhistoricalmuseum@gmail.com

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Become a museum sponsor - contact the museum.

Director Barb Rupley - 356-7264 or email: huntingtonhistoricalmuseum@gmail.com

Mission Statement

The mission of the Huntington County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the history of Huntington County.



Huntington County Historical Society Membership Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

☐ GIFT ☐ RENEWAL ☐ NEW

Yearly Membership Dues:

Student — \$5 Senior — \$20 Family — \$35 Single — \$25 Life — \$300
Sustaining — \$100

Donation _____ Signature _____

Return this page to the Museum. Make checks payable and mail to:

Huntington County Historical Society, 315 Court St., Huntington, IN 46750.

Membership Benefits: Free admission to museum; bimonthly newsletter; election of officers; become a volunteer at the museum; attend programs for free on Huntington County's history.

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