

# **The Huntington County Historical Society NEWS**

October ~ December 2024

## **Huntington County History and Education Center**

315 Court Street, Huntington, IN 46750

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

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

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## **People make things happen**

**Chris Whitacre - President**

I know you care very deeply for our community and its heritage, and we appreciate your support in our mission at the Historical Society and the Huntington History and Education Center. I have mentioned in previous newsletters the history stories that only you, as an individual or family, can provide. Be aware of the contributions that you can make from your own background and memory.

I have an aunt, Kay Peas of nearby Wabash, who years ago designed a coloring book for her young grandchildren, in which the drawings told the story of their grandparents growing up in a small town in Indiana. Her grandchildren learned early and in a child-friendly way about their most recent ancestors.

With today's computer capabilities, there may be no limit to how a creative mind records and provides personal histories to a younger generation.

Historical Society Board member Lyla Spath has taken her own skill and experience at writing and authored her own book on her years as a child growing to adulthood in Huntington County. The book, "Salamonie Summer," is available locally, and if you contact the History and Education Center, I'll bet we could get a signed copy for you.

My wife Diane has also considered her background and used her ability as a composer to express an interesting part of her history. A century ago, the railroad and automobile made traveling much more commonplace. Many performers took advantage of the new technology, as did entrepreneurs who organized tours for performances in many cities and towns. As a

young girl, Diane's grandmother told her stories of traveling with a string quartet as part of the Chautauqua concert circuit through the Midwest in the 1920s.

Over the past few years, Diane has been working on a musical based on her grandmother's life experiences called "The Schubert Ladies Quartet." It will be presented on the evenings of November 15 and 16 and on the afternoon of November 17 at the Baker Street Centre, formerly C2G, near Parkview Field in downtown Fort Wayne.

As a Board member of the Historical Society, I have become more aware of the many creative and diverse contributions from many people to record history. I am deeply impressed with the creativity and resourcefulness of many who use their talents and skills to record, in their own unique ways, the heritage of Huntington County and its residents. Your efforts make us all proud and inspire us to continue preserving our history.

Photographers may wish to use their talent to record our current heritage for future generations in the Historical Society's History In The Making Photo Contest, sponsored by Frederick's Photography and the History and Education Center. Your photo must have been taken in the last five years and must be submitted by September 18. Winning photographs will be on display at the Forks of the Wabash Pioneer Festival.

I invite you to log on to the Historical Society webpage, where you will see a new look. Board member Charlie Chapman has redesigned the page, which is more user-friendly, contains more information about the Society, and allows you to explore and investigate more widely some of the many interesting items available.

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## **September Program - Historic Forks of the Wabash**

The September program will welcome Dale Hawkins, President of the Forks of the Wabash to the Museum. The Historic Forks of the Wabash pays tribute to two hundred years of settlement by the Miami Indians, the woodsmen and traders who first brought western goods and ideas to this area now known as Indiana. See you Wednesday September, 18 at 7:00 p.m.

# Director's Report

## Barb Rupley - Director

Summer is officially over and school has been in session for a month. It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through 2024.

During the summer we had Nelson's chicken during Heritage Days weekend, and hosted the Piecemakers Quilt Club with a quilt show. Good attendance for both.

We are now getting ready for the Pioneer Festival, September 28-29. Please stop by Heritage Hall to see our exhibit honoring our military. We will also have some gift ideas for sale, and the photos from the photo contest will be available for viewing.

The museum gift shop has copies of the book, *Memorable Graces about Blessed Father Solanus Casey*. This book is authored by Rick Beemer with an assist from Linda Leist.

I want to thank those who have been sending in your membership renewal early, we appreciate that very much. Just remember that your dues are due at the end of each year, and even though we have a membership form in each of our newsletters, this doesn't mean that yours are due for the following year. You can share that membership form with a friend or neighbor and encourage them to join the Society. If you are unsure if you owe your dues, please call and we can check that.

Thank you to our volunteers who have been working on the Rickert collection, cataloging, and in our archive area. We greatly appreciate all of the time you have given to helping preserve our history.

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## Become a HCHS supporter - contact the Director.

Director Barb Rupley - 356-7264 or email: [huntingtonhistoricalmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:huntingtonhistoricalmuseum@gmail.com)

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# 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 Fetters,  
Kevin Bledsoe, Eric Bruce, Linda Scheiber, Lyla Spath, Steve Hart

## Newsletter Staff

**Editors:** *Charles Chapman & Mike Perkins*

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

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Follow us online: <https://huntingtonhistoricalmuseum.com/> or

on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/huntingtonhistoricalmuseum>



The construction of the "old" post office on Market Street in 1916, photos by William Rickert (Bob's dad) Rickert Studio was across the street, where the current Market Street bar is located.



## More Rickert photos.

Woody's garage on State Street. Now a parking lot.



Huntington Lumber on State Street, across from the County Jail. Now a parking lot.



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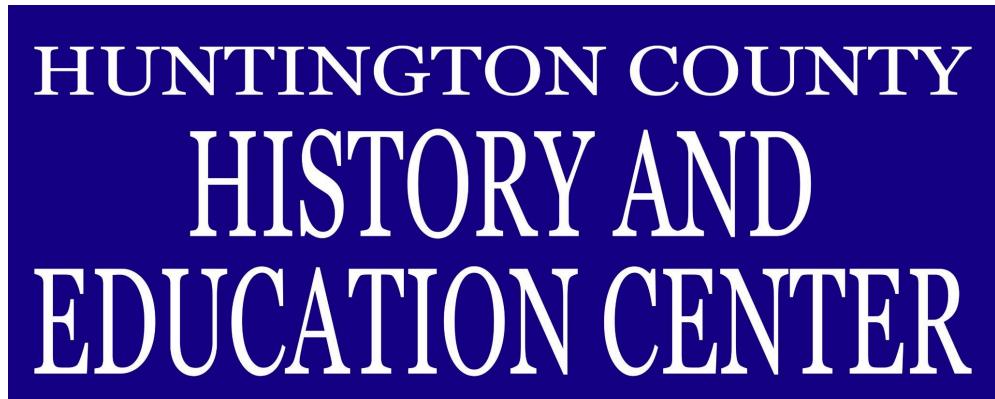
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Our new identity.



## Mission Statement

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

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# *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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315 Court Street, Huntington, IN 46750

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