



PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving history for a better future.

Membership

The Pulaski County Historical Society is happy to report that membership - so vital to its projects and programs - is on an upswing.

The Historical Society has an active, enthusiastic board of directors who are working to provide entertaining and compelling programs, and to facilitate projects that will have a lasting impact on showcasing and preserving local history.

We gratefully acknowledge our corporate members: First National Bank of Monterey, Frain Mortuary, Fratco, Inc., Fritz Black Sand Farms, Grisel CPA, Harrison Realty, Pulaski County CDC, PulaskiPost.com, Sanders Foods, Standard Industrial Supply, VFW Post No. 1728 and Welker Law.

Annual membership is \$30 for individuals, \$40 for families, and \$80 for corporate sustaining. Join at www.pulaskihistory.net; follow the links to Membership.

In The Matter Of Lamp Posts Around The Courthouse Square

At a special session of the Pulaski County Council on the 5th of July 1916, an appropriation of funds was made for the purpose of purchasing, wiring and erecting lampposts along the sidewalks around the courthouse square. Council members were: E. W. Horner, Henry Busch, J. H. Magee, J. J. Huff and Lewis Kroft.

Later that year in November, Frank Good came forward at a commissioner's meeting with the specifications for the placement of the courthouse lampposts. The plans were to place four lampposts around the public square, one at each corner of the public square and two lampposts at the north side of the sidewalk on either side of the north entrance of the

courthouse. The seventh lamppost would be placed just within the sidewalk line at the corner of the alley and sidewalk in front of the Sheriff's residence. The auditor was to advertise for bids for this project. The contract would be let on December 5, 1916.

Pursuant to the advertisement in the Pulaski County Democrat and the Winamac Republican several bids were received by the commissioners. Martin Schorenstein bid \$718.90; Merl & E. Galbreath bid \$625; G. H. Collins bid \$537.90 and F. L. Good bid \$406.45. The bids of Martin Schorenstein, Galbreath Bros. and G. H. Collins were rejected. F. L. Good won the contract for installing the 7 lampposts, wiring the

same, labor and materials, all for the bid of \$406.45.

At a commissioners meeting on April 3, 1917, the board found that F. L. Good had completed the project of installing the lampposts in compliance with the contract. The commissioners were: E. S. Deck, John C. Ren, and W. F. Badger.

Submitted by Janet Onken

From Commissioner's Records Book Y



New Museum Progresses



Historical Society Leases Vurpillat Building

Opera House Floral & Gifts will open in June in the storefront of the historic Vurpillat Opera House on the corner of Main and Market Streets.

Located in downtown Winamac, Opera House Floral & Gifts is an official FTD store with a licensed designer offering full-service bouquets, arrangements and gifts for all occasions.

Watch for details to come via Facebook and local media.

As we enter the summer months, progress on the new museum is steady.

While you cannot see many changes from the outside, the inside is taking shape.

An accessible bathroom is being added, heating and cooling is going in, the

building has been insulated, and new windows have been installed.

In addition, the two large garage doors on the north side have been replaced by a wall and one entry door. The door facing the street has also been replaced.

Changes that will be visible to the community are soon to come. Some of the concrete planting beds will be removed to allow for more convenient egress and eventually a parking lot will be added on the north side.

Organization of Historical Society (1965)

A meeting to consider the organization of a Pulaski County Historical Society will be held next Monday evening at eight o'clock at the Winamac public library.

All interested citizens are invited to attend, and it is expected that each township and community of the county will be represented.

Hubert H. Hawkins, director of the Indiana Historical Bureau in Indianapolis, will meet with the group and discuss the purposes of a county

historical society. Nearly sixty of the state's ninety-two counties now have such organizations.

Arrangements for the meeting are being made by Mrs. Mary Powers, county home agent, and Mrs. Sarah Baker, librarian here.

We hope this tickles your interest. Please visit our website to learn more!

www.pulaskihistory.net; follow the link to "Beginnings Of Historical Society."

This museum, as many have noted, will not provide more space for our historical artifacts. In fact, the display space will be smaller. However, with three floors, there will be storage area, allowing for exhibits to be rotated for more appropriate display.

Most importantly, this space will provide climate control for our artifacts, allowing us to preserve and protect them into the future.

Watch us grow!

Campaign Crossroads

The latest release from the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) Press looks back over the varied, sometimes important, sometimes irrelevant, but always interesting presidential campaign cycles in the state's history. *Campaign Crossroads: Presidential Politics in Indiana from Lincoln to Obama* by Andrew E. Stoner shares hundreds of anecdotes from 1860 through 2008 and includes references to Marshall, Pulaski and Starke Counties. For more information, visit www.indianahistory.org.

Medaryville 1894

The town of Medaryville is situated near the north line of White Post township and is a flourishing town of about 600 inhabitants. It was surveyed and platted February 25, 1853. Josiah Walden and Wm. O. Clark being the owners of the land – the portion on the east side of the railroad track belonged to Walden and that on the west to Clark.

The name of Medaryville was suggested by Carter D. Hathaway, a surveyor, who, being an ardent admirer of Jos. Medary, whilom Governor of Ohio, suggested the name to the proprietors, to which they assented.

The first house built on the ground on which the town of Medaryville now stands, was built by Josiah Walden, about the year 1842. The second was built by Joseph B. Schultz in the spring of 1853 and was situated on the site that is now occupied by Augustus Evert's hotel. The first hotel in Medaryville was built in 1855 by John S. Sloan. The third house was built in the summer of 1853, by Silas Phillips. Wm. S. Peters kept boarders there during the time when the L.N.A.A.C.

railroad was in process of construction.

The first store building in the town was erected by Moses Cherry about the year 1856. Cherry kept the railroad office and was the first postmaster in the town. The second store building was erected in the year 1859 by Enoch Brewer. The steam grist mill in Medaryville was erected in 1876 and completed in the spring of 1877. The present owners are E. W. Horner, F. S. Horner, J. M. Farnsley and E. A. Elston.

The first schoolhouse in Medaryville was a log house and was built in 1858 by John Schultz. The first teacher in this house was Joseph Frederick who has taught school in this town for eighteen years and is now proprietor of one of the leading mercantile houses in this place. The present schoolhouse was erected four years ago and is a two-story brick of large dimensions and is a credit to the town.

There are four different church denominations in the town of Medaryville: The Methodist Episcopal Church Society, organized in 1853 by Rev. Thomas C.

Workman, who was its first pastor; the Christian Church Society, organized in the year 1856 by Elder L. N. Shortridge; the Catholic church was built in the fall of 1868; the Evangelical German Lutheran Church Society was organized in 1876. All these different societies at present own their places of worship and are in flourishing condition.

Once before, in 1874, a newspaper was started in Medaryville, the name which was *The Pulaski Guard*. It died a natural death.

There is more business done in Medaryville than in any town of its size that we are acquainted with and the prospects for its future prosperity are very bright. Let the businessmen, let every citizen put their shoulder to the wheel with a fixed purpose and get it rolling and the citizens of this town will reap a harvest whose richness will not alone astonish themselves, but their neighbors likewise.

Submitted by Janet Onken

Abstracted from The Advertiser published by John P. Honeycutt, Medaryville, IN

Medaryville sits at the irregular intersection of two major landforms. The northern edge of what was called the Grand Prairie lies just south of the town, and the huge swampy outwash plains of the Greater Kankakee River basin are to the north and west. Just west of town once existed a vast "Impassable Swamp" which was known to the earliest European explorers of the continent.

It was drained as part of projects of the Swamp Land Act of 1850, which resulted in the disappearance of virtually all of the once-imposing swamps. Most of that land resides in adjacent Jasper County, where a Swamplands scandal in the early 1860s resulted in a county official, who was accused of embezzlement, burning down the local courthouse to cover his tracks before skipping town.

Before the areas were drained, the temperate swamps supported a nearly unimaginable variety of flora and fauna. Pioneer accounts relate an abundance of game of every type, and many local residents made their living by hunting and trapping in the early settlement days.

(Wikipedia, May 2017)

Pulaski County Historical Society

PO Box 135
Winamac IN 46996
info@pulaskihistory.net
www.pulaskihistory.net
www.Facebook.com/
PulaskiHistory

Membership

Please visit our website for up-to-date information.

Officers March 2017-2018

- President: Ryan Harrison
- Vice President: Steve Morrison
- Secretary: Janet Onken
- Treasurer: Lin Morrison
- Curator: Natalie Federer
- Past President: Kathi Thompson

Bluegrass Jam June 16

Join us for another exciting evening of Country, Gospel and Bluegrass music, presented in a Jam format on Friday, June 16, at 7:00, EST.

This Jam will be held at the Winamac VFW on South US 35.

All musicians are welcome (acoustic instruments only, please).

Feel free to bring a covered dish to share.

The VFW will run a 50/50 drawing.

COUNTRY MUSIC & Gospel Bluegrass JAM

Friday, June 16
7:00 - 10:00 EST
VFW, Winamac
1066 South US 35
Community Room

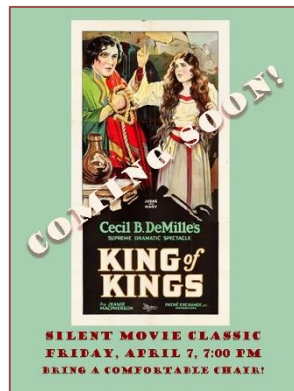
Dance Floor
Coffee, & Water
Other Drinks Thru VFW
Alliance Bank POPCORN!
Bring A Dish To Share
50/50 Drawing by VFW

All Musicians Welcome!
(Acoustic Instruments Only, Please)
Feel free to bring a covered dish to share.
We will have tables and chairs for you.

Free will offering for Pulaski County Historical Society.

PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserving history for a better future.

You May Have Missed...



Opera House Space Still Available

For information about a long-term lease of the North Store Front of the Vurpillat Opera House or to purchase the building, contact Ryan Harrison at 574.870.0338.

In the meantime, for certain situations the space may be available for short-term (day to week) rental. Contact Kathi Thompson at 574.270.0128.

Pulaski County Historical Society

PO Box 135

Winamac IN 46996