

PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving history for a better future.

NEW MUSEUM UPDATE

Our Curator, Dr. Natalie Daily Federer, continues to work on moving items from the old museum to the new. She is setting up her first rotating display and moving other items into storage.

By the time you read this newsletter, you will probably notice a parking lot and other outside changes.

We will host an open house just before, or just as, we open.

We hesitate to give a date "just in case." Keep an eye out for announcements!



INDIANA LANDMARKS TREASURE HUNT

INDIANAPOLIS: SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Indiana Landmarks Center & Morris-Butler House

Indiana Landmarks and the Old Northside sponsor Treasure Hunt, an antiques market indoors and outside at Indiana Landmarks Center (1201 Central Avenue) and on the lawn at adjacent Morris-Butler House (1204 North Park Street), with more than 40 yard sales in the surrounding historic district.

SOUTH BEND: SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM 801 West Washington Street, South Bend

Hunt for antiques, collectibles, architectural salvage and art from vendors set up on lots at West Washington Street and LaPorte Avenue, with booths inside and outside Indiana Landmarks' Kizer House. You'll also find yard sales, live music, food vendors, and family friendly activities throughout the historic West Washington Street neighborhood.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to the grant received from the Indiana Historical Society and the ongoing contributions from the Galbreath family for the museum itself (Don and Dee and others), the following organizations have contributed to museum supplies:

- BraunAbility
- Carroll White REMC
- Fulton County REMC
- Kankakee Valley REMC

These supplies are necessary to ensure longevity of display items.

We are eternally grateful!

PULASKIONLINE ON CASIMIR PULASKI

Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, for whom our county was named, was born in the province of Podolia, Poland, of aristocratic parents on 6 March 1745. Often referred to as 'Count Pulaski', he never actually carried this title or referred to himself in such a manner; however, in a letter (mentioned below), Benjamin Franklin stylized Pulaski as such.

While he was a young man, his native land was overrun by Russian troops during the reign of Catherine the Great. During extended fighting against the invaders, his father and a brother were killed, another brother was banished to Siberia, the family home was burned, and his mother and sister were forced to flee for their safety.



At 27, Pulaski was a hero as a leader of forces seeking to wrest Poland from Russia, but his honor was short-lived. Falsely accused of an attempt on the life of the king, he secretly disbanded his troops and fled his country to France, where he briefly spent time in a debtors' prison.

Through Benjamin Franklin, then a minister to France, Pulaski was granted permission to go to America. Franklin advised General Washington that Pulaski was famed for his "bravery in defense of the liberty of his country" and that he "may be highly useful to our service." He arrived in Boston in July 1777.

Read more at the source: <http://pulaskionline.org/pulaski-a-man-with-a-history/>

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM PULASKI COUNTY IF...

...you pronounce it correctly!

The truth is that we're not 100-percent positive as to why we pronounce the name of our home 'pə-las-sky', when the Polish name is pronounced 'pə-las-kee'. It's been that way for longer than anyone can remember. *However*, we know enough to make an educated guess.

In the late 1830s, between the 1835 legislative act approving the establishment of Pulaski County and the official organization in 1839, George Terry moved to the Winamac area from nearby Cass County. Mr. Terry had come to Indiana from Upstate New York. His father, Charles, lost his life due to wounds suffered during the War-of-1812 Battle of Sodus Point, fought near Fishville, New York, which was renamed 'Pulaski' – pronounced with a long 'i', rather than a long 'e' – upon incorporation in 1832.

Our best guess is that Mr. Terry carried the mispronunciation from New York to Indiana, and the opportunities for long-distance spoken communication being non-existent, locals had no way of knowing that the final syllable should have sounded like a long 'e'.

<http://pulaskionline.org/name/>

PULASKI COUNTY HISTORY

The land that now forms Pulaski County was ceded by the Potawatomi Indians to the United States on 26 October 1832, in a treaty signed in Rochester in neighboring Fulton County. It was another 10 years before the Native Americans relocated, but before the ink had dried on the treaty, white trappers, hunters, and squatters moved into the territory from settlements along the Wabash River.

In February 1835, the state legislature approved an 18-by-24-mile area (labeled on maps as "Indian Lands") to be known as Pulaski County, in honor of General Casimir Pulaski. Four years passed before the county was populated enough to formally organize on 6 May 1839, when a group of five men, from White, Carroll, and Cass counties, met at settler John Pearson's log cabin and designated 'Winnemac', which had already been laid out, as the county seat, making Pulaski County the 87th of Indiana's 92 counties.

John Pearson, known as the founding father of Pulaski County, was a community leader and also Winamac's first entrepreneur. He owned the general store, tavern, and sawmill in addition to his elected duties – he was also Clerk, Recorder, and Auditor. Pearson held those offices until 1853, when he severed relations with Pulaski County and moved to California, where he died one year later.

By the early 1860s, towns had been platted and were growing, the county was dotted with churches and schools, and a variety of businesses – from mills to retail stores – were opened to provide people of town and farm with their needs. New railroads had taken the county out of its isolation. Four of the settlements later became incorporated towns: Francesville, Medaryville, Monterey, and Winamac.

Today, Pulaski County is northern Indiana's most rural and sparsely populated county. The population today – slightly over 13,000 – numbers almost exactly what it did 100 years ago.

<http://pulaskionline.org/pulaski-county-an-indiana-legacy/>

CHIEF(S) WINAMAC

by County Historian Karen Fritz

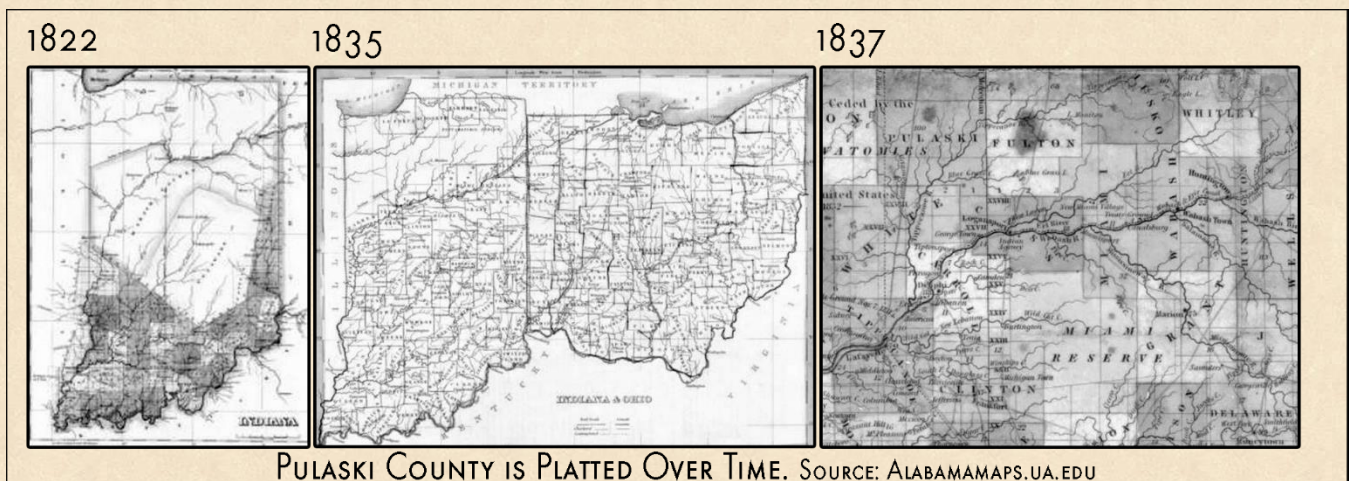
Local history credits a founding resident John Pearson for naming Pulaski County's seat of government "Winamac" after the Potawatomi Chief of the same name.

Trouble is, which one?

Research completed by former county historian Dick Dodd reveals there were at least two Chiefs Winamac (very likely more). One chief was mostly friendly, and the other hostile, to the new European/American settlers in early 1800s Northwest Territory. One or both played roles in the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe and the 1812 Battle of Fort Dearborn (now Chicago).

The immigrant unfriendly Chief Winamac died at Fort Wayne in late 1812. The other chief died in 1821 near Chicago - both many years before their namesake town of Winamac was established in 1839.

Also see the 2007 book, *Notable American Indians - Indiana & Adjacent States* by Alan J. McPherson and James Carr, available at the Pulaski County Public Library.



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

Officers 2017-2018

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

PULASKI COUNTY CURIOSITY

EARLY LANDMARKS

In the early years of Pulaski County, a road supposedly went from Winamac near Mulvaney's Lane, westward via Chamberlain's bridge, through Owl Village and Huff's slough, over the Metamonong, and eventually to Medaryville.


Where was Owl Village?

If you know, send a private message to us through our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/pulaskihistory. We really don't know the answer and hope that someone else will!!

Ask The Historian!

Pulaski County Historian Karen Fritz
Pulaski County Public Library
(Winamac)

2nd Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00



Ask The Genealogist!

Pulaski County Genealogist Janet Onken
Pulaski County Public Library
(Winamac)

every Monday 4:00 - 6:00



Pulaski County Historical Society
PO Box 135
Winamac IN 46996