



PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVING HISTORY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

FOUNDED OCTOBER 26, 1965, WITH 137 CHARTER MEMBERS.

A POEM BY WILLARD C. MYERS

*Written January 1, 1971; Published in the
Francesville Tribune July 13, 1972*

Stanzas 1 - 4

These verses were all written
By a certain fellow who -
Should not be writing poetry
Like other people do.

I haven't got the talent,
When you read this you'll agree
That I should throw away my pencil
And you'll probably pity me.

But, anyway, it's on my chest
And I'd like to say this way
That I remember Francesville
Twelve hundred miles away.

Two years ago, when I last saw
That old home town of mine,
The things that are to follow
Started running through my mind.

*Willard C. Myers is connected to the town of
Francesville through birth and remaining family. The
additional 117 stanzas will be featured in
newsletters to come. You will probably recognize
many of the people and places that will be
mentioned.*

UPDATE ON THE COURTHOUSE

From the Indiana Landmarks website:
"It's hard to look at the stately
Romanesque Revival-style Pulaski
County Courthouse in Winamac and
imagine a parking



lot in its place.... It's no secret that the 1895 courthouse needs some work. Officials grapple with solutions to space constraints, accessibility, security concerns, and the normal responsibilities that come with maintaining a large historic building." Thus, in late 2018, County officials proposed to demolish the Courthouse and construct office space elsewhere.

Indiana Landmarks is nearly single-handedly responsible for giving a second chance to this revered building. They funded architectural services, placed the Courthouse on their Ten Most Endangered List, and continued to offer assistance until a plan was formulated.

Currently, County officials are working with architects to make sure this structure continues to grace the town square.

SAVING PLACES THAT ENRICH LIVES

Support Indiana Landmarks by becoming a member. In addition to giving support for this local project, the Courthouse, Indiana Landmarks provides a wealth of information about and support for vintage homes and factories, churches, barns and bridges. Join to learn about and help save the historic places that make our communities more beautiful, more interesting, singular and special. <https://www.indianalandmarks.org/join-give/>.

MOORESBURG M.E. CHURCH

The Mooresburg Methodist Episcopal Church stood in the Northwest corner of 300 S & 465 E in Harrison township, Pulaski County, IN. Following are two news items.

Democrat-Journal July 22, 1904 Harrison Township Column

The dedication of Mooresburg M. E. Church called forth a large crowd for both day and evening sessions. Though the day was extremely warm, people from Winamac, Star City, Kewanna and neighboring [country] were present. It is a beautiful little church, built with all modern improvements, and stands as a monument, representing the hard labor of the people of that place. Many of the former pastors were here to assist in its dedication. They have services in the new church Sunday and on that date, July 24, fourteen new members will receive first communion.

Winamac Republican 24 Oct 1940

Mooresburg Church Landmark to be Sold—The trustees of the Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist church offer for sale the following properties of the Mooresburg church: the lot; the building; one No. 50 Holland furnace, complete with pipes and registers; one Hobart-Cable piano; one "D" tone bell; one secretary desk; one mission type pulpit; twenty pews; rubber runners, 75 ft.; one 6X9 rug; one 9X9 rug; 7X12 curtains; table, chairs, clock, gasoline lighting system and other miscellaneous items.

PULASKI HIGH SCHOOL MOVES TO NEW HOME



This article is about Pulaski School when it first opened. This photo is the school several years after abandonment.

others. J. P. Gilsinger's farewell at the old school rooms Monday night was a decided success. Between forty and fifty members of the high school and alumni were present. The Tuesday evening program included a dedication address by Supt. Wilkenson of the Logansport schools and musical numbers by the school's glee club. The farm bureau took charge of Wednesday's entertainment. An oyster supper and basketball game are to be the features for this (Thursday) evening, the former to be put on by the parent-teacher association. The program is to end with an indoor carnival and box social as a grand finale on Saturday night.

Pulaski County Democrat 09 Feb 1922

The entire equipment of the Pulaski high school and grades has been moved into the building just completed, and the teachers and pupils are now enjoying the advantages offered by their new quarters, which are conceded to be among the best in the state.

Not only the school but the entire community is put in position to appreciate the added facilities as evidenced by the general attendance at the several features of this week's dedication program, which is being carried out in the new building. A full week has been planned by Trustee Kestle, the faculty and



Pulaski School Restored 2010

WOCKNITZ-BETHLEHEM CEMETERY



This small country cemetery is located at the intersection of county road 450 North on 1350 West in Cass Township, Pulaski County, Indiana.

In the 1860's, the area northeast of Medaryville was populated with many families from northern Germany and Prussia. Although the St. John Lutheran church was located in this area, a group of men with a slightly different doctrine met at the house of Wilhelm Wocknitz. The purpose of the meeting was to elect trustees and align themselves with the Evangelical Association of North America.

In 1868, Wilhelm Wocknitz donated 2 acres for the use of a church and a burial ground for this new congregation. Heinrich Wocknitz, an infant who died in 1865, is the first known burial in this cemetery. There are possibly other burials here prior to the 1868 deed.

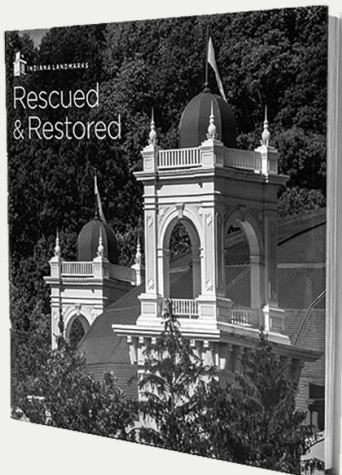
By 1877, this group is known as the Bethlehem Congregation of the Evangelical Church. Still later; they associate themselves with the Methodist church. Several obituaries in the 1890's indicate burials at the German Methodist cemetery in Cass township, otherwise known as the Wocknitz cemetery.

The group discontinued services at the church in the mid 1930's and the buildings were dismantled. In 1937, the trustees of the Bethlehem Church Congregation turned the possession of the cemetery over to the Bethlehem Cemetery Association.

About 30 years later, in 1966, the Bethlehem Cemetery Association discontinued their organization and turned the care and maintenance of the Wocknitz-Bethlehem cemetery over to the Cass township trustee.



Tombstone of Wilhelm Wocknitz, who gave the land for the cemetery.



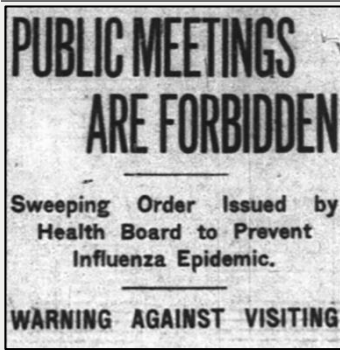
INDIANA LANDMARKS, RESCUED & RESTORED

This beautiful coffee table book offers dramatic before-and-after photographs that show the remarkable turnaround of endangered places as diverse as the oldest house in Wabash, small and quirky, to Bush Stadium in Indianapolis, reinvented as apartments. More than 50 landmarks across the state have been included. Snatched from the wrecking ball or lifted from decades of neglect and restored to new uses.

Included in the book is Vurpillat's Opera House in downtown Winamac.

Purchase the book at <https://www.indianalandmarks.org/about/rescued-and-restored/>.

PANDEMICS: 100 YEARS LATER, HERE WE GO AGAIN



INDIANA'S EXPERIENCE WITH SPANISH FLU

By Karen Clem Fritz, Pulaski County Historian

Many Hoosiers chafed at the restrictions enacted during the pandemic.

Churches, schools and theaters closed. Only close family were allowed to attend funerals. Public meetings and events were forbidden. And finally (gasp!), face masks were required.

Sound familiar? 2020? No, this was Indiana in the autumn of 1918 during the Spanish Influenza pandemic. The virus swept the globe in two waves for the better part of two years - with a significant impact on the Great War in Europe.

Young people in their 20s and 30s were especially vulnerable to this flu, many of whom died within hours of showing first symptoms.

Indiana was caught up in the second wave of the flu in September 1918. A month earlier, the U.S. War Department announced that most of Fort Benjamin Harrison in

Indianapolis would be converted to a hospital facility to receive soldiers returning from the European war front who were wounded, disabled or suffering from "shell shock." But even more tragically, medical workers soon discovered the soldiers were carrying the Spanish Flu virus - more deadly in this second wave due to a mutation of the virus.

At first, officials attempted to deny the seriousness of the situation, but the high number of cases quickly became alarming - and began to spread into the community. First advice to the public was to cover coughs and sneezes (and in those days to STOP spitting!). But as the weeks went by and the virus spread statewide, "social distancing" measures such as closures of churches schools and public events were ordered. There were instances of complaints and rebellions. In one case, a South Bend priest was arrested when he refused to call off Sunday mass for his flock.

However, following three worrisome months, the strong leadership from Indiana's state board of health and other state officials, plus citizen cooperation,



INFLUENZA

How to Avoid It—How to Care for Those Who Have It

The following suggestions of the Indiana State Board of Health may prove of immeasurable value to any man or woman who will read, remember and act upon them in the present great emergency. The counsel here set forth has been prepared after consultation with some of the ablest medical men in America. If you will follow this official bulletin, you will be doing your duty to your fellow man and to yourself.

What To Do Until the Doctor Comes

<p>To Householders</p> <p>Keep out of the sick room unless attendance is necessary.</p> <p>Do not handle articles coming from the sick room until they are boiled.</p> <p>Allow no visitors, and do not go visiting.</p> <p>Call a doctor for all inmates who show signs of beginning sickness.</p> <p>The usual symptoms are: Inflamed and watery eyes, discharging nose, headache, headache, muscular pain, and fever.</p> <p>Keep away from crowded places, such as "movies," theatres, street cars.</p> <p>See to it that your children are kept warm and dry, both night and day.</p> <p>Have sufficient fire in your home to disperse the dampness.</p> <p>Open your windows at night. If cool weather prevails, add extra bed clothing.</p>	<p>To Workers</p> <p>Walk to work if possible.</p> <p>Avoid the person who coughs or sneezes.</p> <p>Wash your hands before eating.</p> <p>Make full use of all available sunshine.</p> <p>Do not use a common towel. It spreads disease.</p> <p>Should you cough or sneeze, cover nose and mouth with a handkerchief.</p> <p>Keep out of crowded places. Walk in the open air rather than go to crowded places of amusement.</p> <p>Sleep is necessary for well-being—avoid over-exertion. Eat good, clean food.</p> <p>Keep away from houses where there are cases of influenza.</p> <p>If sick, no matter how slightly, see a physician.</p> <p>If you have had influenza, stay in bed until your doctor says you can safely get up.</p>	<p>To Nurses</p> <p>Keep clean. Isolate your patients.</p> <p>When in attendance upon patients, wear a mask which will cover both the nose and the mouth. When the mask is once in place, do not handle it.</p> <p>Change the mask every two hours. Owing to the scarcity of gauze, boil for ½ hour and rinse, then use the gauze again.</p> <p>Wash your hands each time you come in contact with the patient. Use bichloride of mercury, 1-1000, or Liqueur Cresol compound, 1-100, for hand disinfection.</p> <p>Obtain at least seven hours' sleep in each twenty-four hours. Eat plenty of good, clean food.</p> <p>Walk in the fresh air daily.</p> <p>Sleep with your windows open.</p> <p>Insist that the patient cough, sneeze or expectorate into cloths that may be disinfected or burned.</p> <p>Boil all dishes.</p> <p>Keep patients warm.</p>
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Pocket size folders, reproducing the suggestions embodied in this announcement, may be obtained without charge, for distribution anywhere in **INDIANA**, upon application to the

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

3,266 Deaths From Flu in State in October; 3,020 Made Orphans

worked successfully to implement community mitigation measures against the flu. Their efforts kept the state’s death rate per 100,000 persons among the lowest in the nation.

About 500 million people – one-third of the world’s population – became infected with the flu virus during 1918-1919. An estimated 50 million people worldwide died, including 675,000 in the U.S. Before the Indiana influenza pandemic was over, more than 150,000 Indiana residents were infected with the flu between Sept. 8, 1918, and March 15, 1919. Statewide, 14,120 Hoosiers died

One last note: The Spanish Flu did not originate in Spain, but its worldwide spread was widely reported in Spanish newspapers which were not censored during the war, as Spain was a neutral country. In the Allied and Central Powers, newspapers weren’t allowed to report on anything that could hamper the war effort, including news that a crippling virus was sweeping through the troops. Modern historians and epidemiologists now believe the virus originated in a crowded army camp at Fort Riley Kansas.

Sources include: Indiana History Blog, Indiana Historical Bureau of the Indiana State Library, Influenza Encyclopedia: The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919 produced by University of Michigan; The Indiana Influenza Pandemic of 1918, from Yesterday’s America; KPCNEWS.com; History.com.

Meanwhile:
Dr. R. P. Hackley, who came to Medaryville in 1900, was reported to have spent round-the-clock visitation with flu patients, cat-napping in his buggy while his driver took him to the next patient.

PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM REOPENING JULY 11

The Historical Society had decided to close for a month or so to reset the displays. Well... we were closed most of March, all of April and all of June. We will be reopening July 11. So, as things go, we’re almost on schedule. There has to be something positive in that statement.

EXHIBITS OPENING

We will continue to have photographs from Tom Jones, and we’re adding more photos. The exhibit will feature Pulaski County Historic Landmarks, or those buildings and places which have achieved that status.

The Star City exhibit will be rotated out. That space will house memorabilia from Winamac.

AS OF JULY 11

THE MUSEUM IS OPEN!

Saturdays 12:00 – 4:00 EST

500 South Monticello

Winamac, Indiana

The Carriage House



The WWI exhibit will rotate out, and we will be featuring items that will help us celebrate the 55th Anniversary of the Pulaski County Historical Society.

Unclear at this point is the mastodon exhibit. It may be rotated out as well. The Native American display will probably remain. It has been difficult to plan, work and maintain social distancing at the same time.

VOLUNTEER DOCENT TRAINING IS ON HOLD FOR NOW

PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

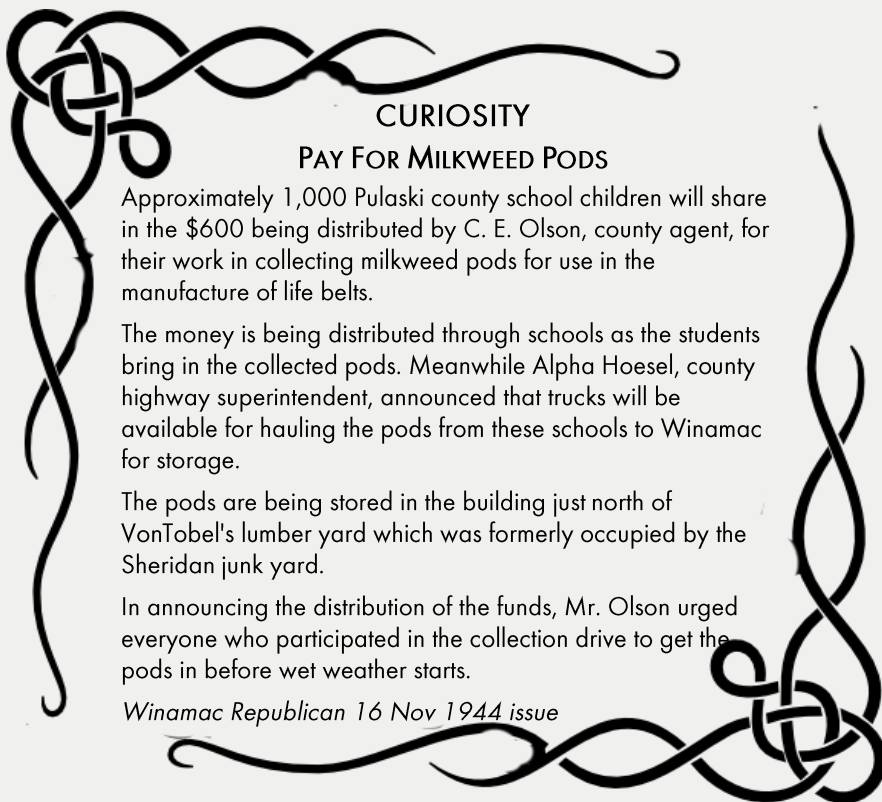
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info@pulaskihistory.net
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www.Facebook.com/PulaskiHistory

Officers

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

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Ryan Crawford, Mike Shurn
Term Ending 2022: VACANCY,
Sara Kroft, Jolie Simmermaker
Term Ending 2023: Mary Conner,
Becky Dilts, Steve Morrison
Ex-Officio: Karen Fritz, County
Historian; Kathi Thompson, Past
President; Janet Onken, County
Genealogist



CURIOSITY

PAY FOR MILKWEED PODS

Approximately 1,000 Pulaski county school children will share in the \$600 being distributed by C. E. Olson, county agent, for their work in collecting milkweed pods for use in the manufacture of life belts.


The money is being distributed through schools as the students bring in the collected pods. Meanwhile Alpha Hoesel, county highway superintendent, announced that trucks will be available for hauling the pods from these schools to Winamac for storage.

The pods are being stored in the building just north of VonTobel's lumber yard which was formerly occupied by the Sheridan junk yard.


In announcing the distribution of the funds, Mr. Olson urged everyone who participated in the collection drive to get the pods in before wet weather starts.

Winamac Republican 16 Nov 1944 issue

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



MEMBERSHIP

- \$30 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$80 Sustaining

2019 was a great year for us. 2020 has gotten off to a slow start. The Historical Society Museum is open, and we continue to seek new volunteers. Become a member and see how you can become involved.

Membership information can be found on the website: www.pulaskihistory.net.

Pulaski County Historical Society
PO Box 135
Winamac IN 46996