



# PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving history for a better future.

## ANNUAL PROGRAM



Dan McCain, a founding member of the Wabash & Erie Canal Association, will present the program at the Annual Program & Meeting.

The Wabash & Erie Canal Association restores and promotes the Wabash & Erie Canal by providing educational experiences that teach history and inspire others to become involved. Those who visit the Canal can:



- Experience a 35-minute floating trip on The Delphi, a replica 19<sup>th</sup> century canal boat. Tour guides share adventures and stories of everyday life as it was 150 years ago on the Wabash & Erie Canal.
- Walk or bike trails and roads that were once the towpath used by mules and horses pulling canal boats.
- View several National Historical Register sites along the way, including the Canal Construction Camp site, Lock #33, the lockkeeper's home site, and the 1857 Harley and Hubbard Lime Kiln.

Come to our program and meet one of the men involved in the founding of this unique open-air museum.

## COFFEE, DESSERTS & A SPECIAL TREAT

In addition to the program presented by Mr. McCain, we are in a unique position to preview the interior and exterior of the new museum before we begin moving exhibits from the current building.

We hope to have special guests from the Indiana Historical Society, who provided a Heritage Project Grant for the renovations. With those funds and generous donations from Don & Dee Galbreath, we have a facility that will provide a climate controlled home for historical objects.

### Where? New Site

**Thursday, March 8**  
 6:30 Elect Officers  
 7:30 Hear Plans For New Museum

**6:00 Coffee & Tour**  
 6:45 Program

**500 South Monticello, Winamac**

(The proposed slate of officers and directors is on page 3.)





## WRITING HER STORY

**JANET JOSEPHINE GORRELL MEYER**

*December 20, 1918 to August 19, 1995*

Journalist and naturalist Janet Gorrell Meyer was born and raised in Winamac, and was endeared to her hometown community with a lifetime dedication to her family's weekly newspaper and an abundant appreciation of local nature.

She is perhaps best remembered for her 30-year association with the Pulaski County Democrat (renamed Journal in 1956) from 1940 to 1970. She graduated from Winamac High School in 1936 and joined the newspaper after graduating from Indiana University. The newspaper was owned for three generations by the Gorrell family. In addition to her editing work, she wrote a weekly column of personal views known as "The Old Man's daughter," a companion piece to her father's "The Old Man at the Desk."



Later in life, she and husband, Verlin "Itch" Meyer, together with friends Orville and Wyoma Berns, acquired a 20-acre tract of virgin woods southwest of Winamac. For years they conducted nature walks, sharing with others their knowledge of the local woodlands. Regular tours were also conducted for pupils of the county elementary schools. The acreage was later donated to the state and is now the property of the Indiana Nature Conservancy. It is officially named the Berns-Meyer Nature Preserve.

For 19 years Mrs. Meyer served as editor of the Arrow Head Country RC&D Nature Newsletter. For her conservation work, the Indiana Wildlife Federation named her Educator Conservationist of the Year in 1986. The Hoosier Soil Conservation Society also gave her an award in 1972. Located just north of their Nature Preserve, near their residence along the Tippecanoe River, was once the Meyer Daffodil Woods. Mr. Meyer planted the daffodil bulbs by the bushels in the early 1960s. Thousands of daffodil varieties bloomed every spring, and visitors were welcomed to come and enjoy the beautiful flowers, either by car or on foot.

Mrs. Meyer had a long association with the Pulaski County Historical Society, and with her husband, was instrumental in establishing the county history museum. She served several terms as trustee of Pulaski Memorial Hospital. She was a director of the PMH foundation, and served as an advisory board member of the Logansport State Hospital, having been appointed by the governor.

She was a long-time member of the Iris-Elm Garden Club (founded by her mother), and was also an active member of the Indian Creek Wheat Weavers. For more than 15 years she was Pulaski county's official weather observer, succeeding her father who had served for nearly 25 years. She also served on the Girl Scout Council, was a tutor for Literacy Volunteers of America and helped various charities including United Way, American Red Cross, and March of Dimes.

Mrs. Meyer was also ordained a ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church in 1960 and was the first elder, as well as the first woman, to be elected as Moderator of Wabash Valley Presbytery. She served in numerous capacities at the Winamac church, as well as at presbytery and synod levels. She was trained and qualified as a lay preacher. In 1988, Janet Meyer was presented the H. J. Halleck Community Service award by the Winamac (now Pulaski County) Chamber of Commerce.



*Written by Karen Clem Fritz for the Indiana Commission for Women's "Writing Her Story" project.*

## WHY SAVE HISTORIC PROPERTIES?

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Article from Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website 02/02/2018: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3742.htm>

Most Hoosiers recognize the need to maintain our grandest public landmarks, but there is also growing appreciation for the value of the vernacular and the more humble and ephemeral places of everyday life. There is now a meaningful interest in preserving the imprint of human activity on the landscape in all its different forms. As Hoosiers participate in these efforts in growing numbers, they recognize that looking to the future involves looking back to the history and values that are the foundation of our heritage.

Cultural resources are the vestiges of an extremely diverse heritage of human occupation, such as buildings, structures, sites, objects, and landscape features. They are reminders of and physical connections to our common past, and they tell us about who we are as Hoosiers. Most people recognize county courthouses, mansions, and Native American mounds as culturally significant, but there are so many more resources that together tell the story of Indiana.

It would be impossible to list all our state's cultural resources, so they are often considered by groups or categories. Resource types tell a lot about specific periods in history – like early statehood or the Civil War era, or about specific themes – like industrial technology or transportation. Some of the better-known resource types include Native American village sites, one-room schoolhouses, covered bridges, Carnegie Libraries, historic downtowns, and railroad depots. Less recognized resource types include small archaeological sites dating back thousands of years, neighborhoods of workers' cottages, African-American settlements, cemeteries, farmsteads and barns, formally designed parks and boulevards, Art Deco movie theaters, and many others.

Cultural resource management requires consideration of the wide-ranging needs of all types of sites and structures, both above and below ground. This includes identifying resource types and individual resources, recognizing threats to resources, working with constituent groups and property owners, engaging in public education initiatives, developing programs to meet preservation needs, and working together as partners to protect and preserve our heritage.

Preservation is more than saving single sites or buildings; preservation maintains features of our environment and communities that contribute to our overall quality of life. Although part of a larger American history, Indiana has its own unique heritage of early peoples, settlement, development, and culture.

If preserving a sense of place sounds too philosophical, there is the demonstrated tangible effect of preservation to consider. Preservation is a significant economic tool in the revitalization of blighted neighborhoods and declining commercial downtowns. Stabilizing properties in neighborhoods and business districts reduces vacancy, vandalism, and crime. Economic development through preservation slows urban sprawl, conserves prime agricultural land, promotes job creation, and increases the local tax base. In short, preservation also contributes to sustaining the economic lifeblood of our communities.

## ANNUAL MEETING

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### PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

#### Officers

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

#### Term Ending March 2019

Steve Morrison

#### Term Ending March 2021

Mike Shurn  
Louise Gudas  
Brian Capouch

#### Not Standing For Election:

2019: Ray Anne Absher, Jane Rausch

2020: Ryan Crawford Becky Dilts, Karen McClung

Ex-Officio: Karen Fritz (County Historian)



## PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

### Officers 2017-2018

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

## BLUEGRASS JAM

Unless there is an issue with core band members, we will host a Bluegrass Jam at the Eagles on the west side of Winamac every third Friday of the month. Coffee and water served.

The Eagles' Family Room is family friendly and smoke-free.

**Y'ALL COME!**



**3rd Friday of the Month**

**7:00 - 9:00 EST**

**Eagles, Winamac**

**50/50 Drawings!**

**All Musicians Welcome!**

**(Acoustic Instruments Only, Please)**

## 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