

# PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving history for a better future.

You are  
Invited

The *Historical Museum* will open to the public on

Saturday, December 1, 4:00 - 7:00, during Winter Wonderland

Come to the *Carriage House* at 500 South Monticello Street

Join us in an opportunity to support local youth!

Through contributions, we will sponsor youth registrations for sports activities at the  
Community Wellness Center of Winamac

*#givingtuesday*



## OPENING OF THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Moving is hard work. Most of us dread moving from one home to another. The very thought of packing and unpacking is tedious and trying. I moved from one home to another this past April and still can't find part of my clothing and jewelry! Moving can also be exciting, a new start, progression. A new adventure awaits!

The Pulaski County Historical Society (PCHS) has been on this moving journey for quite a while, and I am excited to say we are almost there! I want to personally invite you to explore our new location and exhibits.

### EXHIBITS

The museum will have intentional exhibits that change every three to six months. All exhibits will have educational information via visuals, signs and text. My hope is that you learn something or think of questions to ask. We will provide places and materials for you write down your story, thoughts and experiences as they relate to the exhibits. One exhibit – Pulaski County: The Story Of Us – will be permanent. Exhibits as we open will include:

- The History Of Racing In Pulaski County
- Remembering Medaryville
- Early History Of Photography
- Arrowheads And Other Archeological Finds

If you were used to seeing a particular exhibit at the old museum, it will not necessarily be on display in the new one, or it may be used in a different manner. We will use objects to tell stories about local history and the people who lived here. Many objects will remain in storage until we can use them for different exhibits.

Professional museums work in the same manner. They rotate objects, documents and photos so that they can be better preserved. Keeping objects out for long periods of time can cause them to crumble, fade or rot away.

### EXHIBIT SPONSORSHIP & DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM

We seek donations to sponsor upcoming exhibits. If, for example, you are passionate about railroad, agricultural or township history and you want to help support an exhibit of that type in the future, we can help you make that happen. If you want to make an object donation, understand that all donations must be approved and must include a monetary donation so we can purchase the supplies to care for and store the object.

### THANK YOU

A special "thank you" for those who have all helped make the move and the PCHS board. Important people I need to thank are Don and Dee Galbreath for their continual support and historical interest. Tammy Hunt, Billy Alger, Sierra Mughmaw and Jim Busch from Shadyhill Speedway, plus numerous racers who donated the use of racing items, photos, and memorabilia. From Medaryville, Sue Risner, the Lions, and the Town of Medaryville to help sort, move and provide us with a wealth of important Medaryville history. Kathi Thompson who has helped to manage a number of grants. Matt Fulmer and my sons, Kale and Tanner Federer, for helping me to move and set-up exhibits, build, haul and move large objects. My sons were excellent at providing their opinions on all exhibits.

*Submitted by Dr. Natalie Daily Federer, Curator*

## REMINISCENCES OF E. R. BROWN

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In proposing to write of sundry matters in the early history of Pulaski County, which it is hoped will be of some interest, if not very important, I may say, that I was born in the county August 9, 1845. This event, which is of perhaps little concern to others but of vital importance to myself and to this story, occurred on the farm now owned by my brother, S. G. Brown, quite near the spot where stands the house he lives in, half a mile above the village of Pulaski, on the opposite side of the Tippecanoe River.



My father had come there on horseback from Franklin County in the summer of 1838 and selected the land, then going on to LaPorte and "entered" it. In the spring of 1839 he and my mother, then recently married, in the hopefulness and courage of youth, and as a sort of bridal tour, came in a two-horse wagon, camping out at night, and established their home there, both remaining there until called to the home above. The small log house in which I was born they had erected with their own hands, continuing to camp out until they had done so, with Indians roaming everywhere around them.

I have distinct recollections of a favorite aunt; all aunts are not favorites with children, who later settled nearby and whose written records show, died in July 1849. I recall vividly many incidents connected with visits to her charming cabin home and with her visits to our home. The pathetic sight of my father and mother coming slowly across the fields on their way back from her house, my father some distance ahead, carrying the baby—now Dr. Brown of Knox, Ind.—my mother following some distance behind, crying bitterly, seems to be as fresh in my mind now as if it had occurred only a few years ago. It confirmed our worst fears that the one we all held in such high esteem had passed away.

The facts about my Aunt I have long regarded as being conclusive proof as to how far back my recollections extend with reference to other matters which I had the opportunity of knowing about. Taking then as a criterion, it may be said that my acquaintance with this goodly county and its worthy people dates back to a time only ten years or less after the first white settlers began to locate within its borders, and less than ten after the Indians had departed. Of course, nature was as busy then and worked as many magical changes in a given period as she does now, possibly more. Some changes had evidently been wrought by her in the growth of timber and vegetation, thus changing the general appearance of the country, as will be mentioned later. But from stern necessity, changes dependent upon human agencies came very slowly in that early day. Only a few settlers came each year, and if more had come, all had so little to start with and all found it so difficult to accumulate the means and facilities necessary to accomplish results, that, with obstacles and drawback serious and manifold, it seems amazing, judged by our present standards, that any progress could be made.

I am afraid it would be hard for any one to put the matter so that the average person of the present day can understand how little progress had been made towards clearing up and improving the country in this region even as late as 1850. It has been my lot to visit various new sections of the west and northwest in more recent years. I have spent more or less time in difficult localities where I found fewer people living in a township than were living in Indian Creek Township in my boyhood. But I have never been any place else, not even on the Indian reservations I have visited, which seem sometimes to be almost uninhabited, where so little had been done or such a scant start made in the way of providing creature comforts, not to say common conveniences and much less luxuries, as was the case up and down the Tippecanoe after I had become a good sized lad.

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100 YEARS LATER

# THE GREAT WAR - PULASKI COUNTY EXPERIENCE

By Karen Clem Fritz, Pulaski County Historian

When Pulaski County residents picked up their weekly issue of the *Pulaski County Democrat* on Thursday, April 5, 1917 it was to read the front-page banner headline "CONGRESS TODAY DECLARES STATE OF WAR WITH GERMANY."

The news was not a surprise. The Great War had been raging in Europe for three years, and although President Wilson, at the urging of the U.S. populace, had attempted a stance of neutrality, the policy had become untenable by the spring of 1917. Pulaski County residents had kept up with news of the war through the local weekly newspapers which in those days carried wire stories of national and international news. The U.S. joined the Allied Powers (Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania and Japan) in the conflict against the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire).

## PULASKI COUNTY DURING WORLD WAR I

The Winamac streets during the Great War era were filled with popcorn vendors, numerous groceries, meat markets and dry goods stores with an ethnic mix of shopkeepers (many speaking English as a second language), a magnificent hotel, the offices of doctors, dentists, photographers, and lawyers on the second floors of the downtown buildings, summer band concerts, and freight and passenger trains that arrived and departed several times a day. The courthouse had a hitching rail that ran along the south end of the block for the horse-drawn wagons and carriages that still passed along the newly bricked streets. Much the same was true in Francesville, Medaryville and Monterey.

When the U.S. joined the war, Pulaski County geared up for action along with the rest of the nation. Within three weeks, a Red Cross chapter was organized in Winamac. Two months later membership numbered 1,110. In mid-May a local headline read that Liberty Loan Bonds "as small as \$50 each" would be sold nationally to help fund the war. A couple of weeks later, a story read that county banks had purchased \$60,000 worth of bonds to sell.

In May, Indiana Gov. James Goodrich appointed a three-member Pulaski County draft board, consisting of State Sen. J. G. Reidelbach, Clerk J. F. Ale and Sheriff N. V. Zellers. On June 5, young men ages 21-31 (born in 1886 through 1896) were required to register for the army draft. Over 975 county men registered that day. (The county population at the time was around 12,300.) On Aug. 2, 2017, the *Democrat* published the first draft call, listing the names of 182 county men called to serve in the Army. These draft calls continued in the following weeks and months. By mid-August, it was reported that rulings on exemptions from the draft were taking much of the time of the county conscription board. It was noted that "as to married men, almost every exemption asked has been granted."

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### REMINISCENCES, Continued

I have long cherished and still cherish a very high regard for our sturdy pioneers. They fought a long fierce battle against obstinate, persistent foes, visible and invisible. It was in no sense their fault that victory was so slow in perching upon their banners or that so many died before victory came. Much of their trouble arose from the time in which they lived and much from natural conditions in the region where they had chosen to try their fortunes.

Reminiscences of Edmund R. Brown, Civil War Veteran, 9 Aug 1845 - 15 Mar 1930

Published in the *Pulaski County Democrat* Winamac, Ind. 09 Feb 1922.

Submitted by Janet Onken, Pulaski County Genealogist

*100 Years Later, Continued*

In early September, Pulaski County sent its first men for training in Louisville to become members of the new "National Army." By early October the local newspaper reported the first "news from boys in Uncle Sam's Service" had been received by their families back home - most all reporting they were "Somewhere in France" - the typical dateline allowed by military censors for security purposes. One was from William McKinley of Winamac who reported he was an ammunition truck driver. Also at this time, the first deaths of Pulaski County soldiers were reported, both of pneumonia, stateside while awaiting deployment to France.

In a different line of service, Carl Dennewitz, a 1906 graduate of Star City High School, was also in France and Germany during the war. A newspaper editor in Gary, he joined the army and worked as a war correspondent. He later spent seven years in Russia on special assignments and went on to become a journalist of some note in New York City.

Meanwhile, the war had additional impacts back home. President Wilson enlisted the assistance of state governors to "urge big crop efforts as a patriotic duty," the *Democrat* reported. Wilson said "a man who raises a big crop is a good soldier." A federal food commission was proposed with power to distribute foods during the war. Locally, Pulaski County farmers and businessmen attended a meeting at the courthouse, called by the Governor, to discuss the means to accomplish this goal. Another program encouraged families to plant "Victory Gardens" to supplement food supply. The national Red Cross sent out an "urgent call" for knitted articles (socks, sweaters, hats) and hospital supplies.

A large percentage of Pulaski County residents were descendants of German immigrants. During the Great War, locally and nationally, almost anyone with a German name or accent could be looked upon with suspicion. "Loyalty was no longer taken for granted when a son, brother or father could be killed in France at any time," wrote Della Terry of Winamac in 1989 in a local history article.

Accordingly, German language classes were quickly dropped from the curriculum at the Winamac high school. Several churches in the county that held services in German soon switched to English. A history of the Apostolic Church in Francesville notes that "classes and worship services were held in the German language until the first World War, after which English was generally used."

**LEGACY OF THE GREAT WAR (FROM HISTORY.COM)**

New military technologies and the horrors of trench warfare in World War I resulted in unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction. By the time the war ended and the Allied Powers claimed victory, more than 16 million people - soldiers and civilians alike - were dead.

- The two nations most affected were Germany and France, each of which sent some 80 percent of their male populations between the ages of 15 and 49 into battle.

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*A barefoot youth walks along Main Street, while an old man reads a notice on a utility pole in front of the courthouse in Winamac in this 1916 photograph. A local militia group can be seen across the street. The group encamped there for a few days before being sent to Indianapolis and then to Texas during a conflict with Mexico. The following year, many of these same soldiers would be on their way to Europe to serve in World War I. (Pulaski County Historical Society photo)*

100 Years Later, Continued

- The political disruption surrounding World War I also contributed to the fall of four venerable imperial dynasties - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey.
- World War I has also been referred to as "the first modern war." Many of the technologies now associated with military conflict - machine guns, tanks, aerial combat and radio communications - were introduced on a massive scale during World War I.
- The severe effects that chemical weapons had on soldiers and civilians during World War I galvanized public and military attitudes against their continued use. The Geneva Convention agreements, signed in 1925, restricted the use of chemical and biological agents in warfare, and remains in effect today.

Pulaski County sent 526 soldiers to the Great War. They served over a period of a year-and-a-half. Thirty-three died in the war.

One hundred years ago, the armistice agreement ending the fighting in "The War to End All Wars" was signed at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918, in a railroad car outside Compiègne, France. That date, November 11, has been observed through the past century, first as Armistice Day, and later as Veterans Day. The peace treaty that officially ended the war - the Treaty of Versailles - was signed the following year, 1919, in Paris.

Some research for this article included local history writings by Della Terry, Janet Onken and Iona Nale.

## AS IT WAS ...

### UNIQUE MEMORIALS

*By Richard Dodd (1913-2001), Written November 1980*

In recognition of Veterans Day, let us take a look at a couple of Pulaski County memorials put up to honor servicemen/women from the county. Both are unique in their contrast to the typical stone and bronze memorials that dot courthouse squares and community sites.

One of these is the Memorial Bridge which crosses the Tippecanoe River in the Winamac town park. It was erected in 1923 by the Winamac Park Association, with the town and county contributing to its cost. A plaque on it reads: "Memorial Bridge, Dedicated to the Soldiers and Sailors from Pulaski County." The broadness of that wording makes the "swinging" bridge a tribute to those from Pulaski County who will have served in all wars.

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## PULASKI COUNTY GREAT WAR DEATHS

In honor of those who served their country in World War I and forever honoring these our heroes who gave their lives in sacrifice.

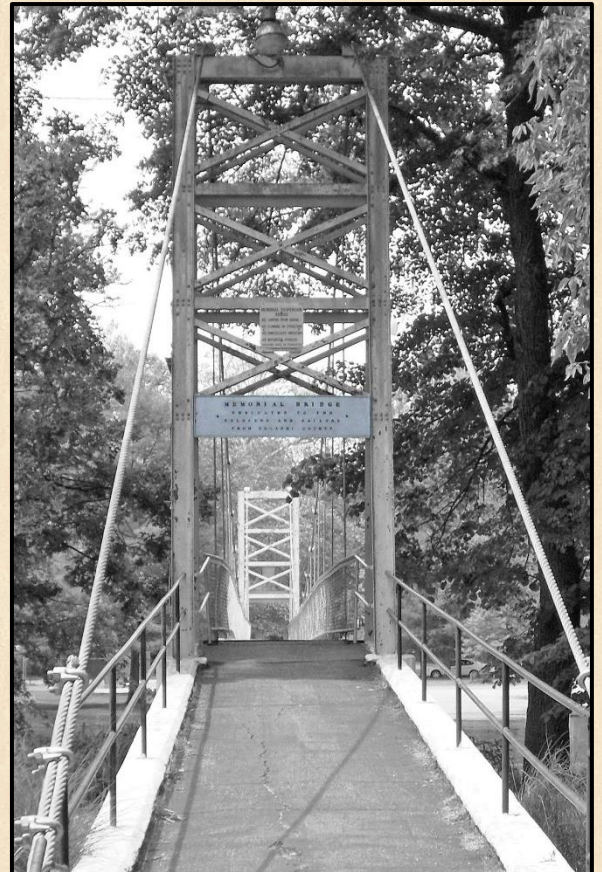
- John M. Agnew
- Albert T. Anderson
- Rome Antrobus
- Robert E. Bennett
- Ivan E. Brown
- Thomas V. Budd
- George W. Crim
- Harry E. Cramer
- Henry Drake
- Jesse H. Engle
- Frank J. Falvey
- Oscar C. Helm
- William L. Hoffman
- Alfred J. Hartwick
- Ralph C. Keller
- Leslie H. Koster
- Everett E. Knebel
- Louis A. Kripisch
- William McKinley
- Herman C. Malchow
- Ollie H. Nickerson
- Martin J. O'Brien
- Adolph G. Olson
- Raymond Pfost
- William Peterson
- William Reece
- William E. Roe
- Alva Shrader
- Charles A. Smith
- Guy A. Tunis
- Jesse W. Tunis
- Edmund G. Wagner
- Roy Warfield

*As It Was, Continued*

An even more unusual, and much more personal memorial is the display of photographs of World War I veterans from Pulaski County which is in the courthouse lobby. There are 483 pictures in the 17 brass frames in which they are mounted. In one of the frames is printed an identification list of the persons pictured. In a smaller frame is an "In Memoriam" plaque giving the names of 29 men from the county who died during the first world war.

Plans for the display preceded the end of the war. Within a month after Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918, the county conscription board had secured what was described as a "very representative collection of photographs of men in the army and navy, which is now on display in the main corridor of the courthouse."

By March 1919, 300 pictures had been put in the specially erected frames, and 40 more were ready for mounting. A newspaper headline of the time noted that the "Display Gives County Place of Distinction." An out-of-town viewer was quoted as saying, "that's the best stunt I've seen anywhere, and although I travel all over the country, I have never seen anything like it before."



And there is nothing like it shown in a book on courthouses across the nation published a couple of years ago. A photographer took a number of picture in and around our courthouses, but the one chosen for the book was a picture of the pictures of World War I veterans.

*As a postscript, let it be noted that photos of World War II servicemen from Van Buren Township are now a part of the display. Those pictures were formerly in the Star City School and were brought to the courthouse when the school was abandoned years ago.*

*Although it has been 60-plus years since the first of them were put in place, those pictures of World War I doughboys still attract the attention, not only of relatives and friends, but also of strangers, such as the 1919 viewer who had never "seen anything like it before."*

*Richard R. Dodd was a longtime Winamac newspaperman and later served as Pulaski County Historian. He wrote a series of "As It Was" local history articles, from February through December 1980, which he read weekly during the "Pulaski County Hour" on WKVI radio.*

*Submitted by Karen Fritz, Pulaski County Historian*

**THE EVENING WORLD**

New York

November 07, 1918, Final Edition



# PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Becky Dilts, Karen McClung  
Term Ending 2019: Raye Anne  
Absher, Steve Morrison, Jane  
Rausch

**PULASKI COUNTY CURIOSITY**


**COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**SEPTEMBER TERM 1866**

Comes now James Holland & others and ask the Board to appoint three suitable persons as appraisers for "The Swamp Land Ditching Company of Cass Township" according to the 12<sup>th</sup> Section of an act entitled, An Act to Authorize the construction of Levees and Drains."



**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



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