

# Culver History Quarterly

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver  
P.O. Box 125 Culver, IN 46511 www.culverhistory.com

As announced in previous editions of *The Culver Citizen*, the *Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver*, starting this year, will feature its quarterly newsletter in the pages of the *Citizen*, both for the benefit of AHS members, as well as a service to the general community. In addition to monthly, AHS-sponsored historical features in *The Citizen*, the AHS' full-page, quarterly newsletter commences with this edition of the paper.

## Community-wide meeting on museum's future to be held May 12

### Fate of Culver's heritage, collected history will be primary topic



PHOTO/RACHEL MEADE

By Rachel Meade  
As a result of the October, 2010 library board vote, the Center for Culver History museum and research center must vacate its current home in a year and a half. Beyond that point, the future

of the museum remains uncertain, and there is a real possibility that it will have to close its doors. In that case, the Culver community's collected historical heritage of over 1,000 photographs, documents, interviews, and artifacts faces an uncertain fate, including the possibility of being rendered inaccessible to the people it reflects. That would be a great loss for Culver— educationally, culturally, and in terms of publicity and tourism.

The Antiquarian and Historical Society (AHS) hopes the Culver community won't let that happen, and is planning a "town hall" type event on the morning of Saturday, May 12 to bring Culver-wide residents together to save its heritage.

The purpose of the meeting will be to open a discussion regarding the relevance of the museum to the community's needs and to actively allow the community to become involved in the preservation of its own unique history. The AHS hopes to discuss realistic and attainable options for the museum's future location and to begin the process of determining its future directing body and professionalizing its operations. Interested community members, including current AHS members, will be encouraged to join a working group to oversee the preservation and future direction of the museum.

The meeting will be moderated by Jeff Harris, Director of Local History Services at the Indiana Historical Society. Harris' professional and practical experience and education will help keep the discussion grounded and produc-

tive.

The AHS wishes to emphasize that the purpose of the meeting is not to rehash the Library Board's decision, but to move forward.

The meeting is open to the public and anyone with a vested interest in preserving the history of the area is strongly encouraged to attend and make his or her voice heard. The AHS requests that clubs and organizations send at least one representative to the meeting.

The Center for Culver History has been a vital community resource for the past six years, preserving and presenting countless historic memories. The museum regularly works with school groups, as well as local clubs and organizations— offering tours, lectures, and other programming.

The research center provides free access to historical records and files. These services are often utilized by genealogists and academics from outside the Culver area, who come to our town specifically to research notable former residents such as Kurt Vonnegut and Cole Porter.

In addition, the museum serves an even wider public through the many materials it has digitized and made available online. These include books, photographs, maps, newspapers, and yearbooks, some of which are also text-searchable. Culver has many far-flung enthusiasts, due to the international and inter-regional makeup of the seasonal lake population and the Culver Military Academies and Summer Schools & Camps. These online historical tools provide them with access to this unique town's history.

Thus far, the AHS has been able to fund the museum and its research services, through the generous donations of AHS members, the space provided by the library, and a start-up grant from the Marshall County Community Fund. However, faced with the challenges of finding a new space, the AHS recognizes a need for increased community involvement and a reorganization of current museum management— a process that will begin at the forthcoming meeting. Details on the time and location will follow in upcoming editions of the *Citizen*.

## Culver's Civil War Veterans: Peter Spangler



By Rachel Meade  
As part of the One Book/One Town civil war themed events taking place across Marshall County, the Center for Culver History is currently showcasing Culver's veterans. The exhibit highlights several notable veterans and displays civil war letters and photographs. Residents seeking to research ancestors' participation in the war can look through lists showing veterans of Marshall County and Union Township, as well as accessing information on the regiments and burial locations of local soldiers.

Peter Spangler, one of Culver (then Marmont)'s longest-surviving civil war veterans, is featured in the exhibit. Spangler cast his very first vote for Abraham Lincoln and died at the age of 90 in 1933. According to an interview with the *Culver Citizen* given at the end of his life, he enlisted alongside neighbor Jake Myer, and fought in 11 states, traveling almost entirely on foot. He fought through the end of the war and said his most cherished war memory was his participation in General Sherman's raid of Atlanta and subsequent 300 mile "march to the sea," deep within Confederate territory. The trail of devastation left by this campaign was a devastating blow to the Confederate forces.

In January 1864, he was sent to Culver on furlough. Four months later, back in Alabama, he wrote to his sweetheart back home, the woman he would later marry and start a

family with. The full letter is on display at the museum.

"I received a letter from Parker saying that you were very angry at me, yet it is no fault of mine. This is the third letter I have written to you and have not received any answer yet.

"Now Hattie it is possible that you have not got my letters, then you have a reason to feel as you do, yet I have no reason to think you got them for I believe you would have answered them...

"It is possible that you have went back on me, If it is so, please write and let me know yet. I hope and trust it is not so. O Hattie as though I had not a friend in the world, I wish you and I was together today. I would fall upon my knees before you and ask pardon if I have done anything wrong, I could not think what was the matter. Margaret wrote to me that she thought you would marry Van Schoek. I told Marg if you did it, it would be alright with me. Well, Hattie, if he is your choice then marry him. We are a long ways apart...

"We have no lease on our lives. Death reigns here daily. I know not when I shall be called upon to go, we [ought] to live [so] when we are called upon to go we might go in peace....Now Hattie I will close this letter for this time hoping when you read these few lines you will think of me as one who loves you."

"Ever a true friend,  
Peter Spangler

Peter's fears were apparently unfounded—just months after returning home, he married Hattie (Harriet Ann Bogardus). They raised three children together, and lived in the Allegheny House in Maxinkuckee Village, (later called Spangler's Inn), a Fisherman's Inn where General Lew Wallace is said to have written the first chapter to *Ben Hur*. Peter also worked as a stonemason and helped construct many of the buildings of the Culver Military Academy.

## Cole Porter Radio Hour concert highlights vibrant summer of historical events

The AHS events committee has spent a busy fall and winter planning an exciting slate of summer activities. One of the most anticipated highlights is a production of **Cole Porter Radio Hour**, performed by the critically acclaimed vocal music ensemble, **Encore Vocal Arts**.



PHOTO/AHS ARCHIVES  
Cole Porter on Lake Maxinkuckee.

The event will take place on Porter's birthday, June 9, in the Legion Memorial building at the Culver Academies, and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. The production, a musical revue of Porter's life and works, will combine a 16-voice choir performance of his best-known songs with short vignettes written by an actor portraying the composer's life. As a child, Porter spent many

happy summer days vacationing on Lake Maxinkuckee.

Tickets will be required for the Cole Porter production, Ledbetter Cruise, and farm tour and will be discounted to AHS members. Ticketing information and other event particulars will be announced as dates for the events approach.

### April 4, 11, 18, and 25: People's University Class on Culver's History

The Center for Culver History will host a free, four-week introductory class about Culver's history, Wednesdays in April. Classes will begin at 4 p.m., and take place in the small meeting room adjacent to the museum. Subjects for lecture and discussion will include the glacial formation of Lake Maxinkuckee, history of area Indian tribes, the tourist boom of the early 1900's, and bygone industries and businesses of Culver. Additionally, participants will learn how to conduct oral histories related to the themes of the class. Subjects will be enhanced by optional hiking trips at historic sites in the area, to take place outside of class hours. Call the Life Enrichment Center in Plymouth to register (866-936-9904).

### April 18 - May 22: Indiana Maps Traveling Exhibit

The Center for Culver History will feature an Indiana Historical Society exhibit, *Indiana Through the Mapmaker's Eye*. It examines four ways people have used maps through the years: as documentation, as tools, as political images and as art. Some of the maps included in the display are an 1833 tourist pocket map of Indiana, Thomas Kitchin's 1747 map of French settlements in North America, and a circa 1880 scale model map of the University of Notre Dame. The Center for Culver History will showcase maps from its own collection as well.

### May 12: Community-Wide Museum Meeting

The AHS invites interested residents to attend a meeting to discuss the future of its museum. Details on time and location on this page.

### June 9: Cole Porter Radio Hour

Encore Vocal Arts will perform the Cole Porter Radio Hour at the Culver Academies' Legion building.

### July 7: AHS Meeting and history presentation

Jeff Kenney will present a historical lecture via PowerPoint at the Culver Union Township Public Library.

### August 18: Ledbetter Cruise

The AHS is planning a cruise on the Culver Academies' three-masted schooner, the R.H. Ledbetter. The event will also include a tour of the Academies' Naval Building.

### September 17: Historic Farm Tour

The AHS will be traveling into the 1850's for a historic farm demonstration, hayride, and noontime dinner at the Childs' farm September 17. Learn how rag rugs were woven, meals cooked over an open fire, and farmers worked without modern machinery.



PHOTO/STEVE METZGER

## CCHS yearbook students dive into Culver history

The Culver Community High School Yearbook class took a field trip to the Center for Culver History, Friday, Jan. 13. Museum Director Rachel Meade and Acquisitions Manager Steve Metzger led the group on a guided tour of the museum, culminating in the yearbook display. Yearbook advisor Tina Stacy and her students were especially interested to see some features of older 1920's yearbooks, such as class wills and prophecies and discussed incorporating historic yearbook features into their upcoming issue. Students then divided into teams to work on several volunteer projects. These included scanning old yearbooks for eventual use on the AHS website (culverahs.com), which already hosts a decade of newspapers.

Pictured above, Meade (left corner) leads students (clockwise from left) Courtney Littleton, Beanna Powers, Jaclyn Rocco, Mitchell Maes, yearbook advisor Tina Stacy, Cally Jo Klausing, and Cassie Back, in a museum discussion.

## Annual Membership Dues

The annual dues letter has just been mailed to members. Although members now receive *Culver Citizen* subscriptions, the annual dues have remained at \$35, including the immediate, live-in family. In addition to supporting the goals of the society, the museum, and annual events, membership this year will also provide you with a 10% discount on society merchandise and a discount to attend the several functions, mentioned elsewhere, for which there must be a charge.

A decision will be made by early fall on whether or not to continue with the *Citizen* subscriptions. You are invited to express your opinion on the dues form.

If you would like to join the society, please use the form below. Donations, large and small, sent along with dues, have always gone a long way to support all that we do and we encourage you to continue that practice. Dues may also soon be paid online via Paypal.

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PLEASE MAIL THIS DUES FORM TO: AHS, P.O. BOX 125, CULVER, IN 46511  
(Checks may be made payable to: AHS)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Culver Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ CHECK HERE if you would prefer to continue receiving the *Culver Citizen* next year rather than mailed correspondence (i.e. Newsletters, meeting announcements, etc.) from the society.

Enclosed please find my 2012 dues in the amount of \$35. Additionally, I am pleased to include with that, a donation to the Society of (please check the amount):

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00; \_\_\_\_\_ \$65.00; \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00; \_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00; \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00;

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_