

# Culver History Quarterly

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver  
P.O. Box 125 Culver, IN 46511 [www.culverhistory.com](http://www.culverhistory.com)

FALL, 2012 EDITION

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver is a non-profit, 501-C3 organization based in Culver, Indiana, whose mission is to strengthen the bonds of the community through the collection, preservation and interpretation of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of our community, through programs, education, research opportunities and exhibits.

## 2013: a great year to join the AHS!

Jim Peterson and Tom Curtis

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver (AHS) ([www.culverahs.com](http://www.culverahs.com)) will conduct a 2013 membership and donation drive between now and the end of the year in support of its mission to preserve and present the history, stories, traditions, and culture of the town of Culver, Lake Maxinkuckee, the Culver Academies, and the surrounding rural communities.

The AHS membership year will be from **January 2013 to the end of year** and will continue to cost \$35, and include a subscription to *The Culver Citizen*; discounts for Society events and publications; and a new benefit - **membership in "Time Travelers"** (a reciprocal membership network).

The Time Travelers program was created in 1998 so that members of historical institutions could receive exclusive benefits and privileges at museums and historical sites nationwide. 2013 AHS annual membership cards will provide AHS members with free or reduced admissions to over 200 historical institutions around the United States. Please visit the Time Travelers web page ([www.timetravelers.mohistory.org](http://www.timetravelers.mohistory.org)) to see a list of these institutions.

Antiquarians are proud of their service to the Culver communities. They strive to add to the quality of life in these communities and constantly seek ways to improve their performance. During 2012 the AHS accomplished the following for the community:

- Operated and maintained the Center for Culver History;
- Sponsored events which raised funds for the Center such as the Cole Porter Revue at the Culver Academies and Child's 1850's Farm experience;
- Supported free events such as the Taste of Culver and provided root beer floats and cake to the public at the Gift of Warmth;
- Participated in the Moonlight Paddle held on Lake Maxinkuckee with a bonfire, hot dogs, and a telling of the Native American ghost story of Pau Koo Shuck; and
- Continually updated the Society's website with news of current events, photo galleries, past editions of *The Culver Citizen*, and yearbooks from Culver High School (CHS) and the Culver Community Schools (CCS).

In past years the Society created Heritage Park which

helped to beautify downtown Culver and provided a state-ly, well maintained site in which bricks can be placed to commemorate and celebrate the lives of brick purchasers and their loved ones; facilitated the establishment of the Historical Districts for the Downtown, Bungalows of Forest Place, and East Shore; and built and rebuilt the lighthouse in the Culver Town Park as a reminder of the 1895 Vandalia Park lighthouse and signal station.

AHS Events scheduled for 2013 include "Carmichael on Carmichael," during which Randy Carmichael (son of Hoagy Carmichael) will perform his father's music on June 8, 2013 at the Culver Academies. Other presentations, which will be free to the public, will include "The Launches of Lake Maxinkuckee" in July, and in August, "The Cemeteries of Culver" which will present a history of the notables in each cemetery. If you have attended past AHS presentations, you know that they are filled with very interesting historical information, photos, and artifacts.

The Center for Culver History has something for everyone and something for all ages. It tells the story of the four Culver communities, brings people together, and builds overall community pride and cooperation. The Center is currently open Tuesday through Friday (noon to 6 p.m.) and on Saturday (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

AHS memberships and donations to the AHS will ensure that the AHS and the Center for Culver History continue to provide the very best in Culver related historical research, museum exhibits, and events. Funds are especially important now since the Center must move to a new location by October 2013. A committee is working to find and manage the move into the Center's new location.

We ask our friends for their philanthropic support so that the Society and the Center can continue to be assets to the Culver communities. Please note that the Society receives no government support and that its 501-C3 non-profit status ensures that all membership payments and donations to the Society are tax deductible.

Please complete and mail the form below to purchase AHS memberships and make donations to the AHS.

Thank you. We hope that we can count on your support and look forward to seeing you at AHS events and the Center for Culver History.

## IHS traveling exhibit, Hoosier Centennial at the Center for Culver History

### A Look Back at Indiana and Culver history in 1916

Starting Thursday, November 17, the Center for Culver History will be hosting an Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibition about the 1916 Hoosier Centennial celebrations. The statewide centennial celebration used a \$25,000 budget from the General Assembly to establish the first state parks, improve roads, produce a film about Indiana's history, and to produce 45 historical pageants, including one in Marshall County.

Newspaper accounts and photos of Culver and Marshall County celebrations will accompany the exhibit and place it in local context. A look through Culver Citizens leading up to the celebrations that took place in the summer of 1916 reveals our town and county's long-standing passion for local history and our connection with the broader history of Indiana. The participation and cooperation of local churches and clubs, the Culver Academies Black Horse Troop, and the Woodcraft Camp, suggests that a sense of shared community and history was more prevalent in the early 1900's than is commonly cited.

The main event in the county was the Marshall County pageant (paid for by the State Centennial fund) that traced the history of the Native Americans and white settlement of Marshall County. The Black Horse Troop was offered a prominent role in the pageant, closing out the final act with a series of drills and demonstrations. A script for the pageant printed in the *Culver Citizen* reveals a remarkably historically accurate account of the removal of the Indians and the Trail of Death, suggesting that many Marshall County residents had already come to terms with some of the bleaker moments of their history at that early date. Consider this impassioned speech by Chief Menominee:

"Long before the first black-robe missionary set foot in the virgin forest...our chiefs sat here around their council fires. Here our children played and became friends of the birds and the bees, little brothers to the mink and to the squirrel. And now come your braves, strangers from a strange shore, to drive us westward, to exile us from the land of our birth! Your braves have gained the consent of my young chiefs to sell their homes with a few beads of many hues, and gaudy ribbons. You have offered them bribes of fire water which is as poisonous to the members

of my race as is the sting of the adder. And yet I make one last request. Your all-wise sachem would teach us that this, your government was founded that all men might enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In the name of that common brotherhood that you call "American" I beg of you, allow my people to remain in peace."

Although the speech is fictional, its sentiments are real, as is Menominee's claim that many Indians were coerced into signing away their land by traders and government agents who gave them liquor and threatened them with debts owed.

In addition to participating in the Marshall County Pageant, the Black Horse Troop also acted in the 7-reel film produced by the state, entitled "Indiana," and narrated by James Whitcomb Riley. The Black Horse Troopers reportedly portrayed Morgan's Raider's, a band of Confederate raiders who sought to destabilize infrastructure, raid food and war supplies and otherwise damage the efforts of Union soldiers in Indiana during the civil war. A note in the *Culver Vedette* in May of 1916 says "It is hinted that Captain Rossow is to don whiskers and brass buttons and perform murderous deeds of violence that old John himself would approve of. Rebel raiders should be popular with the Texan members of the troop, and their yells will penetrate the barracks ere many days." The Allegheny/Spangler House where Lew Wallace famously wrote part of *Ben Hur* was also featured in the film.

Culver also had its own celebrations, including a parade of Sunday School floats and a separate pageant. The Black Horse Troop portrayed the Battle of Tippecanoe, and Woodcraft campers performed an Indian War Dance under the direction of famed naturalist and one of the camp's early founders, Ernest Thompson Seton. Local societies and clubs also participated. The Women's Christian Temperance Union presented two contrasting scenes of home-life: "one showing a home of poverty and sorrow--Indiana wet and the other showing a home of peace and prosperity--Indiana dry." Secret societies such as the Improved Order of the Red Men & the Degree of Pocahontas also participated, presenting scenes of Indian wigwams and early pioneer life.

For more on the remarkable historical spirit of Culver, Marshall County, and Indiana in 1916, check out the exhibit starting November 17, during museum hours (Tuesday- Friday: 12-6 & Saturday: 10-2).



ABOVE: Even the Center for Culver History was in the Halloween mood! The hallways were decorated to greet the trick or treaters braving the cold, rainy night and stories of monsters and ghost in the area were on display. Shown here is the director of the Center, Rachel Meade, with our "Woodcrafter" with his mummy specimen he found. We had over 125 visitors to the Center that night collecting their candy treat.



### Historic Moonlight Paddle a success

More than 30 souls braved the spooky waters of Lake Maxinkuckee Oct. 28 for a collaborative community event partnering the AHS and Culver Academies by way of the Academies' Wellness Director, Dana Neer. The Academy provided canoes and the AHS provided snacks for a cook-out on the Culver town beach, accompanied by the telling of the story of the ghost of Pau-Koo-Shuck, a 19th century Potawatomi legend, by Jeff Kenney of the AHS.

The event was an added success due to the thoughtfulness of Tom Spiece, who opened his home on LongPoint to chilly paddlers, who enjoyed hot cider and treats while there. On their way, they encountered life-size "Indians" (made of fiberglass) and met up with the "real" ghost himself (PICTURED ABOVE) -- with a bit of help from Tom himself!

One participant even made the trek on a stand-up paddleboard (TOP PHOTO), no small feat since the full moon of the evening was mostly obscured by cloud cover. PICTURED BELOW, the group forms on the beach prior to launching.

Special thanks to Dana Neer, Tom Spiece, and Kelly Young of the town park, for helping make a success of what is hoped to be a fun, annual event.



\_\_\_\_ Please find enclosed a \$35.00 check for my (our) annual membership.  
\_\_\_\_ Please find an enclosed check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the annual membership and a donation to the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver.  
Please make your checks payable to the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver (AHS) and mail them to the AHS at:  
Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver  
P.O. Box 125  
Culver, IN 46511  
([www.culverahs.com](http://www.culverahs.com))  
[historyofculver@gmail.com](mailto:historyofculver@gmail.com)  
574-842-2941 (Ask for the Center for Culver History)

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
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