

# Culver History Quarterly

This publication of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver appears quarterly in these pages as part of a partnership between the AHS and the Culver Citizen/Pilot News Group, which also includes the monthly "Culver History Corner," also in the pages of *The Culver Citizen*.

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## Museum, LMEC collaborative exhibit a hit with local groups

Lakes don't want to be lakes. They were created by nature. Over time, if not protected, sediment plants and debris will fill them in, and make them land once more. -Jody Arthur, Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management (2009)

The Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council has been working in our community for over three decades and remains focused on the ecological balance of a lake that generations have looked to for recreation, fitness and pleasure.

Covering 1,864 acres, with eleven miles of shoreline, twenty-one underground springs and four tributaries, our lake is the second largest in the state. In the '70's, though, the lake was facing a decline due to pollution. The "crystal water" as the Potawatomi had named it was in trouble.

Enter the Lake Management Committee, set up by action taken at a Culver Plan Commission meeting in 1981. A few years later, the group had grown to both an environmental fund, the LMEF, and an environmental council, LMEC, the first functioning conservation network for the area. The organization subsequently took the lead in several key conservation efforts around the lake. These projects include the formation of three wetlands and most recently a core sampling study that will help to develop a timeline of the last two to three hundred years in the lake, and determine the impact of the group's efforts.

The Center for Culver History is proud to collaborate with LMEC on this wonderful, interactive exhibit.



Culver Woodcrafters packed the Center for Culver History last week as multiple groups toured the LMEC exhibit for a unique learning experience about Lake Maxinkuckee's ecology.

The exhibit tells the story of our lake from its glacial beginnings to the problems and issues it has faced past and present. Loads of interactive displays help to educate exhibit-goers on the flora and fauna as well as the dynamics of the lake itself. Displays also cover the group's history as caretakers protecting and preserving the lake over the last thirty two years.

Kids and families are welcome to enjoy all the interactive exhibits and receive free coloring books and posters courtesy of Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council. Exhibits include magnifying boxes for bug identification, an animal tracks game, instruction on fishing pole assembly and an Enviro-scape, on loan from the DNR, a hands-on model watershed that teaches kids how a lake ties the water cycle together.

The exhibit is free and open to the public, and may be viewed during museum hours at the Center for Culver History, in the basement of the historic Carnegie library building, Tuesdays through Fridays from noon - 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, contact us by telephone at (574) 842 2941, ext. 218, or via e-mail, historyofculver@gmail.com or LMEC@lakemax.org.

## Cemeteries of Marshall County at Aug. 17 meeting



The next presentation by the AHS events committee will be held Saturday, August 17 at 10 a.m. as part of the Society's August meeting.

John Benedict has been traveling the roads of Marshall County collecting pictures and stories about the cemeteries of the county and interesting facts about some of the occupants. Discover nature, history and the craftsmanship of the artistic monuments of the people that made Marshall County great.

The event in the large meeting room of the Culver Public Library, 107 N. Main Street in downtown Culver.

## Museum archives digitization reaches milestone with Culver yearbooks

As part of its on-going service to the community and researchers around the world, Center for Culver History staff has uploaded another four decades of Culver Community High School Tomahawk and Cavalcade yearbooks.

greater access via the internet. It is also an important part of greater effort to preserve important artifacts of our area's natural, historical and cultural heritage.

By following State



As fully-searchable, field-indexed PDF format documents. This means that all CHS and CCHS yearbooks from 1952 through 1989 are available for anyone to search and discover online.

This digitization project is funded in part by an award from the Marshall County Community Foundation. The Center for Culver History has scanned, processed and uploaded many historical publications in the museum's collection over the last year. State Exchange Bank newsletters, archived Culver Citizens and other local papers, and other historically significant records are all a part of the project. Many of these can be found in our online Publication Gallery. You can find this gallery listed in the tabs at the top of the AHS webpage, at <http://culverahs.com>.

Digitization projects like this one help to open the museum's collection to

Records Advisory Board standards for digitization, these artifacts will survive well into the future for the next generations of researchers to utilize and enjoy.

The Center for Culver History's next digitization project will be the digital transfer of history-related interviews with community members, some dating back to the mid-1980's, as well as home-recorded movies and video from the 1940's to the 1970's.

These projects would not be possible without the help of our volunteers. The AHS would like to thank Jeanette Geiselman in particular for her invaluable help scanning decades' worth of yearbooks. If you would like to help out in the museum's archives with some of your time, contact the Museum Director at 574 842 2941, ext 218, or via email at historyofculver@gmail.com.

## Committee in final stages of site selection for new museum-visitor's center

By George Duncan  
Museum Committee chair

As many of you may recall, the Center for Culver History (museum) must vacate its current location in the Culver Union Township Public Library in October of this year. During the past 12 months, the Center for Culver History Committee has concentrated on 1- a strategy for the move and 2- relocation alternatives. This update is provided to advise the community of the Committee's activities and decisions to date.

The strategy agreed to by the Committee is to reopen the museum as a combined museum and visitors center. This approach will preserve much of the fine work that has already been done to establish and operate a museum, while also satisfying what many consider to be a huge need in Culver: A central location in Culver which provides up to date information on local events and local dining, shopping, and overnight accommodation opportunities to members of the Culver community and visitors to Culver. This is also a natural fit as questions frequently asked by visitors are related to the historical events and people that have shaped the community. The combined museum / visitors center concept would also allow the visitors center to tap into the research that the museum has already completed, and enable cost sharing of administrative and infrastructure costs which would result in more efficient operations overall. This concept also provides opportuni-

ties to collaborate with local organizations to "tell their story." The first example of this is the excellent Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council exhibit assembled by Kathy Clark and presently on display in the museum.

As to a new location, there is no shortage of opportunities for relocation of the museum / visitors center. The Committee looked at a number of potential new sites and has reduced the options to a short list. We are looking at each of the final candidates in terms of the best fit in terms of floor space needs and costs. We anticipate making the final selection in the mid-August timeframe, starting site preparation immediately thereafter, and making the move during October.

With respect to the next 12 months, in addition to successfully completing the move and starting the visitors center, the Committee concentrate on building recurring income streams to support both the museum and visitor center. This is extremely important since the funding currently available is sufficient to operate the museum for one year and one year only. For the museum we will be working to establish an endowment that we hope will generate sufficient income to fund operations as well as provide a small scholarship for a student in the Culver Community School System. For the visitors center we will be seeking tax allocations to fund the ongoing operations. While we believe that we will be able to build these income streams, the sobering fact is that if we are not successful, we will need to close the museum and visitors center when funds are depleted. Overall, we are excited about the potential benefits that the combined museum and visitors center will provide. Please stay tuned for an announcement of our final site selection and calls in October for volunteers to help us move.

## President's report

BY JIM PETERSON

At our annual meeting on July 13 we welcomed two new Board members, John

Nash and Janet Kline. They have been elected to replace retiring directors Mark Damore and Jim Hendricks. We thank Mark and Jim for their valuable service.

Janet Kline came to Culver from Oak Park, IL, in 1977 to start the Girls' Woodcraft program and we all know how successful she was at that venture. Janet was director of the Boys and Girls Woodcraft camp for five years, was also associated with the winter school for many years, and retired with accolades several years ago.

John Nash hails from Columbus, where he was president and chief operating officer of the Irwin Financial Corporation of Columbus before his retirement. He was named by two governors as Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest distinction in Indiana. We are fortunate and proud to have these two new board members to help us direct our Society.

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver (AHS) is at a significant crossroads. I think that to be relevant to a rapidly changing constituency, we have to reconsider our original mission of preserving and promoting our local history. The original group of mostly summer residents, some of whom are sadly gone, has been expanded to include new residents, many from town, and younger people. While having an interest in the local history that AHS has been providing, these members have different stories to tell and we think it both necessary and exhilarating to find new ways to address the needs and interests of all of our members. The active membership committee reports

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## Heritage Park brick sales

AHS continues to sponsor a fund raiser for Heritage Park by the sale of bricks pavers. Individual pavers with a name or message can be purchased and will be laid in the park as a lasting remembrance of a relative or friend. For each \$75.00 donation a 4" by 8" brick can be installed with 2 lines and 14 characters per line or for \$125 an 8" by 8" brick can be purchased with 4 lines and 14 characters per line. Forms can be obtained at the Center for Culver History Museum or you can request a form to be emailed to you at historyofculver@gmail.com attention: Carol Saft.

## AHS members "time travel" free and reduced rates at museums nationwide

Many members have commented on the Time Travelers benefits just from joining The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver and are pleased with the benefits our membership card gives to them. Time Travelers is a reciprocal membership network for historical sites and museums throughout the United States. The Missouri History Museum created the program in 1998 with current-institutions participating in the program. If you have not taken advantage of this benefit, please visit <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org> and view the list of participating institutions. The web page offers a key of benefits: "D" Discounted Admission; "F" Free Admission; "G" Gift Shop Discount; "R" Restaurant Free or Discounted Admission; and "T" Tours just to name a few. For example an AHS member can visit Connor Prairie Interactive History Park and receive a discount on admission, a gift shop discount, and a restaurant discount. The La Porte County Historical Society & Museum has "F" free admission. If you are visiting Chicago, The Chicago History Museum also has "F" free admission. Please take advantage of this added benefit of being an AHS member!



## Tri Kappa donation for children's history education

The Center for Culver History would like to extend gratitude to the Culver Tri-Kappa for the organization's recent donation to the museum in support of children's history education.

With the organization's generous gift, we are able to provide a wonderful experience for children as they learn about the watershed around our lake. This month through mid-September, children and their families can use the Enviro-scape interactive model to see how a lake is directly impacted by the area surrounding it. This educational tool is being displayed by the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council during their collaborative exhibit (see article, above).

Tri-Kappa's gift ensures the watershed display never "goes dry" for lack of supplies - thank you very much from everyone at the museum and everyone in the community that gets to take part in a great interactive teaching experience!

## In memoriam

### Ginny Severns



The Antiquarian Society is going to miss Ginny Severns, who died on July 26, with a special feeling of the loss of a friend and supporter. Ginny and E.P. were a team we could always depend on for help and a little morale building. Because Ginny was always cheerful in her attitude and positive in her actions, she was often asked to help with what needed to be done. She never let us down.

E. P. and all the family can be assured of our sincere and affectionate concern. Ginny, in all her many roles, had such empathy for others that her impact on all who knew her will never be forgotten, certainly not by us. Rest in peace, Ginny.

### Bob Hollowell

Bob Hollowell passed away in 2012 and we want to honor him as a longtime member of the Society. We saw more of Cici, his wife of 58 years until her death, but they were both faithful Antiquarians. Bob started coming to the lake when he was 8 years old and spent every succeeding summer at the lake. He courted Cici here and served in the Navy in World War II. He was president of the Pierson-Hollowell Lumber Co. and helped to pioneer the establishment of many experimental, environmentally sound walnut tree farms in Indiana.

Our sympathy goes out to their three children, Julie, Tom and Laurie. Julie Hollowell is a familiar member of our Society, currently organizing a walking tour of the area. We fondly remember Bob & Cici Hollowell and thank them and others like them for their interest in helping us to preserve the history of our lovely lake and the surrounding areas. R.I.P.



## President's report, continued from page 1

a current membership of 224, including 63 new members resulting from the 2013 membership drive. We are fortunate to have dedicated and forward-looking board members, volunteers and staff that are taking us in these new directions, addressing the relevancy issue and building new bridges to the community. Currently they are making plans to transform AHS into a vibrant center of community life. Some examples of this new direction:

\*New initiatives by the Museum committee to combine a Visitors Center with our outstanding Center for Culver History, museum and research center, as they make plans for a new home for both. This seems a natural joining of services for the community and should be a significant addition to the Museum.

\*The Moonlight Paddle, a joint venture with the Culver Academies' Physical Fitness Center, that is attracting

young people and telling the story of our Indian history.

\*The musical reviews featuring the music of Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael that combine culture and history.

\*Our website: [www.culveraahs.com](http://www.culveraahs.com), and culveraahs on Facebook.

\*Video in the making: Lake Maxinkuckee and the Surrounding Communities.

\*We built, with donations from members and friends, beautiful Heritage Park in the center of town and the historic recreation of the Lighthouse in the town park.

\*Members' subscriptions to the Culver Citizen.

\*Walking Tour of Culver, enabled by a Historic Preservation Education Grant. We have to thank the Culver Chamber of Commerce, Culver Town Council, Culver Academies Museum, historic preservationist Kurt Garner, and the Marshall County Tourism Board for letters they

sent in support of this project. Julie Hollowell is responsible for putting it all together and will let us know when and where this exciting event will take place.

\*Our summer meetings and a planned old fashioned Ice Cream Social will continue to give us a link to our historic legacy.

All of these initiatives add to our community's quality of life. By building on our historic past, we are bringing spirit and significance to the present and preparing for the future. Funding this new direction and the initiatives, listed above, presents AHS with real challenges. However with the support of the community we look forward to achieving our goals