



The Arch

The Newsletter of the Putnam County Museum

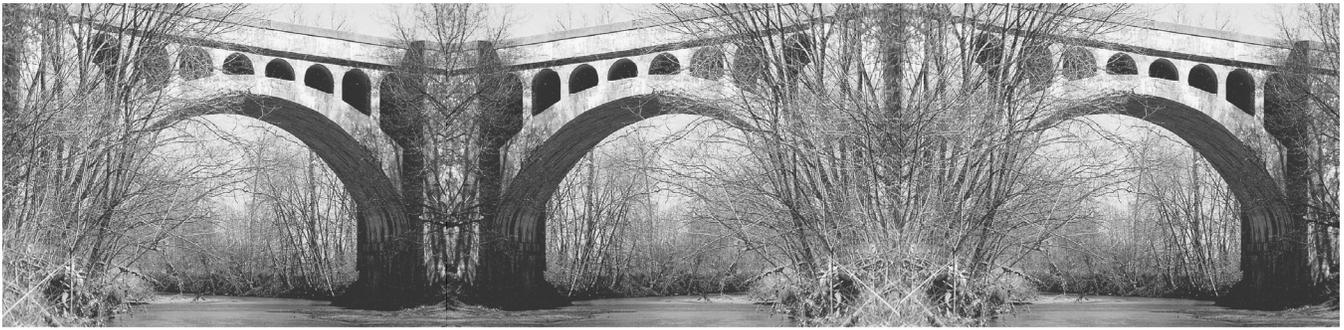
Vol 7. Spring 2010 issue 2

Donors

Jones-
Griffith

Special
Thanks





Events

Clyde Stringer, Civil War Farrier • April 1, 7-8 pm
Kids Civil War Programs • April 3 & 10, 11 am-12
PCLP Taste of Heritage • April 6, 7-8 pm
Dixie Chopper Weekend • April 17, 10-2 pm
Gala • August 7, 4-7 pm

Exhibits

Civil War Exhibit
Student Art Show, Art Walk
Wilson Brothers Greenhouse, County Commerce
Civil War Exhibit
Hirt Family, Founding Family
Master Gardeners, Community Curator
African American History
Potters of Putnam County
And Much, Much, More

Contact

Putnam County Museum
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Greencastle, Indiana 46135
(765) 653-8419
museum@co.putnam.in.us
www.putnamcountymuseum.org

Hours

Tuesday - Friday • 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
and/or by appointment

4 *Donors*

5 *Education Committee*

7 *Jones-Griffith*

9 *Gala! Gala! Gala! Gala!*

From the Director's desk...Tornado Season

By Tanis Monday

I was recently at a meeting of the Indiana Historical Society's Local History Services group. It was an excellent meeting; a chance to meet other museum professionals in the area and share ideas. I got some great ideas and some excellent resources. However, the best thing I took away from the day was how to handle "Tornado Season."

Now, I know what you are thinking, "Move away from windows and retreat to a basement or inner room." Nope! That's not what I mean at all. A colleague at the meeting compared working as a Museum Director in a small museum environment to working in a tornado: you have lots of different things flying at you and surrounding you is a wonderful amount of activity. If you have ever been to the Putnam County Museum for any length of time on a normal day, you know what I mean!

Now, I know this may sound like a bad thing, but it's really not. I LOVE IT! One minute I'm arranging a fourth grade field trip, next I'm up on a ladder hanging pictures, shortly after that I'm ringing a sale in the gift shop, and then I'm off to check out artifacts at someone's home! It's GREAT! Of course, the fact that I prefer to operate this way normally, probably helps!

However, we all need a break now and then. How do I get a break? That's where you come in—and I mean that in the most literal sense. My chance to step out of the whirling tornado of activities is when I get an opportunity to stop what I'm doing, and converse with our visitors! Now, please don't take offense if the tornado whips me back up after only a couple of minutes of conversation, but be aware that you have provided a nice little reprieve for me. It is our goal to have something new at the museum every month. This should give you plenty of excuses and opportunities to stop by, check out our exhibits, and of course say "hi."

So, during this Tornado Season and throughout the rest of the year, please remember to think of me here at the Museum. Stop by and see me! Trust me, I can always use a break!

Welcome New Members

We welcome our new members since the fall Newsletter:

Tyler Archer
David & Jill Brattain
Jeffrey & Beth Flint
Russ & Jeanne Foxx
Mary Hirt
William R. Johnson
Bill & Sharon Mancuso

Kathryn Potter
Dian Phillips
Susan Anthony & Duane Skoog
Larry & Patricia Sutton
Al & Joan Tucker
Art Department, DPU
Putnam County Extension Homemakers

Donors to the Putnam County Museum Endowment Fund at the Putnam County Community Foundation

We will be thanking those who have donated to the Museum's Endowment Fund at the PCCF by indicating who they are in each Newsletter. Below are donors for 2009 and 2010 prior to the publication of this Newsletter. Our Endowment Fund is the promise for our future; we are grateful for all donations.

2009

Ms. Betty Aker
Ms. Jinsie Bingham
Ms. Aura May Durham
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Evans
Dr. & Mrs. Bob Farber
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Flint
Ms. Judy George
Dr. & Mrs. Daryl Hodges
Mr. & Mrs. Don Steward
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sunkel
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Hartman
Mr. & Mrs. John LaViolette

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meacham
Mr. & Mrs. David Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Murray Pride
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ruark
Dr. John Schlotterbeck
& Dr. Barbara Steinson
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Sharp
Mr. & Mrs. David Shoemaker
Mr. & Mrs. Al Tucker

2010

Ms. Sally Gray



Enriching Life. Strengthening Community.

Roast-a-Relic



It was a rollicking good time when the Putnam County Museum roasted Darrel Thomas at its annual "Roast-A-Relic" on March 7 at the Putnam County Fairgrounds. Of course, who gets more enjoyment out of life than Darrel, so no surprise that he enjoyed the evening as much, if not more, than anyone else.

The Master of Ceremonies, Rick Parent set the tone as Darrel's friends roasted and toasted him for his years of service to the community, most noticeably, to children and young people through his 4-H leadership. Joined by his family and over 75 attendees, Darrel's good humor was ever present. And if you weren't there, be sure you get someone to tell you the "chicken" story!

Vicki Timm and a crew of youthful helpers decorated the tables. A chocolate bar by *Treasures on the Square* and music from the *Fret Set* were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to our Sponsors; *Farm Credit Services Indiana, Home Care Plus, Inc., and Tri-County Bank and Trust*, and to our Friends; *Animal Medical Clinic, Butler's LP & Fertilizer, Inc., and First National Bank*.

The Roast was a success as a fund-raiser, but more important, as a special occasion for Museum supporters to come together to express their appreciation for Darrel Thomas' unique role as a community leader and to share in the fun.

Museum Education Committee

Do you know that the first president of DePauw University (when it was Indiana Asbury) conducted three important ceremonies in the lives of the Abraham Lincoln family? Or how Luke and Charity Townsend became the first African-American residents of Putnam County? Or, what toys children might have played with 100 years ago? These are some of the topics covered by the Education Committee in programs presented to the school students of Putnam County.

By the end of May, over 450 students, in both public and private schools in Putnam County, will have visited the Museum just this semester and enjoyed programs presented by members of the Education Committee. Over the past six years, several programs have been developed by members of the Education Committee and these programs can be presented to any visiting school group. In the early years of the museum's development - when it was called the old Jones school home and there was very little exhibit area - Education Committee members packed up several boxes of items, and travelled to the county schools to present the programs. With the opening of the present facility in 2006, school groups were encouraged to come to the museum and experience the programs and exhibits. The construction of the round barn last year has provided a wonderful setting for presenting stories to students.

Programs often requested include Life 100 Years Ago; Putnam County Folklore; Putnam County Famous Figures; stories of Edith Browning, the chewing gum lady, and of Wade Millman who preached his own funeral; and a presentation about the current exhibit. To coincide with the Civil War exhibit, a program on Abraham Lincoln and several ties of the Lincoln family to Putnam County have also been developed.

Student groups of all age levels are welcome. Since all fourth graders study Indiana history, there has been particular interest in that age group coming to the museum, but education committee members adapt the programs to any age level.

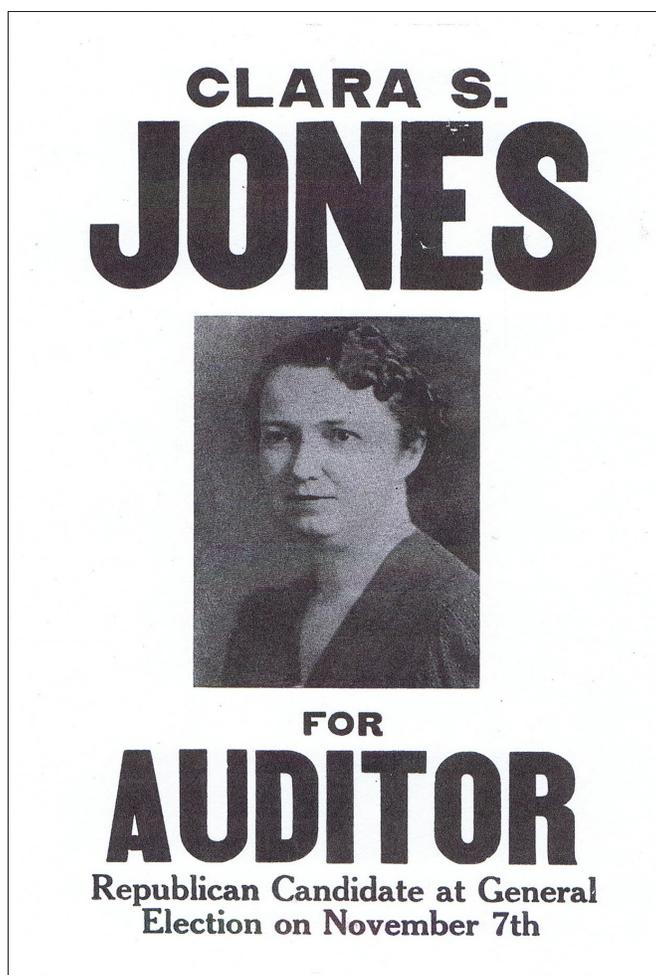
In the span of just three months this spring, student groups from Tzouanakis Intermediate School, Bainbridge Elementary School, Central Elementary School, and Alpha and Omega Academy will have visited the museum. There will also be an adult group for a program on John Dillinger and his connection to Putnam County. Education committee volunteers who are conducting the programs this spring include Mariette Barga, Nancy Landes, LaDonna Kelly, Susan Stewart, Linda Raines, Shirley Stewart, Helen Blubaum, Marilyn Lawrence, Rhea Gilbrech, Anne Phipps, and Anne McKeehan. In addition, past president Sally Gray, board member Mickey Meehan, director Tanis Monday, and DePauw University interns Carolyn Latta, Caroline Murphy, and Catherine Lerum have participated in the presentations. If you would like to join us, either on the committee for planning or during field trips from presenting, please contact the museum. We always welcome new recruits!

A Special Thanks to Special Members

Have you noticed how nice our floors look after a buffing done in time for the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours? Our thanks to *Asbury Towers* for providing the buffer and to *Chris Campbell* for putting his shoulder to the task! *Asbury Towers* is a member of the Putnam County Museum and has supported us in many ways.

Thanks also to our wonderful neighbors, *Humphreys' Outdoor Power*, also members, who kept our lot free of snow so that visitors and staff could get to our doors during this unusually snow-ridden winter. *Humphreys'* has also made available the use of their trash dumpster, which represents a significant savings in our budget.

Just two examples of what wonderful members we have!



**CLARA S.
JONES**



**FOR
AUDITOR**

Republican Candidate at General
Election on November 7th

The Jones-Griffith Connection: A Bit of Antiques Roadshow

By Sally Gray

If you've ever watched PBS' *"Antiques Roadshow"* (and what museum buff hasn't), you know how important provenance is to the value of an antique.

Provenance is exactly what Stephen Jones and his family have offered the Putnam County Museum along with two signed L.O. Griffith etchings. This art work by one of Indiana's most prestigious artists—who is also a Putnam County native—is accompanied by two related letters written by Griffith to Steve's grandmother, Clara Lucy Sharp Jones.

Clara Jones owned a Griffith etching titled *"Fall Echoes"* and apparently wrote Griffith asking him for an etching which could partner with hers. On November 11, 1951, the artists wrote saying he would be happy to have another of his etchings on display in her "lovely home".

On February 9, 1952, the artist wrote Mrs. Jones that he had an etching titled *"The Patrician"* which was the same size as her etching. Clara promptly added that Griffith to her collection. The Putnam County Museum is proud to have those two etchings and the letters in its permanent collection and grateful to the Jones family for their generosity. We also have the envelopes in which Griffith's letters to Mrs. Jones were sent. Incidentally, on each letter is a three cent stamp and each is addressed to Mrs. Clara Jones, Greencastle, Indiana; R.R. 2 is noted on the bottom of the envelope. Those days are long gone!

But along with the story of these two etchings, Clara Lucy Sharp Jones has one of her own for us.

She was a pioneer among women of her generation in her determination to earn a place in her community. Clara was the first woman elected to a county-wide public office in Putnam County: in 1944 she was elected as Putnam County Auditor on the Republican ticket after having served four years as Deputy Auditor. Steve remembers his grandmother telling the family that she was discouraged from running by the county party leaders—all men. She did not run for a second term.

Mrs. Jones was very active in both local and state Republican Party activities and, in addition to her elected position, served as Vice-Chair of the Putnam County Republican Party. She was appointed by the Republican Governor in the early 1930's to manage the Putnam County License Branch, a reward for her loyalty and hard work on behalf of her party. In those years the branch was located on the 4th floor of the County Courthouse.

“Grandmother was praised for having a ‘head for numbers’” recalls her grandson. Such skills surely stood her in good stead when she received the Governor’s appointment, when she ran for Auditor, and when she was employed from 1955-1958 as invoice clerk in the office of Comptroller at DePauw University.

Clara Lucy Sharp was married to Thad Jones in 1918 when he was home on leave from military service in France during WW I. The wedding took place one year before Clara was graduated from DePauw. Thad was from a prosperous farm family with a long history in Putnam County. He continued in farming when he left the service. Thad and Clara had one child, a son, Charles (Steve’s dad).

In addition to 400 acres of farm land, Thad’s parents gave the young couple the wedding present of “The Brick”, a house built in 1833 and in which Thad had grown up. That house is located immediately north of the Putnam County Hospital. It fronted the hundreds of acres that were part of the extensive Jones farm. Thad, as was true of his father, served on the Greencastle School Board and drove a school bus for many years.

Clara Jones was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority at DePauw, a charter member of Tri Kappa and was involved with Over-the-Tea-Cups and other local organizations which served to enrich the lives of women in Putnam County over the years. But she was also a woman not satisfied to spend her time with friends over tea and doing “good works”. Clara was a woman with a purpose in the world long before “Rosie the Riveter” changed the course of our culture with regard to the role of women in the work world and when it was rare for a woman of means to work outside the home.

Clara Lucy Sharp Jones died at the age of 84 in 1981; her husband died in 1965. They are buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in the Jones family plat.

Many thanks to Steve Jones and his family for sharing this remarkable woman’s story with us as well as their donation to our permanent collection of the Griffith etchings.

L. O. GRIFFITH
Nashville, Indiana

Nov. 12, 1951.

Mrs. Thad Jones,
Greencastle, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Jones;

Thank you for your letter pertaining to a companion to the etching you have- 'Fall Echo'. I have in mind two other subjects that might be satisfactory and I shall be glad to submit them to you without any obligation on your part, I am pleased, indeed to have my work owned by you and displayed in your lovely home.

Awaiting your reply and thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours



A Message from the President

It is only March, and the Putnam County Museum has had an exciting year! Late in January, our director, Anne Lovold, resigned to accept a position she could not refuse. However, the museum experienced a smooth transition because Tanis Monday agreed to step up to the plate, and filled the position as director. Major events were on the calendar: the opening of the Civil War exhibit on the 12th of February, the Elms event celebrating the Peeler book on the 20th, Business After Hours on the 27th, the opening of the Student art show on the 27th, and the Roast a Relic program on the 7th of March.

From the moment she assumed her new responsibilities, Tanis coordinated the work, trained new interns, set up exhibits, humored me as director of the board, managed, and possibly struggled, with outdated equipment, and kept the museum running smoothly. Frankly, I do not know how she did it, but she does have a great sense of humor. Her positive attitude and dedication along with countless hours of assistance from our many volunteers have contributed to a prosperous and continuously growing museum.

At the opening of the “Putnam County and the Civil War” exhibit, we welcomed many from the community who met Tyler Archer. Tyler is a student at DePauw University, and he is pursuing a major in history and a minor in communications. Tyler researched the significance of Putnam County during the Civil War, and, by doing so, gathered artifacts, documents and commentary that comprise the exhibit. The exhibit received fantastic reviews, and we encourage you to visit and enjoy the exciting history of Putnam County! In addition, watch for some great programs that will be held in conjunction with the exhibit over the next few months.

Thanks to the generosity of DePauw University and its president, Brian Casey, we hosted a Peeler celebration at President Casey’s home on February 20. The successful event enjoyed the presence of Marj Peeler and her autographs, valet service, great food and music, and warm and enthusiastic fellowship. The silent auction raised approximately a thousand dollars and the event was attended by nearly one hundred and fifty friends of the museum. The hard work and dedication of Emily Knuth, a museum board member, and the assistance from Erin Confer-Staggers, a member of DePauw University staff, allowed for the creation of a successful event.

Three days later, we hosted the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event, and over eighty people sampled fine food provided by Treasures on the Square. The event benefited from the sponsorship of Dennis Knuth (local dentist), Therese Cunningham (insurance broker), Lynda Dunbar (Treasurers) and the museum. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the award of some great door prizes.

Without taking a breath, we opened the museum to all children and their parents on February 27, to highlight the art work of Putnam County students. One hundred and forty enthusiastic fans strolled through the Art Walk to admire the talent of our

county's youth. Shortly afterwards, we hosted our annual Roast a Relic event at the fairgrounds on March 7, paying tribute to Darrel Thomas. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all, especially Darrel. Many thanks to Lauralee Baugh for her help, to the Sheldons, and the young people who helped set up tables and decorations.

Since the first of the year, nearly 1100 people have come through our front doors. They have left feeling welcomed and more aware of Putnam County, its history, its artists, and its people. We have much to be proud of and we hope you, our faithful members, share that pride.

It is safe to say that Tanis rose to the occasion and met many challenges over the past several weeks. She is enthusiastic and desirous of bringing the best service and well planned exhibits to the community. We are grateful for the hardworking board of directors, great docents, interns and other volunteers. I believe the Putnam County Museum has passed an important watermark. We have sought to be recognized among the best of small community museums. Surely, after the successes of these past couple months, there can be little doubt that we are meeting our goals and fulfilling our vision.

Diana LaViolette
Board President



Help Us Assure the Museum's Future with a Lasting Legacy

There are a number of ways that those who support the mission of the Putnam County Museum can help to assure our financial security in the future—a future in which we seek to preserve Putnam County's unique heritage for our children, grandchildren and generations to come.

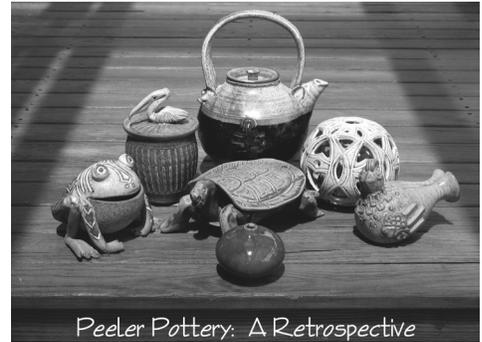
Include the Museum as a beneficiary in your will or in your estate planning (the Museum learned of its first bequest last year because of Robert Goldsberry's generosity).

Make a contribution to the Museum's Endowment Fund at the Putnam County Community Foundation which will result in a lasting benefit to the Museum.

Talk with your lawyer, tax or estate planning consultant about how you can help secure the future of the Putnam County Museum. Join others in working toward the future of this very special community resource.

Elms Event Recap

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, DePauw University President Brian W. Casey opened his home, the Elms, to celebrate the Putnam County Museum's publication of *Peeler Pottery: A Retrospective*, a book about the life, legacy and art work of local artists Richard and Marj Peeler.



With nearly 150 in attendance, the fund-raiser drew Museum members, community residents, and DePauw University faculty and staff. The evening's highlights included entertainment provided by DePauw University students and local musicians, a silent auction on select Peeler pottery and art work, and a few words by President Casey, Dr. Warren Macy and Marj Peeler. "The event could not have gone any better. It was the least the Museum could do to honor Marj and her late husband Richard for all that they have given to Putnam County over the years. President Casey was such a gracious host," said Emily Knuth, event chair.

GALA! GALA! GALA! GALA!

When? Saturday, August 7, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Where? DePauw University Union Ballroom

What? The Putnam County Museum's 9th Annual Meeting and Gala

Why? Because it is a fun event at which you can share with other members your enthusiasm for the Museum's successes over the past year and support this important fund raiser at the same time.

So, put the date on your calendar. Begin looking in those storage areas where you have put away items you no longer need or want so that we will again have a successful Silent Auction!

Our speaker will be Nicole Etcheson, a well known expert on the Civil War, who will share with us her expertise in a highly entertaining way. Our fine exhibit on Putnam County and the Civil War serves as prelude to this excellent speaker. Nicole will soon be publishing a book on Putnam County and the Civil War, the title of which is "*Copperheads, Unionists, and Exodusters: The Civil War in a Northern Community*".

We'll have a cash wine bar and a hot and cold appetizer buffet for your enjoyment.

Plan to join your fellow Putnam County Museum members on this special occasion.

Museum Wish List

- LCD Projector
- Laptop Computer
- Hand-held Vacuum
- Your Time...Now is the time to get involved—not after you finish this project or that class. The Museum cannot operate without the support or our volunteers. Get involved today!



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