

GREENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Greentown Historical Society

103 E. Main Street, Greentown, IN 46936

January 2007

New Exhibit: “The Tie That Binds”

by Jean Simpson

Do you know . . . where the bell from the old Jerome Methodist Church was moved to in the 1930s? That a guitar case was used to take up the first offering at a Greentown church? What the news was that interrupted a service in the 1800s at the Salem Friends Church?

Learn the answers to these and dozens of other amazing facts about churches of eastern Howard County in the up-

coming exhibit, “The Tie That Binds”, which will open on Saturday, March 3, and will be on display until July.

We are still seeking stories and artifacts appropriate to this exhibit. If you have an item to loan or information to share, contact us at 628-3800 and leave a message or call Jean Simpson at 628-7674.

*Editor's note about church photos in this newsletter:
The captions reflect the only information we have about
them. If you can give us more, please contact the History Center.*



*Salem Baptist Church,
August 1961.*

Make an Old-Fashioned Valentine

Roses are red, violets are blue . . . On Saturday, Feb. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m., come to the Greentown History Center at 103 E. Main St. to make an old-fashioned valentine. There will be people there to help you, and all materials will be supplied for making unique valentines. This event is free, and all ages are welcome. Make a valentine for your sweetheart and don't forget Grandma and Grandpa. Also see our display of old valentines. Need information? Have some old or unique valentines you would like to display? Call Jean Simpson at 628-7674.

GHS Calendar

- Jan thru Mar 2 History Center Exhibit Gallery will be closed
- Mar 3 New exhibit opens
- Feb 10 Make a valentine at the History Center
- Artifact donations taken on Mondays 1-4:00 p.m.

School Exhibit Closes

The schools exhibit was visited from July through December 18 by approximately 275 patrons, including fourth-graders from Eastern Elementary School. Thanks to all who loaned and donated items to make it a success. To pick up your loaned item, you may visit the History Center on Mondays 1-4:00 or call 628-3800 or 459-8509 to make an appointment for a more convenient time for you.

The Seegar Sisters, Performers of Stage and Screen

By Rachel Jenkins

An exhibit with programming is being planned for the latter half of 2007 about the Seegar sisters. Dorothy had a lovely singing voice and appeared on Broadway as well as traveled with a group throughout the Midwest. Miriam appeared in plays and movies in England and Hollywood, under contract with Paramount. Her husband, Tim Whelan, directed many movies with actors such as Frank Sinatra and Randolph Scott. Sara also was in plays and movies in England. She had parts in plays in New York, where she met her husband, Ezra Stone, director and actor best known as Henry of "The Aldrich Family" on radio in the 1940's. Sara was in the movie "The Music Man" and in many television shows. Her longest running part in television was as Eloise Wilson in "Dennis the Menace". The oldest Seegar sister, Helen, was accomplished in her own right, a lifelong academician, who at one time was a counseling psychologist.

Research by the committee is discovering many interesting aspects of the lives of the Seegars. They welcome materials and memories which anyone might share about this very talented family.

Logo Contest

The Greentown Historical Society invites submissions of logo designs for the organization and its mission: "to accumulate, preserve, and exhibit historical information and artifacts of eastern Howard County." The logo should be simple enough to be easily interpreted and be suitable for use on a website, brochures, letterhead, etc. Designs may be in black and white or color, can be computer-generated or done by hand. They should not include copyrighted art unless written permission has been obtained from the copyright holder and a copy of this written permission is submitted with the design. They should be no larger than 8.5" x 11" or smaller than 3" x 5". They should be accompanied with a separate paper giving name,

address, and phone number of the artist. Submitted art work will not be returned. GHS reserves the right to not choose any design or to send designs back for revision. Designs may also be altered or combined for use by the Society. Submissions will be accepted until March 1, 2007, at the Greentown Historical Society, 103 E. Main Street, on Mondays between 1 and 4 p.m. or by calling 765-628-3564 to arrange delivery. Submissions may also be mailed to Greentown Historical Society, PO Box 313, Greentown, IN 46936. Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st place \$50, 2nd place \$30, 3rd place \$20.

*Correction to this photo caption in September newsletter:
Lindley School, built 1896
and torn down in 1982. Located at 700 E. 50 S. Photo courtesy of Dwight Schaaf*



Thank You to Our Loyal Docents

Many hours of volunteer time were generously donated by our docents in the History Center from September through December: Lisa Stout, Betty Swisher, Debbie Lanning, Sue Clouser, Sally Imbler, Ellen Cranor, Jean Simpson, Ronda Eldridge, Rita Kingseed, Martha Lou Zirkle, Bonnie Turner, Dwight Schaaf, Helen Hickman, Barbara Middleton, Susann Sumpter, Charlotte Nulf, Mike Fraizer, Janalyce Hatton, Ada Johnson, Larry Johnson, Paul Nicholson, Kim Nicholson, Julia Bright, Gary Buckley, and Joyce Higginbottom. Thanks also to those who opened the History Center on weekends: Barbara Middleton, Rachel Jenkins, Bonnie Turner, Dave Turner, Dwight Schaaf, Jean Simpson, Ron Simpson, and Lisa Stout.

Welcome to Newest GHS Board Members

Your society's board of trustees includes several new faces. The board was increased by 3 additional seats, bringing the total to 15. We also had 2 seats vacated due to resignations for personal reasons. In addition, 3 seats of founders were open because of term limits. Those leaving served well. Rachel Jenkins, chairman of the 2006 nominating committee, said, "The infusion of new

talents, experience, perspective, and interest will add vitality to the organization."

Karen Swan teaches 4th grade at Western Intermediate School, which includes teaching Indiana History. She is the sponsor of Western Little Hoosiers, a club for 4th and 5th graders who are interested in Indiana History. They meet monthly and have speakers, engage in activities, and take field trips to many historic places in the area. Every other year they travel to Corydon and other places in Southern Indiana on an overnight trip. Karen enjoys all the places they see and the things they learn. She says, "It gives me great pleasure to introduce my love of Indiana and its history to the students in my classroom and to those in Little Hoosiers." Karen has been involved in professional organizations and has served as president of Pi Lambda Theta, an educational honorary. She has held several offices in Western Education Association, including president. She is a member of Converse Church of Christ. Karen and her husband Ron have family history which goes back many years in the eastern part of Howard Co. She says, "I am interested in preserving this history because I am proud of the people who have made this community what it is today".

Gary Buckley lived on a

farm southeast of Greentown and was graduated from Eastern High School in 1962. He attended Purdue University, married Karen Felt, who was attending Indiana State University. He transferred there and was graduated in 1968 with a B.S. degree. He has a masters in social work from Indiana University at Indianapolis. Gary and Karen have two children, Alicia and Matt, and seven grandchildren. Gary is a sports enthusiast and attends many sporting events. He enjoys hobbies of collecting old cars and Greentown Glass. He is the treasurer of the Greentown Glass Museum and has recently chaired the committee responsible for writing the new book, "Greentown Glass: A Collector's Guide". He enjoys learning about the Greentown Glass era and how glassware was made. Gary has also helped with "Music at the Fountain", a musical presentation featuring different groups that perform on Thursday evenings in the summer in front of the City Building by the fountain.

Sally Imbler moved to Eastern Howard County with her family in 1947, just in time to join in celebrating Greentown's centennial anniversary in 1948. Sally married Ted Imbler in 1955. She is an active member of the First United Methodist Church. She began teaching at Eastern Elementary

School in 1971, where she is still employed. She says, "Serving with the Greentown Historical Society is a great delight. Discovering the past means a lot to me, as my husband's family has deep roots here. Appreciating the past makes our future better".

Darwin Freeman is a graduate of Eastern High School and has lived in the Greentown area for about 53 years. He has taken business courses and many courses in banking. He worked for First National Bank in Kokomo, the State Bank of Greentown and retired from KeyBank. He is married to Martha and has two sons, Bryan and Kevin. He is the Treasurer of the Howard County 4-H Fair, a trustee of the Greentown Public Library, and an active member of Kokomo Zion United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Greentown Sesquicentennial Committee, the Greentown Economic Development Committee, and the Greentown Business Association. He has also served many county-wide and banking organizations.

Steve Myers is Human Resources Manager at Delphi Electronics & Safety. He has worked for Delphi/GM for 30 years. He has been married to Jan for 35 years and has 3 sons, Matt, Brett, and Craig, all Eastern graduates. Matt is married to Deanna (Murphy) who also graduated from Eastern. Steve also has 3 grandsons. He is involved in

First Church of the Nazarene in Kokomo. He is also on 2 advisory boards: Howard County Partners in Education and Howard County Healthier Community. Steve says he doesn't have any one primary area of interest in regard to the history of Eastern Howard County. He says, "I have a general interest in knowing more about the people, places, and events that have been important to Greentown and Eastern Howard County and helping promote and preserve its history."

John F. Buckley grew up in Greentown on Harrison St. He was known at that time as Fred. He often went to the "digs" along the Nickel Plate railroad tracks, looking for pieces of Greentown Glass. He graduated with the class of 1955 from Eastern H.S. After graduating from Kentucky Christian University in 1960, he served over 40 years preaching in three churches in Indiana. He is retired but is still serving in the ministry at Swayzee Christian Church. He makes his home with Janet in Kokomo. He is involved in genealogy. His grandparents lived in Kokomo from 1880. His grandparents lived in Greentown in the 1920's, and several family members still live here.

Nancy Echelbarger is a native of Sycamore in eastern Howard Co. She graduated from Eastern H.S. She started working at the former State Bank of Greentown while still

in school. She married her high school sweetheart, Jim, shortly after graduation. They had four children, Bret, Lisa, Conde, and Brian. Lisa passed shortly after birth, and Bret was killed in an auto accident in 1990. Conde and his family live in the Greentown area. Brian and his family live in the Western area. Nancy left her job at the bank in 1994. She and Jim ran the Comet Cone during 1998 and 1999. They are members of Fairfield Christian Church. Nancy has been a member of a ladies euchre club for many years and also enjoys watching IU basketball. One of her special pleasures is spending time with her grandchildren.

Max Kingseed is a farmer of eastern Howard Co. He put in his first crop, which was wheat, in the fall of 1952. (It yielded 40 bushels per acre.) He is married to Patty. Their children are Glen, Greg, Jim, Julie, and Jane. He says the boys were lots of help on the farm; the girls primarily helped in the house. He is an active member of First United Methodist Church in Greentown. He is also a member of Howard County Gideons and Kokomo Kiwanis. He is especially interested in the history of WWII and remembers watching newsreels of the aerial dogfights. He had several cousins in the service. He is also interested in the civilian side of the WWII years and in the history of agriculture during the past 50 years.

Early Greentown Facts & Stories

*Submitted by
Joyce Higginbottom
Research Chairman*

Biographical Sketches

Taken from "Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana"
Charles Blanchard, Editor
1883

Early Physicians

"The first physicians who located in Greentown were Drs. L.W. Bacon and James Barrett. Since their departure, the following medical gentlemen have practiced the healing art in the village and surrounding country: John Spell, William Morgan, William Scott, R.W. Smith, Dr. Collett, H. Beeson, Dr. Ross, D.S. Caylor, J.H. Stover, James T. Scott, G.B.

Scott, William White, Dr. Watson and J.W.C. Eaton. The present physicians are J.T. Scott, who has been practicing in the community constantly during the past twenty years, G.B. Scott, A.A. Covalt, L.A. Bagwell and B. Payton."

Incorporation and A Dilemma!

"In the year 1873, after a spirited contest, the village took upon itself the dignity of an incorporated town. The first municipal officers were: R. Gray, Mayor; William Segraves, Marshal; G.W. Rice, Clerk; James T. Scott, Henry Lamb and Hugh Courtney, Councilmen. Chief among the reasons urged in favor of incorporation was the general desire of the citizens to improve the streets, sidewalks,

etc., which could not have been accomplished without such a measure.

A laughable circumstance is related of the first arrest made after the town organization. The chief party in the transaction was a "drummer" who committed the daring crime of hitching his team to a shade tree. The Marshal, proud of the authority vested in him, promptly marched the guilty offender before His Honor the Mayor, who soon ascertained that no ordinance had as yet been passed providing punishment for such misdemeanors. Here was a dilemma. What should be done? The culprit be liberated to make a laughing-stock of the town which had a city organization with no ordinances to govern it? NO! Such an idea could not be entertained for a moment. At this



*Sunday School Class
Front row: Dane Hooker,
Beulah Hooker, Dorothy
Hooker, Leona Skeely-
Bliss, __, __, Homer
Huntsinger, Greta Dawson-
Kaufman. Second row:
__ Franklin (preacher's
daughter), __, Ida Book-
out, Ruth Stanbro, Ruth
Bookout, __, James Court-
ney, __, __. Back row:
Maggie Cook (Hegner), __
Franklin (preacher's
daughter), Mary Royer,
Lola and Leona Bookout
(smaller twins), Donna
and Donald Bookout
(larger twins behind
smaller ones), __, Rosella
Courtney, __ Skeely, Max-
ine Zirkle.*

critical juncture, a happy thought struck the Mayor which suggested a way out of the difficulty, and at the same time enable him to preserve the dignity of his court. Excusing himself for a short period of time, he went out on the street and got a bystander to go and advise the prisoner to "skip." The man discharged his errand and the commercial tourist "skipped" accordingly. The town officers at the present time are G.W. Price, Justice of the Peace and Mayor; Joel Lindley, Marshal; Willard Woods, Clerk; Henry Thrasher, Treasurer; Charles Fifer, President of the Board of Councilmen; John Woolen, Henry Lindley and Henry Thrasher, Councilmen."

Liberty Township

"Dr. L.A. Bagwell, a native of Howard County, born August 26, 1856, is the son of John W. and Mary (Ware) Bagwell, both natives of this State. His father was a lawyer and teacher, and died in the prime of his life. Dr. Bagwell was left an orphan when but a small boy, and lived with his grandfather Bagwell until he was thirteen, when he began to work on farms in the summer, saving his earnings that he might attend school in the winter. He studied medicine two years with the Scott Bros., and after this bought such books as he could afford. He read and studied alone until

the fall of 1881, when he entered the Fort Wayne Medical College and graduated with honors the following spring. He then located at Greentown, and began the practice of medicine in the vicinity where he has lived for thirteen years. He has been quite successful, working up a good practice in the best families of his township. Mr. Bagwell was married January 26, 1877, to Miss Mary Ooty Thrasher, of Howard County; four children blessed this union—Zalla, Myrtle, Mary Pearl and Willie. Mr. Bagwell is a member of the Christian Church, and an active worker in the Republican party. He is one of the School Trustees of the township, and has been Councilman two terms. He is a truly self-made man, has educated himself, and by industry has obtained a good home."

"Dr. W.B. Payton was born in Kokomo, Ind., November 16, 1856, and was the third of five children born to L.B. and Isabel (Bailey) Payton. Mrs. Payton died when our subject was but six years old, but he remained with his father on the farm. They removed to Carroll County, Ind., in 1857, thence to Cass County in 1870, and after four years they returned to Carroll County, where Dr. Payton remained most of the time for three years; he had access to the common schools until he was sixteen, after which he attended the Normal School at Logansport one

term, at Walton two terms, and Delphi one term."

"In 1876, he began teaching, and was considered a successful tutor in Cass and Carroll Counties. The summer of 1878, he began to read medicine at his leisure, and in 1879 entered Dr. Brandfield's office at Deer Creek, Carroll County, as a student, and in September of the same year entered the Medical College at Ann Arbor, graduating with honors in the spring of 1881. He then began practice at Wheeling, Carroll County, succeeding remarkably well for a young physician, and in April, 1882, he located at Greentown and entered a co-partnership with G.B. & J.T. Scott, the oldest physicians in the town. Mr. Payton was married April 26, 1882, to Rachel A. Reed, of Cass County, Ind. She is the daughter of Michael and Sarah Reed, both of German descent."

"Mr. Payton is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and his wife is of the Lutheran Church."

*Submitted by
Joyce Higginbottom
Research Chairman*

DEC 1960



Greentown Assembly of God Church ladies making peanut brittle for a fundraiser, 1960: Rhoda Prince, Margaret King, Catherine Hochstedler, Tena Butler.

AOG Church, August 28, 1960. Their first service under the tent with help of "mother church" First AOG Church of Kokomo.

Thank You to Generous G.H.S. Donors

At the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, we made a profit of \$1,457.50 on the dinner with \$1,185 of that from the Silent Auction. Thank you to all the businesses and people who donated items to the Silent Auction. The proceeds from this auction were placed in the GHS General Fund which pays for the monthly expenses of the Society as well as for exhibit expenses, office supplies, and materials to store the collections. We appreciate the generosity of +everyone who donat-

ed an item as well as those who purchased the items.

In addition, we are happy to announce that the Christmas Home Tour netted a profit of \$844.00.

This is truly a giving community. Thank you for your loyal support.

Monetary Donations from Sept. through Dec. 2006:
 Bob and June Hill, Lisa Stout, Sally Imbler, Dr. David Gibson, Richard Moser, Imbler Enterprises, Helen R. Fox, Ali Sattaripour, Anita Johns, Janice

David, Ann and Jerry Haines, Edwin Graham and friend, Anonymous, Barry Carstensen, Juanita Morton, Marty Begeman, Dr. William H. Begeman, Rachel Jenkins, Alan and Cindy Gillogly.

Material Donations from Sept. through Dec. 2006:

Ron Simpson, Jean Simpson, Susann Sumpter, Barbara Middleton, Lisa Stout, and Rita Kingseed.

G.H.S. Officers and Committee Chairpersons for 2007

President--Lisa Stout; 1st Vice--Dwight Schaaf; 2nd Vice--Debbie King; Secretary--Karen Swan; Treasurer--Barbara Middleton; Budget & Finance--Barbara Middleton; Audit--Nancy Echelbarger; Building & Grounds--Dwight Schaaf; Collections--Joyce Lantz—Publications--Joyce Lantz; Fund- Raising--Sally Imbler; Programs--Jean Simpson; Marketing & Public Relations--John Buckley; Membership--Steve Myers; Nominating--Darwin Freeman; Volunteer--Rita Kingseed; Research--Joyce Higginbottom; Long-Range Planning--Gary Buckley

Our Mission

- *To promote public awareness and appreciation of the unique history of eastern Howard County, Indiana, and its citizens.*
- *To carry out historical research, preservation, and education.*
- *To provide the public with meaningful heritage experiences.*

Greentown Historical Society

P.O. Box 313

Greentown, IN 46936