



## The Sexton's Tales: Reliving History at Kokomo's Crown Point Cemetery

By Judy Lausch

The Greentown Historical Society is cooperating with Howard County Historical and Genealogical Societies to present the annual Cemetery Walk at Crown Point Cemetery in Kokomo on Saturday, October 13, from 2-4 PM, and again on Sunday, October 14, from 2-4 PM. Tickets are available at the Greentown History Center for \$7.00 for either day, or may be

purchased on the day of the cemetery walk.

The featured exhibit at the History Center at Greentown is presently "The Seegar Sisters: From Greentown to Stage and Screen." Since Helen Seegar Stone is buried at Crown Point, her cemetery site will be one of the featured stations of the walk. Helen is buried with her husband, Joseph C. Stone who was an

osteopathic physician in Kokomo for over 30 years. Joseph and Helen, along with their daughter, Josephine, were the last residents at Monroe Seiberling's mansion before it was sold to Indiana University to use as a campus.

The scenario about the lives of Dr Joseph Stone and Dr. Helen Seegar Stone was researched and

(continued on page 2)



This activity made possible, in part, by the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency

*The Seegar Sisters exhibit is provided with support from the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

### GHS Calendar

- Seegar Sisters exhibit open until Nov. 25
- Sept 14-15 Garage Sale
- Oct. 1 "Seegar Sisters Reunion—1941" at the KHCPL 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13, 14 Cemetery Walk at Crown Point
- Nov 7 Annual dinner

**History Center  
Open Hours on Sat. and Sun. from 1-4:00 P.M. and  
Artifact Donations on Mon., 1-4:00 P.M.**

## GHS Receives Grant by Lisa Stout

The Greentown Historical Society has received a \$500.00 matching grant from the Greentown Main Street Association Facade Grant Program to improve the historic bank building purchased this summer. This program is designed to improve the outside appearance of buildings and homes in Greentown, giving a pleasing appearance as well as restoring buildings to their original design if possible.

Our goal is to remove the wood covering the windows and door on the west side of the bank building, replacing the windows with glass and opening the concealed door. If you would like to make a donation towards the matching portion of this grant, please send a check with Bank Building in the memo. Thank you to the Main Street Association for providing this funding.

written by the committee for the Seegar exhibit. It features Helen and Dorothy Seegar and will be enacted by Amanda Kasem and Amanda Duncan.

Another Greentown celebrity also featured on the cemetery walk is Milton Garrigus, a former postmaster at Greentown. The city of Jerome is named for this family. Milton's letters home from the Civil War were often printed by the Kokomo Tribune.

Other Howard County residents buried at Crown Point who will be featured are George Deffenbaugh, John R and Clara Goyer (do you recognize street names?), William Baker "Uncle Billy" Smith, Otis-Clark Pollard, Nathaniel Prime, Elmora T. Gause, Thomas Kirkpatrick, and Reverend John S. Lowe.

Golf carts (with drivers) are available for people who would have problems walking from site to site. Park on the south side of Sycamore Street, and enter at the north gate of the cemetery next to the cemetery office. The walk begins at 2:00 PM sharp at the cemetery office, so be there early to park, check in, and join one of the tour groups. Each group will have a guide who will take visitors to each site. The cemetery walk is not recommended for children under 12.

### Seeking Greentown Gems

The Kokomo Howard County Public Library (KHCPL) and the Greentown Historical Society will begin their

joint Newspaper Grant Project and are seeking "Greentown Gems". The KHCPL is partnering with GHS to preserve the unique historical heritage found in newspapers through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant. Joyce Lantz was recently hired by KHCPL to work part-time with grant coordinator Janet Winrotte.

The first portion of this grant will focus on microfilming and digitizing the Gems, making the issues available for free public access on the Internet as part of the Indiana Memory Project. The earliest Greentown Gem that will be part of the project is dated June 23, 1898; this paper resides at the Greentown Historical Society. The last issue of the Greentown Gem slated to be part of phase one of the grant project is dated February 7, 1936, and survives in microfilm version only at KHCPL.

If you have any issues of the Greentown Gem that you would like to donate or lend to the Greentown Historical Society, please contact Joyce Lantz by Sept. 24 at 628-3800. The best time to reach Joyce is on Mondays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Greentown Historical Society. You may also send us an email: greentownhistory@insightbb.com. This project is supported by the Institute of Museums and Library Services under the provisions of the LSTA, administered by the Indiana State Library.



### Seegar Family Home #7 on the Greentown Historic Trail

*The Seegar family built and lived in a home on East Main Street, now 104 E. Main. Miriam remembers her room as being at the top of the stairs. She used to walk from home to her father's hardware store on North Meridian.*



### Hardware Store #22 on Greentown Historic Trail (121 N. Meridian)

## Annual Meeting, Program and Auction

Plan now to attend the GHS Annual Meeting/ Dinner/ and Silent Auction, on Wed., Nov. 7, 2007, 6:30 PM, at the Jerome Christian Church.

The meal will be catered by Golden Corral, and the fee is \$15.00 per person. Reservations need to be in no later than Fri., Nov. 2. (See enclosed reservation form)

Our speaker for the evening is acclaimed Hoosier photographer John Bower who will be giving a fun and fascinating slide presentation titled "Capturing the Soul of Indiana—a celebration of our overlooked cultural heritage". Share in Bower's joy of discovery as he brings to life abandoned and overlooked objects and places that make Indiana special. Bower takes thousands of pictures a year and his presentations are memorable, informative, and entertaining. So join us in "Capturing the Soul of Indiana," and bring a friend.

If you have a silent auction item to donate, please call Sally Imbler at 628-7174 or Jean Simpson 628-7674. For more information call Lisa Stout at 765-610-8461.

## Oh, Christmas Tree!

Decorate a small tree at the History Center with your collection or hobby. Suggested themes: Coca Cola items, Raggedy Ann, Precious Mo-

ments, gingerbread men, Pillsbury Doughboy, Angels, John Deere, bears, ornaments from recycled items, unusual ornaments—other ideas of interest to you. We can furnish some Christmas trees. Interested? Set up times will be Thurs., Nov. 29, 1-4:00 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 30, 3-8:00 p.m.; and Sat., Dec. 1, 9-12 a.m. This Christmas tree exhibit will be open to the public at 1:00 p.m. Sat., Dec. 1, and will be open during regular weekend hours until Sunday, Dec. 30. Call Jean Simpson at 628-7674 or the History Center at 628-3800.

## GHS Expansion Update

Have you noticed a lot of activity going on at the historic bank building that GHS purchased this summer? Members have been busy repairing walls and windows, painting, refurbishing bathrooms, shampooing carpet, and a whole lot more. Our book sale during Community Fest was held in the front room. The Seegar Sisters exhibit committee plans to show some Miriam and Sara Seegar films in the front room during the month of September. The back room has been furnished to provide work space for the grant project to digitize old copies of the Greentown Gem newspaper. GHS also plans to offer civic groups the opportunity to meet in one of the bank's rooms. We have needed ex-

tra space for quite some time for our programs and exhibit preparations, so we are thrilled to be able to expand into this historic building. Watch for more improvements as we move ahead with the Main Street Association Façade Grant.

Interested patrons may wish to make donations toward paying down our mortgage to the Historic Landmarks Foundation by sending a check to P.O. Box 313, Greentown, IN 46936.

## Good Reading

The GHS History Center has a varied selection of excellent books and booklets for sale in the Gift Shop. "From This Land: Writers of Eastern Howard County" (cost \$2), compiled by Jean Simpson, introduces the reader to short sketches about authors who live or have lived in our area. The introduction lists the following local authors: William Morton Overton, Elaine Sommers Rich, Stephen Hall, Mary Romack, Murlea Brewer, Clarence Cobb, J. Philip Klinger, R. Scott Stiner, Geneva Troxell, Charles Hensler, Gary Corsair, David A. Enyart, and Robert Allen Shawhan. Jean is preparing to update the listing this fall. Here is a short excerpt from one of the sketches: "William Morton Overton, born 1877, was a seaman on the Great Lakes in his early adult years; then he farmed southwest of Greentown until his death in

1953. The church was an important part of the Overton family life; he was active in many positions in the Meridian Street Christian Church in Greentown. He wrote volumes of diaries and journals; in fact, he wrote something every day. If there was nothing of note to write about, he wrote a poem. Between the years of 1946 and 1953, he had published four small books of poetry: Leaves From Life's Autumn, Wayside Gleanings, Lights and Shadows, and Footprints.

"An undated clipping was found in a copy of one of his books. It had appeared in the Kokomo Tribune, and a part of it reads, "William M. Overton of Greentown won the cum laude key presented Saturday by the Spring Poetry Festival of the Poets Corner, Inc. The award was for the best book of poetry published for the year."

Other books offered for sale in the Gift Shop are the following: "The Tie That Binds: Churches of Eastern Howard County" (\$2), Howard County Interim Report (\$10), Aprons (\$20), Amish Life by John A. Hostetler (\$5), The Pathologist's Cookbook by Clarence Cobb (\$11.95), Sesquicentennial Commemorative History (\$15), "UHS: History of Union High School" (\$2), Troyer Family History (\$25).

In addition to these, our Gift Shop has many locally made, hand-crafted items. Visit us when you need a special gift to reflect our regional herit-

age.

## Early History of Howard County

Taken from "Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana"

Charles Blanchard, Editor

### Indians of the Area

"Howard County is a part of what was, at one time, known as the Indian Reserve, owned by the Miami Indians. The reserve was situated south of the Wabash River. On the east was Grant County, on the south, Hamilton County and on the west Clinton and Carroll, and on the north Cass and Miami Counties. A portion of the reserve was attached to Miami County; another portion, with a strip off of Hamilton County, forms Tipton County, and the portion between Tipton and Miami Counties forms Howard County.

"The Indian Reserve was about thirty miles square, and was selected by the Indians on account of its good qualities of soil, timber, game, fish, etc., and was highly prized by them and cherished as their home.

"Richardville was the Miami Chief for whom Howard County was originally named. His other name was Pee-jee-wah. He was the party who signed "by his x mark" at the treaty of August, 1795, made with Gen. Wayne, at Greenville, Ohio, by the sachems of

the Miamis, Eel Rivers, Wyandots, Delawares, Shawnees, Ottawas, Chippewas, Pottawatomies, Weas, Kickapoos, Piankeshaws and Kaskaskias.

"The Miami tribes of Indians are frequently seen at Marion, Peru and Wabash on business or on pleasure. They have pretty generally adopted the dress, language and habits of the settlers, but occasionally one is seen in full Indian costume; and in many of their families they still speak the Shawnee dialect.

"It is said there were four brothers, Kokomo (Black Walnut), Shock-o-mo (Poplar), Me-shin-go-me-sia (Burr Oak), and Shap-pan-do-si-a (Sugar Tree), all of whom were Indian chiefs. Exactly how this was and the full signification of their appellations we do not know – old settlers differ. Then there were in Howard, Jim Sassafras, and Pete Cornstalk, who is buried on Pete's Run. Kokomo was headquarters in Howard County, as it is now, and there were Indian villages south of Greentown and Cassville, and "traces" or paths led from Kokomo down Wild Cat, via N.P. Richmond's farm in Ervin Township, to Frankfort and Thorntown; and from Kokomo via Greentown, to "Squirrel Village" (Meshingomesia's), and from Kokomo to Peru, via Cassville. These were well worn and much used.

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“From 1840 to 1845, there were about two hundred Indians along Wild Cat Creek and in different parts of this county.

“There were Indian villages or settlements at different places. Nip-po-wah lived at Vermont, Shoc-co-to-quaw at Greentown, Pete Cornstalk at Indian Suck, near the southeast corner of Ervin Township, Ma-shock-o-mo one and a half miles south of Greentown, Shap-pau-do-sho (Through-and-Trough) was at Cassville, and Kokomo at our county seat. From here they branched off in hunting parties, and trails led from one village to each of the others.

“The Indians were not gathered from Howard and Tipton Counties for removal until 1846. They went north to Peru, then via Cincinnati, to their Western home beyond the ‘Father of Waters’.”

*Submitted by Joyce Higginbottom, Research Chairperson*

## Movie Nights Scheduled

The Greentown Historical Society will host eight “movie nights” which will feature movies in which Miriam or Sara Seegar appeared. Miriam and Sara were both born in Greentown. The current exhibit at the Greentown History Center, 103 E. Main Street, is on the

four Seegar sisters, Helen, Dorothy, Miriam, and Sara. The exhibit will be in place until November 25. The History Center is open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. or by appointment.

The first seven movies will be shown in the Old Bank Building, 101 E. Main Street, Greentown, at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

**Sept. 11** “Seven Keys to Baldpate” (1929) Richard Dix stars as a novelist who is having trouble completing his latest manuscript. Promising his agent that he’ll finish the book within 24 hours if only he gets some peace and quiet, he heads off to Baldpate Inn – for which he thinks he holds the only key. The old inn turns into a hotbed of intrigue as several mysterious characters, all bearing duplicate keys, intrude upon his solitude in search of \$200,000 in stolen bonds. Finally, the owner of the seventh key shows up. The film has a double surprise ending. Miriam Seegar plays the “romantic interest” of the star.

**Sept. 18** “Clancy in Wall Street” (1930) Clancy is a pugnacious Irish-American plumber in partnership with parsimonious Scotsman Andy MacIntosh. Though tight with a dollar himself, Clancy accidentally begins playing the stock market, and before he knows what’s happening he’s

become a millionaire. His efforts to entertain the crams of high society are both disastrous and hilarious, and by the time he’s lost all his money in the Wall Street crash, Clancy is more than happy to team up with MacIntosh again. The obligatory romantic subplot is handled by Miriam Seegar and Edward Nugent.

**Sept. 25** “The Dawn Trail” (1930) Starring Buck Jones, this early sound Western tells the well-known story of a feud between cattle barons and sheep men. When Mart Denton, son of a wealthy cattle man, kills a homesteader during a quarrel, Sheriff Larry Williams (Jones) faces a difficult dilemma. The sheriff is not only Mart’s best friend but also is engaged to the young man’s sister, June (Miriam Seegar). But the law is the law and Mart is arrested. The angry cattlemen (continued on page 6)



COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS BUCK JONES IN "THE DAWN TRAIL" A REVIVAL PICTURES PRODUCTION MADE IN U.S.A.

help the youngster escape and Larry is wounded. The escaped prisoner, however, is later killed by his own father, who mistakes him for one of the sheep herders. This final tragedy helps bring the old feud to a peaceful conclusion.

**Oct. 2** "Strangers of the Evening" (1932) "Strangers of the Evening" is an effective blend of horror and humor. There's dirty work at the city morgue, where the body of Frank Daniels suddenly disappears. Later on, at Daniel's funeral, the wrong man is buried. It's all the handiwork of crooked undertaker, Chandler, who is part of a complex political cover-up. Things get really hairy when Daniels shows up very much alive, much to the astonishment of his daughter Ruth (Miriam Seegar).

**Oct. 9** "Out of Singapore" aka "Gangsters of the Sea" (1932) While a ship's captain is being slowly poisoned, a gang of thugs try to take over the ship. Miriam plays the captain's daughter.

**Oct. 16** "False Faces" (1932) In this melodrama, a sleazy plastic surgeon from Chicago bungles an operation and causes the amputation of his patient's legs. Naturally, she takes the quack to court. Miriam Seegar has a minor part in this film.

**Oct. 23** "Smash and Grab" (1937) Super-rich London husband

and wife team amuse themselves playing private detective to solve a series of smash and grab jewelry thefts. This movie was made in the UK and directed by Tim Whelan, Miriam Seegar's husband.

Sara Seegar has a minor part. **Oct. 30** **The location of this movie will be the Greentown Public Library Community Room.** It is a movie about a traveling salesman who convinces a town to buy band instruments and uniforms for a boys band. Sara Seegar plays a townswoman and has a singing part.

There will be no charge for any of the movies.

*The Seegar project received support from the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and Eli Lily and Company.*

### **Community Garage Sale**

G.H.S. has had a series of successful garage sales during the summer, and our efforts are going to conclude with more bargains offered on Friday, Sept. 14, and Saturday, Sept. 15. Our sale is conveniently located at the corner of Main and Indiana streets. Lots

of interesting shopping and our prices can't be beat! Do you have any items to donate? Stop by early on sale days or call Jean Simpson ahead of sale days at 628-7674.

### **Donations**

Greentown Historical Society is grateful for the many interested persons who donate time, talent, funds, and artifacts to help us continue our mission to preserve the history of eastern Howard County.

*January through August 2007*  
**Artifact Donations:** Fred and Rachel Jenkins, Ron and Jean Simpson, Ethel and Carole Petro, Dan Parsons, Glenda Owens, Tom Harper, Jo Howell, Suzanne Gingerich, Dwight Singer, Darwin Freeman, "Toots" Butler Reed, Emily Musgrave, Jack Horoho, Jolene Rule, Nancy Echelbarger, and John Pickett.

*June through August 2007*  
**G.H.S. Monetary Donations:** Sally Imbler, Century Villa Health Care, Barbara J. Middleton, and Ron Simpson.

**G.H.S. Material Donations:** Barbara J. Middleton, Larry Hinesley, Carol Ratliff, Mike and Joyce Lantz.

## 100 Balloons Released

As part of ongoing activities connected to the current exhibit at the Greentown History Center, a program and balloon release was held Saturday, Sept. 1, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. The event began at 101 E. Main Street, Greentown (on the SE corner at the stoplight). Songs connected to Miriam and Sara Seegar were sung by Amanda Kasem and Alex Dobbert, and a 1920's dance was performed by the Nixon Sisters.

Then 100 balloons were released in celebration of the 100th birthday of the only living Seegar sister, Miriam, who lives in California. Miriam was in several movies from 1928 - 1932. Her three sisters were also involved in the performing

arts. The exhibit is titled, "The Seegar Sisters, from Greentown to Stage and Screen".

Eastern elementary students of the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades drew a portrait of one of the four Seegar sisters after visiting the History Center at 103 E. Main Street and learning about the sisters and their contributions to the performing arts of their era. One hundred drawings were selected to be on display in the History Center. The creators of those 100 drawings were invited to release one of the balloons.

The History Center is open for viewing of the exhibit and the students' art work Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The exhibit will be in place through Nov. 25.

*All photos in this edition of*

*the G.H.S. newsletter and many more are on display in the History Center in the current exhibit, "The Seegar Sisters, from Greentown to Stage and Screen".*



William Collier, Jr. and Miriam Seegar in  
The New Movievue FOLLIES — a Fox production

## The Hardware Store

The Chamness and Seegar Hardware, and later the Seegar Hardware, was located on North Meridian in the I.O.O.F. building (now Winners Choice). There was a shop in the back; Scyler Payton was listed in the census as a tinner. Ads for the hardware store presented stoves, washing machines, roofing, and vacuum cleaners. An ad in the 1922 Greentown High School *Emerald* lists Tinning and Plumbing.

Frank Seegar died in January 1922 at age 54. His wife Carrie sold the hardware business and moved back with younger daughters Miriam and Sara to Marion where her mother lived.



The Seegar name is still on the side of the building to the south of the former Seegar Hardware.

**Greentown Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 313**  
**Greentown, IN 46936**

**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.*