

Artists Exhibit

The newest exhibit at the History Center, "Artists of Eastern Howard County, Indiana", opened on Friday, March 5, 2010, with a special reception to honor the artists and their families and friends. Special violin music was provided by Shelby Easley, Eastern High School senior.

G.H.S. thanks exhibit co-chairs Sally Nicholson, Amber Crites and Pam Thornbloom for an outstanding exhibit that features the diverse artistic talent of our area. We also wish to thank Robert Hill and Heather Hill White for their generous support of this exhibit in the memory of June E. Hill.

The following artists are featured in this exhibit: Marilyn K. Aleman, Brandi Cassis, Henry Keith Cogdell, Ellen Cranor,

Amber Crites, Mabel Clester Crume, Rachel Echelbarger, Jane Coan Ellefson, Linda Flodder, Darwin Freeman, LouEtta Haines, Catherine T. Hiatt, Robert Ira Hill, Randy Hurst, Ron Musgrave, Sally Nicholson, Thomas C. Patterson, Barbara Pence, Juanita Petty, Amy Minnich Rees, Jolene Rule, Darby Scalf, Ganiece Schaaf, Deanna Sheridan, Naomi Smith, Terry Steiner, Pamela Thornbloom, Stephen Voorhis, Paul and Elsie Troyer, Sarah Jo Walker, Heather Christine Hill White, Walter Wimmer, and Jon M. Wolfe.

Approximately 60 reception guests were served light refreshments prepared by All In Good Taste Catering as they enjoyed the opportunity to view the exhibit and meet the artists or their families.

This exhibit will be open for public viewing until June 27 on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. or by appointment.



Emily and Ron Musgrave enjoy "Tuscan Pitcher with Lemons" by Jane Coan Ellefson. (Rachel Jenkins)



Sarah Walker and Amber Crites are among the featured artists in the current exhibit. (Rachel Jenkins)



Gary and Sally Nicholson chat with Jane Coan Ellefson at the reception. (Rachel Jenkins)

GHS Calendar

- **Artists Exhibit open until June 27**
- **Bean Supper April 22**
- **Funeral Traditions program April 25**
- **Garage sale begins in May**
- **Historical Home Tour May 8**
- **Grocery Stores exhibit opens in July**

Hard Times Bean Supper

The Greentown Historical Society will have its second annual Hard Times Bean Supper as a fundraising project. The supper will be held on April 22 at the 4-H Community Building at the Howard Co. fairgrounds from 4:30-7:00 P.M. Cost is .50 per person with donations welcomed. Come, one and all, and enjoy homemade beans and cornbread. Kent and Bev Evans are the chairpersons and will be contacting members to help with the dinner. Feel free to call them at 628-7141.

Garage Sale Time

Here's a reminder to GHS members and others of our community that the annual garage sale will begin in May at a date to be determined. Watch the Greentown Grapevine and other publicity for the exact date.

Chairperson Kent Evans encourages members to start organizing and assembling items to be donated to the sale. It will be held at the same location as in the past, the Simpson garage at the corner of Main and Indiana streets. We will also need volunteers to help with organizing the items and working at various shifts during the summer. Contact Kent at 628-7141. Let's make this summer's sale as successful as last year's.

Upcoming Exhibit

Plans are well underway for the next exhibit to open in July which will document early and present grocery stores of eastern Howard County, as well as their owners and employees. Also, we'd like any pictures and stories of the hucksters of this area. If you have photos, documents, artifacts and memories of these kinds of businesses, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us at 628-3800, Chairperson Bonnie Middlesworth at 395-7334, Darwin Freeman at 628-3214 or Susie Middlesworth at 628-7192.

All loaned photos will be scanned for this exhibit and returned unless they are donated to G.H.S.

Funeral Traditions

On April 25 at 2:00 in the History Center, Howard County funeral director Jeff Stout will lead a program about old funeral traditions. There have been

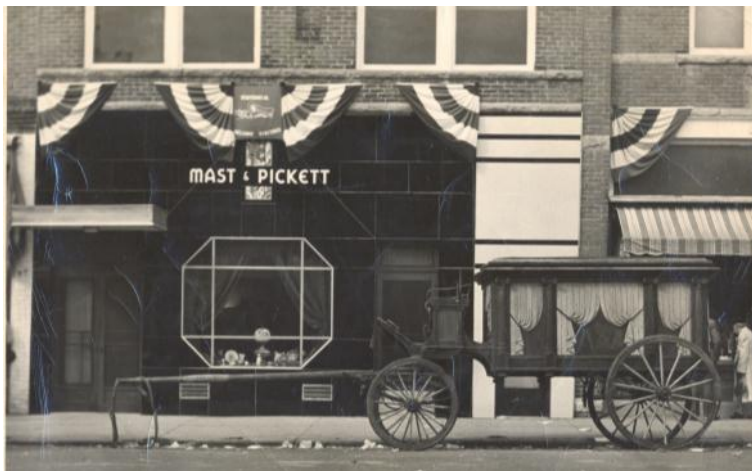
several generations of undertakers in his family so he has many stories as well as funeral items to share. The program is free and the public is invited.

Upcoming Programs

G.H.S. will sponsor a variety of programs of historic interest this spring. Watch for publicity and date for a presentation by Riley Case on postcards. On a date to accompany the next exhibit, we will sponsor a panel discussion about local grocery stores. All programs are open to the public without charge.

On May 8 Howard County Preservation Association will sponsor their annual historic homes tour. Watch for publicity in local newspapers about how to purchase tickets.

Centennial photo of horse-drawn hearse, Mast and Pickett Funeral Home, 1948.



Artifact Donations

by Joyce Lantz

We would like to thank the following donors of artifacts during the 1st quarter of 2010: Ronald Simpson, Janet Fry, Myrtle Brinson, Butch Johnson, Craig Trott, and Beryl Kendall. The Society receives donations of objects, photos and documents into our permanent collection on Monday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the History Center. If this is inconvenient for you, call 628-3800 to arrange an appointment.

Special Person Needed

G.H.S. is looking for a very special person to serve as Volunteer Coordinator of the History Center. This person would be in charge of scheduling docents for the current exhibits, scheduling fair parking workers, and coordinating volunteer workers for other events.

Like all of our other volunteer positions, this one is highly paid: You get the great feeling of making a positive impact on the preservation of local history. Interested? Please contact President Karen Swan at 628-3565. *Join the action at the History Center!*

Mortgage Reduction

G.H.S. is ushering in its 3rd year of ownership of the Bank Annex (formerly The State Bank of Greentown, The Sports Corner, etc.). This building has been greatly appreciated for its historic significance as well as

the expansion of G.H.S. functions. Our student visitors are fascinated by the two beautiful bank vaults and puzzled by bank artifacts, such as the manual typewriter and adding machine (which most of us learned to use in high school!).

Thanks to the hard work and donations of several members in its renovation, the Bank Annex now serves many purposes which were formerly crowded into the History Center gallery or not even possible. It showcases our gift shop, provides meeting and reception space for many types of groups, displays a small exhibit about The State Bank of Greentown, provides lots of needed space for student activities and exhibit preparation, and has an office room for at least three G.H.S. officers. We are so thankful for the privilege of owning both the History Center and the Bank Annex.

We are very happy to announce that our mortgage for the Bank Annex has been reduced by 41% since its purchase in April of 2007. Very generous donations from the Greentown business community and our patrons in addition to successful efforts by our fundraising committee have brought the original purchase price of \$60,000 down to the current balance of \$35,424.34. Our mortgage is held by Historic Landmarks Association, granting us a low rate of interest. However, we continue to need your help to complete the payment of our mortgage so we can dedicate more funds to-

wards providing history experiences for area patrons and school children.

G.H.S. thanks you for your past generous financial support as we ask for your continued donations to our Bank Annex mortgage. Please mark the dates on your calendar of our various fundraising events and participate with us. Also, as you plan your charitable gift-giving for 2010, please remember the Greentown Historical Society. We are working joyfully to fulfill our mission of preserving the history of eastern Howard Co.

2010 G.H.S. Membership Report

We're pleased to publish this current list of members who support and participate in the important efforts of the Greentown Historical Society to encourage research and to educate the public about the history of our area.

Annual Memberships:
Charlotte Agness, Barbara Alexander, Marty Begeman, John F. Buckley, Greg Bulin, Riley Case, Virginia Coan, Mary Jane Conway, Jan DeWitt, Bill and Carolyn Donson, Jim and Nancy Echelbarger, Bev and Kent Evans, Ernest Fawcett, Mary Helen Florea, Helen Fox, Wayne Frakes, Darwin Freeman, Janet Fry, Inez and John Garr, Dr. David Gibson, Linda Grove, Nancy Harper, Janalyce Hatton, Judy Horner, John Hunt, Brian and Stephanie Imbler, Rebecca Jarrett, Jerry Johnson, Zana Kaufman, Max Kingseed, Rita Kingseed,

Lynne Kurtz, Colleen Ladd, Joyce and Michael Lantz, Bob McCauley, Robert McCann, Mary Ellen McCurtain, Julia McKinney, Bonnie Middlesworth, Susie Middlesworth, Emily Musgrave, Juanita Morton, Dick and Shirley Moser, Kimberly and Paul Nicholson, Fred Odiet, Melissa Oswald, Jim Papacek, Carole Petro, Ellen K. Pettay, John Pickett, Georgia Pritchard, Carol and James Ratliff, Roseland Rayl, Anna Mae Reitenour, Edwin Riley, Dale Schaaf, Dwayne Schaaf, Ganiece Schaaf, Harry and Angie Sparks, Melody and Greg Sumpter, Robert and Susann Sumpter, Ronald Swan, Craig Trott, Connie Voorhis, Rosemary White.

Lifetime Memberships: James Armstrong, William Begeman, Mary Ann Bolinger, Century Villa c/o Janet Lemler, Sarah Jane Christy, Sue Clouser, Beulah Cobb, Janice David, Bill Eldridge, Ronda Eldridge, Masonic Lodge, Randy Hainlen,

Art Hammond, George Hershberger, Helen Hickman, Robert Hill, Mary and Milo Hochstedler, Sue and Paul Hubbard, Brenda and Mike Imbler, Melody and Steve Imbler, Sally Imbler, Jo-Ann Imbler-Clarke, Fred and Rachel Jenkins, Heather Jenkins, John Knotte, Mrs. Michael McCann, Mary Estes McCullar, Barbara and Don Middleton, Becky Middleton, Bryan Mohr, Charlotte Nulf, Nella Mae Padfield, Thomas Patterson, Katie Regan, Jolene Rule, Dean Schaaf, Dwight Schaaf, Miriam Seegar Whelan, Emily Shipman, Steve Shupperd, John and Carla Simpson, Jean and Ron Simpson, Carolyn and Joseph Smith, James and Janet Smith, James Speidel, Lisa and John Stout, Laura Stroud, Karen Swan, Charles and Betty Swisher, Dave and Bonnie Turner.

Portraits of Notable

Alumni Donated

by Rachel Jenkins

Prior to the EHS performance of "The Music Man" on Friday, Mar. 26, the Greentown Historical Society formally presented framed portraits of the Seegar sisters to the school corporation. The portraits hang in the hallway on the east side of the Performing Arts auditorium.

Rachel Jenkins, representing the historical society, said, "The Seegar story has elements of small town, talent, emphasis on education, and family." Frank and Carrie Seegar left their teaching positions in Marion in the early part of the 20th century and came to Greentown, where Frank was in the hardware business. They brought 2 daughters with them. Three more girls were born here, one dying in childhood. Frank died when the two younger girls were still in school. Carrie encouraged the girls to follow their dreams and their talent. Like a chain, each girl helped the next younger by opening doors. Their individual careers spanned (continued on page 5)

Kristen Dean, who portrays Maude Dunlop in this year's E.H.S. performance of "The Music Man", stands beside the photos of the four Seegar sisters dedicated in the EHPAC. Sara Seegar Stone, next to Kristen, portrayed Maude in the 1962 film production which starred Robert Preston in the lead role.



the years from Broadway and Chautauqua, through silent films, early sound movies, radio, color movies, and television.

Helen the eldest, was an accomplished pianist but chose academics as a career, graduating with honors from Northwestern University and later receiving her Masters and Doctorate from Georgetown University. She worked in New York for the Redpath Chautauqua Company and told her boss about her sister Dorothy, who had a beautiful soprano voice.

He hired **Dorothy**, who then sang on Broadway in light opera including the lead in *The Mikado*, a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. She toured the Midwest with the Chautauqua in operettas and with a quartet, *The New York Lyric Singers*.

Miriam appeared in plays in the Greentown High School. The summer after their father died, when Miriam was still in high school, Dorothy arranged for her to appear with her in *The Mikado*. Miriam appeared on stage in New York and then was invited to London. After 3 silent films in England, she was called to Hollywood, where she made 16 movies. Miriam is 102 years old and living in Pasadena, California.

Sara, the youngest Seegar sister, started school in Greentown and while traveling with her mother and Miriam, attended schools in London and Paris and graduated from Holly-

wood High. Miriam suggested Sara for a part while they both were in London. Sara later was on stage in New York, where she met her husband, Ezra Stone, who was the voice of Henry Aldrich on radio. In 1962 she appeared as Maude Dunlop in the movie, *The Music Man*. She was in many television shows of the 1960's and 1970's including *Dennis the Menace*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *The Jeffersons*, *Bewitched*, and *Perry Mason*. She and her husband lectured and led workshops in theater departments of many universities in the United States and other countries.

The selection of this year's Spring Musical at the high school was a co-incidence but allowed for a tie-in with the part which Sara Seegar played in the movie version of "The Music Man." EHS student, Kristen Dean, who played the part of Maud Dunlop, which Sara held in the movie, was introduced and read Sara's biography.

Rachel said the historical society hopes that the portraits

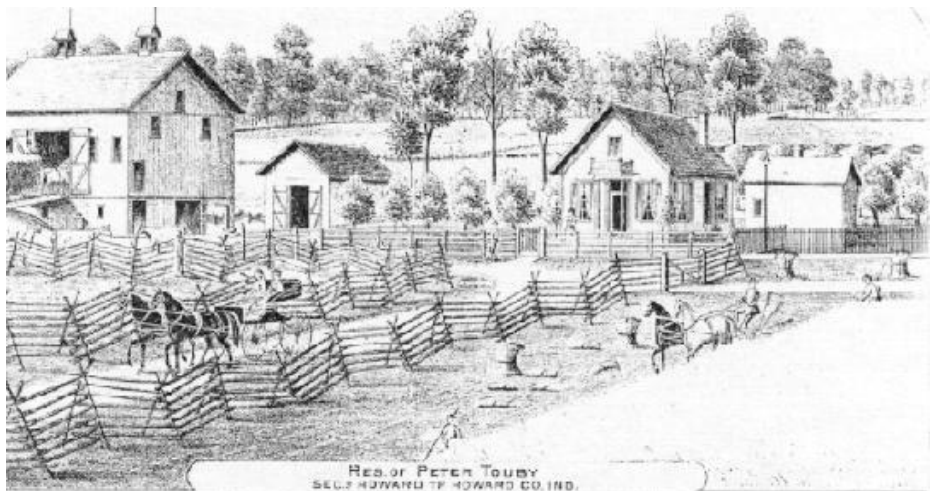
will serve as a point of community pride and an inspiration to students now and years to come.

Planning for Exhibit on Early Settlers

by Connie Voorhis

The Greentown Historical Society is beginning plans for an exhibit in 2011 on early settlers of eastern Howard County. They are interested in who they were, where they came from, what brought them here and where they settled. They are seeking documents, artifacts, photos and stories of early residents. Call the Historical Society at 765-628-3800, Connie Voorhis, 455-3779 or Rachel Jenkins, 765-628-3564 or email to greentownhistory@comcast.net/

*Howard County Atlas
1877, page 60.*



How Eastern Became The Comets

by Paul Nicholson

People oftentimes wonder just why Eastern acquired the nickname "Comets". Two EHS alumni now teaching at Eastern, LeAnne Donson and Paul Nicholson, talked with both retired and current teachers to also find out *who* was responsible for the fabled mascot of over half a century ago.

It seems that it was the lot of Eastern's Class of 1951 to select a fitting symbol/ mascot to carry the school's banner into educational and athletic competition. Three schools, the Jackson 'Stonewalls', the Greentown 'Beavers', and the Union 'Cardinals', were consolidated to become EASTERN, which was logistically named in Howard County. The Class of '51 decided to be unified around a name markedly different from former or identical ones in the area.

As 'Aurora' was already the yearbook name, they settled on the 'Comet' as the Eastern mascot. Some of the classmates in on the decision were Max Kingseed, Gene Wimmer, Milda (Keyton) Cheek, Judy (Imbler) Murphy, Evagnes (Little) and Jay Sommers, Marion Ellis, John Honeas, and Ronnie Riggs. It was felt that 'Comets' would be in keeping with the galactic theme . . . and Principal Nick Richer!

Several new school colors were considered. Green matched our town along

with available band uniforms so green and gold were selected to effectively rise above and beyond all opponents on any field of endeavor through the ages. As for the school fight song, the story of its origin might well be derived from the memory of EHS '52 grad Sue (Harper) Alexander, the only one of eleven Harper family siblings

to have graduated from Jackson Township High school. We hope this satisfies the inquisitive!

Aurora yearbook 1951, page 3. Available online at Howard County Memory Project at <http://www.howardcountymemory.net> or at the History Center of the Greentown Historical Society.



"Oh, to be a senior in high school!" This was the fervent prayer of the class of '51 as they began the long climb up the ladder of education. Sometimes the rungs became a little wobbly, especially if one lingered too long before taking the next step. But after three years of being the underdog, they finally reached their goal when they could look down and see new classes begin the upward struggle.

Seniors at last! August 24, the long awaited for opening day of school was a beautiful sunshiny day. This was evident from the smiles on the faces of the students as well as the teachers. Consolidation had finally arrived and students were busy getting acquainted with their fellow classmates and new teachers. Whereas Union, Jackson, and Greentown had been three separate schools, they were now united into one high school, namely, Eastern. . . . "One For All and All For One!"

Among the many decisions that had to be made early in the year were choosing school colors (how we held our breath for fear the colors would be pink and chartreuse), nickname for team, school song, and how to organize the cheerblock. As we look back now, we see that those problems were soon solved and others that came up were met, too.

Yes, as seniors, it all comes back to us now. We forget the work and disappointments as we see our final year coming to an end and remember the good times and unusual happenings that we experienced.

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SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

by Riley Case

Eastern Howard County was the very last area settled in the state of Indiana. A lot of people don't know that, but then, there are a lot of things people don't know.

One reason, of course, for eastern Howard County being the last area in the state to be settled is that part of Howard County was in the Miami Reserve, and this land was negotiated for settlement only in 1840. Those who settled before that were poaching. But there is another reason for eastern Howard's late development, and that is because of the way Indiana was settled.

In the 1790s 90% of the people who lived west of the Alleghany Mountains lived in Kentucky. This means the first migration into Indiana was from the south up. By the 1820s, groups of people from New England, New York and Pennsylvania moved west primarily through Detroit and Fort Wayne (basically up—that is south--the rivers that flowed north). So, Indiana was also being settled from north to south. Migration was also moving up the Wabash River which meant that, as far as Howard County is concerned, land was being settled from the west to the east. At the same time, people were moving across Ohio

into Indiana so land was being settled from the east to the west.

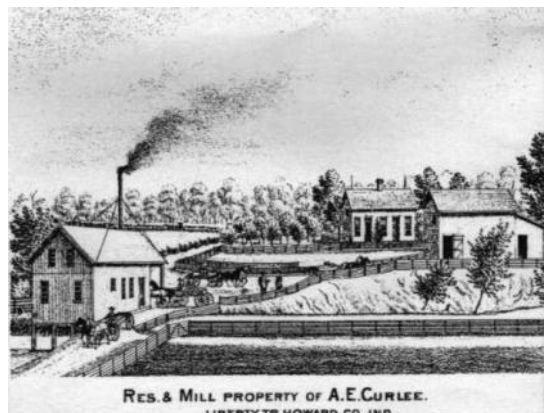
Howard County is where south met north and east met west. To those sensitive to such things, the Hoosier dialect disappears north of the line where south met north (much more noticeable 50 years ago). The only area to rival Howard County in late settlement was in the prairie areas of Stark, Benton, and White Counties. One big reason for this was that tall grass prairie was impossible to plow until the introduction of McCormick's steel plow. The result of all this was, according to Latta's *Outline History of Indiana Agriculture* (Purdue 1938), that the first settler in Howard County did not arrive until 1835. Every other Indiana county except Starke County (also 1835) recorded settlers earlier than that.

Howard County was organized in 1844. Again, every other county in the state was organized earlier except Tipton, Starke, and Ohio, all of whom were also organized in 1844.

But why was eastern Howard County settled later than western Howard County? We depend on early accounts. According to the first settlers, it was because east-

ern Howard County was level and did not drain and thus was "under water during much of the year." According to the history of Union Township (Blanchard's *History of Howard County 1883*), "So thickly interwoven were the branches that the sun's rays were completely excluded from the soil beneath, which consequently remained wet during the greater part of the year. This damp condition of the ground, with the abundance of decaying vegetable matter, proved the fruitful source of much of the fever and ague with which the first pioneers were afflicted during the first few years of the country's settlement" (p. 238). So, I guess eastern Howard County settlers saved the best till last. Those settlers who tackled the swamps and tilled the land found some of the most fertile soil in the state. Perhaps someone should put up a plaque.

Howard County Atlas 1877.



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



Foreground: "WiFi" sculpture by Robert Ira Hill

Wall: "Santa At The Gazebo" by Terry Steiner



"Old Voorhis Farm" by Elsie Troyer