



April 2011

Early Pioneers and Settlers Exhibit

The Greentown Historical Society has opened its first exhibit in 2011, "They Came and Stayed Put: Early Settlers of Eastern Howard County". Visitors will learn the names of some of the earliest settlers in our area up to 1850, where they came from, what brought them here, and where they settled.

Eastern Howard Co. was part of the last land purchased from the Native Americans in 1840, but the land was not surveyed until 1846, according to the Preemption Law passed by Congress. No preemption certificates were issued until after that survey. People who wanted to purchase the land set up claims, then purchased the land by reg-

istering it at the Indianapolis or Ft. Wayne land office.

On display are two of these early documents: 1849 preemption certificate to George Coffee signed by Pres. Zachary Taylor; and 1850 land registration certificate to Spencer Moon. According to the Land Ordinance of 1785, Indiana was divided into townships six miles square for the purpose of selling the land. When preemption certificates were issued, the township range north or south and east or west was included in the description of the land purchased from the government. A part of the current exhibit demonstrates the evolution of the three large townships of Richardville Co. in 1844 to the smaller eleven townships of Howard Co. today.

The exhibit committee has found evidence of the following founding families of the early nineteenth century who have descendants living in eastern Howard County: Riggs, Ware, Mugg, Brown, Nash/Crousore, Lindley, Bagwell, Kendall, Templin, Freeman, Moon/Johnson, Golding, Brunk and Hostetler. We are still seeking documents, artifacts, photos and stories of early residents, and we hope the public will contribute information.

The second installment of this exhibit will open in late July, picking up at 1850 and continuing through the end of the 19th century. Interested persons may call the Historical Society at 628-3800, Connie Voorhis at 455-3779, Karen Swan at 628-3565, or email to the History Center: greentownhistory@comcast.net

GHS Calendar

- **Mar—Jul Early Pioneers Exhibit**
- **April 10 Program by John Morr**
- **Apr 15 Annual Bean Supper at fairgrounds**
- **May-Sept garage sale**
- **Jun 12 Box Tops program**
- **Howard Co Fair parking**



Three immigrants look to the horizon as their ship nears the American shore and their new life.

Cemetery Program

by Rachel Jenkins

Old cemeteries can yield clues to pioneer heritage. Many current residents of this area can trace their ancestors back to early pioneers. Although some pioneers were “just movin’ through” on their way farther west, many “stayed put” in Howard County. This is the subject of the current exhibit at the Greentown History Center. It has sparked an interest in finding out more details of those early settlers. A resource which is sometimes overlooked is the final resting place of those ancestors—cemeteries.

On Sunday, April 10, at 2:00 p.m., Howard County Historian, John W. Morr, will present his program, “Pioneer Relatives.” An interest in the “Pioneer” or “Old” Cemetery in Kokomo led him to look deeper into the county’s past. This cemetery is of particular interest to him because one of his relatives is buried there and is named on the memorial cenotaph. The steps that he used to find out more about his ancestor can be applied to any cemetery or to any old pioneer connection.

The public is invited to attend this free event.

The G.H.S. is involved in collecting information and artifacts about local family history and genealogy. If you have any family histories, records, books, etc. that you’d like to donate or allow us to copy, we’d like to talk to you.

Bean Supper

What: Greentown Historical Society Hard Times Bean Supper

When: April 15, 2011, Friday, 4:30-7:00 PM

Where: 4-H Community Building at Howard Co. Fairgrounds

You’ve paid your taxes and now you’re broke.

Now it’s beans and corn bread, that’s no joke.

Everyone is invited. Cost is 50 cents per person and *donations are welcome*. The facility is handicap accessible. For more information call 765-628-3565.

“Send Those Boxtops In”

by Rachel Jenkins

Today’s kids get toys instantly by buying a fast food meal. But in “days gone by” youngsters had to (1.) Buy the right cereal, (2.) send in a prescribed number of box tops with coins taped to a piece of cardboard, and (3.) wait “4 to 6 weeks” for the coveted premium. The toy might be a decoder ring, a ring with a secret compartment, or something like that. If the prize was in the box, as in Cracker Jack, clever children learned ways to get to the prize before all the snack was eaten.

Such premiums were not only for children. Betty Crocker box tops (plus a small amount of coin) could be redeemed for

silverware. Drinking glasses were packed in boxes of laundry soap as late as the 1960’s. S&H Green Stamps were saved to be redeemed.

The Greentown Historical Society has set aside Sunday afternoon, June 12, at 2:00 for the public to come and reminisce about their “treasures” obtained as premiums. If any of those items are still around, they will make a great show-and-tell. The location for the informal program will be in the History Center Annex, 101 E. Main St.

Volunteers Needed

Greentown Historical Society has grown since 1999 and extended its services to the community of eastern Howard County in many ways to fulfill its mission statement (stated in full on the newsletter cover). We welcome new volunteers to join us in the fun and satisfying ways that spotlight our unique local history.

We need helpers for all of our fundraising events, exhibit docents in the History Center on the weekends, committee members for all kinds of events. The list of opportunities could go on and on!

If you have a desire to “test the waters” and see if you might like working alongside many of your neighbors and friends, call the History Center at 628-3800 or stop by on Sat., Sun. or Mon. from 1-4:00 P.M. We’d love to welcome you on board!



A few of the young history enthusiasts who participated in the Greentown Glass program for youth on March 19 in the History Center.

Annual Garage Sale

The G.H.S. garage sale will begin in May and go through September. Once again it will be at the Simpsons' garage at Main and Indiana St. All items are welcome, except clothing. Save room in your garden for our nice selection of perennial and vegetable plants. Call the History Center at 628-3800 or Jean Simpson at 628-7674 for more information, drop-off times, or pick-up.

Howard Co. History Programs

G.H.S. members may also be interested in programs on May 14 during Howard Co. Historic Preservation Month. **"Walking Tour of Downtown Kokomo's Historic Districts"** by Cathy Wright of Indiana Landmarks. Time: May 14, 10 a.m. Place: Howard County Courthouse (Main Street

Side), Kokomo. Participants will learn about architectural styles and features of historic buildings in the two Downtown Historic Districts. Meet at the entrance on the Main Street side of the Howard County Courthouse. Event includes a guided Walking Tour of the Courthouse Square Historic District and the L.E. & W. Railroad Depot Historic District in Downtown Kokomo that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of the Historic Downtown Walking Tour Booklet recently published by the Kokomo Historic Review Board will be available to all participants. Cost: Free, no registration required. **"Behind the Scenes Guided Tour" by Howard County Historical Society.** Time: May 14, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Place: Seiberling Mansion, 1200 West Sycamore Street, Kokomo. Event includes a guided Walking Tour of the Howard County Historical Society Museum

located in the Seiberling Mansion including areas not normally open to the public. Cost: \$4 adults and \$1 for children 12 and younger. **"Genealogy & Local History Department Open House" and "Howard County Genealogical Society Information Event"**. Time: May 14, 12 to 4 p.m. Place: Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, 220 N Union St, Kokomo. Tour the Genealogy & Local History Department, view demonstrations of available databases, ask questions of knowledgeable genealogists, and learn how and where to start your genealogy research. Talk to members of the Howard County Genealogical Society to learn about the society. Everyone who attends will receive a free genealogy beginner's packet. Door prizes will be given away. Cost: Free, No registration required.

Civil War Exhibit

We would like to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War by displaying a mini-exhibit of artifacts and information about local persons who were involved in that war. If you have anything to loan or to share, please contact the History Center at 628-3800.

Greentown Historical Society
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Email: greentownhistory@comcast.net

Website: www.greentownhistory.org

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.*

