

# GREENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 2011

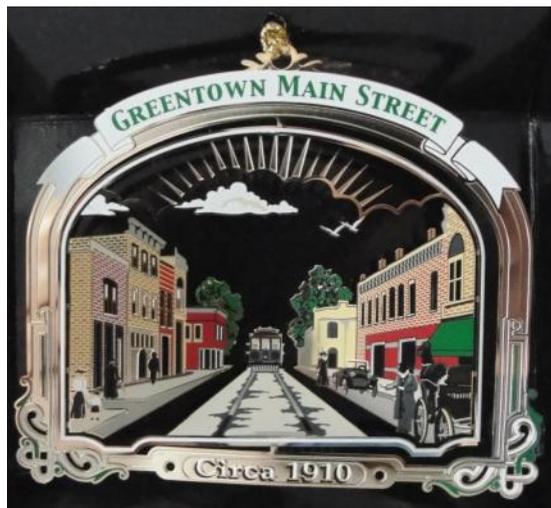
## Early Pioneers and Settlers Exhibit

The Greentown Historical Society will open its first exhibit in 2011, "Early Settlers of Eastern Howard County". Visitors will learn who the earliest settlers were, where they came from, what brought them here and where they settled. This exhibit will include settlers up to 1850. We are still seeking documents, artifacts, photos and stories of early residents.

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 Rachel Jenkins at 628-3564 or email to [greentownhistory@comcast.net](mailto:greentownhistory@comcast.net)

## Commemorative Ornament Now Available

A specially commissioned commemorative Greentown ornament is now available for purchase in the History Center Gift Shop. It is made of three-dimensional brass flashed with 24K gold and replicates a Greentown Main Street scene circa 1910. The artist used as her inspiration the well-known postcard scene shown below. This ornament may be purchased for \$9.95 plus tax at the History Center Gift Shop at 103 E. Main Street, Greentown, during open hours



starting in March on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m.

*Interurban scene on postcard c. 1910 used as model for Christmas ornaments for sale in GHS gift shop.*

## GHS Calendar

- **History Center closed until Mar 12**
- **Mar 12 Early Pioneers Exhibit opens**
- **Apr 15 Annual Bean Supper at fairgrounds**
- **Mar 19 youth activity**
- **May-Sept garage sale**



## Board Members, Officers for 2011

### G.H.S. Officers

President—Karen Swan  
1st V-P—Sue Clouser  
2nd V-P—Carolyn Donson  
Sec.—Connie Voorhis  
Treas.—Darwin Freeman

### Chairpersons

Audit—Ron Simpson  
Budget & Fin—Darwin Freeman  
Building & Grds—Dwight Schaaft  
Collection Mgt—Joyce Lantz  
Exhibit—Connie Voorhis  
Fund-Raising—  
Long-Rnge Plan—Barbara Angel  
Mkt & Public Rel—Sue Clouser  
Membership—Paul Nicholson  
Nominating—Carolyn Donson  
Program—Rachel Jenkins  
Publications—Joyce Lantz  
Research—Riley Case  
Volunteer—Doug Lantz  
Youth—Lynne Kurtz

### New GHS Board Members

G.H.S. welcomes two new board members to our monthly meetings and programs. Please make them feel welcome as you visit the History Center.

**Barbara Angel** became familiar with the historical society during its early years. She acted as group moderator on two occasions as the members developed the mission and vision statements. Her appreciation for history of the area grew while she was employed in the

Eastern Howard School system as At Risk Counselor and then as the high school Guidance Counselor. Retiring in 1999, Barb was employed by IU Kokomo as adjunct faculty while teaching career development classes. She also has done free-lance work for IUPUI and was employed in the education department at Manchester College. Her current interests are traveling, golf, bridge, bowling, serving on Kokomo's Friends of the Library Board while also serving as treasurer for her neighborhood association in Kokomo.

Barb is impressed with the hard work that has been done in the buildings owned by Greentown Historical Society and looks forward to being involved with this working board and its volunteers.

**Doug Lantz** has lived in Greentown most of his life. After he graduated from Eastern High School in 1969, he went to Indiana University. He has always enjoyed history, and took several history courses. He views serving on the G.H.S. board as a way of giving back to the community. Doug has one daughter, Breanne, who is 25 and lives in Colorado Springs, CO. She works for a faith-based organization and is a part-time photographer. Doug enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities, including gardening, landscaping, and sports. He is a Colts and I.U. fan.

## GHS Volunteers of the Year

*by Karen Swan*

The Greentown Historical Society functions solely by the work of our volunteers, and we thank all of you who are so willing give of your time.

Each year we ask members to nominate one person they feel is deserving of Volunteer of the Year. This year we have two, and they represent two important components.

**Kent Evans** was nominated because of his relentless efforts on fund raising. The delicious beans you ate at the Bean Supper were cooked by Kent, and Bev helped him with the planning and serving for the supper. He was very diligent with parking at the fair. He worked many days sorting, pricing and selling items at the garage sale. He also packed away items and made plans for next year's sale. The workers at the garage sale were grateful for his organizational skills. He and Bev also worked the Christmas and historical home tours. We are going to miss Kent and Bev since they have moved to Mount Sterling, Kentucky, to be closer to their daughter.

**Bonnie Middlesworth** was nominated because of the work she did to make our grocery store exhibit so impressive. She worked tirelessly preparing for the displays of the early kitchen and the grocery store using clever ideas

that resulted in an eye appealing exhibit. She brought in many personal items and secured mannequins to make the exhibit life-like. Bonnie's living room became the work station for creating posters to tell the stories of the past and present grocery stores of eastern Howard County. Bonnie and her committee of Darwin and Martha Freeman and Susie Middlesworth put in many hours to create the wonderful display that tells at least part of the history of grocery stores in our community. In addition to creating the exhibit, Bonnie has spent most Mondays greeting visitors and explaining the history to visitors.

Among our many wonderful volunteers, Kent and Bonnie are our 2010 Volunteers of the year. Thanks to both.

## Greentown Legend Passes Away

by Rachel Jenkins

Miriam Seegar Whelan died on January 2, 2011, at her home in Pasadena, California, at the age of 103. She was born September 1, 2007, in Greentown. She showed an interest in the performing arts at an early age, being a part of the school orchestra and drama plays in Greentown High School. The summer after their father died, when Miriam was still in high school, her sister Dorothy arranged for her to appear in *The Mikado*. Miriam appeared on stage in New

York and then was invited to London. She met her future husband, director Tim Whelan, a fellow Hoosier, while filming in England in 1929. After three silent films in England, she was called to Hollywood, where she made sixteen movies.

She retired from acting in 1933 to raise their two sons and later found employment as an interior decorator in Los Angeles. She retired from this second career in 1995.

The Greentown Historical Society produced an exhibit and accompanying programs in 2007 on the four Seegar Sisters. Quite serendipitously, that was the year of Miriam's 100th birthday. A special celebration was held with performances of music of the era or her film career and a balloon release by school children. Miriam was quite happy to learn of the event. According to her daughter-in-law Harriet Whelan, Miriam always had a special regard for her hometown. The Greentown Historical Society donated portraits



of the four Seegar Sisters to Eastern Howard School Corporation. Those portraits hang in the Performing Arts Center. (above photo)

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



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



*Susie Middlesworth and Bonnie Middlesworth as they prepare the exhibit Old Country Stores of Eastern Howard County.*

## Holiday Home Tour Report

We would like to thank all the folks who participated in our annual Holiday Home Tour. Once again it was a spectacular success, earning \$1,032 to help pay for the mortgage, operations, and programs of the Greentown Historical Society.

Special thanks go out to our hosts: Larry & Susie McKinney, Mike & Michele Neuhalfen, Allen & Juanita Echelbarger, and Bud & Julie Massey. Their enthusiastic and gracious efforts made the tour a great success and a welcoming way to bring our community together to celebrate the Christmas season.

Next year the tour chairperson will be Sally Mower. If you'd

like to be a part of it or help with the tour, it's not too early to contact her.

## Artifact Donations

We would like to thank the following donors of artifacts during the 4th quarter of 2010: Juanita Petty, Jean Simpson, Rachel Jenkins, Barbara Frakes, Tracy Caddell, Mary Ellen McCurtain, Dale Rush, Marjorie Pierce, Nancy Custer, and Mary Doris Winegardner.

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.

## Garage Sale Is Coming Again

As you pack away holiday decorations and do the spring cleaning, remember the G.H.S. garage sale from May through September. Once again it will be at the Simpsons' garage at Main and Indiana St. All items are welcome, except clothing. We also plan to have a 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.

## Donations to GHS

We would also like to thank the following persons for monetary donations for the last quarter of 2010: Paul and Kimberly Nicholson, Fred and Rachel Jenkins, Jerry and Jeanne Johnson, Chester and Lorena Hendricks, Gregory and Melody Sumpter, and Heather Jenkins. The Society sincerely thanks these donors.

*Richer snowmobile*



## From The Web

G.H.S. now has a subscription to Ancestry.com on our computers, so interested patrons can do family research on this website in the History Center. This service ties in well with our genealogy exhibits this year about the early settlers of eastern Howard Co. We plan to present some short programs to help patrons learn more about how to do this kind of research.

Have you checked out the new website for Greentown Historical Society? You can find us at [www.greentownhistory.org](http://www.greentownhistory.org) Our website was designed by Jan Chase and is sponsored by Kling Computers. Bruce Shrock is our website administrator and will update it regularly for us.

Also, while you're surfing the web, look up the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library's website. Click on Departments and then click on Genealogy/Local History. Find the link to Howard County Memory Project. At the top of that page, find the link Collections. Here you'll find school yearbooks, court and marriage records, Howard County maps, Gem newspapers, and the beginning of the work on Howard County churches and Bible records. To date, they have Kokomo Zion UMC, Hillsdale UMC, and Rich Valley-Northview Church. Watch for further additions.

## Request For Information About Civil War Regiment

G.H.S. has been contacted by email by an individual who is researching the 34th Indiana Infantry Regiment of the Civil War. If you can help him, his email is given at the end so that you can contact him:

"I research the 39th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment and the 34th Indiana was directly opposite the 39th Georgia during the Vicksburg Siege (May 23-July 4, 1863). The two regiments were also in the same vicinity during the Battle of Champion Hill (May 16, 1863).

"I am looking for letters, diaries, journals, newspaper articles, and reminiscences by soldiers and officers from the 34th Indiana Infantry Regiment for these time periods in order

to relate the story of battle from the Federal perspective. The officers and soldiers of the 34th Indiana Infantry Regiment were from Blackford, Grant, Hamilton, Howard, Huntington, Jay, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Porter, Wabash, Wells Counties, and I am sure among some others that I was not able to identify.

"Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please let me know if you have any questions."

Respectfully,  
Gerald D. Hodge, Jr.  
**rebel1863@hotmail.com**

M.A. Military History - Civil War Concentration  
War Between the States Historian  
Research - Preservation Historian: 39th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment  
<http://39thgavolinfrgt.homestead.com/39thHomepage.html>

**INDIANA MEMORY**  
[www.in.gov/memories](http://www.in.gov/memories)

**Indiana Memory** is a collaboration of Indiana libraries, museums, archives, and related cultural organizations whose mission is to create and maintain a digital library that enables free public access to Indiana's unique cultural and historical heritage.

**Howard County Newspapers** is the digital collection within Indiana Memory made available by a grant awarded by LSTA in 2007 to the following partners:

**Kokomo-Howard County Public Library**  
[www.KHCPL.org](http://www.KHCPL.org) - 765.467.3242

**Greentown Historical Society**  
103 E. Main, Greentown, IN - 765.628.3800

## Genealogy Programs Youth History Day

There will be a program at the Greentown Library by Marcia Ford on Thursday, March 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 on "Explore the History of You with Ancestry Library Edition." Our members might be interested in this since it ties in well with our 2011 exhibit.

G.H.S. patrons may also be interested in any one of the several genealogy programs sponsored by the Kokomo-Howard Co. Public Library. Call them to reserve your seat.

The first 2011 youth history activity day is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, at 10 a.m. in the History Center.

Members of the NGGA (National Greentown Glass Association) will have broken pieces of Greentown glass for students to examine. While teaching them about Greentown glass, the members will help the students identify the item of glass by looking at the pieces in tubs full of shards. Students will learn about the factory and the different glass

patterns, then the students can dig through the shards trying to find the different patterns in the glass.

The session will be open to students from 3rd through 8th grades. Participants should bring heavy work gloves. Call the History Center at 628-3800 to register.

### 2011 Membership Dues

If your address label has a **red dot** beside your name, we have not yet received your 2011 dues payment, so our January newsletter is being sent to you as a complimentary copy. Just like our first 10 years, we plan to display interesting exhibits and offer educational programs of many kinds for all age groups and interests. As we grow to include Junior activities for our younger members, we hope this will encourage families to take advantage of what we have to offer. Do you know a family that you can encourage to join? We hope that you will consider joining or rejoining the Greentown Historical Society and helping us continue to serve eastern Howard County history.

Mail your membership form and check to GHS, c/o Paul Nicholson, P.O. Box 313, Greentown, IN 46936.

Dues Rates: Junior (18 and under)	\$ 8.00
Individual	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 45.00
Life Member	\$200.00

## Some Notes From the Old Country Store Exhibit

This exhibit has been one of the most popular that the History Center has hosted since its beginnings in 2003. More than 650 visitors have attended grocery store programs and enjoyed the exhibit. Congratulations to exhibit chair Bonnie Middlesworth and her committee members! There was an open notebook available during the exhibit that invited visitors to jot down their own memories about our country stores.

Among the several offerings is this one from Keith Slaughter: "I worked at Lantz Bros. Grocery (Plevna) when I was 16 or 17 (summers). I learned a lot, but the people I worked with (and for) made it all a great experience.

"Lighter moments included: (1) A customer said "snuff" when I asked, "Is there anything else?" I thought he said, "That's enough." Fred Lantz bailed me out—I didn't know "snuff" was chewing tobacco!

"Jack Lantz was overseas serving the U.S.A. so Fred and Floyd gave me the job working mainly with Gene Lantz. The money I earned went mostly in the gas tank, so I could have dates with my eventual love of my life who has put up with me for the past 55 years!"

And the History Center received this email from John A. Pickett, Pittsburgh, PA :

### A SPECIAL PLACE

"The Greentown Historical Society's exhibit of Grocery Stores in Eastern Howard County, featuring the Kendall Grocery Store in Sycamore, prompts me to write about the special place that that store had in the lives of my parents. They met there.

"Very early in the 20th Century, Claude and Orpha Fellow Ellis established, or bought, the store in the village of Sycamore that later became the Kendall Grocery Store. Family access to the store was quite convenient with living quarters above on the second floor. In July, 1920, a son, Jack, was born to Claude and Orpha. Following that event, my Mother, Vetta Fellow came the seven miles from her Tipton County home to assist sister Orpha with her new son.

"My Dad, Hanley Pickett, was born and spent most of his early years just a short distance west of the village on Sycamore Road. Hanley quickly took note of the auburn-haired

beauty at the Ellis store, no doubt causing his visits to the store to become more frequent. Vetta continued to visit the Ellis family in Sycamore between her semesters of study at Earlham College. A courtship was hampered both by distance and the uncertainty of Hanley's income as a farmer. Then Hanley was hired as a rural postal carrier in Greentown and Vetta became a teacher in Butler Township, Miami County. Hanley provided Vetta a taxi service to her job and they soon married in 1925, settling in Greentown. It can be said that I owe my very existence to a grocery store in Sycamore.

"Hanley delivered the mail to the Kendall Grocery Store in Sycamore for many years to his retirement at the end of 1954. It was said that you could set your clock by Hanley's daily arrival there."

*Sessons Grocery clerks, photo provided by Dwight Schaaf. Do you know something about this store or photo?*



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

**Phone: 765-628-3800**

**Email: [greentownhistory@comcast.net](mailto:greentownhistory@comcast.net)**

**Website: [www.greentownhistory.org](http://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.*

