

## UPCOMING EVENT!

### Konnie Kuiper Auto Museum

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 23, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1423 Gatlin Street, Griffith, Indiana  
(Main Street to Colfax. South on Colfax to Gatlin. Right on Gatlin)

RSVP by 4/22: 219 836-6530



Members and Friends,

For our April meeting/program, we will be the guest of Konnie Kuiper at his Auto Museum in Griffith. Konnie has numerous antique cars like his 1933 Duesenberg pictured above, buggies, a stagecoach, plus many historical artifacts dealing with transportation. We took this tour some years back and it was a real hit. This is a unique opportunity to tour a mint collection of vintage vehicles...a field trip you won't want to miss! We hope you will attend and bring your guests. Please RSVP to our office, (219) 836-6530, by leaving a message as to how many will be attending. For our local members who no longer drive, please don't hesitate to request a ride.

Every April we are usually asking for volunteers to act as docents for our many visitors who come to see our Munster History Museum. Unfortunately that is not the case this year as it still is not open due to liability issues and Town Fire Marshall codes (we must have two exits available at all times). The front porch has yet to be repaired, making it unsafe to exit through the front door to the porch in case of an emergency. We hope the Munster Park Board will advise us soon of their repair assessment so we will know more about the renovation status of our beloved historic building.

"Munster History" by Cindy Watson Badten was the featured program for the American Association of University Women Southlake Branch, April 10, at the Schererville-Dyer Public Library. Thanks to Pat Jaracz for requesting this program. Special thanks to Cindy for speaking to this fine group of women who also requested a visit to the Kaske House when it reopens.

Our Society contributed a raffle basket to the Munster Education Foundation for their Blarney Blast fundraiser on March 15. Thank you to Beth Palmer and JoAnne Shafer for putting together a basket that contained The Brass Tavern Cookbook, various donated cooking/gourmet items, and Images of Munster history book by Ed Hmurovic. Special thanks to Beth Palmer for finalizing and delivering the basket, attending the event, and representing our Society.

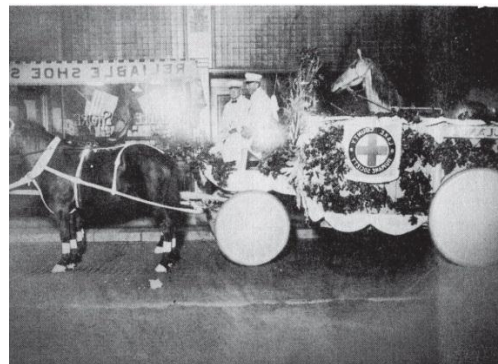
Wednesday, March 20, Tamara Hemmerlein, Indiana Historical Society (IHS) Hoosier Heritage Alliance Coordinator, visited the Munster History Museum as part of their "Connecting to Collections" division to evaluate our collection and to teach us the many ways on how to preserve and care for our artifacts. Ms. Hemmerlein was very informative and extremely helpful. It was attended by Curator JoAnne Shafer, President Carole Cornelison, Board Member Judy Peters, and Newsletter Team member Cindy Watson Badten. Curator JoAnne Shafer arranged for the visit that was advertised as an IHS museum outreach program that included a collections kit gift valued at \$100.

New board member Judy Peters has made arrangements with the Munster Public Library for the Historical Society to display artifacts for the months of August and September in their small and large display cases. Please call our office (219 835-6530) if you would like to volunteer to help with a theme, set-up, etc. Thank you, Judy, for chairing this educational display. We also have a display case in the lobby of the Munster Town Hall. Thanks to Norma Benoit, Kelly Benoit, and September Alexander for making periodic changes to this display case.

**THE BRASS TAVERN COOKBOOK:** Please keep in mind when purchasing Mother's Day gifts or Shower gifts. They can be purchased at our office at the Town Hall or online for \$20.00 (plus shipping).

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. at Kaske House. Anyone wishing to submit an item for discussion by the Board, please email [info@munsterhistory.org](mailto:info@munsterhistory.org).

On Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, members of the Society were the guests of the Humane Society of the Calumet Area (HSCA) for a program held as a thank you for the 65 fleece blankets, 11 beds, and numerous toys donated by our Historical Society. Some of our board members handmade all 65 blankets and our President Carole Cornelison arranged the HSCA visit. Stephanie Peterson, the Development Director at the Humane Society gave us a tour of the facility and a presentation on the history of the Humane Society in the Calumet Region from the 1940's to present day. It actually dates back as far as the early 1900's when they organized a group to check on the welfare of the horses in our region. 1916 photo provided courtesy of HSCA. Below is the Internet link to the interesting history of HSCA: <http://hscalumet.org/pdf/First%2050%20Years.pdf>



Cindy Watson Badten and Beth Palmer are co-chairing a virtual tour project. Watch for details coming soon.

Our Society was recently given a genealogy of the Hannah-Smiley-Bennett families. It was donated by Doris Becchino whose grandparents, the Bennett's lived at 1547 Ridge Road for many years. Please feel free to donate copies of your family genealogies. They may seem insignificant to you, but they are all part of a bigger puzzle and might help others who are researching their family tree. We were also given two antique washboards. One belonged to the late Trena Torrenga Powers' mother. Trena was the first wife of Don Powers and the mother of Frankie Fesko. Trena's mother was Clara Brink Torrenga Van Wieran. She was born in 1888 in Lafayette, Indiana. These were donated to us via Donna and Joe Williamson. Joe has worked for Don Powers in the past and lives next door to the Powers.

The Summer Concert Series at Heritage Park is coming up fast beginning on June 9<sup>th</sup> (for Concert Schedule visit [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org)). We will once again be in need of volunteers to help set up and serve. This is one of our best ways of fundraising so please volunteer (219 836-6530) for at least one concert. If you are unable to help, please stop by to support our cause. Our popular root beer floats will be back along with hot dogs and popcorn freshly made in our vintage popcorn machine. Thanks to September and Tom Alexander and Carole Cornelison for co-chairing our concession stand again! They always make it fun to volunteer...you may even want to join our concession stand dancers!

The Munster Historical Society has been invited to attend the annual dinner of the Hammond Historical Society along with the celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> year of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Munster. It will be Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at Cloister in the Woods banquet hall, 1101 Park Drive, Munster, Indiana. Dinner will be catered by Chef Jack Mix, Comforts Catering. Cost is \$12.50 per plate. The program will be a Memorial Tour of Munster and Hammond Families who helped establish St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Call 219 218-2888 for reservations. Check or money order payable to the Hammond Historical Society. Mail to Mary Ann Carter, 6928 Bertram Avenue, Hammond, IN 46324-2108. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Pat Kincaid for conveying the above invitation. Happy 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!!

Don't miss the REGION UNITED, NATION DIVIDED; Civil War in the South Shore exhibit thru May 3 at the Indiana Welcome Center, Kennedy Avenue & 80/94, Hammond. Numerous photos, narratives, artifacts, re-enactments tell the story of NW Indiana's involvement in the War. Note: Read Cindy Watson Badten's article on the history of Munster's Participation in the Civil War.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET? We really need your financial support. Membership form is available on line or at our office.

Happy Birthday!

Dorothy Kovach, April 11; Ashley Suda, April 17; Susan Schmidt, April 25; Red Fulte, April 27; Felicia Makowski, May 11

A BIG thanks to JoAnne Shafer for sending out her couple of News Flashes with lots of information. Very helpful !

Munster Historical Society Newsletter Team: Cindy Watson Badten, Shirley Schmueser & Jim Schmidt

Munster Historical Society office phone number: 219 836-6530  
For updates and other information, visit [www.munsterhistory.org](http://www.munsterhistory.org)