

Historical Happenings

June 2022

From the Lake County Historical Society



A LONG-AWAITED UPDATE

It's been a long time since our last newsletter, but we have been very busy. Here are some highlights:

- Applied for museum concepting and evaluation grant
- Digitized important Society and Museum documents
- New website (see next page)
- New volunteer forms
- Put fragile and plentiful artifacts into storage
- Improved museum displays and accessibility
- New office computer/phones

We are including membership cards for the 2022 year. Please send us the stub along with your payment of \$10 (or pay online). I am sorry this letter is so late, but between COVID and my open heart surgery, we are behind. I want to thank Judy and Debbie Thill for working so hard after I entered the hospital. We will schedule a meeting at Pappas' Restaurant this Fall.

Thank you for your generous donations to Bruce. And thank you to Scott H for taking over the task of organizing the museum.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

COVID and Bruce's passing last January have left us with some big shoes to fill and a lot of work to be done. We're asking that anyone willing to volunteer their time please complete a volunteer form – either the online version at lchsmuseum.org/volunteer or the print version on that page – and we will get in touch with you for a meeting either in-person or online through Zoom.

If you have volunteered in the past, please know that we are in the process of creating a new vision for the museum and will have many new opportunities than in the past. Your volunteer work can help us not only maintain the museum, but give us more direction on the museum's future.



MUSEUM TURNS 40!

Can you believe how quickly time has passed? The museum made its grand debut on the north side of the courthouse in 1982. Since then, the collection has grown to fill our entire space!

It all started with saving the courthouse. In the 1970s, the "Grand Old Lady" was in danger of demolition until concerned citizens formed the Lake Court House Foundation. This Foundation started a grassroots campaign to save the courthouse from becoming a parking lot. They used \$70,000 in seed money meant for demolition to begin restoration. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 17, 1973.

With this start, it should come as no surprise for the museum to find its home in the courthouse. Our Society assisted in laying the courthouse's cornerstone in 1878.

Prior to the courthouse, our Society – then called the Old Settlers' and Historical Association – occupied a room of the Carnegie Library as far back as the library's opening in 1908. Yet like the library, the Society's relic collection outgrew its space.

Entering our museum's 40th anniversary, we're looking ahead for new ways to preserve our past toward a better future.



Grand opening of the museum in 1982

NEW ONLINE PRESENCE AND SERVICES

We have made a lot of changes to our online presence and access. For starters, we have a new website: lchsmuseum.org. The page is still under construction, but all essential pieces are present.

Our second major online change is the option to send money donations or membership dues through PayPal. You can still send dues and donations through regular mail or provide them in person at a future meeting, but PayPal provides another avenue.

Dues through PayPal are set up as an auto-renewing annual subscription that can be canceled at any time. No action needs to be taken by members with a lifetime membership.

Many thanks to Les Osborne for his assistance in setting up our new website, and to Julie Zasada from the Cedar Lake Historical Association for helping us create our new PayPal options.

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