

# Sheridan Touchstones in History



Volume 23  
December 2024

*Honoring Our Past,  
Grounding Our Future*

315 S. Main Street, Sheridan, IN 46069

(317) 758-5054

After hours (317) 758-5170

Email: sheridanhistorical@att.net

Hours of Operation: Tuesdays and Fridays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Second and fourth Saturdays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

## *Welcome to the Fall and Winter Edition of Touchstones*

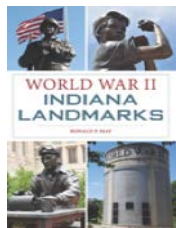
### *World War II Landmarks in Indiana*

On September 9th, the Sheridan Historical Society welcomed guest author, Ronald P. May, to speak about the World War II landmarks throughout Indiana. He is a historian and author who served as a pastor for many years. After retiring, he has continued to work on WWII books and regularly speaks to veterans' organizations, civic groups, public libraries, and faith communities. At this time, he has published four books about World War II and landmarks.

He said that Indianapolis has more WWII landmarks than any other location except Washington D.C. Some of these include the National Medal of Honor Memorial along the canal and a USS Indianapolis Memorial along Pennsylvania Avenue that was dedicated on May 22, 1998 with guests Bob Dole and Tom Brokaw attending.

Ronald said that there are 27 sites in Indiana. Outside of Indianapolis is a notable WWII memorial located in Avon featuring a statue of a soldier.

To find out more about his research, books and YouTube channel, check out his web site at <https://ronaldpmay.com>.



**Inside this issue:**

Message from the president - p.2  
Officers and Board members - p.2  
Halloween celebration - p.2  
Volunteers of the Society - p.3

Special donation - p. 4  
4th Grade field trip - p.5  
Donation information - p. 6

**Join or renew - Membership application - p.4**



From the President, Ron Stone

With another year coming to a close, we want you to know how much we appreciate the support we get from the Sheridan Community. We are able to do the Veteran's Banners, the Halloween Open house with over 400 visitors, Heritage Days with the fourth grade from Sheridan Elementary, and many other activities throughout the year. **December on Main will be December 6.** Our volunteers make these programs possible.

We look forward to the Christmas season and hope you will visit us soon.



***Volunteers Make the World (and the Sheridan Historical Society) Go Round***  
***This newsletter and the spring edition will be recognizing a few of these volunteers.***



**Jean Hadley, Donna Jessup, Brendan White, Bess Coppess, Connie Mossburg, Connie Pearson, Pam Drury, Yvonne Pickett, Ron Stone**

On the evening of Halloween, kids in costume got a bag of treats that were prepared by this wonderful group of volunteers. The Society members at the museum love to see all the young children in their costumes while older children and their parents look at the displays and ask questions about our community history.

Sheridan had a short parade down Main Street starting about a half hour before the traditional Trick or Treat neighborhood hours of 6 to 8 pm. Parade participants assembled at Veterans Park for the 5:30 pm parade and walked down Main Street to 6th Street where the parade terminated. Participants along the parade route hunted for sweets and treats from Main Street merchants, trunk or treat folks, and other organizations like the Sheridan Historical Society.

The museum is normally open on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1 pm to 4 pm, but it is open for dedicated events like Halloween, Independence Day festivities, Christmas celebrations, and other various holiday programs. Watch the newspaper for future special programs!

**Sheridan Historical Society 2025  
Officers/Board of Directors**

Ron Stone, President  
 Steve Martin, Vice President  
 Phillip Pearson, 2nd Vice President  
 Bess Coppess, Secretary  
 Connie Pearson, Treasurer

Board of Directors  
 Dan Pickett  
 Roberta Huff  
 Donna Jessup  
 David Ogle  
 Edgar Spear  
 Betty Lee Cooper  
 Fred Sturdevant

Jim Pickett, Executive Director  
 Connie Mossburg, Historian  
 Lorie Homan, Newsletter



In order for an organization like the Sheridan Historical Society to be successful and continue to grow, volunteers are crucial to the 3 of 8 organization. The support of these individuals allows us to continue fulfilling our mission and serve our community every year. We would like to introduce and recognize some of these wonderful people.

Mrs. Donna L. Jessup

I have lived in Sheridan since 1948 because my parents wanted to be back in the area they grew up in. Terhune was my dad's hometown. I visited Sheridan and Terhune many times in my early years. I had grandparents living in these two towns, plus other relatives.

My early years were spent in Anderson, where I was born in 1936. I graduated from Sheridan High School in 1954. Worked at Kraft Foods until I married Don Jessup who had lived in Sheridan all his life. I quit Kraft and became a farmer, not just a farmer's wife but a full-fledged farmer! We have two sons, Garry and Chris.

Brenda Bush saw me at the restaurant one day, many years ago, and asked me to join the Society. Since then I have been a member of The Sheridan Historical Society for several years. I spent many hours in the old building cataloging items. My experience as an antique dealer gave me the ability to recognize the importance of keeping history and the importance of items for the generations to come.

This museum isn't just a museum. We have a lot of interesting things here, but the most rewarding things are the people we meet! So many bring in items that belonged to their relatives, and that starts a lot of stories. I had a couple of gentlemen, came in at different times, that told me their life stories. Fascinating.

Many retirees come to the museum to visit. I think it is wonderful that they do. The people who volunteer at the museum are like family and are always happy to talk with all that come in. As far as my view of this museum; I believe it is like family.

I am thankful for my years of working there and hope there will be a few more!

Connie Mossburg

I've lived in Sheridan my whole life. My family is also from Sheridan I'm married to Eddie Mossburg. We've been married for 51 years. We have 1 son, grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

I graduated from Marion-Adams School which is now Sheridan Community Schools in 1972 and worked for a couple businesses here in Sheridan as office manager and I now work for Crownview Cemetery as Secretary/Treasurer since 2008.

I enjoy working here at the Historical Society Museum because it's fun and I enjoy working with the people here. I enjoy meeting and talking to the people who come into the museum. I've enjoyed volunteering in all areas at the museum the past 10 years.

Our museum shows Sheridan's past which is important to remember. We have a large genealogy department of which many people have taken advantage, many old pictures of businesses, people, and also school graduation pictures, including Boxley graduation pictures.

Here at the Historical Society we have been instrumental in getting many things done for community. We've put on many programs for the community, and will continue to do so. We host Blue Grass Jams here and we took the lead in getting the Veteran's Banners up on Main Street.

I really enjoy volunteering here at the museum and think it's important to preserve our past for all to see.

***Thank You to These Volunteers***

Bess Loraine Coppess

My roots to Sheridan go back to my grandparents, Earl and Martha Bessie Jane Coppess, who moved from Madison, Indiana and bought a farm north of Boxley. My father Earl C. Coppess helped his parents get the farm by using his GI money from his military service. My father also attended a GI Ag class here in Sheridan sponsored by Purdue. My mother Alice Ruth Guthrie Coppess was from Hanover, Indiana.

I have lived around the Sheridan area in several different houses but moved to Boxley after my father's death.

I went to school here in Sheridan except for the 2 years we lived south of Noblesville and north of Fishers and graduated from Marion - Adams High School in 1971. I attended Anderson College where I received a Bachelor of Arts in education. I attended Butler University where I received a Master of Science in education. I taught Elementary School here in Sheridan for 37 years - 35 years was in the old elementary/high school building and 2 years was in the new elementary building.

I took several trips when I was younger. I traveled through 31 states and Canada. One trip I was gone from home for 6 weeks when we traveled out west. Another trip was 6 weeks long to Alaska through Canada.

I became a member of the Sheridan Historical Society and later a lifetime member. I started attending meetings. I have helped with seasonal decorations - Fourth of July and Christmas. I became the Secretary for the Sheridan Historical Society in April 2023. I started volunteering around that time. I enjoy helping with seasonal decorations and working on puzzles. I help when someone asks for my help. I helped with whatever needs to be done such as getting newsletters folded, labeled, and ready to mail, working on displays, answering questions or helping

someone find something. It gives me something to do that gets me around people and makes me think. The Museum is important to Sheridan because it houses items that show and tell the history of Sheridan and people can come in and find out about our town or get help with genealogy records.



**This crew of volunteers helped to clean up the Boxley cabin.**



Chuck Godby shared this story about a project he created in 1975.

“It wasn’t uncommon for me, when new homes were being built in The Homesteads to wander through the construction and search for discarded pieces of wood.

In the fall of 1975, construction began on Rex and Nancy Bowman’s home, just a stone’s throw from the back door of our home.

We had just concluded Dear Old SHS’s undefeated football season and I was looking for a way to commemorate the occasion and recognize key players and a few others when I came across some pieces of discarded baseboard wood from Bowman’s home being built.

Those pieces of wood were perfect for my project and when the drawings were complete I connected the pieces of wood with a gold chain. I displayed my work at the school’s Fall Sports Banquet, where I left it and forgot about it.

Bob and Becky Clayton would tell me on occasion they had some art work I did and would get it to me. I really never thought about it until one day Bob and Becky stopped to see me at work and gave me those four pieces of wood they had held onto for probably 45 years.

I was asked to display it in the Bud Wright Football exhibit and have it displayed in The Sheridan Historical Museum. It is an honor 50 years in the making.”

### Membership Application —2024

New or Renewals

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email or a paper copy? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Levels: (Circle)

- Corporate: \$100 year
- Life (individual): \$110
- Adult, 18+: \$20 yr.
- Family: \$35 yr.

Special Contribution:

In addition to membership, I wish to contribute an additional gift to the Sheridan Historical Society.  
 Please find enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 If anonymous, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions Welcomed!

Contributions will help the Sheridan Historical Society develop new out-reach programs, sustain exhibits and collections, expand membership to include young residents, make facility improvements and enhance education programs. Return this completed form with membership check made payable to:

Sheridan Historical Society  
 315 South Main Street  
 Sheridan, IN 46069

# Sheridan Fourth Graders Enjoy History at the Museum



Gina Nesbitt demonstrates the loom while making a rug.



Eliya Henderson enjoys the Bud Wright football exhibit.



Vicki Remsen helps students with their favorite exhibit - a typewriter!



Bess Coppess oversees the puzzle table.



Roberta Huff discusses genealogy.



Fred Sturdevant tells students about the broom maker and Boxley school pictures.

*Sheridan History is Cool!*

Connie Pearson tells the students about the Larry Hobbs basketball exhibit.



## Do You Remember this Sheridan News story?

### Early Horse Show

Throng of people crowded Sheridan for this horse show sometime in the 1890s. Reading from the left, the buildings are the State Bank at the corner of Fourth and Main, Hip Sing's Cafe and Hotel, Stoops' Bake Shop, Bill Beard's Central Barber Shop, Charlie Couch's Grocery Store, J.M. Richardson's Boots and Shoes, and Cox and Schott Furniture and Undertaking Store on the alley. Across the alley was Wes Williams' Meat Market. The old dirt street can be clearly seen in the foreground.





## New Benches

Jean Hadley is shown along with Steve Martin and Brendan White in front of the Sheridan Historical Society on the benches donated by Mr. Hadley. Jean has been a great supporter of the society and donated these benches for a place to relax and visit.



Visitors enjoy riding Sandy, the mechanical horse.



## What's On The 2025 Calendar

**Meeting Times:** The Sheridan Historical Society meets at its museum on the second Monday on the month. Programs are open to the public. The Society meets at 6 pm and special programs will be set for 7:00 pm. Weather may delay or postpone meetings. Stay in touch! If you wish to receive a copy of the monthly agenda, contact Ron Stone.

**Membership Applications:** If you would like to continue your membership please renew now. We hope you will renew and also sponsor some new members! An application is in this newsletter or you can request an application for new individual, family and corporate membership. Contact Ron Stone at (317) 758-5170 or email at [rmstone@ndwave.com](mailto:rmstone@ndwave.com).

Volunteer Assignments: Email us if you would like to help!

Contact Ron Stone by cell phone or email:  
(317) 758-5170 or [rmstone@ndwave.com](mailto:rmstone@ndwave.com)



**John Holmes, a Board Member for many years, IS RETIRING FROM THE BOARD. Thanks, John, for all your help over the years.**



*Betty Lee Cooper has added this year's White House Christmas ornament to the collection she has donated to the Sheridan Historical Society. They are part of our annual Christmas decorations at the Museum.*

*The collection was begun by Jackie Kennedy in 1961 as an enlightenment to the annual Christmas display at the White House. The Official 2024 White House Christmas Ornament honors President Jimmy Carter. The ornament's anchor shape, an iconic symbol of hope, represents Carter's service in the United States Navy.*



## The Jeep Invasion Parade



**The Fire marshal rides with Sparky in the Jeep parade**



**There was a great crowd in the front of the museum.**

**Sheridan Historical Society**  
315 S. Main Street  
Sheridan, IN 46069-112

**Hours:**  
Tuesdays & Fridays (or by appointment)  
1:00 - 4:00 pm, except holidays  
Telephone: 317-758-5054  
After hours: 317-758-5170  
Email: sheridanhistorical@att.net

**Website:**  
www.sheridanhistoricalsociety.net

**Would you like to help?** All gifts are tax-deductible.

Maintaining museum collections as well as facilities can be expensive. We hope you might consider us for a special gift because members and friends tremendously help not-for-profits operation expenses.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Note:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Sheridan Historical Society  
315 South Main Street  
Sheridan, IN 46069

**Memorial Gift in honor of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Grant from Stephenson Family for Building Improvements**

We are especially grateful for the grant from Richard Stephenson for the repair of the brick on the south side of the building and for removal of the paint on the brick on the front. Our goal is to make the museum a centerpiece of the community. The Stephenson Family has made that possible with the support that we have received over the years for displays and for the outside of the building. Thank you, thank you.



**Stephenson Family Foundation**

The work of the Sheridan Historical Society is generously supported by the Stephenson Family Foundation. We appreciate the many grants, gifts, and words of encouragement for the community building so vital to our future.