

315 S. Main Street, Sheridan, IN 46069

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

New Political History Being Made in Sheridan

A new political history is being made in Sheridan beginning this year. Back in November township and town voters in Adams Township voted and agreed to consolidate, do away with township government, and become the new Town of Sheridan. This consolidation includes a new seven-member town council, an increase of two additional members over the previous five-member Sheridan Town Council. The two new members of the council were appointed from the old Adams Township Advisory Board and now the new Sheridan Town Council members represent the consolidated former Adams Township and Town of Sheridan territories. While the two new members of the Sheridan Town Council were appointed, future elections will offer voters an opportunity to vote for their choice.

The former Adams Township governmental structure has now officially ceased to exist, and the new Town of Sheridan boundaries include the entire township. The vote to incorporate passed with a strong majority back in November and represents a major step forward for the future growth of the new Town of Sheridan. Voters in the new Town of Sheridan will now move forward as a single political entity and be better prepared to serve the needs of residents within the entire old township.



Sheridan Town Council: Front Row: Eric Gifford, member; Silas DeVaney, Council President; Daniel Bragg, member. Back Row: David Kinhead, member; Ron Stone member; Levi Schrock, member; and Floyd Barker, member. Stone and Barker are the new appointees to the Sheridan Town Council from the former Adams Township Advisory Council. Their positions will be elected starting in the next general election.

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We would love to have you join our Sheridan Historical Society family!

Membership and donation information found on page 6.

Established in 1969

* Article and photo submitted by Steve Martin



Hello Everyone: Welcome to the March edition of Touchstones in History. Be sure to check out upcoming events coming in 2025. The Sheridan Historical Society appreciates your support! Ron Stone

Ways to Support the Sheridan Historical Society



Pizza Sales 2025

Orders Due	Pick up Date
May 13	May 17
Aug. 12	Aug. 16
Nov. 11	Nov. 15

Call Vicki Remsen 317-374-3654



Christmas ornaments of Veterans

Donations and Membership of 2024


Class of 1954	Anita K Padgett
Clifford Pickett	David W Kinhead
A.M. Billingsley	Nikki Zachery
J.E. Johnson	Jerry R Stone
Craig/Dorothy Bishop	Kerman Ewing
Melvin/Marilyn Mundy	Dale E Jessup
Barbara Savage	Barbara J.Savage
Arlie/Freida Cox	Freida & Carlie Cox
Vicki Remsen	Penny Menier
Hamilton Co. Tourism	J.Eric Johnson
James E. Johnson	Mary E Reynolds/Opera
Linda Bailey Piano Res	Marilyn Pitts Royal/Piano
Jon & Collette Remsen	R&N Prop LLC/OP, Pia, Pr
Paul & Fran Kos	Roy & Judy Langdon
J.Eric Johnson	Judith Inskeep
Norman & Gail Smiley	Phyllis Kouns
Marlene & Brian Kelly	Lowell & Vonda Shelburn
Robt & Sandra Hatcher	David&Cheryl Hazana
Belinda & Michael Jasiak	Lawrence&Glenda Beck
Werner & Lorie Homan	James E.. Johnson
	Adams Township Trustee
	J. Eric Johnson
	David/Cheryl Hazama
	J.Eric Johnson
	Leah Beth Raines
	4th Grade Tour Donat
	Dayton Found/Cornel
	J.Eric Johnson
	Dayton Found/Cornell
	J.Eric Johnson
	Kroger
	David C Ogle
	Judy K. Orr
	James E. Johnson
	Jerry & Karen Ross
	Stephenson Fam Found
	Kiwanis Club of Sheridan
	Wade & Traci Martin

New members

James H Meindl
Ed Spear
Judy Ottinger
David C Ogle
Jenny Camp
Barbara Savage
Barbara Amos

Life members

Daniel E Pickett
Matthew L. Keever
Lucinda Salo
Mari J. Briggs
Pamela Drury
Anita K Padgett
Dale E Jessup



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.

Special Partners:

Our special recognition for their service contributions.

Hamilton Tax & Accounting Services, Inc.
(317) 758-5611

Swayzee Internet services

**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
- Vicki Remsen, Treasurer Assistant

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

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





***Ron Stone, President
of the Sheridan Historical Society***

Thanks for all you do!

***Steve Martin, Vice-President
of the Sheridan Historical Society***



(This excerpt was created from an article taken from a feature story written for the Hamilton County Reporter by Steve Martin.)

Many people volunteer countless hours to the Sheridan Historical Society and the Museum, but Ron Stone, current president, has given an amazing amount of time and effort to the Society. One of ten children, Ron Stone has lived in the Sheridan community all his life. When he graduated from high school, he decided he wanted to continue his education, so he went to Indiana Wesleyan in Marion and earned a degree in education. Ron and wife Mary, whom he met in college, were both hired as teachers at Hamilton Heights. Both were elementary teachers and Ron did an 8-year stint as a principal before returning to the classroom. He retired in 2009 after many enjoyable years as a fourth-grade teacher as well as a few years teaching 5th and 6th grades as well as the afore mentioned principalship.

Ron has been the president of the Sheridan Historical Society for 14 years. During his presidency, the Society has experienced growth and stability. His most important project to date was overseeing the transition from the old museum at 308 S. Main to the current larger museum across the street at 315 S. Main. Ron was instrumental in the purchase and remodeling of what was formerly a motorcycle repair shop, doing most of the work himself along with a little help from some skilled trades people such as electricians, plumbers, HVAC, and others. He served two terms on the Adams Township Advisory Board and one of his duties as a member of that Board was serving as the Adams Township Coordinator for the Hamilton County Bicentennial Committee. Steve Martin said this about Ron, "I would like to take my hat off to Ron Stone. Over the years as both an educator and Sheridan resident and supporter, he has done a whole lot of things to hold Sheridan together and help us grow into the strong, vibrant community that we are today. His life should serve as a beacon of achievement for others to follow. Considering his previous accomplishments, there is no doubt in my mind he will be successful in all endeavors he takes on."

Steve, like Ron, gives many hours to the Sheridan Historical Society and Museum. Steve was raised in a small farm town (Lima) about the size of Sheridan in western New York State. His family lived on a farm, spending hot summer days in a haymow and feeding various livestock year round. He graduated from Lima High School in 1964, Michigan State University in 1969, and the University of Nebraska in 1975.

When he first went into the Air Force in 1969, he trained to be a medic. He fully expected to see duty someplace in Southeast Asia, probably Viet Nam, but as luck would have it, he was assigned to a small Air Force detachment at a Dutch Royal Air Force base as part of America's NATO's European commitment. In 1973, the USAF decided he qualified for a new medical career field called "Physician Assistant". His first year was at Sheppard AFB in northern Texas and his second year in the internship portion of the program at SAC (Strategic Air Command) headquarters. Steve came to Indiana when the Air Force sent him to Grissom AFB as a Physician's Assistant in 1975. He worked in the Family Medicine clinic for 4 years.

Steve lived off-base in Kokomo where he met his wife, Vicky. Vicky spent 41 years as an early elementary teacher in the Kokomo system. She is a proud graduate of Kokomo High School, Class of 1966, and earned her teaching degree from IU Kokomo in 1970. They have two children, Zachary and Hannah. Zachary and his wife, Jennifer, live in Cicero and have a daughter, Abbigail, who is the apple of Grandma and Grampie Martin's eye. Hannah and her husband, Ben, live in Noblesville.

After 10 years of military life he decided to do something new with life and eventually, three years later, became a librarian. Over the years he has worked in several libraries and served as director in many. In 2006 he came to Sheridan as the new library director and being new in town, he was impressed with the re-vitalized Sheridan Historical Society, and joined up. He quickly became involved in many other aspects of the Sheridan community including the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Committee, Farmers Market, Kiwanis, Blackhawk Ambassadors, Economic Development, and Good Samaritan Thanksgiving Dinners.

When Steve retired, he wanted to stay busy and was already the First VP of the Society, so he applied his skills to the museum. He felt the Society was a mover/shaker organization in this community so he decided to use his talents toward making Sheridan a great place to live and grow. His main focus is the public relations end of the business. He take tons of pictures and monitors several museum events and programs. This lends itself well to taking lots of pictures and writing lots of newspaper articles. He has been a member and volunteer for 18 or 19 years.

continue to page 3...

**Historical Society Sponsors Special Event at Sheridan Elementary School:
Abraham Lincoln Visits 4th Graders**

On Tuesday, February 25, the students of Sheridan Elementary School were in for a unique and educational experience, as Abraham Lincoln himself visited the school! Sponsored by the local Historical Society, this event brought the 16th president of the United States to life, providing 4th graders with a firsthand opportunity to learn about one of the nation's most influential figures.

Dressed in period-accurate clothing, the actor, Danny Russel, portraying Abraham Lincoln shared fascinating stories about his life from birth until his death, including the Civil War, and his presidency, engaging the students with his powerful speeches and profound wisdom. The event was designed to bring history to life and deepen students' understanding of Lincoln's leadership and legacy. In 4th grade, students learn about the Civil War and how it impacted Indiana, so this experience helps to tie in what the students are learning in class!

The Historical Society, known for its dedication to preserving and sharing local history, organized the event as part of its mission to educate young minds. By sponsoring this experience, the Historical Society hoped to inspire the students to explore history beyond the classroom and appreciate the significant events that shaped the country.

The 4th graders were able to ask questions, interact with "Lincoln," and gain insights into his presidency and life. For many, it was a memorable experience that sparked an interest in history and a deeper respect for the past.

Thanks to the Historical Society's commitment to educational outreach, Sheridan Elementary School's 4th graders will surely carry the lessons of this extraordinary day with them for years to come. Also special thanks to Jeff Drayer of Waitt Elevator for support of these programs.



Photo from Danny Russel



Continued from page 2...

Here is what Steve said about the museum and the Society, "What makes the museum "work" for Sheridan? What makes us an important organization in this community? First and foremost, we preserve the history of our community in an organized fashion. Beyond that, please understand that I see our museum as more than a museum. We are a cultural hub for our community. You can come here any day and see a variety of locals doing a variety of things that are not necessarily historical in nature. We provide a place for event activities such as group or organizational meetings, reunions, small group meetings—political and otherwise, and we help our Main Street organization celebrate Fourth of July, Christmas, Halloween, and similar events.

You couldn't pay me enough to do this kind of work. I enjoy helping the museum GROW SHERIDAN. I love having the museum recognized and knowing that maybe I had something to do with making that recognition happen. Best of all, I absolutely love interacting with all the other volunteers and the all the museum visitors."

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: _____
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Special Note:

Memorial Gift in honor of:

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315 South Main Street
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Bess Coppess and Connie Mossburg created the display of quilts at the museum.

A new quilt exhibit has been set up at the museum that displays quilts created over the past 100 years. Three of these quilts are shown above.

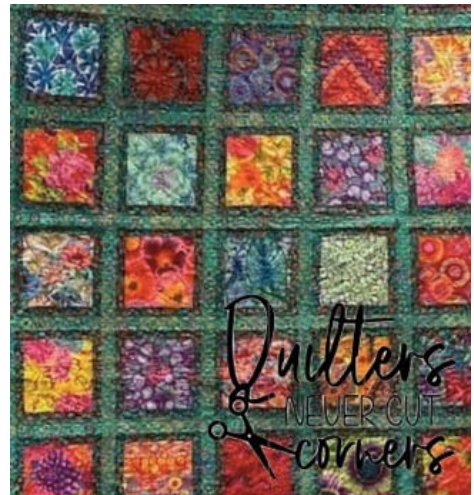
Top quilt - the title of this quilt is "Tree of Paradise". This quilt was made in 1903 by Cecil "Nells" Coleman and her mother. Nells was a little girl and she had to stand on a crate to reach the quilt. The Colemans were a big part of Sheridan history. They owned a farm, were members of the Christian Church, and the mother taught Sunday School. Nells was a Sheridan school teacher in later life. She traveled around and taught piano to young students and paid her way through college to get her teaching degree.

Middle quilt - The center block of red, white, and blue was made by Eliza Boone in 1890. The red trim binding was put together by Edith Wiles, her daughter, in 1939. The blue finish and backing plus quilting was done by Anita Billingsley in 1989.

Bottom quilt - This comforter quilt was made by ladies of the Missionary Society of the Bakers Corner Wesleyan Methodist Church and presented to Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Hoover (pastor 1936 - 1939) for Christmas in December, 1937. The quilt was made in Pearl Pickett's living room.

The following names are inscribed on squares on the quilt:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Emma Armfield | Emma Mills | Emma Chamberlain |
| Bessie Baker | Vina Newcomer | Nancy Ridge |
| Daisy Baker | Margaret Noble | Leah Dickey |
| Hazel Bess | Lena Pickett | Gladys Ross |
| Alice Ehman | Thelma Ross | Cora D. Foulke |
| Mary Simmonds | Addie Godby | Mildred Snyder |
| Flo Hammer | Mary E. Stewart | Marie Harvey |
| Libbie Teter | Estella Hodson | Dora Tudor |
| Lizzie Hodson | Della Whicker | Pearl Pickett |



No matter who you talk to, most people like to talk about the weather. And there was none that wanted to talk about it more than Sheridan's own, Clara Hoover. She was not only a local celebrity but became known all over the country for her weather predictions. She was a 1930 graduate of Sheridan High School. She was a homemaker and worked for Firestone during the war. Clara was very interested in preserving the history of the Sheridan area. She was one of three women who founded the Marion-Adams Genealogical and Historical Society in 1969 (which is currently the Sheridan Historical Society). She was nationally recognized as an official National Weather Observer. In 1965, Clara started the Sheridan Weather Club and was known around the area as "the weather lady."

A very notable memory of Clara's was a visit from WISH-TV's Dick Wolfsie who spent time in her kitchen to learn more about how she projected snow, rain, winds, and cold spells. Dick learned how to split persimmon seeds to look for spoons, forks, and knife shapes that dictate the impending charms of Mother Nature.

Los Angeles Times
 Guest: 'Let Carson Come to Me'

L.A. Times Archives
 Nov. 30, 1989 12 AM PT

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<|> FROM TIMES STAFF AND WIRE SERVICE REPORTS</|>

SHERIDAN, Ind. — A woman who says she might slap Johnny Carson if she ever went on his show is playing hard to get with the host of "The Tonight Show."

Clara Hoover attracted the attention of Carson's talent coordinator because she has forecast the weather for years by observing things like wooly worms, persimmon seeds and the wind.

But Hoover turned down an invitation to appear on the show, taped in Burbank. She told the coordinator that if they wanted her they could come to Sheridan, about 20 miles north of Indianapolis, to tape the show.

"I have no desire to go out there," Hoover responded. "And when he gets someone on his show, he makes funny faces and all that. I might slap him."



Persimmon seeds are slick and tricky to open; they reveal surprises.



Membership Application ---2025
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



Roberta Jean (Wallace) Huff, age 93, of Sheridan, Indiana, went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 15, 2025. Born December 19, 1931, in Clinton Co. Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Clifford and Hazel (Gaddis) Wallace. She grew up on a farm near Terhune and later lived in Sheridan, graduating from Sheridan High School in 1949. She married Jesse Edward Long in 1950 and moved to Colorado, where they were blessed by the birth of their son, Michael, in 1955. After returning to Sheridan, her marriage to Mr. Long ended in 1956 and Roberta became a single mother. She worked briefly at Western Electric, where she met Fredrick M. Huff, whom she married in 1957. Fred and Roberta welcomed their son, Richard, in 1959. Roberta worked for many years as an executive secretary at Chrysler Corp. in Indianapolis before retiring from there and going to work as a legal secretary for the downtown Indianapolis law firm of Wilson, Tabor and Holland.

Roberta had a strong faith in Christ, which she lived out serving others in her retirement years – volunteering as a transporter for 25 years at Riverview Hospital and then later at the **Sheridan Historical Society, where she served on the Board until her death. Roberta was also the museum's genealogical researcher, which became her passion after she began doing family genealogy research back in the 1980s.**

We will greatly miss Roberta.



Genealogy work began in the late 1960's when a group called the Marion Adams Historical and Genealogy Society began. This name was eventually changed to the Sheridan Historical Society but the group has continued to do genealogy work over all these years. Jim Pickett joined the Society in early 1970's and made it his passion to develop genealogy notebooks and Roberta continued this work on genealogy.

Ron Stone currently volunteers to do Family Trees for guests of the museum. He uses Ancestry.com to do the genealogy work. Please contact or drop by the museum if you are interested in this service.

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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.

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