

Grocery Store Exhibit

The newest exhibit at the History Center, "Grocery Stores of Eastern Howard County, Indiana", will open on Saturday, July 24, 2010, and will continue through November. Visiting hours will be 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. Special appointments may be scheduled by calling 628-3800 or 628-3565.

G.H.S. thanks exhibit committee members Bonnie Middlesworth, Darwin Freeman, Martha Freeman, and Susie Middlesworth.

Scenes of stores and their merchandise from days long gone are on display as well as artifacts from those stores. Featured businesses include E. E. Trott's, Brooks, Hudson's, Burris Merchandise, Jacob's East End, Lantz's Grocery, Frakes' West End, Paul Kendall's, along with

other stores and hucksters from Sycamore and Jerome.

On Sunday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m. there will be a panel discussion program about grocery stores in eastern Howard County. Join in the discussion of memories of the good ol' days when people went to the grocery to buy food and dry goods and also to visit with neighbors, to loaf, and to just enjoy life. The public is invited to join in the discussion led by folks from Jacobs' East End, Hudson's Grocery, Lantz's, and Frakes' West End, as well as other people from local groceries. A Youth Activity Day is being planned for Saturday, September 25, at 10:00 a.m. The activities will be about grocery stores.

Mortgage on Annex

The Greentown Historical Society had the opportunity to purchase the old bank building at 101 E. Main in 2007, and the added space has been an asset. In the old bank building, now called the Annex, we have a semi-permanent exhibit telling the story of the State Bank of Greentown and the employees who worked at the bank when it was located here. The gift shop is located in the front of the large room, making more room for exhibits in the adjacent History Center at 103 E. Main. The room also is used for Historical Society Board meetings. (continued on page 2)

GHS Calendar

- July 24 Grocery Store Exhibit opens
- July 12-17 Fair Parking
- Aug 1 Postcard program 2:00 at Annex
- Sept 25 Youth Activity
- Garage sale continues through Sept 25
- Oct 3 Grocery Store Panel in the Annex
- Nov. Annual Meeting



(continued from page 1)

Other organizations can use the building if they request permission from the board in writing.

The middle room is used for Youth activities, for exhibit planning and preparation, and for storage. We acquired some antique pharmacy shelves from the Historic Hooks Drug Store, and they are in this middle room. Even though they are not from Eastern Howard County, we felt we could put these beautiful shelves to good use. Among other things, we have extra pieces of the Greentown pottery which we have for sale displayed here. The back has office space for the treasurer, secretary, and membership chairman. There is also a closet that locks for security purposes.

By having the extra space, the collections area located in the upstairs of the original building can be used only for collections. The Indiana Historical Society featured Joyce Lantz and our Collections in the Nov/Dec 2009 issue of *INPerspective* because they consider it an excellent example of an archival area. We want to support the preservation of our history by continuing this work.

While we have been able to pay off a large portion of the mortgage, we still owe about \$34,000. We were able to get a low interest loan from Indiana Landmarks Foundation by agreeing to their mission to preserve historic structures. These loans are typically short term, but they have extended our mortgage at the rate of 3 ½ %.

It will come due in May 2011.

Our goal is to have a large amount, if not all, paid by then.

To meet this goal, we need support from you, the members, and the community. We would appreciate your contribution to the mortgage, and thereby your support for the preservation of the history of Eastern Howard County.

Rummage Sale

Volunteers are needed to help with the rummage sale. Those who could volunteer for a 2-hour shift would be greatly appreciated. Sale hours are Thur., Fri., and Sat., 9:00 a.m. till 2-3:00 p.m. A Christmas in July Sale will take place July 15, 16, 17. All Christmas will be half price. Now is a good time for anyone who has holiday items to drop them off at the sale or contact Kent Evans, 628-7141. More donations are welcomed, but no clothing! Remember the sale continues through Sept. 25. Please support the fundraising project!

Upcoming Program

On Sunday, August 1 at 2 p.m. at the Greentown History Center, Riley Case will present a program on old postcards from Howard County. Many postcards from years back had pictures featuring cities or towns. These cards tell many interesting stories from days gone by. Everyone is invited to attend this interesting presentation.

WANTED:

Old postcards of Greentown or eastern Howard County.

We would like to share these at the presentation on August 1st. Cards will be placed in rigid plastic holders and returned to the owners after the presentation. Contact Riley Case at 765-628-0540.

Fair Parking

4-H parking volunteers are needed Monday-Friday from 4:30-8:30. Please contact Kent Evans at 628-7141. Kent will also be calling members for their assistance.

Youth Activity Report

Ten soap turtles were carved at the Greentown Historical Society on Saturday, June 12. Randy Hurst, an artist featured in the "Artists of Eastern Howard County" exhibit, taught a class on carving to interested youth from the area. Several participants made a second carving using the technique taught. The children were introduced to the activity after observing the art works on display, especially a wooden doll head carved by Ganiece Schaaf and a painting done by Amy Minnich Rees.

Participants were Austin Campbell, Ethan Campbell, Garrett Evans, Arienne Ewing, Avery Ewing, Isabella Ricks, Seth Conwell, Jake Simpson, Sean Simpson, and Ryan Simpson. Check out the great photos on the next page.



Artist Randy Hurst gives some pointers to Austin and Ethan Campbell at a recent youth activity day at the Greentown History Center.



Visitor From Australia

G.H.S. recently hosted Kate Prinsley, executive officer of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Australia, who received a Churchill Fellowship to study local history in various parts of the world. Kate visited the United States for four weeks, stopping in Illinois, Tennessee, Indi-

ana, New York, Washington, D.C., and Boston. Kate then traveled to England for two weeks.

While in Indiana, she traveled with Indiana Historical Society's Local History Services team, visiting a few all-volunteer sites and speaking with some county historians about their work.

The Greentown Historical Society was selected for the

tour because of its success in establishing a strong program in the eleven years of existence, and doing it with an all-volunteer base. GHS also is admired for its collections system.

As a part of her Churchill Fellowship, Kate will be publishing the results of the visit to Indiana and other places.

Greentown Historical Society Secretary, Connie Voorhis (left) and Karen Swan, President (right) talk with Kate Prinsley about the progress of the local organization.



Artifact Donations

by Joyce Lantz

We would like to thank the following donors of artifacts during the 2nd quarter of 2010: Jean Simpson, Ron Simpson, Craig Trott, Bonnie Middlesworth, Lisa Stout, Robert Hill, Rachel Jenkins, Mary Pier, Milda Cheek, Larry Hensler, Karen Swan, Mary Doris Winegardner, Ruth Shaw, Rachel Jenkins, Dorothy Pickett, and Kent McQuiston.

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.

Planning for Exhibit on Early Settlers

by Connie Voorhis

The Greentown Historical Society is beginning plans for an exhibit in 2011 on early settlers of eastern Howard County. They are interested in who they were, where they came from, what brought them here and where they settled. They are seeking documents, artifacts, photos and stories of early residents. Call the Historical Society at 628-3800, Connie Voorhis, 455-3779 or Rachel Jenkins, 628-3564 or email to greentownhistory@comcast.net

Exhibit Workshop

On June 8 a group of GHS board members attended a program at the Indiana History Center in Indianapolis on Basics of Exhibits. Employees of Indiana Historical Society presented various segments on exhibit preparation beginning from inception to actual staging. A behind-the-scenes tour was included during the day. We all took away several exhibit ideas and hope to be able to implement them soon. Members attending: Joyce Lantz, Karen Swan, Sue Clouser, Bonnie Middlesworth, Sally Mower, and Connie Voorhis.

EASTERN HOWARD COUNTY'S FIRST PREACHER

by Riley Case

From 1800 to 1850 America, and particularly America's "west" (what we call the Midwest) experienced what historians call the Second Great Awakening. This was basically a 50-year revival, triggered in large part by the famous Cane Ridge Campmeeting in Kentucky in 1800. The first white men to travel into the western wilderness, especially in the years 1790-1800, were adventurers, fugitives from the law, and in general a pretty wild bunch. In 1790 only one in ten Americans was a church member. Counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana settled before 1830 dealt not only with

Indians but with horse thieves, outlaws, and unsavory characters. Vigilante groups often served as the only law.

By the 1840s when Howard County was first settled, the revival had had such an effect on America that many of the persons seeking land in the "West" (Indiana was considered the West) were, if not Christians, at least knowledgeable about religion. The Methodists were among the primary instigators as well as the beneficiaries of the revival. Methodism grew from 2% of the religious population in 1784 to 33% of the religious population by 1850, one of the most spectacular growth rates in the history of the church. Jacob

Colclazor was one who made that happen in Howard County (as well as many other places). It takes some detective work to discover this since the church histories of early Indiana, as well as the counties' histories, are quite misleading and often simply wrong. There is a good reason for this. In Blanchard's 1883 *History of Howard and Tipton Counties*, the township histories were obviously written by old-timers who relied mostly on their memories rather than historical documents, of which there were few anyway, to record the story. They mixed up dates, places, and individuals. Still, even with that, a number of these township historians mention Jacob Colclazor as one of the first, if not the first, preachers in Howard County. (continued on page 5)

He is mentioned in the accounts of Kokomo, Center Township, Liberty Township, Clay Township, and Union Township. He is connected with Jerome and West Liberty. And, if that is not enough, he is mentioned in the history of Tipton.

Yet Jacob Colclazor lived in Howard County only one year (Methodist preachers at that time moved every year). Methodist records (usually more accurate than county histories) have Colclazor appointed to "The Kokomo Mission" in 1843. People who know the history of Howard County realize this was before the county was even organized. Swamps, mosquitoes, a few Indians and a lot of turkeys were mostly what were here at that time. There may or may not have been any other religious work in the county before that.

Colclazor was a circuit rider. In the Methodist system preachers were not "called" but "sent." Colclazor was sent to Howard County not to pastor the believers there but to preach the gospel and make believers. His assignment was to the "Kokomo Mission." The word "mission" indicated he was considered a missionary since there were no established churches that could provide a salary.

The practice was for the circuit rider to visit a settler home, inquire about the health of the family, and ask if they desired religious services. Of-

ten the circuit rider was the first outsider ever to visit a cabin. Many families did not want religious services. But if a family expressed interest, they were asked to call in the neighbors, or whoever was around, for preaching. They were often happy to do this, if for no other reason than that they were happy for human contact. The circuit rider then indicated he would be back that way 20 or 30 days later and made an appointment. Methodists who kept records noted "irregular" preaching appointments, regular appointments, classes, societies, and churches.

By this method Colclazor (and other circuit preachers) could establish a circuit of 15 to 25 regular preaching points, sometimes all in one year. Colclazor was evidently in every part of the county and some in Tipton County. However, Colclazor was not given credit for "organizing" any of his preaching appointments. That was left to his successor, James Burns, who was appointed to "Kokomo" in 1844. By that time the circuit was no longer a mission. Enough groups had been established in one year to pay a pastor. It is James Burns who was given credit for "starting" the two earliest churches in Howard County still in existence, namely Grace Church, Kokomo, and Greentown (before Greentown was even a town).

When I was a pastor in

Randolph County, I found Jacob Colclazor's burial marker one day in the Union City cemetery. He died in the 1880s, the man who can be called the first preacher to serve full-time in Howard County.

E.E. Trott Grocery

by Craig Trott

My paternal grandparents, Emery and Myrtle Trott, operated the E.E. Trott & Sons Grocery in Greentown from the early 1920's to 1943. It was located on the north side of the one hundred block of East Main Street. That would put it where the middle of the Hasler-Stout Funeral Home is now located. When I was a youngster, Bill Condon had his popular Condon's Grille there, serving up food and soft drinks to the local patrons.

My grandparents' store was affiliated with the Regal Stores franchise. This company was designed for the mom & pop operation, not the large Kroger or A & P variety. The store itself was only a fraction of the size of today's megastores. It was also not a supermarket, the type which became popular at the end of World War II. The clerks at my grandfather's grocery received the customer's list when they entered the store then physically went to the shelves, retrieved the requested products and brought them to the counter for check-out. There were no carts

for the customers to push around and load themselves.

The strength of my grandfather's store was in its meat variety and quality. My grandfather was a master meat cutter and he knew how to select and prepare the finest cuts. He had honed his skills working for other grocers (one being Herman Wagner) before acquiring his own business.

Electric refrigeration was uncommon in those days. Most grocers in the rural areas still depended on the delivery of ice to maintain freshness of meat and dairy items. At my grandfather's store, he bartered with local farmers for milk, eggs and produce items in exchange for sugar, coffee, etc. Therefore his dairy products were fresh, practically on a daily basis.

Various family members and local teenagers were employed as clerks and stock boys throughout the years. Two of my great-uncles, Blanchard "Barney" Trott and William "Scott" Trott, were two of the more colorful clerks in those days. I suspect that my grandfather had to keep a close watch on those two, as they were prone to "sniffing the cork" a bit too much. My grandfather was no tee-totaler by any stretch of the imagination. I suspect he even joined

them a time or two! Rumor had it that Blanchard used to produce his own bootleg whiskey during Prohibition, thus keeping the brothers and cousins "well oiled." My grandmother definitely did not approve of this extracurricular activity.

Hard work was the order of the day in the old grocery store. The usual starting time would be before sunrise and quitting time would be after sunset. After seeing my dad and Uncle Victor off to school, Grandma would work right alongside Grandpa. She clerked, cleaned and kept the business records straight.

I recall a story she would tell with much disgust in her voice. There was no central heat in their store in those days. They had a large cast iron stove in the middle of the floor which would be kept lit with coal during the day then stoked at closing. Chewing tobacco was very popular then and some of the male patrons would open the door to the old stove and let fly with a mouthful of tobacco juice. Occasionally they missed their target, and the goey mess would run down the face of the stove. With a fire inside, the cast iron would be very hot.....and what happens to the juice upon landing on the hot iron? It

became a crusty, burnt, stinking mess! Guess who got to clean up the gunk—my steaming grandmother. I'm sure the offending chewers got an earful from Myrtle. As mentioned earlier, the closing hour was late. After cleanup my grandfather would walk home the five blocks east on Main Street with the day's receipts in his pocket. (Grandma would already be home with my Dad and Uncle preparing for bed). Most of my grandpa's business days were during the depression and robbery was a regular occurrence by the likes of John Dillinger and Baby Face Nelson. So, Grandpa kept a .25 automatic pistol in his pocket, and he would walk down the center of the street. If someone was going to rob him, he figured they would have to come from the side of the street, thus giving him time to retrieve the Colt automatic from his pocket and ward off any would be attackers. Luckily he always made it home safely.

I believe one of the reasons no one bothered him was because he was so generous. Money was very hard to come by in the 30's. If someone came to the store and had no money, he would extend credit, especially if there were

hungry children involved. A few times he even accepted pocket watches and other items in exchange for groceries. I still have in my possession a box of the unpaid credit slips from the store. In today's dollars they would be worth thousands. I also have one of the pocket watches which was exchanged for grocery items by a patron.

The life of a grocer was not without a degree of hazard. This became very evident to my grandfather one day as he was cutting meat. He had several small pieces of beef he had sliced and was inserting them into a cubing machine making cubed steaks. There were no OSHA rules in those days, and the machines had no guards on them. Grandpa inserted one of the steaks into the cuber and got his fingers too far into the machine. The cuber grabbed his fingers and pulled them in, turning them into hamburger.

He quickly turned the machine off and backed his fingers out by manually turning the cubing wheels in reverse with his good hand. He bandaged them up with a rag of some sort, and someone drove him to the hospital in Kokomo. After examination by the attending physician, he said to my grandfather, "Mr. Trott, we're going to have to amputate your fingers." To which my grandfather said, "Doctor, if you do that I won't be able to work. Please do what you can to save them."

The doctor and others worked on my grandfather's

fingers with great skill. They literally formed little meatloaves around the bones and placed bandages on them. The doctor gave no guarantee that this procedure would be a success. Thankfully, my grandfather was able to keep his fingers. He lost some mobility in them and was unable to make a fist with that hand but he was able to continue doing the work he enjoyed to support his family.

Other hazards could be delivered from foreign countries. My grandfather would occasionally receive banana shipments from Cuba. They didn't arrive in wrapped boxes all neat and clean like they do today. They arrived in large vertical bunches, just like they were cut from the tree. Grandpa would hang the bunch in the back room and would remove the bananas as they were purchased.

One day his brother Blanchard "Barney" Trott walked past a hanging bunch of bananas. Lo and behold, a

tarantula jumped from the bunch onto his shoulder. He quickly brushed it onto the floor. He went to the next room and retrieved a large empty pickle jar and promptly trapped the hairy beast inside. Barney put the jar and its tenant on the main counter for all in town to gaze upon.

After a day or two my grandfather offered a sack of candy to any kid who could bring a live mouse to the store. In no time Grandpa had his mouse. He placed it into the jar with the tarantula. The rodent and the spider eyed each other very warily. The spider slowly began to circle the nose-twitching mouse, then suddenly, WHAM! The tarantula was on the mouse and quickly dispatched it from the land of the living. (continued on page 8)

Emery and Myrtle Trott with Blanchard Trott, in front of store c. 1928



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I don't know what became of the tarantula, but it certainly provided Greentown with some homemade entertainment and another great Trott Grocery tale.

Christmas was a special time for my grandfather, who absolutely loved sweets. Every year during that festive season he would construct a large section of temporary shelving in front of the glass display cases in the main aisle. He would invert vegetable hampers and place boards on top of them until he had a series of shelves three rows high. He would place dozens of small barrels of hard candy on the shelves, arranging them in an attractive exhibit for all the children

who entered the store. He enjoyed watching the kids' faces light up when they saw the brightly colored candy all lined up on the shelves. It also gave him a good excuse to sample the goods.

After the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, most of the young men in the United States enlisted or were drafted into the military service. Those not in the military were working in the factories producing war materiel or working on the farm growing the desperately needed food for the world. In 1943 my dad was drafted into the Army and Uncle Victor enlisted in the Navy. Grandpa found himself with no young men to work in the store. Plus, rationing of

food items really put the strain on small grocers.

Faced with these problems, my grandparents decided to close their store in 1943. Grandma became a fulltime housewife and grandpa went to work at the General Electric factory in Kokomo. I don't believe he was ever quite as content as those days he spent in his own grocery store.

There are some folks here in Greentown who still remember the E.E. Trott Grocery with fond memories. They would have been kids in those days.....I wish I could have been one of them.