



ORANGE PEELINGS



ORANGE PEELINGS FALL/ WINTER 2023

From The President's Desk:

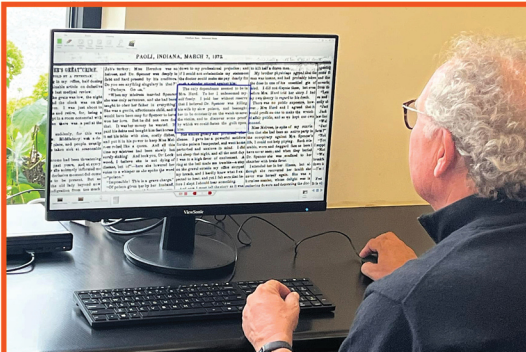


Is it just me or has 2023 just literally flew by? Where does time go? With the end of the calendar year nearing, it is an excellent time to say once again THANK YOU for your continual support of the OCHS and its activities. It has been another very busy and active year. Much has been accomplished these past many months of which I am so very grateful to all of you. A number of our projects are highlighted in this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing everyone and celebrating at our Annual Christmas Dinner on December 4th. Please save the date and plan now to attend. Our Annual Holiday Open House at the Museum is set for November 19th from 1 to 4 p.m. This will mark our last "official" day of operations for 2023. As a "Fun-raiser" we have again produced a commemorative Christmas Ornament celebrating our beloved and historic West Baden Springs Hotel.

Our "Old Fashioned Christmas at the Farmhouse" returns on December 3rd from 2 to 4 p.m. The historic Lindley House will be open that afternoon to visitors and decorated in part to reflect an 1860s Civil War era holiday. Be sure to stop in and enjoy a bit of "Christmas long past" with us on that day. Wishing everyone a beautiful Autumn and a wonderful Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2024.

Regards,
Robert F. Henderson
President/CEO

A series of devastating tornados struck Paoli late August 7th. The Museum thankfully only sustained minor damage with two upstairs windows being knocked out and the west side of the roof was damaged as well. The historic Paoli Courthouse Square sadly suffered significant damage including our beloved Courthouse. Damage to the historic Lindley Farmhouse was limited to a considerable amount of brush, limbs, trees etc. down on the grounds. Clean Up and repair efforts are on-going. We are extremely grateful that no serious injuries were reported or lives lost during this severe storm event.




Orange County Historical Society representatives were on hand for the long-awaited install of a brand-new microfilm scanner at the Paoli Public Library. The equipment, which will be permanently housed in library family research room is part of the OC Historical Society's Paoli Historic Newspaper Preservation Project. The state-of-the-art scanner system and related equipment was paid for in part by a generous donation made possible by the Orange County Community Foundation. Library staff joined Society volunteers in training on the equipment in order to be able to assist patrons wanting to do research and family history. The scanner was purchased from BP Imaging Solutions of Dayton, OH.



Check out our brand-new Museum Sign installed this past Summer. Thanks HD Graphix in Orleans for their great design work.



Orange County Historical Society
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 Find Us on Facebook

Executive Committee

President-CEO-Robert F. Henderson
 Vice President-Roger Moon
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Board of Directors

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2023 Meeting Dates:

October 24
 November 28
 Dec. 4th Annual Christmas Dinner

- All meetings unless otherwise noted are held at the Paoli Public Library meeting room 7 p.m.
 General Business Meeting begins at 6 p.m.
 Members are always welcome and urged to attend.

Welcome Our Newest Members!

Kristin Cart
 Preston Higgins
 Joe Fontanetta
 Janet Dixon
 *Janet Sherwood (Life)

➔ Individual Membership Dues for 2024 are payable January 1st. Dues remain \$20. Lifetime Memberships still available \$200.

Just Arrived!

**2023 Ornament
 Celebrates Historic WB Hotel**



This year's OCHS Christmas Ornament, the sixth in a series celebrates the historic West Baden Springs Hotel. The beautiful maroon and white ornament will be available for purchase during the Holiday Open House at the Museum on November 19th. The cost will be \$12 with proceeds benefitting the upkeep of the Museum.

FUN GIFT IDEAS FOR THE HISTORY BUFF

The Museum Gift Shop has lots of great giving ideas for the "history buff" on your Christmas Shopping List this year. New items include Courthouse magnets, Historic Lindley House notecards & prints and Kevin Tower's new book, *Twisting the Tiger's Tail* (a great read!). We also have a variety of books, DVDs, cookbooks, Courthouse keychains, coasters, puzzles, collectible Courthouse plates, Gift Memberships & More. Orders are filled year-round.



**Happy Holidays!
 Best Wishes for the New Year!**

**Extra! Extra!
Read All
About It!**



Our new Historic OC Newspaper exhibit area at the Museum is coming along nicely. Stop in and check it out. We are still pulling items together and would welcome any type of vintage type newspaper office décor that anyone has that could be used to dress out the exhibit. Our goal is to pay homage to all of the three Orange County papers and their invaluable contribution to the community down through the years. We welcome any prop pieces or room dressing i.e., vintage camera equipment, old fashioned office type supplies, old wall calendars, vintage phone, old directory, wire in/out baskets, notebooks, old area phone books etc.

**"Living History Day"
at the Lindley House 2023.**



Despite the damp weather there were lots of fun filled activities at the farmhouse. Visitors to the Lindley House received a rare treat of meeting and interacting with famed Hoosier Author and Civil War General Lew Wallace (portrayed by Terry Furgason).



Save The Date!

Sunday, December 3rd from 2 to 4 p.m. The historic Lindley House, located on Willow Creek Rd., Paoli will be open to visitors that afternoon and decorated in part to reflect an 1860s Civil War era holiday.



The historic Thomas Elwood Lindley House, located just off the Hwy. 150 West on Willow Creek Rd. in Paoli is available for tours in season by appointment only.

Make plans to stop in and see us at our Annual Holiday Open House at the Museum on November 19th from 1 to 4 p.m. The event is being held in conjunction with the Paoli Merchants Open House. Tour the Museum and pick up a little something up from our Museum Shop. We also have Gift Memberships! Admission will be FREE; however, donations will be accepted to help maintain the museum and our historic collection.

Kevin Tower will be signing copies of his brand-new book, "Twisting the Tiger's Tail"-Illegal Gambling French Lick and West Baden Springs.





An old English proverb, “many hands make light work” is a fitting phrase for what Orange County Historical Society has accomplished during the past two years. It has taken the hands of members, family and friends to bring 140 years of local and county history back home. It began as a rumor that was verified as truth. The local office of The Paoli News and The Paoli Republican, each founded in the 1800s, was shutting down. Newspapers, bound into hard cover books, plus thousands and thousands of single copies had been moved out of what had been familiar to generations as the newspaper office in Riley Building on the Paoli Square. They were placed in storage at a site in another county. It was learned little was left in the about-to-be vacant newspaper office. Salvaged were some photos, office odds and ends and awards former staff members had garnered that once held a place of honor on the office walls. A handful of members with newspaper experience had sleepless nights concerned with the future of the newspaper files. Then, came an offer to gift the papers to the Historical Society and quickly, Orange County government officials offered space in a vacant area of a building and 26 skids of shrink wrapped newspapers and bound books came home to Paoli.

A goal to save those newspaper files, preserve them on microfilm, and purchase a reader to be located at Paoli Public Library was quickly established. To achieve it, members began a search to learn how others handled such a massive project. There were visits to the Indiana State Library, trips to out-of-state libraries and history centers and telephone calls as far away as the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

All the while there were weekly work sessions being conducted by a handful of members and volunteers. Skids were unwrapped. Newspapers were sorted and stacked by the year and date. One of every issue was set aside to be stored. Shelving was ordered to hold the massive number of bound book files. When word of the project was out, some folks saw it as a last chance to have a piece of history and offered to purchase old copies. Totes were filled with papers back to the 1930s and sold to benefit the project. In a chat with Indiana State Library staff, interested was expressed for specific years of files absent from the state microfilmed files. In return, the Historical Society could purchase microfilm copies from the state files. Orange County Community Foundation responded to the need for a microfilm reader and located a grant. The Historical Society applied and received funds to help with the purchase. Former New-Republican staffer, Miriam Ash earmarked a \$1000 gift to the newspaper project in honor of her late husband, Paul Ash, who also had been also a member of The News-Republican staff.



Two years of work and a lot of black newspaper ink on the hands of volunteers came to a culmination the second week of September. Many years of bound files are now shelved for safe keeping. The rest were delivered to the State Library to be microfilmed and the new microfilm reader was purchased and installed at Paoli Public Library. As the hands-on work finishes, a new exhibit is being prepared at Orange County Historical Society Museum. When complete it will depict a newspaper office from yesteryear, give a nod to local print shops and spotlight local veteran journalists and newspaper staff.



Many thanks to our friend and OCHS member Arla Spoonmoore Fraizer who recently donated the typewriter belonging to the late Mary Alice Spoonmoore to the Museum's new Orange County Historic Newspaper exhibit display. The daughter of Floyd and Osa Morris, Mary Alice, often know as Slats or Slatty, graduated from Paoli High School and attended I.U. for two years. She married Jack Spoonmoore in 1952 and spent 38 years at the Paoli Newspaper. She passed away in 1992. Accepting the donation was OCHS President Robert Henderson.



Donations: Betty Lewis-1940s Strand Theatre movie schedules Mike Holland- items from the Handle Factory Cindi Rowland-wooden work table Robert Henderson-Period hanging light fixture, period reproduction quilt for Alice Childs Room, 1950s Phone, antique ashtray, Dairy Pail Melva Gray-Booklet, " Memories of Paul". I.U. Health-Paoli-Antique wheel chair.
Monetary Donations:Terry and Brenda Cornwell in memory of Brenda Bartlett Cathy Oakley Moore Paul Michael Ash Art and Music Endowment.