



# ORANGE PEELINGS



ORANGE PEELINGS SPRING/SUMMER 2024

## From The President's Desk:



As we move closer to the summer months, the OCHS is as busy as ever collecting, preserving and sharing Orange County history. Just a reminder OCHS meets the 4th Tuesday 7 pm of each month with a program on some aspect or link to Orange County's rich history. A general business meeting is held at 6 pm prior to the regular meeting and program. All meetings are held at the Paoli Library.

The Museum is open for the 2024 Season on most Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. Stop in and see us.

Mark your Calendars! July 27th 1 to 3:30pm 50th Anniversary of the historic Lindley House Museum. We are planning a special day at the farmhouse to commemorate this occasion. Plans include house tours, special guests, live musical entertainment by Lick Creek Band, refreshments & more.

As always thank you for being a member of the OCHS. We are grateful for your continual support. We have had a number of brand new members in the last few months and welcome them into our ranks.

Like and Find Us on Facebook to keep up with all the latest happenings & events. And be sure to visit us at [historicorangecounty.org](http://historicorangecounty.org)

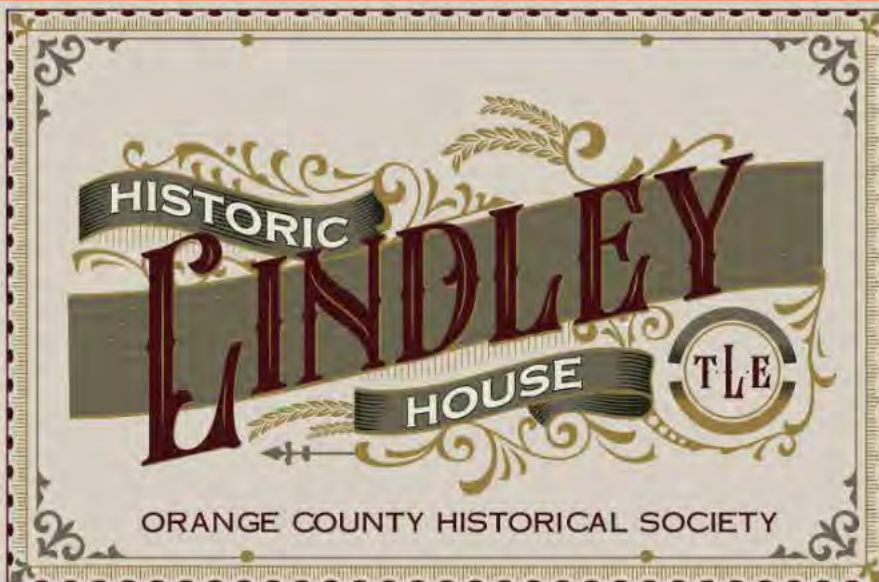
Here's wishing everyone a great Summer!

Regards,

Robert H., President/CEO

Visitors to the Historic Lindley House in Paoli this summer will be welcomed by this brand-new sign. 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the farmhouse being gifted to the OCHS by the late H. Carl Thompson and Dorothy Farlow Thompson for the creation of the historic Lindley House Museum.

A special celebration to mark the occasion is being planned at the farmhouse in late July.



THE NEW HISTORIC SIGNAGE WAS DESIGNED BY H.D. GRAPHIX IN ORLEANS.



Restoration work on the historic Orange County Courthouse Clock Tower continues after the devastating tornado last August. OCHS has engaged Duane Busick to film the restoration project and that over 15 hours of footage had already been shot to date. Plans are to produce a special DVD of the Courthouse restoration efforts and its history later this year.

As a result of the extensive restoration work to the clock tower, bell etc. the OCHS has been gifted a number of interesting artifacts related to the historic clock works which will be made a permanent part of the Museum Collection. We are grateful to the OC Commissioners for remembering us and entrusting our group to care for these relics.



### Work continues On Historic Paoli Newspaper Project

Work with our partners at the Indiana State Library on the Historic Paoli Newspaper Collection continues and to date newspapers published between 1883 and 1914 have been carefully removed from their bindings and scanned. ISL has ordered master reels from these scans that are expected to last 200 years or longer. Each master will hold approximately 1,200 images. At some point soon copies of the reels will be obtained by OCHS and deposited for patron use at the Paoli Library. As for the remaining Republican News issues, they are safely stored and organized in the ISL newspaper vault in Indianapolis.



### Hats Off! (Stetsons of course) to Mr. Lindley and students for another fantastic show!

The OC Historical Society was once again proud to sponsor the "Best of Show Award" this year for the PHS Night at the Museum event with our friend Mr. Chris Lindley and his Advanced U.S. History Students.

A huge shout-out to Taylor Patton (show below) who was the 2024 Best of Show-Gold Award. Her exhibit "The Forgotten Nuclear Disaster" the Church Rock Uranium Mine Spill" She examined the Church Rock uranium mill spill that occurred in New Mexico in July 1979, when United Nuclear Corporation's tailings disposal pond at its uranium mill in Church Rock breached its dam. The accident remains the largest release of radioactive material in U.S. history, having released more radioactivity than the Three Mile Island accident four months earlier. What made the story even more tangled was the impact on the Native American population who were the primary residents of the area and most of the miners.

This adverse effect on marginalized communities was a common thread through much of our research about disasters in America. The group's Reserve Best of Show-Silver Award and also Hoosier Heritage Award winner was Jonny Shellenburger with his exhibit "The Night the Circus Stopped" the Hammond Circus Train Wreck of 1918. This project explored the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus train wreck, and since it was an Indiana story, qualified it for the Hoosier Heritage Award. In addition, he actually did some research at our very own French Lick-West Baden Museum with its huge diorama of the circus! The Bronze Award was captured by Brian Fullington for "Terror in the Golden City" San Francisco and the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906. The theme this year was "Disasters Have Histories" A Survey of 20th Century American Disasters and Their Impact.



Janet Newton recently shared with our members some fascinating background on Margaret Elaine Hamilton who was born in Paoli in 1936. Hamilton is an American computer scientist, systems engineer, and business owner. She was director of the

Software Engineering Division of the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory, which developed on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo program. She later founded two software companies—Higher Order Software in 1976 and Hamilton Technologies in 1986, both in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 2016, Hamilton received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from president Barack Obama for her work leading to the development of on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo Moon missions. Watch for a new mini display at the Museum celebrating Hamilton.



### DONATIONS

Leah Morgan, vintage office wire baskets, Mary Laverne Boston & Irene Tarr, Vintage Printer's Tray, Lawrence Kasten, vintage FLAWB Souvenir Folding Post Card, Kathleen Wilkinson, 1906 Orleans Presbyterian Church Cook Book

### MEMORIALS/MONETARY DONATIONS

Pamela McCurdy in memory of the Thomas Giles Family of French Lick, Pam Castrale, 1908 Postcard Proserpine & Hotel in French Lick, Kathy Oakley Moore in memory of Barbi and Larry Freeman *A Shout Out to our friend Joanie DeWitt Dingman for donating her sewing skills for both the historic Lindley House kitchen and the new Historic Orange County Newspaper display area.*



Brian Campbell recently donated this pie cabinet to the historic Lindley House Museum. The cabinet was part of the late

Phil Long's estate and originally had belonged to Dr. Paul Lindley (1883-1954). Dr. Paul's father was John E. Lindley, the son of Samuel Thomas Lindley and brother to our own Thomas Elwood Lindley. We are grateful to Brian for his most generous donation to the museum collection.



**By Jeffrey A. Lane, Historian/Archivist, French Lick Resort**

The beautiful hills of Orange County have many historical spots, but one of the most unique places is located near French Lick and is known as Cross Cave. Ferdinand Cross, a stone carver from Binghamton, New York came to Orange County prospecting among the hills. He came across a natural amphitheater southeast of French Lick sheltered on three sides by overhanging cliffs. Here he found a spring trickling from a small cave that would bear his name.

He built a house with a studio nearby where at last he could indulge with the tools of his beloved trade. It wasn't long before Cross Cave became a popular chicken dinner place where French Lick Hotel guests could partake in the excellent cuisine and explore the cave. Ferdinand carved many things on the hillside, notable among them a life-sized group of cattle standing by an old well.

His brother, Henry Cross came to work beside him with his brush and palette. Henry had studied under Rosa Bonheur in Europe and had traveled with P. T. Barnum and his circus as a wagon and poster painter. Henry traveled throughout the West and eventually became a close friend of "Buffalo Bill" Cody. He even became fluent in speaking the Sioux language. Henry created many paintings in his lifetime some of which are: Wild Bill Hickock, Kit Carson, Sitting Bull, Geronimo, and Abraham Lincoln.

Shown here is believed to be one of Henry Cross' original paintings. The artwork, which has recently been restored is housed at the Paoli Library. Henry's largest work was a magnificent painting of the West Baden Springs Hotel for Colonel Lee W. Sinclair. Its dimensions were 6' by 10' and the picture is said by artists and other good judges to be one of the best products from this accomplished artists' brush. The painting was placed on exhibit in Chicago for several weeks before traveling throughout the United States. The large painting was completed November 11, 1902 Both brothers are buried in the same grave at Sulphur Creek Cemetery which is not far from the cave where they both worked.



**Do you know that 2024 commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Historic Lindley House Museum?**

We are planning a special commemoration on July 27th 1-3:30pm at the farmhouse to celebrate this important milestone.

The historic Thomas Elwood Lindley homesite was deeded to the OCHS in 1974 by Thomas' great-great-grandson, H. Carl Thompson and his wife Dorothy Farlow Thompson for the purpose of creating a house museum and a memorial to the Lindley Family and other early Orange County pioneer families.



Thanks again to all who purchased "Visions of Home: A Collection of World War II Letters Written Home to Orange County, Ind." By Roger Moon and Ron Prosser.

The authors, earmarked a second installment of proceeds

from the sale of the book to go to the Orange County Historical Society. Earlier this year Roger presented a check for \$1,280 to OCHS President Robert Henderson and Treasurer Carolyn Clements. In addition, 20 copies remaining from the book's fourth printing were presented to the OCHS and are now available for sale from the Museum Gift Shop. All proceeds from the sale of those books will go to the historical society.

This small proof press from the 1880s originally came from the office the Paoli News. Proof presses were used to make copies of pages to check for errors before a final printing on a larger press. The press had been relocated




to The Herald Times in Bloomington a few years back. Most recently it had been displayed as part of a special exhibit at the Monroe County History Center. We are super excited to have been able to bring it back home to Paoli earlier this year as a permanent part of our collection.

Museum Visitors will be able to view the press up close in the newly created Historic Orange County Newspaper display.



Orange County Historical Society  
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[www.historicorangecounty.org](http://www.historicorangecounty.org)

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### Executive Committee

President-CEO - Robert F. Henderson  
Vice President - Brenda Cornwell  
Treasurer - Carolyn Clements  
Recording Secretary - Gary Spear

### Board of Directors

Terry Cornwell, Chair  
Carolyn Clements  
Jeff Lane  
Janet Newton

### 2024 Meeting Dates:

June 25                      October 22  
July 23                        November 26  
August 27                    Dec. Annual Dinner TBA  
September 24

- 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!*

Elizabeth Jones  
Donna Jones  
Kellie Hamblin  
Benjamin Warren  
\*Verna Sommers  
\*Melva Gray  
Neva Reece  
Raymond & Tina Lee

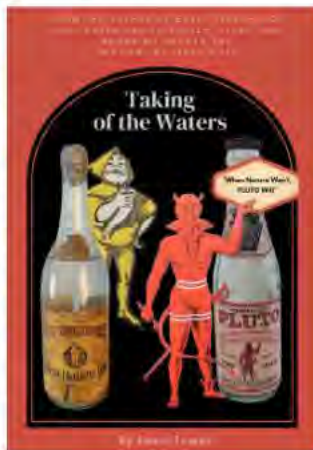
\*Designates Lifetime Member

### FROM THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Did you know? The Orange County Historical Society has a number of unique items at the Museum available for sale including a variety of books, DVDs, cookbooks, keychains, notecards, prints, t-shirts, ornaments, puzzles, vintage Paoli Newspaper bundles, collectible Courthouse Plates, gift memberships & more.

New items include Courthouse Mugs & Coasters, and Kevin Tower's new book, Taking the Waters. Orders are filled year-round. Proceeds from gift shop sales benefit the general upkeep of the Museum.

Thank you for helping us collect, preserve and share our rich Orange County history — **both today and for future generations!**



Society President Robert Henderson has been tapped to serve as the Orange County Connect Leader for the upcoming American 250 Celebration in 2026.

In 2022 the Indiana Legislature created the state's Semiquincentennial Commission.

During 2023 this Commission was organized and has been working to form the structure for planning programs and projects for Indiana's celebration of America's 250th Birthday.

Henderson said an Orange County America 250 committee will be formed this fall with area individuals, groups etc. being asked to participate in the planning process.