



# ORANGE PEELINGS



ORANGE PEELINGS SPRING/SUMMER 2026

## From The President's Desk:



Dear Members and Friends,

As we welcome the official start to our 2026 Season , I want to thank you for your continued support of the Orange County Historical Society. Your membership, donations and involvement make it possible for us to share and preserve Orange County's storied and rich past.

What an exciting time it is as our America 250 moment is nearly upon us, and with it brings cause for much celebration and reflection on the "American Experience" as a whole.

Good news to share! Repair work is underway and nearing completion at the museum to repair damage caused by a boiler failure and busted radiators over the winter months. We hope to be able to reopen very soon. We want to express our appreciation to the Orange County Commissioners for all their assistance with the repairs and continual support of the museum.

This historic Thomas Elwood Lindley House is once again open to visitors for the Season by appointment only.

Just a reminder the OCHS meets the 4th Tuesday of each month 7 pm at the Paoli Library. We have some interesting programs lined up for the coming months. A general business meeting is held at 6 pm prior to the regular meeting and program. Members are always welcome and urged to attend.

Thank you for being a part of Orange County's Collective Story,

Sincerely,

*Robert H.*

Robert F. Henderson, President





Janet Newton pictured was the guest program presenter for the April meeting of the Orange County Historical Society held at the Paoli Library. Newton presented a very interesting and informative program on Orange County Revolutionary War Patriot Captain John Dougherty. Janet also shared several related historic images and photographs linked to Captain Dougherty.

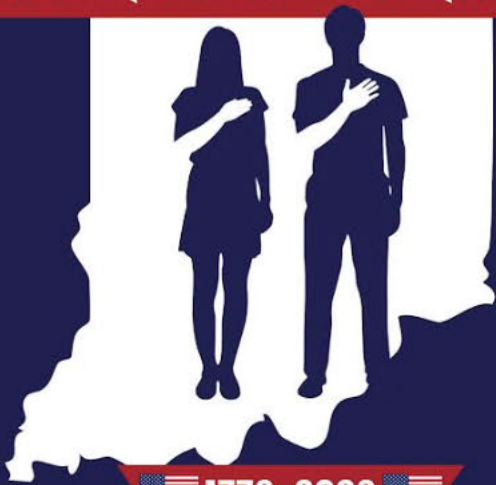


Please do not forget about our "America 250" Time Capsule Project. We want everyone to be a part of this special project. Packets with all the details are available for pickup from any of the three Orange County Libraries. Hurry!

*Deadline to participate is June 15th.*



**SO PROUDLY WE'LL HAIL  
AND  
PLEDGE YOUR ALLEGIANCE**



**1776-2026**

**Support A Celebration 250 Years In The Making**

**Orange County is planning an unforgettable birthday celebration in 2026!**

**With Liberty and Revelry For All.**

**Our great Nation deserves a memorable, one-of-a-kind celebration.**

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Orange County America 250



For the 10th year running the Orange County Historical Society was once again proud to sponsor the "Best of Show Award" for the annual "Night at the Museum" event at Paoli High School. Mr. Chris Lindley's Advanced U.S. History students all did an incredible job with their projects. Congrats to Ada McSpadden for being the overall winner shown here with Society President Robert Henderson. Ada's awarding winning exhibit was "Sewing and Suffrage" How Women used Needlecraft to Get the Vote. This year's theme was "Voices and Votes" to coincide with the upcoming America 250 Smithsonian Exhibit to be displayed at the Orange County Visitor Center in French Lick now through late June.



We want to extend a big thank you to the advanced art students at Paoli High School and their teacher Chris Jones for repainting the Pivot Point historical marker this spring! We'd also like to recognize the Orange County America 250 Committee for spearheading the effort to refurbish all three state historical markers in the county, and committee member Alan Fidler who helped replace the post for the Pivot Point marker. The marker was originally installed in 1961 and is located at SR 37 & Pivot Point Road. Pivot Point, also known as Initial Point, is the location where the initial survey of land in what became Indiana was begun in 1805 by Ebenezer Buckingham, U.S. deputy surveyor. Indiana was the first state to be completely laid out under the survey system used to set up the beginning of the legal descriptions of real estate still used in Indiana today.



**TWO ORANGE COUNTY PROPERTIES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER**



Great News! An effort to recognize the importance of two of Orange County's historical sites has come to fruition with The Maples Farm and former French Lick Methodist Church listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Work began in 2025 when OCHS Sister organization, Saving Historic Orange County, SHOC, contracted Kurt Garner of K. W. Garner Consulting to research and submit a nomination for The Maples to be listed on the National Register. The process begins on the state level and takes about 18 months. In mid-January, the state Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology Board recommendation the listing to the National Park Service, keeper of the National Register.

The French Lick Methodist Church nomination, also completed by Garner, followed a similar timeline. Garner was employed by former building owner, Sarah Stivers. It too, advanced in the DHPA Board's January session and was listed on the National Register same date as The Maples. The Maples Farm

has the honor of being the first agriculture listing in Orange County. The farm includes a circa 1841 Federal style house and farm buildings that give it significance under agriculture and architecture. The house also functioned as a stagecoach inn operated by James P. Campbell during the middle part of the 19th century. The inn was located on one of Indiana's earliest routes between Vincennes and New Albany, referred to as the Buffalo Trace or Vincennes-New Albany Road. That fact provided transportation significance to the farm. Owner of The Maples, Kelly Cuff, is a past recipient of SHOC's annual preservation award. The French Lick Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1914, was designed by the Evansville architectural firm of Clifford Shopbell & Company. The building, late Gothic Revival style, was constructed of salt-glazed brick and features an interior dome. It was financed by one of the congregation's wealthy members known locally as "Banker Bill Cave." He decided the congregation needed a more appropriate building with stained glass windows, pipe organ, and dome to match that of West Baden Springs Hotel. He financed the building, along with other congregants, to be constructed on "Millionaire's Row" where impressive homes of the community's merchants were located. The building was listed for its architectural significance. The National Register is a function of the National Historic Preservation Act, established in 1966 to recognize sites and structures important to our heritage. The program provides rehabilitation tax credits and grants for qualifying work to homeowners, for-profit and non-profit entities, including churches and municipalities. Orange County has over 260 sites or structures listed. SHOC has funded the nomination of the Orleans Historic District, Jenkins Brothers homes, Schindler-Stetson House and The Maples Farm.

**EXHIBIT HOURS**  
 MAY 14TH - JUNE 28TH  
 Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
 Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Sunday: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

indiana humanities

**TIMELESS FRENCH LICK TO HOST SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT AS PART OF AMERICA250 CELEBRATION**

**FRENCH LICK** — The Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau will play host for "Voices & Votes: Democracy in America," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, on display at the Timeless French Lick Visitors Center from Mid-May through June 28, 2026. The exhibit arrives as communities across the country prepare to mark America's 250th anniversary, and Orange County is honored to be among the select Indiana communities chosen to host this nationally recognized experience. The exhibition explores the history of American democracy — its ideals, its struggles, its triumphs, and its ongoing story — through compelling artifacts, photographs, and interactive elements. Presented as part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program, with support from Indiana Humanities, "Voices & Votes" is designed to travel to the heart of communities like ours, connecting national themes to local stories and inviting reflection on what democracy means in places where people actually live, work, and build lives together. "Voices & Votes: Democracy in America" is a traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), adapted from the companion exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The Indiana tour is made possible through a partnership with Indiana Humanities.

**Exhibit Hours**  
 Mon - Fri: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 To learn more about this exhibit and other upcoming events, please call 812.936.3418 or visit us online at: [www.timelessfrenchlick.com](http://www.timelessfrenchlick.com)

**★ ADOPT A BEAM ★**

**HELP US RAISE A TIME PERIOD BARN ONE BEAM AT A TIME AT THE LINDLEY HOUSE IN PAOLI!**

**DONATE \$100 TO ADOPT-A-BEAM AND HELP RECONSTRUCT AN 1850S HISTORIC BARN AT THE LINDLEY HOUSE IN PAOLI, INDIANA. EACH BEAM BRINGS US CLOSER TO PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY AND PIONEER LIFE.**

**★ ADOPT A BEAM ★**  
**ORANGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**(812) 653-1212**



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[www.historicorangecounty.org](http://www.historicorangecounty.org)

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**Executive Committee**

President-CEO - Robert F. Henderson  
Vice President - Roger Moon  
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Recording Secretary - Gary Spear

**Board of Directors**

Terry Cornwell, Chair  
Carolyn Clements  
Brenda Cornwell  
Jeff Lane  
Janet Newton

**2025 Meeting Dates**

June 23                      Oct. 27  
July 28                        Nov. 24  
Aug. 25                        Dec Annual Christmas Dinner (TBA)  
Sept. 22

- 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.

**NEW IN THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP**

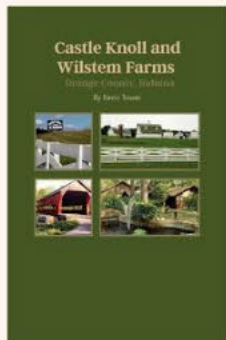
Kevin Tower's Newest Book

"Castle Knoll & Wilstem Farms

Orange County America 250 Commemorative Coins (Going Fast!)

Historic Orange County Courthouse DVD

Orders filled year-round.



Just in time for the celebration of  
America's 250 years of Independence.

**Roger Moon's newest book.**

**MONETARY DONATIONS**

Sharon Parys (Barn Fund)

Russ Love

Patricia Frank

**DONATIONS**

Old National Bank,  
HISTORIC ORANGE COUNTY BANK PHOTO COLLECTION

Patricia Frank,  
CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPH OF FRANCES NOBLITT AND HISTORIC LETTER COLLECTION

Sharon Parys,  
COPY OF 1811 LETTER WRITTEN TO AMY THOMPSON LINDLEY & LINDLEY HOUSE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Rita Barnett,  
HISTORIC RUG LOOM

Bill Waller,  
1926 POSTCARD OF THE WEST BADEN SPRINGS HOTEL

Gwen Gutwein,  
ORIGINAL OIL PAINTING, BOWEN FAMILY BARN