



# The Arch



The Newsletter of the Putnam County Museum

Vol 7. Summer 2010 issue 3

## GALA

---

## CVB

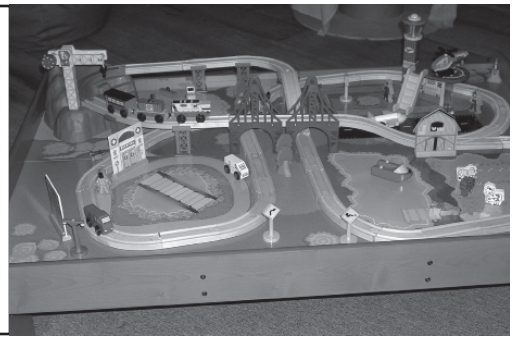
---

## BAIN- BRIDGE





Putnam County Convention  
& Visitor Bureau



## Events

Gala • August 7, 4-7 pm  
Fall Mum Sale • more information to come

## Exhibits

Native American Exhibit coming soon  
Pictures of the Past, Art Walk  
"Doc" Brattain, County Commerce  
Founding Family  
Master Gardeners, Community Curator  
WWII Remembered  
Green Acres  
And Much, Much, More

## Contact

Putnam County Museum  
1105 North Jackson Street  
Greencastle, Indiana 46135  
(765) 653-8419  
museum@co.putnam.in.us  
www.putnamcountymuseum.org

## Hours

Tuesday - Friday • 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Saturday • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
and/or by appointment

4

## Donation

*By Sally Gray*

5

## Fall Exhibit

*By Caroline Murphy*

7

## CVB

*By Sally Gray*

9

## Musings

*By Diana LaViolette*



# *From the Director's desk...Just Catching Up*

*By Tanis Monday*

Wow! What an incredible spring it has been. We've had lots of programs, special meetings, and many different events going. I am so tuned in to all things Museum, I sometimes forget that not everyone is here as often as I am, and therefore doesn't know everything that we have planned. So, just to catch everyone up...

Children's Summer Programs have been a great hit this year. From Birds to Wildflowers, we have tried to provide some great educational and fun topics for our younger crowd. Many of these programs have been led by museum members and friends. If you have a passion that you'd like to share with youth or adults, I'd be happy to work with you on program possibilities!

Exhibits...The Civil War exhibit has been great and very well received. It will be coming down at the end of June. At that time, we'll begin working on our Native American Exhibit, which will officially open in September. During the transition, we'll pull some items from our permanent collection that haven't been on display in a while! Then, looking even further ahead, we'll be opening a music exhibit in the late winter, early spring of 2011. We have high hopes for all of the possibilities available with this exhibit, including plans for a "Putnam County Music Album." As always, if you are interested in working on any of these planning committees, please let me know!

The Muses (aka the History Buffs who don't have an exact name yet): the few, the proud, and the dedicated. We are starting a new group of select individuals who are willing volunteers for certain projects. This group will not meet on a regular basis per se, but think of them as our go-to-crew for project leadership, event planning, exhibit building, etc. Not everyone will be involved in everything, and this will give folks an opportunity to diversify and satisfy their personal interests and talents. If you've been waiting for the right opportunity to get involved, this is your cue! We'd love to have you on our team!

Coming soon! Please check emails and/or the local papers for more information on these exciting events to come. Or, just give us a call. 1. Mums the Word! We'll be doing our mum sale again this fall. 2. Great opportunity to visit the Indiana Historical Society for free is coming soon.

Whew! That was a list and a half, and I'm sure I left some things out, but I tried to hit on some of the bigger ones. One last thing though, I owe a big thanks to all of our board members, docents, interns, volunteers, committee members, and anyone else who helps out so much around here. Your support, dedication, and assistance mean more to me than you will ever know, but more importantly it makes a huge difference to the museum as a whole and our members and visitors. So "THANK YOU!" And to those of you who are thinking about getting more involved, you won't regret it. We have lots of fun around here, and feel confident that we have made a difference!

## *It's Worth Repeating*

We all want what's best for our museum, not just today, tomorrow or next year, but into the future as far as we can envision. We share pride in Putnam County's rich heritage; our commitment to its mission is the best hope for our children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren gaining an understanding of and appreciation for that heritage.



How can you ensure the future of the Putnam County Museum? Donate to the Museum's Endowment Fund at the Putnam County Community Foundation; include the Museum in your will and talk to your lawyer, tax or estate planning consultant about how you can provide for the Museum's future.

---

## *Museum Receives Donation from Putnamville Correctional Facility*

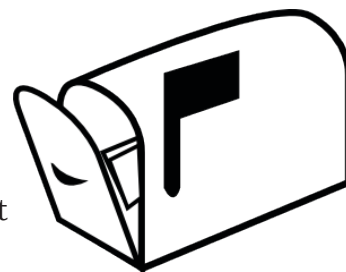
In May Sashi Kumaran, P.L.U.S. director at the Putnamville Correctional Facility, presented to the Museum a \$500 check donated by the P.L.U.S. dormitory. The dormitory is a faith and character based housing unit whose residents raise money to be donated to nonprofit agencies in the area.

At the same time, art which was selected among the winning pieces entered in the Black History Month art contest at Putnamville was delivered for display. This is the third year that the Museum has held such an exhibit. The drawings, essays and poetry are on display at the entrance to the Art Walk and clearly reflect that human creativity is universal.

---

## *Catch a Look at our New Mailbox!*

You may not think acquiring a new mailbox is anything to write home about. But, after four years of dealing with a mailbox held up by a rotting post and whose door didn't close completely so that the mail often got rained on, it IS a big deal.



And as always, we have generous friends of the museum to thank. Jay Gibbs (Tanis' Dad, who also did our "MUSE" sign over the gift shop) not only gave us the mailbox but designed a nifty little gimmick so that we can tell from the Museum's front door when the mail has been delivered.

Randy Jones at Headley Hardware donated the mailbox post, and John LaViolette and Tanis got the box on the post and the post in the ground securely. We are grateful for good friends who come through for us when we are in need!

# Exciting Fall Exhibit

By Caroline Murphy

After interning with the museum this past semester, Tanis graciously asked me to stay on as a summer intern, an offer which I happily accepted. This summer I am continuing my work on the Putnam County Community Foundation exhibit, which is going to be a modern piece to celebrate the Foundation's silver anniversary. Primarily, however, I am assisting with the Native American exhibit to go up this Fall. I am focusing on the research and artifacts acquisition currently, and then will turn my attention to exhibit design as the summer progresses.



To prepare, I organized a trip to visit two established Native American Museums, in search of inspiration and advice. The trip was both fun and educational. The entire group enjoyed the Terre Haute Native American Museum, which featured wonderful, life-size wigwams and offered us hope of finding artifacts to display. The Mid Town Museum of Native Cultures in Waynetown, was very unique! Run by a retired teacher's aid, the museum was largely her own collection of Native American items, but it was her lively personality that stood out, and we hope she will agree to do a children's program..

Overall, the exhibit is progressing smoothly. Just yesterday we ventured up to English's Buffalo Farm, where we met John and Sheila English, who were very welcoming and offered to loan us Buffalo and Native American-related items for the duration of the exhibit. And I spoke with Mickey Meehan, who is generously lending her father's Arrowhead and Tool Collection for display.

Content-wise, the exhibit will mainly focus on the daily life of the Native Americans that resided in and around Indiana. However, we are including sections devoted to a broader understanding of how the first humans arrived in North America and their dispersal, as well as the fragile topic of Removal and the post-contact interactions between the Native Americans and the arriving Europeans. Finally, it is our goal to make the exhibit interesting to all audiences and age-groups, so we will be including more kid-friendly aspects to entertain and educate Putnam County's youth.

Now, I would like to instate a call-to-arms on behalf of the museum! While we have plenty of arrowheads and bison chips, we are in need of artifacts. If you have items that pertain to the Woodland Indians, those tribes which lived in and around modern-day Indiana, and would be willing to lend them to the museum, we would love to hear from you. Due to limited space and scope of the exhibit, the museum may not be able to use all offerings, but we will do our best! Please note that we must stop considering donations after August 1, in order to finish the exhibit on time!

Finally, and most importantly, I am having a wonderful time working for the museum – each day is vastly different and an adventure! I love meeting new people and learning more about this remarkable county! I can't believe I have lived in Greencastle for four years with so little knowledge of the town itself! Thank you for giving me such a wonderful opportunity, and I look forward to hearing from all of you with ideas, suggestions, and possibly items to exhibit!

# 9th Annual Meeting and Gala

## August 7, 4:00 – 7:00 P.M.



The Museum's Annual Meeting and Gala gives our members an opportunity to gather, pat themselves on the back in celebration of all we have accomplished within the past year, and enjoy the company of those who share a common mission. And, in the process, raise money for our operating budget!

This special event will be held at DePauw University in the Union Ballroom and will begin at 4:00 PM with a social hour, including both hot and cold appetizers and a cash wine bar.

During the social hour you will be able to look over the attractive items available for bidding at the silent auction—all of which will be priced to sell.

Please lend the museum a hand by looking around your house for treasures you no longer find of use but believe will certainly have value for someone else. The silent auction is an important feature of this fundraiser, but we need your help if we obtaining a good supply of appealing items to sell. The museum will be accepting all donated items between July 25 and July 29. Remember, the fair market value of your donation is tax deductible.

We are fortunate to have Nicole Etcheson as our speaker at the Gala. She is an expert – soon publishing a book on the Civil War – and her talk will be a nice capstone to our successful “Putnam County and the Civil War” exhibit. At the museum, we are happily looking forward to Nicole speaking and delighted to know of her ties to our county: her aunt, Thursa Evans, lives in Bainbridge.

The museum's annual meeting will follow the guest speaker, where we will introduce the members and the officers for the coming year and ask for a vote of approval of the new members on the Board of Directors. There will be a review of the past year and a peek into the coming year's activities. Also, the budget for 2010-2011 will be presented.

The price is \$20.00 for members. Reservations should be received by July 29. Please help us make the 9th Annual Meeting and Gala one to remember!

### ***Putnam County Museum Board Members***

Diana LaViolette, President

Rick Provine, Vice President

Patty McCastle, Treasurer

Ellie Ypma, Secretary

Sherry Gammon

Sally Gray

Jason Hartman

Emily Knuth

Mickey Meehan

Tony Robertson

Rita Schendel

John Schlotterback

Emeritus

Jinsie Bingham

Mavis Broadstreet

Warren Macy

# *Putnam County Convention & Visitor Bureau: A Valued Heirloom Member*

*By Sally Gray*



Synergy: From the Greek, “working together”; where discrete agencies work together in such a way that the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects.

Happily, it is this synergy that characterizes the relationship between the Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Putnam County Museum. Each agency devotes time, energy and resources toward a common purpose — to provide Putnam County visitors something special, something of value that grants insight into what makes our county so special.

How did Putnam County acquire its Convention and Visitors Bureau? Twenty years ago local residents had the vision to recognize how much we have to offer in natural and historic attractions, and unique resources: nine covered bridges; a downtown Greencastle historic district; legend and lore; a respected university located on a beautiful campus; fine restaurants; good overnight accommodations; and a friendly community of good neighbors eager to share their fondness for Putnam County.

Eventually the Innkeepers Tax was passed by the Indiana Legislature, and with the support of local government, the revenue from that tax created the means to promote Putnam County as reality.

In the past twenty years the business of CVB has tripled. With executive director, Karla Lawless, and her assistant, Sharon Eiteljorge, the office competently carries out its responsibility for putting Putnam County on the map. Its brochures, maps and postcards are a major means of communicating what we have to offer. It answers over 300 phone calls a month, many of which require return calls, and outgoing mail each year averages 30,000 to 50,000 pieces.

Of course, visitors may simply stop by the office located on the south side of Courthouse Square where they will receive a warm welcome and all the information and suggestions needed to make their visit to Putnam County an eventful one. Also, motor coach tours can create custom-designed tours with knowledgeable, local tour guides if requested.

The Bureau has designed four billboards to be erected along I-70. A welcome center has been placed at the Cloverdale Travel Plaza to motivate interstate travelers to spend time in Putnam County. The “Covered Bridge Map” is available at nearly every conceivable stop throughout the county, including the Putnam County Museum.

Now, a video is available and may be mailed to those who wish to view Putnam County from the comfort of their homes. A CD gives directions to all nine of our covered bridges, and a web-site has been designed to put our county information within reach of a vast market of potential visitors.



Ask Karla what she likes most about her job and she is quick to say “meeting the people and helping them make their time in Putnam County as enjoyable and productive as possible”. Walk-ins have come not only from all over Indiana and the United States, but from around the world as well, including Africa, Australia and South America.

The profile of the Putnam County Museum’s visitor reflects this broad interest. In the first place, 32 of our more than 325 members are from outside Indiana. In 2009, of the 2000 visitors who entered the museum’s door, 269 came from outside Indiana and another 159 from Indiana, but outside Putnam County. One of our most enjoyable groups of visitors was from Kyrgyzstan; they were from small communities wanting to start museums, and they were delighted to learn how we did it. (Several of that group have kept in touch and have reported that their museums are up and running.) We are proud to report that already in 2010 visitors have totaled over 1500.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Putnam County Museum demonstrate how synergy functions when two agencies work together in such a way that each benefits and the total result is greater than the individual effects.

Where does this come from? From the pride these two organizations share in Putnam County’s unique heritage.

Thank you CVB for your heirloom membership and continued support.

---

Hello, my name is Liz Bjordal and I am one of PCM’s summer interns! I am a Bonner scholar at DePauw University and have volunteered with the museum for the past academic year. I am very excited to begin my sophomore year of college, but I am even more grateful for the opportunity to stay with the museum and in Greencastle this summer!

For the summer season, I have been awarded the task of re-vamping the children’s Round Barn. I would like to create a safe environment that is simultaneously interactive and educational. When first given this task, it seemed exciting and reasonably simple; however, with more and more research and more and more suggestions, my Round Barn mission is looking more and more difficult.

This is why I would like to ask help of you faithful PCM-goers and members! The decoration and additions to the barn that we hope to make are not fully covered within the limited exhibit building budget. We would like to offer a more kid-friendly and kid-safe environment; so we are asking (and I am begging) for any support. If you are interested in donating or helping to fundraise for the barn, please let me know!

I am open to all suggestions, accepting any financial donations, and willing to take any toys that fit the barn criteria. Items we are looking for include Lego Duplo blocks, children’s archaeology tools (such as beach sandcastle sets and other “dig and discover” type items), and educational posters that pertain to Indiana weather, Putnam County wildlife, etc.

Also, I would like to offer as much gratitude as humanly possible to the Kidkraft Corporation, who generously donated our newest addition to the Round Barn. Kidkraft gifted to the children’s area the very exciting and kid-safe “Ride Around Town Train Set with Table.” The gift is greatly appreciated on behalf of the museum (and on my behalf especially). Please come check it out, and bring children too!

Though we have a new and exciting attraction in the children’s barn, it is only the beginning. Please help the Putnam County Museum attract and educate our younger generation! We are working toward a kid-friendly environment but need your help!





# *Musings from Museum Board President*



For most of the month of May I have been out of country or caring for our grandson, Archer, and both proved to be wonderful adventures. It could be, that without my poking around and making noise, the museum actually functioned more efficiently, successfully, and happily. It is comforting to know that the place is in good hands with Tanis, the interns from DePauw, and the many volunteers who contribute so much. This last week, one of the board members commented on how proud she is of the museum, that everyone in Putnam County should take the time to visit and see what can be done by a small band of dedicated, enthusiastic citizens who want to preserve our past.

Walking around the exhibit area recently, I was struck by several pieces of information that I had heretofore failed to give adequate attention. There is this great picture of the Asbury Cadets, a military unit formed at Asbury University (DePauw) after the Civil War began, in training on the East College lawn. In another area, there are four beautiful baskets on display which were woven by Sherry Gammon, an invaluable museum board member. These are the type of baskets Putnam county citizens used to weave when there wasn't a Wal-Mart down the street. Local lifetime resident, Mary Hirt, has provided us with a wonderful Founding Family exhibit about her ancestor Alfred Hirt, who crossed the Atlantic over 41 times and was involved in the beginnings of both Central and First National Banks.

The art walk now is covered with old pictures from all over Putnam County. There is a picture taken during the Zinc Mill Fire in 1939, another of Main Street in Cloverdale, taken early in the twentieth century, and many others that tell a story—a story that could not be told or known if not preserved.

We get so busy with our day to day needs and desires that we forget about our heritage, for we are today what we were in the past. Our history is part of us, and to ignore it is our loss. I enjoy and value the opportunity to know more about Putnam County.

For example, information on how we obtained the Buzz Bomb used by the Germans during World War II can be discovered in a current exhibit. I look forward to the information gleaned through research about Native Americans who hunted in our woods, and made a path through our county. Right now, Tanis and two interns who are with us for the summer, Caroline Murphy and Liz Bjordal, are working with other volunteers on creating our fall exhibit about Native Americans.

We are currently working with June Brattain on an exhibit honoring the more than fifty years of service Doc. Brattain gave to this community and displaying a collection of veterinarian tools he had.

On our long list of things to do, we are also hoping to organize a group of volunteers to work independently of the board in creating more interest in the museum and helping with raising funds, a task critical to our existence. We are thinking about calling this group, the History Buffs – however we are open to other suggestions. This group would

not be meeting on a regular basis, but would utilize their separate skills and contacts to further enhance our goals and mission, in ways we want to explore. If you would like to meet with us as we launch this new endeavor, please don't hesitate to call. And if you haven't yet visited the museum to see the Civil War exhibit, please put everything down, find your keys, get into your car and hurry on in. And always remember that your help, everyone's help is being recruited. We can always use your talent, your knowledge, your artifacts, and most of all your interest in providing our county a museum to be proud of!

Diana LaViolette  
Board President

---

## *Heritage Preservation Society Obtains Grant*

*By Phil Gick, HPS President*

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County (HPS,) to inform you that our efforts to obtain a Heritage Preservation Grant (HPF) from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Nation Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund Program, for 2010-2011 were successful. The grant was awarded and will be administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA). The letter the Putnam County Museum provided in support of our efforts, along with numerous other letters from various civic, business and government entities played an extremely important role. The Board wants to officially extend our deepest thanks.

The HPF Grant will fund 50% of the cost to hire a professional to prepare nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for the three historic districts in Greencastle. The largest of the three is the Eastern Enlargement Historic District, which was identified in the 1982 Putnam County Interim Report and contains approximately 243 contributing resources—mainly turn of the century residences of prominent professional, business and academic figures of Greencastle. Also identified in the interim report was the Old Greencastle Historic District, which is adjacent to the Courthouse Square Historic District and is expected to include approximately 130 contributing resources. The third nomination will be for the Northwood Historic District, which contains approximately 163 contributing resources. Although identified as "scattered sites" in the interim report, consultation with DHPA staff has since identified Northwood as an eligible district. As a result of the project, a total of about 536 properties will be added to the National Register.

The listing will not only honor the heritage of this community's past, it will afford many residents the opportunity to obtain some government support in their efforts to save and restore the many beautiful structures that make up these great neighborhoods. This in turn will not only support preservation, but economic revitalization.

The support of the PCM Board in general has been very beneficial for this effort. We look forward to expanding and strengthening the ties between PCM and HPS.

# *Bainbridge Improvement Society*

At the invitation of the Bainbridge Improvement Society (BIS), current and former town residents gathered Sunday, May 23, 2010, at the Community Building to look through items acquired through BIS' year-long historic preservation efforts.

These items – including photos of people and places, former merchant advertising and Bainbridge High School memorabilia – are now permanently on display in two custom-made oak cases in the main corridor of the Town Hall, 201 North Grant Avenue. Any persons interested in the history of Putnam County are invited to visit during normal business hours.

The May 23rd event was more than an open house, however. Family members who donated or loaned items for display were on-hand to share their stories and answer questions, as were several lifelong residents with deep ties to the community. Attendees reminisced and bonded over common memories; newcomers walked away with a better understanding of the town's history and appreciation for their neighbors.

Timing could not have been more unique, as later that week demolition began on the old Indiana Motel that has occupied prime real estate in Bainbridge for nearly 60 years. In its place will be a new, modern Dollar General. Construction is estimated to be complete later this summer.

Furthermore, many residents are currently involved in the establishment of the North Putnam High School Alumni Association, which will hold the inaugural Blue & Orange Banquet June 19th at the high school; a social event will be held afterward at the Bainbridge Community Building. The classes of 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 will be honored, and honorary alumni will be named.

The Town of Bainbridge was named after  
Commodore William Bainbridge.  
Commodore William Bainbridge, USN, ranks  
among the early heroes of the United States Navy.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, on May 7, 1774,  
Bainbridge began his sea-going career at 14 in the  
merchant service and became captain of his own  
ship within 6 years.

Read more about his life at:  
[www.townofbainbridge.com](http://www.townofbainbridge.com)





# Museum Wish List

- LCD Projector
- Laptop Computer
- Printer
- Your Time...Now is the time to get involved—not after you finish this project or that class. The Museum cannot operate without the support of our volunteers. Get involved today!

*The mission of the Putnam County Museum is to collect, preserve, and interpret the natural, historical, and cultural heritage and life of the county and to benefit the community through education, exhibits, and special programs.*

---

Nonprofit Bulk Rate  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 5  
Greencastle, IN  
46135

The Putnam County Museum  
1105 North Jackson Street  
Greencastle, Indiana 46135

