

Newsletter of the Putnam County Museum

Putnam

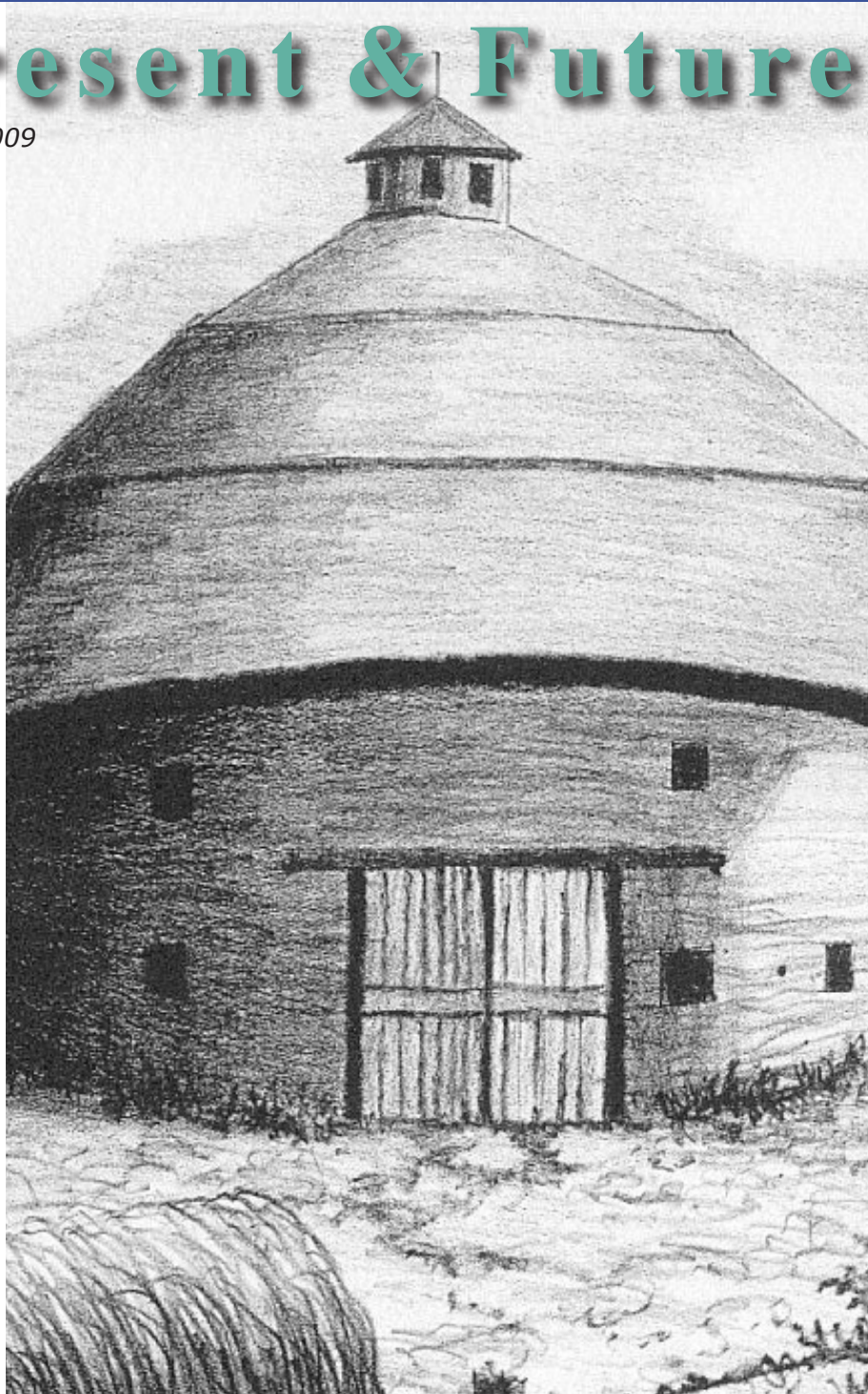
Past Present & Future

Volume 6 Issue 4 • Summer 2009

FAITHFUL
FRIENDS

C A R
TRUCK
MOTOR-
CYCLE
SHOW

8 T H
ANNUAL
GALA



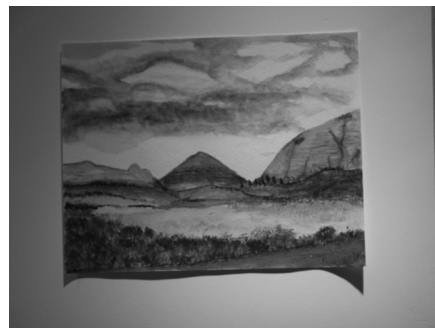
On Round Barn Road AP

Ray K. French 1988

Putnam

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Past Present & Future



Events

Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show • June 27
4-H Fair, Putnam County Fairgrounds • July 17-24
8th Annual Gala: 5:00 p.m., Union Bldg. • Aug. 1
Pioneer Days, Mum's the Word • Sept. 11-12

Exhibits

Business curator, Eitel's Flowers & Gifts • July 1
Community curator, 4H • Aug 1
Founding Families, Larry & Laura Scott & the
Brown's house • Sept 1
The Haunts of Putnam County • Mid-September

Contact

Putnam County Museum
1105 North Jackson Street
Greencastle, Indiana 456135
(765) 653-8419
museum@co.putnam.in.us
www.co.putnam.in.us/museum

Hours

Tuesday - Friday • 1:00p - 4:00p
Saturday • 10:00a - 2:00p
and by appointment

4 8th Annual Gala

By Sally Gray

5 Faithful Friends

By Sally Gray

7 A Permanent Putnam County Art Collection

By Warren Macy

9 Notes from a Dedicated Docent

By an Anonymous Docent

From the Director's Desk

We have been very busy here at the Museum since our last newsletter. One exhibit has come down and another has gone up. *Red Rover, Red Rover, Send Everyone Over, the Toys from our Past...* our present exhibit, is proving to be enjoyed by both the young and old.

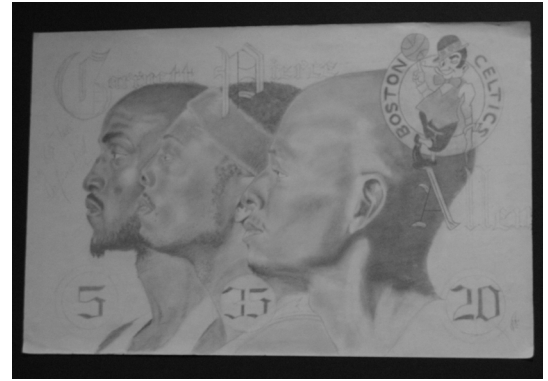
Our *Student Art Show* was a huge success. Putnam County is alive with very talented children. Presently the Art Walk has art from Comprehensive Services and from the men at the Putnamville Correction Facility.

In the month of June we had several classes, for both children and adults, from photography to beading to a special afternoon with Kathy Stephens and her



workshop on Owls and Raptures. We have more classes planned for fall, look for our Fall Flyer with *More Beading, Knitting, Basket-weaving*, and possibly another water-color class with Barb Fuson.

We are also working on several exciting events, so mark your calendars for...



June 27 - The Museum's first Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show. Drive in and enjoy the festivities with us.

July 17-24 - We will be at the 4-H fair with a special guest, evening raffles and Museum updates.

August 1- The 8th Annual Meeting & Gala to be held at the Student Union Building on the DePauw Campus. Time - 5:00 P.M.

September 11-12, Putnam County Pioneer Days and Mum's the Word. The Museum will be selling mums and we will also be taking pre-sale orders. Look for details coming soon about our first **"Mum Sale"**.



Welcome New Members

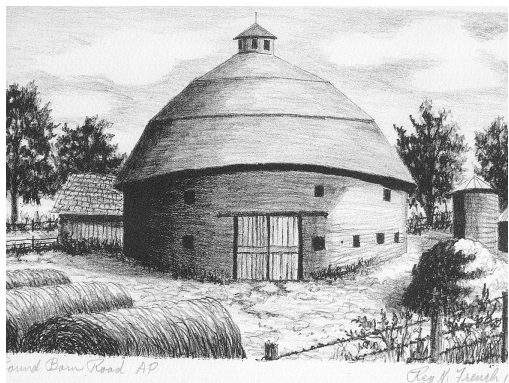
J. Patrick Aikman
Sallee Bartlett
Barb Feld
Julia Hollowell

Neil & Connie Schneider
Steve & Margo Thomas
Laura Waldron
Kerry Pannell

Brenda Hoffman
Marilyn Knapp Litt

Save the Date: August 1 the Museum's 8TH Annual Meeting & Gala

By Sally Gray



On Round Barn Road AP
By Ray K. French 1988

You won't want to miss this year's Annual Meeting and Gala, to be held August 1 at the DePauw University Union Building Ballroom. Activities will commence at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour featuring an appetizer bar and cash wine bar as well as another remarkable silent auction.



Above: Quaker farmers

We intend to top last year's silent auction, again pricing all items to sell. We'll have art work of local artists including Peeler pieces; a sweater, hand spun and woven by the Putnam County Spinners and Weavers; coffee table quality books such as *84 Magnificent Courthouses of Indiana*, and *Wildflowers of Indiana* by Mary Rose and Fred Wampler; the fainting couch that has been on display at the Museum (yes, the very one that Madam Bhutto sat on at the Bode's house); Royal Worcester hand-painted, freezer-to-oven casserole dishes; other hardback books—Burpee's *Complete Gardener* and Williams-Sonoma four volume, boxed *Collector's Cookbooks* for example; and much, much more!

Our guest speaker, who will commence his talk at 6:30 p.m., is Dr. Tom Hamm, professor of history and archivist at Earlham College. Dr. Hamm is a noted Quaker scholar who has published in that area and who will talk about the role of Quakers in Indiana history. Professor Hamm has a valid interest in Putnam County—his ancestors (Butchers, Davidsons and Stewarts by name) were early settlers here.

The business meeting will follow the guest speaker after which the results of the silent auction will be announced.

The price is \$20.00 per person. Reservations must be received by July 24 and checks made out to the Putnam County Museum (credit cards are accepted). The public is invited.

The Gala is a time for us to share our enthusiasm for the Putnam County Museum. We welcome your treasures as contributions to the silent auction. Take a tour of your home and look for items that would appeal to others and that you have wanted to find a new home for! Please bring them to the museum by July 15.



Left: Quakers of the 18th century

Faithful Friends: Bob & Vera Farber

By Sally Gray



Bob & Vera Farber with Board President, Diana LaViolett

Bob and Vera Farber are so well known in Putnam County that one thinks there is little new that can be added to their “story”. Each is accomplished and successful and we know much about their contribution in their fields of endeavor and to the community at large.

Dr. Robert H. Farber (we’re going to call him Bob from here on) served as Dean at DePauw University for twenty-six years prior to his retirement in 1979. A year later he was awarded the Old Gold Goblet, DePauw’s highest alumni award. He has also received the students’ Leather Medal for services to DePauw and an honorary doctoral degree from his Alma Mater. Bob was graduated from DePauw in 1935, and with the exception of his time in military service during WWII and

a year in which he taught high school English in Bloomington, he lived in Greencastle from his freshman year to this date.

After his graduation from DePauw and until he entered the army, Bob served at DePauw as secretary of admissions and assistant director of the Rector Scholar Program. When Bob returned to DePauw after his military service he became director of veteran affairs and the school’s placement office, and was appointed director of the Rector Foundation. During the years after he was discharged from the army and prior to his appointment as dean in 1952, Bob completed work on his doctorate in education at Indiana University. He had earned his master’s degree at the University of Chicago during fall semesters.

Bob’s retirement did not mean he sat around twiddling his thumbs. He has been active in the Gobin Methodist Church. The contribution for which Bob is best known and appreciated, however, is his work with the Putnam County Community Foundation. He served as the Foundation’s second president. He established the Dr. Robert H. Farber Endowment for Education. And he has been recognized regularly as “Benefactor” by the Foundation.

Vera M. Kierstead-Farber was graduated from DePauw with a music education major in 1936 and earned her master’s degree from Villanova University, located in a suburb of Philadelphia. She has a certificate from the famous Artists School and Institute of Children’s literature. She taught music at the Rowland School in Radnor, Pennsylvania.

Vera is an accomplished author of books for children, the “Jamie” series. The first was published in 2000 and sold more copies at Fine Print Bookstore than were sold of Harry Potter books. The third and last in the series, *America is My Country*, was published in 2007. The illustrations in this volume are by DePauw students. These adventure novels for young people are historically authentic and bring alive this country’s rich past. Vera also enjoyed gardening, painting and working as a volunteer at R.S.V.P., the Council on Aging, and AARP.

The part of their story that is so memorable and heartwarming is that Bob and Vera first met and dated after each had been graduated from DePauw and were living and working in Greencastle. They loved going on picnics and riding bikes around Greencastle. They both loved ice cream.

But neither was interested in marriage at that time and they went their separate ways, Vera to teach and Bob to continue employment at DePauw. Years later, after Bob and Vera were both widowed, they found that they still enjoyed each others company. They began to be together at church activities. They even resumed going on picnics (and we presume eating ice cream, but not bike riding).

Bob and Vera were married in Greencastle in 1998. They are 95 and 94 years of age and proud to say so. After they were married, they moved to Asbury Villages and still reside at Asbury Towers. In the years when health permitted they enjoyed traveling throughout the states.

Bob and Vera Farber are founding members of the Putnam County Museum. They have been loyal in their interest and support. We at the Museum very much appreciate them as do their many, many Putnam County friends.



Cutting Costs and Increasing Revenue - Message from the President

You will notice we have altered our Newsletter! We did not feel that we could ask our members to support our 2009 Fund Drive without also demonstrating that the Putnam County Museum takes seriously its commitment to keeping costs to a minimum.

Hence, we have reduced the size of the newsletter and we have reduced the amount of color.

And, we are happy to report that in response to our 2009 Fund Drive, you, our loyal members, have increased our revenues by \$5000 by making contributions to the museum in excess of your memberships. Our goal for the fund is \$15,000; thanks to your support we are one-third of the way to our goal.

We are grateful and want to affirm that we intend to see that the quality of the product the Putnam County Museum offers this community does not diminish.

Board President, Diana LaViolette and the Putnam County Museum Board of Directors



“Who You Gonna Call? Ghostbusters!” We Need Your Help!

The Haunts Committee is moving along with research for the fall exhibit of Putnam County Haunts. However, we still need your help. As part of the exhibit, we hope to have personal stories from folks who know, have heard, or have experienced any haunted tales or activities. Forrest Hill Cemetery? Goat Boy? Four Arches? Topper’s Tavern? We know that everyone has a tale to tell, either a first hand account, or something that happened to a friend of a friend. Or at the very least, a spooky tale that has haunted the county for ages. Also, we’ve been told that Scott Brown used to write a newsletter about Putnam County haunts. Any information on where we can find these papers would be greatly appreciated. Please put your story in writing and mail it to us here at the museum. Your help is greatly appreciated!

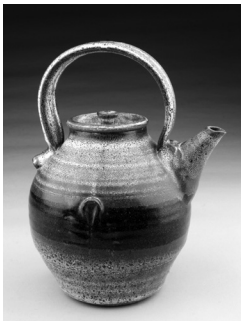


Successful 2009 Fund Drive Leaves Much to be Done

The Fundraising Committee reports that the early effort under the 2009 Fund Drive raised almost \$6000 from members. Thank you, loyal members, for your continued support! Phase II of the drive is aimed at the community at large—industry, business and individuals with a goal of raising another \$10,000. Members can help with this phase by sending the names and addresses of prospective donors to the museum so that we can expand the reach of the fund drive. This is essential if the high quality of the product for which the Putnam County Museum has become known is to be maintained.

Peeler Pottery Publication Project Progressing

By Warren Macy



Peeler Pottery

As I write this in mid June, our proposed Peeler book is progressing quite nicely. Well over 2000 photos have been gathered and Rita Schendel has completed nearly 70% of the layout of the book. Several early previews of her work have garnered rave reviews—"very professional, artistic, and creative." At this rate we hope to have the book ready for the publisher by August or September. That would mean we would have the book ready for your holiday gift giving.....IF. As always, the big IF is money. The cost of publishing the first 1000 copies of a 9"x12", high quality, 250 page, full color, coffee table style book is \$22,000. To date, we have just over \$5000 committed to the project. That one big donor or grant has not yet come through. This is a major fund raising project for the museum. With the

book to sell for approximately \$45, every dollar donated will raise two dollars for the museum. With the market rising you may need a major tax deduction this year. In addition to their tax deduction, our Peeler Potter Project patrons at the \$1000 level will receive special recognition in the book and a copy of the book signed by Marj. If you would like to contact me to discuss this project, please give me a call at 653-9341. If you would like to help make "Peeler Pottery, A Retrospective" a reality, please send your check to the Putnam County Museum, 1105 N. Jackson St., Greencastle, IN 46135.

Creating a Permanent Putnam County Art Collection

By Warren Macy

Relax! I'm not asking for money this time! The Board of Directors of your Putnam County Museum, in an effort to upgrade the museum, has made a decision to grow and emphasize the permanent collection of the museum, while continuing to provide periodic exhibits as we have in the past. One area of emphasis is Putnam County Art and Artists. We plan to compliment our permanent Peeler exhibit by filling the walls of our multi-purpose area with a permanent collection of the finest of Putnam County art. I'm happy to announce that we are off to a great start.



"Mountain in Mexico" by William Meehan, 1971

The most famous of artists with Putnam County ties was Louis Oscar Griffith. L.O. as he was known, was born in Greencastle on October 10, 1875. After some time in Chicago, he moved to Nashville, Indiana where he was a member of the Brown County art colony for 30 years. With his major works selling at prices in excess of our annual operating budget, the acquisition of a significant Griffith painting seemed like a pipe dream. However, on hearing of our art project, Steve Aker generously offered an indefinite long term loan to the museum of an exhibition sized L.O. Griffith oil from the Aker family collection. A week later, the painting titled "*Blue Bluff*" was hanging at the museum—the first piece and centerpiece of our collection. In addition, the Aker family has provided a small watercolor of "*Cataract Falls*" by Clara Gobin, the second wife

of former DePauw University President Hillary Gobin.

Mickey Meehan, who will be joining our board of directors in August, followed suit with an indefinite long term loan of a major work by her late husband, DePauw art professor William Meehan. Titled "*Mountain in Mexico #3*" and painted in 1971 this wonderful oil now also graces our museum walls. Mickey also has provided a watercolor of Conner Prairie by DePauw art professor Ray French that was a gift, by the artist, to her father, Grafton Longdon.



"Sycamore Pasture" by Robert Kingsley

I have been amazed at how willing the community has been to help with this project. Upon hearing of our efforts, DePauw art professor Robert Kingsley immediately said he would contribute one of his paintings. A few days later he arrived at the museum with a magnificent 32x48 inch oil on linen titled "*Sycamore Pasture*."

Likewise, well known local artist Barb Fuson, who has been teaching watercolor classes at the museum, has provided a beautiful watercolor collage for the collection.

Stop by the museum and you will see that we are off to a great start. However, we are still seeking works by Putnam County artists such as Reid Winsey, Garret Boone, and others. If you have a piece of quality Putnam County art that you would consider donating or providing on a long term loan to this project, please contact the museum at 765-653-8419. You can be a part of this significant upgrade to the museum without having to reach for your checkbook!



Nominating Committee Announces Results of Deliberations

The Museum's nominating committee has announced the results of its deliberations which will be presented to the membership for its approval at the August 1, 2009 Gala.

One of the amendments to the Putnam County Museum's By-Laws that will be voted on is increasing the size of the Board of Directors from eleven to thirteen. Thus there are more new members to the Board to accommodate that increase.

New members: Marie Hopwood (one year appointment); Ellie Ypma, Mickey Meehan, Jason Hartman and Patty McCastle (three year appointments).

Officers: Diana LaViolette (second year as president) and Warren Macy (second year as ex-officio); Rick Provine (Vice-President); Sherry Gammon (Secretary); and Patty McCastle (Treasurer).

From your nominating committee: a whopping good slate!

Sally Gray, Chair
Jinsie Bingham
Warren Macy

Notes from a Dedicated Docent...

By An Anonymous Docent

Do you want to be a Docent for the Putnam County Museum? It's an experience you don't want to miss!

First you pull into the Museum and adjust the Open Sign, then breeze in to do whatever needs to be done for your Museum. You don your name tag and sign in "The Docent-Volunteer Book". The good things: you name the day, time, duties, and breathers. You may bring your comfy shoes, cell phone, food, drink, books, but most of all your innate willingness to help others, also your personal pride in the Putnam County Museum.

I'm constantly amazed by all the chores and details awaiting you. You'll give tours of the Museum and see old friends and relation too. You will also be learning as you are touring others and it is never dull.

I've visited many Museums and ours rates high. It is very assessable, not one step, with oodles of parking, clean rest rooms, water, coat racks, and most of all a smiling greeter. The exhibits are constantly changing and always exciting. We also keep pieces of past exhibits throughout the Museum, so you will know what you missed. These have been too unique to put aside.

Don't forget the perks of the Docent-parties, fellowship, and where ever you go you will be asked questions about your Museum. All members receive a discount from "the Muse", our fabulous gift shop with unusual items. Check it out, it's the new place to shop!

So come on in, sign up, and give of yourself. It will make you feel grand!

Think summer fun - Think Putnam County Museum



Where in Putnam County am I? (from the Spring newsletter)

The location in question in the painting by John Robertson, was appropriately identified by Ken Torr as the Tony and Lisa Bryan farm near Clinton Falls. Congratulations, Ken.



Look to the Future of the Museum with a Lasting Legacy

By Sally Gray

Consider a gift to the Putnam County Museum by including the museum as a beneficiary in your will or include the Putnam County Museum in your estate planning. Such gifts have immense promise for the future of the Museum.

And remember that under the Federal Pension Protection Act, now extended through 2009, if you are 70 ½ or older you can make a direct gift to the Putnam County Museum from your IRA account and avoid the tax consequences that would normally result from such withdrawals.

Talk with your lawyer, tax, or estate planning consultant about these possibilities and give the Putnam County Museum a big boost.

Put Your Thinking Caps On...

The Museum Board has set the following goals for the Museum's 2009 – 2012 Strategic Plan:

I. Achieve a secure financial future by increasing revenue through an enlarged membership base and aggressive fund raising that encompasses all segments of the community; exploring untapped grant sources; exploring new events and activities that result in greater museum exposure; promoting planned giving through wills, trusts and estate planning to provide for long-term financial security.

II. Identify, expand and engage our potential audience by taking advantage of available avenues of publicity and promotion of museum exhibits, programs, and activities through the Newsletter and other means of communicating with our membership, supporters, prospective donors and the community at large; increasing the Museum's visibility; effectively promoting what we offer that is both special and unique.

Your input will be invaluable as the Board works toward meeting our mission and our goals over the next three years. Please take a few minutes to share with us your ideas in response to the following questions?

What can we do to make the museum a destination where people want to come?

What suggestions do you have to raise more money?

Send your thoughts to the Museum, attention Anne or Tanis.



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

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

