



Bridging Generations. Connecting Communities. Preserving Past.

THE ARCH

Newsletter of the Putnam County Museum

Volume 13 ° Number 1

FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

GOOD FRIDAY TORNADO - 1948

By Dottie Lukenbill

The day of the “Coatesville” tornado was the first warm day of spring, according to Mary Lou Dudley. “I looked outside and the sky was bright.”

Mary Lou was a young wife living on the family farm along State Road 240.

Her home completely blew away. ... A board with her father's name on it was found on the west edge of Danville.

Her father, who lived next door, was heading to the back field to get the milk cows. On his way, he saw trees hurling through the air and ran back to his house and told Mary Lou's mother, “A bad storm's coming. We'll go to the basement.”

Her mother said, “No! What about Mary Lou? She has no basement.” Dudley remembers with a catch in her voice.

Instead they lay on their floor, face up with Dudley's mother protecting her husband's eyes with her hands. Mary Lou and her husband lay face down on their floor, he on top of her for protection.

Just when the bright blue sky made Mary Lou think the storm was passing, her garage door started going up

and down. Catalpa trees toppled all over the farm and one fell in front of her house. Her parents' house was twisted on its foundation and had to be rebuilt. Her home completely blew away. The house she and her husband had was somewhat of a prefab home bought from Michigan due to the shortages of war time. The walls fastened together in the corners. A board with her father's name on it was found on the west edge of Danville.

The hip roof on the barn disintegrated. The “Coatesville” tornado picked up their car and threw it into an Army surplus oil tank, filled the day before. That damaged the front wheel of the car and dumped gallons of oil onto the ground. A cedar chest and an easy do chest, filled with bedding made by Mary Lou during the war, found its way to the oil. “We took some of it to the cleaners to wash and they ironed it. The smell was still in some of it.”

“The way I understand, the storm started in Clay City, jumped, hit south



According to the National Weather Service, this “was probably a family of tornadoes, along a 40 mile long path. The initial touchdown was south of Prairie City, and a woman was killed southeast of Asherville. Forty farms were torn apart in Putnam County. The funnel grew to a half mile wide in Hendricks County and swallowed Coatesville, damaging or destroying 80% of the village. Fourteen people were killed and 150 injured in the town of 500 people. More fatalities occurred north of Amo, on the south edge of Hadley, and at Danville.”

Tornado continued on page 6

SUMMER 2015 EVENTS



Tintype Maker

Photography reenactor Tim Hartsaw will return to the Museum to make tintypes using Civil War era equipment. Hartsaw grew up in Putnam County and now lives in Madison, Ind.

Proceeds from the sale of these one-of-a-kind artifacts will benefit the Museum's operating fund. For reservations, please call 765.653.8419 or email info@putnamcountymuseum.org

— *September 19 and 20, 1 - 4:00 pm*



Live & Local Auction

Not your average boring chicken dinner. Live music, live auction, and buffet of locally grown & prepared foods. Bid on unique experiences such as vacations, lessons, and adventures.

Under the big tent at the Museum. Members & guests only. For reservations, please call 765.653.8419 or email info@putnamcountymuseum.org

— *Saturday September 12 5-7:00 pm*



Natural History Talk

Journeys Our Songbirds Make

Local bird aficionado, Dean Finley, will talk about some of the remarkable journeys that bring warblers and others through Putnam County every spring and fall. Free & open to the public.

— *Saturday, August 1 11:00 am*



Kids' Club - Third Saturday

Corny fun — Popcorn, corn mosaics, corn husk dolls. Young kids and families are invited for crafts, stories, and snacks. Admission is \$5 per family or free to Museum Members at the Family (\$50) level and above. Reservations recommended. Please call 765.653.8419 or email info@putnamcountymuseum.org

— *Saturday, August 15 11:00-1:00*



Portraits & Pictures. Young kids and families are invited for crafts, stories, and snacks. (Same day as Tintype Maker)

— *Saturday, September 19 11:00-1:00*

SUMMER 2015 EXHIBITS

ART WALK

Watercolors by Myra Schuetter

Amazing, large, contemporary realism by a nationally recognized artist who started her career in Putnam County, who writes, "I choose to work in transparent watercolor; a decidedly non-traditional medium for such large and complex compositions, and share this 'genre' with few other artists."

– *Through July 28, 2015*

Oil paintings by Holly Sims

Large format oils by emerging artist Holly Sims, a Greencastle native.

– *September 4 – October, 2015*



MAIN HALL

Who Shot Putnam County?

Photos, photographers, and cameras 1850s-1930s.

– *Through August 10, 2015*



Founding Family Exhibits

Jones Family – Eight generations from freeing slaves to citizen of the year.

Irwin Family – Roachdale area pharmacy, banking, art, & agriculture

– *Through August 29, 2015*



Freemasonry in Putnam County

Artifacts and stories from the many bodies including Masons, from Cloverdale to Roachdale.

– *Opens Saturday 29-Aug 11:00 am*



PUTNAM COUNTY COLLECTS

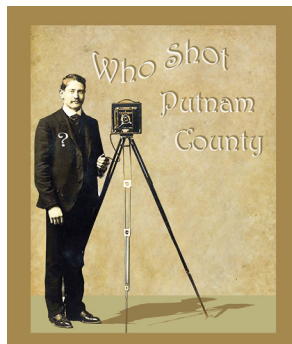
Putnam County Collects – Blue Willow Ware –
through summer 2015

ORIGIN STORY

HOW OUR PHOTOGRAPHY

by Diana LaViolette

In September of 2014, a photography exhibit opened at the Putnam County Museum, brilliantly titled - "Who Shot Putnam County." Credit for that title belongs to Vicky Krider, one of the three architects of the exhibit. One day when walking into the Museum, her eye caught the large poster of John Dillinger holding a tommy gun, looking ever so ready to shoot. One can assume she reasoned that far more photographs have been shot in Putnam County than guns.



During the Museum's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June 12, Kit Newkirk presented awards of appreciation to volunteers who helped put together the "Who Shot Putnam County?" exhibit. From left, Saraellen Peters, Mickey Meehan, Rita Schendel, Newkirk, and Vicky Krider. Meehan, Schendel and Krider received reproductions of a photograph taken by Hillary Bailey in 1911.

With careful research, the team identified fifty-five photographers during the timeline 1860-1910. They collected and selected more than 100 photographs to display.

The exhibit tells a fascinating story. During this period, several photographers set up shop near or on the square. Others created an office and dark room in their homes. Several, if not most, did not have a studio in our county, for many photographers were itinerant, seeking customers wherever they might be.

Their work gives to us the advantage of time travel. A visitor to the exhibit can view, for example, pictures of Cloverdale students from 1911, or marvel at a rather moody 1926 photograph taken with a soft focus lens by Hillary B. Bailey of traffic driving west on Washington in front of the Courthouse. One can admire a family's portrait preserved for all time. And as many have done, find relatives or someone once heard about now

preserved on paper, just as Malcolm Romine spotted his mother and infant sister in a picture taken in front of the county hospital in 1926.

The list of the fifty-five artists, mentions only a couple of women photographers, but Vicky said it was likely that the mother of one Eugene Throop, whose work is on display in the exhibit, was an artist in her own right, and shared studio space with another well known Greencastle photographer, J.A. Hill. Although it appears that Josephine's son, got most of the credit for pictures she took. Imagine that!

The idea for the exhibit grew exponentially from the knowledge that James Baugh, late husband of Laura Lee Baugh, collected cameras. Baugh's collection was not a few pieces sitting on a dusty shelf, but more than a thousand cameras. According to Laura Lee, his interest developed from an intention to ensure his daughters' college education; the proceeds from the sale of such antiques might be beneficial for the cause. Fortunately he did not need to sell his collection, and likewise fortunate, the Museum has benefited from his interests. Of course, as in all projects, one item or fact leads to another, and before long the exhibit committee had garnered an incredible number of artifacts and information.

Certainly many thanks go to Vicky Krider, Mickey Meehan, and Rita Schendel for extraordinary creativity, perseverance, and hours of collection and design. And as they mentioned, Kit Newkirk's eye for design, graphic skills and inventiveness contributed to the exhibit's success. The three worked very well together, and they would constantly be formulating new and

EXHIBIT TOOK SHAPE

exciting ideas. Together or separately they visited many Museums, libraries and archives. They followed many a lead and spent hours on the computer. They generated such enthusiasm for the project that many Museum members helped contribute to the collection with old pictures and cameras of their own. Their detective work led them to visit a local antique dealer and discover a gold mine of beautiful brass and wooden cameras dating from 1850 to the 1930s. Their detail and understanding of photography came not only from careful research but from sitting with collectors, exploring more in depth the art and science involved in putting image to paper.

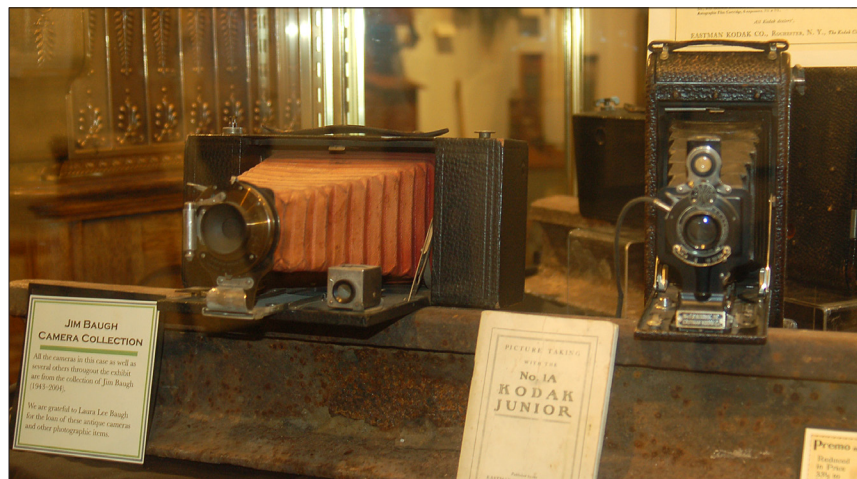
Once the collection and organization of artifacts was well under way, the exhibit committee sat around a table and mapped out a plan. They wanted the exhibit to tell a tale, to enable the viewer to see how the artistry and science of photography developed, to know the equipment and work needed in producing a snapshot of life. They wanted to focus on the photographers and helping us do so, Rita carefully mapped out all of the studios in Putnam County during this period, and one must see it to adequately appreciate the work and talent involved.

The team decided to highlight photographer J. O. Cammack, in part because they had more detailed information about him. Also, Mickey grew up next door to his daughter, Eleanor Cammack. Cammack's office was on Washington Street just east of the square on the south side.

Eleanor Cammack wrote that her father's specialty was portraits. However, when he was asked to take pictures of inanimate objects like machinery or

Monon tracks, he would reluctantly agree, commenting that, "at least the subject stood still."

Because the exhibit creators wanted the exhibit to be interactive they created a little quiz for children, which asked them to find particular photos, for example, "find a picture of someone with a beard." The activity encouraged kids to actually study the images so skillfully mounted in the exhibit.



On a tip from Jinsie Bingham, exhibitors made contact with R.T. Hartsaw, a photographer who grew up in Putnam County and now lives in Madison, Indiana. Hartsaw is skilled at using a Civil War camera to make tintypes in true 19th century fashion. Tintypes were the Polaroid pictures of that era.

Hartsaw came to the exhibit opening with his 1850s camera, set up a studio in the Museum's parking lot, and produced tintypes of patrons, some of whom wore old time hats and dresses. The tintypes were such a popular part of the opening, that Hartsaw will be back again on September 19 and 20 to take more memorable pictures.

Who Shot continued on page 7

During the Museum's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June 12, Kit Newkirk presented awards of appreciation to volunteers who helped put together the "Who Shot Putnam County?" exhibit. From left, Saraellen Peters, Mickey Meehan, Rita Schendel, Newkirk, and Vicky Krider. Meehan, Schendel and Krider received reproductions of a photograph taken by Hillary Baily in 1911.

TORNADO – *continued*

– *from page 1*

of 40 and 231” and rumbled on to highway 240.

North of Mt. Meridian a lady was taking a bath, “not a stitch on,” and the house blew away. “That was a

nurse quickly pulled the blind.

Dudley says she wasn’t hurt too badly- “just a knot on my head and a few scratches.”

Her father, a fair complexioned man, was mistaken for a black man

by his own cousin when he joined his wife and daughter at the hospital. All the dirt and grime blew into his skin. “It took weeks to get it all washed off.”

Dudley relates that Jean Cromwell worked in the hospital office. “Everyone was going on about all the blood on the floor and elevator. She heard that Coatesville had been blown away. It wasn’t long before there was blood everywhere. “Dudley says that Cromwell’s job was to get people’s names, if they could talk and find out what was the matter with them.

According to Dudley,

Cromwell said she was okay until she raised someone’s hair and saw the brain.

“Until that day I thought tornadoes were only in Kansas or Oklahoma. At that time we had no education of what to do. No one talked about it. I am very thankful I lived through the tornado and was not really hurt.”

Dottie Lukenbill volunteers at the Museum, where she came across photos of the tornado’s aftermath, which led her to further research and the interview reported here.



bad situation,” she laughed. Dudley related how a farmer jumped off his tractor and lay in a ditch. He was not hurt. She also told of an old, dilapidated, and ready to fall down barn that weathered the storm.

Besides the twisted and blown away houses, Mary Lou was knocked out and taken to Putnam County Hospital. She took the last bed. After the tornado, Dudley said it rained and rained and rained. At the hospital it started raining again. “Oh, it’s coming again!” Mary Lou screamed. The

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Museum members and friends:

The month of July ushered in a new fiscal year for the Putnam County Museum. Since taking office in March, I have witnessed many new and exciting developments and activities. Topping the list are great new exhibits, including the Myra Scheutter watercolors, the Jones and Irwin Founding Families exhibits, and the continuation of "Who Shot Putnam County."

We also have welcomed a number of new volunteers, especially the return of Mavis Broadstreet, and a special new intern, Kourtney (page 9). Our volunteers include Board and committee members, docents, and more interns. If you would be interested in volunteering with the Museum, or perhaps serving in a leadership position, please talk to me or to our Executive Director, Kit Newkirk.

Speaking of Kit, we are so fortunate to have a CEO who is multi-talented and dedicated. And Kit has recently recruited a wonderful new assistant director, Lisa Mock, who is growing into her role every day. If you have not met Lisa – or Kit – please stop by and say hello.

July is also the beginning of our membership year. You probably have just received a letter inviting you to renew your membership for 2015-16. If you have not already done so, please return your membership gift today. If you are reading this newsletter and have not been a member, I invite you to join us.

Finally, we are actively searching for a new home for the Putnam

County Museum. We are still gathering information about possible sites for our move, and look forward to sharing exciting news with you in the near future.

The Putnam County Museum is a vibrant, busy and interesting place, one of the premiere arts, culture and history organizations in our community. Please come visit soon, and get involved!

Sincerely,
Chris Wurster
President



Who Shot – from page 5



If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Museum and enjoy the exhibit, you are urged to do so before it is dismantled on the 10th of August. You will be fascinated by our county's rich heritage in the art and history of photography.

Diana LaViolette is a past president and longtime volunteer with the Museum.

INVALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

DIRECTORY

Officers

President
– Chris Wurster
Vice President
– Gigi Jennewein
Treasurer
– Cheryl Thomas
Secretary
– Saraellen Peters

Directors

Joe Buser
Bob Evans
Phil Gick
Saraellen Peters
Izabela Stasiukiewicz
Mike Sullivan
David Zeiner

Committees

Docents: Dian Weller &
Kay Weaver
Education: Susan Stewart
Executive: Chris Wurster
Finance:
Governance: Phil Gick
Membership:

Staff

Executive Director
– Katherine “Kit”
Newkirk
Assistant Director
– Lisa Mock

Volunteers are involved in virtually every aspect of operations including welcoming and guiding visitors, researching and designing exhibits, finance and fundraising, collections, oral histories, event planning, publicity, and more.

During the first six months of 2015, volunteers reported contributing almost 1,500 hours of service – the equivalent of 1-1/2 full time employees.

Those reporting the most hours from January through June 2015:

100 + Hours

Saraellen Peters
Vicky Krider
Dian Weller
Mickey Meehan

50-99 Hours

Chris Wurster
Marilyn Lawrence
June Brattain
Rita Schendel
Sherry Gammon
Kay & Don Weaver
Patty McCastle
Cheryl Thomas
Mike Sullivan

2014 Hours Leaders

Marian Abowitz
Patty McCastle
Ellie Ypma
Marilyn Lawrence
Saraellen Peters
Malcolm Romine
Mike Sullivan

OPENINGS

Newsletter Editor

Creative person to help us communicate with members and friends of the Museum. Work with volunteer contributors to develop story ideas and layout the newsletter. Training provided, knowledge of InDesign helpful. Flexible schedule ~20 hour per quarter.

Record Keeper

Detail minded person to help track our visitors and volunteer hours. Training provided, knowledge of Excel helpful. “If it’s not measured, it’s not managed.” Flexible schedule ~1 hour per week.

Docent

People-person to welcome and guide visitors. Training provided, knowledge of Putnam County helpful. Docents have even more fun when they work with a buddy. ~4 hours per month.

Junior Docents

High school aged kids who want experience and community service can help out around the Museum in a variety of ways according to their interests. Flexible schedule ~4 hours per month.

Library Assistant

Curious person to help categorize information, articles, and photos in our research section. By developing finding aids on what we have and where it is, you can help people research question about our history. Training provided, knowledge of Putnam County helpful. Flexible schedule ~1 or more hours per week.



KOURTNEY

Kourtney Raley, 18, is the Museum's newest volunteer. She has undertaken the task of photographing artifacts from the collection and uploading the images to the Pastperfect database. Her work will greatly enhance the quality of information available to staff, volunteers, and the public.

"This is an ideal situation," said Director Kit Newkirk. "We were able to match Kourtney's interests and skills with a genuine need in the Museum."

Kourtney volunteers two afternoons a week, and after three weeks has already processed the artifacts on three of the Museum's 19 storage units.

"I love it!" she said, "I like solving mysteries. There's always something interesting I've never seen before, and it's really fun to figure out what something is and what it does."

Kourtney lives near Heritage Lake with her parents, Patti and John Raley, and is the sixth of their seven children. In addition to photography and history, her interests include reading fantasy novels and swimming in the family pool.



Above: Kay Weaver, Dian Weller, and June Brattain are leaders in volunteering at the Museum.

Left: Kourtney Raley, got several volunteers involved in trying to guess the purpose of this artifact, which she discovered while photographing items from the collection.

If you'd like to find out what it is, stop in and ask..

2015 - 2016

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Dues and donations are the main source of the Museum's operating funds. Thanks to the generosity of those listed here, our annual renewal campaign is well under way with more than \$12,000 received as of press time. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 31. To join this elite group, you may mail a check or visit www.PutnamCountyMuseum.com and click on Support.

Partner \$5000-\$9,999

DePauw University

Heirloom \$1000-\$4,999

Jinsie Bingham
Helmer Appraisal, Inc.
Warren & Connie Macy
Malcolm Romine
Putnam County Community
Foudation

Treasure \$500-\$999

Paul & Margaret Champion
James & Sherry Gammon
Mickey Meehan
Ellie Ypma

Collectible \$250-\$499

Keith & Shirley Brackney
Kenneth & Meredith Kimmerle
Louis Livingston
John Schlotterbeck & Barbara
Steinson
John & Peggy Wood
Chris Wurster & Lynne Tweedie

Artifact \$100-\$249

Abstract & Title Co. of Putnam
County
Nora Baker
Banner Graphic, Inc
Gary & Regina Barcus
Barbara Bates

John Baughman
Dorothy Brown
Lucile Burkett
Rita Schendel & Bob Calvert
Anne Clark
Addie & Dave Davies
Mac & Joyce Dixon-Fyle
Ken & Jacquelyn Eitel
Bob Evans
– Collins Evans Real Estate
Phyllis Evens
Stuart Fabe
– Serendipity Gourd Art
Family Friends & Fun
– Homemakers Ext. Club
Catherine Fruhan
Judy George
Linda Gjesvold
Tom & Betty Graffis
Russell & Mary Alice Harcourt
Robert & Julie Hardwick
Max Hochstetler
– Auction Depot
Janet Hroch
Mary Ellen Huggard
David & Joyce Johnson
James & Vicky Krider
John & Diana LaViolette
Gary & Patricia McCastle
David & Pat Morgan
Jack & Whitney Morrill
Saraellen & Harl Peters
Bob & Ellen Sedlack

Phyllis Sharp
Ron & Carol Smith
Bob & Eve Stark
Darrel & Diane Thomas
John & Jean Thomas
Ruth & Larry Timm
Sharon Walters

Family \$50-\$99

Judy Aikman
James & Marianne Ash
Duane & Nancy Bassett
Bob & Mimi Breese
Gerald & Susie Carpenter
Paul & Paula Clodfelter
Philip & Darla Clodfelter
Richard Conrad
Charles & Harriett Dobson
Tom & Carol Emery
Paula Evans & Chester Fornari
Rita Fish
Dorothy & Bill Garrison
Monica Fennell & David Gell-
man
Phillip & Georgenna Gick
Byron & Carolyn Gough
Marilyn Gough
Susannah Hardesty
Daryl & Jan Hodges
David & Barb Lane
Nancy Lovett
Nick & Marilyn Mourouzis
Thomas & Janet Musser



The annual 2015 Student Art Show drew a record crowd of more than 300 visitors to the Museum on March 1, 2015.

Lane & Ruth Ralph
 Jim & Ann Rambo
 Dean & Sandi Rossok
 Dick & Jean Saunders
 Mary Scobee
 JR & Ginger Scott
 Marge Smith
 Rick & Angie Smock
 Don & Shirley Steward
 Fauneil Stewart
 Robert & Doris Stoelting
 Richard & Sally Sunkel
 Howard & Cheryl Thomas
 Tri Kappa, Inc.

Dian Weller
 Jim & Maxine Williams
 Leland & Jean Zellers
 Nancy & Tom Zennie
Individual \$25 – \$49
 Lauralee Baugh
 Shelley Binetti
 June Brattain
 Maxine Callender
 Maureen Carkeek
 Barbara Fuson
 Cara Goodin
 Mary Hirt
 Florence Losin

Cathy Lowery
 Jacquelyn McGaughey
 Charles Miles
 Doris Miller
 Patricia Miner
 Katherine Newkirk
 Theresa Noble
 Kathryn Sanders
 Mildred K. See
 Jeff Shively
 Jeff & Denise Sigworth
 Nick Steele
 Zella Thomas
 Beverly Wagoner
 Wesley Wilson

WISH LIST

Baby Changing Table

For the convenience of parents & grandparents.

Chest Freezer

For quarantining new items to keep unwanted critters from getting into the collections

Wireless Sound System

Plug-in (no batteries) speakers that can be operated remotely

Tripod:

To mount camera during oral histories

T-Square – 36" arm

For marking & cutting large display pieces



PUTNAM COUNTY MUSEUM

1105 NORTH JACKSON STREET
GREENCASTLE, IN 46135
765.653.8419

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