



Newsletter of the Yorktown/ Mt. Pleasant Twp. Historical Alliance

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### From the President

#### New Electronic Newsletter and Website



Happy New Year! With the new year comes new projects at the Yorktown/Mt. Pleasant Historical Alliance (YHA). First, we are excited to publish our newsletter, "Once Upon a Time", in a new electronic format. We think you'll find the electronic format interactive, engaging, and fun. Look for links in [blue](#) to [learn more](#), hear [music](#), or even watch a [video](#). If you are receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, look for the [electronic newsletter](#) on our website.

Our website is up and we are working diligently to add more content and work out the bugs. We encourage members to visit and help us add content before the website is publicly released. Go to [www.yorktownhistory.online](http://www.yorktownhistory.online) for a visit. **Julie Musick Hillgrove** has worked over a year on website structure, research, building resources, and content. We now have enough structure to invite volunteers to help. You can read about opportunities to help in the "Volunteer" section of the newsletter. We welcome your comments, ideas, questions, suggestions, and corrections. May this new year bring you much happiness and good health. ~**Becky Sears Monroe, President**



## Gone! Yorktown Boys Disappear

While reading newspapers from 100 years ago, an intriguing headline caught my eye, "Yorktown Boys Disappear". Originally, the only infor-



Howard Staggs  
Age 15

mation that police had was that the boys were seen boarding a west-bound [Inter-urban](#) at a stop west of Yorktown. The article explained that on [1 October 1920](#), cards bearing the picture of two missing boys were mailed to cities throughout the state. The police asked for citizens to be on the lookout for the two teenage boys. The boys had been missing since September 25th. Parents were frantic!

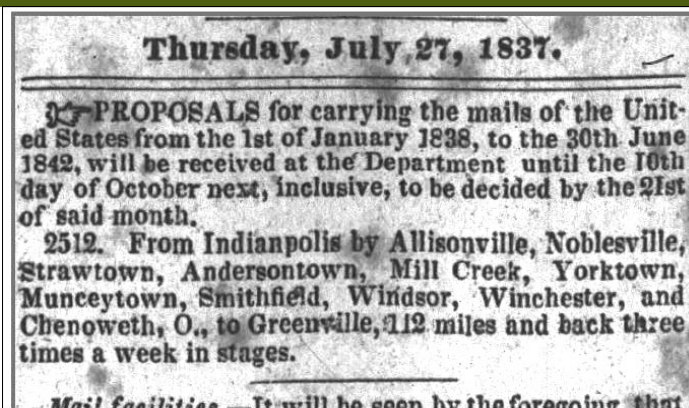
The missing boys were **Corwin Cummins** (14), son of Rollins and Eva **Andre Cummins**, and his buddy, **Howard Staggs** (15), son of Perry and Verna **Dunn Staggs**. Soon after the pair left, they were found to have run away from home. The boys sent dispatches to their parents giving their location. The first dispatch said that they were in Milwaukee and they were going to Utah. "**We'll be back in two years.**" Apparently, the boys had no intention of returning home any time soon!



Corwin Cummins  
Age 14

What happened to the two young men was found in the 2 November 1920, Muncie Star Press after they had been missing for over five weeks. The ending was a hoot. See the original clipping on [page 5](#), learn a little about their families, and what happened to them when they grew up. ~**Julie Musick Hillgrove**

**RIGHT: NEW MAIL SERVICE** The state of Indiana considers a proposal for a three day-a-week mail service from Indianapolis to Greenville, Ohio via **Munceytown** and **Yorktown** in 1837. Mail service had been established in Yorktown in 1836. Muncie had established service in 1828. Others came later—Daleville 1857, Cammack 1882, Reed 1876.



The Newspaper, Noblesville, 27 Jul 1837

Muncie Post Office Postcard  
1912 with Federal Park



## 200 YEARS AGO

The 1820's saw some of the **earliest land records** entered in Delaware County. The people who were here in 1820 were most often Native Americans from the Delaware tribes, missionaries, French trappers, explorers, traders, or squatters. The land was a thick forest full of hardwood trees and wildlife. The fertile land was perfect for farming once cleared.

The titles to the land in central Indiana needed to be cleared so the land could be sold by the Federal government. It wasn't until after the purchase of land from Native Americans with the [Treaty of St. Mary's in 1818](#) and the land was surveyed, that the land in the "New Purchase" could be sold. Pioneers were anxious but the land speculators were equally anxious. It was a race to buy the first offering of land.

The land reserves set aside for Native Americans in the treaties were not for sale without the permission of the President of the United States. Buying and selling the reserves took time.

The land on which Yorktown sits was a reserve for a Native American named **Samuel Cassman**. His is the first land record entered for Mt. Pleasant Township—**September 16, 1820**—the north 1/2 of Section 22—at the confluence of Buck Creek and the White River.—320 acres.

**Cassman** sold his land to **Goldsmith Gilbert** in 1830, but the land sale was contested until 1836. During the time of the dispute, **Andrew Jackson** was the president (1829-1837). **Jackson** wasn't fond of Native Americans. Surprisingly though, **Cassman** eventually got a fair price for the land and **Gilbert** actually paid him for the land—this time.

It was only then that **Oliver H. Smith**, founder of Yorktown, was able to purchase the land from **Gilbert** and plat "York Town". The website and future newsletters will have more information about the **Cassman vs. Gilbert** case. ~**Julie Musick Hillgrove**

## UPCOMING ANCESTOR HUNTERS MEETING

The upcoming Ancestor Hunters meeting by the Delaware County Historical Society will be on Zoom on 25 January 2021 at 6:30PM. Leading the meeting about "Probates" will be **Karen Good**. The meeting should prove to be helpful and informative to the family or history researcher. Email Karen at: [markefinder@gmail.com](mailto:markefinder@gmail.com) to get an invite to join the meeting and she will send details.

## 1920 Yorktown Women's Club MEETING

Wouldn't it be fun to be a fly on the wall to experience a little of what our ancestors did at this 1920 Yorktown Woman's Club meeting? Click on the [blue](#) links to listen in on the songs and music.

["The Gallop"](#) a 2014-version of the fast-paced song played by Gladys **Overmire Warfel** and Fleda **Yingling Sunderland**.

["Somewhere a Voice is Calling"](#) a duet by Fleda **Yingling Sunderland** and Mildred **Overmire Hamilton**. Charted at #1 in January 1916.

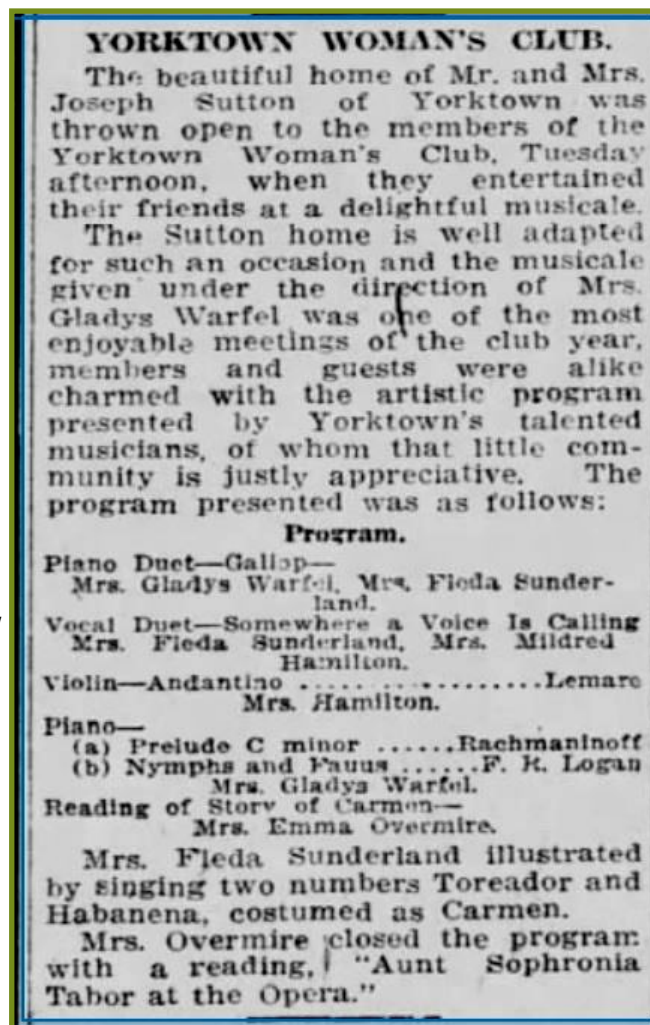
["Andantino"](#) violin by Mildred **Overmire Hamilton**.

["Prelude to C Minor"](#) piano by Gladys **Overmire Warfel**.

["The Story of Carmen"](#) is based upon a French play in which a soldier is seduced by the gypsy Carmen. Played by Emma **Overmire**.

### Who's Who in the Clipping

- ◆ Hosts Joseph and Nannie **Hayes Sutton** were the superintendent/matron of the [Delaware County Children's Home](#). Nannie was involved in women's suffrage and was the first woman to serve on a jury in Delaware County.
- ◆ Fleda **Yingling Sunderland** was the wife of the president of the Yorktown Bank, **Marker Sunderland**. Fleda was very active in civic projects and assisted **Marker** during his term in the Indiana State Senate. She was the daughter of **Frank and Fannie Smith Yingling**.
- ◆ Gladys **Overmire Warfel** was the wife of **Howard A. Warfel**, president of the York Tool Co. and VP of the Muncie Oldsmobile dealership along with **Ralph Yingling**. Gladys **Overmire Warfel** and Mildred **Overmire Hamilton** were both daughters of **Lewis D. and Emma Erther Overmire**.
- ◆ **Emma Erther Overmire** is the daughter of **John Jacob and Isabelle Daugherty Erther (or Oerther)**. **John Jacob Erther** was born in Germany.



I researched the genealogy of each of these people and learned much about them in the process. It was sad to learn that one of these lovely, talented women had a very untimely end. If you want to learn details, go to our web page at [YorktownHistory.online](#) and look up their names in the biography section. ~**Julie Musick Hillgrove**

**Fun Fact:** [The old Childs and Son](#) Hardware store on the northwest corner of Smith and Walnut, was originally built as the **Dickey Mouse Tavern**. The tavern later built a another building at the corner of Smith and Broadway on the southwest corner where **Mr. Mouse** now operates. The building has been a tavern, hardware store, meat market, painting studio, toy store, a clothing store, and an architect office among other businesses.

# BY THE SECTION

## First and Early Purchases of Land in Mt. Pleasant Township

The townships in Indiana measure about 6 miles by 6 miles square. Those townships are divided up into sections—half sections, quarter sections, and smaller. A section has 640 acres of land.

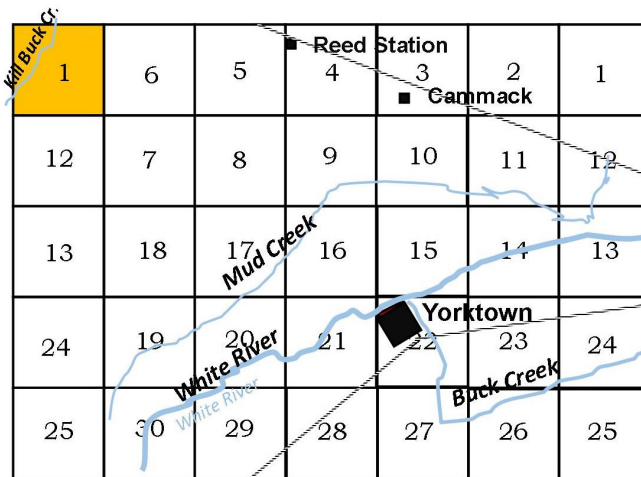
With the “By the Section” column in the newsletter, we will explore the purchases of land in each section of the township. We will begin with Section 1 on the northwest side of the township and in the next newsletter we will discuss the other section 1 on the northeast side of the township.

It was a mad dash by investors and pioneers to buy property after the “New Purchase” of land from Native Americans was surveyed. We will try to differentiate between investors and pioneers.

### Section 1, Township 20 (Range 8) northwest side of the township

The confluence of Killbuck Creek and Pleasant Run are nearly in the center of this section. As discussed above, the surveyed township sections do not correspond with the civil administration, making two section 1’s in Mt. Pleasant Township. Next newsletter we will look at Section 1, Township 20 on the northeastern part of the township.

In 1898, **John S. Ellis** says “the section has a free gravel pike along the north line, and public roads on the west, through the center and a portion of the south line. This section joins Harrison township on the north and Madison County on the west.”



Mt. Pleasant Township

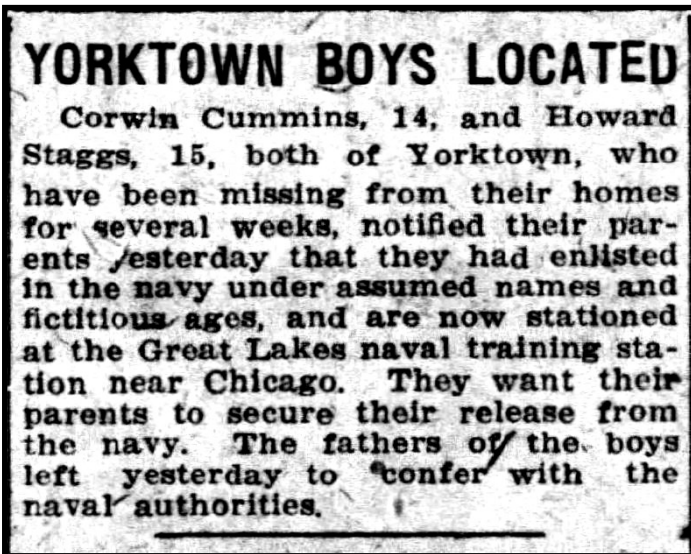
Section 1 (Range 8) was first purchased by **John Nelson Groenendyke** (Gronendyke, Groenendike, Groenendijck) in 25 May 1832 with his wife, **Elizabeth Smelser**, 1807-1898. John was a resident of Fayette County, Indiana as early as 1830. He died in Fayette County in 1886. Thirty acres of the land in Section 1 were sold to his brother, **James Groenendyke**, and James’ wife **Charity Durman** in 1840.

**John Nelson Groenendyke** (1802-1886) and brother, **James Groenendyke, Jr.** (1812-1871), were two of the 15 children of **James Groenendyke, Sr** (1770-1836). John Sr. first married **Johanna Antonidis** and later, after her death, he married **Barbara Buck**. Johanna is the mother of these two sons. Their family line goes back to Holland, with **Pieter** (1645-1699) immigrating to “**New Amsterdam**” (New York) sometime before 1673. They were a Quaker family and records can be found in Quaker meeting records. ~**Julie Musick Hillgrove**

*“Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.” ~Writer, **Marjorie Barstow Greenble***

### Missing Boys Continued from Page 1

### All Grown Up — Cummins and Staggs



1920 The Star Press, Muncie



1920 Recruits at Great Lakes Naval Base in Chicago  
Not sure if the boys are in this picture, but it is what they would experience in 1920! It rather looks like school. Photo [Navy History and Heritage Command](#)

Corwin's parents hosted the Junior Class in May of 1922. The girls in attendance were: Josephine **Miller**, Merle **Curtis**, Henrietta **Murphy**, Ruth **Miller**, Dorothy **Rinker**, Estell **Snodgrass**, and Eunice **Osborne**.

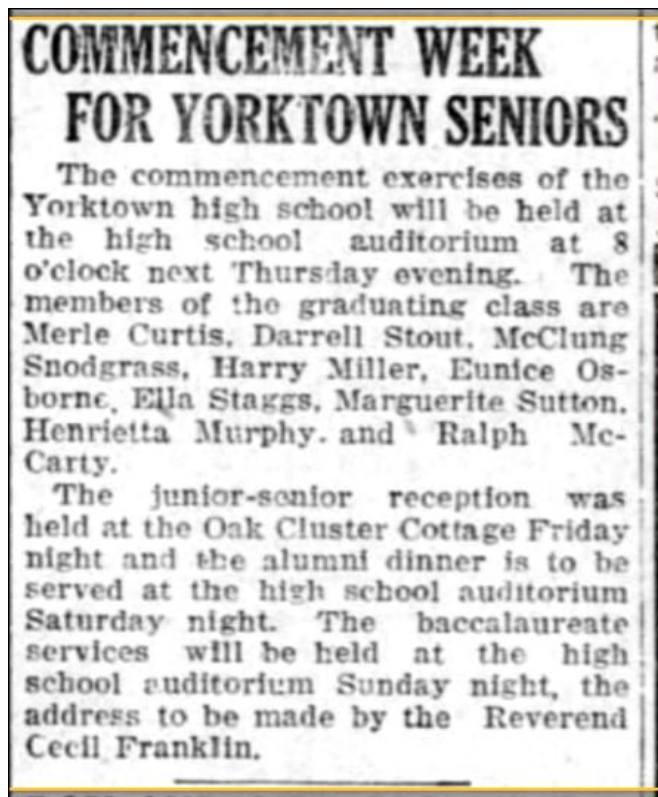
The boys were: Harry **Miller**, Corwin **Cummins**, Carl **Donovan**, Ralph **McCarty**, McClung **Snodgrass**, and Clarence **Rinker**.

Most likely the attendees would be in Yorktown High School **Class of 1923**. **Note that Corwin Cummins** did not graduate with the class of **1923**. He may have moved with his mother after his parents divorced. [More Cummins, Staggs, and their families can be found on our website.](#)

Well, it's obvious that the two boys survived their ordeal at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and irate parents! Clarence "Howard" **Staggs** grew up in Yorktown but lived in Anderson the last several years of his life. He married **Mildred Viola Gustin** (1927-1997). He was a machinist at a factory when he died. He played sports at YHS and his name was often on the YHS sports rosters in the newspaper.

Corwin Claudius **Cummins** was the son of **Rollie Cummins** and his wife, **Emma Mae Andre**. Corwin went to law school. He filed for admission to the bar in 1929 in Delaware County. He worked as an attorney well into the 1940's. He got his start in financial institutions working at Yorktown State Bank (his father's bank). Eventually he followed in his father's footsteps becoming the Vice President and Trust Officer of the First Bank and Trust in South Bend.

Corwin was very active at YHS, winning awards for his oratory prowess.



Muncie Evening Press, Muncie, 19 May 1923

# MEMBERSHIP

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS 2021

- Single            \$20.00
- Family           \$25.00
- Contributing    \$50.00 to \$199.00
- Sponsorship:   \$200 or more

## THE NEW SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The YHA will feature an article about each person or business donating \$200 or more in our newsletter and on our website.

There may also be some opportunity for sponsorships in which work done or the donation of special items can take the place of a monetary donation.



**NOTE: Our membership prices have increased slightly for 2021. Above are the new membership fees. This is the official notice of the rate increase .**

# DONATE

Now more than ever your generous support of the Yorktown/Mt. Pleasant Historical Alliance and Museum makes an significant impact to preserve our local history. Through your gifts, the Museum can remain an important partner in teaching and learning of our local students, our neighbors, and visitors.

We are here to be a place of discovery—next year as the virus winds down—we look forward to hosting you. For now, look at the resources we have compiled for **online engagement** and **research**. We have **books, maps, biographies, history, photos**, all online. We are researching, scanning, and adding more each day. We have compiled a **comprehensive list of resources** for history and genealogy research.

We are in our infancy in digital media but our hope is that we will take steps forward to become invaluable resource to the community. Every contribution is a direct investment in our future success. We are a 501(d)(3) organization so donations are 100% tax deductible. Please consider a gift or a membership today.

# DONATE NOW

What Say You, Pendleton?

The Muncie Evening Press, 2 Nov 1920

### YORKTOWN BOYS ANXIOUS.

The Yorktown A. C. basketball team issues a challenge to any team in the state for games to be played abroad. Expenses for eight men are asked. The Pendleton A. C.s or the Winchester Phi Deltas are preferred. Managers should call telephone No. 5, Yorktown, or answer through The Star.

# VOLUNTEER

We always need volunteers. Now that we are developing online resources, we need help writing and researching for biographies, articles, and general research. Our needs can be as simple as scanning or transcribing documents.

Those who are experienced with and have access to Ancestry.com can help by researching pioneer and early Mt. Pleasant families.

For the next few newsletters, we need genealogy/research volunteers for the column, **“BY THE SECTION”**.

Pioneers: Sarah **Swisher**, Thomas C. **Anthony**, John **Hathurst**, Martin **Williamson**, John **Van Buskirk**, John T. **Drummond**, Stacia **Haines**, Jesse **Coil**, [John, Samuel, Andrew **Danner** (3)] William **Reed**, James **Cummings**, William **Palmer**, William N. **Stewart**

1887 Map Sections 1-3: [Squire Thomas H. and John R. **Fimple** (2)], Watson Hiram **Weir**, Joseph S. **Buckles**, John **Eber**, William **Bennett**, Sarah **Russell**, [Sophia C, **Dragoo**, Ephriam W. **Dragoo**, John W. **Dragoo** (3)], [John C. **Fuston** and Charles **Fuston**(2)], A. B. **Bradbury**, Daniel P. **Howell**, Emily **Tomms**, Mary **Reed**, Tina **Flowers**

**Before you start**—Contact Julie at [TimeDetectives@yorktownhistory.online](mailto:TimeDetectives@yorktownhistory.online) for an assignment!

**BIOGRAPHIES:** Help populate our database with relevant information about our pioneer families and their descendants. We need writers, genealogists, and researchers. Do you have a written family history or family tree? Please consider sending a digital copy to us or attaching your Ancestry tree to our family research tree at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). Our research tree is named **“Yorktown Family Trees”**.

If you have **old photos** to submit, we would appreciate it if you could scan and send the digital copies to us. Or you can come into the museum by appointment (hopefully by spring). We'd love photos of street scenes, old buildings, local people, vintage items, tractors, tools, sports...We are looking for interesting items for a **digital exhibit** or for **our research data base**. For all of the above volunteer opportunities, contact Julie at [TimeDetectives@yorktownhistory.online](mailto:TimeDetectives@yorktownhistory.online).

There is much work to do inside the museum. We especially need people to scan photos and loose papers. Please contact our president, Becky Sears **Monroe** at [yktmpthistory@yahoo.com](mailto:yktmpthistory@yahoo.com). She will give you an idea of volunteer opportunities in the Museum.

**TO MEET ANDERSON TEAM**

The Yorktown A. C.s will play the Anderson nine at Yorktown this afternoon and a fast game is predicted. Following are the lineups:

Yorktown.		Anderson.
Grant .....	Catcher.	Cunnis
Barker .....	Pitcher.	Vermillion
Neff .....	First base.	Blotner
Koontz .....	Second base.	Boylen
Cox .....	Third base.	Johnson
Parkinson .....	Shortstop.	Vanderhoff
Oxley .....	Left field.	Bell
Eskin .....	Center field.	Rich
McKibben .....	Right field.	Carp

**Baseball Team: Grant, Barker, Neff, Koontz, Cox, Parkinson, Oxley, Eskin, MicKibben, 5 Sep 1920 Star Press**

## Yorktown High School Students Create Township Tours

In spite of COVID-19, Yorktown High School juniors are learning more about Mt. Pleasant Township than they ever knew. Since October, students in English 11 Honors class have been using technology from home and at school to re-search various historical topics about the township. They are creating six themed tours for the public.

The students are using over 20 different online databases and resources. Digitized versions of the Delaware County history books by [Helm](#), [Haimbaugh](#), [Ellis](#), and [Kemper](#), as well as the [Ball State University Digital Media Repository](#) and [Newspapers.com](#) have made researching much faster and easier. Using these and many other free, online sources, students have uncovered fascinating facts and stories about the area. Crime has been an especially popular topic.

Students have also worked with [Yorktown Historical Alliance](#) Director Becky Monroe and volunteer Nanci Perry, who visited with the classes via Zoom to answer questions and provide inspiration.

The project has opened the eyes of many students like [Kaytlyn Kennedy](#), who learned about the 1913 Yorktown fire. "The fire ended up consuming an entire half block of Yorktown's downtown. It changed my perspective on Yorktown because everyone came together."

After sharing their individual research on Google Jamboards, students began working in teams to create customized Google Maps and brochures with QR Codes and more information about each unique stop.

In February after state ISTEP testing is finished, students will resume their work. The project has had more than academic benefits. As junior [Griffin Miller](#) reflected, "The main thing I took away from this was that Yorktown and Mount Pleasant Township has a way richer history than I once thought."

~Barbara Swander Miller, Yorktown High School



YHS Athletics

Star Press, Muncie, 5 Dec 1920

**ONLY ONE GAME PLAYED IN  
Y. M. C. A. BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

Only one of the scheduled games in the Y. M. C. A. Basketball League was played last evening. The Yorktown team won from the Normal School five, 32 to 22, in a game played on the "Y" gym floor. The game was closely played and the score at the end of the first half was a tie, 9 to 9. In the last half, the Yorktown combination played stellar ball and piled up the winning points.

The lineups:

Yorktown.	Normal.
Overmeyer .....	France
Stoggs .....	Snyder
Koontz .....	Wilson
Stuart .....	Flint
Cox .....	Rigdon
	Guard.

Summary: Field goals—Overmeyer, 4; Stoggs, 5; Koontz, 5; France, 6; Snyder, 1; Rigdon, 1. Foul goals—Overmeyer, 4; France, 5. Referee—McLean. Scorer—Treasure.



**Congratulations to Karen Vincent!** Karen has been named the “Historian for Delaware County! What an honor! Karen was a past director of the Minnetrista Cultural Center and is the current president of the [Delaware County Historical Society](#). Our best wishes to her.

*“History never looks like history when you are living through it.”*

*—John William Gardener*

## 2021 Board Members

- ◆ **Becky Sears Monroe** — President
- ◆ **Judy Flick St.John** — Vice President
- ◆ **Vicki Lueck Craig** — Secretary
- ◆ **Chris Monroe** — Treasurer
- ◆ **Kay Ross Miller**
- ◆ **Jim Butler**
- ◆ **Susan Bowers Clevenger**
- ◆ **Bob Ellis**
- ◆ **Steve Fuller**
- ◆ **Terri Thrash Nelson**
- ◆ **Barbara Swander Miller**

Welcome to our newest board members, **Barbara Swander Miller, Jim Butler, and Terri Nelson!**

Due to the pandemic, in-person meetings and regular hours are on hold. One post-pandemic goal is to fill the void caused by the closing of the E.B. Ball Center with daytime meetings.

1920

- ◆ [19th Amendment](#) gave women the right to vote.
- ◆ January 26 [Prohibition](#) went into effect. Every tavern, bar, and saloon in the U.S. was closed. September
- ◆ [The worst terrorist attack in U.S. History at that time](#). A horse-drawn carriage carried a bomb to the busiest corner in NYC.30 killed, 300 injured.
- ◆ The [\(2nd\) KKK](#) forms in 1915. By the 1920’s nearly 30% of white men in Indiana belong to the Klan.

◆ Cars, jazz, flappers, radios, telephones...it was an age of innovation and availability for SOME, a struggle for most. Farmers in Mt. Pleasant Township [struggled](#). The [1920's](#) were a time of social change.

**Selling Silk Dresses**

For Only

**\$14.95**



Simply fine. Mostly dark colors. Made up in right ways. Most of these dresses reached us just a few days ago. Wonderful bargains.

**Other Dresses**  
**\$25 AND \$34.75**

Made of silk, velvet, duvetyne, velour. Everyone a rare bargain.

A Very Few Pattern Dresses at  
**3RD OFF**

**Left:** The advertisement for \$14.95 silk dresses at the W.A. McNaughton & Co. shop in Muncie sounds inexpensive but the equivalent purchasing power today is about **\$195.17**.  
The Star Press, Muncie 1 Dec 1920

**Right:** The “[Mark of Zorro](#)” with [Douglass Fairbanks](#) is playing at the Star Theater, The Star Press, Muncie, 26 Dec 1920 , Page 17 Got an hour? [Watch the movie](#).

**At the Theaters Today**

**WYSOR GRAND**—Mary Miles Minter in “**Eyes of the Heart**” and vaudeville.

**STAR**—**Douglas Fairbanks** in “**The Mark of Zorro**” and vaudeville.

**STRAND**—George Walsh in “**The Plunger**.”

**COLUMBIA**—Ethel Clayton in “**A City Sparrow**.”

**LIBERTY**—Harry Carey in “**Blue Streak McCoy**.”

Yorktown/ Mt. Pleasant Historical Alliance

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