



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

December 2022 Volume 17 Edition 4

[yorktownhistory.online](http://yorktownhistory.online)

Editor: Julie Musick Hillgrove

page	INDEX
1	From the President
2	My Stuff ~ Recalling Doll Collection
3	Convicting a Murderer ~ Citizens Testify in the Double Hance Murder Case
4	Dreaming of a Green Christmas ~Recalling Green Stamps
5	100 Years Ago
6	Today's News, Tomorrow's History
7	Membership, Donations, Volunteer JUSTICE? Hance Murders Cont.
8	Meetings, Board, Sponsors



From the President *Becky Sears Monroe*

**Welcome to 2023!**

I am not sure how 2023 got here so quickly but I am finding that each year seems to go by a little faster than the last. In the last issue Julie announced that I had plans to retire as President of the Historical Alliance. Well...things don't always happen as we planned. At the present time no one has shown an interest in taking the reins.

Therefore, I will continue for a while but in order to do that I must have some HELP. After recovering from a broken hip I realize that there are a good many things that I can no longer do. (Did I really say that?) This position consists mostly of record keeping and arranging displays. It is not difficult, just time consuming. Please contact me if you might have a few hours each week to spend with me.

I am not the type of person that walks away from a project but that time is getting closer and closer.

Obviously everything is running behind – including information on renewing memberships. At this point I will say if you feel that it is time to renew your membership you are probably correct. Amounts are:

\$20.00 for individual and \$25.00 for family. Additional donations are always welcome and are tax deductible. Make checks payable to:

**Yorktown History**  
**P.O Box 356**  
**Yorktown, IN 47396**

If we find that you are current we will contact you – there are options. Please include your phone number. Thank you all for your continued interest and support.

Wishing each of you an awesome 2023! ~Becky



If you have **ideas** for a newsletter or want to **write** a column, please contact Julie Musick at my personal email: [JHillgrove@gmail.com](mailto:JHillgrove@gmail.com). **Comments, complements, clarification, and complaints** about the newsletter are always welcome. (And, "NO", I am not giving up the Oxford comma!)

## My Stuff

by Ada Carey Sears

As I look around my house, I see a variety of “stuff”, Each piece of “stuff” has a special meaning. To me, there are two kinds of “stuff”, the cluttered and organized. I like to feel that mine is the organized kind.

As I walk from room to room, I see all this “stuff”, and I think it is time that I get rid of some of it. I get a box and carefully begin to select some of it. There are some pieces that have been sitting around for quite a while, so I start there. I wrap them carefully and place each piece in the box. I look around now, and think things look a little better without all that “stuff”. I store the box in a wardrobe for future disposal.

Sometime later, I am looking at my “stuff” that’s left. I stand and wonder where the candlesticks are that Anita gave me. Where is the small crystal box that Kim gave me, and where is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dish that Ruby Wooley gave us for our many years of friendship. Also, I couldn’t find the small rocking chair with the tiny white doggie sitting in it. This I purchased at a small shop while on a trip around the Gaspé peninsula. I had forgotten about the box, but I located it, looked in and there they are. I stood looking at them, thinking “I can’t give these away, they will never mean anything to anyone else, only how cheaply they bought them at a rummage sale.” So one by one, I removed them from the box, unwrapped each one carefully, and put my “stuff” back in its proper place.

I adore my small collection of Angels. Most of them have been given to me. I regret that the one that my sister, Mary, gave to me, fell off the shelf and broke both wings off, so now I have a “Fallen Angel.”

My small collection of clowns is a specialty to me. Mary and Margaret gave me four. John bought me the music box of Emmett Kelly playing the violin. He forgot that I had bought the same statue minus music box. But, that was OK for I love it. I had also bought three others. The small collection of dolls are also very special to me. One I carried, along with one I got for Donovan, all the way from Ireland. That was my carry-on case. Another, I sent to Ireland for. She is dressed as a Celtic Dancer, with green dress and red hair. Another I purchased at the Shoji Tabuchi show in Branson. Two I sent away for.



Another doll I have is very special, and I refuse to call her “stuff”. She sits on my dresser in a little blue chair. This doll was given to me by my parents when I was eight years of age for learning my multiplication tables. She is of the Bye-Lo baby doll line. She was dressed in a white dress and bonnet, wrapped in a flannel blanket and laying in a blue wicker basket. She was beautiful. ~Ada

## YORKTOWN RESIDENTS INSTRUMENTAL IN DOUBLE MURDER CONVICTION



**Ben and Mary Gagnon Hance were brutally murdered in a shootout with gangsters four miles south of Yorktown.**

The Eaton farmer and his wife allowed their farmhouse to be used by notorious criminals, Gerald **Chapman**, George “Dutch” **Anderson**, and “Big Turk” **Brennan**. The criminals called themselves “Tom”, “Dick” and “Harry” to the **Hances**. The gang was making counterfeit bills in the **Hance** home. At some point, the **Hances** reported the gang to the police. Their home was raided and the gang scattered.

The gang was experienced in daring robberies. Their notoriety grew a few years earlier out east. In 1921, **Chapman, Anderson**, and their gang pulled a \$2.6 million heist of a mail truck in New York.

The outlaws were captured, found guilty, and sent to prison but later escaped. After shooting a policeman in a Connecticut robbery, the **most wanted men in America** surfaced at the Hance’s Eaton farm in 1924. Months later, **Chapman** was arrested in Muncie. The others got away.

Even behind bars, gang leader **Chapman**’s criminal network was active. **Chapman** wanted revenge against the “squealers”. He ordered **Anderson** and a **Hance** acquaintance, Charles “One Arm” **Wolfe** to take care of the Hances.

By Julie A. Musick

About 4:15pm on August 14th, the **Hances** were on their way to see their daughter in Middletown; after their visit, they planned to go to Indianapolis. Some reports say that the **Hances** may have been driving to Indianapolis to give an interview with a magazine about their knowledge of the criminal boarders.

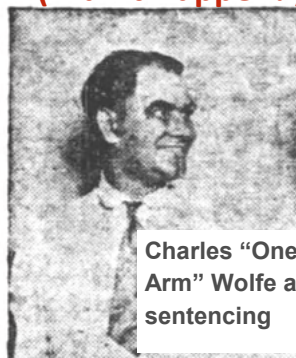
Regardless of their destination, the **Hances** were stopped about four miles from Yorktown and gunned down. Mary was shot in the head (some reports say chest) and died quickly, falling at the side of the road as she tried to flee with bare feet. Ben was shot two (or three) times in the abdomen and ran into a corn field. The killers sped away with a passerby in pursuit. They got away. **Hance** lived about 45 minutes after being shot and was able to ID his assailants.

**The Killers made one mistake—leaving Hance alive.**

The presumed killers went into Yorktown about 5:00pm, after the shootings. It was the testimony of many Yorktown witnesses that helped convict one of the killers, Charles “One Arm” **Wolfe**.

The two strange men drove into Yorktown in their Ford sedan after the killings. They drove over a barrier meant to keep cars off newly surfaced Smith Street and purchased gas. One of the men was missing an arm. Of course, Yorktown residents noticed them!

MUST SPEND REMAINDER  
OF LIFE IN PRISON  
(Didn't Happen!)



Charles “One Arm” Wolfe at sentencing

**Was Justice Served?**

**Witness List and Resources**

**See page 7.**

## Dreaming of a Green Christmas

By Julie A. Musick

Growing up in the 1960's, the children in our family knew that the holiday season was fast approaching when we were ordered to gather the S & H Green Stamps from the kitchen drawer and paste them into collector booklets. Around the dining table we sat, licking stamps until our little tongues were sticky with glue. It took 24 pages of stamps, 50 points a page—1200 stamps—to fill a book. Stamps were issued in one, ten, and fifty denominations.

We'd fill up one book and then we would start the next book, with a few occasional sips of Tang to get our tongues off the roof of our mouths and in licking order. My brothers and I would race to see who could fill up the most books—a Tom Sawyer ploy on my part, I'm sure.

For those of you who didn't grow up with S & H Green Stamps, let me explain. Green Stamps were an early customer reward system. When our family went to the grocery store, we would receive stamps



at the checkout counter. Even the man who gassed up our car and washed our windshield passed out the stamps. (Oh how I miss THAT service!) Other retail stores gave the stamps away too, based upon how much money was spent.

We accumulated stamps throughout the year until the preholiday ritual started again. We looked through the "Ideabook" (catalog) to see what our meager collection of stamps could get. Once at the store, there were examples of the actual treasures that could be found in the catalog. I remember mom getting television trays, a toaster, and a scale for the bathroom, not ever enough stamps for a bike or a doll.



The stamps had real value.

The retailers purchased the stamps from Sperry and Hutchinson who began offer-

ing the stamps as early as 1896. According to Wikipedia, a 1963 magazine stated that the average supermarket paid \$2.45 for the stamps needed to fill one book. It made families loyal to retailers. Our family always chose to shop where Green Stamps were given and, if possible, always went shopping on double stamp day. What did your family get with Green Stamps? Tell us at:

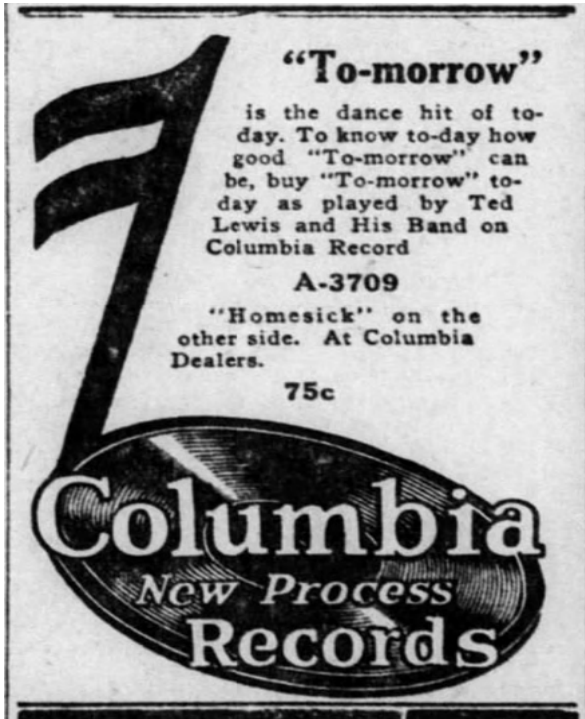
[JHillgrove@gmail.com](mailto:JHillgrove@gmail.com).

Link to a television advertisement in 1966: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ps1DJftrmyg> ;

More about Green Stamps from the "History Lady": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qciBdzaajw>

## IT HAPPENED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

By Julie A. Musick



From "The Star Press" in Muncie, January 4, 1923.

◇ In 1923, there were "The Muncie Evening Press" (1880-1996), "The Star Press" (1900-2023), "Muncie Post-Democrat" (1921-1950s) known for fighting the KKK.

◇ [Insulin](#) is introduced for treatment of Diabetes in 1923.

◇ Top grossing movie in 1923 was [The Ten Commandments](#) directed by Cecil B. [DeMille](#). According to Wikipedia.org, the parting of the Red Sea scene was shot in Seal Beach, California. The visual effect of keeping the walls of water apart while the Israelites walked through was accomplished with a slab of Jell-O that was sliced in two and filmed close up as it jiggled. This shot was then combined with live-action footage of Israelites walking into the distance to create the illusion.

◇ The first issue of "TIME" magazine is published.

◇ Postage was 2 cents.

◇ Vice President [Calvin Coolidge](#) becomes the 30th President of the United States, upon the death of President [Warren G. Harding](#).

◇ Listen to the Popular Music of 1923: [That Old Gang of Mine, To-Morrow](#) (see photo above), [Baby Won't You Please Come Home](#), [Bessie Smith](#); [Louis Armstrong](#) makes his first recording, "[Chimes Blues](#)", with [King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band](#)

Oh I'm gettin' old and feeble and I  
cannot work no more  
The children no more gather 'round  
my door  
And old masters and old mrs they are  
sleepin' side by side  
Near da little old log cabin in da lane

Oh the chimney's fallen down and the  
roof's all caved in  
Lettin' in the sunshine and the rain  
And the only friend I've got now is  
that good old dog of mine  
And the little old log cabin in the lane

Oh the trees have all growed up that  
lead around the hill  
The fences have all gone to decay  
And the creeks have all dried up  
where we used to go to mill  
And things have changed of course in  
another ways

Oh I ain't got long to stay here what  
little time I've got  
I want to rest content while I remain  
'Til death shall call this dog and me to  
find a better home  
And leave th' little old log cabin in the  
lane

### [The Little Old Log Cabin In The Lane](#),

as recorded by Fiddlin' John [Carson](#) in (1923) is widely believed to be the **first country music song recorded with vocals and lyrics** per Wikipedia. [Carson](#) was a rural white musician and his popularity ensured the growth of country music. The song lyrics were written in 1871 by [Will S. Hays](#).

## Today's News is Tomorrow's History

### Historical Alliance Meetings



All YHA meetings will be at the Alliance Museum at 7:00 pm. 9132 W. Smith St., Yorktown. We meet the **2nd to the last Tuesday**. There are no meetings during the winter. Want to speak on a subject? Contact Becky **Sears Monroe** at: [bmonroe4159@gmail.com](mailto:bmonroe4159@gmail.com)

**Special meeting** on March 18, at 630pm, at the Museum ~ discussing area history with Karen Good of the Delaware County Historical Society—open forum, everyone invited.

Bill Goad had made two Facebook groups relating to Yorktown. One of the groups is focused on **Yorktown Indiana yearbooks**. Be prepared to have your memory tested. The second is **YHS Basketball History**. Bill has posted pictures and articles old and new. If you love basketball, you will want to check out his groups. (Well, what Tiger doesn't love basketball?!)

### Delaware County Historical Society



Delaware County Historical Society has reopened the doors of the Research Center on Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. 120 East Washington Street, Muncie, Indiana.

The **Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Committee** conducts a business meeting on the Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the historical society. The committee also schedules workdays on most Saturday mornings. Anyone interested in learning more about the committee may email to [dchspcpc@gmail.com](mailto:dchspcpc@gmail.com) for more information.

<http://www.delawarecountyhistory.org/pioneer-cemetery-preservation-committee/>

**The Delaware County Historical Society is beginning periodic open forums about area history at various locations around the county. The first meeting is at the Yorktown Historical Alliance Museum, March 18th at 6:30PM. As stated above, the meeting is open to everyone. More locations and times to be announced.**

Delaware County Historical Society **Ancestor Hunters** meet each month on the last Monday. Email Karen **Good** - [markerfinder@gmail.com](mailto:markerfinder@gmail.com) - for the link to the zoom meeting.



**February 8: Tea & Talk—125 Years at the Richmond Art Museum** Come listen to Shaun **Dingwerth**, Executive Director of the Richmond Art Museum in Richmond, Indiana, and this year's Juror for the 33rd Minnetrista Annual Juried Art Show.

**Farmers Market at Minnetrista: 9am-Noon, (Inside) Saturdays: Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 4, Mar 18, Apr 1, Apr 15** discover fresh and healthy food, produce, and more!

**Jun 3 to Sep 17: Girlhood—It's Complicated** Explore the diversity of girls' experiences and how girls have changed American history in this enlightening exhibit. Girls are made of strong stuff and they've been on the front lines of change throughout American history - don't miss this groundbreaking exhibit!



### First Thursdays each month in Muncie,

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.; walk around downtown Muncie and visit galleries and artists. Opportunity to purchase unique creations and support

### Indiana State Historical Society



Want to get closer to history and take a virtual step back in time? The Indiana Historical Society (IHS) has made two of its popular features — *You Are There* and *Be Heard* exhibits — available online. And you can access them for free!

"Visitors will be able to view videos, images and objects as well as select digital interactive features that make you part of the story." The online exhibits are available here: <https://indianahistory.org/online-exhibits/>

### For the Love of the Circus

**DeadFred.com** is a company that reunites found items, such as photos and bibles, with their families. The website contains thousands of



identified and mystery photos and items.

If you have old photos or items that may be of interest to others, you can post them in Dead Fred. You may also be able to identify people in mystery photos. Photos were often spread throughout families and others may be able to identify people in your photo when you cannot. Dead Fred has 152,188 recorded reunions to date.

## Membership

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS 2022

**Single** \$20.00

**Family** \$25.00

**Contributing** \$50.00 to \$199.00

**Sponsorship:** \$200 or more

**Many memberships  
are now due.**

**[Click here to pay-  
membership online](#)**

**[FIND US ON FACEBOOK!](#)**

**[Yorktown Indiana Historical Alliance](#)**



## Donate Now

Now more than ever your generous support of the Yorktown/Mt. Pleasant Historical Alliance and Museum makes a significant impact to preserve our local history. Through your gifts, the Museum can remain an important partner in the teaching of our local students, our neighbors, and visitors. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so donations are 100% tax deductible. Please consider a gift or a membership today. We thank you for your support! Use this link to make a donation.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Becky **Sears Monroe** is recovering from a fall. We ask that people volunteer a couple of hours a week in the museum to help her.

## From the Web Master

As of January 1, 2023 we have **6159** people in our data base and **16,351** records.

Continued from Page 3

### **JUSTICE?**

The trial of Charles **Wolfe** contained the court testimony of many Yorktown citizens as witnesses. Those included:

Mark **Broadwater**, Assistant Cashier, Yorktown Bank, star witness; Charles (August) **Burgess** and wife, Mollie "Birdie" **Pugsley**, Postmaster; William Leslie "Les" **Applegate**, Meat Market Manager, was across the street (where the YHA Museum is currently located) and he watched the criminals gas their car; Ben **Konold**, employee of **Hopherr** Garage gassed the killer's car; Mr. and Mrs. John **Cromer** (house by murder scene), Mr. **Jordan**; Edith **Donovan**, walking near the post office and bank was asked where the killers could gas their car; Elizabeth Sutton; W. Amos Goings; Oliver Clark; May VanMatre; Burton Williams.

The road where the attack took place was very busy. A number of people stopped at the scene and were called as witnesses.

### **What happened to the gangsters?**

Criminal Gerald **Chapman** was executed on April 6, 1926 for the murder of a Connecticut police officer.

George "Dutch" **Anderson** was killed by Charles **Hamilton**, a Michigan detective while passing counterfeit bills. On Oct 31, 1925, they shot each other simultaneously and both **Anderson** and the detective died.

**Wolfe** was granted parole in 1943 and was killed in a mysterious explosion in Dundee, Florida in 1959. Many thought **Anderson** was the trigger man and not **Wolfe**.

Fred **Loftin** asked for protection in Indianapolis after receiving three threatening letters. (**Loftin** had heard the dying confession of Hance, naming his assailants.)

Resources include: **Circuit Court Records** Case #7815 140 pgs., "The Muncie Press", 14-16 Aug 1925, 16-18 Nov 1925 and more; "**The Muncie Post-Democrat**", "Wicked Muncie" 2015, Roysden & Walker p. 100; **Complete resources list on our website.**

### YHA Meetings

We meet the **2nd to the last Tuesday** of specific months at 7:00PM at the Museum in April-June and August-October. There are no meetings during the winter.

The Yorktown Historical Alliance Museum, 9132 W. Smith St., Yorktown.

**Special meeting** on March 18, at 630pm, at the Museum ~ discussing area history with Karen Good of the Delaware County Historical Society—open forum, everyone invited.

### 2022 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**
- ◆ **Terri Thrash Nelson**
- ◆ **Barbara Swander Miller**
- ◆ **Julie Musick**—Website and Newsletter

Our newsletter is interactive. If you received a printed copy of the newsletter, go to our web page to look at or download the interactive version: <https://yorktownhistory.online/once-upon-a-time/>

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

# H Y S

### CLASS OF 1969

*What is Left When Honor is Lost*



Yorktown Odd Fellows Lodge # 435  
9140 W. Smith St. - Yorktown, Indiana



Website maintained and sponsored by:  
Julie Musick, The Bottled Artist, LLC