



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

June 2023 Volume 18 Edition 2

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

Editor: Julie Musick

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From the Editor Julie A. Musick

When we were children, summer vacation lasted forever. We awaited the last day of school with an internal countdown that went from months and weeks to days and hours. The teachers must have felt the same way as we were a rough bunch back then. And finally, we were released for the summer with a joyous chorus of "School's out! School's out! The teacher let the monkeys out!"

I got home on the last day of school, took off my little dress, required for wear at school, and put on my "sunsuit" that tied at the shoulders. For me, this was my uniform for the summer.

I was a child growing up in the '60s in our quiet, small town. Yorktown seemed safe. Because of that, we were free to wander around town, explore, meet, and play with our neighbors and friends—I refer to us during that time as "feral children."



The little girls' "uniform" of playing outside in the summer of 1963.

Compared to today, children have little time to be alone or play without the supervision of adults. Back then, children negotiated their own rules—adults were rarely involved—although conflict resolution sometimes required wrestling in the dirt.

Today's children will not know the freedom we had. They will rarely walk alone anywhere, except in a virtual world. They will not wander from school down a path in the woods as an Indian princess, admiring wild [Virginia bluebells](#) and [phlox](#). Sometimes finding funny-shaped [jack-in-the-pulpit](#) and [Dutchman's Breeches](#)—we called them "Dutchman's Pants."

On some hot summer afternoons our gang would be under the bridges downtown, catching crawdads or riding our bikes to faraway places. We might wander downtown to meet with shopkeepers and townsfolk. At [Ralph's Market](#), we could get a free hot dog. At [Rinker's Jewelry](#), we could spend our 35-cent allowance on a new treasure. At Uncle Ron [Myers'](#) barbershop, we could always get a Dum-Dum sucker—cherry and lemon flavors were my favorites. Sometimes we would eat a [Dairy Queen](#) cone under the shade of a tree—there was no dining room. We explored the ruins of [Werts](#) limestone tourist cabins, finding old bottles and cans among the broken glass. Summer days were days of kick-the-can, fort-building in the woods, hanging out at the JAA baseball games, daring others to get a "suicide" at the concession stand, 4-H, Boys Club (for some but not for girls)...Hmph!

I think we grew up in the best of times. Innocence. Freedom. Curiosity fulfilled. We built confidence in ourselves every day of summer. We learned to get along with others and work things out ourselves when we didn't agree. We'd knock on doors until someone could play with us. That is something I should try in my own neighborhood today. Maybe I could make some new friends to play [Euchre!](#)

*Have a happy and safe summer! Julie*



Becky **Sears Monroe** found the minutes of this town board meeting that took place the **day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor**. Our community, like our country, was horrified by the attack by the Japanese on the U.S. Navy in Hawaii. The Civilian Defense Protection Committee was established and members appoint-

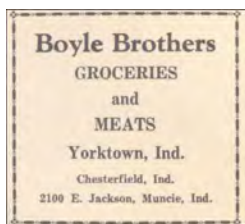
## MINUTES FROM TOWN BOARD MEETINGS 1941

December 8, 1941 (notice the date)

The Board met in a special session in the Town Hall in the Town of Yorktown, Indiana at 7:30 p.m. Civil Defense was the purpose of the meeting. The clerk called the roll [for board members.] Those present and absent were as follows: Present – 3, absent – 0.

Dr. <b>Moss</b> and Dr. <b>Kilgore</b>	Health Committee – Board of Health
Harold <b>Thompson</b>	Fire Chief
Ray <b>Gant</b>	Police Department
Park Superintendent – we don't have anyone in that department.	
Ray O <b>Burns</b>	Superintendent of Schools
Taylor <b>Stewart</b>	Red Cross Committee
Fred <b>Payne</b> and Tim <b>Russel</b>	Veterans Groups
Mary <b>Ellison</b>	Chairman of Women's Civic Clubs
Myron <b>Richman</b>	Chairman of the Civic Club
Damon <b>Anderson</b>	Chairman of Youth Organizations
Every person listed above was to serve as Chairman of their organization and had the authority to appoint helpers as needed.	
The following were appointed to the Civil Protection Committee: Ray <b>Rummel</b> , Ralph <b>Yingling</b> and Ron <b>Fadely</b> . Perry <b>Staggs</b> for his end of town.	
Hershel <b>Watkins</b> was appointed Chairman of the Water Works.	

1941



Boosters: Nelson's Barber Shop  
1941 Top Hat Party Mart  
Souder's Music Shop  
Muncie Music Center  
Duke's Restaurant  
Covalts Dairy

Yorktown Lumber Company  
Lawson Jewelry  
W. H. Ballard & Son Hardware  
Pershing Feed Store  
Howell Flowers  
Pig & Whistle Lunch Room



# Firemen's Services

*Risking their lives for the community for \$1 per month in compensation.*

## December 15, 1942 Town Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Yorktown, Indiana met in a regular session in the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

C.D. **Byerly** President of the Board. The Clerk called the roll [of Board Members.] Those Present 3 – Absent 0.

The following claims were allowed upon motion duly made & and seconded. All members voting “yes”.

PAYMENT FOR FIREMENS SERVICES				
Charles O <b>Donovan</b>	\$12.00		Harold <b>Thompson</b>	\$12.00
John E <b>Sears</b>	\$ 4.00		Ralph <b>Garrison</b>	\$7.00
Buford <b>Barlow</b>	\$12.00		Claud[e] <b>Richman</b>	\$7.00
Vaught <b>Ellis</b>	\$ 7.00		Harold <b>Carpenter</b>	\$12.00
Jack <b>Reynolds</b>	\$12.00		Fred <b>Payne</b>	\$12.00
Enoch <b>Childs</b>	\$ 6.00		Max <b>Parkison</b>	\$12.00
Woodrow <b>Parkison</b> – Fire Chief \$60.00				
Muncie Evening Press – Advertising \$14.37				

## Students Hosted at the Historical Alliance

*By Becky Sears Monroe*

On May 15th, the Historical Alliance hosted 227 third grade students and 14 teachers and aids. They arrived at four different times throughout the day. They toured the museum and were challenged to find four items—a black and gold school sweater, a rotary dial phone, an old sewing machine, and an early map of Yorktown. After the tour, they sat on the floor while we discussed they items they had located. Thanks to Sharon **Self**, Beverly **White**, Jan **Hendricks**, Vicki **Lueck Craig**, Judy **Flick St. John**, and Heidi **Monroe** for assisting Becky **Sears Monroe**. Town board member Carolyn **Cline Gant** also joined us for the day, and drop in visitors were Dr. Greg **Hinshaw** (Superintendent of Schools) and Chase **Bruton**, the new town manager.

# All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten



Yorktown Schools didn't offer kindergarten when my family moved from Muncie to Yorktown in 1963. I was already a seasoned kindergartener with 2 months under my belt at Garfield Elementary School. I already knew how to **stand in line** and **share**. I played well with others. At nap time I

kindergarten in Yorktown was one of the many community activities. School was held on the top floor of the American Legion Building on Broadway.

The **Alpha Omega Club** wasn't the first women's club to start a school in Yorktown. The **Yorktown Woman's Club** established a free kindergarten in their school as early as 1912.

Our teachers during the 1963-64 school year were Mrs. **O'Hara** and Mrs. **Law**. Many of the children with whom we attended kindergarten, graduated together from Yorktown High School in 1976. See our sweet faces on page 8.



Graduation Program 1963-1964

preferred to lie quietly on my rug by my friend, **Linus Poe**, so I knew **how to make a friend**.

Although there was no public kindergarten in Yorktown, there was a private kindergarten--**Alpha Omega**. The cost was \$3.50 a week to attend. That was a lot of money back then, so I

had to choose between kindergarten or continuing tap dancing. I already "knew" how to tap dance. Playing with other children at a school sounded like more fun.

Alpha Omega Kindergarten was run by the **Alpha Omega Federated Women's Club**. They formed their club in Yorktown in October 1952 and joined the Federation of Women's Clubs. According to Muncie Newspapers, Mrs. Myron **Lillie** was tentatively the first president. Muncie Newspapers reported on the organization's many community projects, reporting peaking in the 1960's. Providing

## Life Lessons from Kindergarten

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ◆ <i>Be kind (Mom's rule)</i>                                  | <i>mates</i>                                    |
| ◆ <i>Share and take turns</i>                                  | ◆ <i>Follow directions</i>                      |
| ◆ <i>Keep your hands to yourself</i>                           | ◆ <i>Everyone is an artist</i>                  |
| ◆ <i>Play hard</i>   | ◆ <i>Listen</i>                                 |
| ◆ <i>Learn</i>   | ◆ <i>Help each other</i>                        |
| ◆ <i>Use your manners</i>                                      | ◆ <i>Learn from mistakes</i>                    |
| ◆ <i>Clean up after yourself</i>                               | ◆ <i>Don't run with scissors</i>                |
| ◆ <i>Take a nap when you can</i>                               | ◆ <i>Wash your hands before you eat</i>         |
| ◆ <i>A graham cracker goes down easier with chocolate milk</i> | ◆ <i>Flush the potty and wash your hands</i>    |
| ◆ <i>It's okay to color outside of the lines</i>               | ◆ <i>Say you're sorry when you hurt someone</i> |
| ◆ <i>Four-legs on the floor</i>                                | ◆ <i>Use a tissue</i>                           |
| ◆ <i>Treat others as you want to be treated</i>                | ◆ <i>Always do your best</i>                    |
| ◆ <i>Let others finish speaking before talking</i>             |   |
| ◆ <i>Be a friend to all class-</i>                             |   |

(Julie's list compiled from years of teaching, memories of school, life reflections, help from her grandchildren, and *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* (1990.)

## Changing Courses—An Answer to a Nagging Puzzle

By Becky Sears Monroe

In my early teen years, I developed a fascination for maps, particularly road maps. If you remember, maps from that era were printed on large pieces of paper and folded to a size that would fit in the glove compartment of a car.

If you were planning a trip during this time, you could contact one of the major oil companies and they would highlight a couple of routes for you to travel and send it to you. Of course, their routes always took you by their service stations. Today, we simply log into one of the online sites and find the map we want, enter our beginning and ending points and, by magic, we have a choice from two or three routes for a trip.

Later I developed an interest in historic maps—Yorktown maps in particular. After a while, I realized there was something on the early maps of Yorktown that I felt was wrong. The platted area of Yorktown seemed to run true but the site where White River and Buck Creek joined was way off.

Most of us have visited Morrows Meadow and know that the two bodies of water join quite away from the road. To add to my confusion, I was looking at an abstract for a property on Canal St. and it said the line went to the center of White River, which in my mind took it across the middle of Morrows Meadow.

I recently shared this confusion with Terry **Fauquher**, and he was able to supply some additional information on this topic. He asked if I knew anything about a mile-long horse racetrack from the early days of Yorktown. I couldn't imagine what that information had to do with the location of White River and Buck Creek, but I was surprised.

Terry sent a reprint of “A Comprehensive Look at the People and History of Delaware County, Indiana” to me. This document was compiled by The W.P.A. writers project Act of 1935. The document stated that when Yorktown was platted White River ran close along the northern edge of town and there was a racetrack across the river. The track was straight and one mile long.\* Men from several states and around the area brought their horses here to race. Yorktown was then known as a place for racing and gambling.

Around 1870, a flood of great force washed away the area where the sod had been removed for the track. Amazingly, this created a new channel for White River to flow. Buck Creek now flows down the old river channel and meets the river farther from town.

\* It is still difficult for me to imagine an area that would hold a track a mile long.



# Today's News is Tomorrow's History

## Historical Alliance Meetings



All YHA meetings will be at the Alliance Museum at 7:00 PM at 9132 W. Smith St., Yorktown. We meet the 2nd to the last Tuesday. Next meeting is June 20th. There is no meeting in July. Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



## Yorktown Farm and Artisan Market

Fridays through Sep 29th, 4:30-7:30pm in the walnut grove at Morrows Meadow, 1901 Tiger Drive.

Artisan Crafts/ Local Produce/ Meat/ Goodies/ Fun



Farmers Market at Minnetrista: 9 AM-Noon, (Inside) Saturdays: Apr 1, Apr 15. Outside: May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27... and Saturdays throughout the summer. Discover fresh and healthy food, produce, and more!



## Delaware County Historical Society

Delaware County Historical Society Research Center is open on Fridays from noon to 4 PM at 120 East Washington Street, Muncie.

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 [dchspcpc@gmail.com](mailto:dchspcpc@gmail.com) for more information.

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

Check out the Delaware County Historical Society on [Facebook](#) for current meetings and updates.

## CIVIC GREEN CONCERT SERIES

7:30-9:30 PM, Downtown Yorktown

Bring a lawn chair, food and snacks, or get something from one of the food trucks. Food trucks at 5:30. Music at 7:30. Splash pad is open for the kids. Beer and wine for sale only at the venue. Be cool: no fireworks, weapons, alcohol, or bad vibes.

- Sat. June 17 [Grace Scott Band](#)
- Sat. July 1 [Indy Annies](#)
- Sat. July 15 [Toy Factory](#)
- Sat. July 29 [Southridge](#)
- Sat. Aug. 12 [Password Reset](#)
- Sat. Aug. 26 [Radio Patrol](#)
- Sat. Sep. 09 [Andrew Young](#)
- Sat. Sep. 16 [Woomblies](#)
- Sat. Oct. 07 [Grove Smash](#)



## Four for the Fourth

Four Mile Race and Fun Walk

**JULY 4TH**

\$30 for the Run/Walk

\$15 for the 1 Mile Fun Run

**CASH PRIZES**

<https://fourforthefourth.run/>

Over 1,000 yearly racers and over \$150,000 raised for community trail dollars

*More family fun all day!*

## 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.

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membership online](#)

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[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

We ask that people volunteer a couple of hours a week in the museum if they can.

## From the Web Master

The biography pages on the website are down. Biographies can still be displayed from the search bar. I'm working on resolving the issue. ~Julie

*IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE: The Delaware County Historical Society has in its library: **Doctors, Lawyers, Swindlers, Thieves: Gerald Chapman and the Tale of Two Gangs**. As you might recall in our last newsletter, I wrote about how the good people of Yorktown testified against Chapman. If you are interested in learning more about Chapman, this book, written in 2019 by David Bailey, may be a good shot, so to speak.*



The [Indiana Digital Library](#) is available through the Yorktown Library.

The library is a happening place. There are thousands of audio books and ebooks that can be borrowed. Visit the library or their [website](#) for information.

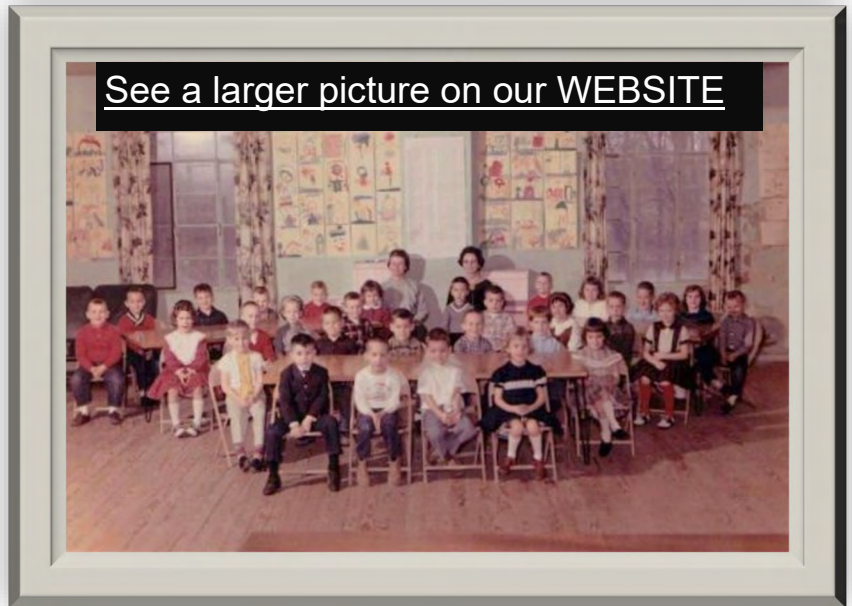
If you have **ideas** for a newsletter or want to **write** a column, please contact Julie Musick at my personal email: [JHillgrove@gmail.com](mailto:JHillgrove@gmail.com). **Comments, complements, clarification, and complaints** about the newsletter are always welcome.

## Alpha Omega Kindergarten Graduation (Continued from Page 4)

We graduated with our little mortar board caps. I still remember dancing to "[Ballin' the Jack](#)" and singing "[Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow.](#)" The boys performed a gun march. (How times have changed!) Alpha Omega Kindergarten graduated with these children. An "\*" beside the name means that the child also graduated from YHS in 1976

### 1964 Alpha Omega Graduates

<b>Allen</b> , Deborah	<b>Marvin</b> , Bill*
<b>Bonnet</b> , Jerry*	<b>McCormick</b> , David*
<b>Bousman</b> , Larry*	<b>Morris</b> , John*
<b>Burton</b> , Jeff*	<b>Morrow</b> , Melinda*
<b>Clevenger</b> , Eric	<b>Musick</b> , Julie(*)
<b>Clevenger</b> , Larry*	<b>Puckett</b> , Tammy*
<b>DeWees</b> , Richard	<b>Richards</b> , Kevin
<b>Fight</b> , Kendra*	<b>Ritchie</b> , William
<b>Fight</b> , Kimberly*	<b>Shores</b> , Lisa
<b>Gale</b> , Jerry*	<b>Spurgeon</b> , Craig
<b>Gillum</b> , Anita	<b>Stanley</b> , John*
<b>Grimes</b> , Gregory	<b>Townsend</b> , Paul
<b>Hamilton</b> , Nancy*	<b>Turner</b> , Wayne*
<b>Johnson</b> , James*	<b>Warfel</b> , Brenda*
<b>Lance</b> , Sherry*	<b>Wilhoit</b> , Michelle*
<b>Libey</b> , Douglas	<b>Woods</b> , Charles
<b>Lynn</b> , Michael*	



Program, photo, and name list from the author's personal collection.

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



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

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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/>