

Once Upon a Time

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

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Editor: Julie Musick

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From the Editor Julie A. Musick

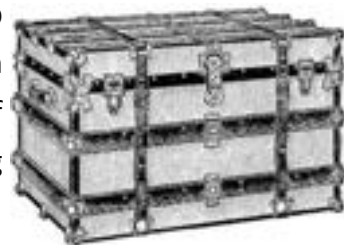
How compelling can an old grandma be?

Sitting at the feet of my great-grandmother, Mayme, I listened to tales of the harrowing trip of our family traveling in a wagon through the Appalachian mountains on a journey from Virginia to Kentucky. Her great-great-grandfather, Captain Valentine **Peyton**, a Revolutionary War veteran had received a land grant for his service. That land sat squarely in the middle of (what became) Lexington, Kentucky.

She pointed with a crooked finger at an old chest that sat in the corner of her room.

"If that old chest could talk," she said. "It bounced all the distance

from Virginia to [then county of] Kentucky, maybe even coming on the trip across the ocean from England in 1600's. Anyway, would you believe that when ole' Valentine finally got to his land in Kentucky, he didn't want it! It was full of cane. He traded it for land smack dab in the middle of Kentucky. On it, he dug 'Peyton's Well'. Travelers would come to drink the healing water."



History, at its core, is the telling of stories.

My great-grandmother, Mayme, and her stories got me hooked on history. I had a hundred questions. I wanted to know the

facts behind those stories. Particularly, I wanted to know how my family interacted with historical events. I swore to her then to keep the family history and pass it on. The trouble is that my kids grew up with genealogy and trips to libraries and exploring weed-filled cemeteries on vacations. Sadly, they aren't fans.

I scored a victory this week when a grandchild called me for information for a presentation about a famous ancestor, **Edwin Musick**, (world-renown early pilot.) She asked BY NAME! Another grandchild asked for my password to Ancestry. com, of which I didn't comply. But what a win! Mayme would be proud. Our stories do matter! Tell yours. My limited days keep me hopeful and always telling stories. ~Julie

Ode to an Outhouse

*Not many care to remember
Those four score years or so,
When we walked that well-worn path,
Because nature said "to go"!*

*Neither dark of night
Nor winter's frosty cold
Deterred us from our duty –
In those glorious days of old.*

*A kerosene lantern accompanied us
When at night on the seat we sat;
Occasionally glancing into the black
Of that open – pitted vat.*

*No one ever lingered
Or wasted time back then
Just do your job and hurry back
To the warm house again.*

*Many of these buildings
Had holes for two – or more,
But were seldom used in tandem
Behind that wooden door.*

*Decorations were terribly sparse
To say the very least.
Crescents, spiders, and corn cobs,
Upon which the eyes could feast.*

*Ah yes, those were the days
When outdoor plumbing was king -
And the old Sears – Roebuck catalog
Was really a useful thing.*

*No – there's no question about it
It certainly wasn't the Ritz
But it sure did come in handy
When a body had theflu.*

~Unknown

A Walk Out Back

By Becky Sears Monroe

A walk down the path to that little house mentioned in the poem is an experience not soon forgotten.



When traveling by automobile today there are a good number of rest parks available. These normally consists of convenient and clean restrooms. They might have shower rooms and an area where you can refill your supply of snacks as you continue your journey. Before this convenience, you might stop at a service station – there the facilities would possibly consist of two of the little buildings – one marked “Men” and the other “Women”.

In the restrooms of today, there is usually a nice roll of toilet tissue hanging on the wall or setting close by. No more Sears Catalogs. In the winter months a chamber pot might be put to use. That is a subject that I don't even want to think about.

From this point forward – enjoy the convenience of your indoor plumbing and be thankful for it.

On a personal note: The outhouse at my grandparents was not far from a railroad track. It was not at all unusual to see Hobos riding in the boxcars. I was always concerned that one of them might actually be in that little building when I opened the door. Fortunately that was never the case.

~Becky

Onesies, twosies, threesies...

Do you remember playing Jacks at recess or after school? My experience playing Jacks actually began at home where Jacks was a "Family Game." Everyone competed...mom and dad, aunts and uncles, cousins... When someone was married into the **Musick** family, they received their own set of Jacks.

My brother, Brad **Musick**, is the current reigning family champion, just as he was in fourth grade. He can go from "onesies" up to "tensies" and down again in a turn. Bifocals and arthritis may take away his title.

At Yorktown Elementary, fourth and fifth grade seemed to be the time when boys and girls were obsessed with playing Jacks on tables during indoor recess. When we had outside recess, we played kickball or jumped rope.

Earlier, at the old Yorktown School, students played on the wide half-concrete walls that lined the entrance to the school. (See picture below.)

We didn't make up the game of Jacks in Yorktown. It has been played for centuries. The game involves bouncing a small ball and picking up a set of small objects called jacks. My family thinks the ball and metal jacks from Cracker Barrel are the best.

The exact origin of the game is not clear, but it is believed to have been played early as in ancient Egypt, where children used small stones or animal bones instead of jacks. The game then spread to Greece and Rome, where it was played by children and adults.

The game became popular in England during the 16th century, when it was referred to as "**knucklebones**" because children used the bones of sheep or goats instead of jacks. The game continued to evolve, and by the 19th century, children were playing the game with small metal or plastic jacks and a small rubber ball.

Jacks became a popular game in the United States during the 20th century, and it was often played by children on playgrounds and sidewalks. At Yorktown Elementary, we played on tables and not on the ground. (We weren't much for sitting cross-legged in dresses at Yorktown Elementary.) The game was also a popular pastime for soldiers during World War II, and it was often played



during breaks in the fighting.

Today, Jacks is still played by people all over the world, and the game continues to evolve. My family has done its part to continue the tradition. Family reunions are getting larger. At the last reunion, my niece stayed up all night with a bottle of wine and set of jacks. She is ready to take on the champ!

It's never too late to learn to play:

[A short video on How to play Jacks](#)



Yorktown School

Jacks were often played on the half-wall before Yorktown Schools moved to the new building in 1956,

~Julie A Musick



Boys Basketball Sectional Winners 1973



Lewis wins second consecutive state title

Dennis Lewis wins the state

1973



And the crowd roars! 1973

The year 1973 was a time of social and political change in the United States. The Vietnam War was winding down, the draft had just ended, and President Nixon was facing impeachment over the Watergate scandal. In terms of pop culture, some of the biggest movies of the year included [The Sting](#), [American Graffiti](#), and [The Exorcist](#). If the incessant guitar playing of a neighbor teenager was a barometer, "[Smoke on the Water](#)" had to be the top song of the year. (Alas, it was #50.) Number one was "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree." (Really, '73?!)

For high school seniors in 1973, there was a mix of excitement and uncertainty about what the future held. Many young people were questioning traditional values and seeking alternative lifestyles. The women's liberation movement was gaining momentum, and there was increasing awareness of issues like racial and gender equality.

YHS class members most often mentioned winning the boys basketball sectional and traveling to the regionals in a caravan as one of their fondest memories. The class is planning their 50th class reunion soon. The class list we updated on Facebook is on our webpage. ~Julie

IT HAPPENED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Rebellious Fashions of 1923

By Julie A. Musick

We all tend to imagine flapper dresses when we think of dresses in the 1920s. Dresses were short, with dropped waists and straight silhouettes. As every young girl wants in any era, the dresses looked nothing like dresses worn by her mother or grandmother.

Experimentation and change ruled fashion a hundred years ago. Designers embraced new styles and rejected traditional Victorian and Edwardian fashion, as did their young consumers.

It was after the end of the Great War. When Americans shipped off to Europe for combat, 16,500 women were included among the troops. After the war, soldiers and women returned home to a society searching to understand the place of the United States in the world. Women and black men returned to a country in which the rights they had fought for overseas didn't exist in the United States for them. It is estimated the between WWI and WWII, two million blacks moved from the South to northern cities in search for economic opportunity and racial justice. Women returned and fought for their right to vote in 1920.

The fashion of this decade emulated that rebellious spirit. Dressing in the 1920s was all about glamour and excess.

Women's clothing reflected these extravagances with beaded and sequined dresses, fur stoles, and large art deco jewelry with bold colors and geometric shapes.



[Cloche hats](#) were all the rage. The hats were close-fitting and often made of felt, with a bell-like shape that covered the forehead and the ears.

The hair, cut in a short bob, complimented the hat's shape—the "[Eton crop](#)", as it was called—was made popular by [Josephine Baker](#), the popular dancer, jazz singer and actress.

I once sewed a flapper dress from an original 1919 pattern. Women were much smaller then and instructions were sparse. It was expected that the seamstress knew how to sew a dress. Well, hmm...good thing for Yorktown 4-H and YMS home economics, Mrs. Cindy **Peters!**

I made the dress for my grandmother, Rose. She was always very stylish. At her granddaughter's wedding, she wore that purple, sparkly dress with

long black fringe and strings of beads tied hanging to her waist. She appreciated that I lined the dress with fleece and made a fleece wrap camouflaged with the fabric from her dress. She topped off the look with a headpiece, long gloves and a cigarette holder for her bubble gum cigarettes.

She was 90 years old and the real deal, dancing until the end.
~Julie

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**. Want to speak on a subject? Contact Becky **Sears Monroe** at: bmonroe4159@gmail.com

Next Meeting on April 18 at 7:00PM, at the Museum. ~ We will be taking a field trip upstairs to explore the I.O.O.F. Lodge. There is a chair lift at the front door for those who need a lift up the stairs. Meet at the Museum. Everyone is invited.

Mark **May 23rd** and **June 20th** on your calendars for upcoming YHA meetings. Subjects and speakers are still in the works.

Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

CIVIC GREEN CONCERT SERIES



7:30-9:30 PM

- Fri. May 19 [My Yellow Rickshaw](#)
- Sat. June 3 [That 90's Band](#)
- Sat. June 17 [Grace Scott Band](#)
- Sat. July 1 [Indy Annie's](#)
- Sat. July 15 [Toy Factory](#)
- Sat. July 29 [Southridge](#)

Great music coming our way!



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!

Tea & Talk: Beneath the Soil at Minnetrista: 3-4:30PM, May 10. This Tea & Talk is the perfect opportunity for those looking to dive into the history of Muncie.

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.

First Thursdays Art Walk each month in Muncie

5:00 – 8:00 PM; explore downtown Muncie and visit galleries and talk with artists. Take advantage of the opportunity to purchase unique creations and support local artists.



Delaware County Historical Society



Delaware County Historical Society has reopened the doors of the Research Center 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 for more information.

[Delaware County Historical Society Ancestor Hunters](#) meet each month on the last Monday. Email Karen 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.

[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 on Dead Fred. You may also be able to identify people in mystery photos. Because photos were often spread throughout families, 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.

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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

As of March 31, 2023, we have **6,195 people** in our database and **16,470 records**.

*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 of 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. **Comments, complements, clarification, and complaints** about the newsletter are always welcome.

Did you know that [Find-a Grave](#) will let you combine your ancestor memorials scattered across the country and put them together into one Virtual Cemetery? I'm doing this with my family. The hope is it will help differentiate those family members with common names. ~Julie

Did you know that Google has digitized books, newspapers, magazines and made them available digitally? Many history books and genealogy books are available for free. Go to: <https://books.google.com/> and use the Google books browser for your search. You can search for an endless number of topics.

Do you wonder who owned your old house? In Delaware County you can utilize the land records database through the Muncie Public Library. Go to: <http://digitalresource.munpl.org/default.asp>. There you can find deeds, wills, court records, some cemetery and funeral home records.

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/>

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

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What is Left When Honor is Lost



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



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