



2014

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014

"Objects of Desire"
Maplecrest Country Club 12 to 4 PM
Featuring Karl Gates, appraiser
Reservation required
Details in this newsletter

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014

First Friday 'Green Day'
'Shredding to Re-Cycle'
Stop in for recycling ideas
Museum Open 5 to 9 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014

First Friday 'I ♥ Goshen Criterium'
Museum Open 5-9 PM

MAY 20, 22, 27, 29, 2014

Livelong Learning Institute of
Elkhart County
'Local Historic Architecture'
For information: Call the museum
574-975-0033 or www.life-learn.org
Ervin Beck, coordinator

Museum Musings

by John Hertzler

I live in the Historic Southside Neighborhood in Goshen, in a house built in 1908. We are fortunate to have the abstract that takes us way back when the land was purchased from the original occupants of this area. It is a fascinating document. But that isn't the reason for my musings.

Our house is fairly typical for the neighborhood. The neighborhood was built up during the era when people sat on their front porch and visited with each other and with those passing by. Homes had full width front porches, but ours is only half the

continued on page 2

Recent Museum Acquisition

Framed picture and this obituary was sent to us by Virginia Champion Mordy. The picture was wrapped in 2 pieces of a woolen coverlet dated 1847 that had been at the house at 101 N 3rd St since her family moved in. It is believed that it was made for the Rowell family when they moved into the house in 1847, the year the house was built.

October 30, 1917 - Charles Kohler, ex-mayor of Goshen (elected in the fall 1905 and who served from September 1906 until January 1910) and who was a member of the common council for fourteen years, and was the Democratic nominee for councilman in the Third ward.

Mr. Kohler was born in Goshen 63 years ago (October 15, 1854). His father Daniel Kohler, a native of Germany, came from that country to America in 1831 and in 1835 located in Goshen establishing a wagon shop. He died when his son was four years old. Mr. Kohler worked on the old George Rowell farm, attended school in Niles, Michigan, clerked in the Muessel Grocery in South Bend and the Clarkson W. Bateman grocery in Goshen, was a finisher in the Noble factory, shipping clerk at the E.W. Walker shop, conducted an express line, hauling the United States mail from the railroad to the post office four years; began as a salesman for Elson & Becker clothiers, April 20, 1891, and May 4, 1900 with Charles M. Shoup, acquired that business, the firm name being the same now as when it was formed more than 17 years ago.

Mr. Kohler had membership in the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. As a politician in Goshen City, Mr. Kohler came into prominence more than 30 years ago. At the municipal election in May of 1886, as the Democratic nominee in the old First

ward (that portion of the city north of Lincoln Avenue) he was elected to serve in the council for two years, defeating John F. Scott (Republican) and George D Hawks (Prohibition). His plurality was 51 votes.



In the fourteen years he was a member of the council Mr. Kohler was absent from but two meetings --one on account of death and the other because of sickness.

Nominated for mayor by Democrats in the spring of 1904, Mr. Kohler had one of the most sensational campaigns ever waged here, lost to Republican Alfred Lowry who had a

lead of 17 votes. In November of the following year, 1905, Mr. Kohler won for mayor by 24 votes. He did not assume his duties until the following September, serving until Mayor Spohn succeeded him in January 1909. Since 1875 Mr. Kohler has been a member of the Goshen Fire Department. He has for many years manifested a keen interest in affairs of the city and brought about many improvements in Oak Ridge Cemetery. When he became mayor in 1906 he had more power than had ever been given to any of his predecessors. Successful in his business pursuits and always unusually industrious, Mr. Kohler has accumulated considerable real estate in Goshen. His range of acquaintances is very wide and there are but few people here who do not know and who have no long known Charlie Kohler.



Looking Back 100 Years – March-April 1914

by Dale Garber

March 3, 1914 – Charles Reed won the first prize and Louis Miller the second prize in the oratorical contest at Goshen College Monday night. A large audience heard the orations and applauded the orators. The first prize was \$15 and the second prize \$10. The prizes were offered by B.F. Deahl of Goshen. The other contestants were Willard Blosser, Leo Hershberger and Orus Yoder. The judges were Supt. Mendenhall, Rev. E.E. VanNuys and Prof. C. B. Blosser the debate was on the subject of “world peace by arbitration.”

April 18, 1914 – A.F. Wilden on Sunday, April 19th, will celebrate his eightieth birthday. All of his children, grand children and great-grand children as well as relatives from a distance will assemble at his home honor of the event. Mr. Wilden is one of the citizens who has contributed greatly to the present prosperity and greatness of Goshen. For many years he was active in developing the city, her industries, her institutions and her

homes. The last in particular is one of the assets of Goshen of which her citizens are justly proud. Mr. Wilden was in the banking business from 1887 to 1898, and then launched into real estate business, which he had been more or less interested in for several years. Mr. Wilden did much toward building up the North Side. He enabled many men to buy homes by selling on small installments. Altogether he sold 1,500 lots and built 275 houses. He also assisted in building up East Goshen. He went to Kalamazoo and brought several Holland farmers to Goshen and started the celery industry. Mr. Wilden was one of the oldest Masons in Goshen, being one of the first members of Goshen Lodge, No. 12, F.&A.M. He has for years been one of the pillars of the First Presbyterian Church.

April 23, 1914 – Company L of the National Guard is planning a practice march next Sunday morning. According the present plans the company in heavy

marching order, meaning full field equipment, will leave the armory about 5:30 A.M. and will march to Benton. From Benton the company will march to New Paris, and from New Paris will march home. Field rations for one day will be carried. Company L mustered four new men Wednesday night. The armory is open every day and every evening and a person desiring to enlist should apply at the armory. Squad drill is held every evening April 27, 1914 - While in Goshen over Sunday, Judge F.E. Baker announced the appointment of Robert Beck, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Beck, Jr. as law clerk and secretary to the judges of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago. Mr. Beck will begin his new job on May first. He leaves Tuesday to secure a working knowledge of the office. Mr. Beck is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School of 1913 and for the past several months has been in the office of L.L. Burriss of this city.

Museum Musings *Continued from page 2*

width of the home. I can tell the structure originally had a full width porch because the foundation stones on either side of the house are beautifully dressed, while the stones on the exposed front of the house are not dressed. When did the full-width porch shrink in size? It is possible that building permits from long ago could be researched, but this avenue would likely end up being a blind alley. Documents coming with the purchase of the house don't show when structural changes occurred. However there is a local source for finding this information. In the Indiana Room of the Goshen Public Library can be found a collection of Goshen's Sanborn Maps. These are large, cumbersome books, but worth the effort to investigate. In the various maps I discovered when our house was built, with the original footprint, and later on when it lost the wide front porch. From Wikipedia I quote: “The Sanborn Maps were originally created for assessing fire insurance liability in urbanized areas in the United States... from 1867 to 1970...Stated simply, the

Sanborn maps are a guide to American urbanization that is unrivaled by other cartography and, for that matter, by few documentary resources of any kind. They are a highly useful resource for historical research, planning, preservation, genealogical research, sociological studies and research of urban geography.” The full Wikipedia article is very interesting, and if that isn't enough for you, the article continues with additional external links.

For those interested in the historical development of Goshen, these Sanborn Maps are a goldmine. These early maps show lots of details about our hydraulic canal, including the original length, which was a few blocks further north than it now is. We had far more rail lines coming in and out of town, with those details captured by these maps. Downtown building uses and occupants are shown.

The following information from the Sanborn Maps gives you a taste of Goshen's development:

March 1886 map

Population 6000.

Fire Department: volunteer, 6 independent hose carts and 6 companies, 3600 ft. of hose, No steam or hand engines.

September 1892 map

Population 7500

Fire Department: volunteer, 48 men, 2, -4wheel & 1 -2 wheel independent hose carts drawn by horses, 1 hook and ladder truck, 3000 ft rubber and fabric house. Gamewell fire alarm system. 20 boxes.

October 1901 map

Population 10,000

Fire Department: One chief, five men and 20 volunteers all paid, two horses, one hose wagon, one auto combination hose chemical and ladder truck, 3000 ft 2 ½” cotton, rubber lined hose. Gamewell fire alarm system, 30 boxes, alarms by bell in courthouse tower and by whistle at water works. Take some time to visit the library and peruse these maps to discover some fascinating facts about the history of your house, your neighborhood, or the city of Goshen. You will be glad you did.

First Fridays

First Friday Happenings at the museum on April 4th "SHREDDING TO RECYCLE"

Goshen Historical Museum 124 S. Main Street

The Goshen Historical Society and Museum is going green for First Friday in April by helping get the word out to SHRED your old documents. Play it safe with your bank statements, bills, tax records and other personal information! get them shredded and properly dispose of your personal papers at the mobile paper shredding event, hosted by The Retreat Women's Health Center and Integra Certified Document Destruction, in partnership with the Goshen Historical Society and Museum.

By making a donation you are helping HeartString Sisters, a support program that connects newly diagnosed breast cancer patients to breast cancer survivors and provides free screening mammograms to eligible women in our community. Suggested donations: \$10 for the first five bags or boxes of paper you bring to shred. Each additional bag/box is \$5.

Come to the Museum on First Friday in April from 5-9 PM and see the display regarding Heart String Sisters and collect your Shred it UP card that entitles you to a free gift at the Retreat shredding event on Saturday, April 5th from 9-11 AM.



DUES DUE!

Please check your newsletter address label. In the upper right hand corner there is a date or the word "Life".

Our yearly membership expires 12/31 of each year. Current members will see "Life" or "12/31/2013" or later. If you see a date some years earlier than this, you may consider this to be the last newsletter you will receive.



For more information call
537-0300

Active Adult Village

Celebrating and Supporting Life's Journey

Condominium Living
Apartment Living
Assisted Living
Emily's House - Memory Support
www.waterfordseniorvillage.com




ECONOMY OFFSET
PRINT AND DIGITAL SERVICES

2516-A Industrial Park Dr., Goshen
574.534.6270
www.EconomyOffset.com



GOSHEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S Day Bus Trip "Grand Old City" Dowagiac, Michigan Wednesday, June 11, 2014

COST: \$122 per person

Tour Includes: Round trip transportation, lunch, admission & tours per above itinerary

Complete & mail the tour registration form below to confirm your place on the day trip.

No deposit required. Final payment is due by April 21.

Tour Reservation Form

Goshen Historical Society's Day Bus Trip - Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Mail with payment to: Kay Garber / 17280 CR 40 / Goshen, IN 46526-7333 / Phone: (574) 642-4516



GOSHEN *Historical* SOCIETY

124 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-3702

MARCH-APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

Board Members/Officers

Bob Baltosser	534-1084
Janet Buccicone	361-7373
Dale Garber (curator)	642-4516
John Hertzler (office mgr)	533-0657
Wanda Hoffman	533-6180
Tom Holtzinger	533-5778
Jan Johnson (secretary)	533-6414
Marcy Kisseberth (tres.)	533-7771
Betty Kummeth	533-4605
Ursula Mars (pres.)	533-0735
Dave Troup (vice pres.)	533-6216
Marion Troyer	533-2201

Check mailing label for membership expiration date.

WWW.GOSHENHISTORICAL.ORG

GOSHEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

***Remember - being a member is the only way to hear about the next Objects of Desire and all our other programs.
As a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation your membership dues are tax deductible, but please consult your tax advisor.***

I am

- Entering (New Membership)
- Renewing My Annual Membership in the amount of:
 - \$12 Senior Citizen (62)
 - \$20 Individual Adult
 - \$400 Lifetime Member
- A Donation of \$ _____

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____

Send Membership Application to:

The Goshen Historical Society

“The Adams Store”

124 South Main Street

Goshen, IN 46526

Phone: 574-975-0033

Email: museum@goshenhistorical.org

Website: www.goshenhistorical.org