



ORANGE PEELINGS

SPRING-SUMMER, 2023



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As the warmer and brighter days arrive here in beautiful and historic Southern Indiana, the OCHS is busy collecting, preserving and sharing Orange County history. We are excited about starting a new year together. Just a reminder OCHS typically meets the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. with a program on some aspect or link to Orange County's rich history. A general business meeting is held at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. All meetings unless otherwise noted are held at the Paoli Library. Members are always welcome and urged to attend.

The Museum is now open for the 2023 Season Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop in and see us. The historic Lindley House is also open for tours on an appointment only basis.

Mark your calendars! July 8th Civil War era Living History Day at the Lindley Farmhouse.

We are thrilled beyond words on our recent generous gift from the OC Community Foundation for the historic Paoli Newspaper Preservation Project. More on this in this newsletter.

As always, thank you for being a member of the OCHS. We are grateful for your continual support. We have been pleased to receive a number of brand-new members in the last few months and would like to officially welcome them to our ranks.

Find and Like Us on Facebook to keep up with all the latest OCHS Happenings. And visit us at www.historicorangecounty.org

Regards,

Robert F. Henderson

President/CEO



Saving Historic Orange County (SHOC) Kicks Off Its 18th Year

Saving Historic Orange County, SHOC, has kicked off its 18th year of promoting historic preservation locally.

The first event for 2023 was a community service workshop offered area realtors. Lead by Laura Renwick from the southern office of Indiana Landmarks, the session provided continuing education credits while realtors learned the various styles of architecture in this region.

This month, SHOC is gearing up for a celebration of National Historic Preservation Month in May. Members are on the lookout for a historic structure whose owner has recently made a concerted effort to preserve it. Recipient of the annual award is typically announced in

conjunction with the observance of Historic Preservation month.

A display at Paoli Public Library will also highlight Preservation Month. Orange County is blessed with numerous National Register Historic districts in French Lick, Orleans, Paoli and West Baden. Scattered about the county are 16 individually listed National Register structures. The first was our historic Orange County Courthouse, listed on the National Register in 1974. Others in order of listing are Lindley House, 1985; The Braxtan, 1989; West Baden National Bank and West Baden Springs Hotel, 1993; Paoli Historic District and First Baptist Church (colored) West Baden, 1994; Newberry Friends Meetinghouse, 1996; Homestead Hotel, 1998; Dixie Garage and Oxford Hotel, 2001; Lynd School, 2002; French Lick Springs Hotel, 2003; Orleans Historic District, 2009; Jenkins Place at Orleans, 2010; and Schindler-Stetson House, 2021.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Living History Day
At the Lindley Farmhouse
July 8th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



CIVIL WAR DISPLAYS • GUIDED FARMHOUSE TOURS
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT & MORE

The Orange County Historical Society (OCHS) held its Annual Dinner on December 1st at the historic Lingle Room in Paoli. OCHS President Robert F. Henderson gave the welcome with Chris Lindley providing the invocation. The tables decorated festively for the occasion with a delicious meal being catered by Jerry Wall.

A brief business session followed dinner with President Henderson highlighting some the historical society's activities from this past special 50th Anniversary year.

Officers and Board members for 2023 were installed and they are as follows:

EXEC. COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Robert F. Henderson, President
- Roger Moon, Vice President
- Gary Spear, Recording Secretary
- Carolyn Clements, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Terry Cornwell, Chair, Carolyn Clements, Jeff Lane, Janet Newton and Brenda Cornwell.

Henderson expressed appreciation for the many things accomplished by the Society and its members noting the sizeable undertaking taken on by the group for the Paoli Historic Newspaper project.

50th Anniversary Celebration Highlights



Here's to the next 50!



Our friend and longtime OCHS LIFE Member Sharon Thompson Parys of Province, MO recently shared this picture of her presentation of the Jonathan Lindley story, Battle of Lindley Mills, and history of his life in Indiana and a bit about the Lindley home for her fellow DAR Daughters.

Sharon said that her program was well received and that the audience members were really impressed that the Lindley Mills are still operating! She also promised to make some bread using the flour sent to her from a distant NC cousin.

"So proud of our Lindley family history and all the good work by OCHS." Sharon added.



Alice's handmade woven rag carpet, a style typical of the late 1800s will remain. Other updates will include plaster repair work, freshening up of the paint on the wooden doors and trim and window dressings.

For the first time since 1977 the Alice Childs Room at the historic Lindley House is getting a much-needed face lift this spring. New period like wall covering will soon be going up on the walls, along with a reproduction of a Civil War era quilt for the antique bed. The work is being completed by our friend John Presser shown here removing the old red pattern wallpaper. The late Miss Childs, an Orangeville Resident, donated the furnishings of the downstairs bedroom in memory of her parents many years ago now.

The Orange County Historical Society received a tremendous boost during its first meeting of 2023 held on March 28th at the Paoli Library. Imogene Dedrick (far right), Executive Director of the Orange County Community Foundation presented a check to OCHS in the amount of \$7,850 to go towards the Society's purchase of a microfilm reader as part of the Historic Paoli Newspaper Project.

The reader when purchased will be placed at the Paoli Public Library along with scanned reels of the newspaper collection for the purpose of historic research and genealogy work. Also pictured during the presentation was l to r OCHS Treasurer Carolyn Clements, President-CEO Robert F. Henderson and Vice President Roger Moon. Not pictured was Terry Cornwell, OCHS Board Chair.

Henderson speaking on behalf of the Society's Board of Directors and membership expressed his appreciation to Dedrick and the OCCF for their partnership and support in the newspaper preservation efforts.



Photo Credit: Valarie Moon



Roger Moon (right) and Ron Prosser (left) presented an interesting and informative program for the first meeting of 2023 of the Orange County Historical Society held last Tuesday night at the Paoli Library. Moon and Prosser have been working the last few months gathering World War II era letters that were originally printed in the historic Paoli newspapers from the 1940s. The end result of the project will be a forthcoming book, with a working title of "Visions from Home." with proceeds benefitting the OCHS.

Donations

- Mike Holland** - several items from the Handle Factory
- Cyndi Rowland** - antique work table
- Robert Henderson** - period hanging light fixture, Civil War era reproduction quilt for Alice Childs Room
- Melva Gray** - "Memories of Paul Freeman" booklet
- I.U. Health-Paoli** - antique wheel chair
- Ernest Dollar** - microfilm from Orange County, North Carolina

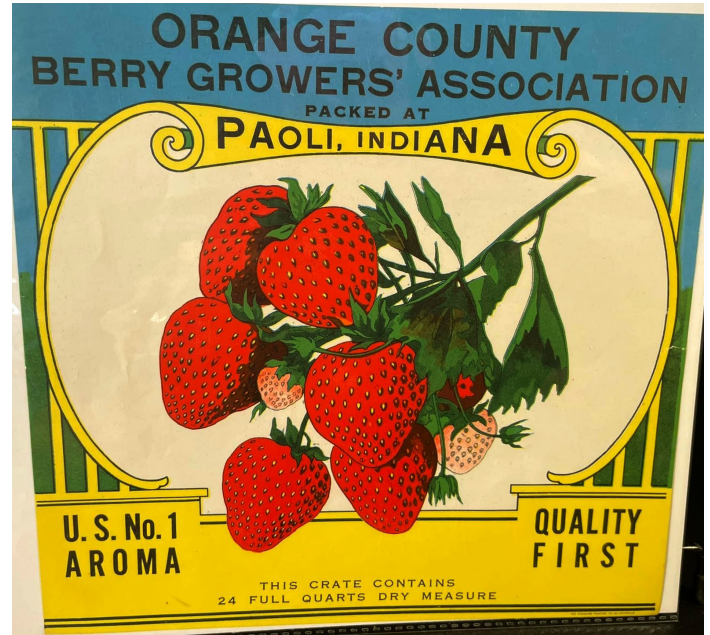
Monetary Donations

- Barbara Jones • Sharon Parys • Diane Dillard • Frank Hodges
- Drs Curtis Thill & Yolanda J. Yoder • David Straub • Mary Boston

ORLEANS MAN FINDS MASTODON TOOTH

Thomas B. Walker, Esq., of Orleans, Orange County, showed us this morning what appears to be the tooth of a mastodon, picked up by him in Orleans, it having been exhumed, as is supposed, in digging a cellar. This relic of a past age weighs about 3 and 1/2 pounds, and it's certainly a wonder, as a tooth. (May 2, 1862 New Albany Ledger)

Who is Ready For Strawberries?



As an offshoot of the historical society's Newspaper Archives Project, OCHS Vice President Roger Moon is co-authoring with Ron Prosser a book about letters sent home from the men and women of Orange County who served during World War II. The majority of the excerpts from letters that the book will include came from wartime correspondence published in the Paoli Republican. Moon and Prosser also have attempted, when possible, to reach out to families who might not have been represented in the newspaper's pages.

In addition to the letters and the photographs of those writing them (when possible, to locate such photos), the authors clearly will acknowledge the braver of those gave their very lives for their country and will seek to provide information on the impact the wartime experience had on those who served and returned home. A timeframe for completing the project has not yet been determined. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Orange County Historical Society.

