

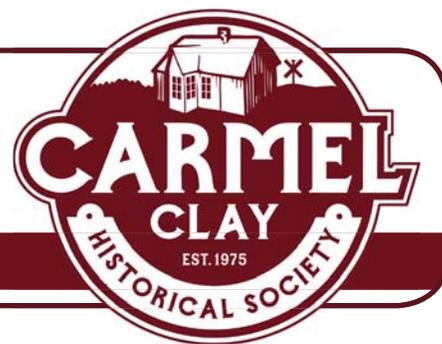
THE CARMEL SIGNAL

CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fourth Quarter 2022

| Established 1975

| Our 47th Year



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Much work was done this quarter to prepare the site for construction of the new museum! In September, the Monon Depot was temporarily relocated to a lot on 3rd Avenue SW. This was to protect the Depot during construction and to allow better access to the site for the construction equipment. The cottage located on the lot to the south was also razed. The redesigned project will go back out for bids, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that all will be ready for a groundbreaking next year.



Community Church next door, which was open to patrons.

We would like to thank our sponsors, Studio M, Home Living Team and Bussell Family Funerals for their support. Thanks also to Dan and Sue McFeely of All Things Carmel for tending bar on Friday night and to Meg Osborne for her PR work on the tour! We also had over 100 volunteers who generously gave their time and talents to this fundraiser. This was truly a community effort that created a wonderful event!



HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

The 26th Annual Holiday Home Tour wrapped up a couple of weeks ago, and it was a complete success! Thank you to the four wonderful homeowners who graciously opened their doors to over 500 Mid-Century Modern enthusiasts! This year's tour included four Mid-Century Modern homes, three of which were designed by Carmel native Avriel Shull. Shull was a self-taught architect and designer. Despite her lack of formal training, she designed and built homes and commercial buildings at a time when there were very few women in the industry. She also designed the neighborhood clubhouse in which we held the VIP reception on Friday night and the Chinese

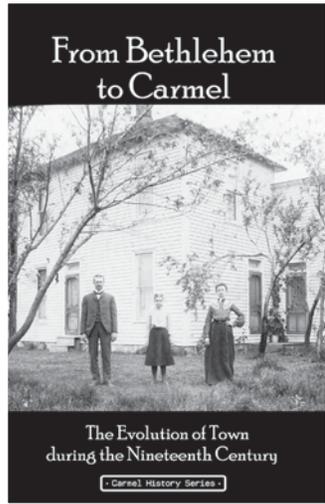


NEW BOOK AVAILABLE—MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

We are excited to announce that a new book in our Carmel History Series has been published. *From Bethlehem to Carmel* covers the time period 1822–1899. It begins with a chapter on

Carmel's Quaker roots. Quakers founded the town of Bethlehem, now Carmel, in 1837. Their advocacy for education, abolitionism, peace and temperance largely shaped the culture in town for much of the nineteenth century.

This book also discusses the impact of the Civil War, tells the stories of the freedmen and freedwomen who made their home here after emancipation, and tells how the town developed during the Gilded Age. The book concludes with the history of three forgotten towns—Mattsville, Sockum/Eldorado, and East Branch/Gray—and a history of the nineteenth century churches.



The book is available at All Things Carmel, or you can order [online](#).

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the General Membership was held at City Hall on October 26. Attending members voted in favor of the proposed ballot of officers and board members. Brad Sexauer will serve as president and Lily Pai as vice president. Lisa McLaughlin will serve as secretary, and Deb

Teets will continue as treasurer.

Julie Kingston was presented our Volunteer of the Year Award



Jim and Ginny Steckley were given our Heritage Award.

We were honored to present our Heritage Award to Jim and Ginny Steckley and our Volunteer Award to Julie Kingston. Thank you all for your efforts this past year in improving CCHS and our Carmel community!

MEET OUR NEW CITY ARCHIVIST

We are pleased to announce that Brendan White is CCHS's new City Archivist. Brendan is actually not a new face at CCHS. He has worked part-time as an archives assistant and has volunteered for us since 2020. We are so pleased he is filling this new role.

Brendan grew up in Kokomo and Greentown. After graduating from Eastern High School in 2011, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Indiana University Kokomo. After graduating in 2015, he went to Ball State University to earn a master's degree in history. While at Ball State, he worked part-time as research assistant for the Center for Middletown Studies at the Bracken Library. He graduated in May 2018 and volunteered at Minnetrista in Muncie for a little over a year. He then volunteered and worked part-time at the Greentown Historical Society, Tipton County Historical Society, Indiana State Museum, and the Indiana Historical Society. He currently volunteers at the Westfield-Washington Historical Society and the Hamilton County Historical Society. He also works part-time as cataloger at the Sheridan Historical Society. During the summer, he works part-time as a docent at the Arcadia Depot, which is a local history museum operated by the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad in Arcadia.



Member News

We welcome the following New Members who joined CCHS in the 4th Quarter of 2022!

John Borntrager
Lisa McLaughlin
Nancy Tatum

Tidbits from our Facebook Page

Let's talk about how Carmel got its name because we believe the story that's been shared for several generations (including by CCHS) is wrong. The story went that the town of Bethlehem was granted a post office in 1846, but there was already a post office called Bethlehem in Clarke County. That part is true. According to town

office. Elizabeth had been working her loom and thinking about a Biblical city called Carmel that was known for its fertile land. She suggested the name to her husband. William then took the name to a town meeting, and the rest is history... except it didn't happen this way.

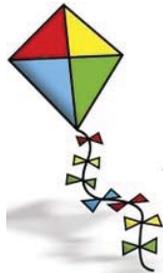
Last week, we looked into the story and discovered that Elizabeth Peele could not have suggested the name. In 1846, she was a teenager living in North Carolina. She didn't marry William until 1850, and they didn't come to Carmel until 1862.

John F. Haines was a county historian and the county's preeminent educator for several decades. He claimed in his Hamilton County history book and in several newspaper articles that his grandfather, Levi Haines Sr., came up with the name. Levi Haines was the town merchant and a prominent figure in Bethlehem. He ran the general store where the post office was located from 1839 to 1850, and in 1847, he became the postmaster. It is much more likely that he came up with the name. Though we might never know the specifics about how Carmel became Carmel, it seems Elizabeth Peele was not part of the equation.



lore, William Peele came home after attending a town meeting and told his wife Elizabeth about the struggle to come up with a name for the post

**SPECIAL THANKS IS EXTENDED
TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS:**



CCH+A, Old Town Design Group, Engledow Group, The National Bank of Indianapolis, All Things Carmel, Meg & Associates, Bussell Family Funerals, Shepherd Insurance, Carmel Welding, Ceramica, Musselman Landscape Solutions, Current in Carmel, Range Line Self Storage, The Barrington, Wedgewood Building Co., White's Ace Hardware, and Anthony's Chophouse.

CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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