

THE CARMEL SIGNAL

CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Second Quarter 2022

Established 1975

Our 47th Year



MUSEUM UPDATE

Preparations for the groundbreaking later this summer are underway! Applications have been submitted for the building permits, and plans are being made for the temporary relocation of the Depot and demolition of the cottage on the south end of the property. CCHS staff is working on the design of interior spaces and permanent exhibits. The staff is also working to obtain grants for programming and archival needs. Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the groundbreaking this summer!



of their cornfields and gardens. The incredible number of squirrels involved was confounding, and the pioneers were helpless to stop them.

This strange event is being memorialized for the Hamilton County Bicentennial with "The Great Squirrel Stampede," a 1K and 2K family fun run, on Saturday, September 17, at 8 a.m. at Coxhall Gardens. Help us spread the word about this fun event. Check our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) in the coming weeks for more details!

SPRING TEA

It was wonderful to be able to gather again and see so many familiar faces at our annual Spring Tea! This year's event was underwritten by the Barrington of Carmel. Heartfelt thanks to Nikki Meeker and the Barrington for hosting our group! The venue was beautiful, and the food was delicious! Our speaker, Dr.

THE GREAT SQUIRREL STAMPEDE

When the early settlers were just beginning to establish their homes and farms in Hamilton County, a peculiar event occurred that threatened their livelihoods. A large migration of squirrels passed through the state and ate everything in their path. Farmers lost much, if not the entirety,

Anita Morgan, a lecturer in the Department of History at IUPUI, made a wonderful presentation on the suffrage movement in Indiana. We are grateful she was able to join us! Thank you to all our attendees as well for making this a memorable event after a two-year hiatus!



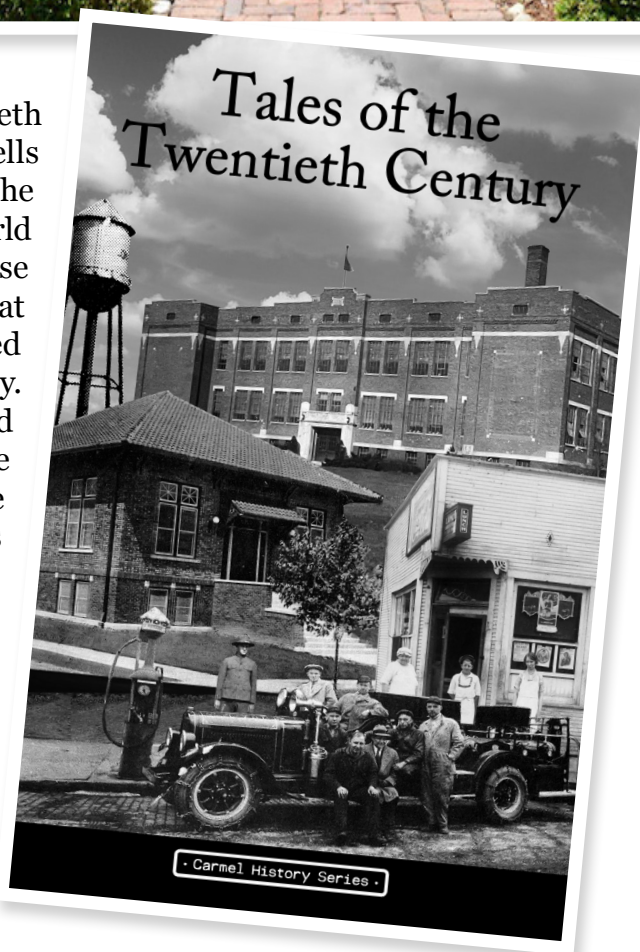
GARDEN TOUR

This year's Garden Tour highlighted three gorgeous gardens on an exceptionally beautiful weekend. An evening wine and cheese event was added this year. We appreciated the amazing work of the gardeners, who graciously shared tips for improving attendees' gardens, and the generous sponsorship of the event by White's Ace Hardware. We have already secured more beautiful gardens and outdoor spaces for the 2023 CCHS Garden Tour. Garden owners, volunteers, and attendees, thank you! CCHS appreciates your support!



NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

CCHS's new book, *Tales of the Twentieth Century*, is now available! This book tells the story of how Carmel navigated the perils of the early twentieth century—World War I, the flu pandemic of 1918, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana, the Great Depression and World War II—and emerged as the state's fastest-growing community. In the postwar era, Carmel experienced tremendous growth as people moved to the suburbs in large numbers and started the baby boom. New schools and subdivisions were built throughout Clay Township as a result. The book covers the time period 1917-1976 and gives a brief history of the fire and police departments and how the town transitioned to a city. You can order the book online or pick up a copy at All Things Carmel. [Click here for information on how to order.](#)



Member News

We welcome the following New Members who joined CCHS in the 2nd Quarter of 2022!

Leah York
Andris Berzins
Pat & Kris Fuller

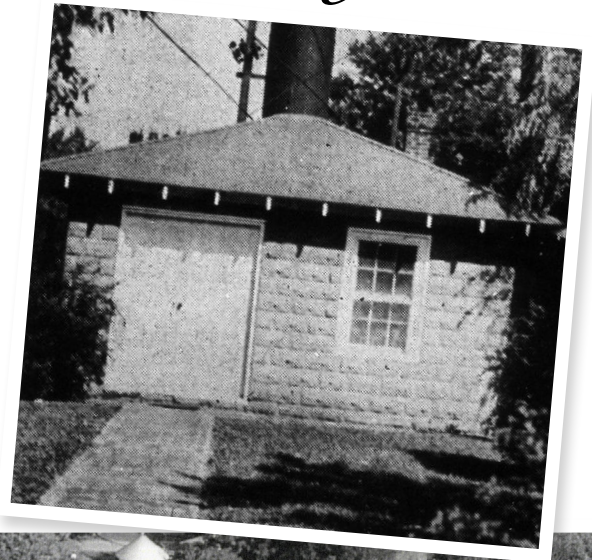
Charles and Barbara Malinowski
Nikki Meeker
Jill Phillips

Tidbits from our Facebook Page

This small building was once the seat of power in Carmel. It's actually been several things. First it was the pump house for the water tower constructed in 1929. The tower and pump house were located where the Evan Lurie Gallery building sits today on West Main Street. Shortly after the pump house was built, it became town hall. All five trustees of the town board, the clerk, the marshal, and anyone who had business to discuss with the board or just wanted to sit in on the board meeting squeezed into this tiny building.

In 1956, the town made an office in the pump house for the town marshal, Marvie Myers. That year, another patrolman was hired, making it a department of two. The office was small and shared a phone line with the water department, but it served as the police station for a decade. In 1966, the police department moved into an addition built onto the town hall and water works building at 130 1st Avenue NW. The following year, the water tower was dismantled.

Though the pump house was small and seemingly insignificant, it played an important role in Carmel for several decades.



**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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