

# THE CARMEL SIGNAL

## CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Second Quarter 2023

Established 1975

Our 48th Year



### MUSEUM UPDATE

We are excited to announce that the groundbreaking on the Carmel Clay History Museum is scheduled for June 14! It took a great deal of patience and effort to overcome the hurdles presented by a global pandemic and the subsequent inflation, but we are finally ready to begin construction! We are grateful to Clay Township and the City of Carmel for working with us to get this project moving forward.

All are invited to join us on site in Midtown on June 14 at 4 p. m. for a ceremonial groundbreaking on the history museum!



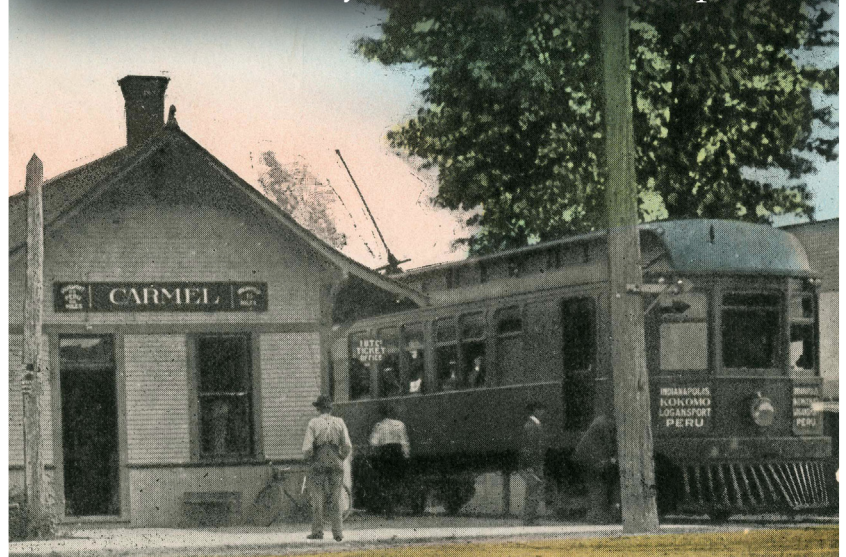
Hamilton County was established by an act of the state legislature in April 1823. It was originally divided into two townships, White River and Delaware Township, and it included parts of Tipton, Madison and Hancock County. Central Indiana was part of an expansive frontier when the land along Cool Creek and White River was first settled. The pioneers worked tirelessly to clear the forest and cultivate the land. They built cabins, roads and communities that laid the foundation for the city of Carmel. In 1881, Dr. James I. Rooker wrote the following in a letter to the *Noblesville Independent* regarding the character of the pioneers who settled here: "It took men and women with large ideas and indomitable will to undertake to clean out farms and make roads in those dense forests. . . . They were men and women in the fullest sense of the word. This county never could have been made to blossom had they not played their part."

We are excited to honor the pioneer families of Carmel by having their descendants lead this year's parade, and we hope to see you there, too!

### THE COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL TAKES CENTER STAGE AT CARMELFEST

For the 2023 Allied Solutions CarmelFest Parade, CCHS partnered with the Clay Township board, the City of Carmel, the Hamilton County commissioners and CarmelFest organizers to celebrate the county's bicentennial by featuring descendants of Carmel pioneers as grand marshals of the parade.

*Look for the trolley at the CarmelFest parade!*



## GRAND MARSHALS FOR THE PARADE

**Hensel:** Paul Hensel

**Callahan:** Doug Callahan

**Kinzer:** Joan Kinzer Ball and her son, Joseph Kinzer Ball

**Wise:** Brian Wise, his granddaughters, Quinn and Evelyn

**Pursel:** Jim and his sister, Jan Pursel Arbuckle

**Williamson:** Barbara Williamson Lawlor and her children, Steve Patrick Lawlor, Karen Laukaitis

**Hinshaw:** Judy Hinshaw Singleton

**Randall:** Waneta Randall Dunkerly

**Cotton:** Jay Cotton and his daughter, Linda Cotton

**Horton:** Phyllis Horton Rockhill

**Hershey:** Debbie Clark Gangstad

**Myers:** Jerry and Kay Myers

**Estridge:** Betty Bales

**Childs:** Nancy Cox

**Randall:** Neal and Jan

**Moffitt:** Eleanor Stuckey Moffitt, Roxanne Morgan, Judy Morgan Pope

**Hunt:** Pam Hunt Sims

## THE GREAT SQUIRREL STAMPEDE

Summer is here, and that means our 2nd Annual Great Squirrel Stampede is around the corner! Join us on Saturday, September 16, at Coxhall Gardens for a 1k and 3k family and pet-friendly fun run! Check our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) in the coming weeks for more details!

The theme for this event goes back to the pioneer era. 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, of their cornfields and gardens. The incredible number of squirrels involved was confounding, and the pioneers were helpless to stop them. Last

year, we memorialized this strange occurrence with our first fun run, and we are eager for the fun to continue this summer!



### Save The Date!

The Great Squirrel Stampede  
Family and Pet-friendly Fun Run



Sept. 16, 2023

## SPRING TEA

It was good to see 60 CCHS members and friends on April 28 at our annual Spring Tea! This year's tea was once again generously hosted by The Barrington of Carmel. We enjoyed hearing about the history of education in Carmel and the many amusing and heartwarming stories about Carmel teachers and their students during the presentation given by Deb Gangstad and Andrew Wright. This is always such a special event, and we hope to see you again next year!





## GARDEN TOUR

When we held our first Garden Tour five years ago, we had one garden and about 40 attendees. We are thrilled with how this event has grown! On June 2 and 3, about 120 people toured four beautiful gardens and outdoor living spaces around Carmel. Congratulations to Leah York and Celia Booher who won the raffle for \$25 gift cards to White's Ace Hardware and Garden Center!

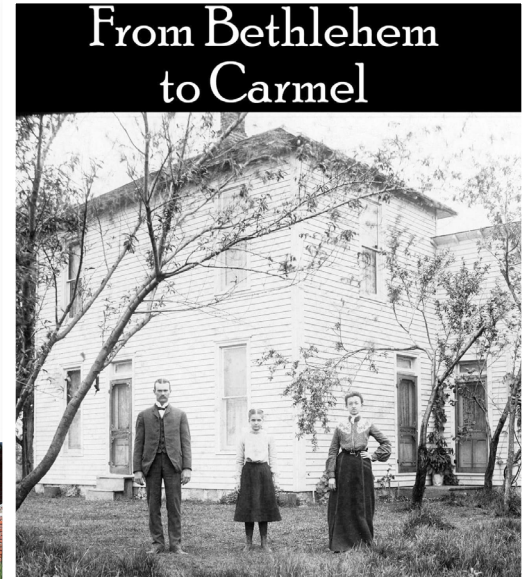
We are grateful for the homeowners who opened their gardens to our guests. We are also grateful for White's Ace Hardware for sponsorship of this event. Finally, thank you to the 36 volunteers who made this tour a success! We appreciate your support!!



## FROM BETHLEHEM TO CARMEL PRESENTATION

We hope you were able to attend our outstanding historical presentation "From Bethlehem to Carmel" on May 23. We were so pleased to have 160 guests at the beautiful Carmel Clay Public Library Community Rooms. CCHS sincerely appreciates our collaboration with the generous library staff led by Bob Swanay and Liz Hamilton.

C C H S members, watch your email for upcoming events!



From Bethlehem to Carmel

## Member News

We welcome the following New Members who joined CCHS in the 2nd Quarter of 2023!

Darin and Johnica Bibeau  
Jennifer Cole  
Rhonda Craver  
Linda Dillon  
Kwan Hui

Amy Maierhofer  
Sonya Saunders  
Zelma Taylor  
Linda Thompson  
J. White

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# Tidbits from our Facebook Page

In honor of Women's History Month in March, we introduced visitors to our Facebook page to Drusilla Wilson. Drusilla and her husband were Quakers. They moved to a house along Main Street west of Six Points Road in Clay Township in 1849. A year after they arrived, they banded together with their neighbors to establish a church called the Poplar Ridge Meeting. The Wilsons donated land for the church, school and cemetery. A decade later they donated land to establish the Poplar Ridge Seminary. It was one of the earliest high schools in the state.

Drusilla was active in the church and its social movements. She held a clerkship in the yearly meeting for 28 years. This was the highest leadership position one could hold in the church at that time. In 1860, she and her husband left Clay Township, and for the next decade, they ran orphan homes in Indiana and a freedmen school in Mississippi. Arsonists burned the freedmen school to the ground, but the community was strong, and the school continued in another building.

In 1871, the Wilson's moved to Kansas, where Drusilla became a leading figure in the state's temperance movement. In 1880, she canvassed the state in support of a referendum that would make Kansas dry. A month before she began the journey, she met with a terrible accident. Her horse was spooked by a wolf and bolted down an embankment. Her buggy overturned, and she was pinned beneath it. Her collarbone and right

arm were broken, and her back was injured. She rested for seven weeks, and then with her arm still tied in a sling, she traveled with her husband over 3,000 miles by buggy and held over 300 temperance meetings. When the vote came up in November, Kansas became the first state to enact a constitutional prohibition of alcohol.



After her husband's death in 1886, she moved in with her daughter in Carmel, where she became a leader in the social purity movement. The movement's purpose was to abate sexual immorality and prostitution in society. She helped establish White Shield Societies and the Bertha Ballard Home, a shelter for girls and young women in Indianapolis.

At age 90, she traveled to the sixteen member churches in the Western Yearly Meeting in Indiana and Illinois to establish a congress of churches to bolster the work of local temperance organizations. She preached her last sermon in 1906 and died two years later at the age of 93.

She accomplished all of that at a time when women were barred from even participating in so many aspects of society. Carmel resident Edward Collins said of her: "The life of Drusilla Wilson is a good object lesson to us all in its usefulness in many fields of activity. . . . Most people are led; Mrs. Wilson was a leader. She led along a high plane of moral and religious living."

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



CCH+A, Studio M, Range Line Storage, DOZ Charitable, Old Town Design Group, Engledow Group, The National Bank of Indianapolis, All Things Carmel, Meg & Associates, Bussell Family Funerals, Carmel Welding, Ceramica, Current in Carmel, The Barrington, White's Ace Hardware, Anthony's Chop-house, and Wine and Rind.

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