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A Quarterly Newsletter, Autumn 2021

Winona History Center Happenings



Recent Groups Visiting the Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home

Over the summer, the Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home hosted several large groups. On Friday, July 16, Professor Luke Putnam and a group of five students from Provident Baptist College in Elgin, Illinois, visited. While in the Sunday Home, they played and sang the two most well-known songs published by Homer Rodeheaver, "[The Old Rugged Cross](#)" and "[In the Garden](#)." You can listen to them by clicking on the names.

On Thursday, July 22, approximately fifty Warsaw High School students in an American

History summer school class visited with their teachers Tim Devlin and David Bailey. The class listened to a Winona Lake presentation from docent Terry White, and then completed a photo scavenger hunt in the History Center and had a narrated tour of the Sunday Home.

The last group of the summer was approximately fifty people from Holmes County, Ohio, who traveled to Winona Lake on August 18. They also heard about the town's history from White, and then toured the History Center and Sunday Home.



(Right) Students and a professor from Provident Baptist College enjoy singing Rodeheaver-published songs in the Billy Sunday Home, playing the Sundays' piano.

Did you know...

- that you can follow the Winona History Center on Facebook to find out all the latest news? Recent popular posts were about a record day's attendance in 1915 and living in a tent for the summer during the early 1900s. You can follow or like our Facebook page [here](#).
- that we are still raising funds for the roof repairs on the Billy Sunday Home? We need \$10,000 to complete the roof renovations. You can donate [here](#) or send a check (address on Page 3). Remember to click on "Billy Sunday Home Maintenance" under "Designation." Thank you for your help!

Research Progressing on Winona Lake History: The Beyer Brothers

Recently, the Winona History Center has acquired several new pictures and new-to-us information about the Beyer Brothers.

A scrapbook of collections of newspaper articles and reminiscings of J.E. Beyer made its way to us. Collected in a National War Savings Committee 1918 book, these documents include a handwritten timeline, where Beyer says, "Business extends to North Warsaw in the year of 1880 [later in book he says to Warsaw in 1877]; Extended to Rochester in 1882."

The newspaper clippings include articles from local newspapers, as well as from Fort Wayne, Chicago, and San Francisco. (Some of the Beyers had a winter home in Sacramento). The scrapbook also holds programs from the Winona Assembly and special meetings, for example the program from the Brethren Church annual meeting of 1892.

The Beyer Brothers, as you may

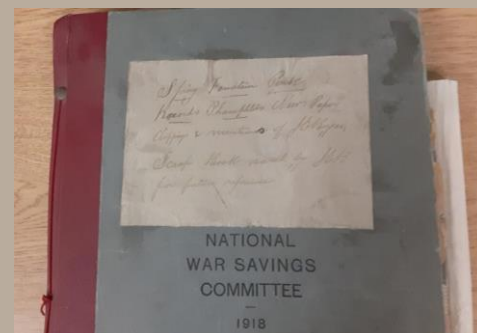
remember, are credited with starting Winona Lake. Three of the brothers (see family tree below) came to Indiana from Germany; one brother stayed in Germany, and one went to Illinois.

In 1881, J.E., J.F., and C.C. Beyer purchased 127 acres at Eagle Lake (now Winona Lake) from the Julius Boss family. Originally, they built spring houses at Eagle Lake's natural springs to cool milk for their dairy business, which eventually turned into a wholesale packing business.

By 1884, the brothers started developing the area into a park and having visitors and conferences. One of the first meetings held here was the Indiana, Ohio, Michigan Butter and Egg Association.

In 1890, the Beyers began the Spring Fountain Park Assembly. They held Chautuqua meetings, and a resort-like atmosphere was created. Although (cont. on Page 3)

The handwritten title on the recently donated scrapbook reads, "Spring Fountain Park / Records Pamphlets News Paper/ Clippings & mentions of JE Beyer / Scrap Book saved by JEB for future reference."



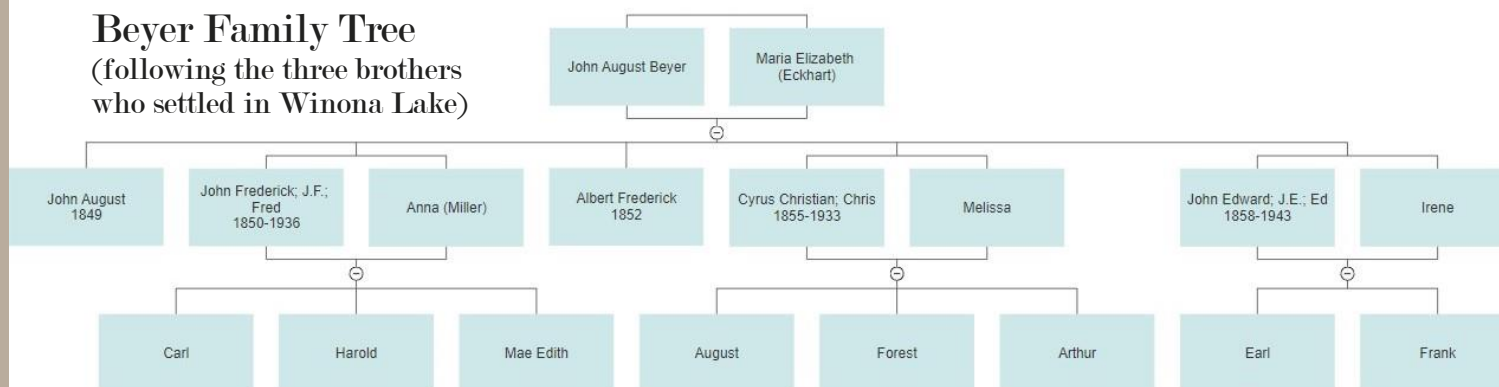
Near Right: J.E. Beyer and his wife Irene took a trip around the world in 1927.

Far Right: John Frederick Beyer shows his fish catch in this photo from the 1930s. It was likely taken in California.

These photos were sent to the Winona History Center by Jeems Beyer, the great-grandson of J.F. Beyer.



Beyer Family Tree (following the three brothers who settled in Winona Lake)



...The Beyer Brothers (cont.)



(cont. from Page 2) Sol Dickey purchased the town from the brothers in 1894 and began the Winona Assembly and Summer Schools, the Beyer Brothers stayed active in Winona Lake.

They served in various capacities on the board of directors, including treasurer, groundskeeper, and vice-presidents. The next generation also continued representing the family on the board of directors of the Winona Assembly.

The original Beyer farm was located in Warsaw on Center Street, where the Auto Zone is today. But in 1907, Chris and Edward Beyer built the Beyer Home in Winona Lake, which still stands as a private residence. Both families lived in the home, one on the north side and the other on the south.

Top Left: The Beyer Mansion still graces Chestnut Street in Winona Lake.

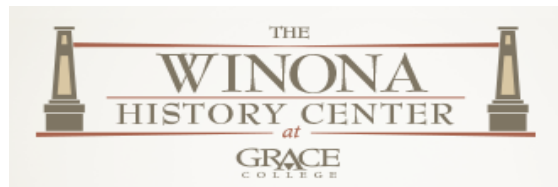
Left: J.E., C.C., and J.F. Beyer are credited with starting Winona Lake.

Old Rugged Cross Church Restorers To Speak

Robert and Molly Shaffer, the prime movers behind the purchase and restoration of the “Old Rugged Cross Church” in Pokagon, Michigan, will give a public presentation on the restoration project Tuesday, October 26, at 7:00 in the East Dining Room of Westminster Hall. The meeting is free and open to the public. The program is sponsored by the Winona History Center of Grace College and by the Esther Pfleiderer Trust at First Source Bank.

The gospel song “The Old Rugged Cross” was composed by Bennard and was subsequently acquired by the noted Winona Lake-based music publisher, Homer Rodeheaver. It quickly became one of Rodeheaver’s best-known properties, used in the Billy Sunday evangelistic crusades and also recorded by Rodeheaver and Virginia Asher.

Tuesday evening’s illustrated presentation will include a question-and-answer time from the public, and the program will conclude with the NoName Quartet singing a version of “The Old Rugged Cross.” Light refreshments and a visiting time in the lobby will follow, and the Winona History Center will be open for browsing.



Contact Us

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(To be added to the email list for future editions of this newsletter, please send your email to winonamuseum@grace.edu.)

VISIT US

Winona History Center
Westminster Hall
105 9th Street
Winona Lake, IN 46590

HOURS

Sunday – Closed
Monday – Closed
Tuesday – 2:00-5:00
Wednesday – 2:00-5:00
Thursday – 2:00-5:00
Friday – 2:00-5:00
Saturday – 2:00-5:00

MAILING ADDRESS

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