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A Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2024

# Winona History Center Happenings

## Summer Updates and Events

This summer marked the completion of the new Shook Welcome Center, located in Westminster Hall. The renovation has transformed the building into an inviting space for students, guests, and community members. Its location next to the History Center naturally directs visitors into the museum and the Billy Sunday Home, making it easier than ever for students and guests to connect with the story of Winona Lake. The new location has already had a positive impact: we've seen increased foot traffic from students, families, and conference guests. It's been a great opportunity to engage with Grace College and connect with more people interested in Winona's past. As part of the broader Westminster renovation, the History Center also received a few updates such as new carpeting throughout the museum.

We've also been glad to participate in several events this summer. In June, we collaborated with the Center for Literacy and Learning to bring around thirty children for a "Mystery Files" day camp, where participants toured the Billy Sunday Home and followed clues around the Village. July 4th saw many visitors stop by the Sunday Home for some snacks and historical fun facts. We've also welcomed a stream of conference-goers, field trip students, campus guests, and curious travelers. If you haven't yet visited the new Welcome Center or seen the History Center updates,

we encourage you to stop by. Whether you're researching, bringing a visitor, or exploring Winona for the first time, we're glad to have you visit us!

**The Winona History Center is  
now open with expanded hours:**

**Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00  
PM**

**Saturday, 2:00–5:00 PM**

*Sunday Home Tours offered 2:00-5:00*



*Campers learn about historical sites and fun facts about Winona Lake to prepare for the historical scavenger hunt*

# Winona History Center Welcomes Researchers

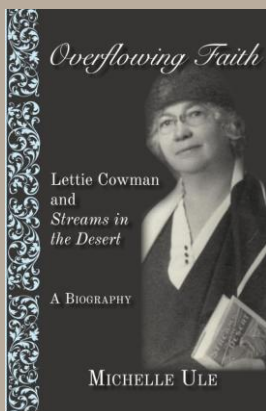
This summer brought a number of researchers to the Winona History Center—and with them, a wide variety of questions. One of the most rewarding parts of the season is supporting visitors who come to study our archives, as well as those who reach out remotely in search of historical information. Michelle Ule, author and biographer of missionary Lettie Cowman, stopped by due to her interest in materials related to Cowman's time in Winona Lake. Known for her book *'Streams in the Desert'* and her work with of the Oriental Missionary Society, Cowman often spent summers in Winona Lake and spoke at several of the Winona Assembly Bible Conferences.

Another researcher, who visited Winona Lake during the Winona Christian Writer's Conference spent several days reviewing materials related to evangelist Billy Sunday. With the goal of eventually writing a book about Billy Sunday, this researcher was able to use our resources as well as the Billy Sunday collection at the Morgan Library at Grace College.

We also welcomed a guest looking for more information the Beyer Brothers, who once operated a successful dairy business in the region. Some of the items relating to the Beyer family that The Winona

History Center archives contain include receipts, ledgers, telegrams, and letters.

We're always glad to support research inquiries—and we welcome your questions, too. Whether you're a professional writer, a student, or simply someone with a curiosity about local history, our archives are open by appointment. If you have a topic you're interested in exploring, we encourage you to reach out. You can contact us at [winonamuseum@grace.edu](mailto:winonamuseum@grace.edu) to learn more or to schedule a visit.



*"Overflowing Faith: Lettie Cowman and Streams in the Desert: A Biography"*  
By Michelle Ule

A copy of this book was kindly provided to the Winona History Center by the author.

*The Winona Echoes* provide the text of many of the messages presented during the sessions of the Winona Lake Bible Conference held each summer for many years in Winona Lake, Indiana. Thousands thronged to Winona Lake to hear famous Christian speakers, and the Winona Echoes made the addresses available for attendees to read and enjoy following the conference. These publications (including Lettie Cowman's messages) are now available to view [HERE](#), thanks to the Morgan Library.

## Did you know...

- that the Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home can always use volunteers? If you are interested, contact [winonamuseum@grace.edu](mailto:winonamuseum@grace.edu). Training will be provided.
- that the Winona History Center keeps an updated Facebook page? A recent post was about Homer Rodeheaver and his stolen trombone. You can check it out [here](#).
- that we have expanded hours? Previously closed on Mondays, the Winona History Center is now open on Mondays as well as the rest of the week!

## Snapshot from the Past

This summer, the History Center received a research inquiry about a family member (then living in Monticello, Indiana) in a 1920s photo concerning Winona Lake. The photo shows a young woman holding a tennis racket among a group with "GAA," and "Winona Lake" labeled above the photo.

A search through some newspapers from the time turned up an answer. A 1920 issue of *The Monticello Herald* reported that the Girls' Athletic Association from Monticello High School had planned a camping trip to Winona Lake on June 8. They rented a cottage in the village.

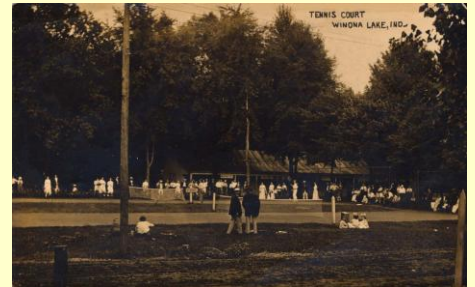
The timeline and location seem to match, as her grandmother, born in 1903, would have been 17 that year!

Winona Lake was a popular destination for recreation and education alike, known for its lakeside setting, open spaces, and interesting events and attractions: ideal for outings like this one.

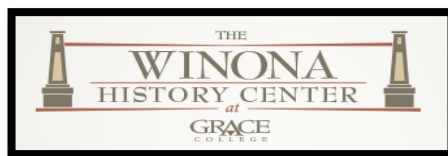
The Girls Athletic Association (GAA) was formed in the early 1900s at high schools and women's colleges to foster physical activity among girls, offering opportunities to play sports such as field hockey, tennis, basketball, softball, and volleyball.



*The image in question: shown here with permission. This group of girls visited Winona Lake in the 1920s.*



*Tennis courts at Winona Lake*



## 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](mailto:winonamuseum@grace.edu).)

### HOURS

Sunday – Closed  
Monday – 9:00-5:00  
Tuesday – 9:00-5:00  
Wednesday – 9:00-5:00  
Thursday – 9:00-5:00  
Friday – 9:00-5:00  
Saturday – 2:00-5:00

SUNDAY HOME TOURS: 2:00-5:00

### VISIT US

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

### MAILING ADDRESS

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1 Lancer Way  
Winona Lake, IN 46590