

# YESTERDAY & TODAY

**“Life holds more meaning when the past ties into the Present--When this happens one gains assurance that the Present will also tie into the Future--Author Unknown**

Parke County Historical Society Organized May 12, 1894  
Winter 2008

Chartered by the State of Indiana July 1917  
Volume XXII No3

Museum Musings  
by Karin Woodson

Some years ago there was a column in the local newspaper called “Museum Musings”, and it seems fitting to bring it back in our newsletters.

The museum is closed for the winter months and will re-open April 1, 2009. There will be a new flag pole in front. This is a gift from Estabrook DAR and family and friends of Joyce Shoemaker; the Indiana flag is given by Margaret Lash in memory of former Historical Society President Don Lash. It will serve as a reminder to all that when the flags are flying, the museum is open.

Prior to the November closing, the museum received several items from the Drs. Joseph and Richard Bloomer family. These will be incorporated into a country medical history section.

The Crowder Log Cabin has been opened and decorated for the holidays as part of the Covered Bridge Art Gallery’s annual home tour. Items from the museum and members as well as a new sidewalk for easy access have made the little cabin have a new and cozy glow.

While re-organizing the cabin, it comes to mind that holiday celebrations have changed drastically over the years. What decorations would appear in those by-gone years? What were their wishes and dreams? Our ancestors might have had simpler lifestyles, but not easier lives; obtaining gifts usually meant making something.

“Over the river and through the woods”, How long would it take by sleigh if Grandmother lived in Minshall or Piattsville? How many covered bridges would be crossed? The museum holds those answers for you. Happy 2009!

**Bits from Bill Swern:** We’ve enclosed envelopes for you to make it easy to send in your annual dues of \$10.00. Happy Holidays and thanks.

## **Answers to last newsletter’s - Did You Know?**

How did Lodi get its name? A lot of workers on the canal were Italian. They thought the area reminded them of a town in Italy called Lodivica. To make it easier, they called it Lodi.

## **Message from the President**

Well, as winter is nearly upon us, our renovations have been completed. The new roof is on the museum and the new paint looks great. We have a sidewalk now for the entrance to the log cabin. Dan Collom and his crew were able to squeeze our job in between workings days on the Sanitorium bridge project. The museum and cabin are now both battened down for the winter and ready for the long winter's nap. Thanks to all of you who were able to help financially with the projects, and, of course, thanks you goes to the Parke County Community Foundation for their continuous support of what we do. We simply couldn't accomplish nearly as much as we do without their help.

We apparently have had guests living in the crawlspace of the cabin for a while. I opened the access door to the crawlspace and could smell critter. I put a box trap in the space and have to date caught two large opossums. The male may well have been the biggest I have ever seen. He was not a bit happy about his predicament, but one of us was going to have to go and I chose him. They won't be back, but the trap is still set. I'll continue to check it on a regular basis throughout the winter.

Depending on availability of funds, we will have the tree people come and take down a huge tree and a smaller tree from the cabin property. They need to be removed to protect the cabin, and I hope to have that done by spring. Once we get that finished, the Master Gardeners have a plan to do plantings on the property that would be accurate for the era of the cabin. I hope winter is kind to all of us and we make it to another spring. Be safe and warm. See you in the spring!