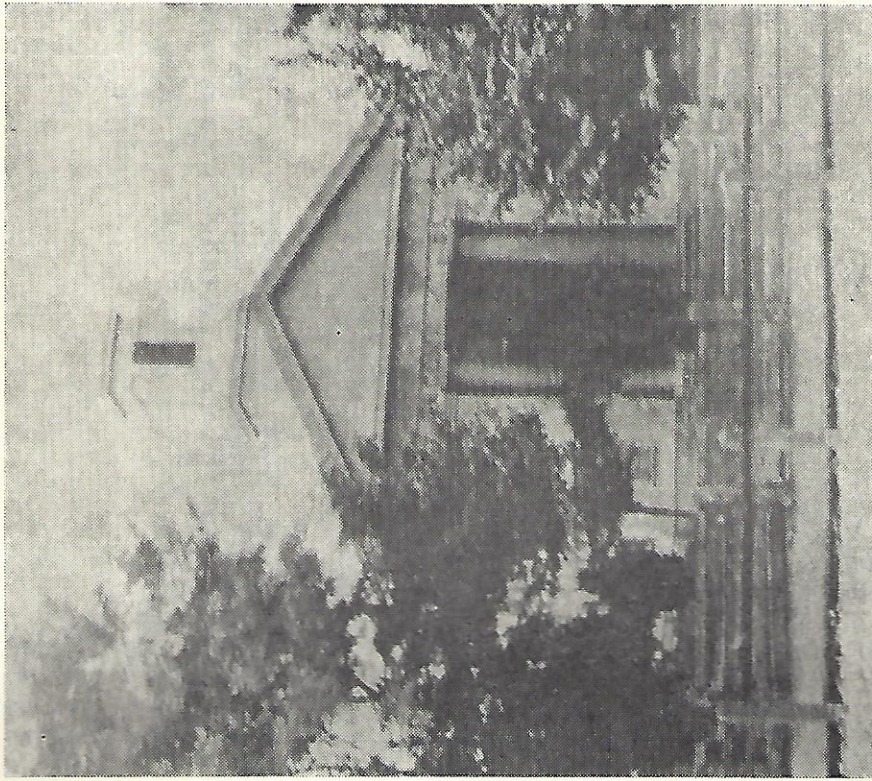


KOSCIUSKO COUNTY Historical Bulletin



Vol. 1 FALL 1966 No. 2

Published by the Kosciusko County Historical Society
In This Issue: A History of Kosciusko County Courthouses, History of Winona Lake, Planned Historical Seminar and Historian's Corner

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Enclosed find \$..... for my (our) membership for the Kosciusko County Historical Society.

Signed

Address

Send your dues to Mrs. W. E. Creighton, Kosciusko County Historical Society, Warsaw, Indiana 46580

THE KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WARSAW, INDIANA 46580

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If you do not keep this Bulletin in your files, pass it on to a friend or acquaintance who may be interested in becoming a member of the Historical Society.

Dear Member:

Donald E. Frantz, Kosciusko County extension agent, and a committee from the Kosciusko County Historical Society have planned a four-week Historical Seminar that will be held at the Warsaw Community High School Sept. 16, 23, 30, and Oct. 7.

This will be of real benefit to us who are interested in the history of the area. Outstanding speakers on both local and state level have been obtained by the group.

You are invited to register and join us in learning more about our heritage.

Every member of the society should plan to attend at least one lecture.

The committee and Mr. Frantz assure us that the meetings will not last long. A complete program is listed in another section of this publication.

Sincerely,

Claude Stahl, President
Kosciusko County Historical Society



A History of Kosciusko County Courthouses

Kosciusko County has had four courthouses during its 130 years of existence. All of these have been located in Warsaw.

The first courthouse was located on lot 101 in Warsaw (northeast corner of Center and Indiana Streets). This first structure that measured 20x30 feet and nine feet high fronted on Indiana street. The County Commissioners were hard pressed for money at this time and settled with Phillip Lash and Daniel Shoup by giving them lots 63 and 81 in Warsaw for their work on the building.

Leesburg had been the center of county business at the beginning. The first court in the county was held in the Levi Lee home in that community Oct. 31, 1836. In November of the same year the commissioners voted to move to Warsaw on Jan. 1, 1837. The first county business in the new county seat was transacted in the home of Jacob Losier from Jan. 1, to May 1. At this time the offices were moved to the uptown location.

Early writers contend that this courthouse was an eyesore

Activities started about 1:30 p. m. with a mile-long parade in which bands, bugle corps, veterans, lodge members and citizens made up the 1,300 persons who participated in the event. The group were welcomed by then mayor of Warsaw, E. J. Green, his address was followed by an address by Gov. Albert Porter.

Lay Corner Stone

The one-ton cornerstone was swung into place during the ceremonies. The carving on the outside of the stone was done by W. J. Mills. The cornerstone is located in the northeast corner of the building. Inside the stone is a copper box containing the following items: History of Kosciusko County from its formation; Klingman's Historical Atlas of the county; list of soldiers of the county participating in the Mexican and Civil War; copy of poll book of the first election held in county; address on county by Metcalf Beck; sketch of public school in Warsaw; Masonic and other lodge information; constitution of bar association; bar docket of the May 1882 circuit court; list of county offices; history of medical society; proceedings of county commissioners reference to the building; 21 varieties of cereals and vegetables grown in the county; Auditor's report of 1881; copies of Warsaw and Pierceton papers; Roman penny 2,000 years old; record of Warsaw Reading Club; photographic view of old courthouse; program of cornerstone-laying; and other items.

The courthouse is 154 feet in length east to west; 113 feet, seven inches wide from north to south, and 152 feet high. There are 32,000 cubic feet of Indiana oolite limestone covering 2,700,000 brick; there are 678,000 pounds of iron and 9,000 square yards of plastering.

When the building was completed in 1884, it was one of the finest in the state. It was modern with its steam heat and gas lights in offices and corridors.

Minor Maintenance

Only minor maintenance and renovation of the building have been attempted, until the 1960's when Judge Gene B. Lee spearheaded a drive to renovate the court area. His renovation was based on restoring past beauty of the court area. The commissioners have at this time, started a major renovation program. This includes improved lighting, painting, improvement in floors and buying office equipment.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The idea for this article came from the Warsaw Business and Professional Women's Activities Committee. This committee recently completed a brief history of courthouses in the state. Information for the above story was gained from County Commissioner's minutes, news stories from the Northern Indiana and Warsaw Republican.

to the community and burned on May 3, 1837. They report that a workman burning brush around the building was careless, and the fire went out of control, destroying the county's first courthouse.

The Commissioners soon directed that another be built on the same site (lot 101). This building was 24 feet wide and 34 feet long and had two eight-foot stories. The offices were finished by Jan. 10, 1839, and the auditor and clerk moved into the new red-coated building. The auditor's office had a dis-tinction: It was the first to have a plastered room in the county. Warsaw residents contributed \$100 to help the county construct the building.

Build Third Courthouse

The commissioners, after some prodding, decided in 1845 that the county should have new offices and a court building. The present courthouse site had been cleared and Ben Van Camp and Albert Bass were engaged to build a wooden court building, and to the north a two-story brick office building. The wooden building cost \$4,200 and the brick offices \$4,500. The commissioner's records on March 4, 1846, urged the county supervisor to burn trash in between the two structures, also to fill in holes in the court lawn and erect a suitable privy for county use on the grounds.

Present Courthouse Constructed

The present courthouse was started in May 1881 and completed June 1, 1884, at a cost of \$197,799.65. The building was constructed with some difficulty.

Bids were first opened for the structure in January 1881, and the lowest bid was submitted by W. C. Richardson, of Springfield, Ill. His bid was \$198,625.98. The commissioners turned down the bid because it was above the architects' estimate of \$140,000. A second bid letting was held and Hiram Iddings, of Kendallville, was awarded the contract with his bid of \$167,500. Cash on hand for the building was \$40,000; so the commissioners sold a \$100,000 bond issue to be paid in 20-year period.

Early historians state that the court and county offices were constructed in 1848. However, county commissioner's records and an item published in the **Warsaw Republican** indicate that the building must have been built in 1845.

A. W. Thomas demolished the brick office building, and A. T. Kist removed the old wooden courthouse. Excavation work for the new structure was started May 7, 1881. Plans were for the building to be completed at the end of 1882. (However, it was 1884 before the final bills were paid.)

An estimated 20,000 persons came to Warsaw on May 25, 1882, to attend the cornerstone-laying of the new courthouse.

Pictures...

On page one is the Second courthouse. This was taken sometime between 1845 and 1881. To the right (not visible) was the two-story office building. On page 3 is a picture of the courthouse taken Nov. 14, 1882. You will note that the dome and roof of the building are not complete. Workmen are shown on top of the structure. The building on the corner was used for a tool shed.

List Seminar Program

The First Kosciusko County Historical Seminar will feature Rex Pottorf, librarian emeritus of the Fort Wayne Public Library, Sept. 16, at the Warsaw Community High School.

Mr. Pottorf will lecture on "Our Indiana." He recently spoke at a seminar featured by the Allen County Historical Society.

Kosciusko County Historical Society members may hear all of the four lectures planned during the month of September and October for a \$2.00 registration fee. The \$2 fee will be a family fee, and children may attend the lecture with their parents. Single admissions for one lecture will be 50 cents.

The second of the four features will be held Sept. 23, with Dr. Don Carmony, chairman of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission speaking on the Northwest territory.

On Sept. 30, Fort Wayne attorney Louis Bloom will speak on "Military History of Northern Indiana."

Mr. Phil Mow, of the Warsaw Community Schools will lecture on Oct. 7 on "Migrations into Kosciusko County."

Donald Frantz, chairman of the seminar, also stated that there is a possibility of Mr. Sheer, authority on the Miami Indians, may be available in October.

Plans are for the programs to start at 7:30 p. m. at the High School. All persons in the area may attend the series.

The program is under the joint sponsorship of the Kosciusko County Extension Department and the Kosciusko County Historical Society. Members of the committee in addition to Mr. Frantz, county extension head are Ralph Brubaker, Leesburg; James Sloan, Warsaw, Joe Ettinger, Warsaw, and Ronald Sharp, Syracuse.

The Story of Winona Lake

by Jasper A. Huffman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Jasper A. Huffman could not appear to give his paper on Winona Lake so he wrote this announcement that was read to members at their annual meeting held at the Shrine building on August 16. Mr. Huffman is 86 years old.

Society members and Friends: Greeting. You have honored me in asking me to prepare an address on the History of Winona Lake. This I have done with pleasure. Because of health condition I have been unable to be present this evening and to deliver the address, for which I am very sorry.

I have chosen a very capable person who has kindly consented to read the prepared address, in the person of Mr. Joe Ettinger. Beside being a very capable person, Joe is interested, sympathetic with the subject and is not only a very good friend of mine, but also of all of you who are present.

Thanks to Joe, and greetings to all of you.

Sincerely,

Jasper A. Huffman

Somewhat centrally located in Kosciusko County, nestled among its hundred and two lakes, there is found Winona Lake, an interesting and growing little city for which a claim is made by some of its ardent devotees, to have become farther and more generously known throughout the United States than any other location, town or city in the county. This claim is radically disputed by some who have lived elsewhere in the county, and have been interested in, and are admirers of, other locations, especially, Warsaw.

If properly qualified, the above-mentioned claim is possibly correct. Since Winona Lake has, from an early rebirth, been devoutly religious and has become the location of Bible conferences, evangelism, Bible lectures and theological study, each of which has had promoters of national reputation, who traveled widely, and in so doing carried the Banner of Winona Lake almost everywhere, the fame of Winona Lake became known far and wide. Among the historic personalities who helped to spread the fame of Winona Lake as a religious community, the following may be mentioned: Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, Dr. William E. Biederwolf, William Jennings Bryan, Billy Sunday and Homer Rodeheaver. To the two last-named, who made their homes at Winona Lake and traveled much in their work of evangelism, Winona Lake is indebted for its wide and increasing fame.

The name of Winona is only a variant way of pronunciation of Wenonah the mother of Hiawatha in Longfellow's poem

entitled: The Song of Hiawatha. She was called "Beautiful Wenonah." Upon the authority of the late Victor M. Hatfield, long time resident of Winona, and close student of literature and history, the name should be pronounced Win-o-na, not Wy-no-na.

The symbol for Winona has long been the bust of a very beautiful Indian princess of the Pottawatomie Tribe, who according to tradition once occupied the local territory. The name Winona is said to mean, in the Santee dialect of the Sioux Indian tongue, "First Born of a Daughter."

Among the early and later names of persons or recognized industry and wealth, associated with Winona's history, are such names as the Beyer Brothers, the Studebakers, Alexander McDonald, Thomas Kane, Chas. H. Conner, William Peterson and R. G. LeTourneau.

Indian Reserve

It was in 1826 that the territory now occupied by Winona Lake, which lies in Wayne Township, was reserved by the Government for Chief Checose (She'Kos) and his band of Pottawatomie Indians. The Reservation included Sections 2, 15, 16, and 22 surrounding the north, east, and south shores of the lake, extending east. Six years later, in 1832, a second treaty signed by the Chief returned the territory of the reservation back to the U. S. Government. Gradually the Indians were moved westward to Kansas.

The first white settler was Peter Warner. He arrived in the summer of 1834. The Township was organized in June of 1836. Memories of the Revolutionary War were still strong. Warsaw, adjoining Winona Lake, was named after the Polish capital and the County was named Kosciusko, after the Polish hero of the Revolutionary War. Until the early part of the present century the lake itself was known as Eagle Lake, so named because its shape was roughly like that of an eagle with outspread wings. It is the fourth in size in the County; has a ten-mile shore line, covers 905 acres, attains to a depth, at its deepest part, of about 80 feet.

The history of Winona Lake as a community center really began about 1881, after three Beyer brothers, J. P., C. C., and J. E. Beyer purchased a large tract of land, and adapted the same to their growing wholesale business of dairy products. An early name for the locality was Spring Fountain Park so called because of its numerous springs. It early became a social center. The present main part of the Winona Hotel was erected in this early period, and was called The Eagle Lake Hotel. Early features of entertainment provided by the Spring Park Assembly were military parade grounds, a race track, horse stables, exhibits of stock, and a baseball diamond, etc. A num-

ber of summer cottages skirted the park grounds. Winona Lake had become a summer watering place.

It was in 1894 that Rev. Solomon C. Dickey, Superintendent of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church of Indiana, realized the need for a meeting place where ministers and others could meet for studying, discussion, entertainment and even education. When Dr. Dickey presented his plan to the Presbyteries of the State, and the matter was laid before the Synod in session in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the proposition was looked upon with favor, and Dr. Dickey was given a committee of three, including himself as Chairman, with authority to find and arrange such a place. The two other persons were Rev. Henry Johnson and Rev. Edward Scott.

A short time later, Dr. Dickey chanced to meet with one of the Beyer brothers. After listening to Dr. Dickey's dream, Mr. Beyer declared "We have the place." Dr. Dickey and his committee agreed enthusiastically with Mr. Beyer, and thus Winona Lake Christian Assembly was born. With the activities of the locality quickly centered around the newly organized Winona Lake Christian Assembly, such as The Winona Lake Bible Conference, and The Winona Lake Chautauqua, the former local name "Spring Fountain Park," was rapidly superseded by the present and beautifully befitting name, Winona Lake. Thus the interests of Winona Lake became less purely economic and social, and assumed a breadth of three factors: education, entertainment and religion. In the matter of religion, Winona was founded upon, and has continued to base its religious witness upon the fundamentals of the faith expressed in four essentials: The Fatherhood of God, the Deity of Jesus Christ, the Divine Inspiration of the Bible, and the Personality of the Holy Spirit.

Though conceived of as a Presbyterian dream, the Winona Lake Christian Assembly gradually assumed interdenominational breadth to which it has adhered across the decades, and to which it continues to adhere.

Conference Begins

Acting upon the Assembly's interest in religion, the Bible Conference began in 1895 and has been held annually ever since. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman was its Promoter and Director. The Chautauqua was also conceived in the year that the Bible Conference was begun. It was almost a twin conception with it. Great Bible lecture talent was secured for the Bible Conference, and equally renowned entertaining talent for the Chautauqua. The schools which shared the favorable Winona climate for their work in education were already existing schools, but conducted sessions on the Winona Campus, or were organized independently. The former were Indiana State Normal School, which conducted summer normal sessions, Indiana

simultaneous with the Bible Conference, continued for about forty years. It employed renowned talent, and was, for many years, partially underwritten by the business men of Warsaw. Its management was, for a long time, in the hands of a capable leader, Mr. James Heaton, who as an octegenarian, still resides in Winona Lake. When the Chautauqua popularity died out throughout the country, and the Christian Assembly's facilities were needed for other purposes in about 1940, the Chautauqua was abandoned.

The financiers whose names were associated with Winona's early history, expended considerable money upon enterprises which proved only partly successful. There were canals to enhance the beauty of the place, and interurban and street railways for convenience of travel. Most of the former remain, but the latter have disappeared with the coming of the automobile, as has been the case throughout the country.

Beginning in about the third decade of this century with the incoming of certain organizations, Winona Lake has experienced something of a large rebirth, which has broadened its interests and gave to it a greater outreach of influence. In the vanguard of these organizations and groups was the Free Methodist Church, which moved its National Headquarters and Publishing House to Winona Lake. The Rodeheaver-Hall Mack, Publishers of Sacred Music, brought their Chicago establishment to Winona Lake. The Grace Brethren, later called the National Fellowship of Brethren Churches, which was seeking a permanent location for their temporarily-located Seminary, chose Winona Lake as the place.

Winona Grows

With the addition of these several groups with their growing enterprises, Winona Lake has experienced resurgence both numerically and economically, as well as socially and religiously. The Free Methodist Church has developed its national headquarters with international outreach of missions. Equally so, the Grace Brethren have developed not only an international headquarters, but a youthful, growing Seminary and College with the characteristic name of "Grace." The Rodeheaver Company has become a permanent, local institution.

Beside the above named, several publishers have turned their summer concessions into year-round establishments. Chief among these are the Zondervan Publishers and the Scripture Press.

The very latest business to migrate to Winona Lake was The Lambert Huffman Publishers, which had been located at Butler, Indiana for about forty years, and was known as The Higley Press. This company maintains offices and shipping rooms at East Winona Avenue, Warsaw, but has been a patron of the

State University, which erected buildings for Biological study; the John Herron Art School of Indianapolis. Those of the latter class were The Winona College and the Winona School of Photography. The first-named college, which was permanently closed at the time of World War I, occupied the "Mount Memorial" building, now the National Headquarters of the Free Methodist Church. The Winona School of Photography has enjoyed an unbroken, growing history in its original, but improved location, and has developed into a high grade school of commercial photography with a costly tuition fee; has a national reputation, and conducts annual summer sessions.

Quite independent of Winona Lake Christian Assembly, but because of the advantages of the Lake, Chicago Boys' Club was early located on a liberal acreage just south of the Town of Winona Lake, and still continues its summer sessions for neglected boys of the City of Chicago.

Across the decades The Winona Lake Christian Assembly has shared its facilities with other groups, and has been the host to annual church conferences, missionary youth conferences, chief of which is Youth for Christ International, which attracts thousands of young people to Winona Lake annually.

The one school which was organized under the auspices of The Winona Lake Christian Assembly, and which has continued with annual summer sessions to this day, and has become of wide reputation and influence, is The Winona Lake School of Theology. This school was founded by Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, the great London preacher (who made his home at Winona Lake for several years. He founded the school in 1920 and remained as its head for two years, calling it the "School of the Prophets." The leadership of the School fell into the hands of Dr. William Biederwolf in 1923, who continued as its president until his death in 1939. He was succeeded by Dr. J. A. Huffman as the President until 1954, when he, in turn, was followed by his own son, Dr. John A. Huffman, who is still the President of the school. Its 1966 summer session was probably the most successful ever, attracting students of mature ability from many states of the Union, from Canada, India, China, Japan and from several other foreign countries. Its faculty is composed of strong and experienced professors from various evangelical Universities and Seminaries.

Winona Lake School of Theology was under the ownership and management of Winona Lake Christian Assembly until 1934, when application was made to the State of Indiana for a separate charter, and it became independent, as a theological institution of interdenominational character, called Winona Lake School of Theology.

Chautauqua

Winona Lake's Chautauqua, which came into being almost

Winona Lake Post Office from the beginning of its business in this locality. This company, by its wide range in the publication of Sunday school literature and supplies, like the other publishing houses, continues the good work of making Winona Lake wide and popularly known.

The most recent addition to Winona Lake is a branch bank of the oldest bank in Warsaw and in the County, the Lake City Bank.

As a result of the influx of the several businesses, requiring postal service, the Winona Lake Post Office has been able, for a considerable time, to classify as a first class Post Office—to be specifically accurate, since July 1, 1945.

While maintaining itself aggressively, Winona Lake has been able to play its part in the development of the greater Warsaw area. In the meantime it has developed from a summer watering place with a few summer residents, into a thriving, lovely little city, with a year-round population of almost two thousand persons.

* * *

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

For the facts which I have just recounted concerning the history of Winona Lake, I am indebted to a very ably-written volume on Winona Lake entitled, "A Memory and A Vision—The Story of Winona Lake" by Vincent H. Gaddis and Jasper A. Huffman. This volume was begun and first published by Vincent H. Gaddis in 1949. It was rewritten, revised and republished by Dr. J. A. Huffman, in a well illustrated souvenir volume of 160 pages, in 1960. It is a very charming volume, which can be purchased for \$1.50.

* * *

Address delivered to the Kosciusko Historical Society Meeting August 16, 1966, in the Shrine Building, at the County Fair Grounds.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER . . .

The Kosciusko County Historical Society under the leadership of Claude Stahl appeared in parades, and sponsored exhibits at Pierceton, Syracuse and the Kosciusko County Fair at Warsaw.

More than 60 memberships were gained by workers during the summer months attending the various events in the county.

Parade honors were won by Mr. and Mrs. Stahl and family when they appeared in the Pierceton Centennial, Mermaid Festival, and Syracuse Police and Firemen's events.

Mrs. Geraldine Lemna and her committee of Joe Ettinger, Richard Zimmer, Verle Wilkey and Louise Creighton had exhibits at the Pierceton Centennial and County Fair. The county fair exhibit attracted hundreds of visitors. An exhibit on books and newspapers as well as old pictures were displayed at the Syracuse Police and Firemen's event.

President Stahl and other members of the society spoke at several clubs during the past weeks. It is hoped that speakers from the organization will be requested during the winter months.

Memberships seem to spurt after our visits, Stahl reported.

* * *

About 45 persons attended the annual meeting of the society held at the Shrine building at the Kosciusko County Fairgrounds on August 16 and heard a paper written by Dr. Jasper Huffman of Winona Lake.

* * *

Mrs. Floyd Schue, of Warsaw, is collecting all pictures of the Winona Lake area. She is acting as a depository for the society for any such photos of the Wiona Lake.

* * *

Anyone interested in a period in Kosciusko County history, whether for genealogical or other purpose is invited to use this column.

WARSAW, June 11, 1904— William Randolph Hearst, who is a candidate at the Democrat National Convention for president, stopped off at the Hays Hotel today. Mr. Hearst, publisher of several newspapers, stopped to confer by telegraph with his backers at the National convention being held in St. Louis, Missouri.

* * *

LOGANSPOUT, Sept. 8, 1904— S. D. Anglin, of Warsaw, president and organizer of the National Horse Thief Association, is in town today planning for the group's convention to be held Oct. 3 in this city.

* * *

WARSAW, 1864— A brewery is being built in this community. Construction is underway near the old Phillipson residence by Lang and Randalls.

* * *

May 7, 1904 (Times)— Grading is now going forward at Winona preparatory to the construction of the miniature steam railroad which will be used as a passenger and baggage line in the summer. The system will be about a mile and a quarter in length and will extend from the entrance building to Kosciusko Lodge. The line will follow the lake shore to a point south of the bathhouses and then follow the lagoon for a short time thence across the stream and Cherry creek.

* * *

June 25, 1904— Business men of Warsaw donated \$300 so that uptown street lights will be lighted during the next two months. Donations ranged from \$1 to \$10. Streets will be lighted July 1 to Sept. 1, for a period of three hours.

Kosciusko County Society Members . . .

Please select at least one of the committees below. If you wish, select two or more.

- I would like to work on research section gathering materials for the following period I would also like to help write articles gathered by the above group.
- I would like to work in genealogical research department.
- I would like to work in administrative section, helping with publicity, writing letters, establishing files, etc.
- I would like to be in the section that will gather historical pictures.
- I would like to assist the bulletin committee.
- I would like to help sort, gather and classify old documents.
- I would like to serve on the membership committee.
- I could assist the Historical Society speech bureau, if I was provided with material.
- I know people who wish to turn items over to the society.
- I am interested in the following, but it is not listed above

.....

Name

Address

.....