

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 26 (cont.)

- Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Monticello Lodge No. 107, meeting ~ the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at Riverview Cemetery, Monroe K. Heglin N.G., 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 27**
- Movers and Shakers, White County's Business Professionals Networking Group, meets every Thursday at IU Health White Memorial Hospital, Hibner Conference Room, 8 a.m.
- Rummage Sale ~ First Presbyterian Church of Monticello, 104 N. Illinois Street, bake sale Thursday, household items and clothing, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Community Shred Day ~ sponsored by White County Prosecutor's Office, cul-de-sac behind the Courthouse, maximum of six banker boxes per person, donations accepted for the White County Food Pantry, donation boxes will be available on site, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Honey Creek Home Economics Club Meeting ~ last Thursday of each month, public invited, for information call Freda McManus at 574-583-2626, 11:30 a.m.
- Retired REMC Employees ~ USA Restaurant, noon.
- AL-ANON ~ Monticello Christian Church, 105 Gordon Road, Monticello, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 28

- Rummage Sale ~ First Presbyterian Church of Monticello, 104 N. Illinois Street, household items and clothing, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- White County Extension Homemakers Rummage Sale ~ White County Fairgrounds, Reynolds, Extension Building, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Rotary Club of Monticello ~ every Friday at Brandywine, lunch and a short program, noon
- Monticello United Methodist Church Rainbow Luncheon ~ last Friday of each month, church basement, 200 S. Main Street, call the church at 574-583-5545 to make reservations by the Monday prior to the meeting, exception Friday, Nov. 28 and no December meeting, noon.
- Chalmers American Legion Post 268 Catfish Fry ~ last Friday of every month, open to the public, 6 p.m.
- Monticello Eagles Bingo ~ every Friday, public invited, 6:30 p.m.
- Narcotics Anonymous ~ every Friday, Monticello United Methodist Church, 200 S. Main St., Monticello, 7 p.m.
- Ballroom Dancing ~ American Legion Post #81, 405 E. Washington Street, Monticello, DJ Huddy, no cover, public welcome, no smoking, food available until 7, for more information contact 574-583-5698.

Saturday, April 29

- Rummage Sale ~ First Presbyterian Church of Monticello, 104 N. Illinois Street, \$2 a bag day, household items and clothing, 8 - 11 a.m.
- White County Extension Homemakers Rummage Sale ~ White County Fairgrounds, Reynolds, Extension Building, \$2 a bag sale starting at 11 a.m., 9 a.m. - noon.
- Burnettsville Volunteer Fire Department Cornhole Tournament ~ double elimination, 50/50 raffle and lots of door prizes, food and drinks available, register early \$15 per person by emailing sandyhur11@yahoo.com by April 27, after that date \$20 per person, questions contact Joe Rice at 574-870-2959 or Ryan Hurd at 574-870-0218, registration begins at 8 a.m., tournament begins promptly at 9 a.m.

Sunday, April 30

- Knights of Columbus Bingo ~ every Sunday, public invited, smoking and non-smoking rooms, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 1

- White County Board of Commissioners ~ White County Building, 110 North Main Street, Monticello, Second Floor, Commissioners Conference Room, 8 a.m.
- White County Drainage Board ~ White County Building, Second Floor Commissioners' Room, 10:30 a.m.
- The Monday Morning Book Discussion group meets ~ first Monday of each month at the Monticello-Union Township Public Library. The book selected is available for loan at the front desk during the preceding month, 10:30 a.m.
- Kiwanis Meeting ~ every Monday at Brandywine, noon.
- White County Food Pantry ~ noon to 3:15 p.m. and from 5:45 - 7:30 p.m. every Monday.
- Twin Lakes Student Food Pantry ~ Woodlawn Elementary, open to immediate families of Twin Lakes School Corporation students, for information contact 765-543-9188, 2 - 6 p.m.
- City of Monticello Common Council ~ City Council Chambers, 225 N. Main Street, Monticello, 6 p.m.
- Monticello Eagles meeting ~ first and third Monday of each month, 7 p.m.
- Narcotics Anonymous ~ every Monday, Monticello United Methodist Church, 200 S. Main St., Monticello, 7 p.m.
- Monticello VFW 2231 Men's Auxiliary meeting ~ first Monday of each month, 7 p.m.
- Monticello Goodfellows meeting ~ first and third Monday of each month at Riverside, Monticello, 7:30 p.m.
- Women in Touch of Monticello ~ meet every Monday, support group for women struggling with emotional turmoil, for information call 765-412-8161.

Have an event you want listed in the coming events? Feel free to email the date, time and venue of the event, as well as brief information about the event, to communitycalendar@thehj.com.



Photo by Kathleen Merrill

Carroll County Historian Mark Smith is serious about history, including while he points out a portrait of canal builder Reed Case.

Step back in time in Reed Case house at canal center in Delphi

By Kathleen Merrill
HJ Correspondent

Step back in time, to the mid-1800s to be exact, with Carroll County Historian Mark Smith and his tours of the Reed Case House at the Wabash & Erie Canal Center in Delphi.

Although Smith doesn't portray Case, the contractor for the Carroll County section of the canal, he does dress in clothing appropriate to the period for public tours, which return May 13. Smith tells you as much or as little as you want to know about the family and the two-story, Federal-style home, which also has fact sheets in every room regarding the rooms, various pieces of furniture and artifacts.

"I like to tell the story of Reed Case, who came up from poverty and ended up a beloved person in Delphi," Smith said during a recent private tour.

The house was originally built on Front Street in 1844 and was the oldest house on the street until it was moved to the Canal Center. Other homes on the street were built in the 1860s and 1870s.

"This house made a statement when it was constructed," Smith said, adding that was the point for Case who came from humble beginnings. "He started in a log cabin so drafty he had to hold an umbrella over his daughter when she was born."

When the family moved out of the home in 1853, the house was turned into the Canal Inn.

It was built behind where Blimpie's is located, diagonally from the Carroll County Jail, today. The huge green lawn is vacant now.

There are some great pieces of antique furniture there, such as the square grand piano built in 1872 and an abstract cabinet that held land records in 500 slots. That cabinet was made locally, in Brighthurst, in 1837. The cabinet was used for more than 150 years, including in the Carroll County Courthouse from 1917 to 1995, when it was moved to the Case House.

Many of the deed slots are reserved now, but you can reserve a slot in your name for a \$100 donation that will be used to continue to restore and preserve the home.

The house has many features of yesterday, including rope beds where you tightened the ropes that held the mattress and kept it from sagging.

"That's where the saying 'sleep tight' came from," Smith said, as he lifted a mattress to show the network of ropes underneath. "They had to be tightened regularly."

Many of the furnishings in the home came from the Case family.

The house was moved to the canal center on a large flatbed trailer in 1986.

"It was a slow, tenuous move," Smith said, recalling the historic home's journey. "They almost killed the building, knocking a corner off when it hit a light pole."

"It was everyone's Saturday morning entertainment," he added. "Everybody crowded along the streets waiting for it to be moved."

The home was much larger then, Smith said, but as it stands today, it isn't the full home. A part of it had to be cut off when it was moved, he said.

"It was terrible. The roof leaked and the floors were in terrible shape," he said. "Some windows were removed, and it had been cut up into about two or three apartments."

The home now includes a display case that is a tribute to the family.

Smith's affection for Case is clear as he talks about the things the man did for the city and the county.

"My affinity for Reed Case was he accomplished great things for the community and kept his sanity," Smith said.

"Reed kept a fund available at his bank to rescue slaves," he added, "and spent the money at least once to bring one through."

The community apparently loved him, too. Mourners came from Rockfield and Camden for his funeral.

Smith knows so much about Case that the amount of information he gives can be a bit overwhelming, especially if you're trying to write it down.

"Because the Reed Case story is evaporating," Smith said, when asked why it's important to keep telling it. "The days of a person with a vision and a dream and following it are evaporating. Could a person do what Reed did today on just intelligence and people skills? I don't think so."

Smith said people enjoy the tours of the home.

"There's one word, wow," he said. "A lot of them can't believe it looks the way it does on the inside compared to how it looks on the outside, and they're really wowed by everything they see."

"You'd be surprised the number of younger people I bring through here that are impressed," he added. "A lot of people have never seen some of the things here, like a pump organ."

You can purchase a package tour of the interpretive center/museum, a ride on the canal boat and the Case House for \$12. The spring season begins May 13.

Mark Smith is perfect Carroll County historian

By Kathleen Merrill
HJ Correspondent

Carroll County Historian Mark Smith can't remember when he didn't love history.

"I've always been this way," he said. "My father would take me around to historic sites and state parks to supplement my education."

"It just so happened Disneyland was out of the question, so he took me to historic sites. Does it show?" he asked with a hearty laugh.

His mother did not encourage his love of history, he said, adding that it was "kind of a ho-hum thing with her."

But his father encouraged him greatly, also taking him to family reunions, cemeteries and historic homes. Imagine, if you will, Smith as a kind of a history nerd.

"Being an only child, I'm mainly associated with older people instead of my peers," he said.

That also helped him learn people's stories so he could pass them on.

Smith, 68, said he was friends with local historian, photographer, writer and political activist Charles Gerard for 45 years. Gerard passed away in 2005.

"We were close friends," Smith said. "I kind of shadowed him."

One thing that bothers Smith is that some people, especially young people, don't have an interest in history, he said.

"I have a deep concern that we carry on, that we don't miss a link between my generation and the next," he said. "I have a deep concern that we pass the torch, as we did in the bicentennial celebration, to the next generation before it gets lost."

He has a great sense of humor, but can tell a joke with dry wit that sometimes has you wondering whether he is kidding. But he is serious about history and the fact that it needs to be handed down.

"There's a lot we're losing," he said. "There's a lot of stories we're not being told. Artifacts all tell a story, too, so we need to save them as well."

"I tell the Case story because it's dwindling," Smith said during a recent private tour of the Reed Case House at the Wabash & Erie Canal Center. "I do it to keep alive the memory of someone who did so much with people skills, please and thank you, and little formal education."

He's been giving private and public tours of the home, "forever," he jokes, adding, "probably six, seven or eight years."

But the joking ends when he returns to the topic he loves so much.

"There are two ways for a nation, state or local place to lose its history - be conquered by an army or by neglect," he said. "It's kind of like maintenance you do on your car or your house. We need to do some maintenance on passing history on."

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