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CCHS Receives Heritage Support Grant

On September 1, 2025, the Cass County Historical Society was thrilled to receive a Heritage Support Grant from the Indiana Historical Society in the amount of \$22,848 to help cover the architect expenses for the exciting next phase of our vision for the Cass County Museum at 421 E. Broadway Street in Logansport! With this generous support, KJG Architects, Inc. will complete design work, concept art, construction plans, and provide professional oversight for remodeling our south gallery. Our goal is to complete the remodel in 2026, in time for the nationwide America 250 celebrations —but we cannot achieve it without the continued support of our community. We warmly invite you to join us at our Annual Meeting this December (see page 14) to learn more about this project and how you can be part of bringing it to life. *Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment, Inc.*



Picture of ReVe automobile on display at Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana, 2023 – 2025. Photo courtesy Sam Grate, ACD Museum Curator.

The mission of the Cass County Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share Cass County Indiana history.

Museum Hours:

Long Home Museum
1004 E. Market, Logansport
1 - 4 PM Thursday - Friday &
First Saturday of the Month
\$5 Adult Admission

Cass County Museum
Castaldi Family History Center
421 E. Broadway, Logansport
10 AM - 4 PM
Tuesday - Thursday

***Both Museums are Closed in
January for Cleaning & Exhibit
Maintenance***

GIVING OPTIONS

***Send your charitable, tax
deductible donation to any of
the following.***

Cass County Historical Society
421 E. Broadway
Logansport, IN 46947

**The Charles P. Schaefer
Designated Endowment Fund**
c/o Cass County Community
Foundation
P.O. Box 441
Logansport, IN 46947
(Send to Cass Co. Comm.
Foundation)

**Cass County Historical Society
Pass Through Account**
c/o Cass County Community
Foundation
P O Box 441
Logansport, IN 46947
(Send to Cass Co. Comm.
Foundation)

CCHS IS A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

Happy Fall! I am delighted to share several exciting developments that mark real progress in our *Two Museums, One Mission* effort. Thanks to the continued generosity and encouragement of our community, we are moving forward in meaningful ways.

First, we are deeply grateful for the renewed support of Cass County in 2025. The County Council approved and delivered a \$50,000 contribution from appropriated funds to support operational expenses, and we are under consideration to receive this support annually. This recognition is a powerful affirmation of the importance of preserving and sharing our history, and we look forward to updating you as that decision progresses.

While we are still actively raising funds for ongoing architect and contractor fees, the vision for both museums is firmly in motion. At the Long Home Museum, we are close to completing all roof and guttering repairs, and by year’s end we expect to celebrate the security of a (mostly) new roof - another crucial step in protecting this historic treasure. Looking ahead, we are working diligently to complete construction on the first floor of the Cass County Museum downtown in 2026, aligning its opening with the upcoming *America 250* celebrations. Work on proper organization and documentation of the collection and archive remains ongoing.

The support we’ve received from the Indiana Historical Society and from so many local organizations across our community has been both humbling and energizing. You will see much of that spirit reflected in this issue of *the Confluence*. We also wish to recognize our research and genealogy patrons, whose generous gifts honor the extraordinary work of our Program Manager, Jill Snyder, in connecting people with their Cass County roots.

On behalf of the Cass County Historical Society, please accept my heartfelt thanks. Your support - and that of our partners - makes it possible for us to collect, preserve, and share the history of Cass County for generations to come.



Heather Fouts

Heather Fouts
CCHS Executive Director

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

***The Confluence* Subscription \$25**

Includes one year of the CCHS quarterly newsletter mailing featuring the latest information on program offerings, museum development and local history stories of interest.

Individual \$50

Includes one year of benefits for one person. Benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 10% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

Household \$100

Includes one year of benefits for two adults and all children under age 18 in the household. Benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 10% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

Sustaining Member \$100

Includes one year of benefits for one person. Benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 20% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

Benefactor \$500

Includes up to 5 Household or Sustaining Member Level Memberships, assigned to intended recipients at time of purchase. Annual benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 20% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

***Thank you for considering membership to our organization.
Your annual paid membership helps us provide museum admission and services
to all children and students free of charge.***

***Become a member of the
Cass County Historical Society
during your next visit to our
museums and receive a FREE
Birth of a City DVD!
Already a member? Bring a friend!
You'll both be rewarded for helping us
build our membership!***



MEMBERSHIP

Third Quarter New & Renewed Members

***David & Mary Lou Hults
Garry & Julie Williams
Richard Gundrum
Paul & Barbara Castaldi Harvey
Jeffrey Stanton
John Brown
Chico & Susan Rodriguez
Patricia Herron***

***John Heckard
Tom Byers
Jayne Small
Rick & Lita Rouser
Michael & Shirley Rush
Jerry Hudson
Kyle Rans***

THANK YOU!

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

The Cass County Historical Society is deeply grateful to the Cass County United Way for their assistance during the annual Day of Caring event on September 12, 2025. With the incredible support of our community partners, we were able to accomplish a major step in our mission. A special thank you goes to The Gray Mill for generously providing the use of their box truck and two workers, and to Ivy Tech Logansport for supplying additional helping hands. We also extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated CCHS Trustees Jeff Stuart, Vickie Lebo, and Steve Muelhausen, along with volunteer Mike Small, for their hard work and commitment. Together, we successfully transferred museum gift shop inventory, multiple boxes of heavy books, additional railroad and transportation history artifacts, and most of our textile collection (with racks) from the Long Home carriage barn to our downtown museum. We are truly thankful to the United Way for this opportunity and for their continued support of our efforts to preserve and share Cass County's history.



United Way and CCHS Volunteers load the truck during 2026 United Way Day of Caring

The Published Writings of Horace P. Biddle

Written by R.W. Julian
CCHS Emeritus Trustee & Contributing Author



Judge Horrace P. Biddle (1811-1900)
Oil on Canvas. Artwork on display at Long Home Museum.

Those interested in Logansport history are generally aware that Biddle’s Island is named after its most famous resident, Judge Horace P. Biddle (1811–1900). His home on the island was a mecca for those interested in poetry and history.

What is not so well known, however, is that Biddle was a prolific writer—especially of poetry—and published at least a dozen books during his lifetime. Portions of Biddle’s books and essays have been reprinted in modern times, indicating that some of his work still holds significance.

In 1955, one of my neighbors, Zoe Quaintance (1873–1956), presented me with several of Biddle’s books. She explained that after the judge’s death in 1900, she was employed as the stenographer by the lawyer handling the estate. She recorded, in detail, the contents of Biddle’s home. When all was said and done in 1901, the lawyer told her to take whatever Biddle books she wanted from the “barrel full on the back porch.”

I do not know of any other private collection of Biddle books, but perhaps this short essay will help uncover others. The Library and Historical Society likely hold several of his works. At least three books were published under a pseudonym.

The following hardbound books are listed by date of publication. Book sizes are approximate.

Published Works of Horace P. Biddle

- ***A Few Poems* by Horace P. Biddle (1858)** Published by Moore, Wiltach, Keys & Co., Cincinnati. Pages: xiii + 240 (the latter numbering includes the xiii pages). Contains 186 short poems and an essay titled “What is Poetry?” (pages 15–43). The title page is accompanied by praise from Washington Irving and Charles Mackay. Entered in 1858 at the clerk’s office for the Indiana District Court. Size: 4.75 × 7.6 inches.
- ***Poems* by Horace P. Biddle (1868)** Not seen, but believed to have the same contents and format as the following entry. (A reprint copy of the 1868 first edition is currently for sale on Amazon.)
- ***Poems* by Horace P. Biddle (1872)** Published by the Riverside Press and sold by Hurd and Houghton, New York. Pages: xvi + 341. This is a second edition, though not marked as such. Contains

175 poems of varying lengths, with a short addendum at the end explaining several poems. Entered in 1868 at the Indiana clerk’s office. The title page includes a woodcut of a log cabin with the words “Such was my home,” possibly referring to Biddle’s childhood home. Size: 4.4 × 6.75 inches.

- ***My Scrap Book* by Horace P. Biddle (1874)** Marked “Logansport” on the title page, with “This book is not published” on the reverse. Pages: ix + 180. No publisher listed. Includes a frontispiece with two actual (pasted, not printed) photographs of Biddle at ages 30 and 50. Contains 160 poems, some dated between 1828 and 1860. Two pages of notes at the end. Size: 6.1 × 7.75 inches.

- ***American Boyhood* by Horace P. Biddle (1876)** Published in Philadelphia by J.B. Lippincott & Co. for the author. Frontispiece (with tissue paper) features the same cabin image as the 1872 volume. Entered by Lippincott in 1875 at the Library of Congress. 228 pages, divided into fifteen poetic topics (e.g., “Home & Parents,” “Mills & Distilleries,” etc.), with 24 pages of explanatory notes at the end. Size: 5 × 7.6 inches.

- ***Prose Miscellany* by Horace P. Biddle (1881)** Published by Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati. Copyright 1881 by Biddle. Essays cover topics such as Art, Poetry, Rhyme, Sound, Music & Instruments, Tetrachord, and Russian Literature. 246 pages. Portions of this book have been reprinted. Size: 5.25 × 8 inches.

- ***Elements of Knowledge* by Horace P. Biddle (1881)** Same publisher as the above. 245 pages. Frontispiece portrait of Biddle with a long white beard. Essays in ten parts, covering topics such as Knowledge, God, Creation, Philosophy, Science, Art, Literature, Government, Morals, and Religion. Size: 5.25 × 8 inches.

- ***Last Poems* by Horace P. Biddle (1882)** Same publisher as above. Copyright 1881. Frontispiece portrait with tissue paper, showing Biddle with a short beard. Pages: xix + 435, containing 331 poems. Includes an index of poems by page at the front, and alphabetically by title at the back. Publisher’s catalog at the end lists 12 pages of books for sale, including two of Biddle’s works—*Elements of Knowledge* and *Prose Miscellanies*—priced at \$1 each. Size: 5.5 × 8 inches.

Works Published Under Pseudonym

- ***Glances at the World 1864–1865* by Hieronymus Anonymous (published as “Mundus: Cadmus Faustus, 5874” i.e., 1870)** Four “glances” in poetic form. 141 pages, with notes at the end. Publisher’s note claims the manuscript was found in an “aerolite” and that nothing was known of the author. Size: 5.25 × 7.5 inches.

- ***Glances at the World* by Hieronymus Anonymous (Mundus: Cadmus Faustus, 5878; i.e., 1874)** Entered at the Library of Congress in 1873 by Horace P. Peters. Contains twelve essays in poetic form on topics such as America, Heroes, Priests, Critics, etc. Includes several pages of explanatory notes at the end. Size: 5.25 × 8 inches.

- ***Love’s Excuse* by Excusatus (5885; i.e., 1881)** Mundus: Venus, Cupid and Psyche. Marked: “This book is not published; only one hundred copies printed.” Pages: vi + 7–97. Contains 55 stanzas of poetry, supposedly written in part by David Rizzio (1533–1566), though clearly authored by Biddle. Size: 5.5 × 7 inches.

Note: The dates on the last three books (e.g., 5885) are based on the chronology created by Irish Bishop James Ussher in the 17th century, who believed the Earth was created on Sunday, October 23, 4004 B.C. (e.g., 5885 – 4004 = 1881).

Additional Works

Currently, on Amazon, a reprint book claimed to be by Biddle is listed at about \$45. It is described as having 688 pages and being Volume XXXVIII in the *Musical World* series. However, I have seen the index of this volume, and Biddle’s name does not appear. The book is a compilation of 52 weekly issues from a series that ran annually from 1836 to 1891. The Biddle attribution is likely in error.

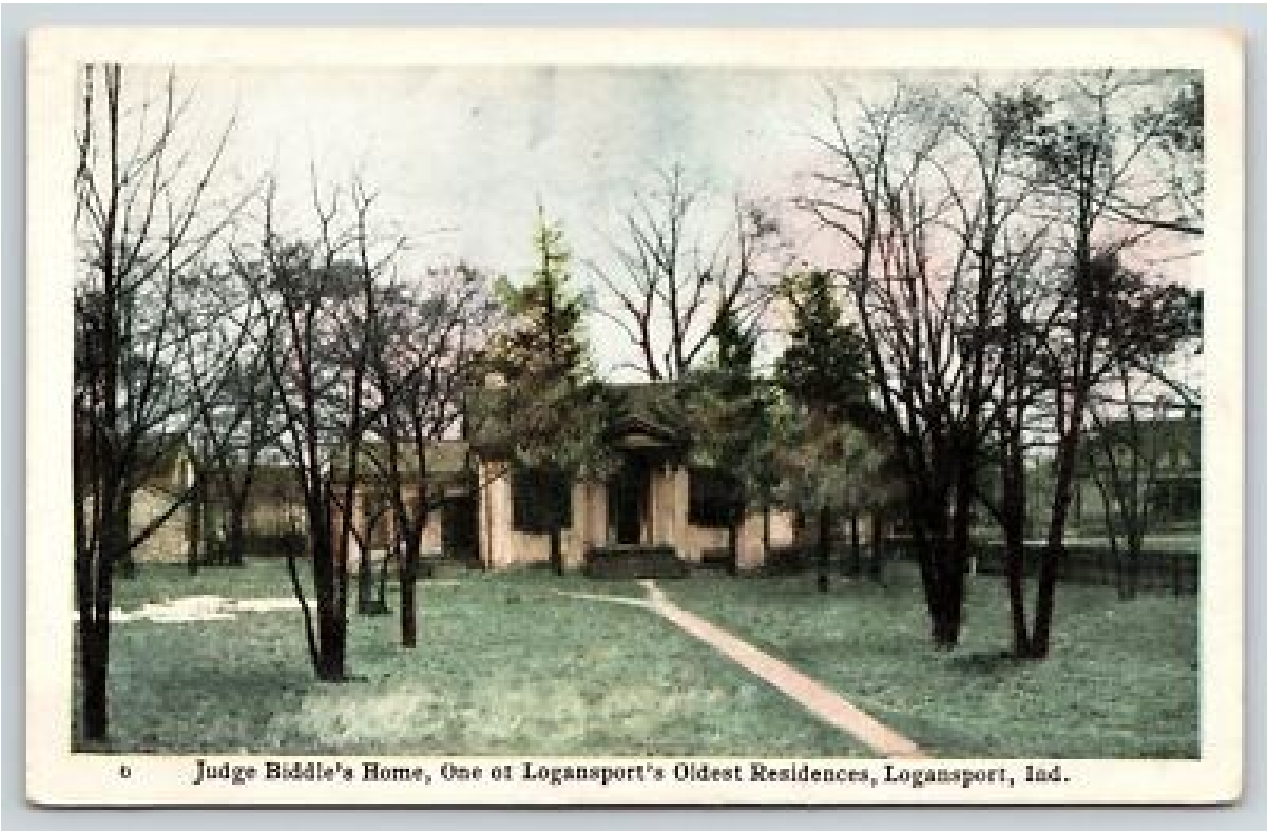
Another item is a small, paper-bound book found in one of the volumes given to me by Zoe Quaintance. It contains 15 pages and 22 poetic stanzas, with two pages of notes at the end. The title page reads: *The Old Man’s Story of the Rock: A Poem* (Wright and Moeller, Printers, Lancaster, Ohio, 1838). At that time, Biddle was living in Lancaster, Ohio, studying law under Hocking Hunter. He moved to Logansport the following year. Size: 3.2 × 5.25 inches. Although anonymous, the work is very likely by Biddle.

It is also probable that some of the prose essays found in *Elements of Knowledge* or *Prose Miscellany* were originally published in paper-bound form during the 1860s or 1870s.

Some years ago, Esther McNitt of the Indiana State Library compiled a list of Biddle’s published writings. The following titles she recorded have not been located and are not included in the above listing:

- *My Cabin Home* (1839)
- *A Few Poems* (1849)
- *Amatories by an Amateur* (Cincinnati, 1878)

—R.W. Julian, September 2025



Judge Biddle's Home, One of Logansport's Oldest Residences, Logansport, Ind.

Images accessed online 9/10/25.

If interested in helping us decorate, please contact us!

Adult volunteers only please.

Long Home Museum will be closed November 15 - 25 for decorating.

Cass County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

MEMBER PREVIEW

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 ~ 2 - 4 PM

OPEN HOUSE DECORATIONS DEBUT

Friday, November 28, 2025 ~ 2 - 5 PM

Come see us before the parade!

EXTENDED MUSEUM HOURS

Thursday - Saturday ~ 1 - 4 PM

MEET SANTA CLAUS IN THE PARLOR

First Saturday, December 6, 2025

1 - 4 PM

LONG HOME MUSEUM

CASS COUNTY
VISITORS BUREAU

Christmas is just around the corner!

December Special!

MEMBERSHIP

Buy One, Get One 50% Off

Cass County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Have a friend or family member who is hard to buy for?

Consider a gift membership to Cass County Historical Society!

Annual memberships start at \$25. Each level has a variety of benefits (more information on page 3).

Memberships can be purchased on our website or at our museums.

574-753-3866
casscountyhistory.org

The History and Final Ending of the Cass County Children’s Home

Written by Jill Snyder
CCHS Program Manager

For this newsletter, I’ve decided to share the story of the Cass County orphanage, a place that holds personal significance for me. I had a distant cousin who spent time there, and I was fortunate enough to hear about her experiences as a resident firsthand.

Before the Pleasant Hill Orphanage was established at the close of the 19th century, there were few options for children without a safe place to live. The movement to provide care for such children began around 1865, at the end of the Civil War. A group of women from Logansport came together to form a temporary organization to support orphans and underprivileged children, many of whom had lost one or both parents to the war. The majority of these children came from impoverished single-parent households unable to care for them. The orphanage was seen as a temporary solution until their circumstances improved.

The first home for these children was located on the second floor of a building on 6th Street, housing three to four children. A year later, the facility moved to Wheatland Avenue, where it was housed in a building that had previously been owned by Judge Stuart. As the number of children needing care grew, the Orphans Home was relocated to Melbourne Avenue. In February 1878, the organization became official, filing Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State and adopting the name “The Orphans Home Association.”

On October 18, 1882, the Cass County commissioners purchased a property on Pleasant Hill, which was better suited to the needs of the orphanage. The house had originally been built in 1867 by Mr. Chamberlain, a local lawyer who had arrived in Logansport in 1851. Mrs. Chamberlain, however, found the location too far from town, so the family built a new house at the corner of 8th and North Streets. It’s unclear whether the home sat vacant or was occupied after the Chamberlains left until the Orphan’s Home Board purchased it in 1882 for \$2,500. Renovations began in 1903.



Over the years, the home faced challenges, including two fires, the second of which, in 1906, was particularly destructive, gutting much of the building. While repairs were underway, the children were temporarily relocated to the Miami/Mexico County Children’s Home. The county spent more than \$8,200 on renovations, and the children returned to Pleasant Hill in 1907.

In the early years, the focus at the orphanage was on meeting the children’s basic needs. Over time, it became a safe haven for children whose parents were absent, especially during the Great Depression. It was during this period that my cousin, Rita, and her two



siblings found themselves living at the home. Rita was just six years old, with her 13-year-old brother and 11-year-old sister by her side. Their mother had passed away, leaving five children for their father to care for. Unfortunately, their father, a railroader, had been injured on the job and was out of work for some time. He had no choice but to place his three youngest children in the orphanage. Rita’s story was not unique at the time.

Rita spoke fondly of her experience at the orphanage. Despite the label of “orphan,” which was often viewed with shame at the time, Rita did not feel embarrassed. She had her siblings for company, and she felt safe and cared for. She remembered the house parents, Mr. and Mrs. Banta, as warm and kind, and she enjoyed the many activities the orphanage provided. There were parties, picnics, trips to the Paramount Theater on Saturday afternoons with popcorn and candy, and sledding down College Hill during the winter months when the road was blocked off just for the children.

Chores were assigned based on age and ability, but Rita did not see it as exploitative, as was the case in many orphanages. School attendance was mandatory, and the children walked a trail through the woods to Columbia School. Rita remembered her second-grade teacher, Mrs. Ewing, who worked with her on reading and math, helping her build confidence in her abilities. Rita later credited this encouragement for her work as a contributor to the *Logansport Pharos Tribune Forum* in the 1990s.

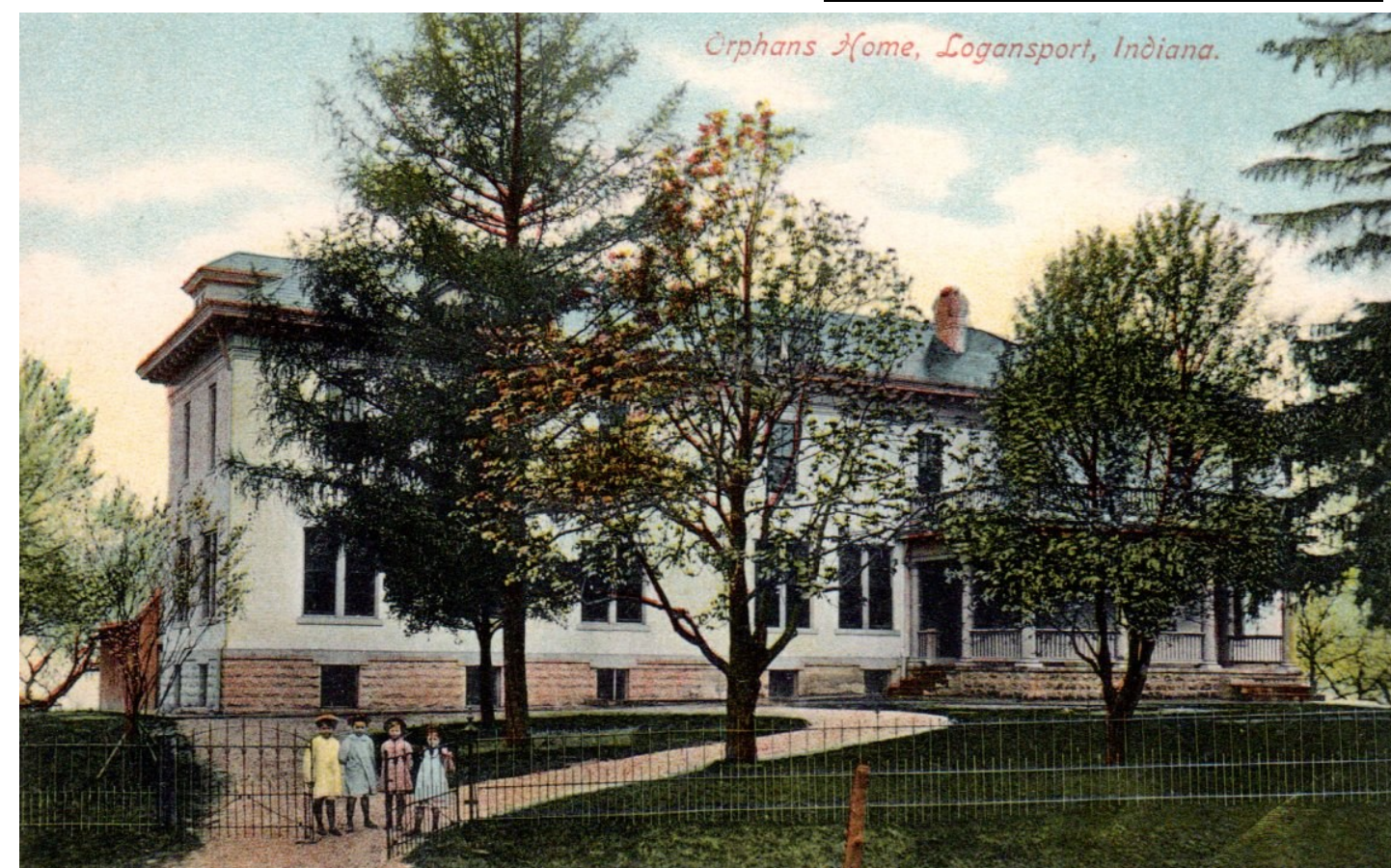
Rita and her siblings stayed at the orphanage for two years until an aunt and uncle took her and her sister in. Her older brother moved to California to live with the eldest sibling. Rita looked back on her time at the orphanage as a positive experience. The county had been generous in providing a secure and comfortable environment for the children—about 25 in total when Rita was there.

Over the years, additional services were added, including mental health counseling and a full-time director. This, however, began to place a financial strain on the county, which had previously only needed to support a husband-and-wife manager team, a cook, and a laundress. The County Board of Charities and Corrections made regular visits to ensure that the home remained in excellent condition, and most reports from children who had lived there were favorable.

The orphanage operated for 142 years, providing a home to many children who were homeless or displaced. The last child left the facility in March 2003, and the building remained vacant until 2009, when part of the older structure was torn down and the remainder was remodeled into an assisted living facility. The address, 1339 Pleasant Hill, became home to a senior living community.

I often wonder how many children, like Rita, found comfort and security at the orphanage, and how it shaped their lives. For Rita, the experience had a lasting, positive impact. She was a strong and resilient person, forever cherishing her time at the home.

Images accessed online 9/18/25.



LOCAL SUPPORT

Cass County supports CCHS for Second Year

The Cass County Historical Society is grateful to announce that Cass County has once again supported our mission by providing \$50,000 from county-appropriated funds to help cover operational expenses at both the Long Home Museum and the Cass County Museum. Last October, the council generously provided the same amount, and we are relieved and thankful to receive this vital support again in 2025. This funding is essential for us to continue our *Two Museums. One Mission* effort, ensuring that we can preserve and share the rich history of Cass County for generations to come.



Community Foundation to the Rescue...Again!



2025 Opportunity Grant Award Recipients. Photo courtesy of CCCF Facebook Page.

On October 1, 2025, the Cass County Historical Society was awarded an Opportunity Grant from the Cass County Community Foundation in the amount of \$15,333 to replace the HVAC system in the carriage barn at the Long Home Museum. We are deeply grateful for the Community Foundation's continued support and belief in the importance of our effort.



Core Mechanical Donates Services at CCM

Earlier this year, Core Mechanical, Inc. generously donated \$9,000 in in-kind services to the Cass County Historical Society. Their expertise included review of our architect's HVAC system plans and evaluation of the Cass County Museum building in preparation for ductwork revisions and additional equipment needed to achieve museum standard temperature and humidity controls aligning to our future floor plan. We are sincerely grateful to Core for their support and for the continued relationship that helps us move our mission forward.



UPCOMING EVENTS

A Presentation About

THE RAILROADS OF CASS COUNTY, INDIANA



Logansport, Pennsylvania Railroad station, c.1900.

A PowerPoint presentation about the ten steam and three electric railroads that built rail lines in and through Cass County, 1855-1907, and their successors, abandonments and remnants.

A complete history with 100 maps and photos.

Saturday, October 25, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Cass County Museum

421 East Broadway

Logansport, Indiana

Bring your memories and photos and share them with us.

ANNUAL MEETING

Cass County HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

*Please join us for our annual public Board of Trustees meeting.
We will celebrate our progress in 2025 and share our goals for 2026!
Refreshments will be served. Free to attend.*

December 10, 2025 ~ 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Cass County Museum

421 E. Broadway Street, Logansport

New Remote Voting Opportunity for Members

Each year, the 3 year term of service ends for 5 of our Trustees. We have traditionally voted to fill these 5 Trustee positions at our Annual Meeting in December.

Since many of our members live far away or are otherwise unable to attend the Annual Meeting to cast their vote, we have decided to offer remote voting.

We currently have 5 candidates on the ballot for our 2026 class of Trustees. Please contact us if you have questions about our nominees. We also offer the opportunity for members to write-in and vote for other willing and qualified candidates.

Votes may be called in, emailed or mailed in. 574-753-3866, hfouts@casscountyhistory.org, or mail to: Cass County Historical Society, 421 E. Broadway St., Logansport, IN, 46947.

The 2026 class of Trustees will be announced on December 10, 2025.

TRUSTEE BALLOT

John Brown	☐
Jayne Small	☐
Jerry Miller	☐
Kim Reid	☐
Jeff Stuart	☐
_____	☐

FOR 2026-2028 TERM

2025 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

BRONZE \$1-\$99	SILVER \$100-\$199	GOLD \$200-499	DIAMOND \$500-\$4999
Stephen Clary William Jackson Robert McBride Celia Jones John & Janet Davis	George Stephenson Doris Chambers Bonnie Manning Jim & Mercedes Brugh Central Paving Inc. John & Anita Hillis J.T. & Ana Haley Hiram & Posie Fouts Logan's Landing Mary Lou Long Phillip Gleason J.T. Haley	Tony & Barb Partridge Mark & Marsha Bender Small Parts Inc. Security Federal Savings Bank Ann Mummert	Vickie Bridge Paul & Barbara (Castaldi) Harvey Judge Leo & Lucy Burns Tom Castaldi Jerry & Ann Miller Sharon Jones Larry Thomas Michael & Sarah Stajduhar Robert Julian
VAULT \$5000+			
Castaldi Family Trust			

2025 BUSINESS PATRONS



Cass County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.
Campaign donations do not include membership.

Thank you for supporting Cass County Historical Society!

Cass County Historical Society
421 E. Broadway
Logansport, IN 46947
Return Service Requested



Phone: 574-753-3866

Email : info@casscountyhistory.org

Web: www.casscountyhistory.org



New Content Coming Soon!

