

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Golf Scramble..... Cover
From the Director 2
Membership3 - 4
Caston High School.....5
The Old Gentleman.....6 - 7
Recollections8
Campaign Progress.....9
Canal Society.....10
CCHS Events.....11

Staff

Executive Director
Heather Fouts

Program Manager
Jill Snyder

Board Officers

President
Steve Muehlhausen

Vice President
Jeff Stuart

Secretary
Claudia Benn

Treasurer
Kim Reid

Board of Trustees

Barbara Stein, Jerry Miller,
Vickie Lebo, Rick Rouser,
Judy Masters, Chico
Rodriguez, Jane Small,
Kyle Rans, Tom Byers,
John Brown

Emeritus Trustees

Robert W. Julian
Sue Ridlen

CASS CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

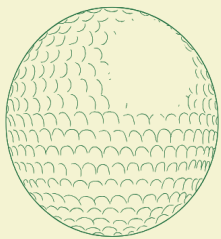
Driving Through History

GOLF SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

11:00 LUNCH / 12:00 SHOTGUN START

LOGANSPORT GOLF CLUB



☐ SHOWROOM SPONSOR (MAIN EVENT SPONSOR) \$2,500
PROMOTION AT EVENT, BANNERS, ADVERTISING, 1 TEAM

☐ PIT STOP SPONSOR (LUNCH SPONSOR) \$1,000
PROMOTION AT EVENT, BANNERS, ADVERTISING, 1 TEAM

☐ TEAM SPONSOR - \$300 4 PERSON TEAM @ \$75/GOLFER

☐ HOLE SPONSOR \$100
TEE SIGN WITH LOGO

☐ SILENT AUCTION AND/OR GOODY BAG
DONATION ITEM(S)

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MUSEUM'S SOUTH GALLERY
TO HOUSE THE REVERE AND TRANSPORTATION EXHIBITS

Return form to CCHS - 421 E Broadway, Logansport, IN 46947

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



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

As we welcome the spring season, we are pleased to share several important updates on the ongoing work at the Cass County Historical Society.

Behind the scenes, our team continues the careful and essential work of sorting and organizing our collection, library, and archives. This effort ensures that our historical resources are preserved, accessible, and ready to support future exhibits and research.

At the Cass County Museum, new first-floor exhibits are actively being created and installed, bringing fresh stories and renewed energy to our spaces. We are also working hard on our grant with the Indiana Historical Society, and are nearing completion of construction plans for our long-awaited transportation history exhibit in the South Gallery. This exhibit will feature the ReVere automobile and represents a significant step forward in enhancing our museum experience. Finalizing these plans will provide the clarity we need to confidently move forward with funding of the construction phase.

To support this effort, we have several fundraisers planned, including the golf scramble highlighted on the cover page. These events will play a vital role in helping us meet construction expenses. In addition, we plan to apply for a new grant in mid-April that, if approved, would cover approximately half of the total construction cost of the new gallery space.

We will continue to keep you informed as more details become available. In the meantime, we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support as we navigate this pivotal moment in our *Two Museums. One Mission.* initiative. Together, we are working as quickly as we can to provide fresh exhibit spaces that honor and share the rich history of Cass County.

Thank you for being an important part of this journey.

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.

***Please share the membership opportunities of our organization.
Museum admission and services are free for all children and students.***

The Cass County Historical Society extends sincere thanks to Trustee Jerry Miller for his dedication and leadership. As chair of our Board & Membership Development Committee (and a welcoming presence as a docent every Thursday from 1 - 4 PM at the Long Home Museum) Jerry has been working hard to grow awareness of and membership to our organization.

We invite all of our members to please help us continue this momentum by encouraging friends, family, and neighbors to join. Together, we have so many exciting plans ahead to enhance your local history museum experience. Be part of our *Two Museums. One Mission.* Journey as we collect, preserve, and share Cass County, Indiana history.



MEMBERSHIP

First Quarter New & Renewed Members

Stephen Clary

George Stephenson

Rebecca Parker

Jerry & Ann Miller

Marlene Remley

Mike & Sarah Stajduhar

Anne Stajduhar

Donald Snyder

Linda Randak

Steve & Jeanie Jones

Darrell Herd

Sheila Laing

John & Sharon Jones

Sam Burrous

Keith Cole

Rich & Barrie McClain

Nore Spitznogle

Linda Schlick

Judy Williamson

Michael & Karen Deitrich

Angela Duggins

Mary Ann Rusk

Mary Lou Long

Burton Reed

Steve & Deanna Crispin

Christine Williamson

Steve Longenecker

Tac & Diane Welsh

Elaine Hall

Barb Kitchel

Dale & Jeneanne Byers

Pat Herron

James & Sarah Muelhausen

Diana Joyner

John & Anita Hillis

Brian & Tara Morrill

EASTER BUNNY VISITS LONG HOME

We were excited to welcome the Easter Bunny for a special meet and greet with our guests in the Long Home Museum Parlor on the First Saturday in April!

It was wonderful to see him hopping back to join us again this year, bringing smiles and sharing sweet goodies with all our friends.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Easter Bunny for making the day so memorable, and a special thank-you to his best friends, Rebekah and Derek, for helping ensure E.B. could be part of our celebration once again.



Caston High School Lends a Hand

On March 7, 2026, members of the Caston High School Key Club joined forces with the Cass County Historical Society to complete a hands-on service project at the Cass County Museum. Under the guidance of their instructor, Mary Jo Rogers, students dedicated three hours, 9 a.m. to noon, to helping us improve library space inside the Castaldi Family History Center.

Camila Hernandez Rios, Alyssa Smith, Giselle Aguilar-Mendez, and Hannah Rogers worked collaboratively with their instructor, museum staff and volunteers to build and install four new bookcases. The project required teamwork, careful assembly, and attention to detail to ensure the shelving units were sturdy and safely positioned. Their efforts added much-needed storage space and enhanced the organization and accessibility of historical library materials housed in the center.

Through their service, the Key Club members demonstrated a strong commitment to community involvement and preservation of local history. By contributing their time and energy, they helped create a more functional and welcoming research space for visitors and historians alike, leaving a lasting impact on the museum and the community it serves. Thank you, Caston High School Key Club!



The 'Old Gentleman' Uncle Allen

Written by Jill Snyder
CCHS Program Manager

Lewis (Louis) Allen was a formerly enslaved man who settled in Logansport, Indiana, in 1885. His story begins in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he was born into slavery, either in 1811 or 1821. Various documents list his age at death as 90 or 100.

Records of enslaved people were sparse or non-existent, except when individuals were sold at auction. Southern states often kept detailed records of horses and livestock, while showing little concern for documenting the births, families, and deaths of Black individuals who were treated as property.

At the age of 14, Lewis was sold, along with his twin brother George and their parents, to different owners. He never saw them again. He became the property of Felix Allen of Clarksville, Tennessee. As was customary for enslaved people, Lewis took the last name of his owner, "Allen."



The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, granting freedom to him and thousands of others. He continued to live in Clarksville with his family for 20 years after the end of the Civil War. The date of his marriage to his wife Jane is unknown, but the couple had 12 children, all born in Tennessee. Lewis's life and occupation during those 20 years in Clarksville were not recorded by the family.

Lewis brought his wife and 12 children to Logansport in 1885, where he began working in blacksmithing and later bricklaying. Eventually, he found his life's work on the Pennsylvania Railroad station platform.

Lewis became an entrepreneur, beginning with the idea of greeting travelers and selling his goods at the train station, as many trains passed through Logansport. For a quarter of a century, he worked daily, providing cookies, fruit, sandwiches, and pies made by his wife, Jane.

During this time, Lewis served the traveling public and became well known and well liked. He carried his goods in a wire basket neatly covered by a clean white cloth. He paced back and forth on the platform, repeating his dialogue in a high-pitched voice. He blended his words: "freshhhpeachpinapplepiessugarcookiesgingercookies" along with the sandwiches he had for sale.

He was polite and cheerful with his customers. Train crews, passengers, baggage handlers, Pullman staff, and others all remembered Lewis. As time went by, many referred to him as a true "gentleman."

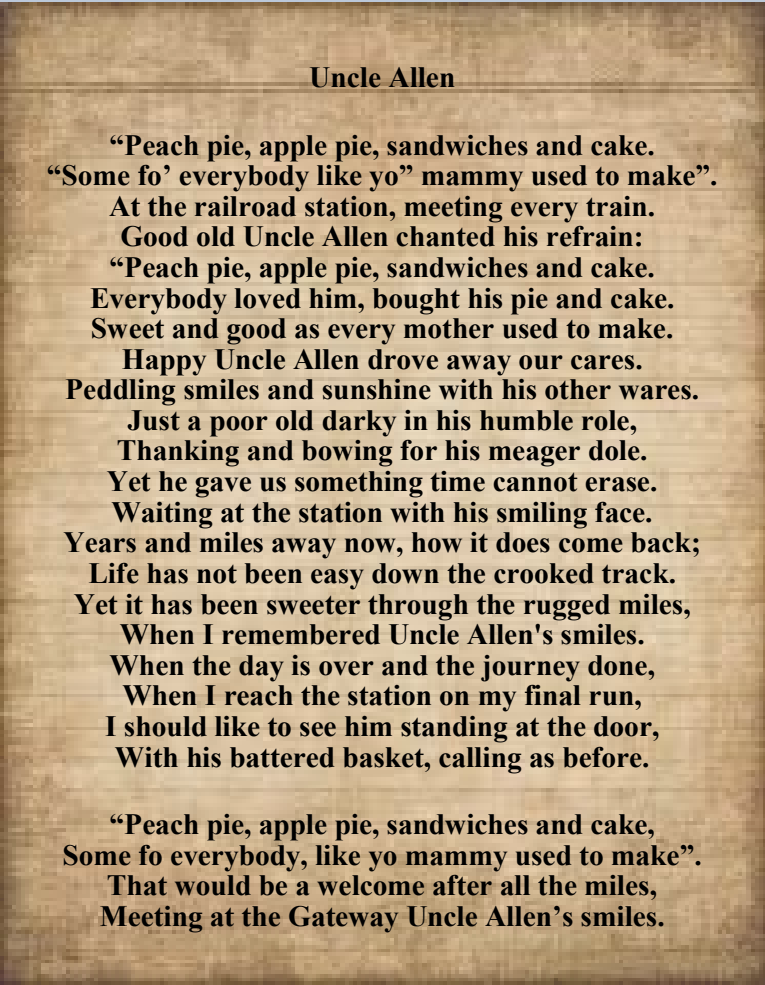
He became known as far west as Wyoming and was a familiar and welcome presence on Pennsylvania Railroad trains. Many people passing through Logansport sought him out to purchase refreshments.

He was successful enough to purchase a house on Cicott Street. Because he could not read or write, William Porter, a local druggist and banker, became his friend and assisted him with his finances. Lewis kept his money in a tobacco pouch and, fearing theft, asked Mr. Porter to open a bank account and make deposits on his behalf.

He served as secretary of the Grand United Order of Colored Odd Fellows (little has been recorded about the organization locally).

After his wife died, Lewis began selling newspapers, as there was no one at home to continue baking. His children had grown, and most had moved away. In his later years, he became physically frail and lived in a small downtown apartment. When he passed away in 1911, he had saved enough for his funeral, with some remaining for his surviving children. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery alongside his wife, Jane (1903), without markers.

A poem was written by a Quaker customer of Lewis and later remembered by one of his nephews. While this original text clearly features language we have evolved away from using today, it still shares the love our community held for the “Old Gentleman.”



Recollections

Written by Lloyd Knight
CCHS Volunteer & Contributing Author

This article is based on a January–February 2008 CCHS newsletter. The information was drawn from the Will Ball papers in the CCHS archives.

In the 1880s and 1890s, Solimano’s fruit store was extremely popular. When a young man called on his girlfriend, he could do nothing better than bring along a pound or two of Solimano’s fine candy or some of their luscious Bartlett pears.

Solimano’s was not just another store, it was an institution in Logansport. Located on the southwest corner of the 400 block of East Broadway (now the site of the CCHS Downtown Office & Museum), it offered every fruit the market had to offer, as well as the finest candy. Much of the fruit was imported, including white Malaga grapes that arrived by way of a Chicago importer from the sunny slopes of southern Spain. There were large yellow pears, seedless California oranges (not easy for consumers to find at the time), and all varieties of apples.

The store even had two four-legged customers: Tom Pierce’s banana-loving cow and Henry Tucker’s horse. Henry Tucker, who owned a harness shop at East Market Street and the south end of Pearl Street, would pass Solimano’s on his way home. His horse would always stop and wait until Mr. Solimano brought him an apple.

A wide double-door entrance stood open during summer business hours—which, in practice, meant most of the time, as the store closed only when it was time to go to bed.

The front of the store, facing East Broadway, housed the fruit and candy department. Behind it was an ice cream parlor in the summer and an oyster bar in the winter. Farther back was the area where the ice cream was made. Solimano’s was the first in town to produce ice cream on a commercial basis.

When young couples went out for the evening, there was nowhere else to stop for a treat. Drugstores did not yet have soda fountains. When soda fountains eventually became popular, Solimano installed one. For many years, however, fruit, candy, ice cream, lemonade, and soda pop were the only treats available. Solimano’s was the place to go, summer or winter.

The proprietor, Lawrence Solimano, was a rather short, stocky man. He always wore a broad-rimmed black felt hat with a crease through the center and was never seen without it or his pipe. He had a heavy mustache that turned snow white in his later years. Though quiet and reserved, he was pleasant to talk to.

Mrs. Solimano was a handsome, matronly woman with a mass of glossy black hair piled high on her head. Even at the time of her death, in her late fifties, her hair was only lightly touched with gray. She was usually present in the store and actively involved in its management.

The store prospered until the building was purchased by the newly organized Logansport Loan & Trust Company. Solimano’s was forced to vacate but relocated to the corner of Fifth Street and East Broadway, where Schwering Realty is located today. The business ended its long run with the passing of Mr. and Mrs. Solimano.

2026 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BRONZE \$1-\$99

Carol Felker

SILVER \$100-\$199

Jim & Vicki Bauer
Central Paving Inc.
Debra Farrer
Jeffery Stanton
Gene & Linda Isaacs
David & Barbara Herman
Teresa Fields
Bonnie Manning
Donna Scott
Richard Drake
Nora Spitznogle
Logansport Savings Bank
Mary Lou Long
Burton Reed
Tom Herd
Brian & Tara Morrill

GOLD \$200-499

Hiram & Posie Fouts
W. Randy Hitchens
Lloyd Knight
Steve & Jeanie Jones
John & Sharon Jones
David & Mary Lou Hults
Small Parts Inc.
Rita Crain Kleinschmidt
Pat Herron
James & Sarah Muelhausen

DIAMOND \$500-\$4999

Tac & Diane Welsh
Mark & Marsha Bender
Jerry & Ann Miller

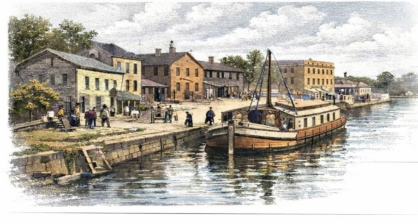
VAULT \$5000+

Castaldi Family Trust



CASS COUNTY LEGACY SPEAKERS

CASS COUNTY LEGACY SPEAKERS
FREE Public History Program
Robert Schmidt
Canal Society of Indiana
“How Logan Became a Port”



Cass County Museum
421 E. Broadway Street
Logansport, IN 46947
574-753-3866
f@casscountyhistory

Saturday, March 28, 2026
2:00 – 4:00 PM
Light refreshments served.



At the most recent Cass County Legacy Speakers event held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Cass County Museum, attendees were treated to an informative presentation by Robert Schmidt of the Indiana Canal Society. His talk, “How Logan Became a Port,” offered a fascinating look into the region’s canal-era history and the vital role waterways played in shaping local communities and commerce.

Schmidt’s depth of knowledge and passion for Indiana’s canal heritage brought history to life, giving attendees a deeper appreciation for Logansport’s development and its connection to broader transportation networks of the 19th century. His presentation was a highlight of the series and a reminder of the importance of preserving and sharing our local stories.

The Indiana Canal Society continues this mission by promoting education, preservation, and exploration of Indiana’s canal system. Community members interested in history, preservation, or simply learning more about Indiana’s waterways are encouraged to support or join the organization.

An excellent opportunity to get involved is the upcoming **CSI Spring Symposium** on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Historic Forks of the Wabash Park in Huntington, Indiana. This free public event features guided tours, expert presentations, and a panel discussion exploring the cultural and historical impact of canals in the Upper Wabash River watershed.

Highlights include:

- Self-guided tours of the 1834 Chief Richardville Historic Home and Treaty Rock
- A keynote presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Webb of Huntington University
- A talk by historian Alec Guenin on “The Irish War at Lagro”
- A panel discussion moderated by Robert Schmidt on expanding Indiana’s canal heritage
- Optional exploration of Lock 10

While the event is free, registration is required due to limited space. To attend, simply submit your name and email to indcanal@aol.com by April 18, 2026.

Whether you’re a lifelong history enthusiast or newly curious about Indiana’s past, the Indiana Canal Society offers meaningful ways to connect, learn, and preserve this important heritage.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wabash & Erie Canal Park in Delphi, Indiana will have a series of monthly nature walks hosted by David McCain, Lois Johnston or Carl Seese along the local historic trails. They will all meet at the Interpretive Center in Canal Park except for the July 11 walk, which will meet at the Blue Bridge trailhead (behind Pizza Hut in Delphi. They are a wonderful way to get exercise, meet new friends and, best of all, they're FREE!

Apr 18 - 2:30 p.m. David McCain Nature/Wildflowers at Woodpecker Trail

May 23 - 2:30 p.m. David McCain Canal Park/ Delphi Bayou

Jun 6 - 2:30 p.m. David McCain Canal Park/ Delphi Bayou

Jul 11 - 10 a.m. Lois Johnston VanScoy Towpath Trail

Aug 8 - 10 a.m. Lois Johnston Walk to Founders Point

Sep 12 - 2:30 p.m. David McCain Canal Park/ Delphi Bayou

Oct 24 - 2:30 p.m. Lois Johnston TBD

Nov 7 - 2:30 p.m. David McCain Canal Park to Limestone Kilns

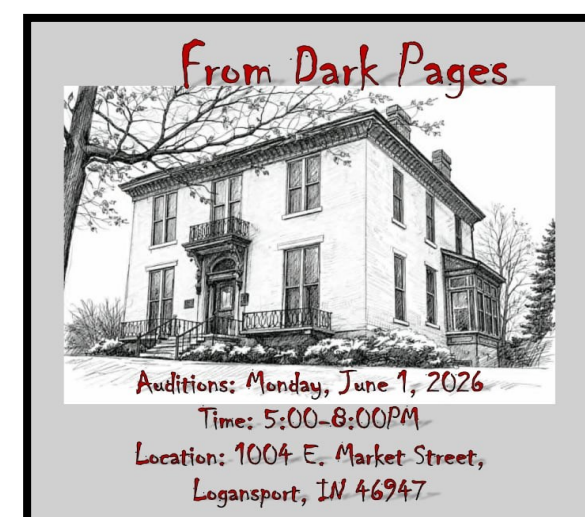
Dec 26 - 1:00 p.m. McCain, Seese Day After Christmas Walk

From Carolyn Schmidt, Canal Society of Indiana "The Tumble" coordinator

Cass County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2026 Schedule of Events

- April 30, 4-6 pm ~ Volunteer Appreciation & Open House, Cass County Museum
- June 1, 5-8 pm ~ From Dark Pages Cast Auditions at Long Home Museum
- June 5, 11 am ~ Driving Through History Golf Scramble, Logan Golf Club
- July 3-4, 1-4 pm ~ America 250 Celebrations Free admission at Long Home Museum
- October 2-3, 9-10 ~ From Dark Pages Mystery Tours at Long Home Museum
- Nov. 27, 2-5 pm ~ Home for the Holidays Decorations debut at Long Home Museum
- Dec. 5, 1-4 pm ~ First Saturday Santa Meet & Greet in Long Home Parlor
- Dec 9, 5-7 pm ~ 2026 CCHS Annual Meeting at Cass County Museum



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



Cass County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TWO MUSEUMS. ONE MISSION.

Join the Cass County Historical Society today and help share our history!

LEARN MORE

Long Home Museum

Thursdays, Fridays & First Saturday of the Month 1 - 4 PM

Cass County Museum

Tuesday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

casscountyhistory.org

