



## Historically Speaking...

If Liz Miller calls you to cover the museum for the Saturday shifts, say yes!!! or better still, call her to say when you can help. You will have a fun time!!!

On Saturday, August 28 we had a great time. Dee Gillis and I were on the first shift and, after Bob Bartley opened for us (he is Catherine Kessler and Grace Kinney all rolled into one), the opening was made easier by Wayne Spitler's wheels. We welcomed Paul Kister with a 1928 Tippecanoe class graduation picture. Dee immediately started identifying the grads (Susie Spitler is on the sideline cheering) with the help of a yearbook. Bob knew where to find just the right one.

Joe Hammann stopped in and we talked about how much we missed Gordan Pittenger. Adam Blake of 1230 West Main came in to share his house projects and barn renovations. He also shared news of the renovation of the Feightly Home next door on the west. (Karen Kuziinsky had taken Dee's place by this time and shared her knowledge of the renovation along with Adam Blake resulting in my finding out where old street maps are kept. This knowledge coming in handy when Adam Weir of 13 East Walnut St came in looking for his house history. He shared pictures and the story of his ongoing house renovations. To sum up..."and a great time was had by all!"

Now for news of about 100 years ago found in the preserved back issues of the Tipp Herald in the back room of the museum!!!!

**Article 22 -August 25, 1926:** A delightful dinner dance was held Monday evening at Mon Reposa, the country place of Mr. J.F. Detrick (this is currently The White House activity center at the center of the Springmeade Campus west of Tipp City.)

**Article 23 -Front page Oct 1926:** Tippecanoe will host a Mardi Gras and corn and pumpkin show three days of next week It will be marvelous, stupendous, and dazzling. The automobile show will be held on Main Street. There will be dancing in the Chaffee Opera House There will be shooting gallery in a Main St room of the hotel.

**Article 24 -December 1926:** Miami East Basketball team will meet Butch Zinks Eaton White Shoes here Tuesday night in the Opera House. (Zinks is an old Tippecanoe City boy)

**Article 25 -March 1927:** Which should play the concerts this summer-- the city band or the high school band? Problem under consideration: the boys have outgrown their uniforms and rather than make an extreme outlay for new ones, it has been proposed that it become a boy scout band so they could wear their scout suits. While we highly support boy scouts, we do not believe a boy scout band would draw crowds.

**Article 26 -December 1926:** Christmas cheer comes to the Feightly Home on West Main Street as Tippecanoe City friends and clubs did not forget the aged ladies. All the ladies at the home are in good health (note: Ralph Brown of that same address is currently renovating the house that was the Feightly Home).

**Article 27 -December 1929:** "The Herald" is running a new feature--brief news items by school children--one cent is offered for each item of news.

If you have purchased a home new to you that has a history, stop in at the museum between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM any Saturday. We will share what we know and guide you to other sources. It really is fun to work on a Saturday at the museum!!!!

Submitted by Ruth White

## Our Society Launches “Iron Dog 110” Fundraiser

Almost everybody around Tipp knows about THE Iron Dog. It stood guard over a little boy's grave. People saw it as they rode the railway through Tipp City. There are all types of histories, myths, and urban legends associated with Tipp City's historic Iron Dog. There's even a website:

[www.irondog.website](http://www.irondog.website)

Tipp City's historic Iron Dog has badly deteriorated over the years. The Iron Dog has withstood the elements, it has been moved around to various locations, and it has even been filled with cement. Pieces have fallen off The Iron Dog and it is simply in a dreadful state of severe disrepair.

The Tippecanoe Historical Society has taken over stewardship of The Iron Dog and has located a museum quality preservationist who has the experience and expertise to restore the Dog to like new status. But this undertaking to preserve our local history does not come cheap. Help with funding this enterprise is needed.

The Tippecanoe Historical Society is sponsoring a fundraiser to raise money towards The Iron Dog's restoration: The “**Iron Dog 110**”.

For a donation of \$100, or more to the Iron Dog's Preservation, the donor will receive a numbered, limited edition (only 110 will be available) keepsake “Dog” as well as a “pedigree” which documents their contribution to Tipp City's history and identifying them as the owner of that particular memento.

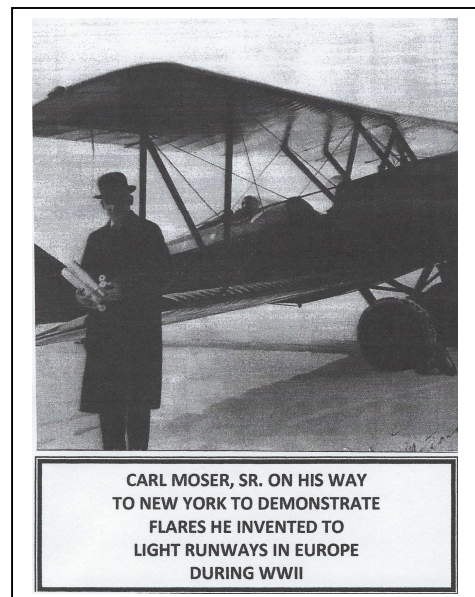
Donations can be made through check, money order or PayPal. You can drop off your donation to the museum 10-2 on Saturdays or mail your check to Tippecanoe Historical Society, PO Box 42, Tipp City, Ohio, 45371. If you are interested in PayPal, please contact us through [info@tippecanoehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@tippecanoehistoricalsociety.org). Local patrons will have their memorabilia delivered while those out of the area will have it mailed to them. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the email address above.



## Moser's – Tipp Fireworks & Davis Coal Co. – Part 2

Carl Moser Sr. was known throughout the U.S. as a designer of major fireworks displays. In 1929, as president of Tipp Fireworks, he announced a merger with Kilgore Manufacturing Co. of Westerville, Ohio. He renamed it International Flare and Signal Co., which continued in Tipp City into the late 1940s.

They acquired the rights to manufacture airplane signal flares and large pistols that launched flares. Other items they produced that were used in WWII: Driggs-Faber electronically controlled airplane flares, cartridges for starting the engines of airplanes on U.S. aircraft carriers; a pistol-type marine flares used as a distress signal and new flashlight cartridges for the photographic trade and news services to improve night photos. A 1929 news article describes how they used Solite, a new chemical, to produce bombs to break up ice jams. They were sold to the Canadian government to use on the St. Lawrence River as well as to the U.S. Army and Navy.



CARL MOSER, SR. ON HIS WAY  
TO NEW YORK TO DEMONSTRATE  
FLARES HE INVENTED TO  
LIGHT RUNWAYS IN EUROPE  
DURING WWII

## Moser's continued

The main office was located at 377 N. Third St. (now The American Legion Post 586). To accommodate the growing business, they erected over 300 small buildings in a large field east of the railroad tracks, behind the office building and across Park St. This was so the highly explosive materials they dealt with were not all in one building. Due to the confidentiality of their contracts, there was a security staff of approximately sixteen men on the premises twenty-four hours a day. After the war, a lumber company acquired the buildings and sold them to individuals for housing, farm buildings and other uses.

A June 1932 newspaper article states their products were adopted as standard equipment at Army flying fields and at Naval bases. The Coast Guard would also use the products as standard equipment in law enforcement work along the coast.

Other items they made were little red boxes of caps kids at that time used in their cowboy cap guns. They were also used in the Pull Match ashtray. Since so many people smoked then, many households in town had one. The top held a cartridge of matches mounted on a metal rod that attached to the ashtray. When you pulled the rod, the match lit, and the ashtray was right there handy.

The Moser family surely did their part to put Tipp City on the map! They were very civic minded, taking part in community organizations. Some folks have shared some memories about Edna. Many high schoolers went to Jointer's for lunch and many days Mrs. Moser would be at the counter with friends drinking her favorite – Coke. Someone shared that they remember her driving her bright red car. Someone who, as a child, lived down on the corner remembered that during the summer Edna hosted a morning get together every Wednesday morning. Everyone would bring drinks and food to share.



## History of the White House at Spring Meade

### John M. Kerr and Sarah Jane Coates:

The “White House” at Spring Meade was built in 1866 by John A. Kerr. John M. Kerr was not only a representative of one of the pioneer families of Ohio, but he was born in Monroe Township, April 2, 1829, on the old family homestead which his grandfather, George Kerr, acquired from the government prior to 1812. His parents were Hamilton Kerr and Rhoda Furnas Kerr. The Furnas family were pioneers in the area as well. They had six children: Newell, John M., George, Furnas, and two daughters; Charity and Frances.

John M. Kerr pursued his education in a little log schoolhouse, walking one and a half miles through the woods in order to attend. Until twenty-four years of age he assisted his father on the farm and then moved to an adjoining farm of one hundred and sixty acres on sections 10 and 15, Monroe Township. Part of this farm is where Spring Meade is now located. He developed one of the best farming properties in the neighborhood. His richly cultivated fields and substantial buildings indicated to the passer-by the thrift and enterprise of the owner. John M. Kerr was a soldier in the Civil War and on the 17th of May, 1866, John Kerr was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Coates, who was born in Warren County, Indiana.



Current photo of the “White House”



## White House at Spring Meade cont.

In the following year, they had their only child. Rhoda J. Kerr was born Sept. 15, 1867 and died 15 days later. Her mother, Sarah died on Sept. 18, 1867. It must have been a very sad time at the farm. We are not sure when, but two of Sarah's nieces had come to live with John and Sarah. We will assume by the dates showing in the census that they may have come to help during Sarah's pregnancy and birth. Mary Ettie Coates lived with them since she was 12 and stayed with John for an extended time. She became his family. John's farm eventually consisted of 320 acres. When his niece decided to wed Jacob F. Detrick about 1885, he stayed with them. At one point it was recorded that he moved into Tippecanoe City but on the 1900 Census, he was residing with the Detrick's. John M. Kerr died April 9, 1910 and is buried at Maple Hill Cemetery.

John Kerr was a Democrat. Having witnessed the entire growth and development of this county he was well informed concerning its history and was counted as one of the valued citizens whose efforts contributed in no small degree to the general prosperity and progress. His activity in business affairs, combined with honorable dealing and sound judgment, brought to him creditable success, while his upright life had won for him the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

### **John Forney Detrick and Mary Etta Coates Detrick:**

As mentioned above, John F. (born September 26, 1855 - died October 8, 1932) and Mary Ettie Coates (born July 2, 1859 - died May 28, 1925) were married about 1885. After Mary's death, Jake married Doris Langley. At that time, Jacob Forney Detrick owned the Detrick Milling Company along with Benjamin E. Detrick. They produced several brands of flour and some of the grain was used in their distillery.

The Detrick's traveled extensively and on these travels, Mrs. Detrick became very fond of some of the architecture that she had seen. It was at that time that the Detrick's remodeled and added on to the house. It is believed that this is when the pool and fishpond were added. When the pool was built it was the first in Miami County. Possibly, it was during that ownership that the smaller house was built to house a caretaker for the farm. They always had Koi or Carp living in the fishpond and it had a walking bridge over it, to better view the fish. They entertained numerous groups and many photographs were taken to record those parties. The farm became known as Mon Reposo which means "place of rest". They had a stucco structure built at the entrance to the estate with the name proudly displayed.

By Marilyn Leshner Richards

***More history to  
follow in next  
newsletter***

Mon Reposo Pool – 7-20-1930  
Betty Keyton Cooper in foreground



Mon Reposo Luncheon Club 8-13-1930  
Wilda Detrick Hostess



Mon Reposo Civic Club Party 10-5-1930  
Anna Margaret Eickhoff Detrick (2<sup>nd</sup> from Right)

## Museum Updates

The museum has been a very busy place since opening up. I think having longer hours on Saturday and being able to get the sign positioned at the corner has helped. We certainly do appreciate all the volunteers who allow us to be open so many hours.

- Some time ago relatives of Thomas and Nancy Roth contacted us saying there was a hitching post on a property on S. 2nd Street that they would like to donate to the Society. The property was owned by the Roths, they had both passed, and the property was in the process of being sold. We debated about what to do for a long time because we didn't have a place for it. Finally, it was suggested we have it placed at the Roundhouse in the park. Three of us met with two fellows from the city and it was worked out. The city removed it from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and put it in storage. They will set it in place sometime in October. We are having a plaque made that will be mounted once the post has been set.
- Also some time ago, a gentleman contacted us about a picture he had of a home his family occupied many years ago and wondered if we could find out where it was. Several of us followed up many leads but could not place it. Through some obituaries we had of family members we learned that it was probably on Rudy Rd. Nancy Lynch of the Bethel Township Society gave us information about a farmer on Rudy Rd. familiar with the family name. He told us that the farm across the road from him was originally known as the Keplinger Farm. The original farmhouse has evidently been torn down, but we were able to find the location of the farm for him.
- Several weeks ago, Dr. Ranft of the Tipp Eye Center called Jackie and offered to give us four medical file cabinets. They are in mint condition. Arrangements were made to have them delivered. We have made room for them: one in the kitchen, one in a back storeroom and two in the Grace Kinney Room. It has been quite a project and some things had to be moved out, but all are in place and volunteers have transferred the files. It is a different system than what we were used to, so we are working on getting all in order. We thank Dr. Ranft for the generous gift!
- We had our booth at the Mum Festival again this year. We sold a number of items and received some donations. We also gave away several of our brochures which include our information and a membership form.
- The Building Manager made some repairs in our rental house.
- Mr. Paul Strewing, who is retired from the Tipp City Schools, has donated a newel post from one of the stairways in the Castle School. It is in beautiful condition. We truly appreciate his generosity in making this available to all who have fond memories of that very special building.
- Bob Bartley has worked out an arrangement to display our flag out front when the museum is open. This will make it much easier for our volunteers to install and remove it anytime the museum is open. Thanks Bob!
- As the holidays are quickly approaching remember we have some very nice items for sale at the museum that would make great gifts!

By Susie Spitler

## In Memory



Joyce Kister  
5-25-35 to 7-20-21



Norma Adkins  
2-24-35 to 10-2-21

### Membership as of 10/1/21

Total members - 102

Tippecanoe Historical Society lost two members since our last newsletter. We are grateful for their contributions and send condolences to their families.

The Moehler Brew Barn fundraiser brought in over \$400. Thanks to all who supported it!

Is everyone tired of the high temperatures and humidity? I for one am ready for fall and cooler weather.

As the pandemic continues to somewhat ease, I am certain we all want to begin the activities we enjoyed and that is true of the Historical Society. Realistically, the Board needs your help with this effort because the Historical Society does not consist only of the Board; our total membership makes up the Society!

I understand that in most organizations, there is a handful of “do-ers”, those people who get things done. Unfortunately, those same people can get burned out and could withdraw from the group. That is why I am reaching out to you to give you something to mull over and determine how you can help. **I am looking for people to organize or chair various events.** Susie Spitler and I are more than willing to help get a project or event organized. You are not going to be left alone! My feelings on this subject are “If it is not important enough for people to volunteer or be willing to help when approached, then maybe it isn’t worth doing.” Just like all of you, I have other interests and want to be able to spend time on those while also supporting and enjoying the Historical Society.

Looking down the road, here are possible areas of involvement:

**Appraisal Fair** – Usually held mid- to late January. Locating someone (an auctioneer?) to conduct, determine location, etc.

**Program Planning** – Coming up with ideas for programs that could be open to the public, determining scheduling, etc.

**Tapings of Oral Histories** – Much the same as needed for the Program Planning. Determining scheduling, topics, location, etc.

**Annual Banquet** – Scheduling caterer, determining location, etc.

**Mum Sale** – Contact grower to learn cost, timing, delivery, etc.

## Fall Open House

Attendance at board meetings will not be required to organize any event but you will need to keep in contact with Susie or me if there are issues and to keep the Board informed.

One last thing should be mentioned: there are several individuals whose constant support seldom receives recognition and it's time to at least let them know how much they are valued. I certainly hope I don't overlook anyone and if I do, please know it was not intentional.

Wayne and Susie Spittler: They keep us going! Both with the maintenance of the property and tending to the museum.

Annette Calicoat: I know we drive her crazy when she is trying to get a newsletter out and for that I do apologize. Her product is wonderful, well-done, and professional.

Paula Lantz: She is chairing and the driving force behind the Century Homes Project. We wouldn't be off the ground without her.

Liz Miller: She has agreed to the onerous task of scheduling museum workers. I can't imagine how much time you spend on that!

Please consider lending a helping hand however you are able. Susie and I have talked about how much we love the Historical Society and our hometown of Tipp City, but we and the other members of the Board can't do it alone. Contact me at 937-506-7498.

Jackie Wahl

