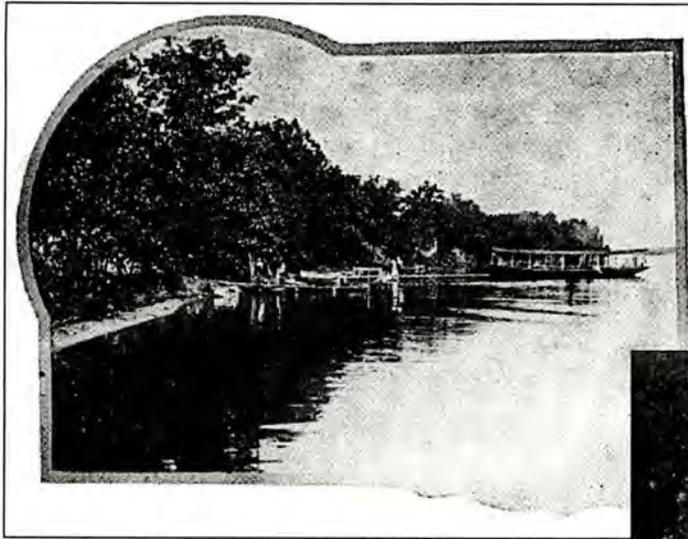


## Recalls Early Days At Lake



Arlington Hotel Pier and  
Steamer Lloyd McSheehy

Daniel McDonald's  
Pottawattomie Wigwam



William W. Rankin, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, who has a summer cottage at the south end of Lake Maxinkuckee, has written the following informative accounts of the early days in this vicinity:

In covering the middle-western states in the nineties as a traveling salesman I always preferred to spend my weekends at some lake rather than in the large cities.

It so happened I either could or did arrange my trips to spend many weekends with Capt. Knapp at his Arlington Hotel, which was located across what is now Road 17 (Editor's note: Now old 17) from the Arlington station on the old Vandalia.

In those days there were three passenger trains each way every day and a majority of the cottagers, especially those of the East Shore, stopped at Arlington and Capt. Knapp would speed them across the lake in that famous old steamer the "Lloyd McSheehy".

Personally, I have always preferred Lake Maxinkuckee, not only to any other lake in Indiana, but to any other lake in the middle-west. I have always had a weakness for the piscatorial sport and the deep cool water here seemed to make the fish a bit gamier.

While staying at the Arlington, I often stopped on my fishing trips to visit with State Senator McDonald, who in the 90's was gather-

ing data for his book on the removal of the Pottawattomie Indians from Marshall County to a reservation beyond the Missouri River under the expense and control of our Federal government and starting from here in September, 1838.

I would generally find the Senator sitting on the front porch of his old cottage. "The Wigwam" which is still on the south shore. He was always busy with the data for his book. He was very careful to use only authentic information which he gathered from the old timers who had been neighbors and had known the Pottawattomies personally before their removal.

Recently, in again reading his book I noted the omission of some details I believe may be of interest, especially to the young people. One item I remember referred to a small cove in the extreme south end of the lake where all secret meetings were held surrounded by high banks which were occupied by watching sentinels. Of course, the Indians were averse to their removal from their Happy Hunting Ground here and expressed their opposition in no mild way, while some of the braves advocated war.

Another item omitted was the pronunciation of the Indian names of lakes and rivers ending in "ee" such as Wawasee, Kankakee, Maxinkuckee, etc., which have the accent on the last syllable.

*(This article appeared in the Culver Citizen in 1947)*

# Allen Weaver

By Harvey Firari

What does a farmer know about history?

That remark, as I had anticipated, drew a murmur of disapproval from the audience overflowing the spacious living room of Agnes Bramfeld's cottage on August 12, 2000. Although Mr. Allen Weaver has lived all of his 81 years on a farm just outside of Culver, he is not your stereotypical hick farmer, but rather a modern Renaissance man: a living almanac of local history, an opera buff, a perennial scholar.

For over an hour, Mr. Weaver gave an amazing display of recall by fielding questions about people and events in Culver and along the shores of Lake Maxinkuckee. He drew a lively picture of band concerts in the town park and described the way bullfrogs along the edge of the lake responded with a chorus of mating calls to the tubas.

More music was in the air during the visits of Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, an internationally famous contralto, who on one occasion gave an impromptu performance on the porch of the Culver Hotel. While working on a column a few years ago, I asked Allen on the phone what song she had sung on the porch, and he responded by singing to me the drinking song from "La Traviata," belting out the dual roles of Violetta and Alfredo.

Allen acquired his love of music from Elizabeth Hubbell, a Culver music teacher, and from his father, an accountant and a close associate of the founder of Marshall Field. Often Mr. Field invited Allen to Chicago to attend opera performances. His father knew Caruso and they visited Enrico Caruso, Jr. when Enrico was enrolled at CMA.

Allen described his brush with death at the age of 13. He and some of his friends were standing along the edge of the road when the 1933 bank robber's car passed by with guns pointed toward the boys. They were close enough to see the bleeding body of Joseph Switalski, who had been shot by Oliver Shilling, and to identify Dr. C. G. Mackey as the driver of the car in pursuit of the bandits.

While answering questions, Allen would be reminded of other anecdotes and stories -- steamboats on the lake, the ice industry and the weeds used to keep the ice from melting, groceries delivered to the doorstep by Sears & Roebuck, the Jungle Hotel, Sugar Nights -- too many tales to recount here. At his side was his son Dan to amplify the questions. Later, Dan said that he had never realized the extent of his father's grasp of history and, as a result, he felt inspired to begin working on a permanent record of the remembrances. Our society should be pleased that the meeting provided the springboard to a future book, which could be entitled: "Stories Told at My Grandfather's Knee."

Dan's full name is Daniel Boone Weaver. There's a brother Mark Twain. Roberta was named after the opera singer Roberta Peters. You can guess who Martha was named after. They have provided Allen and his wife of 56 years with ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Society member Peggy Gimbel passed along a bit of history -- Allen was named after her father, Colonel Allen Elliott, and Allen's sister

Margaret after Peggy's mother. Shelly Drang, who watches over the blood pressure of the elderly at the Lake Shore Clinic, is the daughter of Margaret and has told me stories that I can't repeat in this article, but they establish young Allen as the Huck Finn of Thorn Road.

So it's not surprising that Mr. Allen Weaver's favorite quote is flavored with boyhood nostalgia. Let's hope the second time around he's nicer to cats.

**Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight,  
Make me a Boy Again -- just for tonight.**

Elizabeth Akers Allen

## Last Call For Memorial Bricks

Not the least of the pleasures of visiting Heritage Park is reading the inscriptions on the bricks laid out on the pleasant walks and pathways. The next group of bricks will be installed in the pergola, but there are very few places left. For those of you who have procrastinated about ordering a memorial brick, either for yourself or for someone you want to remember, we will send you an order blank if you call either Agnes Bramfeld at 842-2477 or Dorothy Peterson at 842-3940. Don't wait too long, as we really are running out of space.

## "Ask a Busy Person" Jennifer Shea

We all know that our society is activated and energized by the many volunteers who get things done. Jennifer Shea who, over the past year has been learning to combine motherhood with her career at Safco Development, has also accepted the post of Executive Director of the Antiquarian Society. She will act on behalf of the Society when the President is not available and will keep our activities organized as efficiently as possible. Jennifer can be found at the Safco office at 110 N. Main, but we will still use the P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511 address for all correspondence. Any information, questions or suggestions you may have for the Society should be addressed to her at that address. We expect to have a phone number, now that we have someone to answer the phone, and will let you know when that happens.

Although Jennifer is a recent board member, her involvement in the work of the Society has been a boost to all of us. Jennifer stresses that this is a trial period for her, but we confidently predict that she will do a great job as the Volunteer Executive Director of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Jennifer from the entire organization.

## Don't Miss This...

### JUNE

Our annual meeting on Saturday, June 30 will be held at the Maxinkuckee Country Club on East Shore Drive at 10:00 am. Some new members of the board will be put to the membership for a vote and some other members for renewal. Virginia Fisher, Anne Greenleaf and Lynne Overmyer will be retiring from the board and will be sorely missed.

After the business meeting, we will enjoy a program which Bob Hartman has researched and developed about the evolution of the Culver Academy campus from its beginnings in 1894. Bob calls this computer generated, audio/visual program "Building The Dream". He begins with the story of how Henry Harrison Culver came to Culver selling his stoves, met his wife, and bought property on the lake. The second part of the program is the result of some complicated computer doings, the removal of buildings from a 1924 map of the campus and the return, one by one, of the campus structures from 1889 to 1924. To get a clearer picture of this process come to look and listen on June 30 at 10:00 am at the Maxinkuckee Country Club. Don't miss this chance to see a unique presentation about the formation of the Academy.

### JULY

Linda Rippy and Phyllis Schoonover, talking and gossiping as "Irene" and "Emma" about interesting happenings in Culver in 1915, will give the program for the Saturday, July 28 meeting. It sounds like the kind of program always popular with our members. We don't have the location for this program yet, but you will be informed.

### AUGUST

On Saturday, August 11 we will meet at the Culver Depot where Lynn Pentelow of Plymouth will give a program about the Vandalia Railroad. He is very knowledgeable on his favorite subject and has many interesting items of railroad memorabilia to share with us.

Laurie Banfield has taken on the job of arranging programs and meeting places for the society and would welcome anyone kind enough to volunteer their home, large enough for one of the 2002 summer meetings. She can be reached at 842-5245

## "Write For History" Contest

We reported in the fall issue that the Society would sponsor a writing contest at the Community High School, awarding a prize for the best paper submitted. You may have seen our posters displayed in store windows around town announcing the contest that we hoped would promote an interest in the history of Culver and Union Township. First prize will go to Nikole Mersch, a senior, who wrote "A Pioneer's Story", a fictional account of an old man's recollection of his family's trip from Southern Indiana to Culver in 1836. The second prize will be given to Jessica Pinder, also a senior, who submitted "Always, Forever, Culver", an account of a student's dream about a visit to Culver in the past.

We hope to present the prizes to these hard-working students at our June 30 meeting at the Maxinkuckee Country Club. Join us in rewarding these two girls for their interest in the history of our community.

## Recollections of the President on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Antiquarian and Historical Society

As I recall, it was a very pleasant day in June, 1991, when a group of lake residents met on the Bramfeld's front porch to share stories about the good old days on the lake. The meeting was the result of conversations at a local party where some of the long time residents were reminiscing about parties and events of the past. Some of us newer residents, with only 30 + years of Culver experience, were terribly interested in these stories and had hastily arranged this meeting. Many of the group brought memorabilia and pictures, each with a fascinating story connected to it. We soon realized that we had a wealth of history and memories to share and decided to continue having these informal gatherings at least once a month during the summer.

Word quickly spread about the quality of the "show and tell" meetings being held in historic homes on the lake. After the first few sessions we had as many as 50 to 60 attendees from the entire lake, the town, the academy and the farm communities. There was a great deal of enthusiasm in the group to do more to preserve and publicize our historic area. Soon committees were formed to do various projects, such as holding old-fashioned ice cream socials on the shore of the lake, designating historic areas in town and on the lake, creating a first class newsletter, reprinting historic publications, and creating an audio-visual history of the area on a CD-Rom.

After a few years it was necessary for us to become a non-profit organization in order to develop Heritage Park on the site of a deteriorating gas station at Jefferson and Main. However, although we are now a corporation, we are still an all-volunteer society. This is something of which I am very proud. It is the enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers that makes the Antiquarian and Historical Society one of the most outstanding history organizations in the Midwest, and we have only just begun.

Looking back over the years brings to mind a flood of pleasant memories and wonderful vignettes: Pete and Alice Dye playing the first hole of the Maxinkuckee Country Club dressed in turn of the century golfing attire and using wooden clubs, Jim Henderson, who had attended the Culver Elementary School, giving the keynote address at the Heritage Park dedication, Bill Snyder's heartfelt talk about his love for Culver and its people at he received an award at the Main Street Dedication, and, on a personal level, the warmth and generosity of our members attending the monthly meetings. It has been a privilege to serve as your president for the past ten years.

*Jim Peterson*

**SUMMER, 2001  
NEWSLETTER**

Antiquarian and Historical Society  
P.O. Box 125  
Culver, Indiana 46511-0125

*Please support our efforts by returning this form with your tax-deductible gift*

I wish to make a 2001 contribution to the Antiquarian and Historical Society in the amount of:

\$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$25    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to the ANTIQUARIAN AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY and mail to:  
AHS, P.O. BOX 125, Culver, IN 46511**

## **It Had To Happen . . . Dues Are Now \$20.00**

You'll notice on the coupon for payment of dues that they are no longer \$10.00. Your board decided that the members would agree to dues that cover the ongoing expenses of our organization, such as mailing and printing costs, maintenance of our wonderful Heritage Park and other expenses inevitable even in a volunteer organization. We hope this increase will not cause a decline in our membership numbers and ask for your understanding acceptance of this request.

Please send \$20.00 Family 2001 dues to The Antiquarian and Historical Society, P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511-0125

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to the Antiquarian and Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511**