

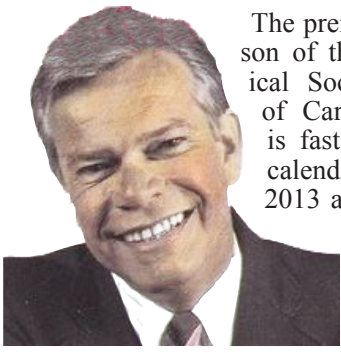
Culver History Quarterly

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This publication of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver appears quarterly in these pages as part of a partnership between the AHS and the Culver Citizen / Pilot News Group, which also includes the monthly "Culver History Corner," also in the pages of the Culver Citizen.

'Carmichael' sings The Vonneguts of the East Shore (... & Kurt, Jr., too) Carmichael' June 8 this summer at the museum



The premier event of the 2013 season of the Antiquarian and Historical Society musical presentation of Carmichael sings Carmichael is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at The Legion Building located on the Culver Academies campus. Randy Carmichael, son of Hoagy Carmichael will perform for over an hour entertaining us with songs and stories of his father. The performance will be followed by wine and delicious appetizers with Randy Carmichael in attendance.

"Hoagy" Carmichael grew up in Bloomington, Indiana and graduated from the Indiana University School of Law. He composed his enduring pop standard, "Star Dust," while he was finishing his studies at IU. Carmichael's career shifted from jazz musician to songwriter and he eventually became one of the most important jazz and popular song composers of the 1930's through the early 1950's. Songs such as "Up the Lazy River," "Georgia on My Mind," and "The Nearness of You," remain part of the standard repertoire for jazz and popular musicians today.

We encourage you to consider becoming a Major Donor, Sponsor, or Friend and receive special recognition in the program with the following levels:

Major Donors: \$500 -- 4 Tickets with Preferred Seating
Sponsor Donors: \$250 -- 2 Tickets
Friend Donors: \$125 -- 1 Ticket

Want to learn more and hear music played by Hoagy's son, Randy Carmichael? Join us for "Carmichael sings Carmichael." A night of enjoyment and wonderful music! Individual tickets are \$25 for members of AHS and \$35 for non-members and may be purchased at The Center for Culver History located on the ground level of the library. The museum hours are Tuesday - Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You may also send an email request to historyofculver@gmail.com or regular mail at P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511.

You may also call the museum at 574-842-2941 ext. 218 or Ginny Gibson 574-635-0635.

A limited number of tickets are available, so don't delay!

This summer, the Center for Culver History will host the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library's traveling exhibit. The exhibit encompasses his work and legacy and features exciting memorabilia. The exhibit will run from the 18th of June through July 20th, and is free.

A world-class author and social commentator, Kurt, Jr. made a lasting impact on late-20th century literature. He also spent his summers at Lake Maxinkuckee from his early youth through the 1920's. Many of the Vonnegut clan owned summer cottages and properties around the lake, and were one of the original German-American families (along with the Muellers, Schnulls, Schramms, etc.) to settle the East Shore in the 1880's.

Indeed, Kurt, Jr.'s second cousin, Walter Vonnegut, developed "The Hollyhocks" apple orchard, near Hilarity Hill, after purchasing 300 acres in 1910. Agricultural scientists from Purdue helped with extensive experiments in fruit raising. Walter's mother, Emma (Schnull), then ran the orchard for over a decade. The Schnulls actually had two daughters marry into the Vonneguts, which should illustrate just how closely the lake features in their family history.

The impact of "the Vonnegut enclave" on the Culver area continued into recent years in the form of Kurt, Jr.'s cousin, Catey Rasmussen, who contributed much to local history and the formation of the Antiquarian & Historical Society.

The Center will display items from its own collection to tell the local story alongside the Memorial Library's traveling exhibit. The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library offers a perspective on the author's life and works that remains



Part of the Kurt Vonnegut traveling exhibit which will be in Culver from June 18 through July 20.

true to his personal style and spirit.

Kurt, Jr., was born in Indianapolis, educated in New York state, interred as a Prisoner of War underneath Dresden during the Allied bombing campaign that razed that city and lived to tell the tale. He went on to teach and lecture throughout the United States, marrying twice, first to his high school sweetheart, Jane Cox, and then to photographer Jill Kremetz. He has been described as a latter-day Mark Twain and counterculture moralist.

Lake Maxinkuckee, in his words, was "where I

made my first mental maps of the world," and upon swimming its width at age 12, "as had my father and my brother and my cousin Richard - I became a man." Kurt, Jr. passed away in April, 2007, in New York City, the same year Indianapolis declared the Year of Vonnegut. Schools and libraries throughout the world still occasionally ban his books.

The exhibit will have interactive multimedia displays, the author's trusty typewriter, and a donated Purple Heart. Photos of the old Vonnegut places and faces will also feature alongside information on the family's history in the area from the 1880's. The author's archived works will be available through touchpad displays and The Center has copies of Majie Alford Failey's memoir of a young Kurt, Jr., We Never Danced Cheek to Cheek, available with a suggested donation. The Center is proud to promote the culture that Culver has produced and continues to produce through its writers, composers and artists.

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library can be found online at vonnegutlibrary.org. The Center for Culver History is online at culverahs.com. For more information, contact Interim Museum Director Gregory Wakszulski at historyofculver@gmail.com, or 574-842-2941.

Other summer, 2013 AHS events

July 13: Launches of Lake Maxinkuckee. Remembering the days of steamboats, Chris Craft, sailboats and canoes on our beautiful lake and how industry affected the different types of crafts.

August 17: Cemeteries Around the Culver Area
Locating all of the cemeteries in and around the Culver area with interesting stories of the occupants.

"Survey Says"

The Antiquarian and Historical Society has been providing services to its members for over 20 years. In February and March of this year, a survey was designed to prioritize the functions of the services provided to the members. The survey was only sent to members with an email address which was 210 of the 231 members listed for the years 2012 and 2013 reaching 90.9% of the membership. There was a 57.6% return rate with 121 members returning the survey. The results reflect the percentage of members who felt a service was "Important" or "Outstanding" as a function of AHS.

1. How important is the Center for Culver History (museum and research center)? **85%**
2. (tied) How important are the Historic Sites, e.g. Heritage Park, Lighthouse, and Historic District? **76%**
3. How important are the Meetings (Power Point Presentations about Culver History)? **74%**
4. How important are the Special Events (Cole Porter Review, Ice Cream Socials etc.)? **71%**
5. (tied) How important are the subscriptions to the Culver Citizen (newsletter)? **71%**

How important is it for AHS to Carry Publications and Merchandise in the Gift Center? **48%**
How important is the AHS Website and Facebook? **48%**
We continue to work on posting articles, yearbooks and newspapers on the Web and Facebook page, and would welcome volunteers to assist in the scanning process. The museum gift shop has added new notecards and postcards and also distributed the notecards to Diva's, Gail's, Elizabeth's Garden, and The CMA museum.

The Antiquarian and Historical Society Officers and Board members would like to thank everyone for their participation with the survey. AHS continues to strive to meet the needs of the membership and to continue the mission to strengthen the bonds of the community through the collection, preservation and interpretation of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of our community, through programs, education, research opportunities and exhibits.

The Way We Were

Jim Peterson
Founder and President

In the next few months the Center for Culver History will be moving into new space. The Museum Committee is searching for possible locations, with the hope that we can better serve our members, the community and the mission of the Society.

We have grown exponentially since our founding in 1991. The museum and research center, the Culver Citizens subscriptions and our newsletter pages, the maintenance of our beautiful Heritage Park and other historic sites, the meetings, tours, the historic re-enactments, the special presentations, the publications, prints, and our expanding Web Site (www.culverahs.com) and Face Book (AHS on Facebook) are some of the programs and services we provide. Our membership currently stands at 234 families.

As we contemplate new programs and services, I am reminded of the old saying "you cannot plan for the future without an understanding of the past." Our first meeting took place on the Bramfeld front porch in August of 1991. About 15 people came together there, people who were interested in preserving and presenting the historical legacy of the Culver - Lake Maxinkuckee community. At first it was just a "show and tell" get together once a month at some of the member's cottages. However, interest in the history and traditions of our unique community grew. In 1993 we had 54 members and decided to incorporate ourselves as the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver.

The impressive sounding name came from an account in the Plymouth newspaper in 1858 which reported that "Bayless Dickson was forming an Antiquarian and Historical Society in Marmot" (later called Culver). There is no record that there was ever a meeting of the Society until our incorporation meeting in 1993. The mission of our Society was stated as "A Group of residents dedicated to the preservation of their community's history".

As a Society of dedicated volunteers, we reprinted historic books, prints and post cards. We hired consultants to help us research the history of the area, which resulted in a multimedia CD-ROM, telling the stories and sharing the images of Culver's past. In the process of getting acquainted with our community's history, our "community" naturally began to include the town,



Front row, from left: Dorothy Peterson and Virginia Fisher. Back row, Pete Trone, Jim Peterson, Richard Ford, Bob Kreuzberger, and John Cleveland.

the Academies and the rural communities as well as the lake. We then went through the process of designating the Lake Maxinkuckee East Shore and Country Club, Culver's Main Street, and Culver's Bungalow District on the National Register of Historic Places. We held old fashioned Ice Cream Socials, first on the East Shore, then at the Academy, and finally at the Culver Cove in town. More recently our Ice Cream Socials have been joint ventures with the Plein Air painters and with the Gift of Warmth film festival. Our first big project in town was the creation of Heritage Park. A successful money raising effort resulted

in the purchase of an abandoned gas station on the corner of Main and Jefferson; the very expensive clean up mandated because of the oil that had leaked into the ground over the years, and the design and construction of Heritage Park as it stands today.

Ongoing at CCH: Warner Williams, Culver's Renaissance Man



LEFT: Earl Williams, son of Warner Williams, during a visit to the museum's exhibit Jean, as well as stories of his impact on the community. From his Geodesic Dome Studio to the custom-made hood ornament that emblazoned his work van, Williams was and remains an inspirational character.

Thanks to those who make history part of the future

The Antiquarian and Historical Society welcomes progress, such as opening of new businesses and it's encouraging to see that these people are locating in and refurbishing older buildings. These buildings may be used for new products to our community and are definitely a stimulus to the Culver economy as well as employment. We applaud those who make history a part of the future and are making their homes and businesses a more attractive asset to the Culver community.

At the same time, this community has a rich history that should be preserved and allowed to give flavor to the future. Many families keep heirlooms which they hand down to future generations as tokens of their heritage. Some also have artifacts that may not be realized as historical significance to Culver.

The Center of Culver History recently received a photo album from Mrs. Janie Lou Bailey of Indianapolis which includes photos from 1896 to 1920 showing lake scenes of "Hilarity Hill" and the Mueller cottage located at 844 East Shore, one of the five Vonnegut cottages. These photos are invaluable to the collection and to the history of our area. We cannot thank you enough for this donation.

We are justly proud of this handsome park and plan to continue its upkeep, to insure its preservation and beauty. Next we placed a replica of the historic signaling tower (the lighthouse) in the Town Park, another striking landmark which everyone who visits, or even passes our park can see and admire.



LEFT: From the early years of the AHS: Seated from left: John Cleveland, Virginia Fisher, Rev. Lloyd Holifield, Marian Nixon. Standing: Jim Peterson, Sam Perkins, and Agnes Bramfeld.

For the past nine years we have undertaken to create and maintain the Center for Culver History, a Museum and Research Center on the ground floor of the Culver-Union Township Library. This Center has been the focus of most of the Society's initiatives and services. According to a recent survey of our members, we consider the museum to be a vital part of the community and one which we should continue to support, if at all possible.

With the opening of the Center for History of Culver, it became necessary to hire the services of two part-time staff members, but from our inception the work of raising money, planning and executing social events,

writing, printing, scanning, researching and "you name it" was done by our very special members. I wish we could list the names of every one of our extraordinary volunteers who worked and are still working to preserve the history of this unique and wonderful place.

While we may slightly deviate from our core mission, the preservation and presentation of our historic legacy, I believe that we have remained true to the principles of the dedicated volunteers that met on that front porch. That core mission is to tell the Culver-Lake Maxinkuckee story to each succeeding generation and to the newcomers to the community. That story binds us together as a community and gives us a sense of pride. Knowing what has been bequeathed to us by those that went before instills respect for their efforts and a commitment to add to that heritage.

Another old saying is that you can't plant cut flowers. They must have roots to grow and blossom. Our roots are strong, as strong as the firm resolve of our early and current members to preserve our past and to insure the future of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver.