

# GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized 1905

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The purpose of the Grant County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, research, publish, and interpret the heritage of Grant County, Indiana, and thereby to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our county's history, art, and natural environment.

The Grant County Historical Society meets monthly February through November on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:15p.m. Meetings are usually held at Marion Public Library and feature programs, planning, and topics related to our county's history. Field trips and other programs and presentations are periodically scheduled.

Interest groups select an area for research to contribute to our local history record. Examples of interest group topics are Architecture, Genealogy, Indexing, and One Room Schools.

The Grant County Historical Society works closely with the Marion Public Library Genealogy Club to strengthen efforts to preserve both our individual histories and our collective memory. The genealogical record is vitally important in the context of our total history.

The Society's original artifact collection is displayed in the History Center Museum at Marion Public Library. The Museum is a department of Marion Public Library and is located in the historic Carnegie building at 600 South Washington Street, Marion. Society members volunteer as docents when there are special exhibits in the Museum. The library and the Society share a common commitment to

preserve the record and memory of our community's past.

"Perhaps the most interesting phase of history is that of one's locality," -- Quote from *A Century of Development -- Grant County*, edited by Richard Simons, 1937. Understanding our own personal history and our locality's history provides a good base for interpreting national and world events.

Grant County has a rich history -- please join us in our endeavor to collect and preserve this history for future generations.

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## HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

As the result of plans instituted by the Carnegie Library Board, the Grant County Historical Society was originally organized March 25, 1905 at a public meeting in the library's auditorium. Meetings were held semi-annually in March and September, and papers concerning local history were presented. The annual membership fee was 50 cents.

Interest in the Society waned in the 1920s, but there continued to be efforts by interested persons to re-establish the organization. In 1929 Articles of Incorporation were filed with the state of Indiana. In 1958, a resolution to revitalize the Society was made by the Board of Directors of the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

The Society was again reorganized in 1964, and new articles of Incorporation were filed. A publications program was initiated, and in 1965 a historical museum was established in space made available by Dr. and Mrs. Merrill Davis in the north half of the Goldthwaite house at 205 North Washington Street until the building was sold several years later.



Marion Carnegie Library  
Constructed 1902

In 1973 members of the Society worked on renovation of the Octogenarian Museum at Matter Park. The 1908 log cabin which had been in the center of the Museum, however, was decayed beyond repair and had to be removed.

A new location for the Society's activities and artifacts was provided in 1974 by the Eward Foundation in the residence at 2400 South Washington Street in Marion. When operating costs in the leased facility finally proved to be unaffordable, artifacts were stored.

In 1991 the Society's remaining artifacts, including the Octogenarian collection, were transferred to Marion Public Library in a renewal of the relationship between the Society and the Library.

Much like the 1920s, again in 2020 a pandemic threatened the vitality of the Society save for a few persons who maintained interest. As the health of our nation, our county and our members were restored in 2022, so was the Society, and interest grew once again.

**GRANT COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Student  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Individual  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Family  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 Business Sponsor

Membership dues are payable to the Grant County Historical Society. Payment may be sent to P. O. Box 1951, Marion, Indiana 46952 or paid at any GCHS meeting.

Members receive the Society's newsletter.

For more information about programs and activities, you may email the Society, access the Society's website or visit the Society's Facebook page.



VISIT

GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ON FACEBOOK



**GCHS Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 1951  
Marion, Indiana 46952**

**website:  
[www.marion.lib.in.us/grant-county-historical-society](http://www.marion.lib.in.us/grant-county-historical-society)**

**email:  
[gc.hs@hotmail.com](mailto:gc.hs@hotmail.com)**