



# GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MAY 2010

**MAY 19 MEETING**  
**Marion Public Library**  
**Room B, 7 p.m.**

*THE LYRIC CLUB*  
*Of*  
*MARION, INDIANA*

*Board Meeting, 6:15 p.m.*

**Program: Stewart Turner**  
**“Fighting Forest Fires”**

Mr. Turner is a private forester from Upland, IN. He helps people plant and harvest timber from area farms. He is also a volunteer fire fighter who has traveled west to fight the wildfires that destroy thousands of acres of forest every year. He will tell of his experiences in this fascinating but dangerous work.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:**

We had an enjoyable annual dinner and program at the Sunnycrest UM Church. Mr. David Best made Mr. Thomas Jefferson an interesting guest for the evening. P. J. Culley and David Wright were newly elected board members along with returning members, Margaret Wilson and Steve Sharon.

The 2010-'11 officers will be elected at the May board meeting. Be thinking of programs that you think the society would enjoy and let Robert Humbert know. (674-2845) Also, look for little known county information that you could share in the newsletter. See you next Wednesday, (If the Good Lord is willing and the creek don't rise.), an often made statement of past times.

Juanita Rapp

One of the features in a community that makes it a desirable place to live is a rich offering of the arts. Over the years, Marion has been blessed with many talented artists, writers and musicians who have enriched this community. One group that comes quickly to mind is the Lyric Club, who had it's beginning in October 1892 and whose members have been performing music in Marion since that time.

It was the fall season as Mrs. Will Gray and Mrs. Hiram Brownlee drove in their carriage to invite prospective members to join them in a music club. Marion was a town of new citizens who were fine musicians and who needed an outlet to perform their skills. The first meeting was held on October 12, 1892 with 23 married women whose purpose was to organize a ladies matinee musical society. 34 women became charter members. The programs were held in members homes; two composers were selected for each meeting and members performed in alphabetical order. The women loved their music and expected that each member would produce the very best they could for their abilities.

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The Lyric Club members have performed not only for themselves but also have presented programs for the community. Several programs of grand Organ Days have been held in the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Temple Congregational Churches. A musical version of “The Taming of the Shrew” was held at Sinai Temple and in the 1950's, the club sponsored a series of 15 minute radio programs for WMRI, using Lyric's program materials. To promote the performance of music in Marion, the Lyric Club offers scholarships to high school students each year.

The Lyric Club has done its part to make Marion a better place. For 118 years, its members have made music in this community.

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