

Clarksville History Committee

August 8, 1996
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Newsletter

Vol 1, #1

July, 1996

July Meeting Held

The Clarksville History Committee met on July 10th.

David Hackel reported on his visit to the University of Louisville Photo archives. There were only a few photographs under the heading of Clarksville. One was quite an interesting view of the Indiana side of the river prior to the building of the dam. It was apparently at a time of very low water, and the river was shown to be considerably narrower. David will purchase this photograph for the museum.

Jane Sarles reported on the progress of the Information Files in the Museum. Kathy Chaney spent several hours getting material organized and in the files. Blondell Newman offered to assist with the project.

Photographs in the museum have been inventoried and we hope to add to that collection. Win and Mary Helen Walker donated several new history items.

Amy Jo Munich joined us and shared her childhood reminiscences of growing up in Clarksville. She was able to explain a lot about street names and the changes over the years.



Photos wanted

The History committee hopes to collect photographs of significant buildings, events, and prominent people related to the history of the current boundaries of Clarksville. We can copy old photos without damage to the originals and return them to the owners.

Some of the old photographs will be hung in the new Municipal Center. We should like to have an exhibit of all historic photographs in the Museum when our collection is large enough. If you have photographs you would like to contribute, call Jane Sarles at 949-9338.

Historical Note

The first warden of the old Indiana Prison South was a Captain Westover, who went to Texas and fell with Crockett in the Alamo. He was succeeded by James Keigwin, who served for eight years. Then came Samuel Patterson.

The first prisoner sent there was in the year 1822. In the second year there were three prisoners. The number slowly increased, but 20 years later there were only 77. In 1862 there were 202. In 1892 there were 524 and after that the number increased rapidly.

From a 1925 Evening News story.

Historical Notes

■ At the July meeting, the question was raised about the origin of the name of Stansifer Ave. Several people have researched it but no answer has yet beendetermined. Most of the early street names were for men in Clark's army, but Stansifer does not appear to be among them.

■ According to the Walter Kiser papers, four sets of duels were fought at the mouth of Silver Creek.

The August meeting of the History Committee will be held on August 14 at 4:00 pm on the second floor of the Clarksville Municipal Center.

Anyone interested in Clarksville History is invited to attend.

Our speaker will be Ms. Hays Hendricks of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.