

Boone County Historical Society

Preserving Our Heritage

Summer 2018



Lincoln's Lebanon 2018

President Abraham Lincoln is returning to Lebanon. Join the Boone County Historical Society in welcoming America's 16th president back to Boone September 29-30 at Memorial Park.

On Saturday morning, our 16th President will visit the historical marker on South Lebanon Street, which marks the site of the depot where his train briefly stopped on February 11, 1861, on his circuitous route to Washington. The Old Railsplitter will then take a carriage to Memorial Park.

Throughout the weekend, the park will be host to Union and Confederate military camps. Soldiers will demonstrate daily army routines and drills. A field surgeon and a mortician will show how to care for the wounded and the dead. On Sunday, the US Christian Commission will conduct a worship service in the morning, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis will speak in the afternoon. On both days, the two armies will clash on the field of battle.

By the way, did you know that the Herr Cabin in Memorial Park pre-dates the Civil War? It was built in Perry Township around 1839 by Nicholas Yount--meaning that it was standing when Abraham Lincoln passed through Boone County! Bought by the Herr family in 1882, it was gifted to the James Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1935 and moved to Memorial Park to serve as their meeting place. (The cabin has also been known as the DAR Cabin.) In 1976, it received a thorough renovation in time for the US Bicentennial. The cabin's historical connection to the Civil War era makes it a wonderful backdrop for Lincoln's Lebanon.

So come enjoy music from the Cumberland Gap bluegrass ensemble, savor some food from Zonta, maybe buy a souvenir or two from our vendors, and explore a pivotal period in our country's history. We hope to see you at Lincoln's Lebanon 2018!

This weekend event is FREE to the public!



Lincoln talks with youngsters by the Herr Cabin, 2016. Photo courtesy Eric Spall.

Saturday

- 8:00-3:00--Local Zonta Chapter will provide food for purchase
- 11:30--President Lincoln speaks at the historical marker in front of Family Video
- 12:00--President Lincoln travels to Memorial Park by carriage
- 2:00--Re-enactment of a Civil War battle
- 6:00--Ham and bean supper \$5/person with special music by Cumberland Gap

Sunday

- 10:00--Church service
- 1:00--David Walker portrays President Jefferson Davis
- 2:00--Re-enactment of a Civil War battle



Chaplain Terri Thorn watches as Lt. Mark Brown and the crew of Station 11 unveil the memorial. Photo courtesy Eric Spall.

The Lebanon September 11, 2001, Memorial declaring that this memorial would "stand for was unveiled and dedicated on May 5, 2018, at years" to remind us of the attacks and of those Lebanon Fire Station 11. Lt. Mark Brown of the who responded. A timeline of the events of Lebanon Fire Department (LFD) initiated the September 11, 2001, was read and the efforts of project to create a 9/11 memorial in Lebanon in the Lebanon Fire Department to erect a memorial 2009. LFD applied to receive a piece of the described. Next, Deputy Tom Melville sang "God World Trade Center, and on May 8, 2011, a 500- Bless the USA." Lt. Brown and the on-duty crew pound I-beam from Tower Two arrived in at Station 11 then unveiled the memorial to the Lebanon. For seven years, the department public. The ceremony concluded with a blessing worked to raise about \$11,400 through from Chaplain Thorn. donations from businesses, service organizations, and private gifts. Additionally, The dedication was well attended, and attendees Boone County Food & Beverage provided more included many firefighter cadets from around the than \$28,000 for the project. state. After the unveiling, refreshments were served in Station 11, and tours of the station

LFD Chief Chuck Batts presided over the were conducted. dedication ceremony. The ceremony began with an invocation by Terri Thorn, the department Simple and unpretentious, yet moving, the chaplain. Mayor Matt Gentry then spoke, memorial is a welcome addition to the historical describing the terrorist attacks of 9/11 as a monuments and memorials of Lebanon and defining moment for current generations and Boone County.



The Lebanon September 11, 2001, Memorial at Lebanon Fire Station 11. Photo courtesy Eric Spall.

Share your history with us!

Have an idea for an article you'd like to see in the Boone County Historical Society Newsletter? Or maybe a topic you would like us to cover at a presentation to the public? Contact us at: cragunhouse@mymetronet.net or write to us a PO Box 141, Lebanon, Indiana 46052!

Tour the Cragun House

Take a step back to the late 19th century with a tour of the Cragun House. Built in 1893 by newspaper publisher and Lebanon school superintendent Strange Cragun, the home was gifted to the Historical Society by the Cragun family in 1988.

Call 765-483-9414 or email us at cragunhouse@mymetronet.net to request a tour time.



Time to Renew Your Membership

Please consider renewing your membership to the Society today.

Perhaps include a separate donation to help us maintain the Cragun House or to add to our general fund. This will ensure our programs will continue our preservation of local history.

Volunteer--We are always happy to have help at our events. May we add your email address to our volunteer contact list? No obligation--just an occasional email, asking if you're available.

Contact us if you have any questions regarding the Boone County Historical Society. We are always glad to hear from our members. To renew your membership, please tear off the bottom section of this form, complete it and return with your membership dues.

Name(s): _____
Mailing address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Membership: _____ Single (\$20) _____ Family (\$35)
_____ Lifetime (\$110) _____ Business (30 employees or less)(\$50)
_____ Corporate (31 employees or more)(\$100)

In addition to our membership, please accept this donation to the General Fund: \$ _____

In addition to our membership, please accept this donation to the Cragun House Fund: \$ _____

May we list your name on our webstie as a "Friend of the Society"? _____ Yes _____ No

_____ I/we are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities.

Find us on Facebook at: *Boone County Historical Society Indiana*

Email: cragunhouse@mymetronet.net

Visit our website for upcoming events: boonecountyhistorical.org

Boone County Oral History

The Boone County Historical Society and the Lebanon Public Library have partnered to conduct an oral history project for Boone County. Our goal is to record interviews with people from around the county who participated in important events, were involved in their communities, and/or witnessed the changes that have occurred in Boone over the years. We will transcribe the recordings and deposit the recordings and transcriptions in the Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center at the Lebanon Public Library, which will make them available to researchers and preserve them for future generations.

Recording and preserving oral histories is important. Everyone has something to say about history. Some people, of course, were involved in historic events, and recording their testimony can help us better understand those important moments. Many people, though, did not directly contribute to major events--but they did live through periods of history and can speak about their daily life and comment upon changes to their communities. Oral histories can provide a means of recording the stories of those who might otherwise not have a voice in the historical record.

This is not the first oral history project to be done in Boone. In the 1980s, B. J. Goodwin, longtime board member of the Lebanon Public Library, interviewed dozens of Lebanon residents, including Mayor Robert Campbell and Ralph W. Stark. Originally recorded on cassette tapes, the recordings were digitized and transferred to CDs which are available to researchers in the Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center. These interviews are invaluable resources and would be useful for all sorts of historical inquiries. It is our hope that the interviews we record for this project will add to our understanding of Boone County's history and become useful resources for future historians.



The oral history collection at the Lebanon Public Library is an amazing resource for the history of Boone County in the 20th century. *Photo courtesy Lebanon Public Library.*

Book Review

By Eric Spall, Boone County Historian
Early Life and Times in Boone County, Indiana, by Samuel Harden, is one of the standard works for the history of Boone County in the 19th century; it has been digitized by several entities, such as the Internet Archive and Google Books, making it widely accessible online. Published in 1887, it covers the history of Boone County from before it was formed up to the time of publication. Sections of the book provide information on each of Boone's twelve townships, all the principal cities and towns, as well as many of the smaller villages, and numerous topics, from the County Poor Farm to Boone's various fraternal organizations to its myriad churches. It also includes biographical sketches. The book contains an index of topics, but its name index only includes the names of individuals with biographies. Fortunately, in 1938, the Works Progress Administration of Indiana compiled an all-name index for several of Boone County's early history books, including *Early Life and Times*.

Harden includes many lists, making the book a useful reference work. These lists include county office holders and soldiers from Boone. As well, in many of the sections on churches and social organizations, Harden strives to name as many founders/early members as possible.

Among the most interesting features of the work is a series of letters written to Harden by Boone residents scattered throughout the text. The authors of these letters provide colorful anecdotes and fascinating details about Boone's early days. Also of interest are the portraits of some of the individuals described in the book.

The book should be used with caution, though. This is one of numerous county histories produced throughout the US in the late 19th century. Many of these were written on a subscription basis in which the author solicited advance orders for the book while researching material. Some biographical sketches were written by subscribers and included as an inducement for ordering copies of the books. Such appears to be the case with *Early Life and Times*. Furthermore, the book generally portrays its subjects in the most positive light with little critical analysis. Readers should consider what people might have been left out because they were too poor to be noticed and what subjects were excluded because they were not uplifting.

As a history, *Early Life and Times* leaves much to be desired, but, if used with care, it remains a valuable resource for genealogists and historians.