



Lake County Historical Society
Community History Since 1875

For Immediate Release
September 19, 2022

Lake County Historical Society is excited to announce its Fresh New Start initiative

(Crown Point) The Lake County Historical Society is preparing for its milestone 150th Anniversary in 2025. The Society seeks to tell the stories of the people and places in Lake County, and Crown Point in particular, in a more engaging and dynamic fashion. A top priority is to fund and build new exhibits in its Lake County Historical Museum, the 40-year old museum operated within the historic Old Lake Court House on the Crown Point square.

The Fresh New Start initiative is being launched as new leadership guides the Society and Museum. "We are excited to welcome new people with ideas for highlighting our rich history and to help us launch this initiative," explained Scott Hudnall, Society President. "People ready to be involved at the ground level are encouraged to interview with us. We are eager to welcome a diverse group of volunteers into both leadership and operational roles as we increase our community engagement and develop a history attraction that our Society, the county citizens, and the Lake Court House Foundation will be proud of."

"We share in the Society's enthusiasm and appreciate their transparency as this initiative begins," adds Lake Court House Foundation President, David Walden. "We are pleased with the progress they've made to date. We look forward to the enhancements they are proposing to elevate not only the museum, but also the Court House visitors' experience in ways that haven't been explored in the past. It will provide yet another reason to come and enjoy this grand building."

In July 2022, a Heritage Support Grant for Museum Concepting and Evaluation was awarded by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment, Inc. With the grant, the Society has hired a consultant who has shown proven results in the 2021 rebrand and re-theming of The Museum at Lassen's Resort exhibit gallery in neighboring Cedar Lake. The Society's vision of developing its museum into a history attraction includes establishing itself as the hub connecting historians across Lake County's diverse group of cultural centers from the Lake Michigan shoreline to the Kankakee River.

Long-time Society President and museum director, Bruce Woods, passed away in 2021. "It was natural for me to assume the leadership role at first," explained Barb Koby, Society Secretary, "but Scott's youthful energy, thorough decision making, and dedicated long-term volunteerism, all pointed to his timely transition as our Society President. I'm impressed and look forward to what the museum can become."

The museum is open annually from May through October on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Visitors are encouraged to make a visit this Fall to see the county clerk desk that was recently uncovered as part of the Fresh New Start initiative. It is estimated that 170,000 marriage licenses were issued from 1915-1940 during Crown Point's "marriage mill" heyday at that very desk. View a brief video clip on the Society's Facebook page and visit [lchsmuseum.org](https://www.lchsmuseum.org) to complete the volunteer inquiry form to join the Fresh New Start initiative.

Lake County Historical Society
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 205
Crown Point, IN 46307



A FRESH NEW START

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The Lake County Historical Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, was established in 1875 and has operated its museum situated within the historic Old Lake Court House in Crown Point since 1982. The building itself is maintained by a separate entity, the Lake Court House Foundation. The Society was chartered to preserve the history of the pioneers and first settlers of the county by a group of citizens that included Lake County's first historian, Timothy H. Ball.

The Lake Court House Foundation was established in 1975 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation to save the courthouse building from demolition and to care for it in perpetuity, vision its reuse, and revitalize it for the benefit of the community and visitors to Crown Point. The Foundation is governed by dedicated citizens that oversee the preservation, operation, and financial security of the building. Built in 1878, it stands as an icon in the community and welcomes visitors to Crown Point and the town square.

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