



**For Immediate Release  
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Lake County Historical Society enters next phase of Fresh New Start

(Crown Point) The new year brings with it a new phase in the Lake County Historical Society's Fresh New Start. During the second half of 2022, the Society labeled artifacts in its collection to determine provenance and connections to local history. For its next phase, the Society will assess its collection for the best course of action based on community and artifact needs. Some artifacts will provide a greatly improved museum experience through new displays, while other artifacts will return to their original donors or find new homes through a slow and thorough process guided by Indiana Museum Property Law.

"The ultimate goal of every good museum is to provide an experience that makes history come alive for its guests," said Scott Hudnall, President of the Lake County Historical Society. "We need to make that happen with our museum, and do the right thing for any artifacts that do not fit our mission or would be better served at other museums."

Collection management is an issue Hudnall knows well from his professional experience as an Assistant Librarian at Indiana University Northwest. According to Hudnall, libraries follow their own rigorous process to ensure their collections fit community needs, allowing them to make the most of limited space. Forty years of collecting artifacts with very few rejections has turned this work into a priority heading into the Society's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.

"It's amazing how many important local artifacts we've found this year randomly mixed in with other items," said Vicky Klein, Secretary for the Lake County Historical Society and new volunteer. "We found Timothy H. Ball's rocker between displays for glasses, gloves and shoes, out in the open where anyone could sit in it. His importance as our county's first historian makes this rocker an essential piece in our collection that needs to be better protected and preserved."

The Society has uncovered several more hidden gems for future museum displays. A Harry J. Baker jeweler sign will have a prominent place in telling the story of Crown Point's marriage mill days after spending decades behind other artifacts. Meanwhile, they have found some items stored in their space which are not artifacts, such as a large prop sleigh formerly used for Santa visits on the courthouse's first floor. This careful and steady work will bring the Society and its museum into shape for its exciting anniversary.

Not only is the museum following the Indiana Museum Property Law, but it would like to become a more exciting place to visit, especially for the youth of our community. If you are interested in becoming a Society volunteer, please complete an application on the website. The museum is closed for the winter, but special tours are available by appointment. Contact the Society at 219-662-3975 or through the contact form at [lchsmuseum.org](http://lchsmuseum.org).

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



**Lake County Historical Society**  
Community History Since 1875

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.

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