

Canal Society of Indiana Year End Report 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Bob Schmidt	Ft. Wayne, IN (260) 432-0279
VICE-PRESIDENT	Mike Morthorst	Cincinnati, OH
SECRETARY	Sue Simerman	Ossian, IN
TREASURER	Cynthia Powers	Roanoke, IN
“THE TUMBLE”		
COORDINATOR	Carolyn Schmidt	Ft. Wayne, IN
WEB MASTER	Preston Richardt	Elberfeld, IN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term expires 2023

Terry Bodine	Covington	Kreig Adkins	Peru
John Hillman	W. Harrison	Paul Baudendistel	Metamora
Phyllis Mattheis	Cambridge City	Frances French	Lafayette
Cynthia Powers	Roanoke	Ralph Gray	Indianapolis
Preston Richardt	Elberfeld	Craig Leonard	Ft. Wayne
Sue Simerman	Ossian	Mike McCormick	Terre Haute
		Ellsworth Smith	Leo
		Brian Stirm	Delphi

Term expires 2024

Tom Castaldi	Ft. Wayne
Jeff Koehler	Center Point
Sam Ligget	Terre Haute
Mike Morthorst	Cincinnati
Bob Schmidt	Ft. Wayne
Steve Williams	Roanoke

Term expires 2025

Margaret Griffin	Ft. Wayne
David Kurvach	Newburgh
Dan McCain	Delphi
Jerry Mattheis	Cambridge City
Ron Morris	Centerville
Carolyn Schmidt	Ft. Wayne
Stan Schmitt	Evansville

PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Directors are elected for 3 year terms.

One third of the directors are up for reelection every year.

Officers are elected by the directors.

2021-2022 — President's Review

The past two years have required the Canal Society of Indiana to make adjustments in our programs. Even before the virus, we had switched to a completely electronic media, so we were in a good position to respond to the new environment.

“The Tumble” has been successful in bringing timely news and articles to our membership, which has grown to over 100. By notifying the membership of each bi-monthly issue, most of our people are keeping up-to-date and are getting accustomed to this format.

In January/February we received a wonderful boost from an article in Outdoor Indiana written by Scott Roberts. Some of us worked with Scott to prepare the article. It included a great photo of CSI Board member Sam Liggett of Terre Haute, shots of the Delphi Canal Park, and sites along the Central Canal and Whitewater Canal.

The Canal Society of Indiana was founded in Fort Wayne in May of 1982. Due to the lingering virus, we postponed our 40th Anniversary celebration until August, wrote a 40th Anniversary booklet, and sent it to members in May. On August 27th twenty-nine people met at the newly located Cass County Historical Museum in Logansport for the 40th Anniversary celebration and tour. Tom Castaldi laid out a tour route, which included the W & E Canal, scenic views of the Wabash River and a ride on the Dentzel Carousel. Carolyn Schmidt had the tables covered in multi-colors and decorated with canal boats and 40th celebration hats.

This year we continued to add canal signage on all of our canals. We have installed or are in the process of installing 10-15 signs this year. We want to continue this program and need input from our membership to locate and work with property owners to get their approval.

CSI members continued to pursue research into all of our canals. Lowell Griffin analyzed the Covington, Indiana toll records putting names of boats, commodities, destinations, etc. into a computer format for study. Troy Jones, David Kurvach and Preston Richardt uncovered more canal sites and information in the field. Future issues of “The Tumble” will cover their results.

We were greatly disappointed in April to learn of the demise of the “Ben Franklin III” in Metamora. As the boat had become water logged it was removed from the canal and, while in storage, broke into 2 parts. This attraction was lost at the Whitewater site. The State appears to be planning to improve the whole site: the aqueduct, mill and a new boat.

Ball State University students have successfully maintained our website *indcanal.org* since 2017. Due to the economic disruption related to the pandemic, nationally there has been a contraction in the labor force. The shortage we see in local businesses looking for workers has now filtered into the universities. Dr Ron Morris has been unable to recruit students to work on our website. Fortunately, CSI Board Member, Preston Richardt agreed to do this work. In conjunction with becoming CSI's webmaster, he added 6 outstanding videos to our website about the W & E Canal in Gibson County.

For 2023 we are planning a brown bag symposium at the Fort Wayne Library on Saturday March 25. Another canal tour is being planned in September. We will headquarter at Crawfordsville on Friday. Saturday we will tour the Covington area in Fountain County.

Thanks to all of you, CSI has had another successful year. Bob Schmidt, CSI President

MAJOR CSI EVENTS/ACTIONS

Assisted students, authors and genealogists in canal research

Board meeting: October 8, 2022 held in Centerville

On-line: Canal Society of Indiana website: indcanal.org

Canal Society of Indiana Facebook page

Subscribed to Ancestry.com

COUNTY HISTORIANS

These men receive and answer numerous phone, E-mail and posted messages from persons seeking information that may involve canal business or those who built Indiana's canals.

Allen Co. - Tom Castaldi

Clay Co. - Jeff Koehler

Vanderburgh Co. - Stan Schmitt

Carroll Co. - Mark Smith

Miami Co. - Kreig Adkins

IN MEMORIAM

Lamb, Annadell July 12, 2021

Woods, Terry May 6, 2022

Timmers, Frank December 22, 2021

Getty, Mary Ann October 11, 2022

Grimes, Mary January 23, 2022

Gerald Getty November 1, 2022

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Arnold, Judy

Lapel, IN

Neu, Linda

Evansville, IN

Beemer, Richard

Huntington, IN

Pollitt, Mary

Metamora, IN

Bracken, Larry

Anderson, IN

Reber, Jim

Huntington, IN

Chapman, Charles

Huntington, IN

Rice, Phil/Lori

Jacksonville, FL

Elliott, Randy/Angela

Columbia City, IN

Schmitt, Tom

Ft. Wayne, IN

Griffin, Lowell/Margaret

Ft. Wayne, IN

Simerman, Robin/Michele

Ossian, IN

Guiff, Aaron/Jessica

Ft. Wayne, IN

Tetrault, Mike

Delphi, IN

Ligget, Kris

Terre Haute, IN

Tharp, Gregg/Becky

Carmel, IN

Ligget, Larry

Terre Haute, IN

Titus, Bill

Fishers, IN

Mathias, Don/Jan

Andrews, IN

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Date	#People	Event	Presenter/s
11-17-2021	55	Huntington Co. Historical Society	Bob Schmidt
11-22-2021	?	Terre Haute Board of Public Works	Sam Ligget
11-23-2021	28	Wabash Co. Historical Society	Jeff Koehler
8-27-2022	30	CSI 40th Anniversary Tour	Craig Berndt
9-13-2022	40	Vigo County DAR	Jeff Koehler

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CSI

Memorials to Frank Timmers: Bob & Carolyn Schmidt, Steve & Sue Simerman

Memorials to Gerry & Mary Ann Getty: Bob & Carolyn Schmidt

2022 CSI Directors' Yearly Reports

Director Name of Canal Area represented

Terry Bodine - W & E Canal - Covington

We showed the Gronauer Lock Timber Display at the Illiana Antique Power Steam Show in July; at History Day, which was sponsored by the Power Club, for approximately 400 4th grade students from the area in May and again in September where Mrs. Donnja Moudy talked about the canal and handed out brochures to the teachers and class chaperons; and at the Clubs Craft and Flea Market held in September.

My son Don Bodine and grandson Clayton Bodine helped me build a frame with a canal boat on top for the canal sign and placed it along the prism of the canal just south of Covington on the Duane Grubb property. This will be a stop on the canal tour next year of our area.

I am also part of a group that is trying to save and restore the Cade's Covered Bridge here in Fountain County. I built a eight foot scale model of the bridge and donated it to the bridge committee to help raise money for its restoration.

The bridge was built in 1854. The builder is unknown. It is 160 feet long of the Howe Truss design. The wood and timbers appear to be of pine or spruce, not oak or tulip poplar native to our area. We know through the early minutes of Fountain County Commissioners that the bridge was partially paid for by the State of Indiana through the funds to build the Wabash and Erie Canal. The bridge is located a few miles from Vicksburg, an important stop on the canal. A little further up the canal is Covington and just to the west across the Wabash River is Perrysville. (Remember the Perrysville side cut from a previous canal tour).

I believe the bridge was ordered from the northeastern part of the United States and shipped across the Great Lakes to Toledo, Ohio, transferred to canal boats and brought down the canal. It's a fact that this area did not have this type of timber and wood. I don't believe circular sawmills were here in this area yet. Just "up and down sash saws" and "pit saws" were here. The timbers in the bridge have circular saw marks. Also it would be easy to order a bridge in most any lengths since it was built of the Howe Truss design. Not complicated, very strong and relatively easy to build. The canal was the only means of transportation at that time. I have seen pictures of yards in Toledo, Ohio, with large timbers waiting to be loaded on canal boats. These are just my thoughts on how the bridge got here. Maybe someday the proof of how this was done will surface.

I furnished pictures of the Covington sign for "The Tumble"

I am working on 2023 CSI tour "Trails-Rails: Canal Connections"

Tom Castaldi - W & E Canal - Ft. Wayne

Assisting with reviving an audio-visual presentation first developed by Luke Scheer's *Two Kings & The Turtle*. Scheer is credited with having preserved the Forks of the Wabash area of the Little Wabash River meeting the Wabash River. Scheer's work being revived by Jean Gernand features where two kings - England's George II and Louis XV of France - vied for the trade with Huron, Miami, Shawnee, Delaware, Illinois, Ottawa and Mingo tribes. Here the Wabash River and its trading importance served as a pathway for the Wabash Erie Canal

"On the Heritage Trail" WBOI-FM public radio for Northeastern Indiana continue to be available as podcasts. Also, QR Codes available at most Trail Markers in the downtown area of Fort Wayne opens the trail hiker's iPhone to listen to the re-broadcasts of the radio's recording of the specific marker's story.

Coordinated with New Haven-area foundation members to replace the *Gronauer Lock* State Historic format marker. Marker came up missing after being knocked down due to storm damage or construction activity when a new exit ramp at I-469 & US 24 was being built. Working with Mitch Harper, Canal Society of Indiana, local historian Randy Harter and Spencer Foundation, the marker was replaced.

Participated in placing markers at: Aboite River and Eel River Aqueducts, Feeder line on Purdue Fort Wayne Campus, Wabash River dam sites at Huntington, Lagro, Peru, and Delphi, and in process of marking Fort Wayne Towpath trail sites. Also, assisting Randy Elliott with sourcing artwork, text, and construction of a Delphi-style marker at Kerr Lock in Lagro.

Appeared in a *Little River Wetlands Project* video explaining the importance of one of if not the largest, inland wetlands in the nation and its relation to the Wabash Erie Canal. Also, submitted a support letter to the Indiana Humanities Action Grant for funding the production of six video presentations to “relate the story which arguably can be counted among the most extant geographical sites on the North American continent.”

Continue to chair Wabash Erie Canal Interpretative Center’s Archives and Acquisitions Committee in Delphi to review a donation’s qualification required for accessioning.

Completed twelve “Towpath Trails of the Wabash” for *Forks of the Wabash Newsletter* titled “Footprints at the Forks”.

Planned and organized our Canal Society of Indiana tour centering on both the 40th anniversary of CSI and 190th year of the Wabash Erie Canal’s groundbreaking. Featured Wabash Erie Canal remnants as well as home of Logansport’s first mayor Jordan Vigus, who broke ground in 1832 for the Canal in Fort Wayne. Car caravan toured featured sites in Cass and portions of Miami counties.

Quoted as source citing Jesse Williams (Chief Engineer of W&E Canal) bank partnership with Hugh McCulloch in *The Education of Alice Hamilton from Fort Wayne to Harvard*, authored by Matthew C. and William C. Ringenberg with Joseph D. Brain.

Quoted in a discussion of the Continental Divide and affects on Fort Wayne water ways in *Television in Fort Wayne 1953 to 2018*: by M. Souder, M. Long and H. Herron.

Quoted in *Old Fort News* "The Mysterious Contradiction of the 'Perry Cannon'" with reference to the "Great Canal Celebration (that) took place in Fort Wayne July 4, 1843.”

John Hillman—Whitewater Canal - West Harrison

Erected Whitewater Canal’s Berlin Lock sign that faces the SR 121

Margaret Griffin - W & E Canal - Huntington

Since the beginning of 2022 Lowell and Margaret have read several books, including *Fort Wayne During the Canal Era* by Charles Poinsette, *Wabash and Erie Canal Notebooks I, II and III* by Tom Castaldi, *Maumee River 1835* by Louis Simonis, *The Bash Chronicles* by Frank Bash (edited by Jean Gernand), and *Indiana Canals* by Paul Fatout.

We did research at the Aboite and Main Branches of the Allen County Public Library, ARCH and the History Center in Fort Wayne, and the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

In July we rode on *The Volunteer*, a mule-powered packet at Metro Parks Toledo and experienced going up and down in the lock. We toured the Isaac Ludwig Mill, which is close by. In August we went on the CSI tour led by Tom Castaldi at Logansport.

Lowell was a tour guide and Margaret interpreted in the Canal Room for grade school tours at Forks of the Wabash History Park in Huntington. These took place in April, May, September and October.

Margaret has written a 25-page prologue for an upcoming book about the Wabash and Erie Canal. Lowell has compiled a data base of canal boat clearances, the original records copied by Bob and Carolyn Schmidt at the Fountain City Court House.

We attended CSI's 40th Anniversary tour at Logansport

Jeff Koehler - W & E Canal - Clay County

Sent old photo of W & E headquarters in Terre Haute to CSI headquarters

Gave a canal presentation to Vigo County DAR on Sept. 13 to 40 people. I passed out membership forms and explained our mission and what benefits a membership provides.

Will contact Vigo County Commissioners about signs along the trail on the old railroad right-of-way between Terre Haute and Riley

David Kurvach - W & E Canal - Warrick County

Attended CSI's 40th Anniversary Tour in Logansport

Explored W & E Canal sites in northern Indiana

Worked on signage placement in Warrick county

Sam Ligget - W & E Canal - Terre Haute

I finished working with the Indiana Department of Transportation in getting the Otter Creek Aqueduct #13 sign placed on U. S. Highway 41 north of Terre Haute.

I worked with the City of Terre Haute to have the nadir level sign placed at 1st and Eagle streets in Terre Haute alongside ISU's track and field complex. This involved speaking at a Board of Public Works meeting about the nadir level and its importance in the history of Terre Haute.

Presently I have the sign and hardware for the Blue Hole, the summit level south of Riley and am working on getting it erected. [It has since been erected.]

I visited and photographed the canal prism on Jay Dennis's property after he notified me that the electric company had cleared the vegetation along the right-of-way that included the canal.

The Vigo County Parks' superintendent Adam Grossman has contacted me about getting canal signs for the new trail to be built in 2023 in southern Vigo County. The trail will follow the Wabash & Erie Canal for over half its length. Adam would like to see a spur built off this trail to the lock at Riley.

I submitted 2 articles for "The Tumble" and provided maps and photos of signage placement.

I have been contacted by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at ISU to speak about the canal for a program next February.

I attended the Logansport Canal Fall Tour.

I have watched a number of You Tube videos about canals in the United Kingdom.

I worked on and coordinated the placement of CSI signs.

Dan McCain - W & E Canal - Delphi

Dan McCain, Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Association president and CSI director was awarded this year's Golden Hoosier Award on Monday September 26, 2022 at the Indiana Historical Society alongside the Central Canal in Indianapolis. The award is a collaboration between the office of Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana FSSA. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a senior citizen of Indiana recognizing those who have devoted their lives and services to help fellow Hoosiers and improve their communities.

Since his retirement Dan has spent countless hours leading the community projects at Delphi's Canal Park to fruition and volunteering at Canal Park. He not only obtained the grant, which built the Conference and Interpretive Center, he also helped build and maintain Delphi's trail system. Recently he appeared in video productions that will preserve local history. Hip Hip Hooray!

Jerry/Phyllis Mattheis - Whitewater Canal - Cambridge City

I, Phyllis, keep in touch with the Whitewater Canal Byway at Metamora through their monthly minutes. They are replacing all the road signs along the Byway and its loops, as the old one have faded badly. Indiana's DOT is helping with the project.

While returning to Indiana from Vermont, we stopped by the north/south Champlain Canal at Fort Ann, some 40-50 miles north of Albany, NY, often perceived as being the eastern end of the Erie Canal. It takes about 7-10 days by boat to traverse the entire 338-mile Erie Canal. The operating system for locks and lift bridges will close on October 12 at 5 p.m. and reopen on May 20, 2023.

The canal fellows at Fort Ann provided us with helpful literature about the New York State Canal System, including activity books for young people and colorful maps of the Erie Canal that include old postcard photos. A profile map of the Erie Canal helps one see how the water flows from Buffalo on Lake Erie to Lockport, Rochester, Lyons, Syracuse and then steps down to Little Falls and on to Albany. Then it goes north to Lake Champlain. The success of the Erie Canal set off a burst of canal building throughout the country, including Indiana.

In 2017 the New York State Canals celebrated 200 years. For more information go to canal.ny.gov.

Ron Morris - Whitewater Canal

Places I have visited that have canals and name of the canal seen:

Lunch on the Central Canal Broad Ripple

Multiple views of the Mohawk River and Erie Canal from Albany, via Rochester, to Buffalo, NY.

Hiked C & O Canal from Cumberland, MD to Hagerstown, MD

Placed bench at Cumberland, MD with Society of Indiana Pioneers at the canal park

Special programs I've attended about canals or transportation:

SIP tour of National Road

Hosted CSI Board of Directors at the Morton House

Assisted in transition of personnel and website from Ball State University to CSI

Attended the Logansport tour

Mike Morthorst - Whitewater Canal

I have served as CSI's vice-president

I have also been the president and assistant treasurer of the Canal Society of Ohio and am the editor of the Canal Society of Ohio newsletter.

I am secretary for Whitewater Canal Trails and am CSI's representative to the organization.

I am the secretary of the American Canal Society.

I have discussed signs with Whitewater Canal Trails people.

I planned the Canal Society of Ohio's fall tour to Blackhand Gorge in October.

I am always reading about canals and have read too many books to name them all.

Cynthia Powers - W & E Canal - Fort Wayne

As CSI treasurer I've written checks when Bob asked me to, and gone over CSI's financial transactions with him after he prints them out for me.

I wrote a review of the book "A Narrowboat Summer" for "The Tumble" May 22 issue.

Ed and I attended the Logansport tour.

I suggested a CSI marker be placed on the St. Joe Feeder Dam trail.

Preston Richardt - W & E Canal - Southern Indiana

Took over CSI website in August from Ball State as CSI Web Master

Added maps and made major changes to website's format

Attended CSI's 40th Anniversary tour

Explored W & E Canal sights in northern Indiana

Made and aired 6 videos about the W & E Canal in Gibson county on YouTube and placed them on CSI website

Investigated signage for Gibson and Pike counties

Bob Schmidt -W & E Canal - Fort Wayne

Served as CSI president

Planned CSI Board of Directors Meeting

Kept CSI financial records, prepared financial statement and filed not-for-profit state and federal forms

Wrote articles for "The Tumble"

Wrote CSI 40th Anniversary booklet sent to members in May

Arranged to have canal signs made, picked them up in Ohio, and delivered them to the recipients or to other board members to deliver them to recipients

Worked with Dr. Ron Morris and Preston Richardt for transfer of CSI website duties from Ball State to CSI

Answered canal questions and mailed material to several people

Provided information for pamphlet and book about the Central Canal

Picked up CSI mail at Ft. Wayne's downtown post office

Prepared slate of officers for American Canal Society board of directors as the nomination chairman

Made reservations for board meeting and helped with set up

Attended and made reservations for CSI's 40th Anniversary celebration, help set up and clean up meeting room, set up car caravan, E-mailed directions to meeting and where to park

Worked with Whitewater Canal Trails to get CSI signage placed at Locks # 26, 27 and 28

Worked with Terry Bodine with diagrams, information on timber frame lock he wants to build

Carolyn Schmidt - W & E Canal - Fort Wayne

Coordinator for "The Tumble" — wrote and edited articles for it

Prepared CSI Board of Directors meeting year end report booklet

Answered E-mailed questions about canals

Helped deliver CSI signs to board members or others who were placing the signs

Sent contribution and memorial letters to those contributing to CSI

Helped prepare CSI 40th Anniversary Booklet sent to members in May

Attended and worked on CSI's 40th Anniversary event by contacting the Cass County Museum and the caterer, created fliers and reservation forms for it, purchased decorations and refreshments, wrote thank you letters to land owners , speaker, the museum, etc.

Prepared booklet, name tags and luncheon for Board of Directors' Meeting, created and E-mailed reservation forms

Stan Schmitt - W & E Canal - Southern Indiana

Served as Vanderburgh County Historian

Worked on CSI signage location

Sue Simerman - W & E Canal - Northern Indiana

As CSI secretary, I took minutes at the CSI board of directors meeting in October 2021 and at CSI's annual meeting held in Logansport in August 2022.

I was the nominations chair for the election and reelection of board members.

I wrote an article about CSI's Logansport tour for "The Tumble."

Steve and I have ridden our bikes on the Wabash River trail at Lagro and at Wabash. Paved asphalt trails are so much nicer than our chip and seal road.

We used the trail at New Haven that begins at Moser Park, which was the canal basin for the W and E Canal.

We attended the CSI Anniversary tour at Logansport.

Steve Williams - W & E Canal - Roanoke

I continue to search for a video that illustrates the operation of the rudimentary locking system of the Wabash & Erie era.

The Canal Society of Indian thanks all of its Directors for their service this past year.

