

EVANSVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Evansville's Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), Reitz Home Museum, and Old Courthouse Foundation of Vanderburgh County present a full slate of lectures, tours, activities, and events on the Vanderburgh County Bicentennial and the World War I Centennial.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Preservation Keynote Address Indiana Landmarks in Evansville and Beyond

Marsh Davis

Thursday, May 17, 7:00p.m. Reitz Home Museum Carriage House, 112 Chestnut Street

This year, preservationist Marsh Davis will reflect on the organization's past and present work in Evansville. He will discuss historic preservation issues at the state and national level and focus on Indiana Landmarks goals for expanding its presence in the state.

As President of Indiana Landmarks for 11 years, Marsh Davis' favorite projects were Lyles Station School, Owen Block Building, and the Evansville Greyhound Station.

Historic Keynote Address Over There: Evansville and the Great War

Thomas Lonnberg

Thursday, May 24, 7:00p.m. Reitz Home Museum Carriage House, 112 Chestnut Street

This year, the well-respected historian Thomas Lonnberg will share vignettes from the Evansville Museum's 2017 exhibition commemorating the Centennial of the U.S. entry into WWI. Evansville residents and Americans contributed to the war effort in various ways and experienced a wave of anti-German sentiment and corresponding crackdown on the culture.

Thomas (Tom) Lonnberg serves as the curator of history for the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science since 1988.

WALKING TOURS AND LECTURES

Presentation: WWI Evansville Nurses

Thursday, May 3, 7:00p.m.-8:00p.m. by County Archivist Amber Gowen at the Reitz Home Museum Carriage House. 112 women tended the area's medical needs as graduate nurses in local hospitals, and many lived in local Graduate Nurses Association homes. When the Army called for nurses, these homes became centers of recruitment. By war's end, 56 Vanderburgh County nurses experienced the horrors of war as intimately as any male veteran but without their stories being told. Join us to hear some stories from these veterans.

Oak Hill Cemetery Tour

Sunday, May 6, 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Tour departs from the Veteran's Memorial to the right of the main entrance. Two walking tours offered simultaneously – one featuring the 19th century section of the cemetery and the other the 20th century portion. The stories of the people buried in the cemetery will bring to life the history of the City. Recently certified as an arboretum, Oak Hill Cemetery has one of the finest collections of trees in Evansville, which will be highlighted in the tour. Guides: Jane Davies and Dennis M. Au.

Presentation: From the Operating Room to the Frontline: Indiana's African-American Doctors of WWI *Thursday, May 17, 2:00p.m.-3:00p.m. Evansville African-American Museum Manager Brittney Westbrook at the Central Library, 200 MLK Blvd, Browning Event Room B.* During the time of Jim Crow era laws, segregation, and lynching, at least 20 Indiana and 2 Evansville African-American doctors volunteered to care for soldiers fighting in WWI. This presentation will cover the history of Indiana's African-American doctors in WWI and their impact after the war.

Liberty Baptist Church Tour

Thursday, May 17, 3:30p.m.-4:00p.m. at Martin Luther King Blvd and Oak St. Meet at the front of

the Church on Oak Street. This Gothic Revival building serves the oldest African American congregation in the city, organized in 1865. Liberty Baptist erected a sanctuary in 1882 that was ruined in 1887. The present sanctuary rose from the rubble 7 months later. This site was a meeting place for the African-American neighborhood of Baptisttown and organizing center for African-Americans for their 115 year struggle for Civil Rights in Evansville. Guide: Clarence Tobin.

The Missing Buildings of Main Street Tour

Thursday, May 17, 5:00p.m.-6:30p.m. Gather at Main and 2nd Street. From the Hopkins Dry Goods Building to The American Theater, Main Street (and nearby) has several open spaces where buildings once existed. Join DMD Director Kelley Coures and Downtown Evansville EID Director Joshua Armstrong on a walking tour of what was here. Using historic images and news sources, the tour will try to capture the time when Main Street was 100% developed and occupied.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES and PRESENTATIONS

The Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science (EMAHS) Presents: Exhibition--Vanderburgh 200: a Bicentennial Celebration

Sunday, April 29-July 15. The exhibition recalls Vanderburgh County's genesis and other key parts of its evolution. The exhibition includes historic maps of the county's early years, a timeline of important moments in the county's history, a focus on the buildings that have served as the county's courthouse from the past to today.

Super Saturday: Let's Party Like it's 1818!

Saturday, April 28, 1:30p.m. It's the Vanderburgh County Bicentennial, which means it is time to par-ty! Join us for a celebration befitting such an awesome county. We'll have hands-on activities about pioneer life that will include the touchable pioneer artifact station, sewing and writing like a pioneer.

Presentation: Who was Henry Vanderburgh?

Thursday, May 17, 6:30p.m., at the EMAHS. Vanderburgh County Historian Stan Schmitt will examine the life of Judge Henry Vanderburgh. Schmitt will present both what is traditionally and lesser known about Vanderburgh's life.

Free Friday Talk: The George L. Mesker Company Story

Friday, May 4, 12:00p.m., at the EMAHS. Tom Lonnerberg will explore the Company whose metal storefronts came to adorn buildings across the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and share its history and work.

The Old Courthouse Foundation of Vanderburgh County Presents:

Lunch on the Lawn

Friday, May 25, 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. Food trucks will be on 4th Street by the Old Courthouse. Music will be on the lawn. The Old Courthouse Foundation will present the legal history museum and the restored Superior Courtroom. After seeing the exhibit and courtroom, the tour covers both the interior and exterior of this magnificent building. Woods and Woods will host tours of the Old City Jail. Pending confirmation, the Veterans Council will welcome visitors to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Coliseum. Docents will be at all three historic sites.

Willard Library Presents:

WW I through the Eyes of Evansville Soldiers

Tuesday, May 29, 6:30p.m.-7:30p.m. Willard Library, 21 1st Avenue, Browning Gallery. Archivist Patricia Sides will present an overview of Evansville after America's entry into the war. With some of its recently-donated records related to WWI, Karin Kirsch, volunteer archivist, will discuss some of the correspondence to and from U.S. soldiers who were from St. John's United Church of Christ, a German-American parish.

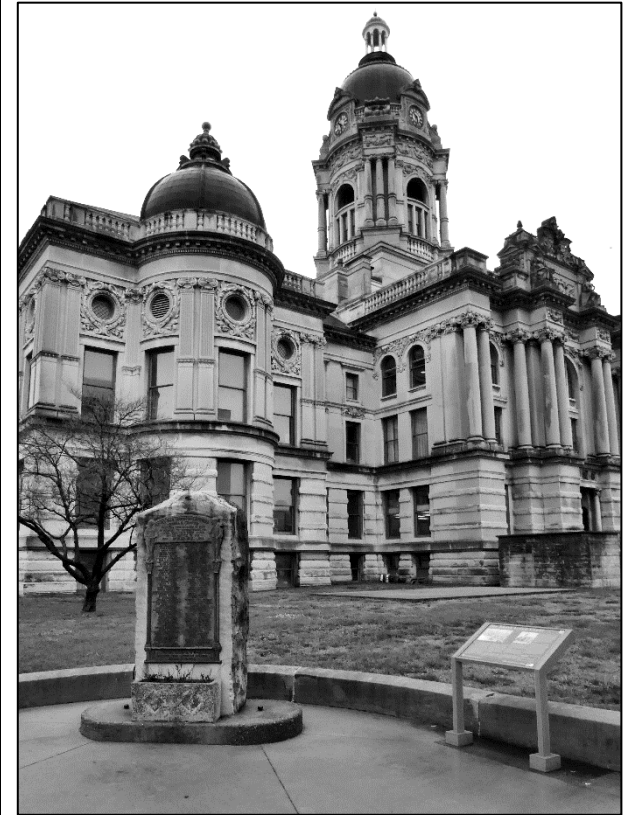
For More Information, go to the City Website at:
<http://www.evansvillegov.org/city/department/division.php?structureid=139>

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT
1 NW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD, ROOM 306
EVANSVILLE IN 47708-1869

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PRESERVATION MONTH

May 2018

Celebrating the Vanderburgh County
Bicentennial and Commemorating the
World War I Centennial



Recent Photograph of the
Vanderburgh County Courthouse
And WWI Plaque in Foreground