



Issue VII

## Peaceful Valley Heritage Preservation Society, Inc.

### Newsletter, March 2020

PVH recognizes the circumstances during this crisis has altered our everyday living. The importance of being safe and cautious is paramount while we negotiate an existence that none of us have experienced. We are not sure what this looks like, but we have decided to practice social distancing with hopes of adhering to our bylaws with emails and phone calls. We feel moving forward is our best option rather than backwards or laterally.

PVH has received a draft of the application for a state marker recognizing Brown County as an art colony. We will now read and review the wording before it goes to Casey Pfeiffer at state. This process was quite lengthy for the Hohenberger Marker, taking months, but we hope to have this ready for Casey this summer. You may know a state marker costs at least \$2,950, but we have hired Dr. James Glass, who is an expert, to ensure that we get approved with the best researched possible. Installation plus other expenses will make the art marker's expected total over \$12,000.

The owner of the Banner Brummett Cabin attended our March meeting to discuss his need for support and funds for this historical place. It is the oldest home in Nashville and has been made into two apartments which are both producing income. The owner would like to have them approved for short term rentals; he accepted the appointment of a committee to suggest restorative improvements to the property. David Martin, Jim Schultz and Steve Arnold have agreed to serve on that committee.

The Marcus Dickey House came into discussion after we were contacted by the contractor hired to work there. You may remember we were unable to match the funds offered and directed the house to Indiana Landmarks. The house was purchased for \$160,000 by an individual to use as a weekend retreat for his family; however, there are several owners who plan to turn it into a B & B. The local contractor states the work expected of him was below his standards, inferior materials and he has not been paid. We advised him that we were not involved with that sale, and the best we can offer is for him to talk to Mark Dollase.

A historic ordinance for the town has not been adopted to date. We had hoped the town



would adopt the Indiana Historical Ordinance as theirs as it has been proven in court. The need for a protective ordinance was made especially clear when the Rogers property went up for auction.

There is no movement on the Hoosier Hills Scenic Byway that would travel through Brown County the length of St. Hwy. 135. Hendricks County has decided not to be on the chosen route because of the restrictions to some signage. Last September Commissioner Diana Biddle felt she could get them to change their minds but to date we have not had a response from her.

The Cemetery Committee applied for a BCC Foundation Grant to restore the monument of William Browning and newly discovered Henry Cross tombstones in Southview which is referred to as the Lost Cemetery. The group has assessed 107 cemeteries grading from 1-5 with 5 being the worst. Five indicates a cemetery is overgrown with privet hedge, saplings, trees, weeds, poison ivy, briars and vines. Two cemeteries, Southview and Powell, were given that mark. Work has been ongoing in Southview for two years; you can now walk through it and truly enjoy the peaceful serenity there. The amount of work and restoration that needs to continue is a constant conversation during our monthly meetings. We have set aside the first Saturday of each month to work at cleaning in any given cemetery. Percifield Cemetery is our current project. We received a gift of \$200 from Bill Percifield and physical working help from a Percifield descendant last month. We have had one workday in Powell and was overwhelmed at the amount of attention it needs. We also appreciated the gift of \$400 from the BC Genealogy Society and \$100 from Julia Ottenweller. Recently we have met with Andy Yoder who is interested in restoration and making improvements to the Lanham Ridge Cemetery. The Yoder Family was amongst Brown County's first settlers and many of Andy's ancestors are buried there. They paved the way for their descendants which include Andy, his siblings, cousins and their children. This is an exciting opportunity for us, the Brown County Cemetery Preservation Society, because Andy as spokesperson for his family along with his Aunt Jenny want our help and they are willing to help fund an ongoing restoration project in Lanham Ridge Cemetery.

We would like to remind you the Brown County Historical Society has events planned for every month but may have to cancel them until the virus crisis is over. The Family Heritage Days were to be in April; Spring Gathering in the Pioneer Village in May and the



Pioneer Women's Quilt Show is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. These activities bring people from many states to enjoy participating in what the Society offers.

Currently, we encourage each of you to recognize the work that various people are putting into the COAD organizing emergency services for our citizens. We are appreciative for the time and effort that Maddison and Jenise put in every day at the BCC Foundation while looking for and recognizing ways to help us get through this crisis and beyond.

The Bean Blossom Covered Bridge has been added to our agenda. Mark Dollase, VP of Indiana Landmarks, attended our March meeting to discuss the possibilities of this as a site for a long overdue historical marker. Mark discovered that in previous years an application for a national marker had been shelved due to discussion that the bridge had burned/caught on fire or damaged in some way that would make the bridge ineligible. We now have a copy of that application and will consider moving forward with the possibility this site getting the recognition it deserves. If any of you have historical documentation that would provide information, would you please contact one of our members. Dorothy Babcock is our member leading this project, please email her with your comments and information. Dorothy's email: [babdotie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:babdotie@sbcglobal.net)

Lastly, we would like to recognize Larry Baker who provides the community of Face Book users with wonderful pictures and stories of Brown County's Heritage. We frequently share his research and pictures which certainly takes a great deal of time. If you have a Face Book page, look for Larry who promotes our county in a beautiful way.

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