



Celebrating 200 Years of Montgomery County History: Locations, Facts and People

Interesting Locations and Facts about Montgomery County

Montgomery County

Established by the State of Indiana on December 21, 1822.

Named in honor of American Revolution War General Richard Montgomery.

The first County Commissioners meeting was held on March 1, 1823.

Cradle of Basketball

First 8 Indiana high school basketball champions were located within 30 miles of the County. Crawfordsville High School won the first high school championship in 1911 and Wingate High School won in 1913 and 1914. Wabash College won the first national basketball tournament and won the Division 3 championship in 1982. Part of the movie “Hoosiers” was filmed in New Richmond.

Shades State Park and Pine Hills Nature Preserve

15th State Park located in the southwestern part of the County.

Property was originally a resort and was purchased by Joseph Frisz to preserve it.

Park will celebrate its 75th anniversary on July 16, 2022.

Sugar Creek

One of the best canoeing creeks in the State.

Named by Native Americans because of the prominence of sugar maples near the creek.

Chief Peter Cornstalk’s Village

Miami Indian village was located along Cornstalk Creek.

Historical marker near Parkersburg Spring at SR 231/1150 South.

Offield Monument

Historical monument on Offield Monument Road for the location of the first white settler, William Offield. He was one of the first County Commissioners.

Crinoids

Over 60 species of crinoids have been found in Sugar Creek in Montgomery County. Crinoids from Montgomery County are on display at the Indianapolis Children's Museum.

TC Steele Boyhood Home

The famous Indiana Impressionist's boyhood home was built in 1852 in Waveland. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Indiana's first Episcopal Church was built in Crawfordsville in 1837. The church is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County

The museum was originally a library constructed with funds from industrialist Andrew Carnegie. The museum features stories and artifacts of the County. It includes the "Hickory" basketball banner from the movie "Hoosiers".

Other Museums

Rotary Jail, Lane Place, Lew Wallace Study, Montgomery County Basketball Museum and Linden Train Museum.

Darlington Community Center

The Art Deco building was built in 1938 as an Armory. It is now a community center for the Town of Darlington.

Harry Potter

RR Donnelley & Sons in Montgomery County bound some of the original Harry Potter books.

Wabash College

Founded in 1832. After the college burned down in the 1800's, the Montgomery County government paid for its rebuilding. As a result of this generosity, the College agreed to fund the education of two students from Montgomery County. The scholarships are awarded every two years by the Board of Commissioners.

Notable People of Montgomery County

(This is just a snapshot of the many notable people for our County. The Carnegie Museum features many more notable people.)

Sue Ann Gilroy

First female Indiana Secretary of State (1994-2002).
Graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1966.

John W. Evans

First African American graduate of Wabash College (1908).
Teacher, historian and principal of 2nd largest high school in St. Louis.

Dr. Mary Holloway Wilhite

One of the first women physicians in Indiana. She opened a practice in Montgomery County.
Founded the Montgomery County Woman Suffrage Association in 1869.

Ward "Piggy" Lambert

Wabash graduate that coached basketball at Purdue University. He won 11 Big Ten Titles and coached John Wooden. He is in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, as well as the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

Eleanor Lambert

Born in Montgomery County in 1903. She created New York Fashion Week and was a publicist for artists including Jackson Pollock and Salvador Dali.

Will Shortz

Born in Montgomery County in 1952. He is the editor of the New York Times crossword puzzle and the author of over 300 puzzle books.

Wilbur De Paris

Born in Montgomery County in 1900. African American jazz musician. He performed with Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington.

Maurine Dallas Watkins

Graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1914. Author of the Broadway play "Chicago" that later became a Broadway musical.

Meredith Nicholson

Born in Montgomery County in 1866. One of the "Big Four" Indiana authors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of the "The Hoosiers" and served as Minister to Nicaragua and Venezuela in the 1930's and early 1940's.

Janet Lambert

Born in Montgomery County in 1893. Author of over 50 young adult books in the 1950's and 1960's. Her fan clubs are active to this day.

Sidney De Paris

Born in Montgomery County in 1905. African American trumpet soloist. He was the brother of jazz musician Wilbur De Paris and performed in New York City among other locations.

Dr. Keith Baird

Wabash graduate in 1956. He was the flight doctor for the NASA Apollo 13 mission. He established a medical practice in Montgomery County.

Dr. Greta Binford

Graduated from North Montgomery High School in 1983. She is known as the "Spider Lady" since her specialty is the study of spiders. She is the author of the book "Silk and Venom" about her experiences while studying spiders.

Lew Wallace

Attended Wabash College. He was a Civil War General, the author of "Ben Hur", Governor of the New Mexico territory and Minister to the Ottoman Empire. His study in Montgomery County is a museum.

William Bratton

Member of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1803. He bought a farm in Wayne Township and held various county and township offices. He is buried in Waynetown.

Mary Hannah Krout

Born in Montgomery County in 1831. She was an author, journalist and suffragette. She worked in London, China, Chicago, Crawfordsville and Hawaii as a journalist.

Ferdinand Louis (Fritz) Schlemmer

Born in Montgomery County in 1892. He was an artist and was appointed as the first artist in residence for Wabash College. He had 19 pieces of his art accepted into the Hoosier Salon, an annual juried art exhibition of Indiana artists.

Howdy Wilcox

Born in Montgomery County in 1889. He was the winner of the 1915 Indianapolis 500 car race.

Phil Ward

Grew up in Mace. He was a US Marine and during World War II he helped raise the first US flag on the island of Iwo Jima. There is a street named in his honor in Crawfordsville.

Henry S. Lane

He was a US Representative and Senator. He was the Indiana Governor for a brief time until he was appointed as US Senator. He helped secure the Presidential nomination for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. His home in Montgomery County is listed as a contributing property to a US historic district and is open to the public.

Thomas Marshall

Graduated from Wabash College. He was the Indiana Governor from 1909 to 1913 and he was US Vice President from 1913 to 1921.