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A Quarterly Newsletter, Autumn 2024

# *Winona History Center Happenings*

## **WHC Gives Tours and Presentations**

This fall has been a busy time for the Winona History Center workers, as they have not only helped the daily visitors and participated in a local authors book fair, but have also given four special large-group tours through Winona Lake and four lectures about Winona Lake history.

The large-group tours started on September 15 when Terry White led a walking and golf cart tour for people from the Winona Grace Church after a special service at the Miller Pavilion. The group walked around the town while hearing about local history. White also gave his annual bus tour and history lecture for Grace College alumni at Homecoming on October 15. White's other recent tour was for a group from Ohio who visited the Billy Sunday Home on October 15. WHC Coordinator Cheryce Wise finished up this fall's special events by leading a group of twelve through Winona Lake on a walking tour sponsored by the Warsaw Public Library.

Docent Terry White also gave a lecture of the history of Winona Lake and of the Church of the Good Shepherd when the church celebrated one hundred years in their current building with a banquet at Westminster on September 22. On September 25, White spoke to the Winona Literary Club on "Local Legends and Little-Known Facts About Winona Lake."

White followed this event by speaking to Grace College Worship Arts students on October 2. The Whites donated a piano to the Worship Arts program, so he spoke about Rodeheaver hymns and played some for the students. White finished his lectures for this season on October 8 with a presentation to Village at Winona shopkeepers about Winona Lake history since many of them are new to town.

Both White and Wise are available for group tours. See Page 3 for contact information..



*(Far Above) The book Winona at 100 is seen at the Warsaw Library's Local Authors Fair. (Above) WHC Coordinator Cheryce Wise gives a tour of Winona Lake to various community participants. See page 2 for more pictures of these events.*

# Miami and Potawatomi Tribes Were First Residents of Winona Lake

The first-known residents of the Winona Lake area were the Miami Indians in the 1750s as they built villages along the Tippecanoe River. The Miami eventually settled mainly along the Wabash River after fighting with the British in the War of 1812. Through a series of treaties, the Miami ceded most of their land to the American government and were forced to move west in 1846, first to Kansas and then Oklahoma. The few Miami who remained today form the Miami Nation of Indiana, centered mainly in Peru and Fort Wayne.

The Potawatomi began moving into the Winona area about 1760, forcing the Miami out. By the time the first white settlers came to the area around 1820, the Potawatomi were mainly along the Tippecanoe River, and the Miami were mainly in the northwest corner of the county. In the same type of treaties as the Miami, the Potawatomi were forced to cede much land to the American government in

the 1820s and 1830s.

In 1826, the government gave the land to the Potawatomi Chief Checose, whose territory included most of present-day Winona Lake, and his tribe. However, many Potawatomi left the area shortly after a treaty in 1832 gave the territory back to the government.

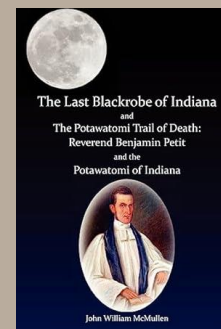
In 1836 the Potawatomi signed nine treaties called the Whiskey Treaties because whiskey was given to get the Indians to sign. In exchange for their land they were offered \$1 per acre, and each member of the tribe was granted a 320-acre parcel of land in Kansas.

Some Winona-area Potawatomi were included in the mass exodus called the Trail of Death in 1838, including the tribe of the well-known Potawatomi chief Menominee. (Others had been forced to leave in small groups.) On September 4, the march to Kansas began. On November 4, they reached the end of

their journey, Osawatomie, Kansas. Upon arrival there were 756 Potawatomi left of the 859 that started the journey. Forty-two had died and others escaped. The few remaining Potawatomi in the area are today a part of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, centered in South Bend.

There are few artifacts left in the area from the Native peoples. Although some of the early settlers thought the mound located at the end of Chestnut Street (no longer there) was built by the first people here, later it was determined to be glacially formed.

*The book *The Last Blackrobe of Indiana* recounts the harrowing account of the forced move of the Potawatomis from the Winona area as seen by Father Benjamin Petit who accompanied them. The Winona History Center has a copy of this book.*



*(Far Left) Cheryce Wise continues her tour of Winona Lake at the bottom of the hill from the Sunday Home. (Left) During the college's Homecoming, a Grace College display was set up underneath the college's digital display in the Winona History Center hallway, consisting of the book *Becoming Grace* and a QR code for donating to the Winona History Center or Billy Sunday Home (see below).*

## Did you know...

- that you can donate to the Winona History Center or Billy Sunday Home online? The donation link can be found [here](#).
- that the Winona History Center keeps an updated Facebook page? A recent popular post was on Ken Anderson and his films. You can check it out [here](#).
- that the Winona History Center is developing an exhibit on the Native peoples who originally inhabited the Winona Lake area? Keep watch for more news of this display.

# Winona History Center Spotlight: Dr. Mark Norris, Director

The Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home run with a small but dedicated staff. Dr. Mark Norris has been the director of these facilities since 2018. Norris, who is a history professor at Grace College, says his favorite part of the position is “meeting visitors from around America who view the Sunday Home and the Winona Lake History Center as sacred ground and as a very important item in their ‘bucket list.’ Many come back to reconnect with fond memories. Many of these encounters are very moving.”

During his time as director, Norris has overseen some major projects, such as the digital Matterport production of the second floor of the Sunday Home to make this accessible to patrons not able to climb the second floor, and repairs to the Sunday Home. These include rebuilding of a wheelchair ramp that also kept water from leaking into the basement and restoration of the roof as Jay Widman and his team rebuilt

the rotting rafter tails and helped replace rotting wood elsewhere on the Home. They did excellent work, Norris says. “Many wonderful patrons contributed funds for this much-needed repair.”

Another highlight of Norris’s time as director is the interactive display on the 75th anniversary of Grace College with a public dedication to the legendary Grace history professor R. Wayne Snider at Homecoming a year ago. The family (and other donors) gave money to fund the 75th anniversary display.

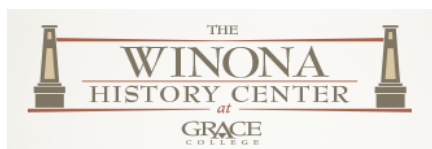
Dr. Norris also says he appreciates working with the current coordinator Cheryce Wise and volunteers, including Terry White, Pam Carroll, Julie Parke, former coordinator Karen Birt (who is now a volunteer and writes the newsletters and Facebook posts), and a number of fine students. He also works closely with Dr. Jared Burkholder, who is program director of History and Political Science. and Dr. Lauren

Rich, who is chair of the Department of Humanities.

Future goals for Norris include moving some records downstairs in Westminster, which will open more display space, creating exhibits on Native American history, and bringing out history of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.



*Director Dr. Mark Norris points out exhibit information to some students.*



## Contact Us

Coordinator: Cheryce Wise

[winonamuseum@grace.edu](mailto:winonamuseum@grace.edu)

Museum Reception: 574-372-5193

*(To be added to the email list for future editions of this newsletter, please send your email to [winonamuseum@grace.edu](mailto:winonamuseum@grace.edu).)*

### VISIT US

Winona History Center  
Westminster Hall  
105 9th Street  
Winona Lake, IN 46590

### HOURS

Sunday – Closed  
Monday – Closed  
Tuesday – 2:00-5:00  
Wednesday – 2:00-5:00  
Thursday – 2:00-5:00  
Friday – 2:00-5:00  
Saturday – 2:00-5:00

### MAILING ADDRESS

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1 Lancer Way  
Winona Lake, IN 46590