

Fulton County Historical Society, Inc.
37 E 375 N
Rochester IN 46975
Phone 574-223-4436 Fax 574-224-4436
Web: www.fultoncountyhistory.org E-mail: fchs@rtcol.com

August 2026

Dear local businesses & persons interested in preserving Fulton County History:

The Fulton County Historical Society each year holds the annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival (the third weekend) September 19-20. This is very educational and fun for all ages and brings thousands of people into Fulton County to help preserve and keep the history of this area alive for future generations. We are seeking sponsorships or matching funds to cover the cost of the performers. These performers receive stipends ranging from \$250 to \$4,000 accordingly for the type of program and size of groups represented.

The festival has two stages on which we have programs all day – these are hired musicians and speakers that portray the pre-1840 time period. The Indiana Arts Commission has provided funds towards hiring these programs and each year the amount varies. This year we will receive approximately \$4,000.00 of the \$18,250.00 needed to pay for this year's programs. We also spend over \$4,500.00 each year on advertising.

The total expenses for putting on the Trail of Courage each year is approximately \$37,000. This includes all of the advertising, port-a-jons, food supplies to run two food booths (buffalo burger, Ice Cream & Apple Dumplings, and the program personnel. This is the museum's biggest fundraiser for the year and in past has brought up to 13,000 people for the weekend to Fulton County. They often buy gasoline, food & other items in Fulton County.

We will have a special bulletin board at the entrance by the admissions booth listing all local sponsorships and include you in the program that is handed out at admissions gate.

We appreciate all the local support by you and others in the community for supporting all the endeavors of the Fulton County Historical Society to help preserve the history of Fulton County.

To send your donation to help sponsor the programs at the Trail of Courage, use the bottom of this form to send your donation today. FCHS is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

Melinda Clinger, Museum Director
J H Northrop, FCHS president
& Board of Directors

_____ I would like to help sponsor the programs at the Trail of Courage.

Enclosed is my donation/sponsorship of: \$250 _____; \$300 _____; \$400 _____; \$500 _____; other _____

River Valley Colonials Fife & Drum Corp Aztec Dancers 42ndRoyal Highlanders Oxen

Anderson Marching Bagpipers Danny Russel –Daniel Boone Sonny Ledford – Cherokee Ambassador

Genot Picor, The Clockworks Clown, Winding Creek Friends, Hoots to Howls & Wildcat Creek Wildlife

_____ I/we would like to become members of the Fulton County Historical Society. (See enclosed form).

Name _____

Address _____

Fulton County Historical Society, Inc.
37 E 375 N
Rochester, IN 46975
Phone 574-223-4436 Mon.-Sat. 9 to 5
Web page: www.fultoncountyhistory.org E-mail: fchs@rtcol.com

Aug. 2026

Dear FCHS Member:

A Grant of approximately \$4,000.00 made possible by appropriated funds from the Indiana State legislature in conjunction with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Arts Commission and the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County to FCHS! This is to hire special music programs for our annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival Sept.20-21. **The IAC has been awarding grants to FCHS since 1980 to help fund the historic arts at the Trail of Courage.**

This grant is affected by cuts at the Federal level are still a threat, so your help is very important. The total cost of all paid programs this year is approximately \$18,250 so we need to raise more than just the \$4,000 to help. This grant has to be matched dollar for dollar by local contributions or we cannot claim the IAC grant!
We also spend over \$4,500.00 each year on advertising.

Programs include: River Valley Colonials Fife & Drum Corp, Danny Russel – Daniel Boone; Aztec Dancers, Sonny Ledford – Cherokee Ambassador; Anderson Marching Bagpipers, 42nd Royal Highlanders, Oxen, The Clockworks Clown, Hoots to Howls & Wildcat Creek Wildlife, etc. We also have others that volunteer their time and we appreciate them.

Will you help by donating toward matching grant? Please donate \$25 - \$50 or more if you can. It will help lots of people, including all the school children that attend the Trail of courage to learn history in the first person.

The Trail of Courage is our big fund-raiser of the year and enables us to operate the museum and publish history. So you can see how important it is!

Volunteer help is also needed at the Trail of Courage. Every year thousands of people come pouring in and we are short of help, especially on Sunday. **Please check the coupon below if you can help. Workers need to wear historic clothing. We have some clothes to lend in the museum office. The museum and Loyal the Living History Village will be open during the Trail so people are needed to sit in the buildings as hosts/hostesses. Buildings have to remain locked if there is no one to host them. This is a sit-down job so please volunteer if you can. Helping during the Trail makes you a participant, so you will get a badge that entitles you to enter the festival free anytime both days. Thank you for caring.**

Sincerely,

Melinda Clinger, Museum Director
J H Northrop, FCHS president

Please fill in and return to FCHS in enclosed envelope.

I am sending my donation of \$ _____ to help match the IAC grant & sponsor programs.

I am sending my donation of \$ _____ for General Operating Expenses.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____

I will work at the Trail of Courage:

Saturday Sept. 19 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. _____ 1 to 6 p.m. _____

Sunday Sept. 20 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. _____ 1 to 5 p.m. _____

I prefer to work in (Circle one) Museum Print shop 1920's General Store

Dr. Office Caboose Depot (Blacksmiths will host their shop) FCHS Buffalo Burger Booth,

FCHS Ice Cream Booth, Admissions Booth Ticket Taker Tractor Driver

____ I will help pick up trash or do dishes on Monday Sept. 21 or Tuesday Sept. 22.

P.S. I forgot to pay my 2026 dues. Enclosed is: ____ \$25 Individual, ____ \$35 Family, ____ \$50 Sponsor, ____ \$100 Club, ____ \$250 Corporation, ____ \$500 Benefactor, ____ \$750 Life.