

*All candidates who applied for the Washington County Historical Society Board of Directors positions are listed below in alphabetical order. If the candidate opted to include a brief statement, it is included verbatim.*

**Todd Baker**

As a military retiree and Washington County native, I feel that I now have time to give back to my community. I was interested before, but my time in the military with deployments and other commitments prevented me from being more involved. I believe that my life experiences at this point have given me the skills and abilities to benefit the society.

Relevant experience:

- Entrepreneur-published a magazine covering historic homes and sties, festivals, fairs and events
- Degree in Advertising and Marketing from Ball State University, 1993
- As the State Training Officer for the Indiana National Guard, was responsible for managing a budget of over \$30 million dollars
- Involved with numerous committees planning various events such as: welcome home ceremonies, change of command ceremonies, unit activation ceremonies, recruiting events, school visitations
- Skilled at strategic planning through multiple initiatives during my 28 years military service, worked on the Indiana National Guard Strategic Planning Working Group to develop goals, objectives, and standards for over 13,000 members of the Indiana National Guard
- Expert skills when developing, working with, and building teams of all sizes
- Demonstrated leadership abilities by being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel
- Salem High School graduate, 1989

**Adam Bell**

Adam Bell Husband of 19 years and Father of 7 (8th on the way) children, will be a valuable addition to the Board of Directors. Adam has been in this region for over 20 years and is married into the Trueblood family. He is an advocate of engaging young people in the areas of business, family and history. Mr. Bell is a twenty-year veteran of the HealthCare, Telecommunications and Federal Contracting industries. He will benefit the Historical Society by bringing fresh Vision to the organization. Mr. Bell has extensive experience in building a developing relationships, defining and executing strategy and holding people accountable to mutually agreed upon objective and goals. He has a passion for the community of Salem and the opportunity that the John Hay center provides to be a Premier destination for the region. It is also a great resource to educate and train our young people on the importance of our heritage and connect them with the legacy that they are a part of. He will bring a wealth of connections, resources, fresh ideas and a track record of success, to the Washington County Historical Society.

**Amanda Bills**

Not only do I have deep roots int his community, but I also have a Bachelors Degree in History, and a Masters Degree in Anthropology. To earn my Masters I worked with marginalized communities to ensure they had a role and a voice in changes to their community. Additionally I studied place attachment. My expert knowledge in that field will help me to help the Society by engaging communities throughout Washington County in order to support the mission and work of the Historical Society. I am passionate about this county and its history, and have the expert knowledge needed to push the Society into the future.

**Boyd Boling**

Facilitator Cooperative Effort—Cummins  
Trainer for Cooperative Effort

**Susan Boling**

I have a real passion for history & our community & want to serve more in that compacity.

**Martha Bowers**

**Matthew Clark**

I feel I can bring in a rejuenivation of respect for the history of Salem. The youth will listen to a younger ambassador and would be or should be intrigued to learn. I have a passion for the preservation of history and hate to see it diminish at the hands of those whom may have grown to be bored and stagnant with the rich history that subsides within these county walls of Washington County.

**Thomas S Day**

A life long resident of Washington County. I have a vested interest in Wash. Co. and it's heritage. My family roots go back over 200 years. I want to insure the records and heritage of all of our ancestors are saved & secured for future generations. I have served the community for most of my life in one way or another, and I believe this organization is one I can help and continue my service the community.

**Richard Dixon****Jordan dos Santos**

I have a long history—personally, as well as through family members—of helping within our community, in order to help better our community. While I have moved between Salem and cities far way multiple times over more than a decade now, there never be another place that takes the title of “Home”. I think this would be a wonderful opportunity to only help strengthen my roots here. I believe in the importance of community, of teamwork, and of progress. I hope to learn more about the current state of the Museum, The Depot, the Society, and then to take that information and work with others to help draw further attention to the resources currently available, as well as working to find way to expand upon what we already have. I appreciate your consideration and would be happy to answer any additional questions, if needed.

**Vince Gay****Dr. Gene F. Hedrick**

I practiced dentistry in Salem for 59 years. The people of this community have been very supportive to my family. This is a small way I can give back to the community. I think I bring a common sense understanding of people. A conflict of opinions should be discussed in a calm, objective manner. In my years of practice, I learned how to respond to patient wishes and concerns. I also bring a variety of knowledge with my experience on other boards. Being able to communicate is the most important asset I would bring to the board. I have no axe to grind. I would come to the board with an open mind to do whatever is best for the museum and the Washington County Historical Society.

**John W. Hughes**

I feel that serving on the Board of Directors of the Washington County Historical Society has been one of the highlights of my life.

I have always had a great love for history (esp. local-Wash Co) and one of my proudest accomplishments came in 2016 when I completed a 500 page book entitled “Reflections”, a book on the history of our county. I became a member when the Society was meeting in the Courthouse basement and considered Miss Lulie Davis one of my best friends who helped me so much as a young teenager getting started on my life-long hobby of genealogy. I also considered Clara Marie Burns as a mentor and friend and was sorry she didn't live to see my book completed,. I felt so honored when I was given the opportunity to sit in her seat on the board at her passing, realizing that no matter how hard I try, I could never replace her.

During the long terms of Past President Willie Harlen, I volunteered many hours working on the 1920 census of Wash Co as well as the Brown and Jefferson Twp Cem books.

After moving to Salem in 2011, under the leadership of President Danny Newby, I have always found time to volunteer with genealogical tours, help researchers with genealogical questions. I also have tried to help my good friend, Co. Historian Jeremy Elliott in whatever way my assistance is needed. I hope I have a few more years to donate to such a worthy organization.

**Katrina Humphrey**

My name is Katrina Humphrey. I have lived in Salem all my life. I have been in banking for almost 24 years. I'm currently the manager at First Savings Bank in Salem. I'm married to John Humphrey., We have 2 children, Alexis who is going to college for nursing and Zachary who is a freshman at Salem High School.

We enjoy traveling and learning about our past history. I feel we need to start helping keep our history alive and preserving it for the future. I'm looking forward to an opportunity to help work a long side others in our community to keep the history in Washington County going for many other generations to enjoy.

**John Kaiser**

The new President along with the current directors myself included are moving the Washington County Historical Society In the bright direction. The meetings are now without “Drama” Making it easier to make rational

decisions to move the WCHS Forward to make the museum a great place to visit and Financially stable. I would appreciate your vote to help us to continue with our success. Thank you, John Kaiser

#### **Raymond Irvin Lee**

I have asked and received 2 grants from Ogle Foundation, also asked and received 2 grants from the Community Foundation. These grants were used to build long cabinets & carpenter-blacksmith buildings at Beck's Mill. I worked on the reconstruction of Beck's Mill for Bill Cook & Pritchett Brothers, on equipment and tear down.

I was born 3 houses down on north side of Market Street. I love history & the city of Salem. Our home is on the registry with Indiana Historic Preservation. I have donated lots of time and materials to the John Hay Center. Preserving history is important to me. It doesn't matter if it is something as big as a building or as small as a dish. The history of Washington County is important and needs to be saved.

#### **Jack Mahuron**

About 1965 Arthur Pitts and I purchased the John Hay Birthplace for the future use of WCHS because they did not have the money. I was later elected to board I then negotiated with C McClintock for the Elliott property for the museum site, we paid 10,000.00 Chick gave us back 5000.00. This was the beginning the J H CENTER. During my terms I have negotiated and raised funds for the property acquisitions including having the Lanning House given to us. Bought and sold Annex to be returned to us for the same Price. Served as Finance Chair and Raised funds for Museum, N Wing and got a grant from for Ogle for S Wing. Acquired the caboose free rather than purchase. This was the beginning of depot. Assisted Cecil Smith in acquiring funds to build Depot. Suggested to families they leave a legacy to us in their wills and it has worked. Carol and I opened a fund at Foundation that has been paying to Society for 25 years. I was refused from being on ballot last time an election was held, for what reason I do not know. I appreciate your vote and will continue to assist where needed even if not elected. I have plans for restoration fo Hay House. Jack Mahuron

#### **Krista Martin**

If I am involved in something, I am compelled to do my part to improve upon it. Whether the improvements are aesthetic, maintaining regulatory compliance, marketing, talking with benefactors, or simply helping move furniture, I am proud to contribute positively to the WCHS. A leader's job is to represent the company, and set the tone for the organization. I could list my degrees, licenses, and career experiences, but monikers are not as important as the ability to be a productive leader during difficult and prosperous times. I appreciate the time I've spent these past months and I would be honored to continue as a board member for the WCHS.

Advocacy is not an innate characteristic for me, therefore, I must believe strongly in an organization to create an attachment. Despite not having Washington County pioneer roots, I love architectural preservation, historic accuracy, and promoting the greatness of generations of women and men in Washington County. The WCHS has a strong foundation, and potential for growth and positive change is within the Society's grasp. With member support and an active board who's motivation is to uphold the Society's integrity, the WCHS can build upon and exceed the expectations of the Society's originators.

#### **John W. Mead**

I am a former board member. I am seriously concerned about the direction of the current board regarding financial management of the Society. Mismanagement exists that has resulted in needless expenditure of Society resources, The Society has failed to correctly conduct its membership meeting for many years; that was confirmed by Judge Blanton. The membership meeting in November 2017 was a disaster—it became clear that the board sought only to perpetuate itself and participation by the membership was neither sought nor encouraged. I initiated the lawsuit because that was the only way to change the direction of management and bring the Society into compliance with its Constitution, Bylaws and Indiana statutes. There are many things that need to be done—fundraising must become a priority—the John Hay House must be saved. I request your support.

#### **Stacy Lee Miller**

I am a life long resident of our county and would like to become more involved in community activities. I work at the Salem St Vincent Hospital and like to work with different people. I am a hard worker and good problem solver and think I could be an asset to the Board of Directors.

#### **Brent Minton**

I feel that I bring many characteristics to the table that would benefit the Washington County Historical Society. I am a lifetime community member and have worked in the Salem Community Schools for 26 years. I have a degree in world history and have taught world geography. I have served as a principal and assistant principal at

Salem Community Schools which gives me skills in dealing with individuals and organizations. I have led many initiatives with the school. I feel all of the things I have accomplished in my work will be a benefit to me as a board member. I have also served on three boards in my life and all of these activities would be an asset to the historical society. I live next door to the museum and I feel my close proximity would also be a benefit to the historical society. I am open minded and will listen to all parties. I will make decisions that are in the best interest of the society.

**Bonita Purlee**

I believe I would be an ideal candidate for WCHS Directors because my grandparents and parents instilled in me the importance of the past. As a child I can remember sitting on my grandparents' front porch and my grandfather talking about his parents and things that happened to him as a young boy. At the time, I did not appreciate that all important legacy he was giving me.

As I started typing this, I thought I would look up the definition of historical society: *a group of people who work to preserve the history of a place*. Our community is so rich in history that we must strive to promote interest and maintain the facilities at the John Hay Center.

I would like to work with the young people in our community through WCHS. By creating programs to entice the younger generation to become members and volunteers, offer education programs available to local schools in our area, finding ways to make WCHS more visible to our community, by means of exhibits, adult and family programs, events, etc.

Experience has taught me how to work as a team member in an organization. I am currently a 33 year 4-H volunteer, member of The Woman's Evening Study Club, and Washington County Piecemakers Quilt Guild. I was also an employee at Salem School Corporation for 28 years and stay a home grandma for the past nine years.

I firmly believe I can make a positive contribution to the Historical Society. Bonita Purlee

**Dean Ratts**

I'm committed to restoring the Treasury in order to have the funds to undo the neglect that has been put upon the property and its infrastructure (20+ years old HVAC systems).

All boards since 2003 were illegal.

The present board was given the circumstance with which we have to operate.

**Jeremy Risen**

I have a Master's degree in Historic Preservation and worked for Indiana Landmarks for over seven years. I have also served as director of the Scott Co. Heritage Center & Museum and the French Lick-West Baden Museum.

**Myron Short**

---

**Reminder:**

\*\*If you cannot attend the annual member meeting on November 23, 2019, you still have a voice! Proxy forms must be filled out for each absent voting member. Forms were mailed out to all members in the previous mailing, can be emailed, or can be picked up at the Steven's Museum.

Proxy forms can be turned in to the Museum for safekeeping by the Board Secretary, or turned in at the election by the proxy.

---