

July 2021



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Indiana In World War I

The Memorial Swinging Bridge was dedicated to persons serving in the military from Pulaski County, but all of those persons also lived in Indiana. The following article was written by Connor McBride, a graduate student of Public History at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and intern for the Indiana State Historic Records Advisory Board. He received his B.S. in history from Indiana State University in 2015.

Since there have been Hoosiers, there have been Hoosiers willing to serve and sacrifice for their nation and its ideals. The state of Indiana is represented in every major United States war since the state's founding and as of the twentieth century, hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers had served their country proudly. By April of 1917, Indiana had demonstrated their willingness and capability to serve and following the United States' declaration of war, Hoosiers were ready to step up and answer the call of their nation.

The Man Behind The Bridge, R. E. Nutt, Part 3

Part 1 of our saga focuses on R.E. Nutt's commitment to the bridge dedicated as "Memorial."

Part 2 focuses on the information we were able to find regarding his profession as an engineer, a "bridge builder."

Part 3 focuses on his personal life.

Per official documents, Russell Errett Nutt was born in Kewanna (Fulton County) on March 20, 1880. It appears he was born at the family homestead in Harrison Township, Pulaski County. The postal address of the homestead – today – is Kewanna. The house itself was on the southwest corner of 200 S and 500 E, close to the Fulton County line.



[READ MORE...](#)

[READ MORE...](#)

Invite Others To Join

BEFORE THE BRIDGE...

Pedestrians crossed from town to the peninsula (first, Nye Park, then the Park Association's river park) via fords or temporary wooden bridges. The bridges would be placed "in season" at one ford or another. The fords - and bridges - were typically placed at the foot of Pearl Street or Main Street. As we know, the bridge was eventually situated at the foot of Main Street. Right here.



The postcard here, found online at The Indiana Album (which encourages use of their photos) shows the river at the "foot of Main St." The postcard is postmarked November 25, 1908.

Greatest Generation of Pulaski County

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Our Boys

The veterans of World War II earned the title, "Greatest Generation". Nearly 75% were born between 1916 and 1927. They were children during the "Noble Experiment" and the "Great Depression", and faced a World War as adults.

Except for those who knew them intimately, their stories are unknown. Today, nearly all are gone, as are their contemporaries and elders. Except for a few family members, none of us can know anything about them, **except what can be gleaned from the public record.**

Year By Year

1943: All In

Donations & Memorials

Your contribution would mean a lot!



Please go to our **Donation page** or use this QR Code. Make it a one-time gift, or make it monthly.

Consider making it in honor of or in memory of someone special.

You can own a piece of the bridge!

You can buy-a-light for \$50.

- Do it for yourself.
- Do it with a group (for example, a fourth grade class can buy one and own it forever; an alumni class can buy one for each class member).
- Give it as a gift.
- Buy one or more for a veteran.



Do it here!

The Memorial Swinging Bridge Project is sponsored by the VFW Post 1728 of Winamac IN, EIN 35-6042820, a 501(c)19 organization, and as such, any contribution is tax deductible. No goods or services are provided in exchange for contributions.



The Memorial Swinging Bridge Project is grateful for the support of Frain Mortuary! On a side note, the Mortuary is just a block (up the hill) from the bridge. The Frains are related to the bridge's engineer, R.E. Nutt, through marriage. Mrs. Nutt was descended from two well-known local families, Wentz and Frain. The Frain family has been in contact with Mr. Nutt's great grandchildren,



Memorial Swinging Bridge Challenge

The Memorial Swinging Bridge Project is grateful for this gift! While giving the gift to Greg and Brenda Henry, Sis Fox issued a Memorial Swinging Bridge Challenge to the community: Meet or beat this contribution. She tags Eric Galbreath, Don Galbreath and Rick Fox to take this challenge.

and they hope to have family members in town for the celebration in July of 2023.



The Memorial Swinging Bridge Project was pleased to receive gifts from the Monterey American Legion Post, Collins-Tasch American Legion Post 399, and two auxiliaries. The Post gave a \$1,000 contribution, as did the Post 399 Sons of the American Legion Squadron. The women's auxiliary (not pictured) gave a gift of \$500.00. Pictured, Post 399, left to right: Bill Manikowski, Larry Spiewak, Byron Walters, Don Keller, Tom Schmidt, Commander, and Greg Henry from the Project. Pictured, SAL Squadron: Greg Sefchek, Treasurer and Greg Henry from the Project (not pictured, Steve Shank, President).



Kathi Thompson is a member of the Memorial Swinging Bridge Project and is proud to be able to support it financially.

Military History Moment

From PROGRESS OF PULASKI COUNTY, Pulaski County Centennial August 17 - 20, 1939, Ten Decades of Development.

Participation In World War

Shortly after the declaration by Congress making the United States a participant in the World War, on April 6, 1917, and the formation of plans to raise an army by conscription, a unit of organization was designated for each county, known as a Local Conscription Board. As members of that board for Pulaski County, Governor James P. Goodrich appointed State Senator John G. Reidelbach, County Clerk Josiah F. Ale and County Sheriff Nelson V. Zellers.

This board took steps to secure registration of all men in the county between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one years. A total of 976 responded to this call for registration, and the board began examination of the registrants in compliance with the draft laws.

The first men to enter the new U.S. Army in this manner departed from Winamac on September 5, 1917. Others followed at various times up to the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918.

Photo Gallery

If you have photographs to share, share **via email**.

YES! First place in the 4-H Parade! Congratulations, Greg Henry & The Model Bridge Crew!



Kim Schramm is one of the community's amateur photographers who is able to capture the bridge at unique angles.



Greg Henry sent photos taken during the Pulaski County 4-H Fair, where, true to many years, the river is rising!

The good news is that the builder of the bridge, R. E. Nutt, planned for a height that, for 98 years, has withstood flood waters.

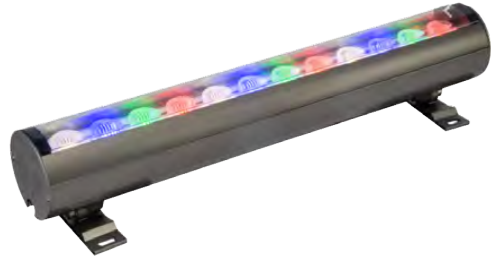


The model bridge is ready for the Power Show! We're looking forward to meeting folks at the Power from the Past!



What Do You Mean? Lights?

The computer-managed lighting system on the suspension and suspender cables will have the ability to glow in multiple colors. They are hooded LED lights and have a rated life of 50,000 hours. That's about ten to eleven years averaging twelve hours per night, but they won't be on for more than five to seven hours a night. The lights on the towers and underneath the bridge will have a rated life of 150,000 hours. That's about twenty-five to thirty years averaging twelve hours per night, but again, they won't be on for more than five to seven hours per night. All of the lighting fixtures carry a five-year warranty.



About Us



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Text To Join The
Email List
MSBRIDGE
to 22828



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

PO Box 14, Winamac IN 46996

Greg Henry (574) 242-1031

Kathi Thompson (574) 270-0128

Email
Website
Facebook
Instagram
YouTube

Featured in the following online inventories:

BridgeHunter
Bridgemeister
Structurae

August 2021



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Pulaski. A Man
With A History.

Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski was born of aristocratic parents on March 6, 1745, in the province of Podolia, Poland.

Often referred to as 'Count Pulaski,' he never actually carried this title or referred to himself in such a manner. However, in a letter (mentioned below), Benjamin Franklin stylized Pulaski as such.

While he was a young man, his native land was overrun by Russian troops during the reign of Catherine the Great. During extended fighting against the invaders, his father and a brother were killed, another brother was banished to Siberia, the family home was burned, and his mother and sister were forced to flee for their safety.

[READ MORE...](#)



Historical Context of the Bridge

Memorial, a suspension footbridge, spans the Tippecanoe River, linking two parks from the Winamac Town Park system: the Artesian Well Park and the Winamac Town Park. Memorial is the only suspension bridge to cross the Tippecanoe River.

Memorial is a single-span suspension-type bridge, 200 feet long and five feet in width. On each side of the river are steel towers, approximately thirty feet high and embedded in concrete bases. Two steel suspension cables, each one and one half inches in diameter, stretch from tower to tower. The ends are attached to concrete anchors embedded in the earth about fifty feet behind each tower.

[READ MORE...](#)

Invite Others To Join

Latest News Of The Bridge

Town Council Meeting

[For those to whom this is news, the Town is embarking on an ambitious renovation project of the bridge. The project will be completed before the illumination installation begins.]

Town manager Brad Zellers stated that he has received the specifications for the repainting and decking of the memorial bridge. They had received only one bid, in which the base bid was \$50,000 for repainting, which would include sandblasting and repainting it with an epoxy paint.

The composite, or plastic, decking would cost approximately \$93,000. He noted that the poundage allotted per square inch would be less than regular wood, and would require an extra runner to go down the center to give extra support.

If they were to decide to just put new wood decking back on, however, Zellers said it would cost a lot less although he was unsure of the exact number. He said he would do some more research on prices, and they will be moving forward on the repairs.

Pulaski County Journal, July 21, 2021



Calling All Artists!

We're asking people to create and donate artwork for the silent art auction in that will be held at our fish fry in November.

Any medium, photographs, paintings, drawings, pottery, etc. will be greatly appreciated!

If you have something you would like to donate, message Carmin Ruff via FB or email carminruff@gmail.com. Each artist will receive recognition of their work.

The auction and fish fry will be held at the VFW on November 19, 4:00 - 7:00.

Greatest Generation of Pulaski County

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Year By Year

1944: In The Thick Of It



Golf Scramble

4-Person Scramble

September 11, 2021, 10:00 AM Shotgun Start at Moss Creek Golf Course

- \$50 per person / \$200 per team
- Money due on or before September 4th
- Includes lunch
- Door prizes will be drawn after the scramble.
- Pay out to 1st & 2nd place
- Hole sponsors: \$25
- Corporate sponsors: \$300

SIGN UP HERE!

Donations & Memorials

Contribution from Howard's Marathon LLC

Shown with Greg Henry are the owners of Howard's Marathon LLC, Phyllis, Howard and Dean.

Thank you for your generous contribution!



Your contribution would mean a lot!

Please go to our **Donation page** or use this QR Code. Make it a one-time gift, or make it monthly.

Consider making it in honor of or in memory of someone special.

You can own a piece of the bridge!

You can buy-a-light for \$50.

- Do it for yourself.
- Do it with a group (for example, a fourth grade class can buy one and own it forever; an alumni class can buy one for each class member).
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Military History Moment

Mexican Campaign / Mexican Border Skirmish 1916

It is difficult to see the detail, but these two memorials hang in the upstairs room at the Winamac VFW (Pfoost-Jones Post 1728). They memorialize Company L, 1st Indiana Infantry, men from Pulaski County.

Many of these soldiers, upon their return home, rejoined and left for Europe and The Great War.



River Ball Race

The July 25 River Ball Race Was Quite A Success!

It was a successful fundraiser, netting \$12,000 for the Project.

A great crew of volunteers made the day a success, including those who gathered the day before to time the balls racing down the river.

Special notice is given to the Day family. They were very generous with their time and contributions!

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!

1st place: Marty Kelley

2nd Place: Bill Moody
3rd place: Kenneth Wepler



Photo Gallery

If you have photographs to share, share **via email**.



Amateur photographer Kim Schramm has a wonderful touch with a lens.



What Do You Mean? Lights?

The computer-managed lighting system on the suspension and suspender cables will have the ability to glow in multiple colors. They are hooded LED lights and have a rated life of 50,000 hours. That's about ten to eleven years averaging twelve hours per night, but they won't be on for more than five to seven hours a night. The lights on the towers and underneath the bridge will have a rated life of 150,000 hours. That's about twenty-five to thirty years averaging twelve hours per night, but again, they won't be on for more than five to seven hours per night. All of the lighting fixtures carry a five-year warranty.



About Us

September 2021



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Pulaski. What's In A Name?

The truth is that we're not 100-percent positive why we pronounce the name of our home 'pə-LAS-sky', when the Polish name is pronounced 'pə-LAS-kee'. It's been that way for longer than anyone can remember. However, we know enough to make an educated guess.

READ MORE...



Invite Others To Join



AUCTION

Calling All Artists!

We're asking people to create and donate artwork for the silent art auction in that will be held at a date to be announced this fall or winter.

Any medium: photographs, paintings, drawings, pottery, etc. will be greatly appreciated!

If you have something you would like to donate, message Carmin Ruff via FB or email carminruff@gmail.com. Each artist will receive recognition of their work.

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Year By Year

1945: Mopping Up

Donations & Memorials



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Take A Look At Our Donors!

Our donors are amazing! Go to the website to see who believes in what we are doing!

**Donor Page
Registry Of Lights
Memorials & Honorariums**

Winamac Class of 1970 Makes Contribution

The Winamac Class of 1970 - holding their 50th reunion one year late - contributed \$1,080 to the Project!

They are not 50 years older; they are 50 years finer!

Thank you all!



Winamac Class of 1971 Responds to the Challenge



"This 1971 Totem was dedicated to Mr. Robert C. Alt, who passed away June 6, 1971. The knowledge, guidance, and patience he gave us will always linger on in our hearts and minds, keeping his memory alive."

Mary Sue Link will donate \$500 to the Memorial Swinging Bridge Project in honor of Bob and in honor of the 1971 class which he taught for four years, from the 1967-68 class through 1970-71.

With an initial contribution from Mary Sue Link (see insert to the left), the class responded with a donation that, with hers, totals \$1,600.

This contribution is given in honor of Robert Alt, who taught for the four years this class was in high school.

Recent Fundraising Activity

At the time of this writing, we are unable to announce funds raised, but we can announce that (1) fun was had by all at the Moss Creek Golf Scramble, and (2) we had a full house at the brunch at Celebration Station. Stay tuned!



You Tube Release

Memorial was dedicated to "soldiers and sailors" from Pulaski County, Indiana, who served in all wars. This is our video memorial to those veterans. The men and women. The Gold Star Families. We can never say thank you enough.

This is not inclusive. We have missed many. If you have a photo of yourself, a family member or friend who served in any branch of service (and who lives(ed) in Pulaski County), please **send it to our email** with the name and service era. Every now and then, the video will be updated to include new photographs.

The video is already nearly 1.5 hours long. You can fast forward if you are looking for a particular era (wars and eras in order), or a particular veteran (alphabetized within service eras).

Watch It [HERE](#).



Military History Moment



Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars 1898 - 1902

The detail isn't clear, but this hangs in the upstairs room at the Winamac VFW (Pfost-Jones Post 1728). The photo details the work of Company I, 38th Infantry, from Pulaski County.

Two Pulaski County men gave their all: Private First Class George Walters and Colonel George Anderson.

After its defeat in the Spanish-American War of 1898, Spain ceded its longstanding colony of the Philippines to the United States in the Treaty of Paris. On February 4, 1899, just two days before the U.S. Senate ratified the treaty, fighting broke out between

American forces and Filipino nationalists led by Emilio Aguinaldo who sought independence rather than a change in colonial rulers.

Even as the fighting went on, the colonial government that the United States established in the Philippines in 1900 under future President William Howard Taft launched a pacification campaign that became known as the “policy of attraction.” Designed to win over key elites and other Filipinos who did not embrace Aguinaldo’s plans for the Philippines, this policy permitted a significant degree of self-government, introduced social reforms, and implemented plans for economic development. Over time, this program gained important Filipino adherents and undermined the revolutionaries’ popular appeal, which significantly aided the United States’ military effort to win the war.

In 1907, the Philippines convened its first elected assembly, and in 1916, the Jones Act promised the nation eventual independence. The archipelago became an autonomous commonwealth in 1935, and the U.S. granted independence in 1946.

Source: **Federal Office of the Historian**

Photo Gallery

If you have photographs to share, share **via email**.



A girl from Ohio and a girl from Illinois, stepping onto the bridge for the first time! Photo from Rachael Connolly.

On the right, Greg Henry sent a photo of "walkin' the dog." Great activity on a late summer day!





This joyful message comes from Karen Fritz, who took these photographs during a late summer outing.

"Our 20-month-old grandson, Marshall, can now walk (unassisted and leading the way) from his backyard to the toddler playground in the park. He walks through the neighborhood, (with no notion of the potential danger), walks down the hill at Main Street, heads for the Memorial Bridge, crosses it, spots the playground and toddles to the gate. He also knows the return trip. About three little toddle steps for every adult step. We are both alarmed and amazed. But what a precious future memory for him!

Thank you Memorial Bridge for the easy access to an enchanting childhood wonderland!"

The model bridge was a bit hit at Monterey Days.

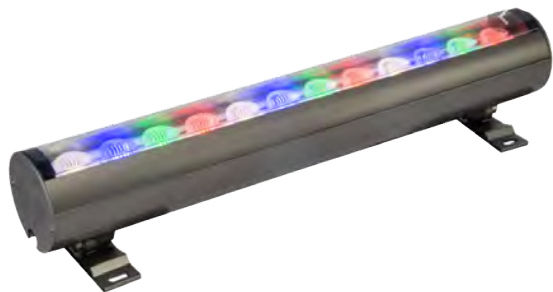




Photos from Kim Schramm.

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About Us

October 2021

Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Let Our Veterans' Memorial Shine!



We have reached **30% +** of our goal of **\$295,000!** **\$100,000 +**

The Memorial Swinging Bridge has reached an important milestone in its fundraising efforts for the “Light Up Our Legacy” project.

The committee has announced donations and pledges have reached the \$100,000 mark which represents a third of the project’s \$295,000 goal. The mission is to illuminate the footbridge over the Tippecanoe River at the Winamac Park – built to memorialize Pulaski County soldiers from all wars – and to celebrate the bridge’s centennial in July 2023.

“We are thrilled and humbled to announce this fundraising milestone, and we’re happy to have reached it in under a year,” said project organizer Greg Henry. “This has energized us to move forward and provides a solid foundation to build upon our hard work to date.”

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)

Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Pulaski County In The Civil War

From the time of the first settlement in Pulaski County until the great rebellion of 1861, with the single exception of the brief but brilliant campaign in the land of the Montezumas, nothing had transpired to disturb the peaceful pursuits of social life and the steady

observance of civil liberty and law. Mothers and maidens had never felt the anguish of separation from loved ones at the stern call of a nation at war. Children had grown to manhood without ever seeing a soldier in military dress, and their loving hearts knew nothing of the sad, wild, glorious things which go to make up war, save what they had read, or what they had been told by their grandfathers who had been with Harrison, or perhaps with Washington. The old militia system which had been so efficient and popular during the old Indian wars on the frontier, and directly after the close of the war of 1812-15, had loosened its hold upon the public mind during a protracted period of profound peace.



READ MORE...

Invite Others To Join



AUCTION

Calling All Artists!

We're asking people to create and donate artwork for a silent art auction in that will be held on a date to be announced in 2022.

We're looking for items that are related to the bridge, the park, or anything in Pulaski County. Any medium; photographs, paintings, drawings, pottery, sculpture, woodwork, etc. will be greatly appreciated!

If you have something you would like to donate, message Carmin Ruff via FB or email carminruff@gmail.com. Each artist will receive recognition of their work.

Video Tribute



Bring Our Veterans' Memorial To Life!

To memorialize Pulaski County veterans, we made several videos. We continue to add to them as new information and photos come to us. Please go to our website to find links to the videos and an index of each veteran included in the videos, from the Spanish-American War (1840s) through the Global War on Terrorism. If you do not see your loved ones or ancestors, you will find an email address through which to submit them.

Your veterans' information will help us make the video memorial more complete. A contribution will help bring Pulaski County's veterans memorial - the Memorial Swinging Bridge - to life.

www.memorialswingingbridge.com/veterans-memorial-project

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Year By Year

1946: Aftershocks

Dogs Of War

This Facebook article from Jim Phillips speaks of the Dogs of Pulaski County who served with The Greatest Generation.

Canine Heroes

Take A Look At Our Donors!

Our donors are amazing! Go to the website to see who believes in what we are doing!

Donor Page
Registry Of Lights
Memorials & Honorariums

Milestone Achieved!

In September, we passed the \$100,000 mark for raising funds! That is over 1/3 toward our goal. Having started our fundraising project with Giving Tuesday 2020, this achievement was reached within nine months.

THANK YOU ALL! This is a fantastic achievement, but we still have a long way to go!



The Class of 1970 (to the right) started the competition of donations to the Project. Eventually, they reached the magnificent number of \$1,670.

The Class of 1970 (above) accepted the challenge, with an assist from Mary Sue Link. The gift from Mary Sue and the class is in honor of her husband, Bob Alt, who taught the class from their freshman through their senior year (before passing away in June 1971). The class total gift is \$1,671.



Left to right: Brenda Henry, Mary Henry, Myron Henry & Greg Henry. The photo celebrates a \$5,000 contribution from Myron & Mary.

Thank you!



Donations & Memorials



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- Give it as a gift.
- Buy one or more for a veteran.

Do it here!



Trick Or Treat!

Fill your goodie bags with lights!

It's a thoughtful gift, and much better on the dentures and waistline than all of that candy....

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Photo Gallery

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The Model Bridge went to the Kewanna Fall Festival to be in the parade!

Golf Cart Poker Scramble, October 2



One of the editor's favorite fall photos of the bridge, submitted by her sister, Linda Thompson Gingerich.



The Kadiddlehoppers, led by Clem (if you don't get the reference, Google Red Skelton!), Emily Pugh, Connor Hall, Wayne Bonnell (Clem) and Bubba Pugh, won both the tournament and the poker card draw. Congratulations!



The Frains (yes, this is the exciting team name they chose for themselves), Jacki and Birthday Boy Dan, won the 50/50. It was a great day for Dan, as he both turned 70 and participated in the event of a lifetime. (!)



The Popycocks! Named for the decoration on the golf cart (look very closely). They won the decoration contest with their simple, but effective, memorial to veterans, two poppies. From left to right, Mike Haschel, Kyle Sefchek and Brandy Goble. (They won a very nice prize from Kerstings for their decorated cart.)

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About Us

Memorial Swinging Bridge Project
PO Box 14, Winamac IN 46996

November 2021



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Pulaski County In The Civil War

During the latter part of 1860 and the early part of 1861, the warmest interest of the citizens of the county was centered upon the important political changes that were overshadowing the country. Some felt the coming storm, and accurately predicted the prolonged and dreadful results.



Others had no fear that the American people would have the courage and hardihood to spring upon the country a gigantic civil war in the support of any principle likely to be involved. As State after State in the South passed ordinances of secession, all the better citizens of each party were united upon the question of supporting the administration of Mr. Lincoln and upholding the constitution and the laws. As yet the all-important question of slavery had not been seriously considered as to its partial suppression or total obliteration ; and all those bitter sentiments and controversies which were to array one section of the North against the other, almost to the extent of open war, were yet unknown, and the county, as a whole, was united and hopefully tranquil.

[READ MORE...](#)

A Local Family's Story of Civil War Service (Simmermaker)

Milton Harrison Rockhold (seen below) served in the 151st Regiment, Indiana Infantry, Company F. He entered and left service with the rank of Private.

He is connected to the Simmermaker family by one generation removed. From Jolie Simmermaker's generation, Mr. Rockhold is her great grandmother Simmermaker's father. (From John Simmermaker's generation, he is "grandmother" Simmermaker's father.)

Submitted by Pulaski County resident, Jolie Simmermaker



Invite Others To Join



Help us Light Up Our Legacy

Friday, November 19, 2021 4:00 - 7:00

Winamac VFW \$10.00

Drive Through or Dine In (not all-you-can-eat)

www.memorialswingingbridge.com



AUCTION

We're holding an art auction on Sunday, February 27. Stay tuned for details!

In the meantime, if you are an artist - photography, painting, sketch art, sculpture, you name it, we want it - please contact **Carmin Ruff** to make arrangements to submit your art for a great cause!

Greatest Generation of Pulaski County

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The veterans of World War II earned the title, “Greatest Generation”. Nearly 75% were born between 1916 and 1927. They were children during the “Noble Experiment” and the “Great Depression”, and faced a World War as adults.

Except for those who knew them intimately, their stories are unknown. Today, nearly all are gone, as are their contemporaries and elders. Except for a few family members, none of us can know anything about them, **except what can be gleaned from the public record.**

War Stories

It's A Small World (War)

Take A Look At Our Donors!

Our donors are amazing! Go to the website to see who believes in what we are doing!

**Donor Page
Registry Of Lights
Memorials & Honorariums**



What do you get for the person who has everything? A contribution to a great local cause. Buy a light, get a certificate in that person's name. The light will shine over the beautiful Memorial Swinging Bridge in his or her name for as long as the bridge stands.

You can make arrangements on our website:

Sharon March made this contribution to the Memorial Swinging Bridge Project in honor of: Dean, John, & David Wall, and Bill Larkin. And in memory of: Helen (Wall) Beyer, Bob March, Darl & Essie March, and Marge Larkin. Thank you for your generous gift!

<https://memorialswingingbridge.com/buy-a-light/>

Happy Holidays!

Donations & Memorials



Your contribution help us light up our veterans' memorial!

Please go to our **Donation page** or use this QR Code. Make it a one-time gift, or make it monthly.

Consider making it in honor of or in memory of someone special.

You can own a piece of the bridge!

You can buy-a-light for \$50.

- Do it for yourself.
- Do it with a group (for example, a fourth grade class can buy one and own it forever; an alumni class can buy one for each class member).
- Give it as a gift.
- Buy one or more for a veteran.

Do it here!



The Memorial Swinging Bridge Project is sponsored by the VFW Post 1728 of Winamac IN, EIN 35-6042820, a 501(c)19 organization, and as such, any contribution is tax deductible. No goods or services are provided in exchange for contributions.

The Kruzick Family Connection

Winamac Cement Products Company has a great deal of history in Pulaski County and the region. Their work lives on today, and will for many generations.

We did a fair amount of research into R.E. Nutt, the man who received the contract for the bridge and who engineered and managed the construction of it. We had to do the research, because the newspapers of the time said little about him. They said little about Winamac

Cement Products Company as well. This is all that we know. This is from the Pulaski County Democrat; a similar piece was in the Pulaski County Republican.

Pulaski County Democrat Apr 12 1923, Microfilm

Directors Accept Bid of R.E. Nutt For The Work – To Be Finished By July 1 – The contract for the construction of the proposed footbridge across the river, from the park below the artesian well to the Association park, was let last Friday night to R.E. Nutt. His was the only bid, at \$3,197... The bridge is to be completed by July 1, according to the contract. The Winamac Cement Products Co. is to do the concrete work, and expects to begin operations as soon as the river falls enough to permit.

Family History

Little could be found while researching this company, so we relied on family history from descendent, Jim Phillips.

In 1921, Winamac Cement Products was incorporated by a prominent farmer, Chris Hansen, along with my grandfather, John Kruzick, and his brother, George Kruzick. Other Kruzick cousins also worked for the company. The company had purchased the Winamac Cement Tile Factory.

Initially, they manufactured tile for field drainage. Their company was east of the State Garage, which they helped build in 1923.

Soon they expanded into building concrete silos in the region and as distant as Wisconsin. By 1924, small concrete bridges around the regional farmland have become the primary business of Winamac Cement Products.

The business continued after Hansen moved to Illinois.

In 1934, John Kruzick built the Indian Head Tavern and focused on its operation, leaving his brother, George Kruzick, to operate the concrete business.

The business was dissolved in 1946, a year after George died unexpectedly.

It's All About Connection

This community owes a debt of gratitude to the entities that caused the bridge to come together: the Winamac Town Council, the Winamac Park Association and the Winamac Kiwanis Club. We are also indebted to the local men and women who put pen to paper, cement to ground, and steel to cement.

Photo Gallery

If you have photographs to share, share **via email**.



Photos above and to the left were taken by one of our favorite local amateur photographers, Kim Schramm.



Photos above were submitted by Greg Henry. Take a look at the lower right corner of the photo on the right. It's Diesel! He's been a regular inhabitant of our photos!

What Do You Mean? Lights?

The computer-managed lighting system on the suspension and suspender cables will have the ability to glow in multiple colors. They are hooded LED lights and have a rated life of 50,000 hours. That's about ten to eleven years averaging twelve hours per night, but they won't be on for more than five to seven hours a night. The lights on the towers and underneath the bridge will have a rated life of 150,000 hours. That's about twenty-five to thirty years averaging twelve hours per night, but again, they won't be on for more than five to seven hours per night. All of the lighting fixtures carry a five-year warranty. They are fully enclosed to guard against flooding.



About Us



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

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MSBRIDGE
to 22828



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

PO Box 14, Winamac IN 46996

Greg Henry (574) 242-1031

Kathi Thompson (574) 270-0128

Email

Website

Facebook

Instagram

YouTube

Featured in the following online inventories:

BridgeHunter

Bridgemeister

Structurae

December 2021



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project

Pulaski County In The Civil War

Within two weeks after the fall of Sumter, about fifteen men left the county, going to Logansport, and joining the Ninth Regiment, destined for the three months' service. A squad of about ten of these boys assembled at Winamac, to be taken to Logansport in wagons. Quite a crowd gathered on the street as the time for their departure drew near. Just before they left, Stephen Bruce addressed them in a short speech, praising them for their loyalty and bravery, adjuring them never to allow the flag to trail in the dust, and promising that they who left families behind need borrow no trouble, as no one would be permitted to starve as long as he continued operating his grist mill. Away the boys went amid the cheers of their fellow-citizens, and the tears and lingering farewells of loving friends. It was but a short time after this that other men began to leave the county for the three months' service. It has thus been estimated that under the call for 75,000 volunteers, about thirty men entered the service from Pulaski County.



READ MORE...

(If this link doesn't work, go to www.memorialswingingbridge.com and scroll down the first page to the post.)

William Fahler, Civil War Veteran from Pulaski County

William Fahler was born in October 1822 in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. In 1844 he married Sarah Meier and they subsequently had three sons, Nathan, Franklin, and Winfield who died in 1851 about six months after he was born. After Winfield's death, William and Sarah made their way west, settling in Indiana and eventually Pulaski County near Star City.



SECTION OF RED RIVER DAM.

The Civil War broke out in April 1861, and William enlisted as a private in the Union Army in Logansport on November 5th of that year. According to the History of the Forty-sixth regiment Indiana volunteer infantry, September 1861-September 1865, William was assigned to the 46th H Company commanded by Captain Felix B. Thomas. The company departed Logansport from the Wabash Railroad depot for Lafayette, Indiana on December 12, 1861. Eventually the company made their way to Madison, Indiana where they boarded the "City of Madison," a steamboat, and sailed down the Ohio River to Paducah, Kentucky and then to Cairo, Illinois arriving there on December 21st.

The 46th participated in a number of battles, but perhaps one of the most important was the Battle of Vicksburg (May 18 – July 4, 1863), considered the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy." But before the battle could take place, Grant's army had to take Port Gibson, Mississippi. 46th H Company fought in this battle, and William was wounded and hospitalized from May to August 1863.

William rejoined H Company to fight in the Battle of Mansfield, also called the Battle of Sabine Crossroads, where he was captured in the battle on April 8, 1864. He was sent to Camp Croce, a Confederate POW camp located near Houston, Texas, and was imprisoned there until he was paroled on December 12, 1864 in Galveston, Texas. William was transported from New Orleans to Cairo, Illinois to Indianapolis arriving back home sometime after December 23, 1864. Due to starvation and great hunger, he ate too much fresh sausage and died at home on January 13, 1865.

The Star City chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was named in William Fahler's honor.

Submitted by Margaret Fahler Sgritta

Note: Some ancestors of William Fahler, names that may be familiar to readers, particularly those from Star City:

- Children of Hovey Fahler, including Olive Fahler King, who recently passed away at the age of 100, Margaret Fahler Sgritta, and Mary Fahler Disabato.
- The grandchildren of Hale Fahler, including the children of Dick (Cathy & Chuck) and the children of Don (Reba and Bob).
- The Davis family, which includes Chris Spath, Patti Grimm, Marybeth Cunius and Susie Grumme.
- The Editor sends apologies to all of the other ancestors that were missed, especially all of the other Star City Fahlers!



AUCTION

The Memorial Swinging Bridge Project is hosting a fundraising Auction. Local artists and community members are donating art work and memorabilia. Winamac Community High School art students have also completed special artwork to donate for this event.

Come enjoy a special afternoon highlighting some of Pulaski County's artisans.

And please, **contact us to submit art works** of your own!

- Sunday, February 27, 2:00 PM
- One Eyed Jacks' Celebration Station
- Light refreshments and drinks will be available

Watch our Facebook Event for updated art items, or take a look at everything that has been announced to date on our **webpage**. (The webpage will be built as photos go up on the event page, so..... there may be nothing there on 12/15! Come back and see us! it is SO EXCITING to watch as our collection grows!)

Invite Others To Join

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Sisters In Service

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Donor Page Registry Of Lights Memorials & Honorariums



We were **AMAZED**
by your support!

We think we had one of the larger fish fries in recent memory! We had a net of a little over \$3,700! Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts!

Our thanks goes to the community, who supported us with their purchase of meals, and to the VFW, who provides every not-for-profit organization all the support that they can.

If you have never seen them in action during these meals, well, you're missing out!

As we get ready for "press," we have raised \$2,290 for Giving Tuesday.

THANK YOU!



Winamac Ace Hardware / Keepsakes continues their valuable service to the public with their Round-Up program! The Memorial Swinging Bridge Project was honored to be a recipient again, for a cumulative total in 2021 of \$2,145. We extend our thanks to the Tim Wiegand family, the staff who make it happen, and the customers, upon whose support the Round-Up program depends. Pictured in this photo are a combination of staff, customers, and Project members. Left to right, front: Jen, Holly, Missy, Cindy Hickle, Carmin Ruff, Jennifer Zimmer, Melanie Berger, Greg Henry. Back:

Alvin Parish, Rana Parish, Austin Shepperd, Brenda Henry, Beth McFarland, Tom Hickle.

We are very grateful to the **Fostvelts, Barry & Li**, shown here with Greg Henry, for their generous contribution in memory of Kevin Wang. New to our cause, we look forward to their continued support.



We are pleased to receive support from **NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (Moss Creek Solar)**, and we welcome this new business to the community! Shown in the photo, Ally Sexton and Zack Melda from NextEra, and from the Project, Cindy Hickle and Greg Henry.

Ed Baptista, representing representing **Doral Renewables' Mammoth Solar Project**, presents a check to the Project. We welcome this new business to the community and appreciate their support for this veterans' memorial. In the photo: Ed Baptista, and members of the Project: Cindy Hickle, Alvin Parish, Rana Parish, Brenda Henry and Greg Henry.



Memorial Swinging Bridge Project members continue to contribute to



the veterans' memorial with their time, their talents, and their resources. This contribution, a combination of gifts and in-kind donations, is a cumulative total from Kathi Thompson, shown here with committee members Carmin Ruff, Missy & Scott Brogdon, Deb Fox, Greg Henry and Cindy Hickle.

Chris and Kim Schramm made a wonderful contribution at year-end. Chris is a volunteer with the Project, and Kim's photos are featured often in this newsletter.

Thank you!



Your Change can Help Light our Veterans' Memorial!



Our friend, Paul Hoffman, started a trend. He turned in coins that he had been saving for quite some time. By the way, did you know that banks are craving coins? You will begin to see containers in the community soon, all over the county, asking for change to light our Veterans' Memorial.



- If you see a container, please drop in your change.
- If you want a container in your place of business, **let us know**.
- If you have saved coins to give, again, **let us know** and we'll figure out how to connect with you!

Donations & Memorials

Help us give light to our veterans' memorial.

Give a gift of any amount (<https://memorialswinginbridge.com/donate/>).

Buy a light for \$50 (<https://memorialswinginbridge.com/buy-a-light/>)

Show your gratitude to local veterans.

Make an end-of-year contribution & give a gift that will last a lifetime.

Share the joy of giving with everyone in your family.

Help us light the century-old veterans' memorial.



Your contribution would mean a lot!

Please go to our **Donation page** or use this QR Code. Make it a one-time gift, or make it monthly.

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The Editor tried her hand at photography! It was a beautiful day!



On the same day as the photos above were taken, snapshots were taken of a family out for a breath of fresh air. These children are so cute.....



The photos above are chilling in more ways that one! It's a cold November in - I think - 2012 - and look at that water! Photos submitted by Paul Hoffman.



Greg Henry always turns over some beautiful photos of the bridge. Thank you, Greg!



These beautiful photos are from Gavin & Jessica Fulmer.

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