



Seymour’s new mural was announcement number 12 and features Inez Voyce, a Seymour resident who was a big star in the women’s baseball leagues of the 1940s!

Theme: Inez Voyce / A League of Their Own. Inez Voyce was born in 1924 and attended Seymour schools in the 1930s, where she played basketball and softball. She enlisted in the Navy WAVES (Naval Women’s Reserve) in 1942 and served until her honorable discharge in 1946.

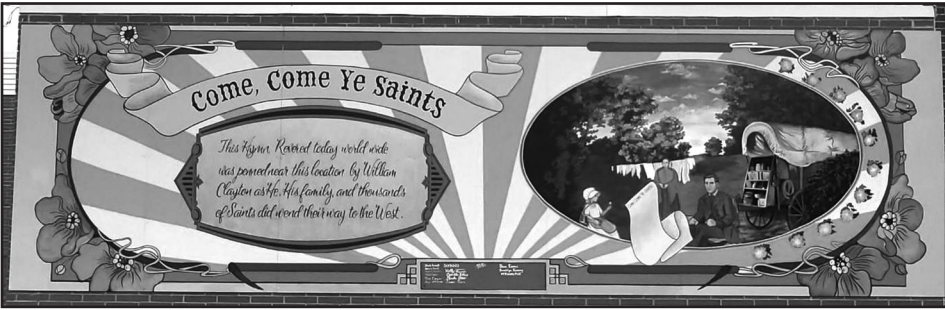
After the war, she was recruited to the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which had teams throughout the Midwest. She signed with the South Bend Blue Sox for the 1946 season, before being traded to the Grand Rapids Chicks. She played for Grand Rapids from 1947 - 1953.

Inez “Lefty” Voyce became one of the most outstanding players in the history of professional women’s baseball. She played in 100+ games per year for seven consecutive seasons with Grand Rapids, earning a .256 batting average. She was the league’s 2nd-highest leader in RBIs and 9th on the all-time list of home runs.

Inez retired from baseball in 1953. She passed away last year in Santa Monica, CA, but she still has ties to relatives in the Seymour area. We’re happy to see her and the history of women’s baseball featured on this new mural!

Location: The Snider building in Seymour.

Lead Artist: Crystal White from Brooklyn, New York. She is a talented sign painter and muralist with training in a variety of sign styles and techniques and she’s painted at several Walldogs events in other locations. It was exciting to welcome her to Wayne County this summer!



The 13th mural of 16 recognizes the pioneers who moved across Iowa on the Mormon Trail and features the writing of the important hymn “Come, Come Ye Saints” in Wayne County.

Theme: Come, Come Ye Saints. The Mormon Trail from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City, Utah, cut across Wayne County, and there are signposts throughout the area marking where the trail and various encampments were located. During the spring of 1846, a large group of Mormons camped in Wayne County, struggling with the spring thaw and difficult travel.

William Clayton, a Mormon poet, was at Locust Creek in Wayne County when he received word that his wife, Diantha, had given birth to a baby boy in Nauvoo. He wrote, “Come, Come Ye Saints” to give thanks for the news and offer hope to those who were discouraged by the difficulty of the journey. It continues to be an important Mormon hymn today.

You can learn more about William Clayton and the Mormon Trail at the Prairie Trails Museum, which has one of the most important exhibits of Mormon Trail information and artifacts outside of Salt Lake City and Nauvoo.

Location: This mural will be installed at the Prairie Trails Museum in Corydon, and will add another highlight for tourists who come to Wayne County to see the Mormon Trail.

Lead Artist: Steve Estes from Mayfield, KY. Steve is one of the original Walldogs from the 1993 gathering in Allerton and he has painted at dozens of Walldogs gatherings. We were glad to have him and his family back in Wayne County for this event!



One of the final three announcements was for the mural that was installed in Millerton, and it features Lyle Tuttle – who was born in Millerton and went on to become the “Granddaddy of Tattoos”!

Theme: Lyle Tuttle - Granddaddy of Tattoos. Lyle was born in Millerton in 1931. He and his parents moved to California, where he saw soldiers coming home from WWII with tattoos – and his inspiration was born. After a stint in the Marines, he began tattooing professionally in 1949 and opened a studio in San Francisco in the late 1950s.

He tattooed some of the most famous musicians of his era, including Janis Joplin, the Allman Brothers, Cher, and more. He was photographed for the cover of Rolling Stone magazine in 1970. He also holds the record for being the first person to tattoo someone on all seven continents after tattooing someone at a scientist’s guesthouse in Antarctica in 2014.

Lyle passed away in California in 2019 at the age of 87, but he still has relatives in Wayne County. He credited his parents with giving him “total freedom” for his art. One of the tattoos on his own body was a family crest that he created for himself – a chicken and a feather, with the motto “Chicken today, feathers tomorrow” translated into Latin. He left behind an amazing legacy in the tattooing world, and we’re excited to see the mural about him!

Location: The Barb Nickell-Clark Building in Millerton. This is also known as Madge’s Cafe.

Lead Artist: Dan Luckin, Chelmsford, United Kingdom. Dan is an experienced sign painter and muralist who has participated in many Walldogs events, and it’s amazing that he’s coming from the UK to paint with us! You can see his art at <https://www.paintedby-dan.co.uk/>.



Pictured above and to the right: Artists that completed their sign tasks early lended their artistic hands to rejuvenating signs at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. The signs shown are what hang at the entrance greeting those that enter the fairgrounds.



The 15th mural announced was Humeston’s new mural: recognizing the early settlers around Humeston and how the Mormon Trail School District got its name!

Theme: How the School Was Named. The Mormon Trail went through the area around present-day Humeston, and there was an important encampment established at Garden Grove in 1846. There were also a number of other early immigrants moving into the area – many using the same trails and suffering the same difficult travel conditions as all of the pre-railroad immigrants to and through Wayne County.

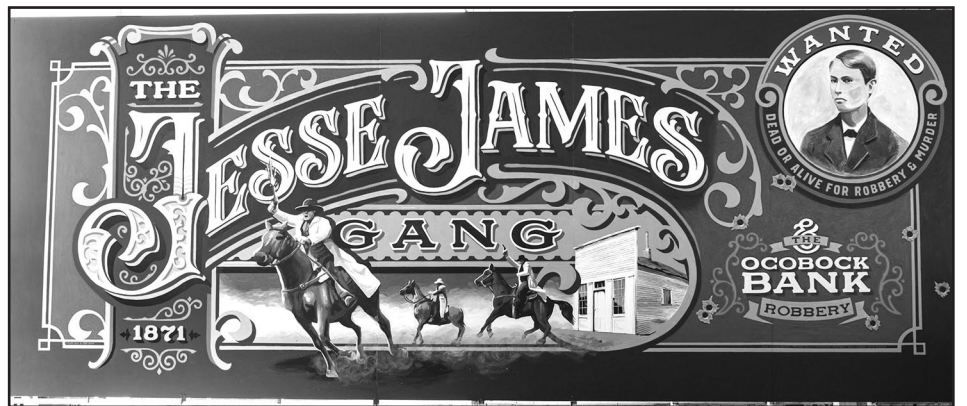
Some of the earliest immigrants were Marshall and Mary Jane (Gwinn) Richman, who came to Wayne County in 1850 from Greenbrier County, West Virginia, and settled in what became Richman Township. Mr. Richman was county surveyor from 1851 to 1856 during a time of great population growth in Wayne County. He also served as a justice of the peace for 18 years, a member of the Board of Supervisors for several terms, a school director, and as postmaster at Selma (in Richman township from 1866-1878) until the post office was discontinued.

Many immigrants passing through Wayne County stopped by Marshall and Mary Jane Richman’s home for provisions. Other early settlers in the area also reported seeing and offering services to travelers who still followed the Mormon Trail, and the locals at area trading posts would watch for the “Saints” as they came through.

When the Mormon Trail School District was formed in 1959, it was named in recognition of the trail through the Humeston / Garden Grove / Le Roy area. The school’s name recognizes how important the western migration across the United States was to the formation and early economic growth of our local communities.

This mural features art inspired by log cabins and settler experiences in Wayne County. Location: Humeston City Hall.

Lead Artist: David Johnson, Mt. Barker, Western Australia. David organized a Walldogs festival in his hometown in Australia in 2019, where he was also the local police sergeant. He’s an experienced signpainter and we were fortunate that he flew so far to spend his time with us this summer!



The final mural, number 16 is a new Corydon mural: featuring the infamous bank robbery by the Jesse James Gang! (You didn’t think we could do a mural festival without mentioning the Jesse James robbery, did you?)

Theme: Jesse James Bank Robbery. The Ocobock Bank was one of the first banks in Wayne County, built in Corydon in 1865. On June 3, 1871, the bank was robbed at gunpoint by the Jesse James Gang, who escaped with \$6,000 - \$10,000 in cash (around \$140,000 to \$230,000 at today’s value).

As they rode out of town, they went past the Methodist church, where local townspeople had gathered to hear a speech in support of raising funds to expand the railroad through Wayne County. Legend has it that Jesse James and his gang taunted the Corydon townspeople and told them to catch them if they could.

The gang wasn’t caught after this robbery – they escaped into Missouri, which is where they had gotten their start after the Civil War. According to Wikipedia, the owners of the Ocobock Bank contacted the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency in Chicago for help with the robbery, which was the first (but not last) time the Pinkertons tried to catch the James gang.

The Jesse James gang (aka the James-Younger gang) was active from 1868 to 1882, conducting a string of brazen robberies across 11 states. This included the first known train robbery and many bank and stagecoach robberies. The Younger brothers and other accomplices were captured or killed in Minnesota in 1876. The James brothers continued the gang until 1882, when Jesse James was killed by his accomplice, Robert Ford. Frank James surrendered, marking the end of the James gang.

You can see more artifacts about the Jesse James gang and Ocobock Bank at Prairie Trails Museum of Wayne County.

Location: Wayne Theatre. This mural was installed on the newly updated back of the theatre, easily accessible for photos and tourists.

Lead Artists: Joe and Ben Diaz, Pontiac, IL. Joe and Ben are brothers and experienced Walldoggers. They were actually “Wallpuppies” at the original Allerton festival in 1993, when their parents painted some of the Allerton murals. They brought their families back for this event, and we couldn’t wait to have them back in Wayne County!

Pictured on right: Max Mason along with his sister Piper Mason (not shown) lent a hand contributing to the Wallpuppies setup that allowed children to paint by numbers on signs that now hang on the back of the Wayne Theatre. The Wayne County ISU Extension and Outreach office organized this fun event for the kids aged seven and older to participate in the fun.



“There is no must in art because art is free!”