



PO Box 54, Washington, IL  
(309) 444-4793



**MEMBER APPRECIATION**  
March 2, 2019- 9:00 am



**I HAVE A STORY TO TELL**  
March 25, 2019- 6:30 pm

**2019**  
**ANNUAL**  
**MEETING**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
April 22, 2019- 6:30 pm

# HERITAGE HERALD

[www.washington-historical-society.org](http://www.washington-historical-society.org)

## Conquering the Appalachian Trail

**Native-born Washington man hikes through 14 states on 6 month mission**

Curt “Disciple” Ebert is a national inspirational speaker and avid outdoor enthusiast who recently did what many thought was insane - he hiked all 2,190 miles of the Appalachian Trail - all while legally blind. He will share his experience and provide historical information about the Appalachian Trail as part of the Washington Historical Society public programs. The event, which was free and open to the public, was held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 6:30pm, in the family life center of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 200 S. Main St. in Washington.

As a native of Washington, Illinois, known for its flat, black-dirt farmlands, hiking the historic 14 state trail through the Appalachian Mountains was a challenge to say the least. The fact that Curt is legally blind made the expedition nearly impossible.

Curt’s 6-month-long journey and in-depth study of the trail brings new insights and expertise to one of the country’s most daunting hikes. His passionate - and often humorous - tales will cause self reflection and desire to action. Despite his urge to explore, Curt’s roots in Washington run deep. The Ebert family has been in Washington since the late 1800s with his great grandfather Christian Ebert being a past Washington mayor. In fact, Curt and his wife were both born and raised in Washington. Curt, who played Panther football, graduated from WCHS in 1991. He worked most of his life in the family water well business, Chris Ebert Co., est. 1888 until his vision weakened. He later served as a pastor for 8 years.

When not climbing mountains, you can find Curt paddling the Boundary waters or bass fishing. His other interests include running, backcountry camping, and spending time with his wife and four children. Find out more about Curt on his Facebook and YouTube channels by searching “Not by Sight.”



## Archiving Washington History



The Washington Historical Society is home to thousands of items and Ron Anderson is our main computer man. Ron assigns numbers to each of the new gifts to the Society and puts the information into the computer so that it will be easy to locate when it is needed for research or display.

John Stromberger is heading up the White Papers committee for the Bicentennial in 2025 and scanned over 10,000 pictures and slides for the Washington Historical Society. Wow!



This picture shows Tom Gross and Susan vanDyck going over family history files so that it will be easier for people to do genealogy work.



Each edition of the Heritage Herald will feature some of the donations to the Society.

### Recent Donations:



Aaron and Courtney Verkler donated a historic pram used by the Verkler family over 100 years ago. They also gave us pictures, books, and documents.



The family of Gary Lucas donated a round oak table that once belonged to the Baylor family on Jefferson Street.



## Volunteer Reception

March 2, 2019, 9:00-11:00 am

The Washington Historical Society wants to show our appreciation to the “HEART” of our organization, our volunteers!

For ALL the people that have volunteered throughout the year to help us sustain the quality of a successful society! We would love for you to drop in the Dement-Zinser house and join us for a light brunch.

## Washington Historical Society Annual Meeting

April 22, 2019

Doors open for the WHS Annual Meeting at 6:30 with the meeting starting at 7:00.

Follow the meeting, the audience will be transported back in time by a presentation from the Metamora Courthouse Civil War Dancers. This group of talented dancers in period costume will perform historic dances to authentic historical music. There will be some interactive questions, as well as some audience participation. This evening is a one of a kind event, please be sure to attend! (Period costumes are more than welcome.)



Happy New Year!  
2019

**Ask Your employer about matching funds.**

Learn more at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and thank you for your support.

You'll start earning rewards for Washington Historical Society right away on qualifying purchases made using your Kroger Plus Card!

Find and select our organization and click "Save" to earn rewards.

Sign in to your online account, or create an account.

Scroll down to find your location and click "Enroll".

Here's how to enroll:

1. Visit [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)
2. Scroll down to find your location and click "Enroll".
3. Sign in to your online account and click "Enroll Now".
4. Find and select our organization and click "Save".



**Your Kroger Plus Card helps us grow!**



PO Box 54  
Washington, IL 61571  
(309) 444-4793

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to AmazonSmile.smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will receive donations from eligible purchases made on AmazonSmile.smile.amazon.com, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Please pick the Washington Historical Society (Washington, Illinois) as your Amazon Smile recipient.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile.smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will receive donations from eligible purchases made on AmazonSmile.smile.amazon.com, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

**amazon smile**

**\$100**

Zinsner & Dr's Museum to honor family, business, or a loved one.

