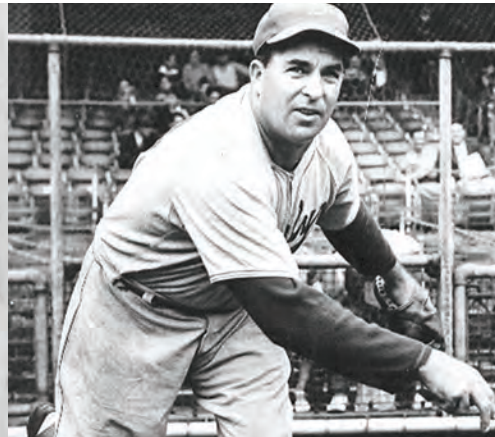




World Famous Mishawakans:

Rose Hartwick Thorpe, Freddie Fitzsimmons, and Adam Driver

By Pete DeKever and Lexie Schroeder Kobb



Over the years, “Made in Mishawaka” has been proudly applied to varied local manufactures, such as Ball Band footwear, Dodge power transmission equipment, and AM General Hummers. Many successful and prominent individuals have also been “Made in Mishawaka.” Industrialists, war heroes, musicians,

athletes, and even an Indiana governor have hailed from the Princess City and made their mark in the world.

During the 2015-16 school year, the Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum begins a new exhibit featuring the achievements of world famous Mishawakans. Photographs and

artifacts in three large display windows will tell the life stories of poet Rose Hartwick Thorpe, major league baseball player Freddie Fitzsimmons, and actor Adam Driver.

In future years, other famous Mishawakans will be profiled in the rotating exhibit space.

Rose Hartwick Thorpe was born on July 18, 1850, in her family's home that stood at 225 Union Street, today the site of Horizon Christian Fellowship.

Rose spent her first ten years in Mishawaka, and her reading and writing talents were developed at the Mishawaka Academic and Normal Institute, which was located south of the intersection of Main and Fourth Streets. Years later, Rose wrote a poem dedicated to the schoolchildren of Mishawaka in which she fondly remembered her neighborhood with its hickory trees and “spearmint bordered stream” (Barbee Creek), which inspired her imagination and love of nature.

The Hartwicks moved to Kansas in 1860 and, shortly after, to Litchfield, Michigan. As a sixteen year old, Rose read a magazine article based on a historical incident, inspiring her to compose a poem entitled “Curfew Must Not Ring To-night.” Rose had been writing a poem each week for a Detroit newspaper in return for a free subscription. One week in 1870, Rose was sick with typhoid and could not make her usual contribution. Instead, she submitted “Curfew” for publication.

The poem is set in 16th century England. Bessie's lover, Basil Underwood, is to be executed at sunset

when the church bell rings to signal curfew. To save him, Bessie tries unsuccessfully to convince the sexton not to ring the bell. Desperate, Bessie then climbs the ladder of the tower, repeating to herself, “Curfew shall not ring to-night.” She clings to the bell's clapper so it cannot ring when the sexton dutifully pulls the rope, swinging the bell and Bessie soundlessly. Bessie comes down from the tower just as the Puritan general Oliver Cromwell rides into town. Touched with pity by Bessie's act of sacrificial love, Cromwell pardons Basil to complete the happy ending.

Newspapers around the country reprinted Rose's work, and it quickly became one of the most popular poems of the 19th century. "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight" spread throughout the English-speaking world and was translated into at least 17 languages. School children recited it, orators used it in dramatic readings, and it even became a favorite of Queen Victoria. Rose became an international literary star, and proud Mishawakans later saw her as an equal of James Whitcomb Riley.

Rose married Edmund Thorpe in 1871 and remained in Litchfield until 1881. They moved to Chicago, and she briefly served as the editor of publications devoted to temperance, home life, and Sunday School. Rose and her husband moved to San Antonio in 1883 and then to San Diego in 1887. Rose continued writing poetry and fiction. She published several more books, most notably *Ringed Ballads* in 1887 and *The Poetical Works of Rose Hartwick Thorpe* in 1912. Her work is noted for its optimism, Christian faith, and exploration of such topics as love, death, nature, and virtue.

Rose Hartwick Thorpe enjoyed great celebrity status, being known as the poet of one of the most beloved ballads of the 19th century. She was honored at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 and world's fairs held in San Diego in 1915-16 and 1935. On the 69th anniversary of writing "Curfew," Rose even received congratulatory telegrams from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and former First Lady Lou Hoover.

During Rose's lifetime and in the decades since her death in 1939, "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight" has often been alluded to or parodied in various forms of media, including songs, magazine covers and postcard illustrations, the novel *Anne of Green Gables*, and the movie *Desk Set*. It was one of the most

anthologized poems of the period 1870-1950, and today it continues to be recited in speech contests and literary festivals around the world.

The Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum celebrates Mishawaka's honor of being the birthplace and first childhood hometown of Rose Hartwick Thorpe, whose talent, first nurtured here, created a poem that touched countless lives around the world.



Freddie Fitzsimmons was born in 1901 on a farm in Tipton County, and his family moved to Mishawaka around 1906. When Fred was growing up, they lived in several different homes on the city's north and east sides. On the sandlots of the Princess City, young Fitzsimmons learned the game that would be his livelihood for over forty years.

Fitzsimmons's professional baseball career began with minor league Muskegon, where he was a pitcher from 1920-22. He was good enough to catch the eye of the Indianapolis Indians, for whom he played until 1925, when the New York Giants acquired his services. Fitz made his major league debut with the Giants on August 12, 1925-- the first and only major leaguer to come from Mishawaka. This was the first of his 513 major league appearances.

Known for his knuckleball, fielding, and competitiveness, Fitzsimmons was one of the top pitchers of the 1920s and '30s. He was a 20-game winner in 1928, led the National League in winning percentage in 1930, and played on the Giants' 1933 world championship team. Fitz pitched one game in the 1933 World Series and two contests of the 1936 Series. After being traded to the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1937, Fitzsimmons continued to play productively, and his 16-2 record in 1940 again led the league in winning percentage.

Fred's greatest-- and most painful-- moment on the mound came in Game 3 of the 1941 World Series. Fitzsimmons was pitching masterfully and beating the Yankees when a line drive hit him just below the knee, knocking him out of the game.

Fitzsimmons finished his 19-year career in 1943 with a record of 217-146. He then managed the Philadelphia Phillies from July 1943 until June 1945. Fitz later coached for the Braves, Giants, Cubs, Athletics, and several minor league teams.

Fred's decades in major league baseball brought him into contact with many of the game's luminaries, such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Bill Terry, Leo Durocher, and Willie Mays. The greatest moment of baseball history that Fitzsimmons witnessed came in 1951 when he was coaching first base for the Giants and Bobby Thomson hit the "shot heard 'round the world" that won the league pennant for New York.

Fred died in 1979 and is buried in Colton, California.

Playing in an era when nearly everyone was a baseball fan, Freddie Fitzsimmons was a household name across the country, and because his hometown was often mentioned in articles about his pitching exploits, he put Mishawaka on the nation's sports map.

Fitz was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992. Mishawaka High School's varsity baseball field was named in his honor in 2009.



Adam Driver is a Hollywood name that may be familiar to many Mishawakan's today. Born in 1983, Driver was raised in Mishawaka from the age of 7 until his graduation from Mishawaka High School in 2001. His early acting experiences came from the stage of the Mishawaka High School theatre where he

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Donation presented to HLCM's Director, Lexie Schroeder Kobb from Beiger School PTA

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participated in several school productions in addition to singing in the school and local church choir.

Shortly after the September 11th attacks, Driver joined the United States Marine Corps where he served for several years but was medically discharged before he could deploy to Iraq. After leaving the Marines, Driver attended the University of Indianapolis for a year then quickly transferred to the Juilliard School to study drama. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2009.

Driver began appearing in both Broadway and off-Broadway productions as well as appearing on both television and in short films. His first major role came in 2011 in Clint Eastwood's film *J. Edgar* but he may be best known for his role in the hit HBO series *Girls*. Driver has collected an impressive list of credits and accolades to date, which is particularly remarkable considering the short number of years he has been working as an actor.

Adam Driver and his wife Joanne Tucker run a non-profit organization close to their hearts, Arts in the Armed Forces, which stages performances for military personnel. We look forward to Adam Driver's coming performance in the next installment in the Star Wars saga, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which will be released in December of 2015.

The Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum invites patrons to visit the World Famous Mishawakans exhibit which will open October 15th. Find out about Rose Hartwick Thorpe, Freddie Fitzsimmons, and Adam Driver this year and other extraordinary citizens from our community in the years to come.



Give Local St. Joseph county was an amazing day for our community. The Museum raised over \$6,700 on this May 5th event. Thank you to the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County and thank you to our generous members and sponsors who contributed.

If you would like to contribute to Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum, our annual Membership Campaign will be beginning soon! Watch your mailbox for more information and thank you for your support.

Poem by Tri Kappa Alpha Associates

We gather and we giggle...
Our working days are passed.
Honor, truth and fame prevail.
Our purpose will ever last.

We volunteer at
Hannah Lindahl Museum,

To repair textiles,
organize and code.

All items in the computer now.

NOT having lunch, we
just forebode.

So many dear members
have come and gone.

With fond memories, you see.

The bonds and love that
we have shared

Will live throughout eternity.

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Museum hours:

Tues. – Fri. 9 AM to noon & 1 PM to 4 PM,
(closed whenever school is not in session in SCM)

Admission charges: \$1.00 – Children ages 2 – 4
\$2.00 – Seniors ages 62+ & students ages 5 – 17
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The mission of the Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum

is to provide a collection of unique artifacts that encourages families to explore, learn, and enjoy the history of the Mishawaka area.