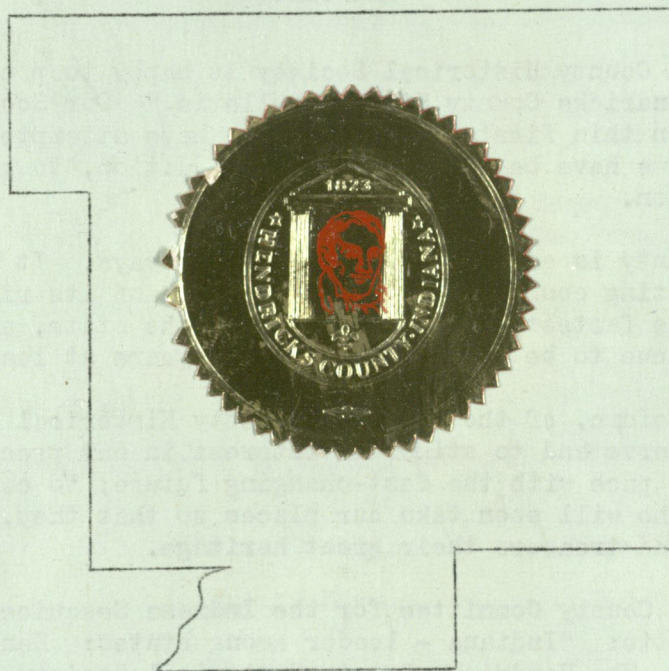


HENDRICKS
COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



FOR 1970

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 1

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Danville, Indiana

John Gambold

Cover: We are indebted to Mr. John Gambold, Jr., Hendricks County Clerk and president of the Hendricks County Historical Society, for our cover. He designed the Hendricks County Seal with the picture of the Honorable William Hendricks, Governor of the State of Indiana when the act organizing the County of Hendricks was approved, December 29, 1823. The Seal is outlined with the boundaries of Hendricks County, so we feel that our cover is distinctively Hendricks County.

GREETINGS

The Hendricks County Historical Society is happy to present Volume 1, Number 1 of the "Hendricks County History Bulletin." Our Society is only three years old, and in this first publication, we have attempted to bring you up-to-date on what we have been doing, and, in addition, to give you some interesting information.

Hendricks County is an unique county in many ways. It is not only one of the most interesting counties in Indiana because of its rich heritage, but it is now one of the fastest growing counties in the state, and statistics project it to continue to be during the next ten years at least.

The aim, therefore, of the Hendricks County Historical Society is two-fold:

1. To preserve and to stimulate interest in our precious past, and
2. To keep pace with the fast-changing future; to communicate with those who will soon take our places so that they, too, will appreciate and treasure their great heritage.

The Hendricks County Committee for the Indiana Sesquicentennial adopted the following motto: "Indiana - leader among states; Hendricks - leader among counties." The Hendricks County Historical Society hopes to help Indiana and Hendricks County to live up to this ideal.

Margaret Baker - Editor

Mr. John Gambold, Jr. - President

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker - Vice President

Mrs. Roy Pritchard - Secretary

Mrs. Blanche Wean - Treasurer

Miss Ina Shaw - Historian

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Hosier - Chairman

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker

Mr. George Heavilin

Mr. Joe Davidson

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1971

Sunday, January 10, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.

Fellowship Hall of Danville Christian Church

Mrs. Nellie Beagley, presiding

Program: "A Trek Through Hoosierland"

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hines

Social hour in charge of Center Township

Sunday, April 18, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.

Amo Community Building

Dr. Sherman Crayton, presiding

Program: "Economic Growing Pains"

Speaker - Mr. Richard Clutter

Social hour in charge of Clay and Franklin Townships

Sunday, July 11, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.

Music Room of Brownsburg High School

Mrs. Mildred Smith, presiding

Program: "Let There Be Music"

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Jones

Social hour in charge of Lincoln Township

Sunday, October 10, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.

Salem Church

Mrs. Harold Templin presiding

Program: "Folk Lore in Hendricks County"

Mrs. Zona Walker and Mr. Joe Davidson

Social hour in charge of Guilford Township

I am enclosing \$2.00 for 1971

membership in the Hendricks

County Historical Society.

Mail to:

Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer

P.O. Box 128

Danville, Indiana 46122

Name _____

Address _____

HISTORY OF THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hendricks County Historical Society was organized July 13, 1967, at the Indiana Boys' School Chapel at Plainfield. Co-chairmen were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fisher who had been selected by the Hendricks County Committee for the Indiana Sesquicentennial at their closing meeting in 1966.

Dr. Hubert Hawkins, Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau, was helpful as he spoke on the work and organization of Historical Societies in Indiana.

At this first meeting, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, officers were elected, and committees were appointed. Mr. Maxwell Lee, County Chairman of the Sesquicentennial Committee, presented the society with a check for \$250 which was the award won by Hendricks County for placing third in the Indiana Sesquicentennial Manuscripts and Records Project.

Twelve meetings subsequent to the organization meeting have been held at the following places: Brownsburg Eaton Hall, Danville Christian Church, North Salem Christian Church, Pittsboro Christian Church, Pittsboro United Methodist Church, Plainfield Public Library, and the Salem United Methodist Church in Liberty Township.

Our membership has increased from the original 74 charter members to 137. Our Society has contributed \$20 for repair of the statue, "The Barefoot Boy" at the Indiana Boys' School; \$50 toward the expense of collecting and co-ordinating Hendricks County Cemetery Records; and \$75 for Cindy Hewlett who participated in the tour of the Lincoln Heritage Trail which was sponsored by the Indiana Junior Historical Society.

Officers who have served are as follows: 1967 and 1968 - Mr. Frank Litherland, President, Mrs. Hazel Felknor, Vice President, Mrs. Herbert Smith, Secretary, Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer, Miss Ina Shaw, Historian; 1969 - Mrs. Herbert Smith, President, Mr. Scott Hosier, Vice-President, Mrs. Roy Pritchard, Secretary, Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer, Miss Ina Shaw, Historian; 1970 - Mr. Scott Hosier, President, Mr. John Gambold, Jr., Vice President, Mrs. Roy Pritchard, Secretary, Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer, and Miss Ina Shaw, Historian.

Speakers, their subjects, and authors, if other than speaker, have been:

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker - "History of Central Normal College"

Dr. Sherman Crayton - "The Keeley Institute"

Mr. Clarence Edmonson - "Pictures of the Past - Liberty Township"

Mr. Leonard A. Fleenor - "Benjamin Harrison in Hendricks County"
(by John Gambold, Jr.)

Mrs. O.B. Garner - "History and Pictures - Brown Township"

Mr. Wayne Guthrie - "Hoosier Heritage"

Mrs. Ruth Hall - "Cholera Epidemic of Lizton, 1873"

Mr. Scott F. Hosier, Jr. - "Ghost Towns of Hendricks County"
(written by Mrs. Woodrow Moore, Sr.)

Mr. Gerald Jones - "History of Eel River Township"

Mr. Frank Litherland - "Transportation"

Mrs. John C. Miller - "Peavines - Prophets and Prints" and "Central Academy"

Dr. M.O. Scamahorn - "Pioneer Doctors"

Mr. Harold Wilson - "Hendricks County's Coverlet Weaver"

Mrs. Roy Pritchard

EARLY VOTING RECORDS

Hendricks County, we are told, has one unique historical claim-to-fame that none of the other 91 counties can boast: Voting records that go back continuously to 1826 and are in good state of preservation.

The first record of election is preserved as a "Form of Poll Book," Tally Sheet, and Certification from a contest held "....10th Aprile 1826 for the purpose of Electing one Justice of the peace."

This election was held in Eel River Township at the house of John Fowler, Sen. Thirty five electors presented themselves and their names were entered in the "poll book" -- which consisted of a blank piece of 15" by 12½" paper impressed into service by folding the sheet the short way. Names of the voters were entered by the two Clerks and/or probably the inspector, if a cursory matching of handwriting can be any guide. It would definitely appear that each voter did not sign the poll book for himself.

The Candidates were Reuben Claypool and James Fowler and the boards tally on the back shows 26 marks for the former and 9 for the latter.

The following certification was then penned, probably by the inspector:

"we the inSpector and Judges of the above"
Election doo hereby Certify that Reuben
Claypool for justicio of the peace Re-
ceived twenty Six votes. James Fowler
For Same office Received Nine votes giv-
en under our hands the year and day above
written.

David Claypool	Inspector
Preston pennington	Judges
Christian Hartman	
John Moore	Clerks
William Turner	

The election does appear to be more than a popularity contest since only two Claypools and two Fowlers appear on the "poll book." However no mention is made of party affiliation. In fact such does not appear until after 1850.

Other surnames that appear on the "poll book," in addition to the above are: Way, Hendrix, Benson, Jones, Evins, Bateman, Williams, Wooderd, Coats, Harper, Crum, Horn, Walker, Walters and Hughes.

Early elections appear to have been conducted at almost any time of the year and normally on the first Monday of the month. Of the eighty-three (83) elections held and preserved through November 1832 every month had been utilized except January and February which would appear understandable from the standpoint of pioneer travel.

The Hendricks County Commission of Public Records entered into a recent agreement with the Indiana Historical Society whereby all voting records from 1826 through 1915 would be transferred to the custody of the State Archivist where they would be preserved until such time that the Hendricks County Historical Society could "...become perma-

nently established in a building with a room that would be fireproof and safe for storing manuscripts and documents At that time the Indiana Society would, upon our request, transfer these voting records back to the custody of our Society.

The records have already been micro filmed up through 1870 and presumably the State Historical Society will complete this process through 1915 in the near future.

John Gambold, Jr.

BOOK 1 1/2

In 1939 the Indiana Works Progress Administration extracted male-female marriage application names for the period 1823 through 1920. These names, comprising some 28,000 entries, were alphabetized and published in two books. (A to L, M to Z)

Very recently it was discovered that the marriage application records for the years 1831 - 1837 had not been included in the W.P.A. works. Somehow, inadvertently the clerk then had serialized two books "Volume 2" and subsequently mislaid the entire volume containing the earlier record. The second "Volume 2" was utilized during the years 1837 - 1845.

Upon relocating the 1831 - 37 volume it was rebound and dubbed "Book 1 1/2" to indicate its place between the existing volumes.

A supplemental index has been prepared of these 816 additional names (408) marriages and will be available to the researcher and genealogist.

The State Library, Indianapolis, and the Clerk's Office, Danville, now have the complete index of marriage application 1823 - 1920.

John Gambold, Jr.

HENDRICKS COUNTY'S GHOST TOWNS

Center Valley (Home of Gov. Ralston's Wife)	North Belleville
Bradshaw	Oak Plain
Brayton	Pecksburg
Chiseltown	Raintown
Jacktown	Roundtown
Gale	Six Points
Hardscrabble	Spicklepoint
Joppa	Spray Station
Maplewood	Springfield
Mt. Sterling	Tank
New Williamsburg	Toll Gate
Needmore	Union

YOUR HENDRICKS COUNTY AND MINE

The poet William Henley once wrote, "I thank what ever gods may be, for my unconquerable soul." Here was a philosophy of courage that could triumph over circumstances, however hard and bitter they might be, and as one reads the early history of our county he finds this unconquerable thread all through the society of that day in 1820 when Bartholomew Ramsey and half dozen other settlers came into the woods along White Lick and decided it was a good place to start a home. They built cabins, cleared out briars and underbrush, drained mosquito infested swamp land and ploughed under the sod for crops. It is interesting to learn how these settlers had in their makeup the ideas of democratic government, and they met in villages like old Springtown to elect township officials, give a name to their village and start the process of government. They picked their best educated to represent them at a later time in a state legislature and to send a representative to Washington. They were a determined people from the start. As they toiled for a living, they would assure for themselves law and order.

In early days their determined spirit inspired the building of a log school house here and there and the hiring, at some price, the best informed to teach their children. It is interesting today to think of the teachers long ago receiving for their pay a bushel of potatoes, a "jint" of meat, or a calf from the head of a family better situated financially than his neighbors. And what can be said of the dress and the text books of these pupils, large and small, who trudged through thickets, waded creeks and marshes to reach the school house: Shoes were scarce in the by-gone days and the clothing of boys and girls was exceeding plain. Books were scarcer than shoes and it is recalled that a grandmother describing her log school near where Clayton is today remarked: "My only book was a Testament, and from it I was taught to read." This same woman used to tell how her neighbor children went in bare feet to this school until snow began to fall in early November and on many a morning she has "seed their bloody foot prints on the snow." It took grit to get a smathing of learning in those days and these early Hendricks County boys and girls had it.

A time came when the log school house would no longer do, nor the greased paper windows and slat seats and desks, the drinking water from a spring. Folks progressed and discovered a better day for their children and the little, red, brick school house came to be in the several townships and a teacher was secured who was perhaps a year or so beyond his brightest pupil. Text books appeared with maps and double and single seats and double and single slates. Wells were dug in school yards and a stove stood in the middle of the room to make all comfortable on winter days. Even this advance was not enough for our county's determined and progressive people. At eighth grade commencements, girls and boys made speeches on "Consolidated Schools" and the old folks listened, and talked and became convinced. They no longer wanted Rock Branch, Billtown, Needmore or Rose Cottage and a half dozen other one-room red-brick schools. Townships built larger and finer buildings with assembly halls and often a whole township of proud parents came and listened to commencement music, sometimes a paid orator, or they enjoyed plays given by their youngsters or enjoyed a day at a farmer's institute and a good dinner. Those were good days.

Years rolled on and the world progressed, the population soared and the big school that for years had been near and dear gave way to the present larger yet, and better type to keep pace with a changing society.

Hendricks County over the years has not only witnessed the tremendous progress in the schools but has kept pace in building more stately structures in a larger, better court house, better trading marts, a much needed hospital, churches to accomodate more people, and beautification of lawns and parks. Better farming methods and better seed in our county made it possible for a farmer of New Winchester to take championship corn to a great agricultural fair in Toronto, Canada.

Hendricks County has had its outstanding lawyers in John V. Hadley, Solen Enlow, George Harvey, Edgar Blessing, Otis Gulley and others. One of Indiana's foremost artists, Clifton Wheeler was born in Hadley; Elrod of Coatesville became a governor of South Dakota; Thomson and Orth went to the big leagues from Danville, and "Casey" Hogate made his mark at DePauw and the Wall Street Journal in New York City. Many a boy and girl from Brownsburg, Plainfield and smaller towns have brought honor to their homes and county as farmers, ministers, business men, doctors, teachers and newsmen.

The folks of our county from 1820 to the present have had the courage to keep up with their world or a little ahead of it, with a desire to build anew and always to build bigger and better. Perhaps their philosophy of growth can best be expressed in the lines of Oliver Wendell Holmes' poem, "The Chambered Nautilus!"

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll.
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length are free.
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!"

This perhaps sums up the growth, and the progress over a century and a half of YOUR HENDRICKS COUNTY AND MINE.

Joe H. Davidson

The Hendricks County Historical Society has been collecting data about Hendricks County Burying grounds and cemeteries for almost three years. We now know of more than 120 places in our county which have been used for burial purposes. The following is an alphabetical listing of the names of most (but not all) of these places. If more than one name has been used to identify a location, cross reference is made to the one under which our records are kept. We have found several names which are obviously erroneous, but since these faulty names are used in other reference sources, they are included here.

The number in the right hand column under GRAVES is a count of the tombstone inscriptions in our records. If there is no number in this column, we have no list of inscriptions for this cemetery and we would be most happy to obtain such a list.

This is a continuing project by the Society and additional information about Hendricks County burying places is earnestly sought and most welcome.

Members of the Society who have need of any of the information in these records should write or call:

George E. Heavilin
R.R. 3, Box 89
Danville, Indiana 46122
Telephone (317) 582-2711

NAME	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS	GRAVES
ABNERS CREEK	Washington		278
AMO	Clay		
Arbuckle	Brown	see Bethesda	
ARNOLD	Center		
AVON METHODIST	Washington	also North Lawn, McClain	104
AYERS	Center		
BAILEY FARM	Union	Moved to CUNDIFF in 1970	2
BALLARD	Brown		
BARGO	Center		
BARLOW	Washington	also King	
BELL	Lincoln	also Hufford	16
Bell	Center	see COFER	
BETHEL LUTHERAN	Clay	also Soots, Scherer	11
BETHESDA	Brown	also Arbuckle	
BOYS SCHOOL	Guilford		49
BUCHANAN	Liberty		27
Burgess	Union	see GRIFFITH	
CAMPBELL	Eel River		
Cartersburg	Liberty	see SPRINGHILL	
CENTER VALLEY	Liberty		
CHRISTIE	Center	see HILLSIDE EAST	
CLAYTON	Liberty		
Coatesville East	Clay	see WEST BRANCH FRIENDS	
COATESVILLE SOUTH	Clay		
COFER	Center	also Bell	10
CORNETT	Liberty		4
County Commissioners	Center	see HILLSIDE WEST	
CRAFTON	Washington		2
CUNDIFF	Union		16
DANVILLE EAST	Center		
DANVILLE SOUTH	Center		
DAVENPORT	Eel River		
DAVIS	Liberty		10
DOWNES	?		
EVANS	Brown		
FAIRFIELD FRIENDS	Guilford		610
FAIRVIEW	Eel River	also No Salem	
FLEECE	Eel River		
Fox	Washington	see GOSSETT	
Friendship Baptist	Liberty		20
FULLER	Eel River		
GENTRY	Center		43
GENTRY	Franklin		2

NAME	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS	GRAVES
Gossett	Brown	see MACEDONIA	
GOSSETT	Washington	also Fox, Wesley Chapel	
GREENLAWN	Lincoln		
GRIFFITH	Union	also Burgess	7
GROOVER	Union		22
Hadley	Guilford	see HOADLEY	
HADLEY FRIENDS	Clay		129
HARDWICK	Center		10
HEBRON PRESBY.	Franklin		4
HIGGINS	Marion		6
HILLSIDE EAST	Center	also Christie	84
HILLSIDE WEST	Center	also County Commrs.	28
HOADLEY	Lincoln	also Old White Lick Presby.	3
HOADLEY	Guilford	also Hadley	
HOLLOWAY	Middle-Lin	see PREBSTER	
Holtzclaw	Middle	see LONG	
Hufford	Lincoln	see BELL	
HUGHES	Middle		
Hurin	Washington	see GOSSETT	
HYPES	Eel River		
HYTEN	Center		
IRONS	Liberty		261
JOHNSON	Brown		
JONES	Liberty		15
JORDEN	Center		
KIGER	Center		
King	Washington	see BARLOW	
LEACH I	Union		5
LEACH II	Union		3
LINGEMAN	Lincoln		90
LIZTON K of P	Union		
LONG	Middle	also Holtzclaw	
McCLAIN	Washington		4
McClain	Washington	see AVON METHODIST	
MCCORMACK	Liberty		21
McDANIEL	Lincoln		81
MACEDONIA	Brown	also Gossett	
MAPLE HILL	Guilford		
MARVEL	Brown		
MERRITT	Washington		10
MILES	Liberty		12
MILL CREEK FRIENDS	Center		
MISSIONARY BAPTIST	Liberty		
MONTGOMERY CHAPEL	Union		15
MOON	Liberty	see SPRINGHILL	
MORAVIAN	Clay		5
MOUNT PLEASANT (Old)	Center	sometimes Whitenack	
NOLAND	Marion		1
North Lawn	Washington	see AVON METHODIST	
North Salem	Eel River	see FAIRVIEW	
No SALEM BAPTIST	Eel River		4
PENNINGTON	Eel River		
Pioneer	Union	see VIELEY	
Pittsboro #1	Middle	see WHITE LICK BAPTIST	
Pittsboro #2	Middle	see St Malachy West	
PLEASANT HILL (Old)	Franklin		13

NAME	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS	GRAVES
PREBSTER	Middle-Lin	also Spickelmier, Holloway	38
PRITCHETT	Union		
RAISEY	Guilford		2
ROBBINS	Marion		27
ROBERTS	Middle		2
St MALACHY WEST	Middle	also Pittsboro #2	33
SALEM METHODIST	Liberty		176
SALEM BAPTIST	Washington		137
SCHERER	Clay	see BETHEL LUTHERAN	
SHILOH	Washington		351
SHILOH METHODIST(Old)	Washington		21
SNODDY	Franklin		
Soots	Clay	see BETHEL LUTHERAN	
SPARKS	Brown		283
Spickelmier	Middle-Linc		
SPRING(Cons)FRIENDS	Clay		
SPRINGHILL	Liberty	also Moon, Cartersburg	
SPRINGTOWN	Clay	also Tincher	46
STEWART	Center		
STILESVILLE	Franklin		
SUGAR GROVE	Guilford		742
TEMPLIN	Center		
Tincher	Clay	see Springtown	
TROTTER	Eel River		
TURPIN	Lincoln		
VANDERVER	Eel River		
VANNICE	Marion		24
VIELEY	Union	also Pioneer	214
WALKER	Lincoln		
WALNUT GROVE(Ridge)	Franklin		
WARD	Lincoln		1
WEAVER	Middle		
WESLEY CHAPEL	Washington	see GOSSETT	
WEST BRANCH FRIENDS	Clay	also Coatesville East	63
WHITE LICK BAPTIST	Middle	also Pittsboro #1	366
WHITE LICK FRIENDS	Guilford		
WHITE LICK PRESBY	Washington	also Wilson	88
WHITE LICK Pres(Old)	Lincoln	see HOADLEY	
WHITENACK	Marion	see also MOUNT PLEASANT	
WILSON	Washington	see WHITE LICK PRESBY	
ZIMMERMAN	Eel River		

THE BROWNSBURG JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Brownsburg Junior Historical Society, under the guidance of Mrs. Opal Endicott, has had a very busy and interesting year. They have conducted a Cemetery Project in which they have surveyed and copied the inscriptions of 320 tomb stones in ten different cemeteries. (Mr. Heavilin, please note!) As an architectural project, they surveyed 20 old homes in the Brownsburg area.

Miss Cindy Hewlett, whom most of us remember giving such a delightful report of her Lincoln Heritage Tour (which, incidentally, we sponsored) is a member of the State Oral History Committee. This group has published a booklet which is now being used by all Junior Groups in the state.

The Brownsburg group is, of course, a member of the Indiana Junior Historical Society. Delegates will attend the State Conference in the Spring, and the group will have a project on reapportionment. They will also have a candidate in the annual contest for the Outstanding Junior Historian.

The Hendricks County Historical Society congratulates this fine group on their many accomplishments, and we wish them well on all their future endeavors.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTE PAPER

Our Society has most attractive note paper for sale - our only money-making project so far. It pictures the Recitation Building of Central Normal College - the institution which put Danville and Hendricks County on the map from 1878 - 1946. Any of the more than 60,000 students who enrolled in the College during that time, or any one who was living in the County at that time, would be delighted with a box. If interested, at \$1.25 per box, contact:

Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer
249 South Wayne Street
Danville, Indiana 46122

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker, membership chairman, invites anyone interested in Hendricks County history to join our Society. Dues are \$2.00 per year and they may also be sent to Mrs. Wean at the above address.

Mrs. Baker urges the following township chairmen to stimulate interest in the Society and to put on a membership drive in each township:

Brown - Frances English
Clay - Doris Hubble
Center - Jewell Bell
Eel River - Faye Walton
Franklin - Leonard A. Fleenor
Guilford - Clark Kellum
Liberty - Ruth Pritchard
Lincoln - Mildred Smith
Marion - Virginia Joseph
Middle - Hazel Rains
Union - Ruth Hall
Washington - Hazel Felkner

IN CONCLUSION

Abraham Lincoln once said: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives; and so live that the place will be proud of him."

The Hendricks County Historical Society is a sentimental organization. We are proud of our county and we revel and glory in our heritage. For those who would scoff at our seeming obsession with the past, may we say that, without a past, there would never be a present - without a present, there will never be a future.

So our Hendricks County Historical Society is a stepping stone between the past and the future. It is our hope and our prayer that future generations will appreciate our efforts - that they will continue our work, so that all who come after us will know - and understand - and treasure their knowledge of the past - and perhaps realize, better than we - whence they came.

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H 498h

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME II

NUMBER 1

October 1971

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

FORMATION OF THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Periodically, people must have a refresher course in history - whether local, state, or national. This year, 1971, Hoosiers are observing the sesquicentennial of our capital city, Indianapolis. Five years ago, our county was involved in a co-ordinated effort to make Hendricks County's commemoration of Indiana's 150th birthday a never-to-be-forgotten occasion. Many most interesting projects - exhibits of antiques, historical sketches of townships, a pioneer festival, climaxed by a grand parade kept many committees busy during the year of 1966. So much interest was created during this endeavor in the history of Hendricks County, that it seemed a shame to let that enthusiasm die at the close of the Sesquicentennial celebration.

Much discussion, exchanging of ideas, and planning, resulted in a called meeting of all interested persons at the Chapel of the Indiana Boys' School at Plainfield, July 13, 1967. Mr. Max Lee, chairman of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee, should be credited with calling the meeting, and under the co-chairmanship of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fisher of Middle Township, the formal organization was completed.

Mr. Hubert Hawkins, Director of the Indiana Historical Society, was present to answer questions, and to assist in our organization.

Officers elected at that first meeting were, Mr. Frank Litherland, president; Mrs. Hazel Felknor, vice president; Mrs. Mildred Smith, secretary; Mrs. Blanche Wean, treasurer; and Miss Ina Shaw, historian.

A committee composed of Mrs. Mildred Smith, Mr. Clark Kellum, and Mr. James Shockley drew up a constitution which presents the purpose of the Society as follows:

1. To collect and to preserve materials of the local history of Hendricks County.
2. To promote the study of history in Hendricks County.
3. To locate and to mark historical sites within the county as far as is possible.
4. To preserve county and state history and biography.
5. To stimulate public interest in the vital and historical facts of Hendricks County.

Everyone who is interested in the history of Hendricks County is urged to become a member for the annual fee of \$2.00 (two dollars).

The idea of an historical society is not a new one, for in the same way that the present one is an outgrowth of the State Sesquicentennial observance, of 1966, so the first Hendricks County Historical Society was organized in 1923 as an outgrowth of this County's centennial celebration in 1923. At that time, many items of historical interest were displayed in a room in the Court House, and later removed to the basement. (Note: See Betsy Hoge's article in this issue.)

The present society is preserving records, clippings, school programs and small articles in the Danville Public Library under the direction of Miss Ina Shaw and her committee.

We are ardent boosters of our county Historical Society, for we believe that knowledge of history, like charity, begins at home. Though most of us are privileged to travel near and far, we cannot overlook the beginnings of local history that took place in our small town streets, our rural schools, our simple churches, and in our own back yards and fields.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fisher, Middle Township

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN HENDRICKS COUNTY

In the summer of 1971, Hendricks County has four active chapters of historical societies: The Guilford Township Historical Society, The Hendricks County Historical Society, The Junior Historical Society of Brownsburg Senior High School and the Junior Historical Society of Brownsburg Junior High School.

Mr. Jerry Hankins, head of the Social Science Department of Plainfield Senior High School, and Mr. Kermit Davis, United States history teacher and head football coach of the same school, are making plans to organize a Junior Historical Society during this ensuing year.

Junior Historical Societies, which are now nation wide, were started in Indiana in the 1930's. In Indiana, today, we have over 100 chapters with a total membership which numbers between 7,500 to 8,000 members. Mr. Hubert H. Hawkins, Director of the Indiana Historical Society, emphasizes that any thing which will stimulate young peoples' interest in historical values is most worth while. What a fine thing it would be if we had a Junior Historical Society in each of our Hendricks County schools!

Mrs. Frances English

OLD HENDRICKS LOSS WAS CORN HUSKERS GAIN

To Iowa goes the distinction of the oldest trooper and the only over age regiment to serve for the North during the War between the States. However Hendricks County can claim a small part of this recognition through a man whose historical and descriptive nature is truly one of the unique soldiers to serve either side during the great conflict.

Curtis King, a lineal descendant of Pochantas, was born in Culpepper County, Virginia in 1793, the son of a Revolutionary War Veteran. Married at nineteen, he emigrated to Ohio in 1815 residing there until the late 1820's when he removed to Hendricks County, Indiana, purchasing property in Danville on May 29, 1829. During the next five years he was actively engaged in obtaining real estate in Danville and Center Township. Parcelling out many lots in Danville, he evidently did considerable work in this field as well as being actively engaged in farming. He owned two farms: one 80 acres just east of the present road 250 East in Section 25 bordering the Middle Township line. The other farm was at the Southeast edge of Danville along White Lick Creek in Section 10.

When selling these lots and parcels of land, Hannah King, wife, signed by an "X" on all instruments through August 31, 1838, and in October, 1841, Curtis made his mark alone, indicating her death during this period. In November 1840, Curtis married Matilda Sharp of Hendricks County. Her parentage has been untraceable.

Leaving Hendricks County in the early 1840's, the family lived a short time in Hancock County until moving to Wapello County, Iowa where he farmed until he felt his affairs and family welfare were in order for him to answer President Lincoln's call for volunteers. At the great age of 80 years, Pvt. King was mustered into Company H of the 37th Iowa Infantry on November 9, 1862, to serve three years.

As previously mentioned the 37th Iowa "Graybeard" Regiment was unique in itself, being comprised of men over 45 years old, and containing 145 men 65 years old and older. Iowa was the only state to form such a Regiment receiving authorization from Secretary of War Stanton upon the promise that they would be used only for guard duty. However, the unit did see action on July 5, 1864 when some 50 troopers engaged a band of Confederate guerrillas resulting in the death of two enlisted men.

Private King's enlistment into the Army of the Mississippi was not easy since he was blind in one eye. Two or three companies refused him entrance until at last he was successful with Company H. Upon his discharge for disability on March 19, 1863, he was described as one of the most efficient men of the Regiment; a stalwart figure standing six foot two inches in height, dark complexion, blue eyes, and gray hair.

Curtis King, emigrant, father patriot, veteran, died at Muscatine, Iowa, the same year of his discharge at the age of 81, but, of him the half has yet been told. At death he was the father of 21 children, the youngest only 15 months at his death. Mr. King could neither read nor write but had such retentive powers that he claimed to be able to repeat every word of the Bible from Genesis to the end of Revelation through the help of a daughter who read to him from the Scriptures.

History of the Colonies and this young Republic was a familiar subject to Mr. King as he remembered Jefferson, Randolph and the Adamases. He saw Washington often and recalled that he never saw him smile.

Mr. King never took a dose of medicine from a doctor nor did he allow any of his family to do so while under his care, he being what was called a root doctor. His death was at an early age for his family, as his mother lived to the great age of 103 and one grandfather to 105 years.

Also Curtis's answer to his ideas of the result of the war and its probable quick ending, that was voiced by many Northern observers popular at the time of his enlistment, was a much better appraisal than most. He remarked, "Well, I think the longest pole will knock the persimmon, it may take a long time; but the North has got the most men and the most money, and it's bound to come out first best in the end". He continued "--if the young men will do as I intend to do, the rebellion will be put down, for I am in for the War, or as long as I last."

History also records that Curtis King was, from his youth, a Democrat of the old Jackson school. History does not record that this last fact could have been Mr. King's reason for leaving Hendricks County and it's one-sided Republican majority--thereby giving us only a fleeting glimpse of one of the North's great but unsung patriots of the Rebellion.

Mr. Jack Gambold

COURT HOUSE RECORDS

In the spring of 1965 the mess of public records in the basement of the Hendricks County Court House began to worry a number of county citizens and public officials. For many, many years - perhaps since the Courthouse was built - the semi-active county records from various offices in the Courthouse had been piled, dumped and scattered into various corners of the basement. Many of the hundreds of boxes of documents and papers had gotten wet, many had spilled; and all were covered with a thick layer of coal dust.

The Hendricks County Records Commission, authorized to decide which records should be destroyed and which should be saved, secured an appropriation from the Hendricks County Council to find out what was in the Courthouse basement. According to the Indiana Statutes, the County Records Commission first reviews the list of records and decides what is no longer needed; then the unneeded documents are given to the local historical society which reviews them, saves what they want, and passes the rest to the State Historical Society. After they decide what they want to keep, the remainder is finally destroyed. The members of the Commission elected Judge Richard Groover as their chairman and found me, an unemployed college student, to supervise the sorting, cleaning, and listing of the papers in the basement.

In July of that summer we began to work in the basement. However, we quickly realized that I and the two volunteers from the County Historical Society would need several years to move the heavy boxes, sort and clean their contents, and put them in order. Thus, we recruited more "volunteers" from among the inmates languishing in the county jail. They were of the opinion that anything would be better than staying in jail all the time. Dressed as some sort of bandits to protect ourselves from breathing dust, we began pushing and pulling boxes all over the basement, making a worse mess than we began with. And one by one officials from the county offices came down and checked the records from their respective offices and told us what to throw away and what to save. After a few days, one of the jail inmates decided that staying in jail was better, after all, than working there. In a few weeks, though, Mrs. Ruth Pritchard and Mr. Harry Spears of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Mr. Woody Singleton of the Hendricks County Jail, and I finished the project. We made a list of the records and a map of the basement showing where to find them, and gave it to the County Clerk, Mr. Jack Gambold.

After our work in the basement, Mrs. Pritchard and Mr. Spear with other members of the Hendricks County Historical Society have continued sorting through the older documents no longer needed by the Courthouse officials. They have found various interesting deeds and even some papers signed by Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Singleton was soon released from the Hendricks County Jail with his sentence shortened for good behavior. I returned to Butler University to complete a Bachelor's Degree, then went to Indiana University for a Master's in library science. With a fellowship from the National Library of Medicine, I continued graduate work at the University of Tennessee Medical School. Two years ago I was invited to the University of Puerto Rico Medical School where I am now assistant to the director in a research institute. As an extra project I am collaborating on a children's book about Puerto Rico.

Now that the dust has settled and some time has passed, I have a warm feeling when I think of the interest and cooperation of everyone concerned; especially the very-hard-working basement crew. All of us were very pleased to have Mr. Willard Heiss, Chairman of Genealogy Section of the Indiana Historical Society, comment that the records in the Hendricks County Courthouse are the best organized and most retrievable of any he has seen in the state.

Elizabeth J. Hoge

JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Last year at the State History Convention I was told that I had been selected to help on an architectural survey of the Lincoln Heritage Trail.

The purpose of the survey was to acquaint young people with a different type of history - the history of a home. Three states were involved; Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. Students from all three states participated in the 10 day tour.

Our objective was to decide if the home could have been standing when Lincoln was alive and then to inquire from the owner such information as the builder, original owner, style, and interesting features.

Stops were made in Elizabethtown, Kentucky; Dale and Vincennes, Indiana; and Charleston and Springfield, Illinois.

From this tour, I brought back the idea to our club that we should do an architectural survey of the older homes in Brownsburg. We started work on it last summer and acquired information on 20 homes in the vicinity. Pictures were taken and sheets were filled in and sent to the State Historical Society.

I also chaired a committee on cemeteries. We typed the inscriptions found on the tombstones for records which are kept by the State Library.

This May, because of the interest I had shown in the State Historical Society and the local chapter for the past two years I received a plaque designating me as the Outstanding Senior High History Club Member for the State of Indiana.

Cindy Hewlett

IF OLD HOUSES COULD TALK

"You can't tell where you are going if you can't tell where you have been," reiterates the old man as he squeaks his chair in a more comfortable angle.

If old houses could only talk! You know the kind that often fetch the remark, "Look at that old house and don't you wish it could talk!"

At the end of a grass and a weed covered road, or at the end of a narrow lane, almost hidden by farm weeds of all kinds. These will be horseweeds, rag weeds and iron weeds. These old houses are in every county and could tell stories of love, laughter, war and peace. They could tell stories of back-breaking toil, hoe-downs and religious experiences that could bring tears to the eyes of the listeners. Every old place like that could tell a long rambling tale, if it would only speak.

But it seems to say, "Go way and leave me to tumble into ruin, to be destroyed by fire or to be torn down." "Go Way! I belong to another time; and money could no longer restore me. Some day you will return and I shall no longer be here."

Now, this is the purpose of the Hendricks County Historical Society. These must not go away until these stories are in the archives.

In our minds we can hear a staid, plainly dressed Quaker, who settled

in South Hendricks in the Whitelick community saying, "Thes who tooteth not his own horn, gets his own horn not tooteth." So if the Society does too much bragging it can be passed off by saying, "Listen, to what the old houses can tell us."

It is a certainty if these old houses could talk they would sing in unison and make the rafters rings with "God Bless America" and "Abide With Me".

If several old houses could talk, they would tell us the secrets of the Knights of the Golden Circle whose meetings were always known by loyal union soldiers. History has it that the standards of integrity, sobriety, and observance of the laws were brought to a community by these old houses. The greatest regret in leaving these small oases of peace and tranquility was that these old houses have been allowed to decay beyond repair.

The need of church houses was felt long before a settlement could supply the need. The settlers would overcome this obstacle as they did any other obstacle that they faced. They met in the homes when a circuit rider on horseback came to the settlement. Elder Tommy Lockhart and Elder Joseph Tarkington held many a meeting in these old houses.

There is the old brick Joe Rennard house three and one-half miles west of Plainfield that could tell us of the wagon trains moving along the Old National Road, on their treks to wide open spaces. It could tell of the camping ground where the weary travelers could spend a night resting their beasts of burden and their own sore muscles. They could tell of the men when they reached the fertile land further away. The innkeepers of these old houses made a tidy sum for the comforts they dispersed.

The old house on the Bunton homestead could tell us about the ghost town on the Marion township line where fine walnut trees furnished lumber to supply a casket factory, and also about the six foundations that could tell us who lived, loved and worshiped in the lovely valley.

The beautiful old brick house on S.R. 75, south of North Salem, built by Edmond Hadley five generations ago. What weird episodes occurred there! It was there that Edmond Hadley, 53 years of age, died suddenly of a heart attack on May 30, Memorial Day (it was called Decoration Day then). Mr. and Mrs. William Dean purchased the farm and on Memorial Day Mrs. Dean died of a sudden heart attack. The next owner was Virgil Osborn. Within a few years, on Memorial Day, Osborn died suddenly of a heart attack.

If the old house of a Danville tinsmith named Jones could talk, it would tell us how an itinerat worker could somehow bore a hole in a china pitcher and insert an iron handle with only hand tools.

If an old barn could talk in Eel River Township, that talk would be about when war clouds developed into the War between the States. The barn, now owned by Victor Carpenter, is on the Pres Pennington farm. This is called the "Mule barn" because Pennington was in the market for mules, badly needed, both in the North and South. Buyers and sellers came from far and near. Pres Pennington knew a good thing when he saw it. So he built the largest barn in the county in which to hold the mules, which were delivered by man power. A drove was taken to the Ohio River for the government. Then disaster struck when they reached their destination; there stood Confederate Gen. John Morgan, who forthwith confiscated the entire remuda.

No explanation was given. No satisfactory answer ever came to light.

If these old houses could talk, volumes could be written that might change history.

Mrs. Zona Walker

GUILFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Miss Mary Maxwell of Plainfield graciously provided the following information regarding the Guilford Township Historical Society.

A small group of interested persons met in the basement of the Plainfield Library to consider the formation of an historical society, November 13, 1962, with Mr. Clark Kellum presiding. Mr. Hubert H. Hawkins, Secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, spoke to the group, outlining the basis and background for such a local organization and stated there were no particular rules and regulations. He emphasized that projects and programs must be of community interest and that success depended on the degree of enjoyment and satisfaction which meetings would afford, since many organizations now compete for the time of every one and each individual will select those vital or of interest to him.

After discussing membership, dues, time of meetings and name of the organization, those present agreed the second Tuesday of January would be time of the next meeting and Guilford Township Historical Society was chosen for a name. It was decided that membership not be limited to residents of the township, but that it was advisable to confine the area to be considered and perhaps move to other and larger community divisions later.

Mr. Ira Pomeroy moved that an election be held and that committees be appointed. The result of the election was:

President: Mr. Clark Kellum

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Mary Maxwell

Two committees were appointed as follows:

Program: Miriam Atkinson

Paul Hardin

Ira Pomeroy

Constitution & By-laws:

Joe Lease

Ruth Newlin

Horace Hadley

The meeting then adjourned. Those present:

Ruth Newlin, Miriam Atkinson, Mary M. Maxwell, Joe Lease, Clark Kellum, Horace Hadley, I.J. Pomeroy, Paul Hardin, and Fred Osborn.

Those serving as subsequent officers are:

President: Clark Kellum and Jack Miller

Vice-President: C. V. Edmondson, Paul Hardin and C.J. Sellars

Secretary: Mary M. Maxwell, Olive Charles, and Mary Wimsett

Treasurer: Horace Hadley, Walter Henley, Clark Kellum

Historian: Harry Spear, Ruth Pritchard

TRANSPORTATION TID-BITS

Sir Herbert von Herckmer, a German of many talents - one being that of an artist - once painted a nude draped over the radiator of a car. This was in 1905. He was attempting to depict the marriage of man to the auto.

And today, as we admit our dependence on and our worship of the automobile, we must admit that he possessed extraordinary vision!

Indiana and Indianapolis once played the greatest part in the development of the auto. We who collect antique autos feel the love that Sir Herbert expressed. We are devoted to our Hoosier Heritage ... our Hoosier pioneering and development of the auto. To us, many fine cars are an expression of fine art, with the designers as the artists. We study cars as an artist studies paintings, and we can identify the designer by the lines of the car. Each designer had distinct patterns just as each artist has always had his own distinct style.

At the fall Hendricks County Historical Meeting of 1970, we formed the Hendricks County Historical Auto Association. I am sorry to report that we have accomplished very little this first year. Yet we have a start.

The lack of activities in Hendricks County does not mean a lack of interest in antique auto collecting. On the contrary, there are so many events for the old car buffs that owners find it difficult to find time to attend all events. At a later date, we will list the Hendricks County Antique Car Collectors.

Frank Litherland

HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS

ALBRIGHT, Richard, 1660 Bette St., Merced, Calif. 95340

desrs info on offspring of Edw. and Clara (Legg)

Flathers who died near Danville in 1840s. Same for their son-in-law Wm. Jeffers (1773-1847) of Hendricks County.

BACON, Mrs. Gerald Rt. 2 Box 1030 Roseburg, Or. 97470

Need parents and descendants of Reed W. Dodd (son of John P. Dodd and Sarah Dickerson) and Irene Montgomery (dau. of James and Martha Hiatt Montgomery) from Virginia.

FLOHR-SVENDSEN, Mrs. C., Fazenda Tres Barras, Barra Bonita

Sao Paulo, Brazil, desrs b., par. & fam. of James

Armstrong Kerns, b. 1838 & w. Martha Kennedy, M.

Indiana 4 nov. 1852. Left for Oregon then or in 1853.

HAMMILL, Mrs. K. C., 1905 NE 77th Ave., Portland, Or., 97213

Wishes evidence the parents of William Ballard whose will was recorded in Hendricks Co., Ind. 1824 were Thomas Ballard and Elizabeth Hardwick.

JOHNSON, Mrs. Wm. H., 540 W. First, Larned, Kans 67550

desrs info on parents, brothers and sisters, Joseph

Frank Johnson B. Surry Co., NC1851. Tradition he

had sister Rose, Bro John. Desrs correspondence

with descendents, relatives.

McGRAW, Mrs. A. B., 1507 Church St., Columbia, Miss. 39429

desrs info burial place William & Nancy Simmons Pierson

d. between 1857-1880 Marion Twp. Hendricks Co. Also

burial place grandson Augustus Pierson same time period.

PENNINGTON, Mrs. Betty L., 6059 Emery St., Riverside, Calif. 92509 desrs corresp. on the anc and/or desc of the Joshua Kennedy, Richard Guillams, Sr. and Isaac Pennington families of Hendricks Co. Data to exchange, will answer all letters.

WYNES, MILDRED CHAMBERS, 10 2nd ave. E, Dr. Smith's Apts.

Albia Ia. 52531

desire info Riley Haworth (Hayworth) b. 1803 N.C. d.

1895 Appanoose Co. Unionville Ia., wife Percilla Chambers

b. 1861 Ind. m. N.C., Ind. before 1860.

CASH, MRS. RULA, 5667 W. Ramsey Banning Ca. 92220

Need data on John O. Bryant (or O'Bryant) mar. Mary

Foxworthy, lived Boone Co. area 1851-1865; want

parents, bro, sisters of John; need births, deaths,

marriages and will exchange data on Bryant, Foxworthy

and Risk surnames.

WAY, MRS. MAURICE D., 50 N. Hobart Rd., Hobart Ind. 46342

Malinda Bohannon m. Jas. Havilloh Finley Shelbyville Ky.

8 July 1831. Moved to Hend. Co. where Eliza Jane Finley

was b. She m. Adam Reitzel. Need proof Malinda daugh.

John Bohannon & Polly Sacre of Shelbyville, Ky.

Cover: Our new cover design is the result of the combined efforts of Mr. Larry McKee, formerly of Coatesville, and our talented and hard working secretary, Mrs. Ruth Pritchard.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we round out 1971 with this publication, it is with the hope that we can publish quarterly editions of The Hendricks County History Bulletin in 1972 ... one before each meeting. By so doing, the Bulletin will then serve as a reminder of the impending meeting. In order to accomplish this, we will need help of every member. Your comments and suggestions are solicited concerning this and future issues.

Our new feature, "Hoosiers of Hendricks", is open to all members for questions or remarks. Our only rules are that the message be limited to 50 words, exclusive of the member's name and address, and there must be a definite tie to Hendricks County. Future deadlines for this column will be six weeks in advance of the meeting date.

As this year draws to a close, I would like to thank every one who planned and brought to us three interesting meetings with excellent prospects for the fourth. It has been a good year with many new and interesting members joining our ranks.

John Gambold, Jr.

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING SALEM CHURCH

South on Ind. 39 1½ miles South of Belleville; East (left) on Road 750S to end; South (right) on 375E. to end; turn left a short distance to Church.

OCTOBER IS DUES - PAYING - MONTH

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME III

NUMBER 1

January 1972

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE?

With this issue this Hendricks County Historical Bulletin leaps from annual to quarterly status. Whether or not the change is justified depends on whether we can find enough interesting material to fill four issues.

And this depends upon YOU. The four members of the publications committee can serve as channels and as stimulators; the material must come from a much larger number.

Mr. Scott Hosier, Jr., has indicated the wealth of material that should be uncovered, organized, and made available to all. This includes the history of every church, every school, every cemetery, every business, every family. A little of this - sometimes a lot - is lost whenever one of our older citizens dies.

It may be very hard for the individual to find sufficiently complete data on any one subject. The Bulletin is open to questions, so that one may draw upon the combined resources of all.

We invite your suggestions, your questions, and particularly the product of your patient, thorough investigation of some area of Hendricks County History.

Lois Crayton
R. 2, Box 299
Danville, IN 46122
Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Greetings to all members, and a special welcome to our new members!

The Hendricks County Historical Society certainly has its work cut out for the coming year. The Executive Committee has been delighted with the response of those who, thus far, have been asked to work. With such wonderful willingness to help, interest, enthusiasm and ability, how can we fail to make strides toward our goals?

I like the slogan of the Indiana Landmarks Association - "We must not only build for the future - we must preserve for the future".

We echo that call to all interested in Hendricks County history.

Help us to make this a good year!

Margaret Baker,
President
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)

It was voted in Executive Meeting that the fiscal period shall run from October 1 to September 30. This means that annual dues (\$2.00 per year) paid after July 1 shall be credited to the future year but all before that to the past year.

Blanche M. Wean,
Treasurer

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1972 HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1. Sunday, January 9, 1972 at 2 P.M.
Danville United Methodist Church
Mrs. Randall Joseph, Presiding
Program: Hold History in Your Hand
Speaker: Mrs. Dessie Davis Huddleston, Lizton
Social Hour: Center Township in charge
To Show: In addition to the antiques suggested by Mrs. Huddleston, each member is asked to bring scrapbooks, autograph books and diaries. Please include your name and any interesting information on these articles.
2. Sunday, April 9, 1972 at 2 P.M.
Lizton Christian Church
Mrs. Nellie Beagley, Presiding
Program: Brownsburg Junior Historical Society
Plainfield Junior Historical Society
Social Hour: Union Township in charge
To Show: Each member is asked to bring school pictures, programs, invitations etc. Please include your name and any interesting information on these articles.
3. Sunday, July 9, 1972 at 2 P.M.
Pittsboro Christian Church
Mrs. Edward Winkelmann, Presiding
Program: Hendricks County Authors
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard A. Fleenor, Coatsville
Co-chairmen
Social Hour: Middle Township in charge
To Show: Each member is asked to bring books by Hendricks County authors. Please include your name and any interesting information on these books.
4. Sunday, October 8, 1972 at 2 P.M.
White Lick Church near Tilden
Mr. Floyd Hufford, Presiding
Program: Hendricks County in the Civil War
Speaker: Mr. John L. Oliver, Pittsboro, Past President (1971) of the Civil War Round Table of Indianapolis.
Social Hour: Lincoln Township in charge
To Show: Each member is asked to bring Civil War relics. Please include your name and any interesting information on these articles.

Mary Jeannette Winklemann,
Program Chairman

COME COME COME

The Hendricks County Historical Society will meet

On Sunday, January 9, 1972, at 2:00 p.m.

At the Danville United Methodist Church, West Mill Street

To Hear Dessie Davis Huddleston talk about Indiana antiques.

Virginia Joseph will preside.

Center Township will have charge of the social hour.

You are asked to bring for display antique scrapbooks,

autograph books. The speaker makes these suggestions:

HOLD HISTORY IN YOUR HAND

Pick up a piece of antique glass and you hold in your hand a piece of America's history. America's past is much a part of many Hoosier households. How many homes in Indiana have something that once belonged to a pioneer relative! Perhaps an ironstone serving platter that was brought across the Alleghenies, wrapped in a shawl; or perhaps a pewter pitcher; or a half dozen tablespoons made from silver coins; or a glass bowl that had been a wedding present to grandfather and grandmother; or a handwoven coverlet, made by the grandmother of the person who now owns it; or a copper kettle formerly used to cook apple butter, but now holding magazines.

We hear and read a great deal nowadays about conservation of our natural resources. The government spends millions of dollars yearly to buy and put aside land in National forests, parks, and game preserves. The National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation concern themselves with making people aware of the need to conserve our natural resources and wildlife. Of equal importance is the preservation of our nation's genius in the field of craftsmanship.

Would you like to bring to this meeting something of America's history to show and tell about?

BRING A GUEST

Do you know someone who would enjoy our Society's activities but really doesn't know much about them? Maybe he thinks he cannot join without being invited. Bring him to the January meeting. Let him see, become interested, and join. But whether or not he joins, he is most welcome to attend the meeting.

Dues for 1972 of \$2 are payable in January.

Sherman G. Crayton
Membership Chairman

OFFICERS FOR 1972

President

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker
387 E. Broadway
Danville, IN 46122
Tel: 745-2115

Vice-President

Sherman G. Crayton
R. 2, Box 299
Danville, IN 46122
Tel: 845-2614

Secretary

Mrs. Ruth Pritchard
R. 1, Box 209
Clayton, IN 46118
Tel: 539-6890

Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Pearl Edmondson
806 S. Tennessee
Danville, IN 46122
Tel: 745-2655

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche M. Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, IN 46122
Tel: 745-2573

Archivist

George Heavilin
R. 3, Box 89
Danville, IN 46122
Tel: 852-2711

NEW OFFICERS PLAN FOR NEW YEAR

The officers elected at the October third meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society met to plan for the 1972 season at the home of President Margaret Baker on October 18. A long evening session was not enough, and a second meeting was held on November 9 at the home of Vice-president Sherman Crayton.

These discussions were directed mainly toward long-range goals, such as:

1. The importance of collecting without delay historical materials that could become lost or unavailable - such as manuscripts, maps, diaries, letters, and data on schools, churches, cemeteries, and "ghost" towns.

2. The classification and storage of such materials. The Society's archivist, George Heavilin, announced that he would be in the Indiana Room of the Danville Public Library on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 to receive and file materials and also to assist researchers in need of help. The group approved Blanche Wean's suggestion that each item be stamped "Property of the Hendricks County Historical Society" so that there need never be any misunderstanding as to whether an item belonged to the Society or to the Danville Public Library.

3. The storage of historical materials in the Danville Library was regarded as a temporary arrangement, although it might continue for several years. It is hoped that eventually the Society can acquire an historic old home or other quarters to serve as a Hendricks County Museum and Historical Library. Inquiries are to be made as to how such projects are financed in other counties.

George Heavilin was authorized to spend up to \$100 of Society funds for a filing cabinet, filing materials, and book plates. Provision was made for the purchase of printed stationery in addition to mimeo paper required for the bulletin, which is to appear shortly before each of the four meetings of a year.

COMMITTEES FOR 1972

Membership

Sherman G. Crayton
Mrs. Frances English
Mrs. Frances Fisher
Miss Leona Stuart

Ways and Means

Jack Gambold
Robert Bales
Mrs. Mildred Smith
Mrs. Carolyn Kellum
Harold Templin
Floyd Hufford
John W. Edwards
Willard Eggers

Program

Mrs. Mary Jeannette Winklemann
Leonard A. Fleenor
Mrs. Virginia Joseph
Claire J. Sellars
Mrs. Nellie Beagley

Publication

Mrs. Lois Crayton
Mrs. Ruth Hall
Mrs. Clara Reitzel
Mrs. Ida Mae Miller

Publicity

Mrs. Iva Debra

HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS

I would like to make contact with descendants of Samuel B. Hall. Mr. Hall possibly was born in Norfolk, Virginia, about 1813. He migrated with parents to Boyle County, Kentucky, and came to Clayton about 1854. He was a silversmith. Please contact Mrs. Ruth A. Hall, Lizton, Indiana 46149, Tel: 994-5775.

Are there any of our older citizens who remember the singing schools conducted by William R. Shirley? One of the last, we believe, was at Pittsboro about 1899. We are interested in the songbooks he used: The Conqueror and The Challenge.

Lois Crayton, R. 2, Box 299, Danville, Indiana 46122. Tel: 845-2614

I have my Grandmother's Graduation Invitation. It was of Washington Township Schools, Hendricks Co., Avon, Indiana.

Friday, May 28, 1897

8 P.M.

The Graduates were: Maggie Weer, Will Parsons, Edna Day (My Grandma), Lucy Patterson, and Tommy Long.

Supt. J. D. Hostetter presented diplomas. A Rev. Clark presided.

Wasn't that a class? We wouldn't consider printing invitations and having a program for five people today, would we? They gave each child a part. Grandma was 16.

Contributed by: Mrs. T. L. Samuel, Jr.
2537 Agnew St.
Montgomery, Ala.

HENDRICKS COUNTY'S FIRST MURDER TRIAL

Hendricks County, Indiana, has had its share of famous persons... and its infamous ones too. The first to be accused and brought to trial for murder was Samuel K. Barlow, who is believed to have lived about two miles east of Belleville on the Old National Road (U.S. 40).

According to the grand jury indictment, filed on February 24, 1827, Samuel K. Barlow, "Not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil" on October 16, 1826, "with a certain axe of the value of two dollars ... in and upon the hinder and upper part of the right thigh of ... George Matlock, then and there feloniously, willfully and unlawfully did strike, giving unto him ... one mortal wound of the length of five inches and of the depth of four inches of which mortal wound, he the said Matlock did languish and languishly did live (until) on the twenty-fifth day of October ... he the said George Matlock of the mortal wound aforesaid, died."

The defense attempted through cross examination of Thomas Matlock, a prosecution witness, to establish that the deceased had "told the witness a few days previous to the day on which the wound was given ... that the deceased had just returned from the Southern country and that he had left his saddle bags at the house of his mother, some 8 or 10 miles from the residence of the family of the said deceased ... informing his mother that she must have his saddle bags ready at a minute's warning for that the deceased would probably have to leave the country in haste." When the court would not permit the prosecution witness to reply to this cross examination, the defense asked, "that the same might be sealed and signed and made a part of the record ... which was done."

The defense also tried to "justify" the blow which caused the death of the deceased by introducing testimony that the defendant had been summoned by the family of the deceased to protect them against "imminent danger of losing their lives and receiving some great bodily harm from the deceased." David Matlock and others testified that two days prior to the day the blow was given the deceased threatened to "drive his wife from his house (from which the said deceased had been absent for a year and had just returned to the country but not to his house) and if she would not leave he would whip her to the holler(?)."

According to the 1885 History of Hendricks County (p. 289) this was the first important criminal case tried in the County. It states that the verdict was guilty of manslaughter; the sentence was one year in the penitentiary ... also that the defendant was "respited" from the sentence until the first day of the next term, with Samuel Jessup, John Ballard, and Abel Stanley posting bond for his appearance in the sum of \$300.

The names of voters of Vol. One (1826 - 1852) of Hendricks County voting records is completed. Any one desiring information may contact Mrs. Ruth Pritchard (who has worked on this project for a year) R. 1, Box 209, Clayton, In. 46118

He who does not fully appreciate the importance of events which have gone before, will never place proper value upon the work which he himself is doing today.

Gibbon

When Indiana was a wilderness Nathan Kirk built a cabin on the banks of Mill Creek near where the National (U.S. 40) now crosses it at the west edge of Stilesville. Two years later in 1822 Jeremiah Stiles came and erected a cabin for himself, his wife Sybilla, and daughter Jerusha, age 19 months.

Mrs. Stiles died some four years later and was buried on a knoll on the west side of the creek. When high waters washed the soil away and exposed the coffin Stiles moved her body to higher ground on the east bank and donated four acres for a graveyard for the little town.

Enough settlers had clustered around the Mill Creek crossing that the town was platted in 1830. Nathan Kirk was named Judge and Jeremiah Stiles, Justice of the Peace. Other early settlers were John Smart, John and Isaac Wilcox, Jacob Reese, John Eslinger, and David Osborn. They honored Mr. Stiles by naming their settlement Stilesville.

In 1970 the town board erected a marker over Sybilla Stiles' grave. The date of her death was January 16, 1827. The Stilesville Cemetery has become one of the largest rural cemeteries in central Indiana.

Tradition gives a very interesting story about a small plot of land in the west side of the cemetery close to the fence. There are no markers here; the exact location of the graves and the name of the people are unknown. The story, based on an article published in the Greencastle Banner in the early 1900's is as follows:

In 1849 a large caravan of Conestoga wagons, drawn by oxen, was travelling to California. These immigrants, from Ohio, were following the National Road. One evening they camped on the hill two miles east of Stilesville. That night they cooked green corn for supper. With true pioneer frugality they saved what was left for breakfast. The next morning they ate the corn, which had remained in a copper kettle over night. Immediately several became violently ill with ptomaine poisoning, and died. Some stories say that as many as forty five died, with most being buried at Stilesville and five buried at Mt. Meridian. Most versions give the deaths as eighteen with one more dying at Mt. Meridian.

All nineteen are buried in the Stilesville Cemetery. Their names remain unknown, as also their home town in Ohio.

Clara Reitzel

Do You Need Help?

George Heavilin, archivist for the HCHS, will be at the Danville Public Library every Thursday night from 6:30 till 8:30. He will be working on historical records, but he will be happy to help any one with research problems.

THE OLD HOADLEY HOMESTEAD

by R. S. Debra
(Published by the Danville Republican in 1951)

One of the old homes in Danville that I want to tell you about is the one up on North Washington Street, known to you old timers as the old Hoadley Home. The Good Friday tornado (1948) did its best to rip the old house to pieces. It did succeed in tearing out the whole east wall but it takes more than a tornado to put a house like that out of business. You see, not only the outside walls are of brick but even the dividing walls are also built of brick. So when the tornado came and sucked all the air away from the east side of the house, the air on the inside just pushed the east wall out and that was the end of it. The rest of the house stood like a rock.

So Milburn Thompson, the owner, had the wall rebuilt and reinforced with cinder blocks. Now the old house is as staunch and sturdy as ever and good for many more years. For, you see, it is already one hundred and nineteen years old, having been built in 1832 by Col. Nave.

It was considered a mansion in its day and still is a house that delights the eyes of all those who have a reverence for old time buildings. As first built it was a three-story building, with eleven foot ceilings in all the rooms. But in 1876 it was remodeled, and the top story was cut down in size. By this time the building was owned by Dr. Hoadley, the present owner's grandfather.

At that time the north corporation line of Danville was the alley just south of the property's boundary line. The late William (Windy) Nichols told me years ago that the lawn was a favorite place for the boozing boys of that day to lie down in the grass and sober up. It was outside the corporation of Danville, so the Town Marshall had no authority to arrest them. And still it was only two blocks away from the saloons where whiskey could be bought.

Dr. Hoadley, Milburn Thompson's grandfather, bought the house in 1850. And it was in the top story of the house that the Civil War soldiers of Danville were mustered into the service. And here again they were mustered out of the service in 1865. The top story is one huge room and at that time was probably the largest single room in Danville.

Mrs. Milburn Thompson, who admitted me into the house, is enthusiastic about the old mansion, as she has a right to be. The fireplaces, which are all the rage in the newer homes, were already in place and in operation years ago.

The stair hallway in the center of the house is big enough to hold a modern cottage and have plenty of room to spare.

"Everything about the place seems to be made of brick," said Mrs. Thompson. "The old two story apple house which we tore down when we bought the place had walls almost as thick as the brick walls of today. And it was so cold in there in the summer time that a person almost froze going in and out. That was their way of keeping fruit and vegetables in the old days."

"A hundred and nineteen years ago labor was cheap and a brick house was much warmer than a log house. So many brick houses were built and the bricks were made and burnt right on the grounds. That was the case with this house. The bricks were burned right here on the grounds. Did you ever see a double sized brick? One that is just twice as wide as a ordinary one? There are seven in the walk out in front; they were used as the in-bricks on the corners."

"And if you notice closely you can see the imprint of a dog's foot on a number of the bricks. So Col. Nave's brick mason must have been a lover of dogs, for the imprint is still there after one hundred and nineteen years. Not only are there brick walks all over the place, but there are three wells and a cistern on the lot all lined with bricks."

"Just to show you how even fashions in houses change, take stair rails for instance. Grandmother Hoadley when she had the house remodeled in 1876, took out the black walnut railings and had mahogany railings put in their place. Later the mahogany railings were moved out again and put on the stairway in the second story of the apple house."

"Are there any legends that go with this house," I asked. "Oh Yes," she replied, "it even has a ghost, although I have never seen it or even heard of it. And rumor has it that this house was a station on the underground railway in the pre-Civil-War days. One thing is sure; it was owned by a man who hated slavery. It was on high ground and a light set in the third story window could be seen at night for a long, long way."

"As for the ghost, it is said to operate mostly on wild stormy nights. More than a hundred years ago, Col. Nave and his wife lived in this house and it was here that their baby died. The mother almost lost her mind through grief at the loss of her baby. It is said that on nights when the weather is wild outside, if you listen closely you can hear strange sounds. Sounds of a mother rocking her baby to sleep, singing in a soft, low voice with an occasional sob. Want to investigate, the old house is still there."

HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS

SCHOOLER, HELEN, P.O. Box 273, Indianola, Iowa 50125 Desrs. info following Potter family. Daniel, wife Hannah lived 1840's. Children Zadock married Edith Hinckle, Polly, Zebedee, Lindley, Lurena, John Milton, Lydia Ann, Daniel, William Franklin, Children of Zadock were Hannah married Simeon Ader, Eliza, Jane, Newton, Isaac married Mary Ader (my great grandparents). Above born Hendricks County. Aders were Putnam and Hendricks County residents. Potters and Aders moved to Missouri around 1860.

QUERY

RUSSELL, MRS. IVAN, Earlham, Iowa 50072 desires information on descendants of Enos Tuttle and Rhoda Benson Tuttle. Married in Clark County Sept 9-1819. Later moved to central part of state. The wife was a widow in the 1850 Census. One son was named Washington Tuttle. Other children but do not know the names.

Please tell all concerned, that the October issue of the History Bulletin was excellent. The cover is especially attractive and I want to send my compliments to those responsible.

While I will not be close enough to participate in the activities there, I hope to hear more about them in future bulletins.

Sincerely,
James K. Roberts
2228 Portage Ave.
South Bend, Indiana 46616

JOHN IRONS, FIFTH COUNTY CLERK, TELLS HIS STORY

Danville, Indiana

May 16, 1864

Dr. Levi Ritter

Dear Sir. Two years ago, I made you a promise that I would write out a short biography of my life to accompany a likeness you had taken of me to frame as a memento of the fifth clerk of Hendricks County.

I was born in the county of Washington in the State of Indiana on the fifth day of August 1819 A.D., of parents who were poor in all things, save health, morality and resolution. Soon after my birth my family moved into Lawrence county where it remained two years and then removed into Morgan county where we lived amid chills and fevers, near the mouth of Stott's Creek, four years when growing weary of ill health we for the last time removed into this county. Consequently I can safely put my self down among the first settlers.

The summer I became ten years old found me down with Rheumatic Fever from the effects of which I have never recovered; although in the course of two years I had so improved in health as to be able to share the toils and sports of other boys of like age. At the age of fourteen I was placed by my father in the little dry goods shop just started in Belleville by Alfred M. Lyon and William T. Matlock, where I was initiated into the art of and mysteries of measuring prints and tying up coffee. And here for the benefit of the present and future posterity among fashionable females, let me state that at that time it took 6 1/2 yds of 7/8th print to make a common woman's dress and 7 yards for those who went the tip of the Beau Monde in and around Belleville. With the firm of Lyon and Matlock I remained six months at a cost to it of my board and a palm leaf hat worth then about 37 1/2 cents.

The winter following I went to school and learned about all there was in Pike's Arithmetic under the tuition of James S. Odell then a young country school master but now an old man and a denizen of Plainfield with three sons in the 7th Ind. now "on to Richmond".

On leaving school I went into the store of Wilford J. Ungles who was also a merchant of Belleville with whom I remained six months when I had to leave and go home on account of a second attack of Rheumatism. This lasted from August when I again entered Mr. Ungles' store where I remained until the next May when I went to keep accounts for my father and John Miles who had on their hands a heavy job of work on the cross cut canal at the mouth of Birch Creek in Clay County. I returned home in July and in a month again took to crutches on account of the great plague of my life but on the approach of cold weather I threw aside my crutches and for the third and last time went into the store of Mr. Ungles where I remained until the next summer when I again went home with the Rheumatism. Like the other, this spell lasted until November when I recovered sufficiently to go into Banta & Matlock's store, who had commenced business in Belleville the spring before and with whom I stayed until they quit business in April 1840. The next month my father took his then new and only

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son-in-law and my self in partnership with him under the name of Irons & Sons and brought a heavy stock of goods to Belleville. This firm only lived to February 1842 when owing to the uncertainties of the pork trade it went under. My father being the responsible man of the firm then took the business into his own hands and sent me as super-cargo on a small flat-boat loaded with pork to New Orleans. This, remember, was in the first half of the year '42 when the prices of labor and all kinds of agricultural products touched bottom. On reaching New Orleans I found Pork at from four to six dollars per barrel, bacon three cents and lard three and one-half cents. The bacon or rather bulk pork I had left at Natchez in the care of the pilot, Wm. Naylor, to be smoked and sold there and had only taken from Natchez the lard and barrel pork. These items I stored in a commissions house with instructions not to sell for three months but the merchants being a set of scoundrels sold before I left the city as they so reported three months afterwards and of course only paid the prices of May instead of those for September which would have made a difference of nearly 1000 dollars. That fall I called on them to see about it, but as I had failed to give my instructions in writing or before a witness it had to go so. The lesson they taught me then of the commission trade proved to be of great worth afterwards for my father kept in the pork trade for ten years and made money more or less every time save one.

In the summer of '44 I took the spell of Rheumatism which in four years doubled me into my present delightful shape of three pannels of worm fence, then ankylosed my hip joints and the joints of my back, neck and jaws and then left me in pretty fair health and with vim enough for me to run for and be elected twice as clerk of Hendricks county. The first time in 1851 and the last in 1855.

My education had been of but a limited character had I left off seeking seeking it where the commonest sort of country school teachers left-off with their tutorship. But when the school master ceased work with me, I commenced the biggest and most important portion of my education. Candles being of far too much importance in our family to read by, I studied my lessons by the light of burning chips and bark. After going to "keep store" as the country people called it, I made it a point to read every night and often, when my book proved interesting, one o'clock had found me up and reading. Among other things I made it a rule to remember the name of the book and its author and here would advise all who wish to talk intelligibly with others on books and literature to observe the same rule. Nor have I ever received as true the statement of any author whether profane or Sacred that would not stand of itself upon the closest cross examination. When a statement has neither philosophy nor reason in it the thing is not true and it is wonderful what an imense number of lies there are in books received as truths and to be again taught as truths by unthinking people.

Yours Doctor with respect.

John Irons

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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME III

NUMBER II

April 1972
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

From the President

The high point for our Society since our last meeting was, without a doubt, reached when Mr. Murat Keeney presented us a most substantial gift. When I thanked Mr. Keeney for his munificence, I am afraid I was not very original, for I borrowed a phrase from the astronaut, Neil Armstrong, when I said, "This is a giant step toward the realization of our dream of a Hendricks County Historical Museum".

When I used the term "giant step", I was not referring to the amount, which, indeed, was most generous. The "giant step" was the fact that a Museum Fund has actually been started. I have a feeling Mr. Keeney will be remembered by the Historical Society more for having started the Museum Fund than for the generous amount he gave us.

Now that the fund has been established, we hope there are others perhaps many others who might want to be a part of this endeavor. Think about it. What better gift to posterity can you make than in helping us "preserve a future for our past"?

Thank you Mr. Keeney. I think you may have started something!

Margaret Baker (Mrs. Rawleigh Baker)
President

We cordially invite you, if you are not already a member, to join the Hendricks County Historical Society. Become involved in researching and enjoying the people and events which have made our County Historically interesting. May we see you at the next meeting of the Society at Lizton on April 9 at 2:00 p.m.?

Sherman G. Crayton,
Chairman, Membership Committee

A Tip of the Hat to Mr. Keeney !!!!!!!

When I finished talking with Mr. Keeney, I wanted so much to say, "Orchids to you, Mr. Keeney!" But I restrained myself, for I knew the last thing in the world Mr. Keeney would want would be orchids, and the remark would have been much too frivolous.

It was with a great deal of difficulty that I persuaded Mr. Keeney to let his name be used in connection with his generous gift to the Hendricks County Historical Society. "I didn't do this for publicity," said Mr. Keeney. And we all know he didn't. But when a man of his stature in the county makes a gift of \$1,000 voluntarily, we felt he should have some recognition.

So, armed with pencil and paper, I visited Mr. Keeney. Mr. Keeney's mind has always been, and still is, very keen and sharp. In spite of the fact that he will soon be 90, he talks about Hendricks County with enthusiasm, and he rattles off names, dates and happenings of the past with the greatest of ease. I spent a most delightful afternoon with him, and wished it could have been longer.

Mr. Keeney has been an outstanding citizen of Middle Township and Hendricks County for many years. Born west of Pittsboro in 1882, he is the son of John W. and Mary Keeney. Except for two years spent teaching in Illinois and approximately ten years farming near Paoli, Mr. Keeney has lived and farmed most of his life in Middle Township. His ancestors were among the earliest settlers in Middle Township.

Mr. Keeney graduated from grade school, district 6, in 1895 (and he has a diploma to prove it) and from Pittsboro High School in 1898. He is the oldest living alumnus of that school. He is also a graduate of Voorhis Business College.

In presenting his gift, Mr. Keeney said, "I am much interested in Hendricks County history. I am pleased so many people are showing interest in the Hendricks County Historical Society."

Since I am the gabby type, I seldom feel at a loss for words, but words seemed so inadequate when I tried to thank Mr. Keeney for his wonderful gift. I still wanted to say, "Orchids to you, Mr. Keeney!" but instead I said, "I brought you some brownies I baked," only to find he was loaded with Girl Scout cookies, candies and home baked cookies from friends. I do hope he has a sweet tooth!

And I still want to say, "Orchids to you, Mr. Keeney!"

Margaret Baker

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Blanche Wean for being presented The John F. Jenner III Citizenship Award!

Of course, we have always known what an outstanding person she is.

SECOND MEETING OF 1972, HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1972, at 2:00 P.M. LIZTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MRS. NELLIE BEAGLEY PRESIDING

PROGRAM

BROWNSBURG JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, "ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG"

This was a three-weeks experience which took place near Clarksville, Indiana. The Brownsburg Students lived near the site and actually participated in the excavation.

Mrs. Opal Endicott, Sponsor Mrs. Kirby Warren, Co-Sponsor

PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLUB

"Old Ironsides," Mark Ewald, Speaker

"American Indian," John Albright, Speaker

SOCIAL HOUR, UNION TOWNSHIP IN CHARGE

TO SHOW: Each member is asked to bring old school books, pictures, programs, invitations etc. Please label and include your name and any interesting information on these articles.

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. Young students need to be encouraged to take more interest in their beginnings. Through our cooperation and enthusiasm they will be attracted to future membership. Then those projects about which we dream and plan but may not be able to complete may become realities through their efforts.

WANT TO HELP?

We asked for suggestions and we got one big one. Mrs. Herman (Edna) Ramsey thinks we should consider publishing a history of Hendricks County in 1975 in observance of the 200th birthday of our nation. What do you think of that?

At first it seemed an almost insuperable undertaking. But perhaps we underestimated the interest and abilities of the Society's members. If many really wanted to enough to work hard and long, they no doubt could do it.

There was a Hendricks County History published in 1885 and another in 1914. One might begin by examining these and other county histories from the standpoint of how they were produced.

What do you think of the idea? Is it very worth while?

Could we produce a book of which we could be proud? If so, how should we proceed? Do you want to help?

FIND OUR MISTAKES . . . THEN TELL US

You don't necessarily have to believe everything you read in our Bulletin. We don't intend to mislead you, but our sources of information can be inexact. Moreover, in the absence of full, documented information about our forebears and their lives in Hendricks County, we all tend to speculate, sometimes reaching false conclusions.

For example, our January issue carried a story about the first murder trial in Hendricks County, which culminated, according to the 1885 history of Hendricks County, in a verdict of "guilty of manslaughter". Now George Heavilin has uncovered a brief account of the trial, which states that Samuel K. Barlow was acquitted, but because he had used all his resources for his own defense, he had migrated to Oregon. Which version is correct?

The data on Amiel Hunt's Store, used for a story in this issue, is simply a list of what certain persons bought and what they paid. The fascination in studying such material lies in imagining how these goods were used, where they came from, and how they were transported to a Central Indiana settlement. Then you get to wondering about prices expressed in fractions or what was a "scutcheon" or a pair of "horse phlegms"; why there were so few purchases of this or that, or what use the merchant made of old rags.

You marvel at how much an old record book may illuminate the way of life at a certain time and place. They you realize that more questions have been raised than answered. That is where our society members can play a useful, even exciting roll. If we jump at a wrong conclusion or lack a bit of information that you can supply, please let us know. This can be a cooperative adventure into the past.

Lois Crayton, Editor
R.R. #2 Box 299
Danville, Indiana 46122

HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hammill of 1905 NE 77th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97213, have sent us two queries. Mrs. Hammill is a descendant of John Matlock, brother of the George Matlock whose death of an axe wound resulted in Hendricks County's first criminal case. She is also a great granddaughter of the William T. Matlock mentioned in the letter from John Irons to Dr. Ritter, published in our January issue.

Here are their questions:

1. Need parents of Eleanor Shepherd, born 1784, married to John Matlock, 1801 Roane County, Tenn. Lived in Hendricks Co., Indiana, 1814-1833. Died 1839, Kendall County, Illinois. Supposedly she worked her way from Ireland when 14-16 years old. Will return postage.
2. Who were the wife and parents of William Matlock? He was in Washington and/or Hawkins County, Tenn. in the 1790's; Roane Co. 1801-20, then to Monroe Co., Indiana, where he died in 1829. Children (order of birth unknown) were: Mary, John, William, James, Nancy, David, Rosannah, Thomas, George, Jesse, and Anna (Joannah). George died of an axe wound, 1826, resulting in Hendricks County's first criminal trial. Will exchange information and return postage.

Mrs. William H. (Virginia E.) Johnson of 540 W. First, Larned, Kansas 67550 wants to know where Joseph Frank Johnson (b. in North Carolina in 1851) and Susan Davis were married. They had two daughters: Flora Virginia and an infant, (name unknown). Johnson's second wife was Nancy Caroline Marley, daughter of Mary DeMoss and Frank Marley.

AMIEL HUNT'S STORE IN SPRINGFIELD

It would take an archeologist to find just where it used to stand. Conceivably there are remnants of the foundation that somehow became buried too deep for the plow to disturb them. But we do know that an early settler named Amiel (accent on mi) Hunt had a store in Springfield. You might find that few of the present residents within a mile of its location are aware that there ever was a Springfield there. A long time ago its name was changed to Springtown because there was another post office in Indiana named Springfield.

To find the place to dig you'd take the Amo-Hadley road (Clay Township) to a point about equidistant between the two, where a T corner is formed with the east-west road 400S. In those early days it was a crossroad; the road now designated 400 S continued about one-eighth of a mile to the creek, where there was a sawmill. The Hunt store stood in the southwest corner of the crossroad. Diagonally opposite was the brick schoolhouse. On the southeast corner stood a blacksmith shop. The cemetery was (and still is) several rods east of the north-south road and a few rods south of 400S, adjacent to and on the north side of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Amiel Hunt's home was about a mile north and perhaps an eighth of a mile west of Springfield on a hill, an eighth of a mile, more or less, from the present east-west road.

There were four boys and three girls in the family. One son, Charles, was graduated from Asbury College (DePauw University) and practiced law in Indianapolis. Another, Elmer, was graduated from Wabash College, but his health prevented him from going into practice with Charles. Thaddeus was killed in action at Gettysburg when he was sixteen and was buried there. After the war, his father went to Gettysburg to bring back his son's remains, but decided against it when he saw how pleasant a place it was. Eber was crippled from birth. Elizabeth was married to Eleazer (Aze) Owens. They had four daughters: Elma, Ora, Myrtle, and Nettie, who lives in Amo in a house built on the foundation of her former home, which burned in 1933. Nettie provided much of the information for this story.

The brick building occupied by the store, once the largest store in Hendricks County, still stands, now occupied by Katy's Cafe.

Amiel's eldest daughter was Almira, whose daughter Laura married Alva Owens, younger brother of Aze Owens. Alva clerked in Aze's store and later was a partner in the business. A third daughter was Jessie, who did not marry.

On July 4, 1836, Amiel purchased three lots in Springfield from Eleazer Hunt for \$1.50. He also purchased farm land in 1840 (40 A. for \$200.00); in 1844 (No. of acres not listed, \$600.00); in 1846 (55 A. for \$487.50); and in 1850 (40 A. for \$487.50 and 55 A., no price given). He also purchased two lots for \$10 in 1850.

After the War between the States and the death of his wife and son Thaddeus, Amiel Hunt sold his property in Clay Township and bought a farm in Kansas about twenty miles south of Kansas City. Eber, Elmer, and Jessie accompanied him there and all four are buried in Kansas.

If we examine Amiel Hunt's account book for the period September 7, 1837, through 1838, we should be able to discover what necessities were "store boughten" by the early settlers and also, by deduction, what they must have had to provide for themselves - by agriculture, horticulture, spinning, weaving, sewing, carpentry, etc.

What did people wear? There is no record of the sale of any kind of ready-to-wear clothing except shoes, hats, bonnets, shawls and other accessories. Shoes sold for 1.37½ or 1.75, or only .37½ for "1 pr shoos, small." A pair of mittens was .25,

while a pair of socks might be .331/3, .37½, or even .50. There was a hat at 3.00, a tusken (?) bonnet at 3.00, and a drab fur hat at 4.25.

Some luxury items suggest intriguing possibilities. What about 1 silk hdkf at 1.25 or a pongee hdkf at 1.00 or 1.25? Two pr silk gloves for 1.00 suggest a very special occasion. Then there was 1 silk dress shall at 1.25 and another at 2.00.

Evidently work clothes, "Sunday" suits and dresses, and even underwear were the responsibility of the home seamstress. This was long before the advent of Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck.

Let's look at the variety of fabrics available at Amiel Hunt's store. Some we know: calico, broadcloth, linen, canton flannel (a very firm, heavy, cotton cloth with a nap on the reverse side), cambric, chambray, apron check (gingham:) silk, and velvet. Others are a mystery: fariten, bumbazet, cotton casamere (that couldn't be the cashmere we know), steel mixt cloth (Valuable, \$4.75 a yd.), beaversteen, paraton, sacasheon (?), Janes (?), tow linen, hemp drilling, factory, bleach factory, and drab cloth.

Which was used for undergarments? From the very small quantities of some fabrics usually purchased (1½ yd mulmuslin, ½ yd swis muslin, ¾ yd buckram) it might be assumed that these were used for trimming, stiffening, or a spot of white at the neckline. Why are there very few purchases of sufficient yardage to make a woman's dress or a man's coat? We find 14½ yds tow linen, 3 ¾ yds drab cloth, 5½ yds shirting, 15 yds Liney (or linsy). Was there another store within reach that offered a better selection where one might go for the larger purchases?

What was a "casonet Vest patern"? Was it a length of material just sufficient for a fancy vest?

The list of notions in Amiel Hunt's store has a more familiar ring. However one item, a bonet (or bonnet) board at .06½ has us guessing. Was it the stiffening for a woman's sun bonnet or go-to-meeting bonnet? Almost everyone bought one now and then.

For .06½ you could buy a thimble or 1 spire (?) and needles, or ½ doz needles, or 2 darning needles, or 1 doz horn shirt buttons. Also listed were 1 doz mettle buttons, .18; 10 horn buttons, .14; ½ doz basten buttons, small, .03 and 1½ doz button molds, .06. One pr. scissors cost a dollar; 1 set knitting pins, .10, 1½ set knitting pins, .10; 1½ yds ribin from .25 to .37½; 4 skeins of thread, 12; or a bunch of thread, .05.

We find no evidence that anyone ever bought a package of cake mix or Shake 'n Bake at Amiel Hunt's store. There was salt or flour at .03 a pound; sugar or butter or rice at .10 a pound; and coffee at .20. Eggs were .04 to .6½ a dozen. "Peper" was usually sold at ½ lb for .12½. For .06½ you could buy ¼ pound of ginger or allspice or 1 oz of cinnamon bark or nutmeg. A "greater" for the nutmeg was .06. Two cakes of chocolate cost .25, and ¼ lb of loaf sugar brought .09. For .50 you could buy a bushel of potatoes or corn meal. Two bushels of corn for .80 perhaps were made into corn meal. "Fouls" were sold at three for .25, cheese at .10 a pound or less. In one instance 41 lbs of bacon were sold for 2.46.

Imagine a table set with such as these: Or, for greater elegance, these:

½ set plates	.15	1 set china teas	1.00
2 glass tumblers	.16 2/3	1 set fancy plates	.81½
4 tin cups	.33 1/3	4 cut glass tumblers	.75
½ set table spoons	.28	3 Crittana (?) tumblers	.56½
1 soop plate	.12½	1 pitcher, gilted	.62½
1 bole	.15	1 ladel	.43 3/4
1 set knives & forks	1.37 or 1.50		
1 butter plate	.10 or .12½		

1 small pitcher .10, .15, or .25
1 tin peper box .12 $\frac{1}{2}$

In the process of preparing a meal the housewife used such as these:
1 tin pan .50 1 tin bucket .37 $\frac{1}{2}$ or .50
1 2-qt pan .25 1 wash pan .37 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 edge pans .25 1 butcher knife .18 3/4
1 set iron spoons .12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 teakettle 1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 dipper .18 3/4 1 coffee boiler 1.50
2 pint cups .16 2/3 1 lap coffee mill 1.31 $\frac{1}{2}$

Amiel Hunt provided a variety of hardware items for the farmer-builder-settler. several of which you might not be able to find in Baker's Hardware Store in Danville. Let's say that if you know all but five of these you have an "excellent" score.

1 speade 1.00	1 shoe hammer .25
1 weeding hoe .50	1 paper sparrow bills .12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 hand saw file .12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 grindstone 2.50
1/2 doz all blades .06 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 grass scithe 1.50, 1.25
2 small dore bolts .20	1 cradleing Scithe 1.75
27 lbs nails 3.37 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 Yanky scith stone .18 3/4
7 pains glass .35	1 bolt .12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 inch chisel .43 3/4	1 rasp .50
40 lbs castings 3.20	1 inch augur .18 3/4
2 doz screws .20 or .25	1 meal sive .62 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 paper tax .12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/2 lb putty .18 3/4
5 IB nails for Meeting House .62 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 sheets sandpaper .18
(dated 1/4/39)	2 pinchers .43 3/4
1 till locks .20	1 pr steelyards 200 lb 2.50
1 rim lock 1.50	1 iron wedge .68 3/4
1 chest lock .18 3/4	1 steel blade square .75
1 sash locks 1.50	1 english rule .50
2 but hinges .28	1 plow line .12 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 1/2 lbs rod iron .72 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 small gimlet .10
6 lb round iron .75	1 trowel .81 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 1/4 lb A blister steel .18 3/4	1 pr shovel & tongs 1.00
1 foot adz 1.75	7 scutcheons (?) .11
1 1/2 yds wire .03	1 reflector 2.75
1 plain bit .50	1 large bell 1.00
1 bridle 1.50	4 kegs 2.00
2 pair bridle bits .20	2 kegs 37 $\frac{1}{2}$, 56 $\frac{1}{4}$, 93
1 double bit .81 $\frac{1}{4}$	1/2 doz flints .06 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 curry comb .12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1/2 lb lead .18
1 pr horse phlegms (?) .37 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 powder kegs .50
1 pr trace chains 1.62 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/2 lb powder .25
1 steel trap .50	

What about education: Amiel Hunt did a limited business in books and supplies. for the student we find:

1 copy Kirkham's Grammer .75	1 slate .31 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 W dictionary .50	3 slate pencils .03
1 spelling book .12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 quire paper .12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 ellamentary reader .25	4 sheets paper .06 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 arithmetic .50	1 lead pencil .06 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 bible 1.00	1 inkstand .12 $\frac{1}{2}$

For the toilet there was:

1 looking glass .75	1 shoe brush .25
2 tuck combs .20	1 box shoe blacking .12 $\frac{1}{2}$

1 tuck comb .25	1 razor strap .50
1 pair woodin combs .02	1 shaving brush .50

You could even buy a pair of spectacles (what could be more personal?) for .50. Tobacco was much in demand, usually at .25 per lb.

But suppose an early settler got sick? Amiel Hunt carried a limited variety of drugs and chemicals, some for illness and some for other purposes:

1/2 oz camphor .06 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 oz indigo .25
1 bottle ague medison .62 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/4 lb madden .09
1/2 lb sulphur .06 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 lb whiting .25
2 papers worm tea & salve .50	1/2 lb chalk .03 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 1/2 lb allum .18 3/4	1/2 lb beeswax .22
1 box lees pills .12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/4 lb candle wax .12 $\frac{1}{2}$
	3/4 lb tallow .12 $\frac{1}{2}$

What did the customer use for money? Especially . . . how did he handle a transaction for .06 $\frac{1}{4}$ or .12 $\frac{1}{2}$ or .18 3/4 or .06 $\frac{1}{2}$? And why did Mr. Hunt deal in such crazy fractions?

Ida May Miller gave me the answer. In 1837 and 1838 and for some time later Spanish currency was the principal medium of exchange in Indiana. Retail merchants purchased a large part of their supplies via the water route to New Orleans where Spanish money was the rule. Their dollar was divided into halves fourths (quarters), eighths (bits), and sixteenths (fips, from fivepenny).

The price list was really not consistent in its relation to Spanish currency. for we find numerous items not translatable thereto.

Amiel Hunt's account book contains occasional entries up to 1860, and there's a gradual decrease in the proportion of prices that are evidently in terms of Spanish currency. On the next to the last page (264-B) there's a record of 11 purchases by James Blakely, but no prices involving fractions. Partial payment was made with 206 lbs of pork at .04 3/4 for a total of 9.87 $\frac{1}{2}$. (Say it's not like Mr. Hunt to make a mistake with figures . . . maybe I'm wrong.) Why the change? No doubt American currency was filtering in from other directions. Moreover in 1857 the federal government called in all foreign currencies.

A very substantial part of purchases made at Amiel Hunt's store was in goods and services. Here are some typical entries:

8 yds tow linen 1.20	88 ft. ceiling plank at .87 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2.50
Rent of smith tools & shop 12 months 10.00	3 foulds at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.18 3/4
1 doz fowls work 1.00	oats 5.00
feathers . . . 3 3/4 lb 1.50	2 deerskins .50
Hauling 2431 lb from cincinnati to Richmond 48.62	4 1/2 lbs rags .13 $\frac{1}{2}$
making bellows 10.00	2 pare of socks 1.00
1 collar 1.25	4 coon skins .62 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 mc. tending store @ \$13.00 26.00	1 fox skin .20
3 1/4 lb butter .40	Bellows leather 6.00
20 1/4 lbs lard 1.62	1 backband .75
One load of coal from Clay County (1851) 6.00	1 1/2 doz eggs .58
2 2/3 yds linsey 1.33 1/3	1/2 doz fowls at .75 .37 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Lot of shingles 3.84
	1 1/2 bu. flaxseed 1.05
	4 yds flax linen .90

The final entry in Amiel Hunt's account book is for October 1, 1860. There are no entries for the period January 2, 1839 to December, 1849. Many of the entries

for the 1850's relate to services such as hauling work (usually 1.00 per day). the hire of a horse or a "creature," or rent of pasture. Mr. Hunt owned probably 300 acres of land (the records are incomplete) and rented pasture on the basis of number of animals for so many weeks. But that is outside this story.

The original account book from which this story is drawn is in the Hendricks County Historical Society collection at the Danville Public Library, having been presented by Miss Nettie Owen of Amo.

DUST FROM THE ARCHIVES

Although archives are often pictured as dusty, dark rows of shelves festooned with cobwebs, let me assure you that your repository in the Indiana Room of the Danville Public Library is clean and bright. We are sure that the dustiest thing you will find will be this article about what is being done there and what we hope you can do to help.

We have already been given considerable material and your archivist is there most Thursday evenings organizing this.

He will also be glad to devote some of this time to answering questions submitted by members on historical subjects. The officers of our Society believe that he should not be asked to spend more than thirty minutes on one inquiry. Inasmuch as the archivist is also a professional genealogist, he is available for more lengthy research if a fee for such service can be agreed upon.

Our Editor asked me to publish some guidelines as to what kinds of things should be kept in our archives. A general definition might be:

OUR ARCHIVES SHOULD PRESERVE ITEMS THAT RECORD THE LIVES OR ILLUSTRATE THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED IN HENDRICKS COUNTY.

And a supplement should be: If in doubt, save it.

Now for some specific items:

Printed material, including county histories (neighboring counties too) old newspapers, maps, pamphlets, programs of special events, old advertisements and scrap books of clippings.

Photographs--The subject should be identified or obvious.

Personal records--Diaries and letters.

Group records of clubs, churches, businesses and civil officers.

Genealogies--Complete or rough notes.

Other items too numerous to mention.

Material for the archives can be brought directly to the Danville Public Library or to regular Society Meetings. Our storage space is somewhat limited but we can accept items up to the size of a large book. If larger pieces are available, please contact your archivist and every effort will be made to provide temporary storage.

George E. Heavilin, Archivist
R.R. #3, Box 89
Danville, Indiana 46122
Phone (317) 852-2711

PIONEER SCHOOLS, Particularly of Union Township,
Hendricks County, Indiana

By Elias Leach

(Born May 10, 1815--Died August 31, 1906)

In the spring of 1836, I concluded to come to Indiana. father having come out and made arrangements the fall before to move the next spring. So we started the first of March and landed in Hendricks County the first of April. There being no railroads and but little of any kind except mud. Making the journey on horse back most of the way we had a very pleasant time until we crossed the Ohio River at Madison on Monday morning. Soon after a steady rain commenced. We still traveled on to a town called Marion. There we put up and still it rained until the next day about 11 O'clock. We again journeyed and landed at brother Enos Leach's on the first day of April, having been through and over lots of mud and water.

In a few days after, I went to teaching school. I taught three months and then took up for six months in a cabin near Lizton, I think about the south east corner of the yard where the Alexander House burnt, west of the creek. Having taught for about four months I was taken down with inflammatory rheumatism and had to quit. Father having moved out and settled near Eel River about two miles below where Lizton now is. I went there it being about the twentieth of December, and was never able to get out until the middle of March, 1837. As soon as I was able I went over on White Lick east of where the Widor Warrick now lives. Father having died a short time after my school was out, I went there and stayed that winter and during the summer of 1838 and worked on the farm and officiated as Constable, being elected to that office in April 1838 and having taught the first school ever taught in the north part of Hendricks County on the east fork of Eel River and the second on the west fork of White Lick, north east of Pittsboro.

Some have said the cabin in which this first school was taught was on the eighty acre tract adjoining the Alexander land on the east, a few rods farther east than Mr. Leach says, but he is probably correct. The cabin was built of round logs, was about 12 x 15 feet square. There was one door and a window on the south side. In the window opening was a piece of greased paper for light. It had a stick chimney and fire place. It is not thought to have had any floor except dirt. It is not known who was the first teacher here, or who any of the teachers were til the last one who was Elias Leach, he taught the last school here in 1838.

In 1837 the first school house was built. It was on the east side of where the Lebanon and Danville road is and just north of L. R. Grey's garage. It was built of logs which were hewn on two sides, had a stick chimney and fireplace and glass windows. The ends of the building were at the east and west with the fireplace in the east end. the door in the south side, a section of log cut out of the west for a window and two small windows in the north side. The roof sloped to the north and south. The seats were made of slabs of logs with long pegs driven in for legs. Desks made something like the seats, were against the north and west walls. Occasionally in winter the stick chimney would take fire and the boys would throw water and it would spatter over the room and on the children's books. There was no well and drinking water was carried from neighboring houses, probably from Alexander's mostly. A bucket of water was kept for drinking. It usually sat on a shelf near the door with a long handled gourd to drink from. There was a cabin where the Mahan barn is now, but do not know when it was built. Some of the later teachers lived in this house.

Mr. Alexander lived in a two story log house where T. N. Kennedy lives. This house had a two story fire place of brick, probably the only one ever built in this community.

The teachers in this school building and the order in which they taught, as near as we are able to learn is as follows, some of them teaching more than one term:

Mr. Jackson, Elias Leach, Job H. Davis, Mrs. Milligan, Mr. Harper, Mr. Keller, James Jackson, Frank Crissman, Mr. Lamb, F. C. Stamper, John D. Hiatt, William G. Elder and James Burnett.

The first schools were usually three months in length starting in September, if they were to be winter schools. Those beginning in March or April were called summer schools. The teacher received about \$2.00 per pupil for the term. These were called subscription schools. Then there was no public money to hire teachers. The patrons furnished the building, and fire when needed. The teacher usually boarded round with patrons. The parents rarely sent all their children to school the same year. As money was hard to get, and anyway the older children had to stay at home to help with the work. They usually subscribed 1½ or 2 pupils. A half pupil went half the term, and sometimes two would go just enough to make the time of one.

The following is a copy of an old school contract:

An article of agreement made and entered into by G. C. Stamper of the first part and the undersigned subscribers of the second part which is as follows: I, G. C. Stamper on the first part, doth agree and bind myself to teach the pupils assigned by the undersigned subscribers in the following branches, viz. Spelling, Reading, Arithmetic, and the first principles of English grammar and geography and to keep good order so far as it is in my power.

We, the undersigned subscribers of the second part, doth agree and bind ourselves to pay the said Stamper two dollars per scholar assigned, supposing he teaches as aforesaid for a term of sixty days, and also to furnish a comfortable school house and fuel when needed. This money due at the expiration of the school, the school to commence on Monday, March 14, 1853.

The following are the subscribers and the number of pupils:

Peter Mosley	1	Exquire Hutchings	2	Vica Bibson	1
James E. Montgomery	2	Enos Leach	1	Anderson Leach	1
Archibald Alexander	1½	James Adams	2	Mary McClintock	1
Lawrence Leak	2	Lewis Leak	1½	Daniel Beel	1
Joseph P. Lewis	½	Landrum Leak	½	Leland Leak	1
Isaac Burnett	1½	Jesse Watkins	1	Johnson Brookshire	1
Jesse Veiley	1	Ezekiel Davidson	1	Francis Scott	2
Stephen T. Lewis	1				

There were only two other log school houses in the township that we are able to learn of, one of these was about where Joseph Warrick lives and the other was called Helton School, ½ mile east of the Hamilton School site on the south of the present road. This is where Grandmother Leach went to school. Her father took her the first day and blazed the trail thru the woods so she would not get lost. The cabin was built in the thick brush and one could see but a few feet from the window.

In these days there was not much system about the school work. The children went to school if the parents could afford to send them, and if they weren't needed at home to work. They studied spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic, principally, with some grammar, geography and history.

The first one to reach the school house received their lessons first. They must studied whatever books they happened to have. There were no uniform text books and the schools were not divided into grades or classes as they were first called until after the day of subscription schools. The only exception to this rule is that they always had at least one spelling class and spelled each other down. The pupil went as fast as he could in his particular reader or arithmetic and if he were fortunate enough to have a grammar or history he studied these the same way. About the only thing they had in the way of geography text was an outline map on

the wall showing rivers and lakes with the states capitals and other principal cities. They sang the names of states and their capitols with the rivers they were on. Jonathon Parker taught a geography school here in the fifties, no other study being taught.

The Teachers were supposed to be strict in their rules whether they were able to teach much or not. They used the beech and hickory switch freely. The pupils were like now, they were full of life and liked to play tricks on each other and on the teacher. They did not play ball much and when they did it was usually scrub or town ball. The brush and timber furnished a good place to play hide and seek, and they often played fox and hounds, chasing each other for long distances through the woods.

The teachers usually treated the pupils at Christmas, but it was part of the fun not to let the pupils know they were going to and as part of the game the pupils tried to make the teacher promise to do so. They usually treated on cookies or apples, though sometimes it was whisky and several of the older pupils got groggy as they called it. It is said that Job H. Davis was the first teacher not to treat on whisky. He treated on cookies sweetened with honey. David S. Buzzard and wife were keeping tavern at this time and he boarded there. Mrs. Buzzard made the cookies for him. Mr. Davis taught here the winter of 1842 and 1843 and put in a blackboard, said to be the first ever used in the county. At least it was the first in the north part of the county.

Just before Christmas the year Mr. Keller taught, the pupils locked him out of the house to make him promise to treat. He had one crippled hand, but he could chop well with his good hand. He lived where the Mahan barn is and went home and got his ax and told the pupils he was going to chop down a large leaning oak tree which stood just north of the school house, and let it fall on the building. He chopped a little while, and then the pupils let him in, got him down on the floor and tied him. He treated on apples.

Just before Christmas when Mr. Crissman was teaching the older boys locked him out of the house at noon and tried to make him promise to treat. He saw they were not going to let him in so he started to leave and several of the smaller boys followed him. Then the older boys started after him. Mr. Crissman went northwest and when he got on the high ground north of where the railroad is now, in the Thompson woods, one of the smaller boys nearly caught up with him. He turned and told the boy that he would treat but not to tell the older boys, and to go back and tell the smaller children to go home and to come back on a certain day. He went on to McClintock's where Paul Leach lives and went up stairs in the old log house and watched the boys hunt for him.

After the new school laws were passed about 1853 or 1854 which was the beginning of the present school system, there were six new frame school houses built in the Township. This was in 1858. The old Christian Church had been built just north of the log school house in 1848 so the new school house was built just north of this.

There were three trustees in the township at this time. They were Abraham Hamilton, Anderson Leach, and James Lawrence Leak. Mr. Leak was treasurer. The following is a statement of the school funds drawn that year.

School Funds drawn by J. L. Leak for Union Township May 17, 1858:	
Common School Fund	\$ 375.43
Int. on Twp. 17N, Range 1 West	97.87
	\$ 473.10

Lawrence Leak was again elected treasurer in 1858. This is a copy of the election notice:

State of Indiana, Hendricks County, Union Township. We, the

undersigned board of Judges of an election held at New Elizabeth
and Tolbert School house, certify that James L. Leak was duly elected
treasurer of said Township this 6th day of August, A.D. 1858.

Inspector, Anderson Leach
Abraham Hamilton
Lewis Leak

The first lots in Lizton had been laid out in Feb. 1851 and sold at auction and
the town duly named New Elizabeth. Up to this time this had been included in
Middle Township and Pittsboro was the post office, but in 1851 or 1852 Union
Township was organized and the first election was held in 1852. Union then ex-
tended south and included part of what is now Center Township. The Tolbert School
was located in this part.

We usually think of the pioneer people being un-educated. It is true they did
not have "much book 'larnin'" as they called it, but one of the first things they
did for public good in a new settlement was to establish schools. Most of us can
remember hearing older people use words and expression which we consider incorrect.
And we ourselves are still heir to some of these expressions. But a study of these
people and their origin, and by tracing our ancestors back 150 to 200 years, we
see the reason for these peculiarities of speech.

Most of us who trace our ancestors back to pioneer stock find that nearly all
these people came to this county from the mountain district of eastern Kentucky,
eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina, West Virginia and the mountain section
of Old Virginia. This section of the United States is sometimes called Appalachia
because of the Appalachian Mountains almost completely cover this district.

There was no set course of study and the pupils studied from whatever books they
had. Nearly all studied the "Three R's" as they called them but if the pupil did
not have a grammar or history text book they did not study these subjects.

Of the text books used in this part of the country Noah Webster's speller and
readers are the first we have found. There were four readers. Talbot's Arith-
metic was the first used here. Then Ray's arithmetic was introduced here about
1850.

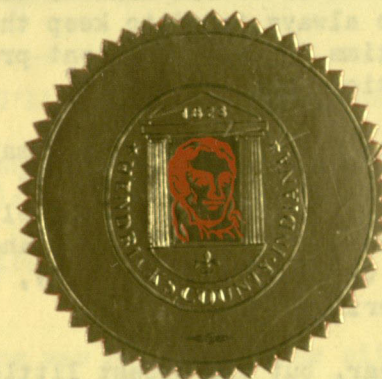
McGuffey's Readers of the Eclectic series was published about 1848. We infer
from the preface that there had been a series of readers before this. This series
is bound in leather and the outside appearance reminds one of present day law
books. In this series Ray's Arithmetics are advertised. McGuffey's New Eclectic
Series of Readers were published in 1857. They are cloth bound. There are six
readers in each series. Though the same style is carried out in both, the
material is quite different. McGuffey's Speller was in use for many years.

The first Geography text books used in school here were introduced about 1855.
The first Grammar we find was called "A Practical Grammar of the English Language."
It is a Kentucky book published in Louisville in 1846 and edited by Noble Butler.

Sometime during the McGuffey period a set of readers were used by some, called
Wilson's Readers. They dealt principally with nature study and the study of bird
and animal life.

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME III

NUMBER IV

October, 1972

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

Indiana Colter
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC
PLAINFIELD

From the President

Your Executive Committee has been wrestling with a few problems which we will discuss at our meeting October 8th.

The first, stated simply, is that our \$2.00 yearly dues do not cover the expense of publishing four bulletins per year. Cost of mailing has increased, and cost of materials and labor will not decrease, we are reasonably sure, so we are faced with the decision either to raise the dues or to decrease the number of times we publish the bulletin.

We have also discussed the pros and cons of incorporating the Society. We have talked to the County Commissioners, as reported in the last bulletin, about the possibility of using some of the rooms of the old jail for an Historical Museum, and it is the thinking of some that we will be better able to ask for help from the Commissioners and the County Council if we are incorporated. We have consulted with an attorney and we will have more to report at our meeting.

Please think these things over so we can come to decisions without consuming too much time. We have always tried to keep the business meetings to a minimum, giving us more time for the excellent programs we have had. We hope this will be no exception.

Since this is my last message as your president, may I thank you again for the privilege of serving in this capacity. I felt so inadequate at first, but I soon learned that, with so much wonderful help, all I had to do was to delegate the work to others and then sit back and take credit for our accomplishments! Well, it wasn't quite that easy, but it has been an inspiring and gratifying experience.

I have learned much this year, but the nicest little tid-bit of knowledge that I have stored in the back of my noodle is that the members of the Hendricks County Historical Society are the greatest!

Thank you all!

Margaret Baker
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
President

WHERE IS WHITE LICK CHURCH?

White Lick Presbyterian Church, organized in 1851, is a typical little Church in the Wildwood located in one of the loveliest spots in Hendricks County. Nestled in a grove of trees on the banks of White Lick Creek, the church house in which we will meet, October 8, was built in 1881.

Perhaps the easiest way to get there would be to take Road 267 to Road 200 N, turn west and follow this road until you cross the creek and come to a T. Turn right (north) and follow the winding creek road which will lead you to the church. Another easy way to get there from the west is to take 10th street Road east from Danville to the T, which will be at the creek. Turn north (left) on the same winding creek road and you'll soon be there.

All members of our Society will be interested to know that the ladies of the White Lick Church are holding their annual Fall Festival, Saturday, the 7th. This is an all day affair, starting at 10:00 A.M. It includes a Country Store, baked goods sale, fancy work, an antique exhibit, cake walk, and entertainment throughout the day by various musical groups. A special concert will be given at 4 o'clock by Jack Boswell and the Country Swingers. A door prize will be awarded every hour and food will be served from noon through the supper hour.

This is a most extraordinary event, and since the ladies of the church may have to work until the wee small hours of the morning to get the church cleaned and ready for our meeting the next day, I hope every member of our Society will attend and support this delightful project of the White Lick Church.

YOU'LL SEE IT, COME OCTOBER 8

The White Lick Presbyterian Church, familiarly known as "The Little Church in the Wildwood," was organized by the Rev. B.F. Cole of Cincinnati in 1851 with twelve charter members. It has served the community for more than one hundred twenty years. During the first six years, meetings were held in the homes of its members.

In 1857 a frame building was erected on the site of the present church, and in 1881 the structure which is in use today was built. In 1958 the educational annex was built. Since then the sanctuary has been redecorated and the pulpit moved from the north to the south side.

The Rev. H.S. Dickerson served as pastor for more than forty years, beginning in 1857. The present pastor is the Rev. Bruce Brown.

Mr. Floyd Hufford, Brownsburg, will preside at the meeting. The Rev. Bruce Brown, will give the invocation and the benediction. Mr. John Oliver, an authority on the Civil War and a past president (1971) of the Civil War Round Table of Indianapolis will be the speaker. His subject will be "Hendricks County in the Civil War". Mrs. Winkleman, program chairman, asks members to bring Civil War relics with any interesting information on these articles. The ladies of Lincoln Township will be in charge of the social hour. All members of the White Lick Church are invited to attend.

PITTSBORO HOSTS JULY MEETING

The young folks had a big part in an interesting and delightful program of the Society held at the Pittsboro Methodist Church on July 9. As an opener, Martha Hill, the talented teenager granddaughter of the first presidents of the Society (Roy and Frances Fisher) played a violin solo that brought enthusiastic applause

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Danville, Indiana

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

October 1, 1971--August 13, 1972

Dues Received	\$ 362 60	
Less:		
Membership Expenses:		
Postage	\$ 159 46	
Bulletin Cost	\$ 430 93	
Sale of Bulletins	16 00	414 93
Expense of Meetings	5 00	
Stationery & Office Supplies	55 04	
Junior Historical Society	60 00	694 43
Excess of Disbursements over Receipts		\$ (331 83)
Other Receipts:		
Gifts	\$ 1 005 00	
Sale of CNC Note Paper	63 25	1 068 25
Difference		\$ 736 42
Cash in Bank 10/1/71		756 80
		\$ 1 493 22
Cash in Bank 8/13/72	\$ 493 22	
Certificate of Deposit	1 000 00	\$ 1 493 22

and favorable comment. She was accompanied by her mother, Marilyn Fisher Hill.

Lisa DeVore of Plainfield reported on an architectural survey of two counties in each of three states (Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky) in which she participated under the sponsorship of the society. Young people of Junior Historical Societies cooperated in the project, which was based in Carmi, Illinois. They toured the six counties looking for and learning to identify types of architecture, such as Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic, Italianate, France-American, Neo-Jacobean, and Romanesque. It made you wonder how many you could find of each in Hendricks County, and just where.

Leonard Fleener introduced the topic of "Hendricks County Authors" by explaining the basis of inclusions and exclusions in the list published in the July issue of this bulletin.

Mabel Davidson gave an informative talk on the life and writings of one of the best known of Hendricks County authors: Mabel Leigh Hunt, who grew up in Coatesville, (daughter of Dr. Tillman Hunt and Amanda Harvey Hunt) and later lived in Plainfield for several years. Miss Hunt wrote many, many stories for 8 to 12 year olds, as well as novels and biographies for older children. With degrees from DePauw University and Western Reserve, she was a children's librarian for ten years. Some of her best known books are The Little Girl with Seven Names, To-morrow Will Be Bright, Cupola House, Johnny Appleseed, and Indiana in the Civil War.

Forty-one members and nineteen guests signed the register and munched those luscious cookies for which the Pittsboro ladies are famous.

Ever hear of these

HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS?

Mrs. Marion Van Gordon (529 E. 11th St. #J. Upland, CA, 91786) wants information on her great grandfather, James Lackie (er ey), who was born in Ireland or Ohio and died on Feb. 2 or 12, 1861, and her great grandmother, Mary or Matilda Kirby Lackie (er ey), who was born in Pennsylvania and lived and died in Hendricks County. (d. 1885)

Mrs. J.B. Nelson would like any information concerning the father, mother, brothers, and/or sisters of: William Alexander Baton Trammel, B. ca 1802, where? d. 4/15/1897, where? m. 6/21/1827, where? His cousin. . . Cynthia Alexander, b. 9/15/1803 in North Carolina; d. 3/3/1879, where? She was the daughter of William Alexander and Elizabeth Parks and granddaughter of revolutionary war veteran (Ensign in 2nd N.C. Battalion) William Alexander and Margaret Ireland. Caroline Trammel, b. 1840, Kosciusko Co., Ind; d. 1925, Jasper Co. Iowa; m. John William Weston 9/6/1860, was a daughter of William Alexander Baton Trammel and Cynthia Alexander Trammel. Mrs. Nelson is interested in any Trammel (Tramel) genealogical data, especially between 1750-1850, and would be glad to exchange data with other interested persons.

Virginia Woody, (Douglas Kansas), is searching for the name of the mother of Miller Woody, who lived in Plainfield and was married to Margaret Lacy, Sept. 1856. "Was it Ruth Woody Hadley (b. 10/20/1822 in North Carolina and buried in Hendricks Co. by her husband, William Hadley?)"

EARLY DAYS IN AND AROUND THE COURT HOUSE

Mrs. Josephine Wright scanned early issues of Hendricks County papers and found numerous facts and tidbits about the Court House:

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

The first court was held in the log cabin of William Ballard at the southeast edge of Belleville on August 25, 1824.

From a "primitive history of Hendricks County" dated August 11, 1864, we learn that Danville was located in a forest and that timber was cleared for the public square by David Matlock for \$19.75. The contract for building the Court House was let to David Matlock for \$138.50. It was 24' by 20', of hewed logs, one story high, with clapboard roof and puncheon floor. Elsewhere the cost of this Court House was recorded as \$147.50. The Court House and the jail were ready for occupancy on April 17, 1826, when the first court was held there. The land on which the Court House was built was donated by David Bales, David Matlock, Robert Wilson, James Downard, and Mr. Wood.

In 1831 the Court House was enclosed with brick at the price of \$6,190.00.

July, 1854. Rev. Curry will preach in the Court House.

April, 1857. The sheriff is busily fixing up the Court House fence and otherwise beautifying the grounds around the ancient time-worn dilapidated old building. Fity Hendricks County hasn't got better buildings. These are a disgrace.

June 23, 1858. \$11,000 has been raised for a new Court House. One look at the old hulk will convince everyone a new one is needed.

Aug. 18, 1858. The County Board after inspecting several plans last week adopted one by Isaac Hodgson, architect of Indianapolis. The plan is a good one and makes a favorable impression. Cost, \$40,000. A colored draft will be in the auditor's office to see.

Nov. 4, 1858. Bids were let for the Court House. Miller & Son were lowest, \$38,744.00, and got the contract. The old Court House will be removed soon after next Spring term of Circuit Court.

April 27, 1859. The remains of the old Court House will soon be entirely off the square.

May 18, 1859. The Court House fence has been removed. The locust grove and the buildings with the county offices are now outside.

Jan. 18, 1860. Miller & Co., Court House contractors, have financial difficulties and stopped work in December. They have abandoned the work. It is now in the hands of the County Commissioners.

March 11, 1860. The work on the Court House under the superintendence of Mr. Martin Gregg is progressing fine for the number of workmen.

August 11, 1860. The first story of the Court House is up and iron joists laid on.

Aug. 26, 1860. The work on the Court House is progressing with indiminished vigor.

Feb. 8, 1861. The Court House will be completed as soon as possible.

Feb. 9, 1861. Stone masons are employed dressing stone for the completion of the Court House.

Aug. 21, 1861. Next Monday the fall term of the Hendricks Circuit Court commences and clerks and lawyers all complain of a dearth of causes.

July 7, 1864. Fourth of July celebration held in a grove near town. Many speeches....afterwards all came to the Court House to attend a concert given by the Ladies Soldier Aid Society. \$50 was cleared.

March 16, 1865. Sheriff Straughn has been for several days cleaning up the Court House and surrounding grounds. The Captain is an inveterate enemy of filth and has the Court House always ready for visitors.

Sixth: Miscellaneous accounts

Seventh: Whole amount received and paid out quarterly.

Part First

September 25th, 1853

	Oct. 5	Received of C.C. Elliot & Co. for Irish potatoes	.75
	5	Received of T.W. Sliff for sweet potatoes	3.50
	14th	Received of T. Anderson for 1½ days work	1.70
1854	Oct. 2nd	Received of C. Weesner for use of \$5 for 7 months	.17
	16th	Received of ... McCollum for 17½ bushels of corn	5.08
	21st	Received of Wm. Allen for a hat	1.50
		balance for a saddle	2.50
1855	Oct. 4th	Received of J. Carsby for saw logs	2.00
	6th	Received of T. Hadley for part on 9¼ acres of corn	26.00
	25th	Received of ... Morgan for one load of stove wood	1.00
	30th	Received of I. Doan for bottle of medicine	.67
		Received of J. Weesner for 1 days work	.75
1856	Oct. 2nd	Received of John Weesner for a pamphlet	.05
	14th	Received of W.D. Bray balance for making rails	8.90
	24th	Received of J. Weesner for 1 days work	.75
	28th	Received of E. Allen part for a watch	2.50
1857	Oct. 27th	Received of R. Hall for a quart of Mollasses	.15
1859	Oct. 4th	Received of Wm. Weesner for a stew kettle	1.25
	25th	Received of G. Gregory 50 cabbages	1.00
1860	Oct. 6th	Received of a huckster for ¼ bu. of corn	.10
		for 5½ doz eggs @ .05	.37
	2nd	Received of John Miles & Co for 8 4/5 bu wheat at \$1.00	8.80
	10th	Received of John Miles & Co. for 19 9/60 bu wheat at \$1.00	19.15
	11th	Received of Calvin Ferre part on a mutton sheep	2.00
	25	Balance on a mutton sheep	.50
	25	Received of B.F. Tuttle for 12 50/60 bu wheat @ 1.02	13.09
	25	Received of ... Bradshaw for 1 3/4 bu. sweet potatoes @ .50	.85
		for 4 ½ doz eggs @ .10	.45
	27	Received of R. Hall for 6 b. apples ¼ 16 2/3¢	1.00
1861	Oct 4	Received of J.W. Craven for 8 bu Clover seed	1.18
	28	Received of ... for a sheepskin	.29
1862	10/30	Received of sundry persons in Indianapolis for	
		36½ lbs. turkey @ 06¼	2.30
		9½ lbs butter @ .19	1.80
		4½ bu sweet potatoes @ .60	2.70
		½ bu onions	.20
		rags	.10
		Received of I. Allen's estate for money loaned for coffin (for a brother who died at Crab Orchard, Ky. while serving in the Union Army)	30.00
1863	10/5	Received of J.B. Albertson for 7 lbs butter	.40
	10/20	Received of Ohio Woolen Factory Co. for 29 lbs wool ¼ .65	18.85
		Received for sweet potatoes and rags	.65
1864	10/10	Received of S. Hammer for 7¼ bu. apples	3.60
		for rags	.15
	10/15	Received of ... Turner for 1 3/4 bu sweet potatoes	2.60
	10/19	Received of B. Scotten part on sheep pasture	7.00
10	10/24	Received of Capital Mills, Indianapolis for 21 15/60 bu wheat @ 1.60	34.00

March 30, 1865. Hitching posts have been put up on two sides of the Court House. Better than hitching to the fence. The Sheriff has put out shrubbery and trees around the Court House. Anyone who wishes to contribute bring a tree.

April 20, 1871. Samuel Hawkins has performed a public favor in removing a pile of wood which has been such an eyesore from the Court House yard. He also locks the doors in order to keep out the vicious boys. Now if the commission will give us an iron fence, put a clock in the tower, put steps at the doors, and have the outside walls of the building washed it will add wonderfully to the appearance of the building.

May 25, 1871. Deputy Hawkins has been wasting more nails on the old horse eaten board fence that disgraces the Court House yard. Shall we get the Commissioners to put up an iron fence?

July 13, 1871. The Court House pump has been exhausted two days within a week. A batch of clothes pins are doing the gymnastic and contortion business in the Court House yard. Exhibitions each day. No charge.

July 20, 1871. The daring youths who gave free exhibitions in gymnastics in the Court House yard rehearse now in a stable loft. One of the performers "cutting a pigeon's wing" fell out of the loft and broke his arm.

Nov. 2, 1871. The November term of Circuit Court begins the second Monday of this month. A full docket is reported to occupy the whole term of three weeks.

April 18, 1872. Latches have been put on the Court House yard gates.

May 8, 1873. The new iron fence around the Court House is a thing of beauty. We hope the next improvement will be a town clock.

May 29, 1873. A view from the Court House tower at this season affords one of the pleasantest scenes and shows the surroundings of our pleasant town.

AN ORDERLY YOUNG MAN

(George Allen was a farmer in the Center Valley community, an area which at that time was a part of Morgan County. At the age of seventeen he set up a "cash book" in which he recorded all sums received and paid out. The first volume covered the period September 25, 1853, through 1865. Two later volumes covered the period 1866 through 1877, when he apparently discontinued keeping such records.

The entries given here were for October of each year from the first volume, plus a few from August and December, 1857, in order to include entries related to his marriage to Mary Weesner on August 22, 1857, and the building of a house.

Mrs. Clara Richardson Reitzel, whose mother was a daughter of George Allen, has prepared this material for us.)

GEORGE ALLEN'S CASH BOOK

Wherein to keep all accounts of money received and paid out. To be divided into seven parts:

- First: to contain all amounts of money received.
- Second: to contain all accounts of money paid out for books, periodicals, etc.
- Third: to contain all accounts of money paid out for cloth, clothing, etc.
- Fourth: to contain all accounts for money paid out for tools, etc.
- Fifth: to contain all accounts of money paid out for postage on letters; papers, etc. (collected on delivery)

1863	10/20	Paid to different persons in Indianapolis for	
		3 yds factory @39	1.17
		3/4 yds delaine	.49
		1/2 yd flannel	.30
		1 pr boots	4.50
		1 pr shoes	1.75
		1 infant hood	.60
		hat	3.50
		overcoat	10.00

	10/31	Paid to S. Hadley & Co. for 1/4 yd flannel	.17
1864	10/11	Paid to sundry persons in Monrovia for 2/3 yd factory	.95
		.50, tape 10, gloves 35	.90
	10/15	Paid to Wm. Carmichael balance for goods	6.50
	10/15	Paid to . . . Burger for 1 pr boots	2.63
	10/19	Paid to S Hadley & Co. for 1 1/2 yds silk 2.25; 1 1/2 yds ribbon 38	6.30
1865	10/1	Paid to . . . for 2 2/3 yds cloth 4.15, 5 yds factory	2.35
		2.15, gloves .40, small shoes 1.30, 3/4 yds delaine 65	.20
	10/16	Paid to J.B. Ballard for 2 yds braid	

Part Fourth

Account of money paid out for tools etc.

1856	Oct 7	Paid to A. Hadley & Co. for 7 augur handles	.40
	23	Paid to John W. Weesner for a pack plane stock	.50
1857	Oct 3	Paid to Lew Pierce for making a fire shovel	1.00
		for making an iron wedge	.50
	Oct 11	Paid to B. Portage of 1 handsaw 2.50, 1 hatchet .75, 1 sand shovel 1.00, 1 handsaw file .05	4.30

Part Fifth

Part Fifth, covering postage accounts, consisted of a total of 22 entries for October 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1861. Nearly all were to business firms, several of which were to publishers of periodicals. All but five were for .03.

PART SIXTH MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS

1853	Oct 3	Paid to Wm. Allen for work	.20
	6	Paid to . . Belar for one nights lodging	.10
	19	Paid to M. Lindley, Sec. Morgan Co. Fair	.15
1854	Oct. 4	Paid to I. Allen for work	.15
	15	Paid to B. Young for 1 paper tacks	.10
	23	Paid to Hadley & Co. for 1 quire writing paper	.20
1855	Oct. 20	Paid to D.G. Worth for repairing a watch	2.00
		a watch key	.05
		Paid to Loveall Jones & Co. for25
		Paid to I. Dean for borrowed money	1.25
1856	Oct. 8	Paid to . . . for a pie	.10
	31	Paid to S.H. Johnson for two star candles	.10
1857	Aug. 10	Paid to J.R. Scott per O.Z.A. for marriage license	1.00
	10	Paid to Z. Allen for going after marriage license	.50
	22	Paid to S. S. D. Bray, J.P. for marriage fee	1.00
	22	Paid to Z. Allen for a hack ride . . marriage	1.00
	24	Paid to Richard Hall part for 100 acres of land	300.00
	Oct. 30	Paid to Jesse Gwin for 1 bu. lime	.25
		part for 2400 bricks	5.00
	Dec. 26	Paid balance on bricks	7.00

1865	10/9	Received of for 3 3/4 bu sweet potatoes @ 1.25	4.67
		Received of A.S. Wells & Co for 11 27/60 bu wheat @ 1.35	15.35
	10/15	Received of J Miller for 2 sheep skins	1.00
		Received of Jane Marley Balance for a Bible	2.50
	10/23	Received of Washington Larrimore for 3 yr old bay horse	97.50
	10/25	Received of C. Weesner for vinegar	.25
	10/30	Received of J. Ballard for 7 yds flannel	7.35

Part Second

Account of money paid out for Books, Papers, etc. Sept 25th AD 1853

	Oct. 4th	Paid to Fowler and Wells for the Science of Swimming	.12
	7th	Paid to D.G. Worth for Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin for Map of Indiana	.60 .10
1854	Oct 2nd	Paid to G.M. Mc Co for L . . of L B20
	4th	Paid to A.G. Barnes & Co for Hamilton's Physiology	.75
	5th	Paid to J.W. Thompson & Co. for Olmsteads Large Phylosophy	2.00
	25th	Paid to S.H. Johnson for Olmsteads Compendium Philosophy	1.00
	30th	Paid to J.M. Hadley for Draper's Chemistry	.85
		for Webster's Speller and definer	.15
1855	Oct 12th	Paid to R. Sears for U.S. History	2.50
	23rd	Paid to Fowler and Wells for Life Illustrated - 1 yr	1.50
1856	Oct. 16	Paid to Fowler and Wells for Sexual Diseases	1.25
	31st	Paid to S.H. Johnson for Butters Grammer	.40
1857	Oct 7th	Paid to John Weesner Advice to Married Couples	.20
1858		Total for books, magazines etc.	5.58
1859		Total for 1 paper, Indiana State Journal	1.00
1860		Total for 2 papers, Indiana State Journal American Agriculturist	2.00
1861		Total	4.75
1852-1865		books and magazines bought were mostly concerning the Bible and Methodist class books.	

Part Third

Account of money paid out for Clothing etc.

1854	Oct. 6th	Paid to Hadley & Co. for a hat	1.50
1855	Oct. 30th	Paid to B. Mendenhall for a coat	6.00
1856	Oct. 21st	Paid to Hadley & Co. for a neck stock	.45
1857	Oct. 3rd	Paid to Hadley & Co. for a pair of shoes	1.44
	17th	Paid to Mendenhall & Thompson for 1 pr boots	3.90
		1 pair of gloves	.45
		1 pair shoes	1.45
	Oct. 26	Paid to H. Hadley & Co. for to boot in changing shoes	.10
	21st	Paid to Mendenhall & Thompson for 3 yds calico for 1 doz. buttons	.37 .10
1860	Oct 2nd	Paid toBurger for 1 pr boots	3.90
	18th	Paid toAllen for 5 yds factory .09	.45
	25th	Paid to Krause & Wittenberg for 2 yds cotton flannel @ 12 1/2	.25
		4 yds woolen goods	.40
		2 napkins	.15
		3 1/2 yds drilling 12 1/2	.43
1861	10/12	Paid to Martin Hinshaw for 1 pr shoes	1.60
	10/30	Paid to W.H. Glenns & Co. for 2 1/2 yds blue muslin	.65
		2 1/2 yds factory	.67

		Paid to Nathan Wheeler for building a chimney	5.00
1860	Oct. 9	Paid to Joshua Ballard for car ticket to Indianapolis	.60
	9	Paid to Josiah Weesner for borrowed money	1.00
	12	for part on land	15.00
1861	Oct 25	Paid to toll keepers national Road	.48
	29	Paid to T.C., Morgan County Tax for 1860 (road tax, .32)	3.33
	30	Paid to a pedlar for table oilcloth .75, breast pin .50	1.25
1862	Oct. 20	Paid for rocking chair	.90
1863	Oct. 11	Paid to M.E. Church for support of ministry	1.00
	21	Paid to toll keepers on National Road	.05
	28	Paid to . . . Beich for magic lantern show	.20
1864	Oct. 1	Paid to Dr. Ragan for 2 prescriptions for Edgar	1.00
		Paid to Wm. Henley for mowing 6 acres grass	6.00
	19	Paid to I. Hawkins for making 2 bl. cider	.65
	22	Paid towards clearing Monroe Twp of the draft	10.00
	24	Paid as toll on gravel road	.42
		Paid to M. H. & L. gravel road toll	.59
	31	Paid to M.E. Church support of ministry	2.50

THE NICHOLSON SORGHUM MILL

by

Rosaleen Nicholson,
who gratefully acknowledges the assistance
of Cyrus Nicholson and Elizabeth Bryant

Would you know sorghum cane if you saw it growing in a field? A member of the grass family, it grows in stalks or canes to a height of six to eight feet. It bears some resemblance to a field of corn, except that the stalks terminate in "heads" or clusters of small seeds instead of tassels. The leaves or blades are knocked off while the plants are still standing. Only the canes are taken to the mill.

And what is the sorghum plant good for? The seeds are used as stock feed, especially pigs and poultry. Other parts are utilized by industry in making such products as wallboard. The sweet fodder is especially relished by cattle; and the sweet juice mixed with corn fodder makes yummy ensilage.

However, most of the sorghum cane grown in Hendricks County in the past hundred years has been made into molasses. When other sweets were much less available, our fathers and grandfathers had hot biscuits, butter, (not margarine), and sorghum molasses almost every morning of the year for breakfast. Some large families laid in a year's supply by the barrel, not the gallon. Maybe that's why they got along so well without commercial vitamins and minerals.

The story of the Nicholson Sorghum Mill really began at a point on the west side of 125W (now the Vestal Rodney farm) about one quarter of a mile south of 200 S. To older residents 125W is still the Sorghum Mill Road, just as the simple white frame house with Alva Campbell's name on the mail box is remembered as Sorghum Chapel, the meeting place of Conservative Friends. The road and the meeting-house both got their monikers from their location near the Sorghum Mill. It was at the original location of the mill that the young man "Charlie" (Charles B.) Nicholson learned the skills required in the making of good sorghum.

Not long after Charlie and Delia Rogers were married, Charlie decided to go into business for himself. He first bought three acres of land on the east side

of Sorghum Mill Road from Henry Rogers as a home and mill site. He also bought the mill and equipment from his previous employer and moved it to the new location about a mile and a half south of where it had been. Later he bought seven more acres from Henry Rogers, and still later he acquired a farm on the west side of the road just a bit north of the ten acres.

You'd never think of the well kept, modernized present house on the home and mill site as other than one of the many bungalows built in the 1910 to 1925 period. But this one has its own story. It was first the Summit Grove Friends Meeting house, and it stood across the road on the Carter farm. The records of the Mill Creek Friends Meeting reveal that it authorized the establishment of the Summit Grove Meeting there in 1873, but because of dissension the meeting continued active "only a short period."

Charlie Nicholson bought the building from the Meeting and either he or members of the Meeting moved it across the road to become his and Delia's home, later to be expanded and modernized. Two versions of the moving are given in the records of the Mill Creek Meeting. One says that the building was moved at night; one says it wasn't. We wonder: Were there two factions in the Meeting, one of which favored the sale and one which opposed it? Or was it moved at night because there would be less likelihood of inconveniencing others using the road? Or did someone make up the story?

However, the mid-1880's found Charlie and Delia established on the east side of 125W raising their family, with sorghum-making a family enterprise. Three daughters (Florence, Ruth, and Edith) and one son, Cyrus, were born. Cyrus, the youngest, was born on the last day of sorghum making for that year (October 18, 1891). To celebrate, the workers on leaving the mill tied the steam whistle down so that it would blow continuously . . . and it did, until Charlie released the whistle.

Although sorghum-making was essentially a family affair, extra help was required during the busy season. This might be only a few days or up to twenty or twenty-five days, usually from about September 10 to October 15 or 20, depending on the growing weather and the kind of cane planted.

Custom work was done for cane growers from all over the county and from surrounding counties as well. They came from Martinsville, Paragon, Jamestown, New Ross, North Salem, and Lizton, Greencastle, and many other places. Horse-drawn wagons (trucks later) were lined up down the road for as much as a quarter of a mile in both directions waiting to unload their cane onto fence rails to keep it off the ground. Each customer's cane was numbered and the juice was measured so that each batch equaled a given amount in gallons of molasses. Customers either brought their own containers or bought gallon buckets from the Nicholsons for their sorghum.

There was a charge of .15 to .40 per gallon for processing the cane to the finished product. Approximately twenty gallons of cane juice would make one gallon of finished sorghum. In later years a small amount of corn syrup was added to prevent crystallization.

The Nicholson sorghum was always processed by steam, first with wood as fuel and later with coal. One of the early steam engines used had wooden wheels. The cane was passed through heavy rollers (not ground) to press out the juice. The juice was then put through several processes of boiling, skimming, evaporation, filtration, and purification.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's the mill was used to make maple syrup in the spring and sorghum molasses in the fall. Cyrus remembers that as a small boy his Dad made cider for customers, using the same engine to grind the apples as was used in operating the rollers. At peak they produced 20 barrels of cider per day. Customers brought barrels and jugs to contain their own cider. Copper pans and coils were used to boil cider down to one-fourth its original bulk. Almost everyone made their own apple butter in those days, and they thought it couldn't be

first class unless it was made with boiled cider. One advantage was that it would keep almost indefinitely in the cellar without being canned.

Charlie's son Cyrus learned all about sorghum making as he grew up and shared in the work. After Charlie and Delia died in 1923, having been struck by a train in Amo, Cyrus assumed full responsibility for sorghum making. He rebuilt and remodeled the mill in 1932, having a new stationary boiler built which increased the capacity of the mill to 175 to 200 gallons of sorghum per day. In one peak year during the World War II 15,000 gallons of sorghum were produced. The selling prices of sorghum ranged from 25¢ in the early days to \$2.75 per gallon in 1955.

The time book shows the pay schedule through the last years:

	Daily Wage		Daily Wage	
1920's	\$1.00)	10, 11, 12	1942	\$4.00
1932	1.50)	hrs. per day	1945	6.00)
1934	2.00		1950	8.00) 8 hrs
1936	2.50		1954	10.00) per day
1937	3.00			

One fall when help was very badly needed, Cyrus asked and received permission to hire two or three boys at a time from the Indiana Boys' School at Plainfield. He was responsible for their transportation to and from the school and the noon meal. The boys' pay was withheld by the school authorities and given to them when they were discharged.

In 1955 the Sorghum Mill was closed because of lack of help. Cyrus and his wife, Mary knew the art and skill required to make good sorghum. Their three boys, Richard, Chester, and Robert, grew up helping in the mill and learning its workings. They remember most of the extra helpers that were necessary for its success, but especially Alva Campbell as the coal and steam engine operator and Stanley Hadley, who ran the engine and fired the boiler. Another reason for closing the mill was that very few people continued raising the cane.

The nearest sorghum mill now is at Baker's Corner near Sheridan. There is another at Ray's Crossing northeast of Shelbyville. One of the tourist attractions at Rockville's Covered Wagon Fall Festival is the sorghum offered for sale.

You don't find sorghum on the shelves of just any supermarket today. The jar in my kitchen cabinet held 30 oz., not two, three or five gallons, and it cost \$1.09. It does make good gingerbread, or cookies, or crackerjack. Want to try these Nicholson family recipes?

Gingerbread	Sorghum Cookies	Crackerjack
1 cup sorghum	2 cups sorghum	1 gallon popped corn
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar	1 cup shortening	
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening	2 eggs	Bring to a boil:
1 cup boiling water	Spices if desired	1 cup sorghum
$2\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour sifted with	1 teaspoon soda	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
2 teaspoons soda	2 teaspoons baking powder	2 tablespoons butter
2 eggs	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 teaspoon cinnamon	4 cups flour	
$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cloves	Add enough additional	Then add 1 teaspoon soda,
$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt	flour so that you can	mix well, and pour over
	make small balls in the	the popcorn. Make into
	hand. Place on baking	balls or press into a pan.
	sheet. Press down with	
	fork. Bake till done.	
This makes a soft batter.		
Bake at 350° till done.		

first class unless it was made with failed cider. One advantage was that it would keep almost indefinitely in the cellar without being canned.

Charles's son Cyrus learned all about sorghum making as he grew up and worked in the work. After Charles and Della died in 1932, having been struck by a train in 1930, Cyrus assumed full responsibility for sorghum making. He rebuilt and remodeled the mill in 1932, having a new stationary boiler built which increased the capacity of the mill to 175 to 200 gallons of sorghum per day. In one peak year during the World War II 15,000 gallons of sorghum were produced. The selling prices of sorghum ranged from 25¢ in the early days to 32.75 per gallon in 1935.

The time book shows the pay schedule through the last years:

Year	Daily Wage	Daily Wage
1930's	\$1.00	10, 11, 12
1932	1.50	hrs. per day
1934	2.00	
1936	2.50	
1937	3.00	

One fall when help was very badly needed, Cyrus asked and received permission to hire two or three boys at a time from the Indiana Boys' School at Plainfield. He was responsible for their transportation to and from the school and the noon meal. The boys' pay was withheld by the school authorities and given to them when they were discharged.

In 1935 the Sorghum Mill was closed because of lack of help. Cyrus and his wife, Mary, knew the art and skill required to make good sorghum. Their three boys, Richard, Chester, and Robert, grew up helping in the mill and learning its intricacies. They remember most of the extra helpers that were necessary for its success, but especially Alvin Campbell as the coal and steam engine operator and Stanley Hadley, who ran the engine and fired the boiler. Another reason for closing the mill was that very few people continued raising the cane.

The nearest sorghum mill now is at Baker's Corner near Charleston. There is another at Ray's Crossing northeast of Shelbyville. One of the tourist attractions at Rockville's Covered Wagon Fall Festival is the sorghum offered for sale.

You don't find sorghum on the shelves of just any supermarket today. The far in my kitchen cabinet held 30 oz., not two, three or five gallons, and it cost \$1.00. It does make good gingerbread, or cookies, or crackles. Want to try these Nicholson family recipes?

Gingerbread	Sorghum Cookies	Crackles
1 cup sorghum	2 cups sorghum	1 cup sorghum
1 cup sugar	1 cup shortening	1 cup shortening
1 cup shortening	2 eggs	2 eggs
1 cup boiling water	Spices if desired	Spices if desired
2 cups flour sifted with	1 teaspoon soda	1 teaspoon soda
2 teaspoons soda	2 teaspoons baking powder	2 teaspoons butter
2 eggs	1 teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 teaspoon cinnamon	4 cups flour	
1 teaspoon cloves	Add enough additional	
1 teaspoon salt	flour so that you can	
	make small balls in the	
	hand. Place on baking	
	sheet. Press down with	
	fork. Bake till done.	

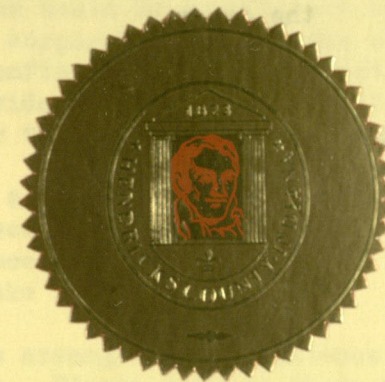
Then add 1 teaspoon soda, mix well, and pour over the sorghum. Bake into balls or press into a pan.

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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME IV

NUMBER I

January, 1973

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

God Bless Thy Year

thy coming in

thy going out

thy rest

thy traveling about

the rough

the smooth

the bright

the drear

God Bless Thy Year

From the President

Members of the Hendricks County Historical Society Greetings:.....

We are beginning another year of activity. Two important considerations, which were mentioned at our October meeting but not acted upon, require our attention and action.

1. The 1973 Budget. Our present budget is inadequate to permit us to issue four bulletins each year. The cost of these bulletins exceeds our income from members' dues. If we continue issuing four bulletins we must either increase our annual dues or enroll many citizens who would enjoy our Society. Can we recruit them?

I have suggested to Mr. Hufford, Our Membership Committee Chairman, that he appoint at least one person from each township to help wage a vigorous membership drive. Such a campaign could accomplish two important results: (a) Bring our programs to a great many more people, who would benefit from membership in our Society. (b) Obviate the necessity for increasing our dues. What is your reaction to this idea?

2. Plans for creating a Historical Museum. No doubt you and others have items and articles (memorabilia) which would be significant contributions to a Historical Museum. Under our status as a corporate Society, one should have no fear that these contributions would be confiscated or lost. That would not happen. Your landing of such items would provide an excellent beginning for a historical museum, which would be a depository for them.

My predecessors have done some exploratory work toward finding such a depository. It may be possible to secure a portion of the old jail for our museum. Our Ways and Means Committee will need your ideas and help in accomplishing this end. Let us all do what we can to make this possible.

Your Program Committee has arranged a most interesting and educational series of programs for the coming year. Please come to these meetings and bring others who could be interested in joining our Society.

Sherman G. Crayton,
President

From the Editor.....

Publishing the Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is fun, but it also involves a great deal of work. Each day now, as I am struggling to get this altogether (as the now generation expresses it, and it is certainly apt in this endeavor!) I have more respect for Lois Crayton who did such a fine job last year. I sometimes wonder why I consented to follow in the footsteps of one so experienced, but I did, and here I sit, frantically burning the midnight oil in the midst of the Christmas rush!. Well, it serves me right for waiting for the deadline.

I thank all who contributed to this issue, and I am hoping that others will be inspired to send in stories, ideas or suggestions. For those who have stories or articles to submit, may I quote Joseph Pulitzer's advice to writers:

Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it, and above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light.

To all of you, a Glad New Year, and to the Hendricks County Historical Society, the Best Year Ever!

Margaret Baker
(Mrs. Rawleigh Baker)

Here are the new officers and committee members for the coming year.
Let's give them all the help we can.

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(One member from each Township to be appointed by the Chairman)

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Willard Eggers
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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1973

Sunday, January 14, 1973 at 2 p.m.
Danville Friends Meeting House
Miss Leona Stuart, presiding
Invocation: Peter Ford, Pastor
Program: The Singing School and the Singing School Master
Speaker: Mrs. Ida Mae Miller, Plainfield

Our Own Singing School Experience
Director: Mr. Gerald Jones, North Salem
Benediction: Peter Ford, Pastor
Social Hour: Center Township in charge
For Display: Singing School books, Pictures, tuning forks, fiddles, flutes and other articles known to have been used in Singing Schools dating from about 1830 to 1895.

Sunday, April 8, 1973 at 2 p.m.
Coatesville United Methodist Church
Mr. Leonard A. Fleenor, presiding
Invocation: The Reverend David Lindsay
Program: Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Cyclone Disaster
Benediction: The Reverend David Lindsay
Social Hour: Clay and Franklin Township in charge
For Display: Pictures and articles concerning the disaster. This includes Danville and other places of the county affected at the same time.

Sunday, July 8, 1973 at 2 p.m.
North Salem Christian Church
Mr. Gerald Jones, presiding
Program: Fourth of July and other Gala Days
Speaker: Mrs. Frances Fisher, Pittsboro
Social Hour: El River and Marion Townships in charge
For Display: Pictures and related articles.

Sunday, October 14, 1973 at 2 p.m.
Eaton Hall, Brownsburg
Mrs. Mildred Smith, presiding.

Program: "So You Think You've Got It Tough"
Speaker: Mr. Floyd Hufford, Brownsburg
Social Hour: Lincoln, Brown and Middle Townships in charge
For Display: Pictures, tools, articles concerning early industries and trades.

Foot Note: Please include your name and any interesting information on the articles that you plan to bring to these meetings for display.

YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU MISS THIS ONE!

Mary Jeanette Winkleman and her fine Program Committee have done it again! They have come up with a series of intriguing programs, and our first promises to get us off to a fine start. Ida Mae Miller, who, we will all agree, is an authority on many subjects historical, will tell us all about the Singing Schools of the past. We will learn the reasons for sing schools in the first place, where they started and how church choirs developed from them. She will discuss how the music was written, and how the classes were organized. Using charts, pictures, singing school books, and tuning forks, she will take us back to some of the most delightful occasions of the past. And if that weren't enough, Gerald Jones will lead us in singing some of the old songs. Sounds like a gay, sparkling afternoon, doesn't it? I wouldn't miss it for the world.

THE NEW WINCHESTER SCHOOL 100 YEARS AGO

By: Dorothy Templin

The New Winchester school 100 years ago. According to a deed recorded June 6, 1864 at 9 o'clock A.M., Isaac West and Mary West, his wife, of Hendricks County, State of Indiana, convey and warrant to Michael Higgins, Trustee of Marion Township in the County of Hendricks and the State of Indiana and his successors in office as such Trustees, so long as the same shall be used and occupied for school purposes for the sum of eight dollars and seventy five cents (to be paid back to said Trustee or his successors in office when the same shall cease to be used or occupied for school purposes as aforesaid) the following Real Estate in Hendricks County in the State of Indiana to-wit: a part of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S5 in T15N R2W and bounded as follows: Commencing at the SE corner of said half quarter and running north 10 rods; thence west 8 rods; thence south 10 rods to the section line; thence east 8 rods to the beginning; containing $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

This is one half mile west of New Winchester on U. S. highway 36 and a map of 1865 shows a school in this location. A School District Record book for District #4, the New Winchester district, and for the years 1870-1878 tells of meetings of the patrons "persuant to notice" to elect a director each year; elect the teacher or teachers; set the date for the beginning of school; decide on the length of the school term; and the decision to locate the new school in New Winchester. The following is from the minutes of the meetings with no correction of spelling or punctuation:

March the 21st 1870. New Winchester Ind school meeting met and was call to order By the Director and Being G.W. Sharp and John Thomas as canidates for the school and the vote was taken by Baliting G.W. Sharp received 4 and John Thomas 11 votes. Also vote was take to Elect James Bowen as Director for the insuen year for District No 4 W.T. Stevenson, Director

October 1st 1870 School meeting met and come to order and Elected James Bowen for Director by majority of the members that was present W.T. Stevenson

1st Saturday October 1870 James Bowen Being Elected and duly sworn to perform the

duties of School director in District No 4 in Marion township Hendricks County Ind. Took possession of School House Books and such other things as Belong thereto. James Bowen Director

August 12th 1871 District No 4 Marion Tp. School meeting met according to arrangement after the meeting being called to order there being three applicants for Said School they proceeded to ballot with the following result G.W. Sharp 2 votes Miss Julia Paul 5 Mr. Hardin 10 votes being a majority was declared to be Duly Chosen. Also ordered the following Repairs to be made the fence to be Repaired and to dig a well and wall it to underpin the House etc. Jas Bowen, Director.

April 27 1872 School meeting met according to Notice the meeting being called to order the question of continuing the School upon taking vote it was Decided to continue the School to 3 months term

Aug. 15 1872 Meeting of patrons of School according to notice The meeting being called to order By the director Miss Julia Paul was unanimously chosen to teach the fall and winter School. Also that the Trustee be Requested to Employ an assistant teacher if in accordance with the Law or pay a price Suitable for the teacher to employ help. James Bowen

Aug 22nd 1873 School meeting met pursuant to notice with Franklin Underwood Director, in the chair. And after stating the object of the meeting proceeded to the election of a teacher which resulted in a unanimous election of Charles M Griggs to teach the ensuing term to begin the 3rd Monday of September 1873 to continue for a term of six months. On motion the Director was ordered to have the house cleansed by time of beginning the School. Esquire Stevenson was appointed to wash the house. It was moved that there be a meeting held on the 1st Tuesday of October 1873 to consider the propriety of Locating the new School House in prospect. Motion carried--moved to adjourn--carried. Franklin Underwood Dir

1st Saturday October 1873 Persewant to a notice of School District No 4 met and in the absence of the director R.F. Harper was called to preside and on motion R.R. Harper was Elected Director and on motion meeting voted unanimous to recommend to the Trustee to build the School house now under contemplation as near to the town of New Winchester in School District No 4 in Marion Township Hendricks County Indiana as sootable ground can be obtained on the best terms. Adjourned R.F. Harper, Dr.

(A deed made on June 10, 1874 stated Elizabeth West, Washington A. West and wife, Catherine, Malinda E. West Dooley and Aaron Dooley, her husband, Madison P. West and wife, Sarah E., Mary A. West Stamp and husband, Daniel Stamp, Harriet E. West and Sarah J. West all of Hendricks County, State of Indiana and being all of the heirs of Archibald West deceased convey and warrant to Xury E. West Trustee of Marion Township, Hendricks County State of Indiana and his successors in office for the sum of two hundred dollars the following described Real Estate situated in Hendricks County, State of Indiana to wit: Lots numbered one, two, three, four, five, six, seven and eight in Block Five in Hadley addition to the town of New Winchester. Recorded 24th day of October AD 1874 at 11 o'clock A.M.)

August the 14 1874 Persewant to notice meeting of School District 4 met for the purpose of selecting a teacher or teachers to teach the fall and winter school the object of meeting stated by the Director vote taken C.M. Grigs was elected to teach the primary department and further instruct the trustee to select a teacher for the hier grade on the best terms possible and by the request of the trustee a comity was appointed to assist him in buing seats for the new house comity James Boen Franklin Underwood and Henry Hays adjourned R.F. Harper Director

October 3, 1874 the regular anuel meeting of School District No 4 met meeting called to order by Director and vote taken and R.F. Harper elected Director and further vote to request the trustee to fense the new school house with a good

strong plank fense on the east and north as soon as possible for the securing of the house adjourned R.F. Harper Dir

(There were no minutes for the year 1875 but a New Winchester item in the July 22, 1875 issue of Union, a newspaper stated; M. Higgins trustee has had our school yard neatly fenced..Let us have a school bell next.) This was the location of the New Winchester school for 90 years.

FROM A TALK BY JOHN L. OLIVER

GIVEN JULY 8, 1972

AT

WHITE LICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

John L. Oliver is the great grand son of two Civil War veterans, Isaac B. Waters, a cabinet maker and wood worker of some note, and Melville Phillips. Both were pioneer settlers in Middle Township and lived out their days here.

John explained in his opening remarks the reasons for his great interest in the Civil War which dated back to a trip to Vicksburg in 1958, and then more recently, a trip to Gettysburg via Williamsburg, their original destination. He admitted to being bitten hard by the Civil War "bug" and began an earnest search for information about his own grandfathers' participation in the War between the States. He became acquainted with the Civil War Roundtable in Indianapolis, first became treasurer, then vice president and program chairman, and was elected president this last year.

From various histories and documents he compiled much interesting information about Hendricks County men during the years 1861-1865.

The militia Roll of September 1862 lists 2,436 men in Hendricks County between the ages of 18 and 45. There were occasional comments about conditions which might exclude them from service: one had 2 fingers missing from his right hand; one man had a weak back; another had lost a leg; another was blind. Another entry said "This one hasn't got sense enough to go in the army". Other reasons for exemptions were "Conscientiously opposed to bearing arms", "British subject", and one man from Guilford Township said he was a refugee from North Carolina and was sworn not to take up arms against the Confederate States of America. Another name had beside it the word "Dwarf".

The roll of volunteers for U.S. service lists 1,356 men from Hendricks county already in service as of September, 1862 which when added to the militia rolls, totals 3,792, less 506 that were exempted. The net total was 3,286 men either already in or available for service.

The men from Hendricks County had to go elsewhere to enlist and regimental records do not give the county or many of the towns credit. Indianapolis probably accommodated most of them. One of John's grandfathers, a perfectly good citizen of Pittsboro, is listed as being from Indianapolis. Of the 156 organizations Hendricks County was represented in over 50 of them by one or more men. John did not make a count of the individuals in the regiments, but instead tabulated the number of townships represented.

One regiment, the 70th had men from all 11 townships in it. It was being recruited by Lt. Benjamin Harrison who must have had a powerful appeal in this area for more than 1,241 men reported to camp, although not all were Hendricks County men. Two regiments, the 7th and 51st drew men from 10 townships. One reason the 7th drew so many was that it was the second regiment of volunteers recruited. There was a great rush to enlist so that the rebellion of the upstart states could be put down in a hurry.

John interspersed his discussion of the military to describe the soldiers, the lack of supplies, the officers, the training of men, the formation of various military units, life in the camps, sanitary and health conditions in the army, and many other items of interest to the historians.

There were seven Indiana Volunteer regiments in which Hendricks County men were enlisted: the 7th, 14th, 19th, 20th, and 27th, all of which took part in the great battle of Gettysburg. He also mentioned the 51st and 70th because they were more heavily endowed with local boys. The 51st organized at Indianapolis, was mustered into the Federal Service in December 1861. It marched to Bardstown, Nashville, participated in the battles of Shiloh, siege of Corinth, Perryville, Ky., and Stone's River. The regiment was captured May 3 and was exchanged after the escape from Libby Prison led by Colonel A.D. Streight in 1863. The Indianapolis Journal for October 9, 1861 states in part: "The 51st Regiment, with Colonel A.D. Streight, has 6 companies in Camp Morton, one of which arrived from Hendricks County Monday evening. To the 51st goes the honor of having the only Hendricks County Medal of Honor recipient: Captain Milton T. Russel, Co. A. The regiment lost 1 officer and 55 enlisted men in action and 6 officers and 202 enlisted men by disease."

The Indianapolis Journal, July 17, 1862 said "Lieutenant Benjamin Harrison, recruiting officer for the 70th regiment has enlisted and sworn into service over 20 men. Three responsible gentlemen have agreed to obligate themselves to pay \$50 to each of the first three men of family who will enlist in this company." And again in August, an item from the Indianapolis Journal "Captain Burgess, commandant of the 70, reported 1171 men in camp, and 70 more to arrive today, making 1241, or over 200 more than the regimental complement." This regiment participated in the battles of Resaca, Cassville, Dallas, New Hope church, and Allatoona Hills, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek and participated in the siege of Atlanta. It marched with Sherman to the sea and presented Savannah to President Lincoln as a Christmas gift. They were mustered out of service June 1865, having lost 2 officers and 96 enlisted men in battle and 2 officers and 103 enlisted men by disease.

The latter part of John's talk was a description of the Battle of Gettysburg, mentioning points of interest to the modern tourist, and showing a series of slides. He evidenced a great knowledge of his subject and rightfully deserved the title of "expert".

Frances Fisher
(Mrs. Roy Fisher)

YE OLDE SPELLING BEE!

Back in the early days of Hendricks County, there were many country schools. There was a friendly sort of rivalry among these schools, and, as one way of letting this boil over, as it were, was the old fashioned spelling bee.

One school would issue a challenge to a neighboring school for such a contest, and there was much cramming and excitement for this big event.

The visiting school would engage a farmer, usually the father of a pupil, to take his team and wagon equipped with a hay rack or special platform like body for hauling hay, throw a sufficient amount of hay or straw on the wagon to make it a soft ride, and the pupils would gleefully pile on the wagon for the ride. The older ones would pair off boy and girl and hold hands. The young ones would gang up in a bunch and with many glances at the older ones, snicker and make faces at each other at the show of affection entirely innocent of any such extacy.

Then on arrival at the other school, noisily and with much banter and laughter, they would greet each other and line up each school on one side opposite the other and the spelling would begin. Each time a pupil missed a word, he would sit down. When all were down to one, this one was given another word, which, if it was spelled correctly, his or her school won, and if missed it was a tie contest. Then the ride home, which was much the same as the ride over, except if the winners, it was much noisier, and even the lovers forgot in their joy at winning, and I will leave it to your imagination how it was if they lost... "Nuff said".

The school room used for the occasion was lighted by reflector oil lamps hung at intervals on the walls, and gave only an eerie dusk-like appearance that seemed to awe the pupils into silence with only the teacher's voices as they droned out the

words. The teachers alternated at pronouncing the words. The room was heated by a big round upright stove that was fed sticks of wood as needed to keep the room comfortable. When it was over, they bundled up in gloves and toboggins, home knit, and with wool socks and high button shoes for the girls, and boots, copper toed, for the boys, who cared for old man winter? This was a big event and would be re-lived for weeks or perhaps months.

Hal J. Wilson 5-26-71

THE TILDEN SCHOOL FIRST GRADUATING EXERCISES, 1896

Shortly after our meeting at the White Lick Church, I received a letter from a friend of mine. She enclosed a letter written by my father, May 18, 1896, to a former pupil of his. My father taught school at the Tilden School, but I do not know how many years. But in 1895, he went to Terre Haute State Normal, as it was known then to further his education. A former pupil of his, Miss Minnie Patterson, apparently was preparing her graduation speech for Graduation Exercises from the Tilden School. She wrote to my father asking his advice on a number of topics: He answered, in part:

"Dear Pupil,

In reply to yours of the 15th will say that I am more than pleased with your decision. You are doing what I hope you will have no cause to regret.

I rather like the fourth subject you spoke of, viz: "We Pass for What we Are". I like that line of thought.

I think you can work in some of our last year's thoughts to good advantage.

You can treat that subject from several different points of view. You can take the social side, the religious side, or the behavior side (actions and words). You can make something nice out of this if you handle it just right."

He wrote at length of various facets of the subject that she might pursue, recommending a number of books. He concluded, "If, at any time, you need help or want to ask about anything, I want you to feel free to write. I am quite busy, but not too busy to talk or write to you about this.

Yours, as ever,

W.F. Franklin

Miss Minnie Patterson sent her prepared speech to him at Terre Haute, and he returned it with his suggestions and corrections written in the margins. It is too long to include here, but my friend, Mrs. Mabel Shorter Robinson, included an account of the Tilden Graduation Exercises as follows:

Tilden Graduation Exercises

The first annual commencement of the Tilden public schools took place at the White Lick Presbyterian Church, June 29, 1896. The house was filled to its utmost capacity with an attentive audience. Invocation was offered by the Rev. H. L. Dickerson, followed by mandolin and guitar music. The march was rendered by Miss Mary Medsker.

Robert Worrell

opened the exercises proper, handling the subject "Getting the Right Start" in a very creditable manner and with an understanding and delivery that is not often exceeded by one of his age and opportunities.

Minnie Patterson

took the ground that "We Pass for What We Are", a proposition that seems to us to

require an extra degree of courage to assume in this age when character and reputation are frequently wide apart. From her standpoint, she handled the subject admirably and left a good impression on her auditors.

Eva Ward

drew on her imagination for "The Pleasures of Hope" and her life will be uncommonly blest if she will but live in the realms she painted.

Ora Medsker

sought to impress his auditors with "The Pleasures of An Education", and, when considering the manner in which he presented the subject and the intelligence of his audience, it is presumed that he accomplished his purpose.

Julia Hufford

last on the program, followed the cue of George Eliot and based her remarks on "Silas Marner", out of which romance she weaved practical and important moral lessons worthy of the thought and effort given to her subject.

After music, County Superintendent Hostetter presented the diplomas and delivered an interesting talk on the necessity of giving still greater attention to the teaching of morals and our public schools. His remarks were well founded and were well received.

The Misses Ethel and Edith Free entertained the audience at this juncture with a song that captured the crowd.

Flowers and books were profusely presented to the graduates, and the whole proceedings were justly characterized as more than ordinarily instructive and entertaining. The graduates, their parents and firends, and their late teacher, W. F. Franklin, may justly feel proud of these exercises.

Death entered our ranks this year and claimed three of our members. Mr. Murat Keeney, a prominent Pittsboro native, who, although unable to attend our meetings, gave us a most generous gift to establish the Hendricks County Historical Museum Fund. Mrs. Gertrude Kurtz of Danville R.R., the mother of Mrs. Randall Joseph, was a faithful attender and added grace and charm to any gathering. Mrs. Bonnie Nagelson, Danville, supported our organization because she believed in it. We shall miss these dear members, but they will always occupy a special spot in our hearts and memories.

Purdue University Studies, the book-publishing arm of Purdue University, is offering a new book, "Indiana Canals", by Paul Fatout. The book is being made available as follows: retail price is \$10.50. 20% discount is allowed on orders for single books, 33 1/3% on two, three or four books, and 40% off on five or more. If you are interested, Ruth Pritchard will have a brochure of this handsome book at the next meeting.

William V. Shannon once wrote, "To reject the past is to deprive today of its meaning tomorrow."

Chet Huntley said on a recent broadcast, "Maybe the answer to our future is in our past."

Recollections

by George L. Leak

I was the son of James Lawrence Leak and Harriet Amanda Buzzard Leak and was born February 9, 1846 on farm located in the South East Quarter of Section 20 Township 17 North Range 1 West or what might be a more proper description, as my parents were Pioneers. To say born in the woods north west of what is now known as Lizton, in the wilds of north Hendricks County. I was one of a family of eleven

children, seven boys and four girls. The oldest, a sister, born Sept. 14, 1840 and the youngest, twin brothers, born December 27, 1860.

The writer of this sketch first started to school to a man by the name of C. G. Stamper, on the 14th day of March 1853. You may wonder why I am so accurate about the date of my first entering school. To which I will say from Memory and from the fact that I found the contract of this school among my fathers papers, and which I now have in my possession. This school was taught in a log house which was located on the east side of the road on what is now the Iza Kennedy farm and opposite the Luther Mahan property at Lizton. The house had one door which was in the south side of the building. A stick and mud chimney in the east side and one maybe two small windows high up in the north side and a narrow window near the whole length of the building on the west side, which one log was left out for the window. I recollect that one teacher bared this window with a long slab to keep the pupils from looking out at the window towards the road. This same teacher permits what we then called "A loud school" or studying by spelling and reading their lessons over in an audible voice, in which the noise sounded much like the hissing of geese and the humming of the bees.

The furniture of this house consisted of seats made out of split slabs with two holes bored in each end and where long wooden limbs were driven for legs to the seats. The seats were so high from the floor that a small boy or girl's feet would reach about halfway down to the floor. Then on one side of the house were wooden pins driven in the wall on which were long and wide shelves fastened which were used for writing desks. But then as well as now, we had some progressive citizens, and some of these progressive ones made one or two long seats of sawed and dressed poplar lumber, which had backs to them.

I went to school in this building at short intervals to C. G. Stamper, John D. Hiatt, William G. Elder, and James Burnett. And in the fall of 1855 John D. Hiatt had started in on a 60 day or 90 day school, but owing to the prevalence of so much fever and ague among his pupils, he abandoned his school, and never afterwards was any school taught in this building. This old school building was moved over on the south side of the State Road by Julius A. Jeger and used for a wood house.

Some of the teachers that taught in this old building prior to my school days were such distinguished citizens as Elias Leach, Job H. Davis, a Mrs. Miligan, James Jackson and Frank Chrisman. The three that were not citizens of this vicinity, consequently I dont know where they belonged. But it is quite probable that a number of other teachers taught in this old building, that are not mentioned in this list.

Northwest of the No 2 abandoned brick school building, a little to the south of the Albert Chrisler farm house, was another log school building which was an exact duplicate of the old log school building at Lizton, except that it was het by a large old fashioned box stove. In the fall of 1853, I went to this school for a short period to one Elkin Toney. I recollect that my first day at this school I was accompanied by an older brother and two cousins. As we never before had been to this building, we got lost in the woods in trying to find the school house and finally found ourselves near a residence where we were guided to the school house. It was near noon when we reached the school building, altho we had been near it.

These "Recollections" were written by George L. Leak a few days before he died March 21, 1920.

By
Eldora Nelson Keeney

I started to school when I was seven. There was quite a discussion as to where I should go to school. The Groover children across the road went to the

shockley school, but the family (this would be her grandmother Leak and her two unmarried Uncles George L. and Robison Leak) preferred the town (Lizton) school. I carried my dinner bucket, my slate pencil and a writing tablet, and wore a little pink sunbonnet. I was put in the chart class for one day only. I'm sure that took me down a notch or two but I did what I was told and by the next day I was started in first grade. For the first three years I went only in good weather and was taught at home the rest of the time. After the third year I missed very little school.

Uncle Robison was teaching at Lambert Ridge School and walked as far as Rains-town and down to the State Road. So it was decided that I should go as far as Lizton with him. He took me to the old hotel which stood about where Steward Pritchett's house now stands. From there I walked with someone. When I was older I went down the road and went with the Leach girls for a short time, but Uncle George was not happy about it, as it was so much nearer through the pasture. He marked a path through the woods for me by standing limbs up against the trees and for ten years I went to school across Thompson's pasture. The only stock in it was horses. My experience across that pasture taught me to love nature. How could I ever forget the butternut grove, the young maple grove, the pawpaws and May apples, the "grinnies" that played on the old rail fences and the occasional shiny blue racer. Sometimes I would stop and play in the maple leaves, they were so pretty and fragrant. I certainly count those years as a definite part of my education.

I enjoyed reciting as we did in those days. My first recitation was given for the Literary Society. Miss Hubble, my teacher, dressed me in her hat and shawl to recite the following:

Mrs. Gookins

My name is Mrs. Gookins,

My husband he is dead;

I've got five little children

They're all at home in bed.

And now I must be going,

I've so much work, you see,

Next time I'll bring my children

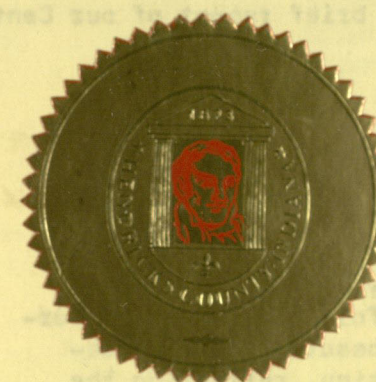
and then we'll stay to tea.

I had been taught at home to read, to write, and my numbers, so I sailed along very satisfactorily in my school work. I had access to what books Uncle Robison had and I remember that I read the "Snow Image" and Grandmother's story of "The Battle of Bunker Hill" and "Evangeline" when I was eight or nine years old. The winter I was at Uncle Henry's, after Grandmother died, I read all the "Leather Stocking Tales." Ora was teaching that winter at the Hall School house. I was pleased to have good books to read for they helped me to enjoy history and good literature. I memorized all the readers, learned the alphabet backwards, and could say the names and dates of all the presidents.

My pal in grade school was Mary Montgomery. She later married Charley Harris and had a nice home north of Danville. My teachers in the grades were Belle Baker, 2 years--Willa Hubble, Jake Thompson, John R. Dailey, James Gillispie, and Sherman Waters.

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME IV

NUMBER II

APRIL 1973

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

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Happy Birthday, Hendricks County !

The act organizing the county of Hendricks was approved December 29, 1923, and Section 2 of that act reads: "The said new county of Hendricks shall, from and after the first day of April next, enjoy all the rights, privileges and jurisdiction which to separate and independent counties do, or may properly belong and appertain."

We should all, therefore, be looking forward to 1974 as a big milestone for Hendricks County. This occasion should have especial significance to members of the Hendricks County Historical Society. We are proud that one of our members, Mr. Scott Hosier, has been appointed by the County Commissioners, to act as chairman. It takes much time, great effort and complete co-ordination and co-operation of individuals, business, professional, religious and service groups to plan and execute the kind of occasion Hendricks County should have on this 150th birthday.

I have assured Mr. Hosier that he can count on our Society to take the lead in carrying out his plans. Let's all get phind Mr. Hosier and give Hendricks County a grand and glorious birthday party!

Dr. Sherman Crayton
Pres. HCHS

The following is a brief report of our Centennial Celebration:

Centennial Day is Great Success

Thousands Pay Tribute
to County of Their
Birth

Wealth of Old Time
Articles Holds
Crowd

May 29, 1924 - People of Hendricks County are indebted to Wa-pe-de-way Chapter, DAR, for a wonderful celebration of the county's 100th birthday.

The crowd was the largest ever assembled in Danville, conservatively estimated at 15,000. The day's program was opened with a concert by the Police and Fireman's Band of Indianapolis.

The formal address of welcome was by Judge Z.E. Dugan ... James M. Ogden replied ... Jesse D. Hamrick, of Indianapolis, concluded the formal speech making ... Mrs. Thos. R. Barker, on behalf of

DAR, presented awards to those high school students who had written prize-winning sketches of Hendricks County history.

Then followed the great parade, beautiful beyond description, reflecting the pride of a people for their county ... prizes were awarded ... one for historical floats and one for floral or decorative floats. The pitch-in dinner served from tables along the north and west sides of the square was not sufficient to feed the thousands, but it was wonderful to see thousands breaking bread together. The 500 pound cake ... was among those present ... One hundred candles adorned it in the rotunda of the Court House. Badges to the number of 1,080 were given to those who traced their relationship to settlers who came to the county prior to 1830, and the supply of badges was insufficient.

The rain began to fall ... increasing in intensity ... ruining the pageant to have been given in the Danville Park. The Pioneer Evening concert at the college chapel drew hundreds in the evening. The Hendricks County Band is one of the wonder organizations of the Centennial. It is composed entirely of musicians of the county including the Plainfield and Brownsburg bands... Over 75 band members lead the parade.

Mrs. Julian D. Hogate, wife of of the publisher of "The Republican" wrote a 26 page Pageant of Hendricks County, involving more than 550 people, only to have it rained out.

She prefaced her program with this quotation: "A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered by remote descendants."

The January Meeting

Sixty-three members and twenty guests gathered at the meeting house of the Danville Society of Friends, January 14, to hear Mrs. Ida Mae Miller tell of the origin and development of the old fashioned singing schools. Ida Mae is always a drawing card, and she didn't disappoint us this time. Before the talk, Mr. Gerald Jones, with Mrs. Jones on the accordin, led us in singing some of the old songs ... "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl that Married Dear Old Dad", "When You Wore a Tulip", "Put On Your Old Gray Bonnett", and "Blue Tail Fly", to mention a few. It was a thoroughly delightful program.

In the business session, Mr. Hufford explained the Membership Trophy, and it was voted to raise the dues to \$3.00 per year, to take effect October 1, 1973. In order to relieve the budget pinch immediately, a free will offering was taken, amounting to \$56.34. Mrs. Winkleman and Mrs. Pritchard tied for bringing the most new members, and Mrs. Pritchard won the toss. Let's keep up this fine attendance!

H C H S

Welcome to Our Ranks!!!!

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Mozella Alexander
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Alig
Peter Ford
Harmon H. Hathaway
Mrs. Beatrice Leish
David E. Newberry
Mr. John Kendall

Mrs. Alison Seger
Mrs. Allan H. Stratton
Mrs. Helen Walker
Mrs. Mary Canganelli
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carter
Mrs. Geneva Cook

H C H S

A Bad Good Friday

Anniversaries are occasions usually filled with nostalgia and many happy memories. Although our next meeting bids fair to being one of our most interesting, it may, to many, bring back memories that aren't so pleasant. For the subject of our program will be the Good Friday Tornado which roared through Hendricks County 25 years ago, March 26, 1948. In a matter of a few minutes, Coatesville was reduced to rubble, Hadley and half of Danville were flattened, and when the twister moved out of the county, it left death and devastation in its wake.

Sunday, April 8, we will revisit the scene when the HCHS meets at the Coatesville United Methodist Church at 2:00 P.M. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Fleenor of Coatesville have planned the program which should be of interest to every one in Hendricks County. Several will relate their personal experiences, and Mr. Harmon Hathaway, who was Editor of the Coatesville Herald at the time, will talk. He will also present to each member present a miniature two-page reproduction of the pictures that were used in The Herald the following week. A member from Danville will tell of the effect of the disaster there.

Mrs. Joe Davidson of Coatesville will supervise a display of pictures of the destruction by the storm. Members are invited to bring pictures for display. An organ recital by Mrs. Maurice Wingler will precede the meeting. The Reverend David Lindsay will give the invocation and the benediction. Mrs. Fleenor is chairman of the committee of Clay and Franklin Township ladies who will serve refreshments. Dr. Sherman Crayton, president, will preside at the business meeting.

H C H S

Mrs. Melvin E. Cox, R.R. 6, Box 210, Martinsville, In. 46151, sent us a copy of the following interesting letter. The spelling and punctuation are like the original. It was written by Richard D. Plummer when he was 13 years old to his cousin, Joseph Plummer Chiles, who was 17 at the time. Richard lived with his father Joseph Plummer near North Salem. Joseph Plummer Chiles was named for his uncle, Richard's father. We thank Mrs. Cox for her contribution, and we know she would be happy to correspond with anyone concerning this family.

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March the 4th 1861 Dear Cousin I seat My Self this Evening to Pen you A few Lines to Let you know how we Ar geting Along we ar All well But Father he has Bin Sick Some time I Dont Remember jus when he took Sick Some time Last fall But I think the Prospect is talerable good At the Present time of his Recovering his Disease is of the Spinal Column And dispepsior he was very Bad off Some Six Weks A gow Health is talerable good At Present with the Exception of Small pox Some of hour Neighbors have got the Small Pox But they were geting A Long verry well the Last time I herd from them you May think Strange of this Letter when it Comes to hand But I thought I would Rake up Acquaintance with you My Name is R D plummer I Am At home Still with My Father I intend to

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work At home this Season if god gives Me the power to work Atall I And Levi is the ownly ones that Ar Single yet we intend to Live old Batchelors My to sisters Anna And hannah Ar Both Married Anna Married to Mr Marison of Iowa Hannah Married to Mr Scott A jentle Man worth Some ten Thousain Dolers with Eight Children And five Grand Children But she is treated very well By All She Seams Contented the Neighbor hood I Live in Beats Any thing I Ever Seen For weddins it Seams As though the People ar Getting Crasy About Marrying with the Exception of My self I Dont Let Sutch thing Bother Me Mutch I want to start to School in September And gow About ten Ar Twelve Months Iff Istill Am Permitted My Life And health And Meat with Now Bad Luck the winter has Bin verry

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warm Inded we May Say that it hasent Bin to Cold to work out of doures But five Ar Six days this winter But we have had Some snow And Plenty of Rain And Some Mud on the out Shirts of the Irth But God our heavenly father knowes Best About that hour County is improveing verry Fast At the Present time their has Bin A Gravel Road Built with in the Last Eight teen Months Runing By the way of North Salm And Also A Railroad Runing From Crofordsvill to Indnaplis It Comes With in three Miles of us I hird From uncle Brantls Some three weeks A gow they was All well then one of My Brothering Laws was in to see us this winter From Iowa he Almost Looked Like Another Man he Gives Iowa More Praise than she Disservs he says he would Not

Page 4

Move Back iff A man would Give him A farm hear Cousin Levi Jones is Married he Married to A girl upin Boon County By th Name of Beckelhamer Sow I heard Well It is geting Late Sow I Must Bring My Imperfect Letter to A close By Asking you to Right soon And Excuse My Bad Righting And All Mistakes From your Affetionate Cousin Richard D plumer to

Mr Joseph
Cilds

H C H S

From the Editor

Dr. Crayton handed me a letter from Mr. James R. Sims, whose address is in the Query Box. Mr. Sims has taken the time to make some constructive criticism of The Bulletin and to offer some suggestions to improve it. We appreciate his interest and would like to hear from other readers.

Mr. Sims feels The Bulletin should devote more space to "records and maps, land owners and cemetery records." If we really want to hold down the cost, we could do without the cover, fold, staple, address, and mail without an envelope. These are all good suggestions, and we would like to know what others think of them. If we know what you readers want, we will endeavor to give it to you. So we need to gave more members like Mr. Sims who will let us know your opinions.

Mr. Sims went on to say, "Enjoyed the article on the Civil War by Mr. John Oliver. It enabled me to determine where my great grandmother Hanna (Fox) Adams was buried." Thank you for writing, Mr. Sims. We hope you will stay with us, and little by little we can make the Bulletin a magazine that will have something for every member.

Margaret Baker
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
Editor

H C H S

Hoosiers in Hendricks

Query Box

Mrs. Ivan Russell, Earlham, Iowa, 50072 wants information on ancestors of George Washington Curts, b. Butler, Co., O. 1832; to Ind. 1840. Wants to correspond with decendants of above and of Enos and Rhoda Benson Tuttle.

Mrs. Mabel C. Robbins, 901 N. Keystone, Indpls., In. 46201 desires information on parents and siblings of Nancy Frances Hardin who lived near Danville about 1860-70.

Mrs. M. McGregor Kerns, 4020 Galt Ocean Dr. Apt. 109, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33308 would like to correspond with anyone having the name Hollett or Hallet in their In., Ky., or Md. ancestors. My mother, Myrtle Whinyates (Mrs. Alexander McGregor) was b. in Brownsburg, Nov. 18, 1874. Her parents- Thos. Wm. Whinyates and Mary Matilda Hollett, d. of Thos. and Sarah (Aker) Hollett of B'burg and buried in Ligeman cemetery.

James R. Sims, 1367 Co. Rd. 128, Fremont, O. 43420 seeks knowledge of Eli Fox, living in or around Lizton, In. in 1850's.

Hoosiers in Hendricks

Mr. Mike Davis, 3159 Maine Ave., Long Beach, Cal. 90806 wants information on the Garr family of Hendrick Co.- Oliver P. Garr. (Mike may be our youngest member ... is 18 or 19 now. Was 17 when he joined. Glad to have you, Mike! Ed.)

Mrs. Fred Brust, Sr., RFD 1, Union Mills, In. 46382 would like to contact descendants of Matthew Jones, a Rev. War veteran, buried in Valley Mills Cemetery. She has much history of the Jones family to share. Mrs. B. is genealogist for N.W. Ind. Genealogical Soc. and would be glad to help anyone with family ties in Lake, Porter, St. Joseph, LaPorte & Jasper Counties.

Kenneth Hammill, 1905 N E 77th Ave., Portland, Ore. 97213. Who were the parents of Elizabeth Hardwick who m. Thomas Ballard, 1763, Hanover Co., Va.? Later went to Surry Co., N. Car. Her son, William Ballard, was an early pioneer of Morgan and Hendricks Cos. where he died 1824.

H C H S

Who Gets the Membership Trophy?

You have all heard of the floating lone at a euchre party. Our membership trophy works a lot like it. Many of us have never won any kind of a trophy, but it's not too late to be a winner. The member who gets the greatest number of new members to join Hendricks County Historical Society at each meeting will take home the prize and keep it until the next meeting. Then you must bring it back, and if someone gets more members than you, they will have charge of it until the next meeting.

Don't lose hope ... keep asking and working. The member who signs up the largest number of newcomers during the year will get to keep the trophy after the January meeting.

Let's all go to work on our membership drive!

Floyd Hufford, vice-president
Chairman Membership Committee

H C H S

Things You Should Know About Some of Our Members

Mrs. Ruth Hall, Lizton, was returning from Oregon, via Texas, when she realized 375 miles separated her from Danville where the January 14th meeting of the HCHS was being held that afternoon. So she hopped in her car and ticked off those 375 miles and made it to the meeting on time! 375 miles is a long way to go for a meeting. Some of us find it inconvenient to go two or three miles. She has to be voted the most loyal and dedicated member in January!

H C H S

Mrs. Ida Mae Miller, one of our most active and capable members, has accepted a position as historical librarian with the Indiana State Historical Library. We know this is a blow for the Plainfield Public Library, but won't it be nice for us to have one of our very own members at the State Library? Instant Assistance for us. Congratulations, Ida Mae, and much happiness in your new position. But please don't let this change or interfere with the great contributions you have always made to HCHS.

H C H S

Dr. Sherman Crayton, our president, is a native of Hendricks County. Born in Plainfield, he received his A.B. from Franklin College, his Ph.D from Indiana University. His years of teaching included, among other colleges, The U. of Buffalo, 1937-65. For 20 years he was editor of the Torch Club Magazine. The Torch Club is an organization of prominent men from professional and educational circles. Upon his retirement, he and his sweet Lois decided to come back to the county of their birth, and how lucky can we be! Incidentally, we hope their tentative plans to attend a national meeting of their beloved Torch Club in Texas soon will work out for them.

H C H S

Mr. Floyd Hufford, vice president, is another native of Hendricks County. Born in Brownsburg, he operated a hardware store there for 18 years, worked for the Green-castle Christian Home, The Brownsburg Record, and is now employed by the Brownsburg Guide. He has taught a Sunday School Class for 30 years, has been a director of the bank, president of the Lions Club, and an active participant in all community activities. Recently he was written up as Man of the Week in the Brownsburg Guide.

H C H S

Mr. Joe Davidson, one of our most talented story tellers, accepted an invitation to talk to two Danville High School folk lore classes recently. Mr. Davidson, a school teacher 44 years, is a graduate of DePauw University with a masters degree from Butler. In his inimitable manner, he spun tales and sang songs to the utter delight of his listeners. The Editor would recommend him highly to any class which is studying folk lore.

Another member who has made headlines is Mrs. Roy Fisher who was given a two-page spread in a recent issue of "The Brownsburg Guide". Mrs. Fisher, who with her husband, was instrumental in getting this organization started and going well, graduated from Butler with the highest grades on record at that time. The team of Roy and Frances Fisher has been a great force for good in this area for many years, and they certainly deserve a two-page spread in this publication, but space does not allow it. Suffice it to say that we would give them highest grades on record in all their endeavors.

H C H S

MAKING MAPLE SYRUP

by Floyd B. Hufford

"Grandad, may I go with you to make maple syrup tomorrow? I'll be good and won't get in your way. Please let me go."

Six-year-old Andy from the city had never seen how they get maple syrup from trees, and everything was an adventure for him. But grandad's going to the woods to make syrup was something he couldn't figure out.

"Andy," said grandad, "if you go it will be for all day and will get cold, tired, and hungry. You will have fun for awhile, then you'll want to come back to the house, but you can't. You'll have to stay. Do you still want to go?"

Although Andy was too young to be a boy scout, he held up three fingers and said, "Scout's honor. I won't cry. If I get cold or tired or hungry, I'll be just like an Indian. I won't tell you."

With a promise like that grandad told Andy that he could go but that he'd have to get to bed early and eat a good breakfast the next morning because he'd have a big day ahead.

With two large wooden barrels on a mudboat, which is a big sled, old Maude, the horse, grandad, and Andy went to the woods to gather sugar water.

Yesterday grandad had bored small holes in the old sugar maple trees, driven the spiles into the holes, and on each he placed a two-gallon galvanized, bucket with a lid.

Drip! Drip! Drip! The cool clear sugar water filled the buckets.

Late February in Indiana is maple syrup time and the best weather is when it's real cold one day and warms up quickly the next day.

Old Maude still had a heavy coat of black hair and nature was rubbing that off in spots getting ready for the spring ahead.

Grandad gave the lines to Andy and said, "It's time you learned to drive a horse, son."

It gave Andy a great feeling of power to guide the horse and sled over the light coat of black mud, through piles of brown leaves, over pieces of fallen limbs, and patches of snow.

"Now, Andy, when you want Maude to stop, pull back on the lines and yell, 'Whoa!' and she will stop. When you want her to go, you just holler, 'Gid Up!'"

"By the way, son, you do know your left hand from your right, don't you?"

"Of course I do, Grandad."

"Well, which ever way you want to go, just pull the line on that side and old Maude will turn."

What good is it to know how to drive a horse if you don't use what you know, thought Andy. So in a loud voice he yelled, "Whoa!" And it worked. Old Maude stopped. Then, "Gid up," and off they drove to the first tree. Grandad lifted the bucket off the tree and Andy could see that it was almost full. Then he emptied it into one of the barrels on the sled.

Andy drove to many trees stopping as close as he could so grandad didn't have to carry the bucket so far. He noticed that some buckets were quite full and some almost empty. He asked grandad why this was.

"Well, Andy, out here in the woods there are animals. Coons, possums, and squirrels live here, and they sometimes find a way to lift the lid and drink the sugar water. It's like candy to them. So, what little they drink, we can say we're kinda dividing with them. Do you think that's fair?"

"I Sure do, Grandad. I like animals."

Both barrels were almost full and Maude had all she could pull, so grandad took the lines and headed toward the sugar camp.

"What's a sugar camp, Grandad? Is it like an Indian camp?" Andy asked.

"No, it's not like that, son. It's just an old shack of a building with boards nailed up on the north and west sides to keep the wind out. That's where we make the syrup out of this water we're gathering."

"When did the sugar camp start, Grandad?"

"Well, son, it probably started when these trees were young. I know your great-grandfather used it and every generation since, and now you are helping."

"Whoa! Andy, run and get that large bucket, will you?" Andy watched grandad dip the sugar water out of the barrels and pour it into a vat which was about three feet wide and eight feet long set directly over a trench dug out of the ground. Many long hours had to be spent tending the fire to boil the sugar water until fifty gallons were boiled down to one gallon of good maple syrup.

"Grandad, can I Help you tomorrow at the sugar camp?" Andy asked.

"It's all right with me, son, if your mother don't care. Tomorrow it will be getting thicker and you can get a taste of syrup that we have worked all day for."

Rubbing the sleep out of his eyes, Andy was ready by the time grandad had the chores done.

They didn't need Maude today, so grandad and Andy walked; they followed the path around back of the barn and on down over a thin crust of frozen ground that crunched under their boots with almost every step.

Building a fire in one end of the trench out of dry boards, grandad pushed the fire to the far end under the vat and added limbs as big as telephone poles. Soon the sugar water was bubbling and steaming. To Andy, the good, sweet smell was really mouth-watering, although sometimes the vapor got so thick you could hardly see.

Noon came and grandad dropped four large eggs into the boiling sugar water.

"What's that for, Grandad?" Andy asked.

"They're to eat, son. They'll be hard-boiled in a jiffy and it won't hurt the syrup a bit. Aren't you hungry?" In a matter of minutes he dipped them, peeled them, and put salt and pepper on them. Andy thought they really tasted good.

As the hours wore on, the little fellow got tired of standing around and watching the syrup boiling, so he went down the hill to a little brook. He looked for fish but didn't see any; he picked up some rocks and threw them. It was fun just watching the water splash.

From time to time, grandad skimmed the foam off and soon the job was done--two gallons of delicious maple syrup.

It had been a long day and grandad sensing that a six-year-old must be pretty tired and weary, said, "Well, boy, we'll be gettin' on home now. You just climb up on my back, put your arms around my neck, and you can ride piggy-back. You can tell grandma all about it in the morning." Andy wouldn't admit it but he'd been sort of dreading the long walk home. The smile on his face was one of relief. It sure was great to have a grandad like his.

H C H S

LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO SATURDAYS

By ZONA WALKER

Weekdays and Sundays are, for the most part, still very much like they were 50 years ago. Schools and churches have changed almost beyond belief, but most of the younger generation still goes to the one during the week and the other on Sunday.

Of course, they no longer plod through mud, dust or knee-deep snow to get there. And changes, just about as drastic, have been made in how their time is occupied after they get there. Still, in the main the basic routine of those days hasn't changed too much.

But Saturdays--!

Saturday began at twelve noon by the clock. The kids had their tub bath, and they were ready for the trip to the streets. The town marshal with his push cart and broom had swept main street clean.

The teenage girls were in town by that time and would be promenading up two blocks, then down the other side. And no one would have on jeans, hot pants or be barefooted. They would have one of their most becoming dresses, patent leather slippers and a nice hand bag. Now this promenade would last until eleven or eleven-thirty that night.

The country boys would come to town with their rubber tired buggies clean and shiney. And what was as stylish as a cut-a-way buggy with rubber tires and a well curried driving horse? These boys would group together to talk to the girls or even maybe join in the promenading. The farmers, clean shaven, would come to town to talk over the farm situation, get a cold drink from the town pump which was located by Hope's Cafe.

All the weighty problems of the day would be cussed and discussed. And you can bet that taxes was bitterly torn apart and more cattle was raised on the main street than ever on the farm. Conflicting opinions were argued until milking time.

Now was the time for the high lights of Saturday. The band stand was pushed to the center of main street (and whatever became of that bandstand?) and the North Salem Band would gather around under the leadership of one of the Waters musicians. Any of the Waters family could and did fill in on any instrument. There were Fred and Ed Hadley; Lee, Warder and Walter Huckstep, Brewer Clay, Charley Fleece, Glen and Ardith Waters and we could go on and on down to the present generation with the same names. There has been no dearth of good musicians in North Salem. They played all the old time favorites with gusto such as "Poet and Peasant" along with "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The kids played, visited and fought the entire evening. The townspeople and the farmers filled the stores to get their week's staples with no thought of shopping in nearby towns. This went on until after World War I.

Now the movie craze had come to town. The merchants banded together and each Saturday night a free movie was given on the street. We will have you know that everybody brought his own stool to sit in comfort. We watched them all. It was the only time the kids were quiet. We saw every movie that was seen in Indianapolis. We just saw it at a later date. That ran its course.

Then the annual dance craze struck the town. Not to be outdone, young Ed Ragland rigged up a record player along with an amplifier and they all danced right on main street. You could hear the "Beer Barrel Polka" and "The Merry-go-round Broke Down" clear down to Barnard and even the "Guitar Rag." People came from far and near. The streets would be filled with laughing, happy folksy people. And believe it or not "Ding" Smith, John Beeson and even Emmons Clay could shake a wicked hip. Sophisticated couples from Danville would come to enjoy the fun. So it was decided to build a dance platform (Wonder whatever became of that dance floor) to be used in the streets and every couple in town used it.

Then along came the Great Depression. We had to look for ways and means to furnish entertainment. So we arranged out-door fun for everybody. With a piano on a platform the Stewart sisters, Ina, Ethie and Juanita sang just about as good as the Andrews sisters. A Dillon family came from Lebanon who were equal to a good

vaudeville act. The well-liked and respected Russell Wynkoop, a bass singer whom we thought was as good as Harry Louder would lead group singing and Charles Clay and Crit Waters could really enhance the singing.

And while all this fun was going on there usually would be a good poker game in an isolated room somewhere. Each to his own! We don't suppose anyone was hurt by the games of chance. We just happened to mention this so our readers will know that Saturday night could be fun when we are with congenial company.

All in all, anyway you look at it the Saturday of that age certainly doesn't hold much resemblance to the Saturday of today. Since yesterday, all these things are gone. And so have the free movies and the five cent ice cream sodas.

Now the Saturday nights are so quiet you can hear a whippoorwill call and long about three o'clock of a morning one hears the automobiles slowing toward home.

H C H S

BROWNSBURG JUNIORS

This year we have twenty members in the Brownsburg High School History Club. We started this year's activities off by decorating a car for the Homecoming Parade. Two officers and a club member attended the annual I.J.H.S. workshop at Springmill. They met many people and got numerous ideas for club projects.

We have had two speakers this year. The first one was Mrs. Ray McClain, who spoke to us on how you do an architectural survey. Some club members visited her home so they could become familiar with what they were looking for.

Our other speaker spoke to us about the Civil War. Indiana in the Civil War is our project for this year's I.J.H.S. convention. We are also making plans for the model United Nations, which we sponsor each year.

We are proud to have one of our members, Mike Lynch, running for office in the I.J.H.S.

Cindy Brabec
President

H C H S

AN UNSUNG MARION TOWNSHIP SOLDIER

By JOE H. DAVIDSON

When I was a youngster starting my first year in a rural, red brick school, I passed the John Martin orchard and "wasn't it pleasant brother mine" to clamber over a high rail fence as we went and came and fill coat pockets and both hands full of autumn Rambos, or white Pearmaine that had a faint green skin but to bite into one there was pure gold and a delightful flavor. John was our nearest neighbor. His house sat on a hill and ours on a hill a quarter mile east and a wide creek valley of pasture land was in between.

John Martin came years ago out of Kentucky. He was a short man with a pleasant face, the keenest dark eyes I've ever known and he always wore a thick gray mustache. He had a by-word that he used when he talked and he was an interesting and rather excitable talker. To start his conversation on most any subject he started with "By-Dogs" or "Dog-my-Cats". That always tickled my brother Frank and I and mother put a stop to us using John's words at home in our talk with each other.

John was a Civil War veteran and as we boys grew older we loved to hear him talk of his experiences. At one time as we sat on a grassy bank in pleasant sunshine I asked him what it was like starting into a battle. He laughed and started his talk. "By Dogs boys, I can tell you something what it was like. You've gone in swimmin' 'fore now and the water was cold. Ever step you went in a little deeper and you caught yer breath and waited afore you took another. Well sir, a goin'

into battle was about the same way with me. A Maine ball would whine overhead and I'd dodge, and catch my breath like I was saddin' cold water and stop a minute. After a time when firin' came close a feller got over his scare." In John's first big battle he found himself at a cross roads and in a corner sat a small white church and cemetery. About the lot was a plank fence. He, with dozens of other Union men stretched themselves out behind the fence and as the Johnny-Rebs came closer heavy firing got under way. John and others about him had heavy Springfield muzzle-loading rifles and in that first battle John as well as others fired a volley and then reloaded. John slapped his pants leg and said, "Dog my Cats boys; you know I was so excited I forgot to pull my steel ram rod from the gun and shot both ram rod and bullet. Well, the Rebels was jist as excited for when the battle ended that plank fence was filled with ram rods bent, straight and ever which way."

"I'd been in a half year or more "he once told us" and we had a pretty severe skirmish. I seed the Rebs a commin' on the run and I knew I'd better git. Me and a dozen other fellers started and I could run like a deer and blamed if all of us run into a whole line of Confederates. That was a hard day fer me, one of the worst in my life for not long after my capture I was sent to Andersonville, Georgia and here I lived and starved for 13 long months."

After six or eight months a prisoner his clothing was in rags and he had lice. His food was a pint of corn meal a day and it was up to him and others to eat it raw or wet it and bake it over a camp fire. John was put on a detail to help pick up those who had died during the night and haul them to a wooded field, then on the return bring limbs and chunks to keep up their fires.

When John was ready to leave this stinking prison he had his army cap on his head and not a stitch on his body. As he once said, "I was as naked as the day I was born."

He came home to tall, dark eyed Jane and boys but he was so near a walking skeleton it was hard for them to know him as husband and father. He told Jane that for countless days and nights in Andersonville he had longed for and dreamed of a particular food. He asked that a dozen goose eggs be soft boiled for him to eat with corn bread and Jane, the simple soul, did as he asked. Long before he had finished half of them he became sick and was about to die when the doctor arrived. He and wife found that in his starved condition he would have to take food in small quantities until used to it.

He was a south Marion Township, Hendricks County citizen. For years he lived in a moderate brown house and farmed his small acreage. He swapped work with the neighbors about him his age. Jane and all his boys died save one. His last days as I recall were spent at the Soldiers Home. I can see him yet today; short, bow-legged, working beside grandfather Harris shocking wheat, and as they set up shocks I can hear him say, "By dogs Joe, when you and I were growin' up there was no binder to cut and bind the wheat we had to cradle it and tie it by hand, remember?" Grandpa smiled and remembered.

H C H S

BETHEL LUTHERAN (SCHERER) CEMETERY

Township 14N Range 2W Section 12 SE quarter

Daggy, Polly Ann - June 30, 1846 (Died) 21-0-10
in memory

Marshall, Louisa - June 16, 1829 (Born) Jan. 14, 1857 (Died) 27-6-28
wife of A. Marshall

Reitzel, Deborah - Aug. 6, 1849 (Died) 41-10-16
wife of David Reitzel

Reitzel, Eli F. - Mar. 7, 1850 (Died) 5-1-3
son of David and Deborah Reitzel

Sanders, Martha Ann - Sept. 14, 1862 (Died) 25-8-11
 wife of D.S. Sanders
 Scherer, Flora Ettie - April 11, 1863 (Died) 3-5-10
 daughter of Luther and Catherine
 Scherer, John - July 27, 1799 (Born) Dec 26, 1891 (Died) 92-4-29
 Scherer Margaret - July 13, 1860 (Died) 59-0-0
 wife of John
 Soots, Dayton F. - Dec. 16, 1862 (Died) 0-9-24
 son of A. and N. J. Soots
 Soots, Nancy J. - Jan. 6, 1863 (Died) 43-0-0
 Soots, Tobias F. - Dec. 24, 1861 (Died) 21-11-0

Co. A 51 Ind Vol.

H C H S

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H C H S

BELLEVILLE ACADEMY

About the first thing that engaged the thought of the primitive Hoosier, after he had felled the forests around his cabin, and scared the wolf and bear from his door, was the education of his children. With his full share of that noble trait of American character, self-sacrificing devotion to posterity, he set about to build a shelter wherein the spiritual nature of his child might keep apace with the muscular hardihood acquired in clearing, improving and cultivating the virgin fields of our State.

The primitive Hoosier school-house with its gaping fire-place, stick-and mud chimney, puncheon floor and seats, greased paper windows, bunch of beech switches, and all of the paraphernalia that went to make up the school organism of early days, was, doubtless, not the most inviting place for the spiritual development of the child, yet it was the best the times afforded; it was as good in its way as this splendid building is at this time, the best under the circumstances.

Away back in the '30s or '40s the good Hoosier fathers of this community began war upon the strongholds of ignorance by erecting a fortress of learning like the one described above; later this log house was supplanted by a frame building which stood in the southeast part of this town, about a square east and a few rods north of W.C. Swindler's saw mill. When the Academy was built, this frame building was moved to Cartersburg, and now stands in the northeast part of that place---just as you go down the hill toward the bridge.

Early in the '50s--'51 or '52, perhaps-- the question of building and maintaining an Academy agitated the minds of the people of Belleville and vicinity, and through the earnest efforts of a number of public-spirited men, such as Dr. L. H. Kennedy, John Miles, Thomas Irons, James Hadley, Dr. R. C. Moore and others, a stock company was formed. This was entirely a private enterprise, as there was no law at that time for building and maintaining a public school. The entire capital of the association was to be \$5,000. a single share \$25.. The articles of association were written by a lawyer of Danville named, Witherow. Through the earnest and persistent efforts of Dr. L. H. Kennedy, now of Danville, enough shares were subscribed to make the erection of a building sure.

One of the largest stockholders in the association was John Miles who subscribed 12 shares of \$300. Early in 1853 the work on the new building was begun, and on the night of July 23, 1853, the structure was dedicated by Gov. Joseph Wright with all the ceremony incident to such occasions. But school did not open in the new building for four months after its completion.

A few days before the dedication, a young Kentuckian named L. M. Campbell, who had come to Indiana to seek his fortune and his fame, opened a school in the frame schoolhouse, mentioned above. This school continued under Mr. Campbell until November following when a partnership was formed with Prof. J. R. Woodfill of Ripley Co. Indiana, by which Messrs. Woodfill and Campbell were to conduct a school and each have equal responsibilities and equal profits. So on the 21st of November, 1853, Mr. Campbell marched his entire school from the old frame to the new brick building and with Mr. Woodfill began the first term that was ever taught in the Old Academy.

After teaching eight days, Mr. Woodfill had to return to Ripley County on account of sickness in his family, and the responsibility of the entire school rested on Mr. Campbell, then a youth of twenty years. With that energy and self-reliance that rides over difficulties, young Campbell put himself to the task, held the school intact for a number of weeks--though the number of pupils was constantly increasing--and on the return of Woodfill the term of three months was finished, after which Mr. Campbell repaired to Danville and hung out his shingle as a lawyer.

Prof. Woodfill again had charge of the school in 1854, assisted by a Mr. Reece and Capt. W. C. Mitchell, of Clayton. The attendance was constantly increasing, the enrollment having reached nearly 200, 40 or 50 of whom were from other parts of the county and state. The course of study widened also. Latin, Greek, ancient, medieval and modern history, higher arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, philosophy and chemistry were all taught, besides the common branches.

In 1855 or '56 the school was in charge of Messrs. Bassett and Davis, and still maintained its reputation.

From '56 to '58 Mr. Davis and Samuel Banta, a brother of Mrs. Dr. Moore, conducted the school and carried a heavy course of study.

Mr. Bonney, now a Baptist minister of Plainfield, assisted by Miss Allie Banta, now Mrs. Moore, had charge of the School, and was followed in 1860 by J. N. Searce, afterwards county examiner and editor of the Hendricks County Union. Nathan Searce, now of Danville, had charge in 1861.

But already the mutterings of war were heard in the land. John Brown, that forerunner and pioneer of one of the greatest reformations that has occurred in the last eighteen hundred years, together with his 21 companions, had been murdered in Virginia. The torch that was soon to touch the first gun that was fired on Fort Sumpter was already in traitor hands.

Secret plots for the destruction of the Union were rife. The life of "Honest Abe" who held malice toward none, and charity for all, was threatened. With this condition of affairs the school waned. The integrity of the Union and the honor of the flag must be maintained. Many a noble youth who might have made his mark in the field of science or letters, turned from his study table and offered up his life on the field of battle. He changed the student's coat for the soldier's suit of blue. He turned from the flickering flame of the student's lamp to the red glare of the campfire and the cannon. He turned from his assaults upon the strongholds of ignorance to an assault upon the fortresses of slavery. The lessons of patriotism and loyalty which had been inoculated into the minds of the students of the dear old Academy during the decade preceding were now turned to good account. The school waned--but slavery died.

The school was in charge of Oliver Lindley in 1862. And in 1864 Edw. Lotshar, son of our respected townsman, Samuel Lotshar, had control. Ed Lotshar was afterward a prominent business man in Cincinnati, and is now deceased.

Prof. A. J. Johnson, the son of Mr. Johnson who lives about a mile and a half north of here, was principal from '65 to '67. Prof. Johnson was afterwards county examiner, and is now, I believe, superintendent of the schools of Milton, Ind. The school has never had a more faithful and thorough teacher than Prof. Johnson. W. C. Banta was principal in 1867, followed by J. H. Orear in '68 and J. A. Thomas in '69.

Prof. Boisen and Brovard had control in 1870. Prof. Boisen had been an instructor in Harvard University, and Prof. Brovard is now president of the State University of California.

Mr. William Short, now a prominent farmer and stockman near Webster City, Iowa, was principal from 1872 to 1874. Mr. Short was one of the best disciplinarians the school ever had, and he was respected for this and his thorough instruction. Many of the men of the present day will vouch for Mr. Short's ability to handle large boys.

In '74 and '75 Miss Rachel Holten, afterward wife of Alfred Hadley, was principal, followed by a Mr. Weaver in '75 and '76 and Dr. Thompson of Monrovia, Ind. in '76 and '77.

One of the best thinkers that was ever in the school was James R. Ragan, a graduate of the State Normal School and afterwards principal of the Richmond Normal School. Mr. Ragan served in 1877 and again in 1879. He is now a lumber dealer in Nebraska.

Mr. A. E. Rogers was principal in 1878. Mr. Rogers has since served in this county two terms as county superintendent, and is now a teacher in the Clayton schools.

Robert A. Bayne, at present superintendent of the schools at Hoopston, Ill. had charge from 1880 to 1882. Mr. Bayne's ability as an instructor and his courteous manner added much to the usefulness and attractiveness of the school.

Mr. Bayne was followed by G. W. Brill a lawyer now of Danville and once deputy prosecutor of Hendricks County.

Next came G. W. Peyton in 1883. Mr. Peyton is now in the insurance business in Indianapolis.

The writer of this paper has had charge of the school since 1883, except one year 1887, during which W. J. Shirley, now deceased, was principal. The writer also served as assistant to Mr. Peyton in 1883, and taught a select school in the spring of 1884.

We have now traced a line of the teachers of the school, with its periods of prosperity and adversity, but we have almost neglected the dear old building. But there it stands, ever fresh in our memories; there it stands with its honest front, its wide, glaring windows, its large, airy, inconvenient rooms, the sheltering place of many a noble thought, lesson, and principle; there it stands with its moss-grown, tottering walls, cracked and decayed, still clinging together as if loath to give up the conflict. Well and good had it done its work; tenderly, piece by piece, the old

shell was taken down during the bright days of early summer and laid quietly away. The fittest eulogy that can be pronounced upon it is, that during the frosts and storms of nearly a half century, it was the sheltering place of hundreds of young men and women, who went forth from its portals, quickened and energized by that spiritual strength that fitted them to face the stern realities of life.

Ere I close one thing must not be forgotten. In yonder belfry hangs the old bell, bought nearly fifty years ago by the ladies of this town and vicinity with the proceeds of a festival given by them on the night of the dedication of the Academy building.

Year after year it cleared its rusty throat and sent forth its glad chimes through frost and snow, rain and sunshine, to call the youth together in the old building. Soon again it will begin to work for this new structure.

I have somewhere seen the statement that the vibrations emanating from a sounding body never cease moving, but go on and on, farther and farther, widening and widening, forever. May the influences, lessons and principles given in this new building be like the chimes of the old bell, not stop with our own community, but go on and on, out into the furthestmost parts of the earth, doing good wherever they go.

The old building lived a life of usefulness; may the completion of this new one, so economically and substantially built, usher in an era of better thoughts, then with Holmes we can say:

"Build thee more, stately mansions, oh my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past,
Let each new temple, nobler than the last
Shut thee from Heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!"

Edward Barrett

H C H S

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DANVILLE, INDIANA

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THE GLORIOUS EIGHTH

Fourth of July celebrations will be the topic of discussion at our July meeting which will be held, not on the 4th, but on the 8th of July. Mrs. Roy Fisher will talk about Fourth of July celebrations of the past and she may include a few other gala days. Mrs. Edward Winkleman, chairman of the program committee, doubts that there will be any fire-crackers or sky rockets, or parade of the "Horribles", but she assures us it will be a very lively meeting at the North Salem Christian Church. Mr. Gerald Jones will preside, and the social hour will be in charge of the Eel River and Marion Township groups. For the display table, members are asked to bring pictures and other related articles. Don't miss this meeting. Dr. Crayton, president, tells us that a few important matters must be discussed and decided upon before the program, so please be prompt.

From the Editor.....

I dislike apologies, but this time your Editorial Committee regrets that it is not able to use all the fine material which we have received. First things must come first, and we felt that the progress report of the Sesquicentennial Committee, and the prospectus of the reprint of the 1885 H.C. History, which the organization is considering, although space consuming, were of utmost importance. So other, and, in fact, more interesting material, had to be omitted until another issue. We thank everyone who contributed and we hope to use all material at a later date. It is much nicer to have too much than too little. I will take the blame, but if there is any credit due, please give it to my fine committee...Mrs. Ruth Hall, Mrs. Clara Reitzel and Mrs. Lois Crayton.

Margaret Baker...Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, IN 46122

SESSQUICENTENNIAL CERTIFICATES

In connection with the celebration of the 150th birthday of Hendricks County, April 1, 1974, the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee will issue beautiful certificates to descendants of its Pioneers, Early Settlers, and Old Timers, and special recognition will be given these people during the celebration. Each person who supplies the details of his descent from earlier Hendricks County residents will be awarded a certificate.

Only one certificate will be awarded any one person, but the names of all Hendricks County ancestors will be shown. There will be prizes for the earliest Hendricks County ancestor in each township and town, and also for the one with the most Hendricks County ancestors.

The necessary information to be furnished is the full name of each ancestor, the date and place of birth, marriage, and death, and the date each came to Hendricks County, if not born here. Please send this information to Clark Kellum, Chairman, Sesquicentennial Genealogical Committee, 1435 Stanley Road, Plainfield, In. 46164. This will become a permanent record of your family in the Genealogy files of the Hendricks County Historical Society Museum.

These certificates would make nice surprise Christmas presents, don't you think?

Scott F. Hosier, Jr.
Chairman
Hendricks County Sesqui-centennial Committee

H C H S

THE APRIL MEETING

The Tornado of 1948 was the subject of the April meeting held at the Coatesville United Methodist Church, April 8, when a bumper crowd turned out to reminisce and to recall the horrors of that day. Mr. Harmon Hathaway spoke, showed many pictures that were used in The Coatesville Herald of which he was editor at the time. Mr. Robert Percy, editor of The Danville Gazette also showed pictures and told of the great damage at Danville. The Rev. David Lindsay gave the invocation and the benediction and gave a short organ recital to the delight of all. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Fleenor were responsible for this very fine program.

H C H S

Death claimed another member when Miss May Masten of Amo, passed away the Friends Fellowship Community, Richmond, Indiana, April 1. Miss Masten was a graduate of the former C. N. C. and Purdue University and for many years served as Extension Agent in the 4 H Department for Purdue. She also taught in several Hendricks County schools. Memorial services were held Sunday, April 8 at the Baker Funeral Home, Danville.

H C H S

HOOSIERS IN HENDRICKS QUERY BOX

Mrs. J. B. Nelson, 2913 Oak Ridge Dr., Corsicana, Texas 75110, wants to exchange Trammel genealogy. Marriage record Shadrack Trammel and Nancy Whitson about 1895-98.

Mrs. F. A. Rowden, 1222 Park Ave., La Junta, Col. 81050, would be glad to pay for this information: James Colvin, b. 1795, Ky. moved to In. before 1826, Harrison Co. where he stayed until his death 1860-1870. Can find no will nor cemetery record.

HOOSIERS IN HENDRICKS QUERY BOX

Mrs. Rula D. Cash, 5667 W. Ramsey St., Banning, Cal. 92220 wants information on Enoch Foxworthy m. Julia Ann Wilson Mar. 1871, Hendricks Co. Townsend Wilson b. 1846, North Salem, Hendricks Co. son of Wm. and Jane (Todd) Wilson. Wm. Bryant m. Millie Wilson 1847 Montgomery Co., In. Henry Wilson b. Ky. 1820 Family b. in In. Where? I am working Foxworthy and Bryant lines. Need relationship to Wilson family. Will exchange data.

Mrs. Marion VanGordon, 529 E. 11th St. #J, Upland, Cal. 91786 needs information on Thomas Hardin, b. ca 9 Mar. 1776, Stafford Co., Va. d. 20 Jan. 1863, In. Wife Mary "Polly" Wilson, b. 12 Jan. 1783 N.C., d. 10 Apr. 1855. Where are their ancestors? James Lackey, b. 12 Apr. 1809? d. 12 Feb. 1861 Washington Twp., Hendricks Co., In. Wife Matilda Curry b. ca 1813/14. d. 16 July 1885, B'burg, In. Where are their ancestors? Who were James' parents? Joseph Curry and wife Elizabeth? Who were their parents and family?

H C H S

CENTER VALLEY

by Clara Reitzel

A limestone marker has been erected three miles south of Belleville on State Road 39, with the inscription Center Valley Cemetery. More interesting to some are the words on the reverse side: Site of Friendship Baptist Church 1832--1955, for they recall the heritage left by the first settlers.

One of the pioneers in the Center Valley neighborhood was William M. Craven. He came to Hendricks County in 1826, located land and went back to North Carolina. Two years later he returned with his family. His wife was Jane Barker and some of her brothers and their families also came at this time.

In September 1829, Dorcas Barker, sister of Jane Craven, married Daniel Richardson, in North Carolina. The following is quoted from an article written in 1930 by a seventy-year old grand-daughter of Dorcas and Daniel: Their honeymoon was a trip on horse-back to Indiana. One horse carried them both with all their worldly possessions. It was a long and perilous journey through the wilderness with only a blazed trail. The dense forests were alive with wildcats, panthers and wolves. One evening as they were riding late to find a shelter for the night, a piercing scream broke the stillness of the forest! Looking up they saw a wildcat, ready to jump down on them. But the horse sensed the danger and lunged forward to safety, with only claw marks on his rump. When they arrived in Indiana, they entered land near Center Valley in Hendricks County. They put up a cabin, with help from the few neighbors. One man came from White Lick, near Mooresville; another from Mill Creek, the others were nearer, seven in all.

The following spring they sold this land at a profit and bought 80 acres a mile north of Hazelwood. Here they lived in a rail pen and used a quilt for a door untill they could get a house built. The deed to this land is recorded in 1830. Grandfather paid \$1.25 an acre and earned much of the money by working on the National Road for 35 cents a day. One evening as he was coming home through the forest a wildcat stalked him. He built a fire and stayed by it all night.

"When the cabin was first built it was one room, without floor or door. Again the quilt was used untill they could put up a door with leather hinges, then they felt rich indeed. This cabin was in the woods, no clearing except as Daniel cut trees for use as wood, to split for rails, to make a puncheon floor for the cabin, to make crude farming implements, and make furniture. Soon a second room was added with an attic, a brick chimney was built between the rooms with a stairs on one side and a pantry on the other side of the chimney."

CENTER VALLEY (CONT)

This, with a few changes, would probably describe the life of most of those early pioneers. In a few years the log cabins were replaced with frame houses.

On July 14, 1832, Friendship Primitive Baptist Church was organized at the home of William Craven. The charter members were William Craven and wife Jane, Rahab Craver Beeson Barker, Samuel Barker, Mary Barker, Sallie Barker, Dorcas Richardson, Laban Wood Sophia Wood, James Mason, Charlotte Mason, Nancy Dawes, and Polly Kivett. Elder Beeson Barker was chosen as moderator and William Craven as clerk. It was agreed to hold monthly meetings at the home of William Craven until a meeting house would be built.

An interesting story is told about selecting the location for the new church. Rahab Barker, a young lady living in Center Valley, while milking the family cow one evening, prayed about where the church should be located. Suddenly, she saw a light moving about which settled directly above the little hill where the roads meet just north of the village. Here the log structure was built.

The log house was used for worship until 1856, when a frame structure was built, the logs being used for the foundation. Fifty years later, in 1906, this building was again enlarged into a more commodious church. In 1936 the building was damaged by wind and hail. It was repaired and used awhile longer. During World War II THE CONGREGATION began meeting with the Mount Moriah church west of Hazelwood. A few years later, about 1955, because of vandalism the building was sold and torn down. The money for it was given to the cemetery fund.

One of the unusual features of this congregation is that from the beginning, in 1832, every monthly and business meeting was recorded and has been preserved in legible form.

The custom from the beginning was to hold worship services and monthly business meetings one Saturday morning of each month. At the business meetings, new members were accepted, others dismissed, some excluded if deemed justifiable, trouble among the members investigated, and the purity of the church doctrine preserved. These God-fearing people took their religion seriously, and, in the light of modern standards, may appear stern and uncompromising at times.

They loved to sing. Their first hymn books were the words only and the songs were lined out. No instrument was used and some one gave them the pitch from a tuning fork. Later they had books with shaped notes and most of the people could read music. Some of the songs were "Shall we gather at the river, Down at the cross, Blest be the tie that binds, Jesus Lover of my soul and often they closed with God be with you 'til we meet again."

In the cemetery are the graves of many of these pioneers. There is one soldier of the Revolutionary war buried here, many Civil War Veterans, and of course those from World War I and II. It is cared for by an association of interested people and is well kept. Here lie men, women and children of all ages, spanning the years from 1834 to the present. It is good to visit this place and meditate on our heritage from the past and our blessings of today.

The first store at Center Valley was established by W.R. Craven in a little room which was a part of the blacksmith shop. In 1866 Mr. Craven erected the building which was used until the late 1920's. A brick building was then erected and used for many years as a blacksmith shop. This building still stands on the west side of the road, south of the farm buildings. The Center Valley Post Office was in the old building for years.

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PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

CENTER VALLEY (CONT)

It was established April 30, 1856, and Jesse W. Craven was the first postmaster. He served until July 15, 1857 when Lysander T. Yose was appointed and served until October 14, 1861 when Uriah Ballard was appointed. W. R. Craven was appointed March 25, 1862 and served 17 years until April 16, 1879 when John C. Ferree was appointed. At this time the spelling was changed from Centre to Center Valley. On February 16, 1883, W. R. Carven was again commissioned and served until October 23, 1886 when he resigned. The postmasters since that time were William J. York, October 23, 1886 to Mar. 10, 1887 Douglas Rushton, March 10, 1887 to August 14, 1888; Thomas R. Hawkins August 14, 1888 to February 8, 1892; Adolphus Mann 1892 to February 16, 1894. Columbus E. Johnson February 8, 1894 to October 31, 1902. At this time rural service was started out from Clayton and the post office at Center Valley was discontinued. A ghost town? Yes.

Another interesting item about this section of the county. Center Valley was in Morgan County when the post office was first established. In 1868 the residents south of county road 900 W petitioned to have a two mile strip east of Mill Creek to the present east boundary of the County taken from Morgan County and annexed to Hendricks. Originally the southern boundry of Hendricks had no offset.

H C H S

This is an article published in "The Bulletin" Wednesday April 22, 1857
by W.C. Green, Editor

VISIT TO PLAINFIELD

On last Friday we took Hack passage, and after a ride of about an hour, hauled up at Cartersburg. A ride on KEENEY'S Hack is a good treat, without anything further, but being of a nature that when enjoying a luxury, we pray for a continuance, and that nature not flagging on the morning in question, we further sought to gratify it. Cartersburg is a neat business little town of about one hundred and fifty inhabitants, located immediately on the Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad, and is the shipping point for Danville and much of the country back of us. Quite a business spirit has grown in the village of which Messrs. Shirts & Hornaday are reaping a good profit. After sauntering around Cartersburg for an hour or so, the Terre Haute train came along, and we jumped aboard. The accommodating and ever-attentive Conductor, Mr. P. McNulty, was on hands, and under his charge the Engineer "blew up the brakes," and the train sped on, snorting and cavorting along like a lion just let loose. Ten minutes brought us to Plainfield. Here we got off and proceeded to the town. We first proceeded to the tavern of Mr. Johnson, and took dinner, which was got up in good style, and we satisfied our craving stomach enormously.

Plainfield is quite a town--contains some three or four hundred inhabitants, with a goodly number of stores, groceries, shops, and such other establishments as go to make up a flourishing inland town. The citizens are intelligent, thrifty and industrious-- composed mostly of the Society of Friends, who are proverbially industrious, intelligent and enterprising. There is a high School in this place well sustained, and in a condition that places its permanency, as the lawyers say, "beyond a reasonable doubt." The country round the town is of the very best quality of land, and susceptible of the highest cultivation -- which, in many cases, it is receiving. In this vicinity the fields were most all plowed and ready for "laying off" for corn. We saw no preparations making for sowing oats, and from what we could learn, think there will not be much cats sown. This however, is a grain not much used in the portion of the State -- hay and straw taking the place.

VISIT TO PLAINFIELD (CONT)

We remained in Plainfield during the night, and was made a partaker of the hospitalities of the clever and gentlemanly Dr. Ritter, with whom we gaily passed the hours. Time swiftly passed, and morning came, and with it we again looked about the town. The building for the Yearly Meeting of the Friends is soon to be commenced here, and when finished will be a great attraction to the place. The great increase of the church has made a division necessary, and one class will meet yearly at Plainfield, and the other continue at Richmond. We are pleased to notice that a great many members of the Society are moving into our county, and purchasing land with the design of settling. This Society will do much to advance the importance of our county, and build up an enterprising spirit.

From Plainfield we took the Indianapolis train, and in a few moments found ourself in the Railroad City. Here everything looked dull, as though not much business was doing. We done our business, partook of a most excellent dinner at the Bates, and returned on the 2 o'clock train to Cartersburg, reaching Danville about four o'clock Saturday evening.

Mrs. Ruth Hall

H C H S

THE 1885 HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY

The Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc., is sponsoring a reproduction of "The History of Hendricks County, Indiana," printed in 1885 by the Interstate Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill.

Many of the earliest settlers left former homes in protest of slavery. They also sought better economic advantages. Their thrift, integrity, endurance and strong religious principles made citizens of whom posterity can well be proud.

The more than 755 pages of this history tell of mills, shops, crafts, trades, agriculture, transportation and roads. It contains chapters on each of the twelve townships, 374 biographical sketches of representative citizens and other articles on towns, churches, schools, lodges, government institutions, professions and 74 pages of "Patriotic Roll of Civil War Soldiers".

This good record progresses from the primitive cabins in the dense forest to the comfortable dwellings of later decades.

The construction of the "Cumberland Road" through it's southern section, put Hendricks County on the path of the great migration. Thus Hendricks County History rates a close study by descendants of perservering ancestors who remained but also by descendants of passers-through.

Prepublication price is \$14.50 until November 1, 1973. After that date the price will be \$16.50. Delivery date is scheduled for December 1, 1973. Checks can be made to Hendricks County Historical Society, Incorporated, in care of Blanche Wean, treasurer.

Mrs. Roy H. Pritchard,
Secretary

DANVILLE - A HALF CENTURY AGO

When you are in your late 60's and have recently returned to Danville after having lived elsewhere for 45 years, there is quite a tendency to reminisce. As a result, I feel inclined at times to mentally walk around Danville and see it as it was 55 or 60 years ago when I was a small boy.

I notice some familiar names like, for instance, the Danville State Bank, the First National Bank, Thompson Drug Company, Danville Gazette, and The Republican.

The faces of course are a little different because there used to be a Will Osborne, a Charlie Cook, and an Amos Harvey at the First National Bank; there was O. M. Piersall, Hardie Towell, and Cly Humpston at the Danville State Bank. At Thompson's there was Cy Thompson and Guy Kelleher. Down at the Gazette, there was Will King; and at the Republican, Julian D. Hogate.

I can recall the Interurban Line and the old Terre Haute-Indianapolis and Eastern Traction Company depot across from the Library.

It seems a little strange that there were five stores selling dry goods and notions. Joe Hess and the Danville Progress; Dick Hamburger and the Schwartz Department Store; Shirley and Showalter; James McCoun Dry Goods Company and Merriman and Wasson. These weren't all the clothing stores because S. M. Hendricks sold mens and boys clothing and the one and only F. Brewer Hadley and his House of Hadley sold mens clothing.

Without a supermarket any place, we could boast the John Edwards Grocery; the William Pierson Grocery; the Christie Grocery; the Yaller Front Grocery Store owned by Mr. Darnell and painted, as you can imagine, "yaller".

As drug stores besides the Thompson Drug Company, we had the Red Cross Drug Store owned by Ray Redeiffer; and Townsley and Majors (Mrs. Majors brother Charles was the author of "When Knighthood Was In Flower") and later the Parrish Drug Company.

We had the Newman Hardware Store and Snyders Hardware Store.

Humphrey Thompson had a bakery as did "Granny" Beck and later Henry Hamilton all had bakeries, and their products were out of this world. It may sound a little bit strange but we also had a cigar store owned by Charles McClelland a buggy and harness shop owned by Frank Christie; two livery stables, a meat market; two milliner stores and jewelry stores owned by Eugene Wilhite; one owned by Jasper W. Thompson and later Newlin Jewelry Store.

There were two shoe repair shops, one owned by two Italian boys named Frank and George Catanzarite, and the "All American Shoe Repair Shop" owned by William Walton.

Ed Crawley, Beat Wilson, and Ramie Wear all had poolrooms.

Ed Crawley has a restaurant. There was the East Side Restaurant. There was Campbell's Restaurant and an ice cream parlor and candy store owned by two Greek boys named Angel and Phillip Carnegie. This spot later became the "Kozy Kandy Kitchen".

Mickey McCarty and Bill Wheeler had barber shops.

Up above the harness and buggy shop in the old county fair building which is now Danners, there was a hall enclosed with wire fencing where Danville High School played its first inside basketball game.

Scott McCurdy had a wagon and buggy repair shop; Ridgeway had a meat market; Ray McDaniel had a feed store; Dr. Louis Armstrong had a hospital in his residence; there was a creamery where the Moose Lodge is now located and next to that Roy Randolph had a lumber store, and the center of the square was dominated by a red brick court house where the roof fell in during a heavy snowstorm.

I recall 13 doctors including one homeopath, one osteopath, and two chiropractors.

Strange as it may seem, there were no filling stations, no mortuaries, no ambulance service, no truck delivery service, no laundromat's, no antique shops, no rock shops but we will admit to at least two saloons.

John Stevens operated a one-horse dray, and picked up freight at the traction station and at the Big Four freight house south of town.

When Central Normal College had its big enrollment, there were several boarding houses but there is no need to try to explain a boarding house or the prices they charged for meals to anyone in 1973.

Danville had its own telephone company and its own power and light company, and both utilities operated fairly well.

The water company was owned by the town and they still pumped the water from the wells at the foot of the old college hill where the pumping station is now located and pumped it into the standpipe that still stands in the same location. Pumping was done however by steam operated pumps and nobody had ever heard tell of an electrical operated pump which now does the job.

There of course were no television and radio shops. Neither were there any appliance stores because appliances just hadn't been invented.

I might end this by saying we paid \$355.00 for our first Ford touring car and my father frequently stopped on the way home to buy 25¢ worth of steak and a 5¢ loaf of bread.

John T. Hume, Jr.

H C H S

THE FURNASES OF HENDRICKS COUNTY, ET. AL.

A few weeks ago a rather special book was presented to Dr. Maynard K. Hine for the library of the Indiana University School of Medicine. It is entitled "The Practice of Medicine on Thomasonian Principles, adapted as well to the use of families as to that of the practitioner, containing a biographical sketch of Dr. Thomson."

Pasted on the inside front cover is an explanation supplied by Dr. Isaac Lester Furnas, great grandson of a man who with little formal education and certainly no higher education at all cared for the physical bodies of early settlers in Indiana. The explanation is as follows:

"Isaac Furnas was born in Newbery, S. C., in 1795. The family, devout Quakers, bitterly opposed to slavery, moved to Indiana in 1826 where he bought 160 acres of land from the government fifteen miles west of Indianapolis for \$1.25 per acre. He cleared the land and became a successful farmer. In his diary he writes that his wife became 'debilitated' and he took her to Indianapolis to a doctor..a long trip in those days. The doctor advised him that his wife would require more treatments. This he wanted to avoid and he decided to send to Cincinnati for a book on medicine covering all diseases and exactly how to make all medicine for treatment.

"He studied carefully his wife's symptoms and began treating her and she immediately recovered. This news traveled rapidly throughout the neighborhood and when a neighbor became ill he immediately came to him for help.

"I now quote from his diary."

'At last I saw that I must quit trying to farm and practice medicine too, so I took my hand from the plow and took up the practice of medicine which I attended to closely for thirty years.'

"He traveled by horseback and had calls as far north as South Bend and as far south as Louisville, Ky."

"He died in the year 1880 and is buried south of Bridgeport (by his wife, Esley) which is located on the farm which he originally bought from the government."

"THIS IS HIS BOOK."

However, Dr. Furnas did not rely wholly on this book. There is also a small leather-bound notebook - nothing elegant, just a serviceable binding that could have been cut from a home-tanned hide. It contains the doctor's own "receipts" for medications and instructions for treatment. I quote only one:

"Cancer Plaster"

"Take equal parts of Red oak and whitash bark both inside and outside half bushel of each the same quantity of Red corn cobs burn them all together on some clean rock put the ashes into a pot boil the ashes till the strength is obtained let it settle pore off the lye clean the pot put the lye back add a handfull of pokerroot and a handfull of pocoonroot (?) both washed and scraped clean boil till the strength is extracted take out the roots boil over a slow fire till it becomes about as thick as thin tar bottle for use. Application. Take lint on cotton rell one end to hold in the finger put some of the above medicine on the other and apply it to the cancer dont let the plaster quite cover the cancer for it will kill at the side as well as inward this plaster should stay on ten minutes. Then apply another new one every ten minutes for forty to sixty is enough to kill any Cancer when the last plaster is taken off wash the place with milk and water warm then anoint with sweet oial then apply some healing plaster dress it twice a day wash and anoint with sweet oial each time it is dressed in about ten days if any of the cancer appears not sufficiently kild apply a little of the plaster again then wash and anoint as before. N.B. It is best to anoint with oial around the Cancer before the plaster is put on. 2nd mo 11th 1850 Isaac Furnas"

A question arises with respect to the book recently presented to the Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Isaac Lester Furnas was sure it had belonged to his great grandfather and assumed it was the original book ordered from Cincinnati. However, from the date on the "Cancer Plaster" in the notebook (1850) and the date of publication of the book (1853) we would suggest that there was an earlier medical book. Since Isaac Furnas died in 1880 at the age of 85, having practiced medicine for thirty years, he must have begun practice somewhat before the publication date of the book.

The Great Log-Roll

The scene now shifts to a farm two miles south and 1½ miles west of Danville. The time is June 2, 1877. The central characters are Dr. Allen Furnas, son of Dr. Isaac Furnas (the two other sons were John and Isaac) and Governor James Williams. Miles J. Furnas, grandson of Dr. Isaac, was eleven years old at the time and living a short distance south of the center of activity. This is his account of the event:

"In the early 70's Uncle Allen Furnas served two terms in the Indiana Legislature also James Williams was the Representative from Knox County."

"Williams was a Democrat of the old school. He and Uncle Allen became close firends. Both were farmers and both had cleared the land where they were located, and both took great pride in their ability to tell the logs and build large log heaps that they would burn."

"They often discussed just how or what was the best method to follow. Sometimes they did not agree. On one of the occasions when they differed on the proper method to follow it ended in a challenge. It was agreed that the one who had the first piece of ground to be cleared the other would come and help and see which had the best method."

"In the meantime Williams was elected Governor of Indiana. He was known as 'Blue Jeans Williams' because all of his clothes were made of blue jeans cloth."

"It so happened that Uncle Allen had 10 acres of land that he wanted cleared and he notified the Governor and reminded him of their challenge. The Governor replied that he would be glad to come and help but he must have a good yoke of oxen to work with."

"A date was agreed to. Somehow the word got out and the papers all over Indiana published it giving the date."

"The Governor's reply arrived at Uncle Al's farm early and they started to work, but before long people began to arrive from all over Indiana. By ten o'clock A.M. over 4,000 people were on hand watching Uncle Al and the Governor roll logs. Each had his own ox team."

"Reporters were on hand to write it up for various papers. This was the largest log rolling ever held in Indiana and claimed by many the largest in the United States."

"The ten acres of ground that they cleared is known to this day as 'the Governor's patch' is located about four miles southwest of Danville on the ALLEN FURNAS FARM. (Mrs. Myrtle Rodney, who has lived in the big white frame house built by the Furnases for about sixty years, states that she has always understood that the "Governor's Patch" is the one on the southwest corner of the intersection of 200S and 125W.)

"There is a large picture of this in the Court House in Danville, Indiana."

"Blue Jeans Williams beat Ben Harrison for Governor of Indiana by about 6,000 votes."

The Danville Union reporter, Ira C. Nicholson, set the attendance figure at 1,000 or 1,500; the correspondent of the Indianapolis Herald said "at least 2,000."

The newspaper stories differ from that of Miles J. Furnas in other respects. They refer to the host as "Dr. Furnas." We do not know whether this Allen Furnas practiced medicine at all. He may have simply been called Dr. because of his father. He was principally a farmer, who served two terms in the State Legislature and was agricultural columnist for the Danville Union.

The Indianapolis Herald employed its most florid prose and turned to its reserves of knowledge of classical mythology to do justice to the occasion:

"Danville was as still as the tomb of the Capulets after the tragedy. Its citizens and the neighbors of the surrounding country had been half mad with excitement for a week or more before the day of the 'roll'. Nothing of such stupendous importance had ever 'come off' in that section, and expectation and anticipation drove the public pulse at a rattling race. The siege of Troy or the ruin of the Philistine

Temple never created half the homage from mortals that this rural entertainment did. The Homeric demigods never received half the homage from mortals that our own Blue Jeans did...When he sprang lightly to the ground, the two thousand guests of the rolling opened their dulcet throats simultaneously and gave him a welcome. Every chicken, hog, dog, frog and he-cat joined in the circus. The Governor showed his appreciation by turning a somersault and alighting on his heels, which he then raised high in the air and cracked together with a loud and firm "cock-a-doodle-do."

"After prayers, the "long roll" was beaten, and the work was commenced ...After he had rolled four hundred and thirty-three logs and had fagged the oxen to a standing point and toned his spirit down to Fahrenheit, buttermilk, whey, and 'swankey' (a mixture of vinegar, molasses, and water) were passed to the crowd."

Probably only our oldest citizens have ever seen a log-roll and burning in Indiana. In these days of conservation of natural resources it would be the next thing to a capital offense. But the pioneers had to produce feed grains in order to survive; they couldn't do it in a forest.

The report in the Danville Union provides a few clues as to how it was done. The area to be cleared was called a "deadning" - two or three acres of ground plentifully scattered over with logs which had been previously "niggered" off. On this particular occasion the equipment consisted to "two teams of oxen, an abundance of handspikes and a barrel of unadulterated ice-water." When everything was ready, Dan Tucker, master of ceremonies, "mounted a log, announced the purposes of the gathering and requested every fellow to doff his coat, get a spike and 'let's roll these logs, gentlemen.'"

With the help of many hands and the two ox teams, 433 logs had been piled in 15 heaps to be burned. The Governor in a speech following the rolling said: "I have seen some men that would put the fire on top and burn them from the top to the bottom; but dry logs next to it, and the wet, sobby ones on top, so that the blaze will go up through and dry them out."

The handspikes were rods used for prying or lifting, as a crowbar would be used. C. V. Edmondson tells me that there was also a "cant hook," a seven-foot hickory lever with a metal spike at the end. A "peavey" was similar, with an adjustable curved hook near the end. Logs were sometimes piled as high as thirty feet.

The log-roll on the Furnas farm was a social and political event as well as a means of getting some heavy work done. The newspaper stories emphasize the Governor's role: Said the Union:

"Uncle Jimmy (the Governor) was the central figure in the coterie, and all his movements, bearings, and characteristics were noted with avidity. He wore his famous blue jeans suit, excepting his vest, which was linen. He made one mistake, though: he pulled off his long tailed coat and revealed an unpretending aperture in the hindermost part of his pantaloons that was just a 'leetle' too large to pass unnoticed. Some were chagrined, some were elated, at this apparent nonchalance of the Governor in regard to the dignity of his position...Long rollings do not always present such a scene as this one did. All the laborers had on white shirts, with generally, paper collars; some wore white vests; some were smoking cigars; only one fellow, the Dr., had on overalls; bevvies of lively young ladies were lending their gaiety; the important kid-gloved young man from town was there; children and babies were out in all their splendor."

The Governor demonstrated his thorough familiarity with "the science of ox-driving. Then his maneuverings with the handspike and superintendency of the construction of heaps also evinced that he had had considerable experience in the work of pioneers."

"Altogether the occasion was very pleasant, no whiskey, nor profanity, no fights, no betting, and the crowd separated in good humor."

If this was a political event, it apparently was in the sense of giving exposure to and creating an image of the Governor, who had been inaugurated less than a year earlier. The Furnases were all Republicans and the Governor was a Democrat.

One sentence in the Union's story is intriguing: "After thanking the people for their attention, the Governor retired amidst the most profound silence". Was this crowd largely Republican, curious enough to come, but unwilling to cheer the Governor? Then... "Nathan Hadley came forward in response to loud calls, and, though protesting that his thoughts were too scattering to be of any use, yet he succeeded in presenting some excellent ideas and sound advice." Was he the Republican spokesman of the day?

Dr. Allen Furnas was, as we have said, a representative to the State Legislature. His nephew Miles J. Furnas served two terms as State Senator from Randolph and Jay Counties. Later he was for many years a judge for the Federal Trade Commission. A nephew of Miles J. Furnas, Wade Furnas, was Hamilton County Clerk and State Director of Motor Vehicles. The only member of the present generation of Furnases who is officially active in Republican politics is Mrs. Virginia McGriffin, Hendricks County Committeewoman. She is a niece of Wade Furnas.

The picture mentioned in Miles J. Furnas's account hangs in the Circuit Court Room on the third floor of the Hendricks County Court House. Those identified in the picture are, left to right: Dr. J. W. Johnson, Levi Pennington, Dandridge Tucker, Superintendent, Governor James Williams, General George W. Russ, Dr. Allen Furnas, John Furnas (his brother), Alex Heron, J. T. Kingsbury, Indiana Farmer

by Lois Crayton,

who gratefully acknowledges the assistance and cooperation of Dr. I. Lester Furnas, Virginia McGriffin, and C. V. Edmondson.

H C H S

THE GE*GLORIOUS FOURTH

We speak freely of the "3 R's", the "7 Wonders of the World", the "3 Wise Men", the "10 Commandments," so why not think briefly of the "4 F's in the Fourth of July"?

It has been my pleasant task lately to peruse a number of old papers and other documents in order to find something of value as well as entertainment for the regular meeting of the Historical Society at North Salem, Sunday, July 8. It is a very timely subject "The Fourth of July, Then and Now." Then someone thoughtfully added "And Other Gala Days." You realize that this program can easily resolve itself into a monotonous recital of events and activities which our fathers and their fathers enjoyed on that day, but underlying every account of celebrations in our county is the evidence of a deeply patriotic spirit and an ardent desire to honor the great men of our country. These early citizens were not far removed in years from the War of the Revolution and later the Civil War when they had witnessed the struggle for Freedom.

Yes, Freedom is the first F in our Glorious Fourth. Freedom from the tyranny of a system which enforced taxation without representation, freedom from a way of life which made some men slaves, freedom to exalt the dignity of human beings, freedom to spread the gospel of Democracy.

From an editorial written by the late and highly respected Julian D. Hogate, editor of the Republican, dated July 4, 1918 when our world seemed topsy turvy during the First World War.

"Men and women thought more seriously than they have ever thought. In other lands the spirit of that wonderful document of July 4, 1776, sank deeply into the minds of people and the meaning of these undying words: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights- life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." In this year more men see the vision of this war and the promise of peace that will follow. War is no longer a struggle between nations or people, but between two theories of government and these two are meeting on the battlefield. This is a War for civilization, for the Christian religion."

No other holiday in the whole year was more wholly dedicated to FUN than the Glorious Fourth. It came in the midst of summer when there seemed a dearth of things to do, especially for kids and young people. It was attended by plenty of noise and few inhibitions. It was too early for dog days, so there was no danger from wading or swimming in unpolluted creeks or gravel pits. Picnics in one's own grove or even a shaded lawn were popular and easy to plan. FIRECRACKERS were cheap and not hard to get. That is, until 1940 when for first time in generations, Hendricks County celebrated without firecrackers due to a state law prohibiting the display, sale, and firing of fireworks by persons other than competent operators approved by the fire-marshall. (Violation of this law was punishable by \$100 fine and maybe 90 days in jail).

Still, there was great enjoyment in home celebrations as comtry folk were almost always too busy to hitch Dobbin to the buggy or carriage and go trotting off to the neighboring town for the annual Festivities, for it was usually harvest time. Farm women took great pride in cooking and serving a scrumptious meal to the wheat cutters. My mother was a superb cook and usually planned a menu of ham and chicken, with dumplings or noodles, hot rolls light as a feather, mashed potatoes, lima or baked beans, (as green beans were supposed to give the "hands" an uncomfortable ailment called "cholera morbus") beet pickles, cottage cheese, sun dried strawberry preserves, berry or fruit pies, angel food and devil's food cake, all washed down with quantities of cold tea and hot coffee. A special treat for us was a five gallon container of ice cream which our good neighbors, the Calvin Warricks, received each 4th of July from their son who worked in an ice cream factory in Dayton, Ohio. The interrurban brought it straight from Dayton to Pittsboro with the ice hardly melted.

World War I changed many things, among them, the Harvest Dinner which came under fire. Uncle Sam thought it caused a great waste and there was an urgent movement to have each workman bring his own dinner. Cartoons showing the starving children of Belgium and France as well as our own boys in the army and navy made us all very food conscious.

Papers of by-gone days have held glowing accounts of various celebrations of the Ge-lorious Fourth. There have been FESTIVALS of all kinds, appealing to both adults and children. Bank concerts, horse racing, even ballonn ascensions, concerts, and fireworks are among the favorite entertainment, not only in the good days of the past, but in the present, when we still want to pay tribute to the birthday of our land.

Frances Fisher
(Mrs. Roy Fisher)

H C H S

WELCOME TO OUR RANKS!

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Trent
Mr. and Mrs. Grant Lowe
Miss Audrey Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hadley
Mary Jane Miller

Virginia McGriffen
Mrs. Dona Wade
Mr. Roger Carter
Lt. Col. Fred Osborne

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Mr. Forest Cauldwell
Mrs. Charles Marlowe
Mrs. Margaret Haag
Mrs. Gerard McCabe
Mrs. Helen McQuaid
Mrs. Roy McClellan

With apologies to William Cullen Bryant

Still sits the schoolhouse by the road
A ragged beggar sunning.
Around it now the ragweeds grow
And the farmer's hogs are running.

Within its battered walls the corn
Is piled up to the ceiling
And for the luscious, golden grains
The hogs outside are squealing.

And from a distance all that noise
Brings back to one times when
In bygone days in autumn haze
Our school took up again.

To north and south, to east and west
The call went from the bell;
To some it was a welcome sound
To others it was ----, well

The end of carefree days of play
When books had been forgotten.
Their feelings as they gathered in
Were nothing short of rotten.

But everything turned rosy when
The recess play began
With fox and geese and shinny
And the old standby, blackman.

Baseball, played with a wad of string
Wound solid and then sewed
And with a bat torn from the fence
That ran down to the road.

And sometimes football was the game
Played with an old pants leg
Stuffed full of grass, or straw, or rags
And not shaped like an egg.

And drop the handkerchief was played
As boys and girls joined hands
In one great circle out of doors.
All played, there were no bans.

Such games were rough and girls would jerk
The buttons off boy's shirts
And boys gave tugs that almost caused
The girls to lose their skirts.

And when the girls would trip and fall
They'd show a white expanse
Of fluffy, ruffled under skirts
And knee length muslin pants.

Then when the fun was ended
By the teacher's clanging bell
The kids would drop their games of play
And run straight to the well.

And cluster 'round the old wood pump
East thirsty as a pup
And twenty arms reached eagerly
For one old battered cup.

And some went speeding thru the yard
To two shacks painted red
To do what they would do again
Before they went to bed.

But some were loathe to make this trip
Their play they couldn't stop;
For them, soon after books took up,
The teacher used the mop.

Two beat-up stoves, one on each side,
Were stoked with native wood;
Nobody ever froze to death
But we often thot we would.

A cedar tree at Christmas time
Was brought in by the boys,
Then Christmas eve we gathered in
To get our longed-for toys.

The candles dropped their tallow on
The floor and on our clothes
And why we didn't burn to death
The Good Lord only knows.

Box suppers, too, were quite a joy
When boys ceased to be rude
And bid a fancy price to eat
Their best girl's mamma's food.

Many a romance started there
A part of life's great drama
And many a boy learned that his girl
Could never cook like mamma.

Who on the last day of each term
Joined with the other mothers
And made a feast for all the kids
Their company and others.

No other day in all the year
Was there so much indulging,
Then all glad for the end of school
Went home with bellies bulging

Ah--memories to a gray-haired man
Come floating o'er the years
And bring to him a pensive mood
And warm nostalgic tears.

Still sits the schoolhouse by the road
A lonely thing apart:
No feast will mark its final end--
Just memories in some heart.

Gerald Jones

HENDRICKS COUNTY READY TO CELEBRATE SESQUICENTENNIAL

We folks who are ready to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Hendricks county can ask many questions as to who first came to settle in the county 150 years ago, where did they settle first, who was the first baby born, who the first to die, where were the first schools and churches and countless other questions that can be answered only by early histories written, letters left to families, stories handed down by word of mouth from father to son and recalled today.

When the census was conducted by the national government in 1830, the total population of Hendricks county was 3,975 people, all white. The first settlement in the county came in the spring of 1820 on White Lick creek and the settlers were Bartholomew Ramsey, Samuel Herriman, Harris Bray, John W. Bryant, James Dunn, George Dunn and Ezekiel Moore.

At this time a road had been hacked out through the trees and undergrowth and named "the Terre Haute trail". It crossed the county about two miles south of what is now Road 40. In this same year one Nathan Kirk, a rather learned settler and an associate judge later, settled on this road and started a public house.

In 1821, Noah Kellum, Thomas Lockhart, and Felix Belzer settled on the east fork of White Lick. Belzer was known in his day as a "mighty hunter" for in 1821-22, he killed 125 deer. In 1822, one Uriah Carson came from Ohio to Belzer's cabin, took sick and was the first person in the county to die. Settlers, few in number, were in Liberty township in 1821 and a few came the same year to Washington and Guilford.

All these early people were a progressive type, and had come to stay. By 1824, there was a population of near a thousand with a few settlers near the site of Danville. No settler at this time had dared the swamps and mosquitoes of what is now Union, Brown, Middle and Lincoln townships. A road across the southern part of the county saw a continuous procession of emigrants going to all parts of the west.

With trees to cut, logs to roll and burn and rails to split for fence, all the most brutal type of labor, a money panic hit these already poor settlers. One man waited two months to get 25 cents to pay postage on a letter to friends in North Carolina. A young man went to Owen county to buy seventy-five cents worth of corn, but had to settle for flour and his widowed mother mixed another ingredient with it to make it go farther. A young man accepted a job four miles from his cabin home, girdling trees to kill them at 37½ cents a day. He had bought 80 acres and the job helped him pay 26 percent interest on his farm loan.

The first horse mill was built by James Tomlinson on east fork, while the first water mill was erected by John Benson on Rock branch in Eel River township in 1826. Silas J. Bryant was the first white child born in the county and the home was in Guilford township. The first merchandise was sold in Danville by James Given. The first lawyers were Judge Marvin and Colonel Nave.

In the summer of 1823, two school houses were built, one in Liberty, below Cartersburg and the other on the Lockhart farm in Guilford township. The teachers of the schools were W. H. Hinton and Abijah Pierson.

The county took its name to honor the governor of Indiana in 1823, William Hendrick. With the county organized, a county seat had to be chosen. One place looked over for a seat of government was George Mattock's tavern, two miles east of Belleville, where a town had been laid out and named Hillsboro. The commissioners decided a county seat should be near the center of the county and on the second Monday in July, 1824, chose Danville.

A court house had to be constructed and a jail. Work began and the court house was ready for court proceedings by 1826. The house was made of peeled hickory logs and cost \$147. The jail was constructed of the same material "and was considered impregnable from without and within".

It was Mark Twain who once stated that when a settlement was large enough to build a church, a school house and a jail, "civilization was well on its way". Danville had even more, a log court house and a plot of the town was made and lots staked off and offered for sale. The sale was to run for three days. "An order was made by the commissioners for 15 gallons of whiskey to assist purchasers in making their selection and estimating their value. One Samuel Herriman, the coroner, was made cup bearer on the occasion and attended to the proper distribution of the refreshments." Lots went as low as \$3 and as high as \$115.

Here are some facts to show the economy of early Hendricks county and commissioners allowed Polly Faught \$5.51 for keeping B. F. Stewart (a pauper) two months. A Richard Cruse was allowed 50 cents for house rent and the sheriff was allowed \$40 for the year

by Joe Davidson

H C H S

OLD MCDANIEL GRAVEYARD

Brownsburg, Indiana, Hendricks Co.
Off Road 136 West. Brown Towship

Beaman, Ada V.	Dau. of A. & R.A. died 30 July 1881 age 1yr. 7mo. 2dys.
Beaman, Adam	Born 2 Oct. 1837 died 15 Mar. 1989
Beaman, George Bryon	Son of A. & Ra A. died 9 Apr. 1895 age 13yrs. 1 mo. 26 dys.
Beaman, Rebecca A.	Born 15 Apr. 1844 died 29 Oct. 1923
Beaman, Samuel O.	Son of A. & R. A. died 23 Sept. 1873 age 9mos. 18 dys.
DmOsse, Margaret	Born 27 June 1811 died 26 Sept. 1897
Eaton, Malinda	Wife of Greenup Eaton died 11 May 1854 age 33 yrs. 9 mo. 29 dys.
Euliss, Jacob O.	Born 1875 died 1939
Euliss, Laura L.	Born 1870
Euliss, Donald D.	Son J & L. Born 1908
Euliss, Martha E.	Born 1854 died 1937
Euliss, Mary A.	Born 1883 died 1883
Euliss, Mary Alice	Dau. of W.A. & Martha E. Born 18 Apr. 1883 died 3 May 1883
Euliss, Robert E.	Born 1885 died 1915
Euliss, William A.	Born 1843 died 1927
Gray, Flora A.	Died 30 Aug. 1897 age 23 yrs.

OLD MCDANIEL GRAVEYARD

Gray, Laura A.	Born 1838 died 1928
Gray, Lora	Born 1874 died 1897
Gray, N. L.	Born 6 Mar. 1890 died 2 Jan 1892
Gray, P. M.	Born 15 Oct. 1887 died 6 Jan. 1883
Gray, William H.	Co. B 83 Ind. Inf.
Griffith, Jno. W.	Co. C 8th. Ill. Inf.
Herring, Infant	Son of G. J. & E. M. Died 17 July 1890
Homan, Harriet	Died 16 June 1864 age 41 yrs. 3 mo. 24 dys.
Huddleston, Elizabeth	Wife of Fielding died 2 July 1888 age 33 yrs. 2 mo. 13 dys.
Huddleston, Fielding	Born 1845 died 1911
Irwin, Infant son	Of W. T. & S.E. Apr. 1871
Irwin, Sarah Elizabeth	Born 4 Nov. 1841 died 27 Feb. 1903
Jones, Elizabeth	Born 1847 died 1883
McDaniel, Infant son	Of J. & S died 6 Jan. 1846 age 1 mo. 3 dys.
McDaniel, Asa	Died 30 May 1854 age 77 yrs. 8 mos. 15 dys.
McDaniel, Infant son	of William & M. died 2 Aug 1860
McDaniel, Bertha	Dau. of I. & N. died 25 Apr. 1887 age 1 yr. mos.
McDaniel, Clarinda	Born 1845 died 1923
McDaniel, Eleanor	Died 21 Oct. 1873 age 70 yrs. 1 mo.
McDaniel, Elizabeth J.	Dau. of William & M. died 9 Sept. 1842 age 4 yrs. 9 mo. 1 d.
McDaniel, George	Son of G. & N. died 9 Dec, 1896 age 1 yr. 2m. 5d.
McDaniel, George W.	Died June 6, 1895 37 yrs. 1 mo 28 days
McDaniel, Jacob	Died 6 Oct. 1890 age 76 yrs. 1 mo 1 dy.
McDaniel, Isaac	Born 1818 died 1878
McDaniel, Isolina	Dau. of William & M. died 24 Feb. 1863 age 2 yrs 6 mo. 22 dys.
McDaniel, John P.	Died 31 Oct. 1861 age 15yr 1 dy.
McDaniel, Margaret J.	Wife of Richard born 1852 died 1923
McDaniel, Nell	Born 1894 died 1918
McDaniel, Richard	Born 1848 died 1911

OLD MCDANIEL GRAVEYARD

McDaniel, Samuel Born 1841 died 1915

McDaniel, Sarah Wife of Asa died 15 Aug. 1875 age 32 yrs. 6m. 23d

McDaniel, Sarah M. Died 30 Sept. 1898 age 85y. 10m. 8d.

McDaniel, Watts Died Mar 27, 1836 age 32y 10m 22d

McDaniel, William Son of J. & S. died 27 May 1842 age 47y 4m 4d

McDaniel, William R. Died 10 Oct. 1885 age 52 y 6 m 2 d

McGrew, Margaret J. Born 12 May 1831 died 22 Feb. 1917

McGrew, S. B. 6th Ind. Cav. born 25 Nov 1829 died 20 May 1905

Miller, Dora A. Died 14 Jan 1890 age 15y 9m 13d

Miller, Jane Wife of G. Miller died 27 Jan 1890 age 64y 11m 17

Nash, David J. Son of G. W. & M. J. died 1 Jan. 1861 age 11y 5 mos. 1 dy.

Nash, Eliza J. Died 24 July 1908 age 36 yrs. 6 m. 14d.

Nash, Cilicia Died 14 Dec. 1904 age 44 yrs 4 days

Nash, Cilicia Wife of Isaac C. died 13 Dec. 1860 age 43y 9m 12d

Nash, Hannah S. Dau. of George B. & Elizabeth died 24 Aug 1845 age 1yr 11mo. 6dys.

Nash, Harvey Son of T.J. & E.A. died 2 Mar 1885 age 1yr 4m 3d

Nash, John A. Son of F.C. & G. died 28 Sept. 1860 age 18y

Patterson, Daniel Died 23 Aug. 1882 age 60y 1m

Patterson, Sarah Wife of Daniel died 10 June 1889 age 53y 2m 22d

Patterson, Shildes M. Son of Daniel & Sarah died 8 Jan 1885 age 16y 4m 8dys

Smith, Albert Son of J. & S. died 1 Oct. 1845 Age 2 yrs.

Smith, Nancy Wife of Thomas died 1 Dec. 1854 age abt. 70 yrs.

Smith, Effa Died 29 June 1893 age 9 yrs.

Smith, Henry W. Son of L. & J. died 1 Feb. 1853 age 3months

Smith, Joel Died 28 Apr. 1864 age 64 yrs 6 m 13d

Smith, Lucinda Dau. J. & S. died 1 Oct. 1837 age 2 yrs.

Smith, Wife of Joel died 22 Nov 1879 age 71y 9m 7d

Smith, Thomas Died 28 Nov 1817 age abt 73years

Smith, Willis Son of L & J died 16 Oct. 1812 age 1yr 3m 8d

OLD MCDANIEL GRAVEYARD

Thornbrough, Frances Wife of Louis died 24 May 1855 age 41y 1m 21d

Ward, Frances M. Died 13 Nov 1915 age 5months

Ward, Henry A. Born 1845 died 1920

Ward, Henry N. Co. A 51st. Ind. Inf. died 24 Oct. 1920 age 74y

Ward, Lettie J. Born 1850 died 1936

Ward, Willie Austin Son of G. & M. born 1901 died 1914

Wilson, Paul L. Born 22 Dec. 1898 died 20 Jan 1899

McDaniel, Isolina Dau of William & M. died 24 Feb. 1863 age 2 yrs. 6 mo. 22 dys.

McDaniel, Susanna Wife of Isaac born 1822 died 1911

Smith, Thomas Died 12 Dec. 1861 age 12 yrs. 8m. 25 dys.

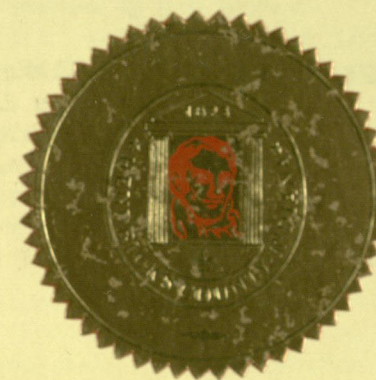
Cemetery copied by Judy Collins and Vicki Heizer

Indianapolis 2nd. Ward

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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



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NUMBER IV

October, 1973
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H C H S

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Margaret Baker ... Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, IN 46122

H C H S

Note: Dues paid before October 14th will greatly facilitate matters and make life easier for our hard working secretary and treasurer. Let's get these dues mailed in so Ruth and Blanche can relax and enjoy themselves!

From the President...

The Hendricks County Historical Society was organized six years ago. During our brief existence we have accomplished many worth while goals. We have a membership of approximately 200, and we recently became incorporated. We issue a quarterly bulletin, and we have a friendly and intellectually curious membership which meets four times a year to enjoy a stimulating presentation and the social hour which follows.

We need, however, to look to the future. Let us not be like the proverbial flew-bird which is said to revel in the past and leave the future to fate. We need to increase our membership appreciably. All of us have friends who would join our organization if we would only ask them.

We must work toward a Hendricks County Historical Museum. Our Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee wants and needs our all out support. And the re-print of the 1885 History of Hendricks County is an opportunity we should not pass up. An original of this book is invaluable, but a reprint is available for \$14.50 until the 1st of November, when the price will be \$16.50.

I wish to thank all of you for your co-operation during the past year, and I am sure you will give my successor the same loyal support.

Dr. Sherman Crayton

HCHS

Welcome to our Ranks!

Those who have joined us since last publication date include:

Dr. T. Lester Furnace
Cindy Whicker

Lois (Fincher) Dorsey

Robert O. Miller

Mrs. Lowell Held

Norma Bennett

Mr. Leon Pounds

Gloria Higgins

Mrs. Katherine Large

Neona M. Lewis

Mrs. Frank Hren

(Correction: In the July issue, Mr. Ray McClelland was listed as Mrs. Roy McClelland Sorry.)

HCHS

In spite of the blistering temperature, a large crowd turned out Sunday, July 8, to hear Mrs. Roy Fisher of Pittsboro tell about Fourth of July celebrations of the past. The Society met at the North Salem Christian Church with Mr. Gerald Jones presiding. Dr. Crayton conducted the business meeting which included, in addition to the usual business, a progress report by Mr. Scott Hosier, chairman of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee, and a discussion of the Pioneer Certificates by Mr. Clark Kellum, chairman of that committee. The Rev. William McGraw gave the invocation and pronounced the benediction. The ladies of Eel River and Marion Townships had prepared delicious refreshments which were enjoyed during the social hour.

HCHS

Early industries and trades in Hendricks County will be discussed at our October meeting which will be held the 14th, at 2:00 pm at Eaton Hall in Brownsburg. The subject of Mr. Floyd Hufford's talk will be "So You Think You've Got it Tough". Mrs. H. A. Smith will preside, and Lincoln, Brown and Middle Townships will be in charge of the social hour. For the display table, members are asked to bring pictures, tools and other articles pertaining to early industries and trades. If it is still hot October 14th, remember Eaton Hall is air conditioned! We will hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect officers for the coming year.

THE OLD CAMPBELL HOMESTEAD
Later Home of Judge Brill
by R. S. Debra (written 1951)

"All about is bright and pleasant
With the sound of song and jest,
Yet feelings ever present
That the old times were the best."

Riley

This story is just going to write itself. What a snap for me. I have been writing the history of some of the old time homes in Danville and sometimes it isn't too easy to find someone who can remember "away back yonder when."

In looking around for some information about the Judge Brill home in the south-east part of town, away out on East Broadway, I was told that Miss Ruth Adams could tell me more about the house than anyone else in town. The house was built by her grandfather and she had all kinds of records concerning the place. So you can thank her for whatever there is of interest in this story.

Leander M. Campbell was a young lawyer in Danville in 1853, ninety eight years ago., and a very methodical man. How do I know. Just one look in the book in which he kept his accounts will convince anyone. Here is his first case:

1853 Orlando Barker, Dr.

Nov. 15 To attending suit of Cleghorn vs Barker, \$10.00

Nov. 20 credit by cash, \$5.00

December 2, credit by cash \$5.00

Though the entry was made 98 years ago, the ink is still black and clear and the handwriting plain and legible. Lawyers' fees in those days were not what they are today. Many of the fees were only \$5.00 and some less than that. The last four or five pages of the ledger are taken up with expenses of building the new house, which was started in 1858.

The original house was only a story and a half high with a very small porch on the west and north sides. During the eighteen eighties it was enlarged and rebuilt into the two full stories; a large porch was added and a large tower room was built over the front part, just as it stands today.

In that account book the first item of expense was \$20 paid to the architect for plans for the new home. In January he paid \$100 to Miller & Curry on contract. This was the firm who built the brick court house, the roof of which fell in during the winter of 1912. Among other expenses were \$22 for digging the cellar; \$28 for a cast or wrought iron balcony; and \$3.91 for a small job of paint and toil.

The man who burned the brick did a good job as they are still in good repair to this day. The long brick building in the rear which was used to house the wood, coal and ice cut from the pond in the meadow, is now a garage. At that time there was a big barn with arched doorway, through which a big load of hay could be driven. Also out on the lawn was what used to be known as the summer house built of lattice work.

During the eighties the house was remodeled as has been said before, with a second story being added. A bedroom was made on the first floor next to the living room. Some of the old quarter sawed woodwork was changed and mill-made ornaments were added.

Mrs. Campbell and an infant died before the house was remade and Mr. Campbell married Lucinda Hamrick who endeared herself to the two daughters and the remaining son.

There was a deep ravine near the house and several times efforts were made to fill it with dirt from other excavations. On one occasion, heavy rains and the many springs saturated the ground so that a landslide resulted and a large section of the bank slid into the ravine.

There was a pond in the lowlands which made grand place for skating in the winter. In the summer the banks were covered with water lillies. In later years muskrats undermined the dam and the water seeped away.

In November 1865, Mr. Campbell wrote in his ledger that he had accepted molasses to the amount of \$19.50 as a fee. And that he had paid \$1.65 for Godey's Ladies Book. His law business prospered and he was sent to the legislature from this county. When President Benjamin Harrison came to Hendricks County, he always went to the Campbell home.

About 1885 Leander Campbell wrote to the editor of the old Indianapolis Journal proposing that a statue be erected to the soldiers of the Civil War, to stand opposite that of Governor Morton in the circle. He said he was sure that fifty men would be glad to give \$500 each, to defray the expense and offered to send his share at once. From his generous offer grew the larger plan of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument as we have it today.

In this scrap book is found this item about the social activities at the Campbell Home. One item; "On last Friday evening the Aurora Club with a select circle of immediate friends were most royally entertained by Miss Cora Campbell, the resident of the home of her father Hon. L. M. Campbell. The most engaging feature of the evening was the presence of Mr. James Whitcomb Riley, our Hoosier poet. The evening's enjoyment was interspersed with some of Mr. Riley's richest character sketches and poetical gems, which were rendered in his own original and inimitable style highly appreciated!"

Where did I dig up all this ancient history? Miss Ruth Adams just dumped the account book into my lap and also a big scrap book and said "help yourself". If there were more people like her in the world, what a snap this story writing should be.

HCHS

Three of our members have really put the HCHS on the map recently. Wayne Guthrie who writes "Ringside in Hoosierland" for The Indianapolis News devoted his column, which follows, on an article furnished by our secretary, Mrs. Roy Pritchard, August 14, 1973:

"History Put Gentle Touch on Clayton"

Henry Clay who failed five times in outright attempts to become president of the United States...three times in fall elections and twice in bids for his party's nomination...might have fared better had people everywhere accorded him the same warm favor and support as the founder and early residents of the Hendricks County town of Clayton along Ind. 39 about five miles south of Danville, county seat.

When George W. Wills laid it out in 1851 on approximately 11 acres he had bought from Mrs. Elizabeth Wills, he named it Claysville in honor of that Kentucky statesman and United States Senator who became known as the "Great Pacificator."

However, when the village sought to obtain a postoffice the following year it was obliged to pick another name since there was then in Daviess County a Claysville postoffice that had been established Aug. 19, 1828.

Determined not to lose the Clay connotation, those same Hendricks County folks picked "Clayton" by which it has been known ever since it was established June 21, 1852, with William A. Ragan as first postmaster.

The original Claysville postoffice in Daviess County was discontinued Sept. 15, 1906.

According to Mrs. Roy Pritchard, Belleville, secretary of the Hendricks County Historical Society, what many oldtimers referred to as Clayton's "big day" occurred in 1888. It also had a political connotation.

On Sept. 13 that year Benjamin Harrison of Indianapolis, then the Republican nominee for U.S. president, spoke there at the 14th reunion of the 70th Indiana Regiment that had served in the Civil War. Harrison rose to brigadier-general in that war.

"He was met at the depot by Capt. William Mitchell, two bands and a huge crowd," Mrs. Pritchard wrote. "They walked to the school ground where an enthusiastic political rally was held."

That particular address is referred to in the first book of the three-volume biography of Harrison written by the Rev. Harry J. Sievers of Fordham University and copyrighted by the Arthur Jordan Foundation. At a high point in the address, Harrison, referring to a trying time in the Civil War, said, according to the Sievers biography: "Buell was returning from Tennessee, Kirby was coming through the Cumberland Gap and McClelland had been defeated on the peninsula. It seemed as if the frown of God was on our cause."

Harrison was elected at the Nov. 6 election, defeating Grover Cleveland, Democratic incumbent.

Clayton was built after the railroad, now a part of the Penn Central but originally the Vandalia, was surveyed through there.

"One old-timer estimated that three-fourths of the early families made their living from employment on the railroad," Mrs. Pritchard added.

Clayton enjoyed hourly transportation service during the heyday of the electric interurban era. What was the old interurban station still stands and is undergoing the second remodeling by its owners.

Although not in Clayton proper, historical significance attaches to a brick house along Ind. 39 a short distance to the north. It was built in 1866 by Jacob Vandegrift, railroad man, whose daughter, Frances Matilda, better known as Fanny, married Robert Louis Stevenson, British novelist, in May, 1880, following her divorce from Samuel Osbourne. Osbourne had married her when she was only 17 and he was 19.

She and Stevenson had met in France while she was estranged from her husband. Later, at her bidding, he crossed the Atlantic and continental United States and joined her in San Francisco. They were married when her divorce became final. She was his wife when he died in 1894 in Samoa where he is buried. It is believed Stevenson never visited the Hendricks County Vandegrift home.

HCHS

Wednesday, July 25, 1973, Mrs. R. F. D. who writes the column, "The Hoosier Farm Wife", in The Indianapolis Star, recognized another of our members. It follows:

How Much For That Doggerel In Window?

Having read the farm column made up of quotes about age, Helen Jones of North Salem sent us a day-brightening note and a poem her husband Gerald had written.

"We entertained the Hendricks County Historical Society here," she wrote. "They voted him their poet laureate. He calls it doggerel rather than poetry."

We call it delightful, and without asking permission, quote it herewith:

"I've now lived past three score and ten

And remember things away back when.

But I get mad as an old wet hen

When called a Senior Citizen.

That may apply to ancient crones

Or me, dried up like stale corn pones,

And other ineffectual drones,

But please...just call me Old Man Jones."

(Thanks OMJ, and how much for that doggerel in the window?)

HCHS

The September 12th issue of The Indianapolis Star carried the following article written by Thomas E. Ketchum from material furnished by Ruth Hall of Lizton:

"Horror Of Cholera Plague That Swept Hoosier Town Recalled"

News reports of cholera in Italy are read with uncommon interest by residents of this Northwest Hendricks County hamlet.

It was 100 years ago this month that the disease...while sweeping this country...claimed at least 23 lives here...

After the town of New Elizabeth was platted in 1851, the more than 200 pioneer

residents had little to worry about a squabble over changing the town's name to Elizabethtown and later to just plain Lizton.

That changed overnight in August of 1873 when the dreaded intestinal disorder with its uncontrollable diarrhea and unbearable cramps suddenly struck.

Although conflicting stories have been told, the disease can be traced to the arrival here Aug. 20, 1873, of William Davis, his wife, Fannie, and their baby from a nearby community.

During their second night in their new home Fannie awoke violently ill. So frightening was her sickness that before dawn, Davis went out to summon medical help.

Fannie's illness likely was not diagnosed as cholera and the woman had several visitors before she died that afternoon, according to Ruth A. Hall, 76, R. R. 1, Lizton, a local historian whose father-in-law was 13 during the epidemic.

Then Mrs. Caleb Adams, attending church services Sunday morning, became ill with the same symptoms. Shortly thereafter it was learned that the Davis baby and Fannie's sister were ill.

In a community of no more than 75 families, the terrible truth became evident. Deaths mounted to a dozen in two weeks.

The disease was indiscriminate. Entire families were claimed. Included were babies, three pregnant women and Dr. John A. Dicks who had attempted single-handedly to treat a growing list of patients.

The few who could, fled the town and sought refuge with relatives who were less than eager to accept them.

Reports swept through the area that New Elizabeth was a town doomed to a stinking, deadly horror. The only movement in the streets was that of bodies being hauled to the cemetery.

The epidemic ended in mid September.

What caused the disease to rampage here?

No common source such as a polluted well for the cholera vibriosis could be identified for the town. Chance personal contact seems the most likely means by which the disease organisms were spread.

The town's water supply came from individual wells, most dug only 10 to 15 feet deep. It is possible some of these may have been contaminated through seepage from nearby outhouses.

That would be ironic. The town presently is preparing to construct its first sewage treatment plant.

HCHS

(We are indebted to Mr. Willard Heiss, chairman, Genealogy Section, Indiana History Bulletin, for the following article. Many of us remember Ola Crane Hubbard, and will enjoy her informally written History of Pecksburg. Ed.)

"THE HISTORY OF PECKSBURG" (1938-39)

Pecksburg is centrally located with in reach of good trading points, 25 miles from Indianapolis. Good farming land well drained, good stream of water near. R. R. carrying passengers either to Indianapolis or Terre Haute where may transfer to other points.

Pecksburg is made up of the best people in the land. In looking through the atlas I find that the town was laid off in town lots.

In 1831 Uncle David Reitzel and his wife and children came from North Carolina and settled in the north east corner of Franklin Twp.

We have no record since 1831 until 1845, then it boasted of 2 Churches, Lutheran and Methodist. Blacksmith shop, school house, 2 stores, gristmill, 2 Doctors, Post Office, picture gallery, shoe-shop and millinery store.

On the south side of the R. R. was Uncle Alex Archers black-smith shop. Uncle Alex was a soldier and a cripple, but his sons run the shop. His children were John, Ide, Bill, Mort, and Jim, all gone. Uncle Alex later moved across the creek and

Mortons' Widow still lives there.

Uncle Billie Shirley's store was on the south side of R. R. and west side of the road. He handled everything anyone wanted, especially peppermint stick candy for the children. He was Post-Master. There was a long platform between the R. R. and the store where the passengers could alight, and naturally when Uncle Billie would flag down a train all eyes were open. Maybe a man with long whiskers or a lady with long dress and hoop skirt would get off the train and climb in a buggy and drive away and perhaps we never did find out, for telephones and radios wasn't in existence then, but old Dobbin always played a good part. When there wasn't any passengers to get on Uncle Billie would fix the mail bag on a crane and the mail clerk would very gracefully hook it in and with a friendly wave go on. Uncle Billie's children by first marriage was Jim, Cinda Worrell, Sallie Ann Harvey and Wm. Shirley. His second wife was Cinda Taylor and a daughter Georgia by that marriage. Their home was just south of the store. West of his home was the Methodist Church.

West of the Church was Aunt Jenny Taylors home. Her children were Bee, Zack, Cinda Shirley, Rachel Richardson, Lydia Winstead and Clay.

The Methodist disbanded and the building was used for a school-house. It burned down in 1885 and a brick building was built just south of the black-smith shop. It is still standing, but used as a tool shed.

Across the road south of the Church was the home of Henry Spoon, Lewis Trester, Joseph Asher, and Sol Cloud.

Uncle Sol and Aunt Sallie were the parents of 7 children, Warner, Clara, Frankie, Katie, Effie, Hettie, and Pete. Effie, Hettie and Pete still living. Pete and his wife live in Plainfield, Effie and Hettie in Chicago.

Uncle Joseph and Aunt Katie Asher were the parents of Endamile West and Melissa Justice.

The Lutheran Church was on the north side of the R. R. It accomidated about 500 and many times when Uncle Billie Trester, Uncle Pete McCormack, Rev. Pressley, Rev. Kellar and others would preach the Church was filled. In 19-- the building was sold and moved away and is now the home of Emma Snyder about 5 miles south.

Morgan Roberts owned a store between the Church and the R. R. After Uncle Billie Shirley passed away J. S. Marshall was appointed Post-Master and his assistant was Morgan Roberts. Uncle Tom Marshall was also Post-Master at one time. Morgan Roberts had the office in his store. His home was back of the store. His wife Mary Ann and his daughter Allie and his brother-in-law Alfred Huffman helped them. After his passing the store was sold to his brother Mart. Mary Ann and Alfred moved across the road to the Kellar house and Allie married Gus Bowen. Uncle Mart, and Aunt Bettie moved to Amo and the store was sold to Bowens. Sivage, Riggs, Bartholomews, West, John Vauter, Mack, and Bantas.

Just east of the store was 3 houses. Jim Shirley and his daughter Maggie occupied one. Aunt Hannah Pickett, (Uncle David Reitzel's sister) in one, and Wesley Cates and later Eli Marshall in the other.

The home where Mell and Lizzie now live was owned by Morgan Roberts. 2 rooms of the present house was moved from the woods in back of the Rev. Robt. Harvey home in 1865. Mells first wife and Mother of 3 boys was Tempa McCormack. His present wife was Lizzie Chapman. The 3 boys are still living. Walter in Louisiana, Arthur, Commissioned Atheletic Coach of Indiana, lives in Indianapolis and Ross and family at Hobart, and Mell has come to stay.

Uncle Billie Trester bought the land adjoining north of Jobie Johnson and moved a little house from where the Albertson store now stands and was made into the present home of Albert Albertson. The family consisted of 10 children, Stoten, Mell, Roseann, Ollie, Lizzie, Ella, Luther, Laura, Joe, and Frank. Stoten married Mollie Rudd who lived where Mrs. Morton Archer now lives. -Mell-, Roseann married Robt. Harlan, Ollie married Osborn Rudd, Lizzie married Henry Quin, Ella married Ed. Lee, Luther married Iva Harrison, Laura married Givans, Joe married Chas. Kiser, Frank married Effie Edwards. Mell and Luther still living. Uncle Billie would preach, Lizzie would play the melodian, Ollie, Laura and Joe would sing and we older ones know what it meant to have a family like the Tresters to live in our community.

Uncle Billie sold to Joseph and Sarah Hollowell, who came from Parke Co. A family of 5 children, Amos, Miles, Robt., Melissa and Chas. Amos lived in Iowa, Miles married Lillie Shields and lived at the home place for awhile then moved to Plainfield where he still lives. Robt. taught school at Pecksburg then took up a law course. He married Mrs. Abbott and a son lives in Danville. Melissa died while in College. Chas. taught school and married Alice Little. Miles is the only one living. They took a girl into their home, Maude Pounds, and she lives near Danville.

Rev. and Sallie Ann Harvey own the next farm, their children, Dayton and George. Daytons first wife was Cecelia Hadley and one son Frank. Many of us went to school to her. Dayton present wife is Lydia Theal. Geo's. wife was Lucy West, daughter of Columbus and Tabitha West. Their son Herbert and his wife Fannie own the farm. Herbert has one son Geo.

In 1884 Rev. Harvey took an orphaned boy into his home, Eddie Monroe, but Eddie ran away. His many friends thought him dead, but in 1936 he came back with his lovely wife to visit us and attended the Home-coming. We were all glad to see him. He lives in Wichita Falls, Texas and is known as Edward McDonald.

Tom and Bettie Smith owned the next farm now owned by Howard Rhea. Tom and Bettie had no children of their own, but Mary Smith lived in their home and married Nathan Kendall, father of Owen Kendall.

Uncle Mathies and Aunt Matilda Hadley with their fine family often came to Pecksburg. Their farm is now owned by Perry Rushton.

Henry and Mollie Cox often traded at the Burg. The farm is still in the hands of the children. Eva Cox married Gus Bartholomew, Jennie married Frank Stanley. Alice married Murry Morris. Jack the only boy passed away a few years ago.

Wm. and Sallie Shirley lived a little to the west. The farm is owned by their son Fred and Elenora Hadley Shirley. There were 3 children, Fred, Etta, and Alva. Alva lives in Indianapolis, Etta married Wilson Shaw. She died in 1935.

These last few families might want to be called Doverites, but they had to come to Pecksburg to get on the train.

Just west of town across the creek was the home of Aunt Melvina Reitzel. Mother of Allen, George, Johnnie, Mark, and Rachel Appleby, and Ambros Reitzel. Allen married Mary Frances Hamblin, daughter of Vincent Hamblin who lived east of town, George and Johnnie married and moved to the Hazelwood neighborhood. Mark lives in Ill. and Rachel married an Appleby. Johnnie and Mark still living.

Chalk and Deborah Hunt lived in the next house. There were 4 children Ella, Dovie, Vessie, and Lennie. Ella is the wife of Milford Noel of Clayton. Aunt Celie Hunt, Mother of Chalk, lived in this house and was loved by all. They sold out to Riley and Kittie Brewer.

John and Margaret Kendall owned the next farm. Abbie and Ethan were their children. Ethan was the Father of John Kendall of Danville.

We will go on and visit the Hiatt family, Jim and Delany Hiatt with a family of 9 children, Ann, Lou, Frank, Robert, Jim, Corb, Mary, Ida, and Herbert. Ann, Ida and Herbert still living. Ida was one of the organizers of this Home-coming.

John Harvey, their children were Willia and Anna. Willie lives in Fowler, Kans. They sold out to Allen Whicker. 3 of them living.

Manley and Melissa Justice, and family of 8. All living but 2.

We must not forget Uncle Himas Kendalls, Nathan, Sallie, Mary, and Ella. Nathan lives in Clayton. Sallie at Winchester, Ind. Sallie and Mary nearly raised some of the Pecksburg children.

We will now go south of town. John and Candacy Brewer. Their children Janie, Rose, Hester, and John.

Then the farm of Aaron and Bettie Reitzel. This house was the original home of Abram West, it was moved from the location where the Syl Mabe home stands. The Reitzel children were Harvey and Guy. All gone, but the farm is owned by a Granddaughter, Helen Reitzel of Terre Haute.

After moving the house away Scip West, a son of Abram, built the present house. Lived there quite awhile. Their children, Ethel, Clyde, and Oscar. Ethel still living. Scip sold the farm to Syl Mabe and moved to Clayton.

The farm is still owned by the Mabes. Their children, Lorenzo and Eli. Lorenzo lives in Clayton, and Eli at Pecksburg.

Across the road is the home of Milton and Lora West. They have one son Homer.

Near where Milt's house stands was the big gate which opened into a woods and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile back was the home of Catherine Spoon. Catherine was the daughter of Uncle David Reitzel. There was 6 children in this home, Ellen, Oliver, Nannie, John, Mary, and Rose. 3 still living. Oliver in Texas, John in Calif. and Mary in Denver, Colo. This farm is now owned by Mrs. Chas. West.

Uncle Dock and Aunt Endamile West own the next farm. Uncle Dock, a son of Abbram West, and Aunt Endamile a daughter of Uncle Joseph and Aunt Katie Asher. Their children are, Willie, Lincoln, Milt, Charley and Ed. Lincoln, Milt, and Ed still living. Lincoln lives in Arizona, Milt near the old home, and Ed in Spencer.

Uncle Columbus and Aunt Tabitha lived on south. Uncle Columbus another son of Abbram West. Their children, Janie, Ella, Lucy, Morton, George, Henry, and Miles. Henry the only one left and he is County Commissioner.

Uncle Johnnie Shearers family were all faithful to the Church and came in a big wagon to attend Sunday-school and Church every Sunday.

East of the black-smith shop Ide and Bill Archer built their homes and raised big families. Ides widow, Mary Ide, is still living and is always proud to get back to Pecksburg.

East of the Archer home was Uncle Billie and Aunt Milla Richardson. 2 good old people. Their children, Mary Jane and Elizabeth or Bet--married Luther and Aaron Reitzel, sons of Uncle David Reitzel. Wm. Henry Richardson married Rachel Ann Taylor, daughter of Aunt Jennie Taylor. At this time she is still living and lives in Terre Haute and is 97 years old. Wm. Henry was a conductor on the R. R. the Local. When Uncle Billie wanted to send a letter he would fasten it on a hoop, Wm. Henry would run his arm through the hoop, take off the letter, throw the hoop back ready for the next times. Uncle Billies barn is part of a grist-mill owned by Abbram West. Part of the mill is now being used by the Amo mill.

A little shack stood where J. S. Marshall built and it was owned by Alex Sebastain. His son died and was buried on the R. R. side and buried with his hat on. In 1882 the body was taken up and moved to the Amo cemetery. J. S. Marshall built a 2 room house on this lot and his wife was Nancy Ann Clemans, daughter of James and Lucy McCoy Clemans who lived in north of town. This 2 room house accomidated 6 children by them sleeping in trundle beds and taking turns about eating. The house was built in 1871 and the shingles are still on the house. Eli Mabe bought it, moved it across the road and using it for a tool house. The children Alfred, Ola, Ella, Will, Otis, and Mit. Ola lives near Clayton, Will and Ella in Danville, and Mit in Baltimore, Md. In March 1885 he moved his family and saw-mill (which stood where the brick school building now stands) to Amo. In 1888 he was elected Sheriff of Hendricks Co. and moved to Danville. Another child was born in 1889 and lived only a few months. In our home lived an old soldier Uncle Wm. Conquest. His pass time was splitting wood. He could get more sticks in a cord and more cuts of tobacco in his tobacco box than anyone around. J. S. Marshall had a saw-mill in the pasture east of his house just about where Aunt Hannah Picketts house stood. He had 2 small rooms on the ground. Jerome Gray, Syl Mabe and John Archer oncelived in it. The mill was run by thrashing engines. Near the same place Howard Sebastain and Dave Snow had a sorghum mill.

Next, the home of T. S. Marshall and Mary Hadley Marshall. In 1864 it was owned by Soloman Bringle, Father of Mrs. Mathias Hadley and Mrs. Johnnie Hadley. Then T. S. Marshall bought it. A 2 roomed house, big porch in front with a big room on each end of the porch. J. S. and Nancy lived in these rooms until he built his home. A pump in the front yard quenched the thirst of many a weary traveler. Their children, Alice, Eva, Lizzie, Minnie, Horace, Tillie, Allie and Minnie still living. Allie living at Rockville, and Minnie at Peoria, Ill. In 1886 Aunt Mary died and Uncle Tom took his family to Rockville and sold out to Levi and Hannah Kellar Griffith. They had no children, but cared for Aunt Hannah Pickett.

Across the branch was Allen and Mary Reitzel with a family of boys. Emmett, Geo., and Elbert. They raised an orphan boy, Sammie Jones, and the children are all living.

Emmet at Terre Haute, Geo. at Brownsburg, and Elbert in Ohio, and Sammie Jones in Indianapolis. Uncle Allen and Aunt Mary are gone, but the house is still standing, but the log kitchen where Aunt Mary cooked many a good meal has been torn down.

On east across the R. R. Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell lived. Parents of 8 children, Martin, Lonnie, Mary, Mit, Edith, Alva, May, and Ida. The girls and one boy Alva are still living.

The next house is where Syl Mabe and family lived when they first came to Hendricks County.

Going on up the road is Vincent Hamblins with his wonderful family, Mary, Jennie, Rosalie, Ranson, Ollie, Ella, Geo., Emma, and Sanford,-- still living. Wash West and his family moved to Missouri. Wash was another son of Abbram West.

Stephen Brewers farm was next. His wife was the daughter of Riley and Kittie Brewer. Their children, Maggie, Rose, Sina, and Carl. Rose lives in Michigan, Carl and Sina live on the home place and own it.

Uncle Pete McCormack owned the next farm. His first wife was Hannah Reitzel, daughter of Uncle David Reitzel. Their children, Howard, Alfred, Tempa, Paulina, Alice, Frank, and Myrta. Alice and Myrta still living. Alice in Indianapolis, and Myrta in Clayton. His second wife was Margaret Kellar, their children, Lora and Maud. Wm. and Sarah Glover joined on the south. Parents of Carrie Glover Leitzman.

Uncle David Reitzel joined on the west, his children, Wm., Luther, John, Martha, Aaron, Eli, Hannah, Matilda, Catherine, Burgelin, Saloma, and David. They raised a nephew, Wm. Lietzman who married Carrie Glover, our present President.

Across the road from J. S. Marshalls was the home of John and Savanah Bartholomew, they had one child Hattie, who is living at Clermont.

John sold to Dr. House, their children, Sadie and Allie. Sadie Edmonson and Allie both live in Calif. Dr. House had his office in the corner of the yard. He sold to Vauters. They to Cy. Bartholomew, then to Eli Mabe the present owner.

Pecksburg didn't have a corporation line so we branched out. The ones we counted were the ones who attended Church and Sunday-school and there was a loyal bunch.

We furnished our share of the boys in both the Civil and World War. In Civil War 4 Reitzel boys, Bringle, Coble, and 2 Marshalls. Uncle Syl Mabe didn't enlist from here, but he is a true soldier and the only soldier left in the County and is 95yrs. old.

After the War the town began to grow, but when the schools consolidated and the Rural carriers came in, Post-Office moved to Clayton. The town began to burn out or move away. The only improvement was the coming of the street-car and that didn't improve very much although the little store that was left did a very good business.

From our town we sent out many a prosperous soul. Farmers, Preachers, Undertakers, Teachers, Merchanta, and Lawyers, and County Officers, and who could boast more. At one time we had the best Old Settlers Picnic in the County on Uncle Jehu Hadley farm or better known as the Green Valley Farm. We had the Indiana Governors to speak. We had our town pump, the flag pole raising. Loyal Church members. Good schools. Town hall. Town crier. Prize fighters. Pretty women, and fast horses. Hog callers. Horn tooters. Coon hunters. Hounds, and horse Doctors. In those days we went to Sunday-school and Church and carried off honors with our sirging with Bill Shirley as leader.

At present there is one store owned by John Albertson and the old town pump is still in use.

Mell and Lizzie are still with us and Mell has lived in the same house since 1865 and we are lucky to have such loyal friends who open up their home and hearts to welcome us back.

Written by : Ola Marshall Hubbard ----- 1939

This article was published in THE DANVILLE ADVERTISER which was published every Saturday by Lewis & Kennedy. Their office was in the Masonic Hall--lower room.
Danville, Ind. Saturday, August 12, 1854

OUR MAIL FACILITIES

Danville has suffered considerably by the re-arrangement of the mail-routes under the new contracts, which commenced the 1st of last month; and we think some of the facilities withdrawn from us should be restored. At present there is no direct mail connection whatever between the central and northern divisions of the county--a letter or paper, from this place to any of the northern villages, having to go around Indianapolis, and trust to the chances of a one-horse weekly mail on the Crawfordsville State Road, to reach its destination--a 'facility' which amounts to nothing more than aggravation. Under the old arrangement, we had a weekly mail via Jamestown to Frankfort, and a semi-weekly to North Salem; and if they did not yield as much revenue as some other routes of equal length, their establishment was justified on the score of accommodation, and this consideration should have insured their continuance--a petition has been forwarded for a semi-weekly mail from here to North Salem, which will doubtless be granted; and we think there should also be one established from here to Brownsburg. The business would certainly justify it.

From The Danville Bulletin February 4, 1857

A bill has passed both Houses of Congress requiring pre-payment of postage on all transient printed matter.

From The Hendricks County Ledger June 23, 1858

MAIL ROUTES AWARDED

The daily mail route from Cartersburg to Danville and the semi-weekly routes from Danville to Portland (on the Rockville Road) and from Danville to North Salem, have been awarded to Moses Keeney, of this place, as the lowest bidder, by the Department at Washington.

From The Hendricks County Ledger June 23, 1858

Moses Keeney of the Danville and Cartersburg Hack Line, is putting up a new frame stable in town. It is located near the south west corner of the square, and will be one of the largest and best buildings of the kind in the place.

From The Danville Bulletin April 22, 1857

FIXING UP

The Sheriff is busily engaged in fixing up the Court House fence, and otherwise beautifying the grounds around the ancient, time-worn, dilapidated old building. Pity Hendricks County hasn't got better public buildings. The ones that adorn the Square, and the one north of it, are a disgrace to the county.

From The Hendricks County Ledger June 23, 1858

NEW COURT HOUSE

It will be seen by an advertisement in another column, to Architects, and others, that Hendricks County is now fairly embarked in the enterprise of building a new Court House--and a look at the old hulk now used for that purpose, will certainly convince every sane man that the work has not been commenced prematurely....A sum of about \$11,000 has already been raised.

From The Hendricks County Ledger August 18, 1858

THE NEW COURT HOUSE

The County Board, after inspecting several plans last week, finally adopted one, presented by Isaac Hodgson, Architect of Indianapolis. (It will cost about \$40,000.)

Since a Poet Laureate of an historical society is considered something of a novelty, we believe in using his talents. The following bit of "doggerel" as Gerald Jones calls his jingles, is certain to bring a smile:

SOME THINGS I'VE NEVER DONE

I've never plowed with oxen
And I've never split a rail,
Nor ever cradled any wheat
And threshed it with a flail.

I've never shot a deer or bear
Or bagged a fat wild turkey.
I've never seen wild pigeons
Or eaten any jerky.

I've never tanned an old cow's hide
To make a pair of shoes,
Nor have I soured a barrel of mash
To make a batch of booze.

I've never retted any flax
Or carded any wool,
Or steeped dye from black walnut hulls
Or made a three legged stool.

No clapboard shingles have I rived
Or notched a cabin's logs.
I've never rendered any lard
From fat of home killed hogs.

I've never worn home made jeans
Or strode in leather boots.
I've never worn a coonskin cap
Or dressed in buckskin suits.

I've never shot a flintlock gun
Or molded any bullets
Or twisted nasty, wiggly worms
From throats of sickly pullets.

I've never hived a swarm of bees,
I've never shorn a sheep,
I've never worn asofoetida,
Disease away to keep.

I've never ridden stagecoach style,
Or killed a single redskin,
Nor fought with western bandits
And tried to bash their heads in.

I've never shot a buffalo
A charging bull or cow
And I doubt now if I ever shall
Since there just aint any now.

There are so many, many things
That I have never done,

I'm sure that on my way thru life

I've missed a lot of fun.

But what bugs me is here I am

Approaching eighty years

And still cannot be numbered

Among the pioneers.

Gerald Jones

HCHS

And as long as we are waxing poetic, we will include the following which appeared during the summer of 1927 in The Hendricks County Republican:

THE OLD WALNUT DESK

This tribute to the memory of Prof. C. A. Hargrave was written by W. T. Eddingfield, of Washington, D. C., for several years in the faculty of Central Normal College

The Old Walnut Desk

The old walnut desk in the office still stands,
Its surface is ink-stained, and worn by the hands
Of him who for summers and winter, two score,
From morning till evening, a great burden bore.

Its book racks and drawers how often have been
The home, for a moment, of thoughts born within
The mind of the man who wrought with a will
To fashion the structure which speaks of him still.

The thousands of students who stood by his side
Have vanished long since from the campus to guide
Into avenues opened by vigor and vim
By work and devotion peculiar to him.

The world has moved on, and the years passed away;
And the students, once young, in the meantime grown gray.
But a new generation has taken the place
Of those who first ventured to enter the race.

For glory and honor and the good of mankind;
Each rivaling other as upward they climbed--
The lawyer, the doctor, the teacher, the scribe,
Has each found his place, and the world is supplied.

But the master has finished his work at the desk--
That old walnut desk at the door
Where entered the many young seekers for truth
And found there an amplified store.

Now the sun has gone down in the west and we feel
The pangs of the parting full sore,
But we know that the true, and the pure, and the good,
Have a home on eternity's shore.

The example he left us of patience and zeal,
Of constant endeavor and strife,
Should have its effect on the lives of the young
And leave a refrain like the song that is sung
When the heart is o'erflowing with life.

HCHS

It has just been brought to our attention that Hendricks County can boast of more outstanding young historians. Through the years, we have especially enjoyed hearing from members of Junior Historical Societies of History Clubs in the county.

This year, we are proud to claim the president of The Indiana Junior Historical Society. Mike Lynch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lynch of Brownsburg, carries the responsibilities of that office on his young shoulders and he has spent a busy summer working on State Society projects. We promise you will hear from him later.

His sister, Linda Lynch, is president of the Brownsburg High School History Club. This energetic organization, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Barbara Stauch plans an architectural survey of old homes in the county. They will study each house, measure it, photograph it, and get as much historical information about it as they can. Finally, they plan to publish their findings in booklet form, to be ready, hopefully, in time for our Sesquicentennial.

This is a most worth while project, and we can help them by giving them the locations of these landmarks. The condition of the house, or its size is unimportant. All they need is the location. So if you know of old homes, and who of us doesn't, send this information to Mrs. Stauch or to Linda at Brownsburg High School, 1000 O'Dell St., Brownsburg, Ind. 46112.

HCHS

A late query from G. D. Bales, 1829 Cherry Road, Springfield, Ill. 62704... Interested in Marks family, Samuel, John, William and others. Supposed to be Irish but not proven. Think they came from France, to Ireland, to U. S. Samuel supposed to have been in Philadelphia 1787. Migrated to Shenandoah Valley. Samuel married as second wife Sarah Bengel, reputedly related to Cherokee Indiana Chief Bengel. Also would like to contact Bales, Beals, other spellings.

HCHS

Sesquicentennial Plans

Scott Hosier, Jr., general chairman of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial, has announced the following commission: Mildred L. Hosier, secretary; Robert Donovan, treasurer; Blanche Wean, Pageant Chairman; Clark Kellum, Pioneer Certificates; Dorothy Kelley, Queen Contest; Ruth Pritchard, Historian; Ruth Dinsmore, Commemorative Merchandise; and Frances English, Jack Gambold, Lloyd McClelland, Virginia Joseph, Elvin Cassity, Ruth Hall, Ray Briner, Clarence Edmondson, and Zona Walker. E. Alonzo Deckard is providing legal services for the commission and Sheriff Russell D. Carmichael will head up the parade activities. Margaret Baker is in charge of publications.

The commission and its sub-committees are hard at work to provide county residents with a strictly local celebration. No outside professional organization has been hired.

Events being planned for our 150th birthday include the official opening which will take place April 1 and will be a formal, inspirational ceremony, a torch rally, an historic pageant, probably in August, a parade sometime in September, a queen contest and an impressive closing ceremony in November. There will be numerous other events throughout the year, sponsored by co-operating organizations. The committee will organize "The Brothers of the Brush", a fun group for men, and "Sesqui Belles" for the women.

Sterling silver commemorative medals will be available through your bank or building and loan. Bronze medals, commemorative plates, stickers and patches will be sold.

A new history of Hendricks County is one of the major projects planned. It will consist of some 160 to 200 pages of history of people, places and things of our time.

Some 640 to 800 pages will be devoted to individual biographies and family histories. The book is designed to be an heirloom with fine quality cover and paper. To be listed in the Who's Who in Hendricks County will cost \$25.00. A charge of \$5.00 will be made for each picture. By the time this bulletin arrives, you will have received more information through the mail. However, those who order their 1974 history by October 15th will receive a 25% discount. This will be a worth while saving especially to those interested in several copies. After October 15, the price will be \$16.00 a copy. The histories will be delivered after April, 1974.

Another important project of the commission is in charge of Clark Kellum, chairman of the Pioneer Certificates Committee. Serving on the committee with Mr. Kellum are Chester V. Parker, Pittsboro; Katherine Hamilton, North Salem; Maxine Osborn, Danville; Mary B. Thompson, Clayton; Ida Mae Miller, Plainfield; Ruth M. Pritchard, Clayton; Virginia Cummings, Brownsburg; Frances English, Brownsburg; Jack Gambold, Coatesville; Grace Cox, Danville, and Claude Ward, Plainfield.

This committee is urging all Hendricks County residents whose families settled here before 1900 to dig into their genealogy records in order to help create a county-wide genealogical file. The committee plans to issue certificates to families who can trace their histories to this period. Those who can trace their lineage to Hendricks County settlers who came prior to 1830 will be eligible for gold seal certificates; those whose forebears arrived between 1861 and 1900 can receive certificates with blue seals. Applicants do not have to reside in Hendricks County.

This committee is also interested in how many tracts of Hendricks County property remain today in the hands of direct lineal descendants of Hendricks County pioneers who received title to the land or any portion thereof from the U. S. Government. Mail to this committee should be sent to P. O. Box 154, Danville, In. 46122. To receive a reply from the committee, however, letters must be accompanied by self-addressed stamped envelope.

Mrs. John McCoy, of Danville, a talented member of the Hendricks County Art League, has designed the commemorative seal. Mrs. McCoy has been recognized widely for her work. Her design was chosen by a committee from several that were submitted.

Although most of the events are in the planning stage, one of the most interesting suggestions being discussed is staging an old-fashioned political torch-light parade in conjunction with the election next year, with candidates from both parties appearing in costume on soap boxes.

A successful celebration entails an enormous amount of time and effort and depends on the whole-hearted support of every citizen of the county. Especially should members of the Hendricks County Historical Society be enthusiastic in their help, for we, as a society, will profit in proportion to the success of this important and historic milestone. Let us contribute, each in his own way, to this memorable occasion, for we shall not have another opportunity for at least fifty years!

HCMS

At one time in his career as a teacher, Mr. Joe Davidson of Coatesville attended a conference at which there was present a French girl. She expressed to him considerable dismay over idiomatic English, which she had a tendency to interpret literally. This made Mr. Davidson think about localisms and idiomatic expressions, and led to the following recent compilation of expressions of this type. He has put them into likely sentences; comments in () are by the collector. Idioms are underlined.

Every whipstitch I received a notice. (i.e., constantly, every day)

Some time when passing drop in. (note; Physically impossible)

The man had bats in his belfrey. (was crazy)

It was a dog-eat-dog situation. (every man for himself)

In an emergency he was a cool as a cucumber. (calm and in control)

He declared it to be a cock and bull story. (nonsense)

The poor fellow had lost all his marbles. (gone crazy)

They were faced with a groundhog case. (?) (One doubtful of solving)

They wanted to always be the top banana. (boss)

A case of keeping up with the Jones's. (having equal material wealth)

We hurried down a woodpecker's lunch. (i.e., small, quick meal)

She was dressed within an inch of her life. (dressed to the extreme of style)

To secure an education he had a tough row to hoe. (struggle against adversity)

It was a shot-gun wedding. (bride was pregnant, the marriage forced on the groom)

I made a heel of myself; I'm a crumb, a square. (cad; no good; socially behind)

She was as pretty as a specked pup. (a complimentary expression)

He could plainly see the handwriting on the wall. (warning that the end is near)

His speech was so much hogwash. (nonsense)

He was hand in glove with the politicians. (working closely with; usually derogatory)

They shilly-shallied out of it. (escaped by dodging the issue)

To get there we drove all the way around Robin Hood's barn. (the longest way)

It turned out to be a horse of a different color. (another matter altogether)

The entire family was hit with the same brick. (resembled each other in some way)

Did you ever crawfish out of a deal? (withdraw underhandedly)

He was constantly behind the eight ball. (in trouble)

The family was hard out to it to make ends meet. (found it difficult; live at a subsistence level)

It was characteristic of him to go off half-cocked. (unprepared)

One knew by his actions there was a dog in the well. (something was suspicious)

The child was about knee-high to a grasshopper. (very young or short)

We'll stay till the cows come home. (literally, till evening; until the end)

We'll stay till hell freezes over. (as long as necessary)

They were head over heels in debt. (deeply)

"We'll show them," he boasted, "how the boar hog et the cabbage." (the right way)

That man was as close as the bark on a beech tree. (miserly with his money)

His bald head reminded one of heaven, no parting there. (a pun)

Their squabble was no more than a tempest in a teacup. (inconsequential)

Their affair was just so much fuss and feathers. (inconsequential)

The teacher was strict; he nailed their hides to the school house door. (punished them)

That meant the calf would have to be licked over again. (the task begun again)

So easy it was like taking candy from a baby. (no resistance)

We took him to be as straight as string. (honest)

That wrestler was built like a country back house. (well constructed; strong)

When she bragged what she would do her husband answered, "Horsecollar." (nonsense)

He was elected by the skin of his teeth. (just barely made it)

There was not a girl in the style show with a skirt that pigtailed. (?)

He had completely gone to the dogs. (become a derelict)

His bewildered look gave him the name of sad sack. (gloomy)

It beats the dogs a-barking what can happen so quickly. (is amazing)

In school work he was keen as a briar. (very bright)

The President told them to put up or shut up.

He was said to be as contrary as the devil's old sow. (contrary)

That army examination had him buffaloed from the start. (completely confused)

When the Mormons reached Utah it was root hog or die. (work or perish)

The business proposition had me up a stump. (confused; or trapped in a situation)

He tried to carry water on both shoulders. (do more than he was capable of; serve both God and mammon)

Political promises had the governor out on a limb. (in an indefensible position)

In business we have to mind our P's and Q's. (act properly)

He never could see beyond the end of his nose. (short-sighted)

Some cut off their noses to spite their face. (acted in a way detrimental to their aims)

He was said to be a hail fellow well met. (good friend) ?

Sooner or later he would fall off the water wagon. (break his pledge)

Often people can't see the woods for the trees or the town for the houses. (too close to the situation to see the whole problem)

He finally had to face the music. (come before his accusers for punishment)

We figured that he would never set the world on fire. (do great things in his life)

What he had to say burned me up. (made me angry)

It was that last drink that knocked Dad off the fence. (was in excess of capacity)

He had a reputation for being penny wise and pound foolish. (smart about small matters and foolish about large ones)

I might live to be the last leaf upon the tree. (outlive everyone in a group)

When he heard it he raised Old Ned. (literally, the devil; created a commotion)

He would pay the debt when pigs began to fly. (never)

When asked what he was doing he said, "just horsin' around." (doing nothing constructive)

Purdue's team was sitting pretty when they won and Ohio State lost. (in a good position)

When he arrived home Father remarked, "I have a crow to pick with you." (and item to discuss; minor argument)

When times were good they ate high on the hog. (ate well; i.e., of good quality)

Most children when growing up are eating their white bread, in adulthood their brown. (have the best part of their lives as children)

Sometimes it turns out that a braggart has to eat crow. (admit he is wrong; be humbled)

When they heard the story they regarded it as old hat. (out of date)

Most families have a skeleton in the closet. (unsavory family history better kept hidden)

The bank closed and our money went up salt creek. (was lost)

His chance of a come-back has gone with the wind. (return to greatness, vanished)

He didn't know "B" from a bull's foot. (unlearned; inexperienced)

The teacher was entirely put out with him. (disgusted)

That was the straw that broke the camel's back. (something in excess of capacity)

Sometimes we have to get down to brass tacks. (the heart of the matter)

He couldn't hold a candle to his brother. (compare with)

It was a whale of a good job. (excellent)

He was as tight as a boot. (stingy with money; or inebriated) (drunk)

He was a crook and a stool-pidgeon. (criminal; informer)

They knew on which side their bread was buttered. (where the advantages were)

God made you and He made a sun-flower; He made me and He made a daisy. (referring to size or beauty:) (an opposite meaning here "daisy"- a clown or one laughable in nature)

He was always joking; a chip off the old block. (like his father)

He said he would pay the debt when his ship came in. (vague future prosperity)

You have heard of the boy who got too big for his britches. (exceeded his authority)

When a mud turtle bites he doesn't let go till it thunders. (for a long time)

He was a Mexican athlete; he was slinging the bull. (blason populaire meaning to lie)

His family led him a dog's life. (poor or wretched existence)

When contradicted he got his dander up. (became angry)

The President isn't too different from other men; he puts on his pants one leg at a time. (i.e., titles do not always set men apart)

He had hard cider so we all wet our whistles. (had a drink)

The merchant pledged to stand behind all purchases made. (guarantee)

They would fight at the drop of your hat. (at the slightest excuse)

The whole place was rundown at the heels. (in a state of disrepair)

When he heard the story he knew something was rotten in Denmark. (was suspicious)

Ye are the salt of the earth. (basic and good)

In the final game they had their backs to the wall. (were in a desperate situation)

The remainder of his term in office he was considered a lame duck. (ineffectual because his replacement was known)

A man making love to a teenage is fooling with jail bait. (liable for prosecution)

The dirt on his clothing was like an old woman's grease, and would come off when it dried. (?) (never would come clean)

The politicians were all safely aboard the gravv train. (benefits by virtue of office)

His political connections gave to him pork barrel opportunities. (political patronage)

He enjoyed his game of cowpasture pool. (?) (Golf)

The Guide - Wednesday, April 29, 1970

"COUNTY WAS 'THE WEST' 150 YEARS AGO by Don Siebert

It was along about this time of the year in 1820 that the first settlers entered the southeast corner of what is now Hendricks County. The cold of winter had retreated the old Indian trails had dried out, and the magic touch of spring was in the air.

There were seven of these hardy pioneers who first came to find new homes and new futures. They apparently brought their families with them--although the records are frustratingly silent on this point. The tiny group settled in the virgin forests along White Lick near the Morgan County line, south of where Plainfield now stands in Guildford Township. ("Guildford" is the original spelling as found in early history.)

The names of these enterprising men have been preserved. They were Bartholomew Ramsey, Samuel Herriman, Harris Bray, John W. Bryant, James Dunn, George Dunn, and Ezekiel Moore.

Although they were adding a page to our national history, the early settlers couldn't have cared less. Their thoughts were on erecting cabins against the coming of winter and historians noted that they also planted corn and potatoes to carry them through to the next spring. They were practical people in a harsh environment.

However, they were not as isolated as pioneers are often pictured. The new state capital, laid out the same year, was only a few miles away. There were extensive settlements being made all along the Wabash River during 1820, and a "road," more properly called the Terre Haute Trail, was being cut through the wilderness. This trail passed through Hendricks County about one to two miles south of where the National Road was built, now known by the colorless name of U. S. 40. The Terre Haute Trail for some years was one of the few trade routes to Indianapolis and played an important part in the early history of the county.

Where there are people, business houses soon appear, and Hendricks County was no exception. Nathan Kirk, described in the old records as "an enterprising and intelligent settler," soon followed the first settlers, and before the end of 1820 had opened a public house.

The dispensation of alcoholic beverages, it seems, was an essential service on the frontier throughout our history. Indeed, the public house did more than serve liquor. It was a place for social events and political gatherings, served as a hotel, and was often a source of the latest news. Undoubtedly Kirk's public house, which was located on the Terre Haute Trail in the southwest corner of the county, served all of these purposes.

However, Mr. Kirk was destined for greater things. He was chosen as one of the first associate county judges, and later moved to Clinton County where he founded the town of Kirklin about 10 miles southeast of Frankfort. The town of Kirk's Prairie was also named for him. He was, obviously, a man of some ability.

By the spring of 1821, more settlers began to pour into the county. One Felix Belzer, described as a "mighty hunter," soon arrived and settled on the east fork of White Lick. During the winter of 1821-22 he killed 125 deer in the county--undoubtedly a welcome source of food during the cold months before spring. Also in the spring of 1821, Noah Kellum and Thomas Lockhart came to make their reputation in this county.

Thomas and William Hinton, James Thompson, and Robert McCrackin settled on the west fork of White Lick in the fall of 1821 in Liberty Township. The following year, a considerable number of settlers entered the territory now known as Washington, Guildford, and Liberty Townships.

Some of the leaders among the settlers began to press for organization of a county government and their dreams were realized in 1824. There were barely 1,000 people in the county at that time. As previously noted, nearly all of the settlers were still located in what is now Guilford Township, a few were in Liberty, and Washington Townships, and two or three families lived on Eel River near the site of North Salem. The land was rolling, well watered, and well drained. It was ideal farming country; there was no compelling reason to seek other places and other lands.

According to one historian, "not one settler had yet been so adventurous as to brave the swamps and mosquitoes of any portion of the county now occupied by Union, Middle, Brown, and Lincoln Townships." Even by as late as 1830, the historian notes, "not more than 50 persons were within the limits of these four townships." It was not until 1835, for example, that William Harris laid out Brownsburg.

The legislative act which authorized the organization Hendricks County was passed on Dec. 20, 1823. The county was named for William Hendricks, then Governor and quite popular with the people. Hendricks was one of 30 counties carved from the huge territorial county of Wabash--all of which laid south of the Wabash River.

According to the act, Hendricks County was to become a political reality, at any rate, on April 1, 1824. Preparations were made for that historic event.

In the quaint language of the act, a "seat of justice" had to be chosen, and within 12 months the Board of Commissioners had to "proceed to erect the necessary public buildings thereon." These were to include "Circuit Courts and other courts of the county," and a county jail. Provisions were also made for a county library.

The Commissioner energetically sought a "seat of justice," or county seat. Several localities claimed that honor. One such locality recorded by historians "was at George Mattock's Tavern, two miles east of Belleville where a town had been laid out and named Hillsboro." However, the Commissioners picked a spot near the geographical center of the county (Danville) on "the second Monday in July, 1824."

After the county seat was chosen, the Commissioners selected a site for the Courthouse and public square. A stake was driven in the center of the hill upon which the Courthouse now stands by Thomas Lockhart, one of the early settlers. Four settlers then donated 20 acres upon which the town was laid out.

On Oct. 20, of the same year, town lots were offered at public sale which was continued for three days. The Commissioners ordered "15 gallons of whiskey to assist purchasers in making their selections and estimating their value," one early chronicler slyly notes. It was also recorded that the County Coroner, Samuel Herriman, "was made cup bearer on the occasion, and attended to the proper distribution of the refreshments." It was a gala event and the people obviously made the most of it.

By the end of the sale and several headaches later, most of the lots in the 20 acres had been sold. The lowest price was a mere \$3 and the highest was \$115, which was paid for the lot on the northeast corner of Main and Washington Streets in downtown Danville. Available records do not list the total amount received from the sale of the lots.

Two years later the first Courthouse was completed and the first court in Danville was held in April, 1826--just a bare six years after the first settler entered the county. The seat of justice was constructed of peeled hickory logs and cost the staggering sum of \$147. The jail was made of the same material and, to believe a local historian, "was considered impregnable from without and within."

However, despite the hard labor of the settlers, only the bare outlines of a county existed--but the quick pace of events were to change all that. When George Washington insisted on a "national road" running across the waist of the new Republic, he wisely foresaw that it would bind together the growing nation and provide easy access to the lands to the West. By 1830 his arguments were vindicated and the Cumberland Road, as it was sometimes called, had been completed through the southern part of Hendricks County.

This then-amazing, all-weather road was a much needed shot in the arm for the new county and might be described as the inter-state highway of its day. For years along this road passed a never-ending procession of emigrants night and day as they pushed to the West.

This constant stream of people needed supplies and services and businesses sprung up everywhere along the famed road. Money began to flow into the county--and so did settlers. The National Road, one writer declares, "added much to the rapid settlement and development of that portion (the southern half) of Hendricks...hundreds of these travelers found inducements to settle here, and did so, when they had intended to go farther west...every farmhouse (along the road) became a hotel, and the immense travel was a great source of wealth to them." Hendricks County, at last, was on its way.

It is difficult to look back in this sesquicentennial year of Hendricks County and picture what the people and living conditions were like. They were hard-working people of the soil for the most part with a profound faith in themselves and their future. Life was hard and often dull and boring. Some early pioneers lost their minds in the utter silence and awful isolation of their every-day lives. By our standards, they were narrow-minded, reactionary, and rather coarse. Certainly they would have little in common with our present-day "intellectuals" and "liberals." Such people would have been incomprehensible to them--and the pioneers would have undoubtedly dealt with them accordingly.

But there is another side to every coin, as the saying goes. The pioneers were also fun-loving people with a great sense of humor. They loved good times and used a barn raising, a log rolling, the sale of town lots, almost anything as an excuse for a celebration. Hard liquor was the order of the day, when such gala events occurred. At times the settlers must have known they were making history, but they were much more interested in living. They were honest and God fearing, and they made this world we know possible; it is a debt we will owe them all through eternity.

There was an era of unprecedented pioneering as settlers pushed up from southern Indiana and spilled over into Illinois and beyond. The drive for the lands to the west was a compelling one that neither the elements nor the Indians could stop. For a few years, Indiana was the Western Frontier, then the wave of settlers moved on, the state became more settled. Nothing like it had ever happened before and nothing like it would ever happen again.

Another donated 20 acres upon which the town was laid out. On Oct. 20, of the same year, town lots were offered at public sale which was continued for three days. The Commissioners ordered "12 gallons of whiskey to assist purchasers in making their selections and estimating their value." One early chronicler also noted. It was also recorded that the County Engineer, Samuel Harrison, "was made up better on the occasion, and attended to the proper distribution of the refreshments." It was a gala event and the people obviously made the most of it. By the end of the sale and several headaches later, most of the lots in the 20 acres had been sold. The lowest price was a mere \$3 and the highest was \$12, which was paid for the lot on the northeast corner of Main and Washington Streets in downtown Danville. Available records do not list the total amount received from the sale of the lots.

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