

H
977.253
H498h

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



V I
January, 1974
VOLUME NUMBER

PUBLISHED BY
THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Hail to our New Officers!

President

Floyd Hufford
35 W. College
Brownsburg, In 46112
Tel. 852-4161

Vice President

Mrs. Dessie Davis Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lixton, In 46149
Tel. 994-5211

Secretary

Mrs. Roy Pritchard
R. R. 1, Box 209
Clayton, In 46113
Tel. 539-6890

Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Helen W. Walker
R. R. 1, Box 121B
Clayton, In 45118
Tel. 539-4951

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian

Mrs. Harold Templin
R. R. 1, box 86
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 539-4311

Annual dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the Editor.

Margaret Baker. . . Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

H C H S

God Bless Thy Year!

Greetings for the New Year from your Publication Committee

Mrs. Ruth Hall
Mrs. Albert Reitzel
Mrs. Sherman Crayton

Mrs. Zona Walker
Mr. Joe Davidson

Schedule of Meetings for 1974

January 13, 1974 - 2:00 P.M.

Danville Christian Church

Mr. Max Lee, presiding

Invocation: Dr. Joseph Stump

Program: Dr. Sherman Crayton "Changing Times"

Social hour: Center township ladies in charge

For display: Appropriate pictures or articles

April 14, 1974 - 2:00 P.M.

Mill Creek East Elementary - Clayton

Ruth Gregory - presiding

Program - Mike Lynch, President State Junior Historical Society

Subject: Old Homes and Old Architecture

For Display: Pictures and articles about old Hendricks County Homes

Social hour: Liberty, Franklin and Clay Townships

July 14, 1974 - 2:00 P.M.

Pittsboro Christian Church

Program: Old fashioned School

Committee: Joe Davidson

C. V. Edmondson

Leonard A. Fleenor

Ida Mae Miller

Mrs. Roy Fisher

Mr. Claire Sellars

Margaret Spoon - presiding

Union and Middle Township ladies in charge of social hour

For display: school pictures, readers etc.

October 13, 1974 - 1:00 P.M.

Trip - to be announced later - or alternative

Famous Trials in Hendricks County - Jack Gambold

(Trip \$1.50 for less than 15; \$1.00 for more than 15) Details later.

Good News for HCHS!!

Let us welcome all these new members!

Elizabeth Hall Atkinson
H. Keith Baldwin
Grace D. Bales
Arthur E. Blum
Clarice Whicker Burdsall
Mary E. Cooper
Samuel C. Craver
Sarah Cushing
Earl Dugan
Edna Hand
Elmer L. Koch, M. D.
Earl Pike
J. Charles Pike

Russell H. Rayburn
Marvel Hunt Ross
Sarah B. Setchell
Mildred Masten Todd
Dagmar Schilke
Grace Walton
Elva F. Watt
J. Robert Leak
David Newberry
Fonda H. Jackson
Mrs. Max H. Dillon
Mrs. Donald Shields
Mrs. A. J. Emrich

Melva Shiery
Mrs. Frank Hanna
Miss Naomi Joseph
Miss Mabel R. Joseph
Mrs. Lucille Anderson
Mr. Theodore Kersey
Mr. Leonn J. Davis
Bessie S. Hardin
Mrs. Nina Smith
Bessie Leak Vest
Ramona Boley
Edith R. Elrod
Arnold Stanley
Joy Schell

(Ruth Pritchard works very hard keeping our membership list up-to-date, but if, by chance, your dues came in after we went to press, please forgive us for omitting your name. We will try to get it in the next list.)

October 14, 1973

A record crowd turned out for our October meeting at Eaton Hall in Brownsburg. Mrs. H.A. Smith presided and Mrs. Hazel Rains of Pittsboro gave the invocation. Dr. Crayton conducted the business meeting. Michael Lynch, Brownsburg, president of the Indiana Junior Historical Society, spoke of their achievements and goals, surveys, trips and convention. He asked assistance from our Society in locating dwelling houses or business buildings old enough to merit attention for their architectural survey. He also mentioned their tree survey, interest in antiques, genealogy, oral history and one-room schools.

Mrs. Scott Hosier, Chairman of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee, gave a resume of the plans for the celebration. He announced that Mayor Richard Lugar, of Indianapolis, will be the speaker at the kick-off meeting April 1. Mayor Lugar is a great grandson of Hendricks County's coverlet weaver, Hugh Wilson, of Coatesville.

New officers were elected for the coming year, and Mr. Floyd Hufford spoke on the subject "So You Think You Have it Tough". Ladies from Brown, Lincoln and Middle townships furnished refreshments for the social hour.

HCHS

THE INDIANA JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY WORKS FOR THE FUTURE

By, Mike Lynch, Pres. I.J.H.S.

The Junior Historical Society is an organized group of State-Wide history clubs. At the present time there are approximately 10,000 students involved in the Society and we are growing all the time. Our motto is "History can be fun". Sure enough the Society makes history just exactly that, fun.

We have many activities that the youth in our organization can participate in. For many of the activities, the soul purpose is the recording, saving, or restoring of some aspect of Hoosier History. For instance, the Society sponsors architectural surveys, water crossing surveys, and presently two restoration projects, one of a lock on the Wabash and Erie Canal and the other a one room school house in Homer.

The school house is the one we are concentrating on at the present. Three of my last eight Saturdays have been spent at the school house. When we were given the school house it was used as a storage barn. At one time it had been used to house hogs and had one wall torn out to put in a door. As it stands now, after many hard hours of work by many students from all over the state, the school house has a new roof, a new wall, new windows and sills, a new ceiling, and a new sub-floor. When it is completed it will be opened for the public. It will be as close to its original state as possible with desks, stove, and even pictures on the walls.

There is much work yet to be done on it in the laying of flooring and replastering of the walls. But, when it opens, hopefully during the 1974 Homer Arts and Crafts Festival, it will stand as another contribution the I.J.H.S. has made to the future, by bringing back the past.

HCHS

BROWNSBURG HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLUB

The Brownsburg High School History Club started its year by going to Mrs. Ray McClain's home to record information on a tree for the Big Tree Contest. Six members of the club attended a Fall Workshop for officers which was held at Spring Mill State Park the week end of October 27 and 28. At the workshop, we were told of the

new awards to be given this May at the Spring Convention which will be held at Brownsburg. The new awards are for The Big Tree contest, which is a cash prize to the club finding the biggest tree in Indiana, and the Civil War Grave Stone Rubbings which is rubbing the epitaphs off the grave stones on to a piece of paper. The information we receive will be sent to the Indiana Junior Historical Society Office.

We are engaged in an architectural survey, so if anyone knows of an old home, we would appreciate their contacting the Brownsburg High School History Club, 1000 S. O'Dell St., Brownsburg, Indiana. We would like to thank those who have helped us already.

Linda Lynch, president
Brownsburg High School History Club

HCHS

Query

James Colvin, born 1795, Ky., lived in Harrison Co., In. from 1840 through 1850 census. Will pay \$10.00 for proof of his death.
Mrs. F. A. Rowden
1222 Park Ave., La Junta, Co. 81050

HCHS

THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

by R. S. Debra

The Governor's Mansion may not be
A house both grand and tall
Because it is old as you can see
But stalwart over all
Still history claims it for her own
Along with Ira Chase
Who lived in Danville many years
And gave fame to the place.

Yes Danville has a Governor's Mansion. Governor Ira Chase who served as Governor of Indiana from November 24, 1891 until January 8, 1893, during which time he lived in a house down on the end of Kentucky and Mill Streets. The house is an old-timer from away back probably a hundred and twenty years old, though there is nothing certain about those figures. Through the kindness of Mrs. George Anderson and her husband, the present owners of the house, June 7, 1951, this much was learned of the history of the place.

The land on which the house stands was purchased, in a tract of 80 acres, from the United States Government in 1824. The purchaser was a James Downard and the deed was signed by President Monroe. Since it was the custom of the day to build a house in which to live as soon as the land was purchased, it is safe to say the house was built at that time.

The frame work is of hewed logs, mortised and pinned together and the timbers used were of poplar. The only changes that have been made in the original house are the additions of a porch on the west and a new roof. Instead of plaster and lath on the inside of at least one of the rooms has a ceiling of wide boards, planed, tongued and grooved by hand.

Governor Chase was an Easterner, having been born in Monroe County, New York in 1834. As a young man, he moved to Illinois with his father and taught school at Barrington. When the Civil War broke out, he was the first man in Barrington to enlist. He became a sergeant in Company C. of the 19th Illinois Infantry and served in the Western campaigns.

In 1862 he became ill in Nashville and his wife and small child hurried to his

side. Army regulations permitted only nurses in camp and she was barred. So she became an Army Nurse and brought her husband back to health again. She contracted small pox while in the service and was blinded permanently.

Mr. Chase was discharged from the service in 1863 because of illness and entered the ministry. He held charges in the Christian Church in Mishawaka, LaPorte, Danville, Pittsburgh, Pa. and Peoria, Ill.

He was a candidate for governor of the state in 1888 but was defeated by Alvin F. Hovey. The convention nominated him for Lieutenant Governor and he served two terms. When Governor Hovey died, Chase served as Governor from November 24, 1891 to January 3, 1893. Re-entering the ministry, he died at Lubec, Maine and was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

In a talk with Dr. Lawson back in 1942, the Doctor had this to say about the Governor. "Sure I remember Governor Ira Chase. He lived right here in Danville during the time he was governor. He commuted back and forth to Indianapolis by way of the Big Four Railroad, every day. It wasn't much of a walk from his home to the Big Four Depot and he walked it twice a day on his trips to the city. It was here in Danville in that house that they lost their son in a tragic accident in which I had a part as the family physician. Mrs. Chase was blind from small pox, contracted while a nurse in the army. Their young son was ill from pneumonia and she was to give him doses of morphine if the pain became too great. Being blind she would judge the amount only by the pain and moans of the patient. In her anxiety for her son, she misjudged his condition and gave him too much of the drug. I was called in with four other doctors and we worked long and hard to get him awake again but it was no use. He died from an overdose of morphine."

"The Governor himself was a very dignified gentleman. When he was here as pastor of the Christian Church, it was in the old church which stood where the new church now stands."

A daughter Mrs. Lecca Chase Murphy resides in Muncie. She has many friends here where she has frequently visited.

Mrs. Juliette Strouse had this to say about Governor Chase and his family. "I remember the Chase family in a sort of general way. They were very fine people, cultured and refined in every way. They were such a contrast to the Blue Jeans Williams of that day who were their opposites in many ways. There was one circumstance that I remember very well. The Campbells lived in the brick house now occupied by Mrs. George Brill and her family and I was at their home one evening. When it came time for me to go home, the Governor offered to take me home in his sleigh. I was thrilled beyond measure. Their daughter used to visit quite a bit with the Showalters."

A clipping from an Indianapolis paper of that time gives a side light on politics of the day. Alvin P. Hovey (Republican) became governor in 1889 and died in office November 23, 1891, the vacancy being filled by Ira J. Chase. Hovey's administration was stormy because the legislature took away some of his powers of appointment. Ira Chase came into the governor's seat right at the time when the Australian ballott system was installed. It was a step in the direction of a more honest way of voting. It aimed to stop the buying of voters by politicians. By making the voting secret it was thought that the person who paid for votes would have no assurance that they had been delivered.

Another law passed, changed the method of selecting text books for the schools. The selection was put in the hands of educational experts. The prices of the books were also fixed thus guaranteeing a reasonable cost. Also in this period the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was erected. The corner stone was laid in August 22, 1889.

It can be seen by these events that the Governor in those days had some real problems to face. Political corruption was running wild and had to be curbed at any price. A new system of voting was established and was so good that it is used to this day. The school book graft received its first body blow. And even at that time certain labor forces were tying up production with strikes.

But through it all, Governor Chase made a fine record, one that the people of Danville were especially proud.

Not every town in Indiana can boast of having the governor of one of the states as one of their citizens. But when Governor Chase lived here he was among friends and he knew it. Although they were very cultured and refined, still they were just plain "folks" to the people who lived in Danville at that time.

HCHS

"TIS SURE AND TRUE."

George Monniger put the stamp of Ireland on North Salem, Hendricks County.

There is an individual in every community whose life story would make easy reading. North Salem had that individual in the person of George Monniger of Irish Hill.

Yes, once upon a time North Salem had an Irish Hill. It was located fifty feet or so from the B & O Railroad depot. It was dubbed the Republican Headquarters, Bureau of Information, and the spark that kept Ireland alive. It was the loafing place for all and sundry. Irish Hill was owned and operated by the Irishman that out-Irished them all. He had an Irish tenor voice that could make hearts throb or convulse with joy. He could dance like a professional hooper. The may of Ireland was on his face and he was proud of it. He was rough and tough and hard to bluff.

He could and did make blackberry wine that was nectar for the gods. This was George Monniger. He died at the age of 88 on Nov. 30, 1951. And his friends were legion. Stories of this son of Erin will never die in North Salem. Every St. Patrick's Day will bring on the retelling.

George was born in Indianapolis, or so he said, and was deserted by his parents at an early age. He was placed in the Boy's School at Plainfield because in that distant past there were no homes for children left alone. George talked freely of conditions, where he learned to "oane a chair," within a short time and he never lost his speed in this craft.

He soon got a break when Mr. and Mrs. Billy Landers, who owned a farm south of North Salem at the first T on State Road 75, took him into their home. He said "Uncle Billy was good to me, but he dammed near worked my pants off, but Aunt Lizzie was as good as gold."

A trait that George developed when quite young was that hard labor paid dividends. He worked at anything to earn a dollar. He soon became an expert timberman. He began to be a cruiser and timber buyer. He bought for the Hoosier Veneer and Theising Veneer of Indianapolis. He was sent to Africa and to Central America to locate and buy Mahogany trees. He was given charge of recruiting laborers and operating a commissary. Several North Salem men went with him to these foreign countries.

His adventures should have been made into a book. True adventures could have used these jungle trips. He could hold an audience spellbound relating them.

An African mission native helped in the commissary. Monniger played many jokes on him in order to make his crew laugh. Of course he was named "Jim." He dressed this native in a white shirt that came below his loin cloth. He obtained a high silk hat which the native would not remove even when he dined. A photograph was made of them which remained in the Monniger home until his death.

The home on South California St., North Salem was filled with beautiful native craft. There were beads, coral, conch shells, ivory carvings and carved mahogany boat paddles. A handmade gold ring was made from African gold, a Tenneriff table cloth made by islanders of Tenneriff.

The Irishman made many trips abroad until age and his wife's illness prohibited his leaving the country.

No St. Patrick's Day passed without greetings being sent to him, and stories are yet told of episodes that happened in his life-time.

One that will never fade occurred while in Central America. His company recognized his qualities and industry to the extent that every six months they brought him out of the bush country as their guest in the best hotel in the city.

At this particular time a large ship had arrived with a long list of wealthy passengers and the hotel was full. The hotel manager knew he must not offend the lumber company so they had to provide for the timber cruiser and helper as usual. The helper was Virgil Robbins, a brother-in-law.

The two men out of the bush, hot, dirty, unshaven, looked like hoboes. Yet they could not be turned away from the dining room. The manager hurriedly found suits of white linen. Monniger, always ready for fun, had imbibed too freely and was in top notch humor. Robbins was tall and slim. Monniger was short and heavy-set. Of course the manager brought suits to fit. But Monniger passed them out. Here these two men went to the dining room. The tall one in a short suit and the short one in a long suit. They looked so much like clowns which was exactly what they wished that the guests were startled, then thought the management was staging a floor show.

Robbins was embarrassed to tears, Monniger was in his glory. He carried on with the idea and in his wonderful tenor voice sang as only a happy Irishman could. The orchestra followed his lead. He led them into a series of Irish jigs, and the crowd roared. The guests enjoyed the program so much that they tossed handful after handful of silver coins to the two men. The two men could tell it fifty years later and bring forth peals of laughter.

Another story that never grew old happened in 1912 when the Republican party split and brought forth the Progressive Movement headed by Theodore Roosevelt. Monniger was a Roosevelt man and the biggest Bull Moose of them all. When "Teddy" came to Indianapolis on a speaking engagement, a goodly crowd from North Salem was there. Though the band played lively music it wasn't lively enough for this Irishman. So he marched to the speaker's stand to direct the band. The director saw that he had "looked upon the wine when it was red," and decided to play along with him. He readily gave up the baton. Monniger, in his glory, directed the band and sang one song after another and actually stole the show.

Theodore Roosevelt enjoyed it immensely.

The Irishman helped the needy and before his marriage he made his home at the "Mary Jane Hotel" which was owned and operated by a woman who was noted for helping the "down and out." As the years went by Mary Jane came by hard times. A few of her older boarders helped with supplying her table. No questions were asked where the boarder got the ham or the "side of meat" or how the chicken met death. It was just cleaned and cooked and passed around.

Not so with George Monniger. He sent money to Mary Jane many times. Once while on a buying trip, he sent her one hundred dollars which was quite a gift in those days. He brought laughter, song, mirth and good will wherever he passed. After such an active life he bought Irish Hill and continued in the grocery business until a fire of unknown origin burned the building and contents. The counter in the store was one solid mahogany board which he had brought from Central America.

He could recite, "Let Me Live in A House by the Side of the Road, and be a Friend to Man", as no one else could. And this Irishman did just that. He could sing "My Wild Irish Rose" in a manner that would have pleased Harry Louder.

Irish Hill appealed to old and young alike. He carried more one cent candy than any other store. Of course the kids all loved him. His was a little store that carried everything. He could feed you with Kingans one foot long, four inches with cotton bag bologna, saucer red beans, cheese, crackers, tomatoes, catsup and mustard. It was a haven for railroad workers. His daytime loafers were Asa Page, Lewis Owen, Earl Beeson, Sam Sheets and many others. Russell Wynkoop would go there frequently with Virg Osborn, who had a good baritone voice, "Wynie" with bass voice second to none and with Monniger's Irish tenor would harmonize in a song-fest that is seldom heard today. And you can bet that "My Wild Irish Rose" was seldom omitted.

And "Wynie" yet refers to George as one of his best friends and "back room" loafers he ever had. He was a "hog crackling" eater and story teller. Other hog crackling eaters of that day were Green Sowders, Bart and Virg Robbins, Dr. E. A. Royer, Charles Reed, Aug Anderson and Virg Osborn were among the hog crackling eaters of that day. And some one would get Monniger to tell of his trips.

During the time he operated for the lumber companies he was given letters of credit, without bond for many thousands dollars to buy mahogany logs. At this time Indianapolis was the largest veneer producers in America. Africa, where mahogany was found was infested with malaria and ague. In order to survive these, George would take quinine and a quart of whiskey daily.

He operated through interpreters. He brought logs in the mountains and moved them to the rivers by man power to float them to the seaside then load the logs on ships. The labor was cheap.

George was given orders by Theising Veneer Company to get the biggest mahogany log to be found. This he did. It was to be sent to the Chicago's World Fair. The log was shipped from New York on two flat cars, by special permission. This attracted much attention throughout the midwest.

Jess Lacky, resident of North Salem accompanied George on many of his trips. They also journeyed to Central America and Mexico for mahogany.

George Monniger was a keen observer of customs and beliefs of the natives. The outstanding feature of this man was, while he could rub shoulders with the aristocrats and had a rough exterior, yet he was of a great compassion and was a "friend to man".

And the Hendricks County Historical Society is paying tribute to one of "North Salem's Finest".

by Zona Walker, North Salem, Indiana

HCHS

SHE WAS A HENDRICKS COUNTY PIONEER

In the Reagan Cemetery, located south of New Winchester in Marion Township, one interested, could find on the southwest side of the burial ground a small, moss covered, marble monument that shows its more than a hundred years of summer's blistering sun and winter's icy blasts. Its lettering today is a bit difficult to read but after some rubbing away both moss and dust one makes out the following: "Polly (Pierson) Bohanan died August, 1872 at the age of 50 yrs. 10 mo. and 11 d." When the reader figures back with this information it shows that Polly saw the light of day on October 10, 1821. Where she sleeps is less than a mile from where she was born in a cabin home on the Pierson farm. Her birth place has been pointed out to the writer more than once where land and the one time cabin lay slightly southwest of New Winchester and the highway 36. During her life of a half century it is a fact she never lived in any adjoining county but spent her life in three townships of Hendricks County, Marion where she was born, Liberty where she moved after marriage and where perhaps all her older children were born, and Clay Township where her last children were born and grew up and here she and her husband died.

Abraham Bohanan, a Kentucky man met, courted Polly and married her when she was in her late teens. Her first child was America - who grew up a rolly-polly, good natured woman and who in time married a Kentuckian, Henry Carnett. She died in her early eighties. Nancy was the second child who grew tall, always generous, and married a Kentucky man Joseph Harris and they were to be this writer's grand parents. Other children born to Abraham and Polly were Lee, a strapping lad who when grown up went to Iowa, found a wife and lived out his life at Memburn. Only once or twice did he come back to Indiana.

Casandra was a tall, slim lady, always pleasant, a lover of good clothing. She married a war veteran Bennett Bryant and he was at one time sheriff of Hendricks County. The next child was Elizabeth, a short and stocky girl who married a man named Reed and they spent their lives in Iowa, near brother Lee. A second son came to Polly and Abraham but never a robust boy. He was a hunchback, a bright and witty member who died when but a young man. He was, while he lived, a favorite with all and was known as Jackie. Josephine came next but died in early childhood. The last of the children was Catherine who married a mechanic named Campbell and lived out her eighty years in Fillmore and sleeps within a few rods of her elder sister America.

Polly Bohanan was born and two years old when her county was organized. Over her fifty years of life she saw villages grow into towns, watched the passing of the subscription school and saw forest land turn to wood pastures and experienced improved roads and fenced in farms. Schools were still poor in her day and like other pioneer people lived in crowded cabin homes, used cook and drinking water from springs, the water often impure. They lacked doctors, dentists and had to rely on home remedies. It was during war days that Polly and others parched corn and wheat to use as a substitute for coffee.

From an ancient tintype this great grandmother was a rather short and plump person with round and pleasant face. Like those of her day she had courage for she stayed in a wilderness cabin with the flock and managed the farm work while Abraham and several neighbor men drove a few hundred big hogs to Cincinnati.

There had to be some pleasure in Polly's day or life would never have been worth living. She rode at occasional Christmas times in wagon or bob sled to her home with her family to spend the day and laugh and joke with kinsmen and neighbors. The women and girls on such occasions had dinner together in the cabin home while the men folk and boys ate and talked by the log-heap fire in the barn lot. Simple gifts were exchanged as knitted gloves and fascinators or hoods, sugared pop corn, home made candy of maple syrup and often gifts of sausage and a share of pork or beef.

Polly became ill and died in the month of August 1872. Near her grave is Abraham, Jackie and Josephine. She had experienced the hard life of all first people in a new land but like other pioneers she loved life, with all its sameness, its hard work, its scarcity of money and like so many brave ones helped to make our county one of the most progressive in Indiana. These pioneer people laid a great foundation.

Joe Davidson

HCHS

Query from Mrs. Wood

Marilyn Carter Wood
16 West King Street
Sullivan, Illinois 61951

Would like information about Andrew Fultz, her great great grandfather who is buried in cemetery of the Salem United Methodist Church in Liberty Twp. of Hendricks County, Indiana. He died February 11, 1851 aged 63 years, one month, and 7 days. She would like to hear from descendants of his children; John, Elihu, Christine M., Sarah, Louisa, Thomas B., Jacob B., Joshua M., Andrew Hart, Mary and Hannah.

Marilyn C. Wood descends from Andrew Hart Fultz.

HCHS

We sadly call attention to the death of two of our members, Mr. Hilden Ayres, Pittsboro, and Mr. Hoyt Spencer, Coatesville. We extend sympathy to their families. We also wish to express our condolences to Mrs. Fay Felknor, whose husband passed away recently, to Mr. Harmon Hathaway, who lost a daughter, & to Mr. Howard Roth on the death of his father.

HCHS

A Little of This and That

Our treasurer, Blanche Wean, who has her finger in just about every worth while pie in the community, was honored again, recently at the annual meeting of the alumni of the former Central Normal College. Her old commercial students banded together and gave her a surprise party and a well deserved gift.

Mrs. Alvin Hall, one of our most prominent members, was taken completely unaware, Saturday night, November 24, when the Hendricks County Democratic Women's Club (which she founded) staged a "This is Your Life, Vera". Many friends gathered to hear Bob Percy and Joe Stevenson recall incidents of her most interesting life, and to read telegrams from former governors, our state senators, and many others.

Congratulations to the Ford Bergens who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Thanks to Mr. Lara P. Good, Bonita Cal. for sending in many good suggestions for our Society.

Mrs. Kate Lawson McClain local artist has presented the Society with a picture she painted in 1910 in the art class of Mary T. Hadley Strauss. The picture was painted as she was looking south from her grandfather's, John W. Whyte's farm, half mile north of Danville. It shows the Central Normal College tower, the Court House tower, and the Christian Church tower, none of which are standing now. We hope to find a place for it in the Indiana Room of the library, and eventually, in our Historical Museum. Thank you, Kate.

"MONTCLAIR"

Sam Leach and Ora Harrison sat in Jim Singer's little store at Singer Station on the new I. D. & W. railroad in the southwest corner of Union township and discussed cove oysters.

It was a new store and it offered to the community exotic viands in cans and jars that were relatively strange to the community. The little store was packed with farm men who had gathered to trade and exchange news of the community. The store existed because of the railroad, which could bring merchandise from distant points within a short period of time.

But of all the new and novel eatments to be had for a price, nothing was so enticing to Sam and Ora as the cove oysters, which delicacy heretofore had been more than a rarity.

Sam and Ora both liked cove oysters and they were discussing the succulent bivalves and one word led to another. One boy opined he could eat so many cans. The other boys opined he could eat more. Urged on by the band of loafers, the boys finally made a wager. The one who got filled up first had to pay for the oysters eaten by both.

It turned out that each boy had to pay for his own oysters. The little store exhausted its supply of cove oysters before either boy had eaten to capacity.

The only point to the story is that the contest was held in a store on the site of Montclair, before Montclair came into being.

Dr. James Singer, a retired physician, owned the land where Montclair later was located. When the railroad came through his farm he opened a little store and called it Singer Station.

Although there are a number of people living who saw Singer Station come into being, and practically all of them agree that it was not operated until the railroad came through, none agree as to when the railroad actually was constructed. The dates run from 1877 to 1881.

Edgar Kennedy, who recently was 72 years old, says he saw the first train which ran over the new road, which is now a branch of the B & O. He says he believes the

event happened during his first year at school, and he started when he was 7 years old. If his recollection is correct, the railroad started operations in 1877.

Against these are the statements of J. E. Leach of Danville and Oma Leach of Lizton, one asserting the railroad started in 1878 and the other fixing the time as 1881.

Records in the office of Taylor & Taylor, abstractors, show that Singer deeded some land to the railroad on May 27, 1879, paying \$600 for it, and on Feb. 14, 1880--the year the Gazette was established--he deeded an extra 2.62 acres to the railroad. The dates are those of the recording of the deeds rather than of the actual transactions.

The record, however, shows that on April 14, 1881, Singer laid out some lots south of the railroad, and at that time Singer Station had given way to Montclair. Mr. Kennedy says that Dr. Singer named the town, but Mr. Leach is of the opinion the postal department named it when a post office was located there.

Dr. Singer heired 40 acres from his father, Enion Singer, whose will was admitted to probate in May, 1874. Dr. Singer sold the first lot, No. 3, to James H. McCord on May 25, 1881. This lot lies just north and west of the church building. A transfer of this lot is now being made by Ross Brickert to Cyril Leathers, who is purchasing the property.

A total of 22 lots were laid out by Singer. The north tier bordered on the railroad to the north, and because of the angle of the tracks, varied from a depth of 160 feet to 51 feet. Separated by a street which never was named, a second tier of lots lay to the south. These had a frontage of 60 feet and a depth of 160 feet. South of this tier was Thorp street (mentioned in some abstracts as Sharp street) which was to have been 60 feet wide.

Main street ran north from the present location of the church and extended across the railroad, then turning west and joining the present road.

West of Main street was a 12-foot alley, which is still in use and which was named Richmond alley. Along the west edge of the platted lots was Plummer street, which probably never was opened. The whole of the Montclair site comprised 6.3 acres. Most of this land is now owned by Ross Brickert and a Mr. White of Indianapolis.

John Moberly entered the land where Montclair once flourished on Nov. 21, 1938. His tract consisted of 80 acres. He willed the land to his daughter, Samantha, who married E. D. Seller. They deeded the farm to Enion Singer and it passed to Dr. Singer in 1874.

Singer Station had a rival town that died abornin. Jake Horner built a store on the new railroad a few miles to the east. It was known as Horner Station and was a railroad stop. Edgar Kennedy said it was a liquor store, and J. E. Leach says he does not know what kind of goods Horner handled. This store was located east of the old Lebanon road and just south of the railroad. The land is now owned by George Tucker. The place did not grow, but Singer Station ruled supreme for a time under the name of Montclair.

There is a difference of opinion as to whether it ever had a stove mill in addition to its other industries. Mr. Kennedy says one once operated there, but Mr. Leach says if it did he has no recollection of it. Both attended the Hunt or Montclair school on the present location. The original building was a frame structure, later replaced by the present brick building. Thad S. Adams was the first teacher in the old building. John Burgess was the second teacher and William Barber was the third.

Prior to the construction of the Montclair school, there was a log school house some distance to the north. It was built of logs and stood east of the road and south of the lane which lies south of the farm now owned by Granville Leach. Hiram Storms, a Civil War veteran, who lost a leg in that conflict was the last teacher at that location.

J. E. Leach, who attended that school, relates he was playing with Mr. Storm's cane during the noon intermission and Mr. Storms told the boy he could not hit his (the teacher's) leg hard enough to hurt. The boy whacked the wooden leg with all his might and when they laughed at his confusion he slashed the teacher over the head with the cane.

"I never got such a licking in my life as I did for that," said Mr. Leach in recalling the incident.

According to Edgar Kennedy, John Myers once operated the tile factory at Montclair. He went broke and moved to Kansas. Neither Mr. Kennedy nor Mr. Leach seem to recall Judd & Rice, who are listed in the rate book of Bradstreet (later Dunn & Bradstreet) as operating a tile manufacturing plant in its early days.

Neither do the old residents seem to remember what became of Dr. Singer. There is a tradition he committed suicide and another that he did a disappearing act. Be that as it may, Mrs. Singer was selling lots and signing deeds in 1889. In that year she sold a lot to William Neaville.

The property on the north side of the railroad now occupied by Mrs. Lizzie Scott was once owned by Mrs. Nan Gregg, a sister of Dr. Singer. Their farms were separated by the railroad.

During the '80s Montclair became famous as a cattle shipping center. The Clays and the Neavilles, with numerous other feeders, put Montclair second place in the State as a cattle shipping point.

About that time Mrs. Mandy Weddle operated a popular hotel and dining room in Montclair. She had as many as 25 regular boarders. Mrs. Weddle was famous as a cook and her patronage was liberal. Her daughter married the late Samuel R. Stewart. The building is now occupied by Edgar Byram.

Among others who now reside in the ghost town are John Byram, Charles Laughner, Alva Hedge and James Weddle. It is Mr. Weddle who now owns the old structure where gaiety and headaches were produced in Montclair's heyday. Recently it erroneously was reported the old blind tiger building was now owned by a Mr. Gentry.

Mr. Leach recalls the hot political meeting which once were held at Montclair. The Democrats, he said, on one occasion prepared an ornate float to take to a political rally at Lebanon the following day. During the night some Republicans slipped in and destroyed the decorations. When the act was discovered the Democrats were ready to take the warpath, but they did not learn the identity of the perpetrators of the act of vandalism.

But all fights did not originate over politics, he said. He recalls one, but he does not know what originated it. He was in it, too. Forgetfulness seems to enshroud most things connected with Montclair. Anyway, he and another boy became involved in an argument which lead to blows. A third boy tried to act as a peacemaker. The belligerents turned on him and gave him a sound thrashing. They then renewed their own feud. After the fracas was over each boy pumped water for the other to wash his battered face.

Another incident which took place in the Singer store, and illustrates the crude humor of the day, had to do with tobacco chewing. Among the crowd of loafers was a farmer who was celebrated for his stinginess. He asked another man for a chew, saying that his own plug of tobacco made him sick. A man pulled out his tobacco and gave the stingy farmer a "chew." He then asked that farmer to let him sample the tobacco which had made him ill. The farmer complied, and the other man stuck the plug in his pocket, saying, "If it makes you sick you've got no use for it." Another war almost started then.

Many similar tales Mr. Leach can spin about the activities of the town that once was. He recalls that the first telegraph operator was Charles McCord, who married Miss Ella Pritchett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pritchett, who lived to the north. William R. Flinn was a partner of Tom Day for 14 years in the operation of a general store at Montclair. They bought the store of the Ellis boys in 1894. Sol Ellis of Lizton is of that family. At the time, Mr. Day had a store at Raintown, and both places were operated for a while.

The strange thing about Montclair, however, is the fact that while numerous people are living who saw the rise and fall of the place, no one seems to have any exact dates to connect up with anything. For a number of years it was a thriving business center and did a big business with the First National Bank of Danville. Then it began to fold. Improved highway transportation explains that.

Perhaps the last real flurry of activity was on a day during the World War. Ross Brickert recalls that on one occasion there were forty teams and wagons in

town, the owners being on a buying spree. Coal was the commodity wanted and it was being rationed. Mr. Brickert had received a 60-ton car of coal and he was supposed to allow but one ton to a customer. The forty wagons were lined up and when they left for their several destinations no more coal was left in the car. One customer took so much that authorities later went to his home and removed part of it.

Now comes S. B. Trotter of North Salem, who throws more light on the history of Montclair. He served as railroad agent there and he is authority for the statement the tracks of the new railroad were laid in 1879 and 1880. A surprising bit of information gleaned from him is that the village had a third name at one time.

Mr. Trotter verifies the fact that the little town started off as Singer Station, but it didn't sing long, as the railroad officials didn't like it. So they named the embryo town Montelaine. Later, that name was dropped and it became Montclair, probably due to an act of the postal department.

Mr. Trotter supports Mr. Leach and Mr. Kennedy in the statement that Jame McCord was the first station agent and telegrapher in the new town, and that he married Etta Pritchett, but he goes farther and names others who presided at the depot for any length of time.

He also brings out that Montclair was a village where romance held sway, as well as a place where fights seemed to have resulted from "spontaneous combustion."

The railroad station was one of Cupid's advance positions, and all who took employment there fell victims of his dart.

Following Telegrapher McCord, who became the first matrimonial victim, the record of Montclair agents reads; Nick West, married a Pritchett. Wallace Stockton, married Laura Weddle. S. R. Stewart, married Alice Weddle. S. B. Trotter, married Jennie Pritchett, another daughter of Thomas Pritchett. Hal Manaugh, married a daughter of James Scott. Clarence Trotter, married May Pritchett.

And now comes another correspondent who writes that Willis Jones served as station agent, and he also fell a victim to the charms of a Montclair girl. This was Willis Jones, whose widow, Mrs. Catherine Jones, now lives in North Salem.

The same correspondent mentions a Rus Ridlan as a telegrapher operator at Montclair, but does not mention his matrimonial adventures. This correspondent says that when Manaugh and Ridlan were stationed at Montclair as agents of the C. H. & D. Ry. Co., William G. Duckworth was the section foreman and lived in Montclair. This was about 1897 to 1900. Bill evidently was a good a foreman as he later was as a merchant at North Salem, for during the course of his employment an inspection was made by railroad officials and he won a prize of \$25 for having the best kept section between Indianapolis and Decatur, Ill. While the Duckworths resided at Montclair Tom Day was the postmaster.

Another bit of information given by this correspondent is that Tom Plummer was one of Montclairs postmasters, and a little tale was told on him. He was puzzled over the address of a letter which had been posted in Denver, Colo. Uncle Tom could not figure that out. He pronounced the abbreviation for Colorado to rhyme with polo. Then he exclaimed: "By George, I guess there's been another state added to the Union."

"Since the physicians who practiced in that ghost town have failed to come in for consideration," adds the correspondent, "It might be added that Dr. King, who was there at one time, now lives at Jamestown. He is past 90 years old. Billy Grimes, a brother of the late Douglass Grimes of North Salem, is thought to be the first doctor to locate at Montclair."

Mr. Ellis recalls a number of people who lived in or near Montclair when he was there. The list includes Isaac Mendenhall, J. Martin Gentry, farmer; John Weddle, laborer; Sam R. Stuart, R. R. agent; Allen Weddle, boarding house; Mrs. W. J. Ellis; Bill Neaville, stock dealer and shipper; little Jane Tharp; J. Walter Ellis, merchant and post master; Martin Ellis, merchant; Obe Strickland, farmer; Marion McReynolds, farmer; Thos. Plummer, merchant and farmer; James Noland, laborer; Tyra Montgomery, tile factory; Judge Carver, carpenter; Andy and Cal Weddle, carpenters; John Neaville, drug store; James Harding, old soldier; Taylor Greggs, school teacher, Walla Stockton, telegraph operator.

From the Bradstreet record it is evident that these came after J. C. Bennington opened his general store.

And following the second list, which thrived about 1889, there came Tom Day to operate a general store, probably the only one there at the time--the ghost having started to walk.

Mr. Day operated a huckster wagon throughout the vicinity. This was a general store on wheels, and was welcomed by the farm women who seldom had an opportunity to go to a town to trade. The enclosed wagon handled most everything one would find in a small town general store, including drygoods and in some cases clothing. The huckster purchased the chickens, eggs and butter from the farm homes, and the service was mutually helpful. Most of the business was by barter. Sometimes it was necessary to attach three horses to the wagon to negotiate the indifferent roads, this being in the era of toll roads and before gravel was generally used on highways. In wet weather some of the roads were impassable.

Ordinarily, the huckster wagon would ply the roads for three days collecting produce, and the next three days would be devoted to getting the produce to the Indianapolis market. Mrs. Day said it was her custom to get up at 1:00 a. m. to get breakfast for the men before they started for the city, or on their routes.

About that time Earl Brickert started another general store, but soon was succeeded by Ross Brickert, who made a success of the place until improved transportation methods put the small town on the decline.

In the Day store the post office was housed for more than 20 years, but it gave way to the rural route from Lizton. John Brickert purchased the Tom Day building, tore it down and constructed a store building more suited to his needs. Later he entered politics and was elected county commissioner on the Republican ticket.

Following Brickert, John Byram operated a store--the last one to do business in Montclair. Later the building became a dance hall. Now it is boarded up and Montclair takes its place with other ghost towns of the county.

There is one exception, when it comes to activities in the old town.

That is the church. It still is doing business. Built by subscription in 1889 and 1890, of no special denomination, the first "protracted meeting" was conducted by Rev. Shumaker, a Missionary Baptist minister. Today the edifice is conducted under the Christian denomination.

While it continues to promulgate the age old story of salvation, the other edifice that seemed at one time to have more power stands stark and empty. Green vines drape over it in a beautiful pattern as if to hide its shame. All human business activities are gone. The church alone survives.

There are at least a dozen "ghost towns" in Hendricks county of which no vestige of their former glory remains. Once they were thriving centers with a promise of permanence. The transition may have been slow, but "finis" eventually was written--and they were not. No one remembers them now. Only abstractors on occasion rake the misty past.

Another Hendricks county town is ready to take its place along side those other towns that have disappeared into the haze of forgotten things.

This is Montclair, one of the strangest towns in Hendricks county. It is located in the southwest corner of Union township. Most towns are founded by some one, laid out into lots and some promoter sold them.

But not Montclair. It seems to have just grew. It had stores, fine shipping facilities, saw mills and tile yards. It had a post office and a "weather bureau." By the arrangement of eight differently colored flags, wrapped daily to a "weather" pole, citizens could tell what kind of weather to expect during the next twenty-four hours.

Montclair lies in portions of section 6 and 7, range 1 west, which might be sufficient for a surveyor, but the average person would breeze by and never suspect the presence of a once thriving village. Near the point mentioned there is a cross roads. A short distance west a road branches to the south, crosses a railroad, turns east to form Main street of Montclair, then turns south a short distance to a church; thence east to connect with a road which comes from the south to make the cross roads

mentioned. It is something like a city block that lies along a main street, only larger.

The school house was built on the north and south road, a distance removed from the "novia" town. The children had to troop down the railroad or cut across fields. The school long since has been abandoned ".....a ragged beggar sunning."

Ross Brickert, once a merchant there, again resides in Montclair. Now his is a farm home.

The strange thing about Montclair is that while there are people living and who operated business there in its early day, no one can say for sure when it originated or why.

Even Sol Ellis, veteran business man of Lizton, now retired, can't throw much light on the birth of Montclair, although he was a business man there when it was in the making. Two hundred and fifty years from now the question may be answered. That's the way historians work. No one can then step forth and say they are liars, with much hope of getting anywhere. But the origin of Montclair is not explained at the present time.

One must surmise, or guess, when it comes to solving the mystery. This surmise, or guess, would place its founding between 1878 and 1880. The only basis for this guess is that the St. Louis Division, Indiana, Bloomington and Western Ry., was constructed about that time. The survey for the railroad, now referred to as the B & O, originally had its locale in Danville. The old survey came through the park and along Clinton street. Out by New Winchester the old grade still stands as mute evidence of "progress" that failed to "progress."

Court House Corner Stone

Vice-President Charles Warren Fairbanks who presided at the laying of the corner stone of the present Hendricks county court house, was a young attorney, representing a railroad, when the people of Danville became hot and bothered about a public utility which was knocking at the door. Things went haywire, but there was a corporation and young Fairbanks went out and bought much stock in the said corporation. Evidently he knew railway transportation was necessary. Anyway, he bought up the stock of the defunct system, and probably had a hand in routing it through Montclair.

This is the nearest one can come to establishing the birth of Montclair, which is the most recent county "ghost town."

Even Mrs. Nannie Day, now a resident of Danville, long a resident of Montclair, where her husband operated a store and sent out huckster wagons to serve the country people, is unable to say why and when Montclair arose from the cosmic stage. County surveyors throw up their hands and say, "have a heart." In other words there is no record of the origin of a once thriving community. This column merely touches on the decline of a once important center.

Montclair had two general stores, a saw mill, a black smith shop, a tile yard and a place where farmers could sell their grain in the '80s. Today one can't sell a dozen eggs in Montclair, or buy a pound of butter.

Time was when Isaac Mendenhall operated a saw mill at Montclair. Later he was elected sheriff of Hendricks county. His son, "Leet," now living at Beech Grove, was the deputy. The elder Mr. Mendenhall is deceased, but neither he nor his son over at Beech Grove ever could cast any light on the reason for establishing the town.

Making another guess, and it purely is a guess, one would say the tile yard caused Montclair to flourish for a time. The tile yard was operated by Rice & Judd, which or whom was rated by Bradstreet--before it became Dunn and Bradstreet--as a fair risk in credit matters to the amount of \$3,000.

The late Sam Stewart, once connected with the North Salem bank and later an insurance man here, was a denizen of Montclair in its heyday, he being in charge of the railway "depot." Sam was small of stature but he had sufficient nerve for a giant.

When Montclair was "flowering," political prejudice and hate engendered by the Civil War was rife. Sam was a Democrat and he did not conceal the fact. He took part in some stirring events as a result.

In those days it was the custom to hold political rallies and "bait" the opposition. As a result there were frequent fights. If one ever took place at Montclair and Sam was not in it, he either was at home ill or else out of town--and he never was out of town when there was a political rally. Somewhere in the family there is the case of a gold watch. It is badly dented. The dent was placed there by a dirk wielded by someone who yearned to separate Sam from his "innards," while a Democratic rally was in progress.

After he had moved to North Salem, Mr. Stewart carried on, the story being told as illustrative of the period when Montclair was young.

The Democrats were out-numbered, due to the Civil War--the county having been Democrat before that horrible struggle. Not only were they out-numbered, but when they voted their votes were seldom counted--at least, not all of them.

This was the condition existing in Eel River township when Sam Stewart was named to the election board as the Democratic judge. He appeared at the polling place with two horse pistols, which he placed on the table before him:

"Gentlemen," he said, "every legal voter who appears here today is going to vote--and those ballots are going to be counted and certified just as they come out of the box."

They were, and never again were there any election shenanigans of that kind that had gone on before.

One of the big events of a rally in those days was the "raising of a flag pole."

Enthusiastic partisans would troop to the woods and cut down the tallest sapling they could find. The sapling was toted to the scene of the celebration and duly "raised." This physical fact aroused wild enthusiasm on the part of those throwing the party, and was supposed to make the opposition sad, morose and ready to commit mayhem. If the opportunity offered the opposition would attempt to chop down the pole. Always was this the signal for battle, with no quarters given or asked.

When the opposition party "raised" its pole, there was a duplication of the above, the roles merely being reversed. The fights were just as numerous.

At the turn in the road or street north of the Montclair church there stands a little one-room building which may have had a lot of influence in setting the tempo of the battles. It stands on property now owned by Mr. Gentry. It is covered with vines and now has a very placid appearance.

While it now is inhabited only by memories, that building once was the "hot spot" of Montclair. There the "boys" of the day "wet their whistles" and made merry. Although labeled as a drug store, it did not carry in stock enough drugs to stop a headache, although it gave many a one. Known as a "blind pig" or a "blind tiger," it flourished without benefit of clergy or official license, dispensing beer and whisky to all comers.

Even during prohibition days there hardly was a place like it. It operated openly, almost day and night, including Sundays. Hendricks county refused to "recognize" the liquor traffic by issuing licenses, so this place operated anyway.

At one time John Neaville operated the "drug store" at Montclair. At that time he was an ardent Democrat. The Republican county authorities levied tribute in the way of fines with increasing frequency, and finally John figured it would be cheaper for him to change politics. This he did, but for a number of years he continued to slip funds secretly into the Democratic political war chest.

After he had disposed of his Montclair holdings and moved to Pittsboro, where he operated a drug store for many years, he went Republican in a big way and some of his activities continue to be a saga in Hendricks county politics, what, with switched ballot boxes and everything.

Another man at one time operated the Montclair "drug store," and during his regime there was a happening which had repercussions for many years, and may have resulted in the closing of the "blind pig."

It is rather hard to tell the story--except to tell it.

A young woman, address unknown, imbibed copiously, although it was not the custom of the day for women to frequent such places. Eventually she "passed out" and the enterprising proprietor had a bright idea. It was before the day of rayon and shorts and other things, but whatever the woman wore, the proprietor removed them--all. He placed the young woman in a show case, placed a curtain around it and charged his customers 25¢ for a "look."

Yes, Montclair was some town in its day.

A copy of Bradstreet, later Dunn & Bradstreet, published about 1880, gives the business places operating there as J. C. Bennington, general store; J. W. Ellis, general store, W. F. Mullen, saw mill; R. H. Perkins, blacksmith; Rice & Judd, tile manufacturers; G. T. Rickmond, grain dealer. Each had a credit ratings of a few thousand dollars.

In 1888 Tyra Montgomery, for many years a farmer residing in Marion township, and later owner of a garage here, operated the Montclair tile factory. At one time Tom Plummer operated a store there. No doubt numerous others operated business places for a time, but their names have become lost with the years.

Sol Ellis, retired Lizton merchant, started on his mercantile career at Montclair, and he is one of the few who knew that town "way back when." Another is Mrs. Nannie Day of this place, and a third Robert West of Danville, who was married in Montclair fifty years in August.

"It was a lively place," he said.

Montclair Lives Again--In Memories!

".....memory now is on her knees."----Riley.

To others, as to myself, I am sure, your saga on the ghost town of Montclair brought back a rush of haunting memories.

With rare insight and sympathy, your chronicler has recaptured the spirit of the period, standing between the rustic days of the real pioneers and the more modern decades of quasisophistication, which Booth Tarkington termed in his classic autobiography the golden era of mid-Western America.

In his personal Who's Who of fifty odd years ago Sol Ellis, whose name looms large in the case history of Montclair, listed among other names, "Judge Carver, Carpenter."

A. W. Carver (the "Judge" was an inherited honorary title) not only was a carpenter, his principal occupation, but he was versatile with such other tools as barbers' shears, which were magnetized to such a degree that they caused men thereabouts to beat a path to his door of a Sunday--and haircuts were free for the asking. Like other men of the middle-distance of our history, he was ever ready to join in a building bee, he sat up with the sick, and he participated in the other communal ministries which then brought people together.

He is cited here merely to illustrate the self reliance of the citizens of Montclair--a typical rural community in its little heyday.

Was it not typical Hoosier, too?

Thomas R. Marshall once said in one of his witty addresses, possibly reflecting that he was merely a vice-president, that Indiana, his native state, had "produced more first-class second-rate men than any other state in the Union."

In a dissertation two years ago on Wendell Willkie, Westbrook Pegler described Hoosiers as "an entirely different breeds of cats." Although they migrate freely he said, and become "ausland Hoosiers," they excel all other American breeds in the tenacity with which they cling to their culture and traditions.

"But Hoosierism," Pegler emphasized, "is not affectation at all. It is something in the blood and bone and spirit of the breed."

Who does not recall the bromide tale of the Hoosier youth who received a "call" to do some corn shucking over in Illinois? Returning home, deeply impressed with the journey he had made, he avowed: "Ef thar's as much land on this side as thar is on yan side, this world shore is a whopper."

So Hoosiers still cling to their folklore, if not to their folkways--though the Hoosier young men of today have received a different kind of "call", and are to be found on every front of this whopper of a world, fighting to preserve the liberties which their fathers and grandfathers enjoyed to the full in the golden era of American history which was personified in the life of Montclair.

Since reading and re-reading your recital of the "short and simple annals" of the fine men and women who dwelt there fifty or sixty years ago, personal memories, tricky and elusive, have assailed me unceasingly.

To that tiny dot on the map it was my privilege to make a return pilgrimage more than a year ago, the first since 1899, when Judge Carver moved most of his brood of eleven off-springs westward, with a four-year breathing-pause at North Salem, thereby making a dent in the population of Montclair which may have marked the beginning of its decline and fall.

On that pilgrimage we saw (my sisters, Mrs. Orse Armstrong and Mrs. Edgar Carpenter, still live near Pittsboro) in retrospect, the same little band of golden era Hoosiers that your narrator brought to life again and paraded before their children and grandchildren.

Approaching Montclair on the north and south road, I was transfixed by a vaguely familiar sight--the old schoolhouse, once the community center, now abandoned.

Again I hear voices, running the scale as they struggled with the rudiments of music, reciting with childish treble the lessons taught by the schoolmaster, who moved from one side of the room to the other, from the first grade to the eighth, until the forty "scholars" have received their quota of book learning.

Through the mists of fifty years I see above the blackboard a bundle of hickory switches, for some vestige of the Ichabod influence remains. I tremble slightly as I hear the crack of one of these being laid across the back of a hulking schoolmate whose mischief, I am to conclude fifty years hence, did not seem to warrant such sternness.

I see a small boy, with several sisters, learning "facts" about Indiana: "Indiana has 92 counties and 1,012 townships, and it was admitted to the Union in 1816." I see the boys and girls lining up--it is Friday afternoon--for the weekly spelling match. On special occasions, I see bumbling adolescents and self-possessed pig-tail-ed girls going forward to "recite." And on a red letter Friday afternoon, as school is closed for the Christmas holidays, what an undercurrent of suppressed excitement there is--a spell which reaches its climax as "teacher" reaches into a capacious box under his desk and draws forth an open-work bag of red and white candy for each of his pupils. What bliss!

It is here, too, that the community hears its first phonograph. A special evening is set aside for the demonstration. The visitor unveils his little gadget, with its wax cylinder, the spring is released, and a voice squeaks, "Mary had a little lamb." It is Edison's marvelous invention--also a copy of his first record.

But, as you say truly, this is not the first schoolhouse on the present site. It is the second. The first, a frame building, went up in flames one night--supposedly the fulfillment of every pupil's dream. There was "vacation" for the remainder of the school year. Then the little brick building, still standing, but as silent as the harp that once hung on Tara's hall, rose in its place.

(Your historian omitted the name of Charles Beeman, a teacher I remember best, a gentleman and a scholar.)

On my pilgrimage I lingered there. My impression was that the schoolyard had shrunken, that the building was nearer the road than it had been two score and ten years ago. The lines from McGuffey's Fifth Reader came back:

I've wandered to the village, Tom,

I've sat beneath the tree,

Upon the school house playground

That sheltered you and me;

But none was left to greet me, Tom,

And few were left to know

Who played with me upon the green,

just forty years ago.

The old schoolhouse is altered some;
The benches are replaced
By new ones very like the same
Our jack-knives had defaced.
But the same old bricks are in the wall,
The bell swings to and fro;
It's music just the same, dear Tom,
'Twas forty years ago.

Driving on toward the old Indiana, Decatur & Western railroad (since then the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton, now the Baltimore & Ohio), we paused 100 yards south of the old schoolhouse.

Here Judge Carver had built for himself and his growing family a one-story home, with attic that served as spare sleeping space, and adjoining was a summer house. It was in the late '80s.

Standing there in reverie, again I see a small boy. He is grazing two Jersey cows along the highway. In a moment, I hear the familiar whistle of a train coming west. I know the roaring iron horse is piloted by my favorite engineer, John Schindorff, whom I hope some day to succeed in his cab, high over the rushing driving wheels. He waves at the crossing as he roars by toward the Wabash and the setting sun.

Over at the left, near the railroad track is the home of Uncle Joshua Tharp. Buck Hunt and Tom Pritchett drive by. My friend, Granville Leach, approaches from the north. A short distance from the spot where I stand is the home of Mrs. Marion, a good neighbor who--because there are no telephones and doctors may not be summoned immediately--sometimes presides as midwife in the dead of night.

Abruptly, the past vanishes and the present is before us.

It is May 1. I have seen again the budding elm and oak, paused to revel in the unforgettable beauty of the redbud, watched a woman picking greens in a clearing.

Actually, what I now see before me is a farmer driving a 1941 tractor, plowing up a field where Judge Carver's home, long since razed, once stood. No yellow, one-story house with its winding honeysuckle vine, no boxwood standing beside the summer kitchen. The only vestige from the past that is visible is the upper works of the old well.

The story of the ghost town comes to life.

Pensively, we drive on across the railroad tracks, and into Montclair. As we approach I look in vain for the homestead of Tom Plummer, who is remembered, not as merchant, but as a small farmer--broad of beam and jovial. Missing, too, are his two attractive daughters. He is seen, in retrospect, one side of his buggy sagging under his weight, headed for Eel river, for he is an ardent fisherman and the bass are rising. Strangely, I see him deftly attach a large grasshopper on his hook, toss it on the surface of the rippling "crick" and wait expectantly. The small boy, helpful and agile, has rounded up the supply of 'hoppers for Uncle Tom's ventilated cigar-box.

But the pilgrim's eye rested on another familiar landmark--the little 50-year-old church, which has stood as a rock of faith in a moving stream of human life.

Judge Carver, the carpenter, who had worked as head sawyer at Ike Mendenhall's sawmill, later becoming a bridge carpenter on the I. D. & W., had helped roof the church, which had been built largely with donated labor. The same belfry was there--the belfry around which lusty young bucks of the early '90s had draped part of a farm wagon as a Halloween prank.

We move on. My objective is not the site of the old blacksmith shop, but the general store and post office of Thomas Day and William Flynn--the business center of a lively community.

Again in flashback, I see Tom Day packaging brown sugar, handing plugs of chewing tobacco over the counter, rustling through mail while expectant patrons wait, as the departing mail train is heard in the distance. Joking men sit in the shade in front of the store, whittling the steps of the building or the corners of

the packing boxes they occupy.

Tom Day is there, I know, but Billy Flynn, the junior partner, is absent. He is on his weekly trip to Indianapolis in his huckster's wagon, to stock up for the ensuing week's trade. It is twenty-two miles from Montclair to the city and he starts early of a Wednesday morning, and will not get back until Friday night.....

Then we approach the railroad tracks, and I shall see there the familiar depot, with Clarence Trotter at his keys, which connect Montclair magically with the outside world. And here, too, will be Ancil and Cecil Griggs (the latter to become later, I believe, an evangelist,) boyhood friends.

But it is not to be.

I gaze upon a sign, fastened to a post, on which is the word MONTCLAIR. That is all.

I know I shall not see the Mendenhall sawmill, nor hear the crescendo of triumph as the saw bites into an oaken log, or the slowing pulsations of the exhaust, as the steam engine labors to do its part. Nor shall I watch surging cattle, being driven from the stockyards through the chute to the cattle cars, for their last free ride.

The view is westward down that right-of-way which William Duckworth and his section crew kept in prize-winning neatness. Again, I see a small boy, barefoot and not well dressed, tripping gaily toward an inviting goal. He goes three miles, turns south, soon walks down through the orchard, which is aromatic with blossoms in springtime and redolent of ripened fruit in fall--then to the house where he is always welcome--the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson West, to him the salt of the earth. And, fifty years later, there come back the lines from James Whitcomb Riley's Out to Old Aunt Mary's, that beautiful tribute to one he loved, back in those days of the lost sunshine of youth...."

So, if an "auslander" may presume to speak of other native sons and daughters and their kin across fifty years of time and twenty-five hundred miles of space, he again quotes from the Hoosier poet:

Think of him as the same, I say;

He is not dead, he is just--away.

Vive Montclair!

Historic Event at Montclair

During regular services by Rev. Ora McDaniel of Advance at the Montclair Church Sunday, a ceremony was conducted to retire the Bible which had been used in the church pulpit for 57 years. The Bible was presented to the church by William Davis in 1881, the year in which the church was built and dedicated. A new Bible, the gift of the pastor, Rev. McDaniel, and his wife, replaced the worn and cherished Book that had served for so many years. The regular services are Sunday school at 10 a.m.(D.S.T.) each Sunday, and church services the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Clipping from Oct. 29, 1942, Danville Gazette

Compiled by Ruth Pritchard

HCHS

RAMSEYS OCCUPY SAME FARM FOR HUNDRED YEARS

Taken from Plainfield Messenger December 31, 1959

One hundred years ago, on January 1, 1860, William and Hannah Ramsey brought their family to the Ramsey Homestead, southwest of Plainfield. Martha, Mary, Lincoln and David were their children.

Martha married Crawford Ramsey and went to Illinois, where she reared John, for many years Superintendent of the Metropolis schools. Sam and Fannie, who live

at Olney, Illinois, and William at Martinsville, Illinois. Another son, David, died in earlier years.

Mary Ramsey married Alexander Duncan and they spent their years at Belleville and Lafayette. Lincoln died in his youth.

David, who was two years old when he arrived at the farm, lived there eighty-seven years. He was married to Rosaline Newman, daughter of Pioneer fur-trader, Clinton Newman, of Coatesville. Two sons, Grover of Clermont and Herman, who still lives on the farm, were born at the homestead.

There are three great grandchildren, Helen Cummins of Indianapolis, Harold of Clermont and Ruby Scotten of Stilesville.

Herman Ramsey, who now lives on the farm, still adheres to the Conservative Friends. His parents and grandparents are buried in the burial ground at Sugar Grove. He was the first-president of the Federal Building and Loan Association of Mooresville, where he served seven years. He was also president of the Indiana Sheep Breeders for seven years. In 1936 he was married to Edna Hatfield of Indianapolis. Mrs. Ramsey has been an art teacher in Indianapolis for thirty years.

Grover married Delma Buis of Mt. Meridian and they have three children and seven grandchildren.

Today (Thursday) December 31, ends a century of Ramseys on the same farm.

HCHS

Springfield,
Greene County, Missouri,
August 2, 1840

Dear Children:

We received yours of the 23rd, April, and it gave me much satisfaction to learn that you are all well.

We have a fine prospect for corn, wheat and oats are excellent. Corn is worth 33 cents per bushel. Wheat is worth 50 cents per bushel. I had no wheat sowed. I have over five hundred bundle of oats, and I have about 26 acres in corn that looks promising.

I have bought a tan-yard in Springfield and have bought a field of ten acres close by to live on, and have been living on it since the middle of April. I gave twelve hundred fifty dollars for all. Leather is high and hides are cheap and I think I shall do well at it. I have never got my money from Matlock and Bonty yet. They started two hundred dollars to me this summer by William Herron and on his way he let his pistol go off in his hand and shot off one of his fingers and tore his hand badly, and he turned back and took my money with him. I shall have to go to Indiana this fall.

We have but little religion in this country. I miss my old preachers and meetings very much, but by the grace of God I feel, disposed to press forward to mark for the prize of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Mother is not at all satisfied in this country. It is an easier country to make a living in than Indiana. The winters are shorter and there is such a large portion of the country that cannot be settled that the range will continue as long as the mountains stand. Rail timber and building timber is entirely too scarce. Firewood is plenty. I do not know whether this country is any healthier than it was where I lived in Indiana. We have had some fever here all winter and some deaths, but it looks like there could be no cause for sickness here. We are all in common health and have been so ever since we have been here though Mother is considerably weakly at this time.

Now my dear children deny yourselves of all ungodliness and worldly lusts and walk soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Visit the fatherless and the widows in their afflictions and keep yourselves unspotted from the world and so far as in you lies do good unto all men.

Give our respects to your father and mother; to Father Vernon and Mother Vernon and all the connection.

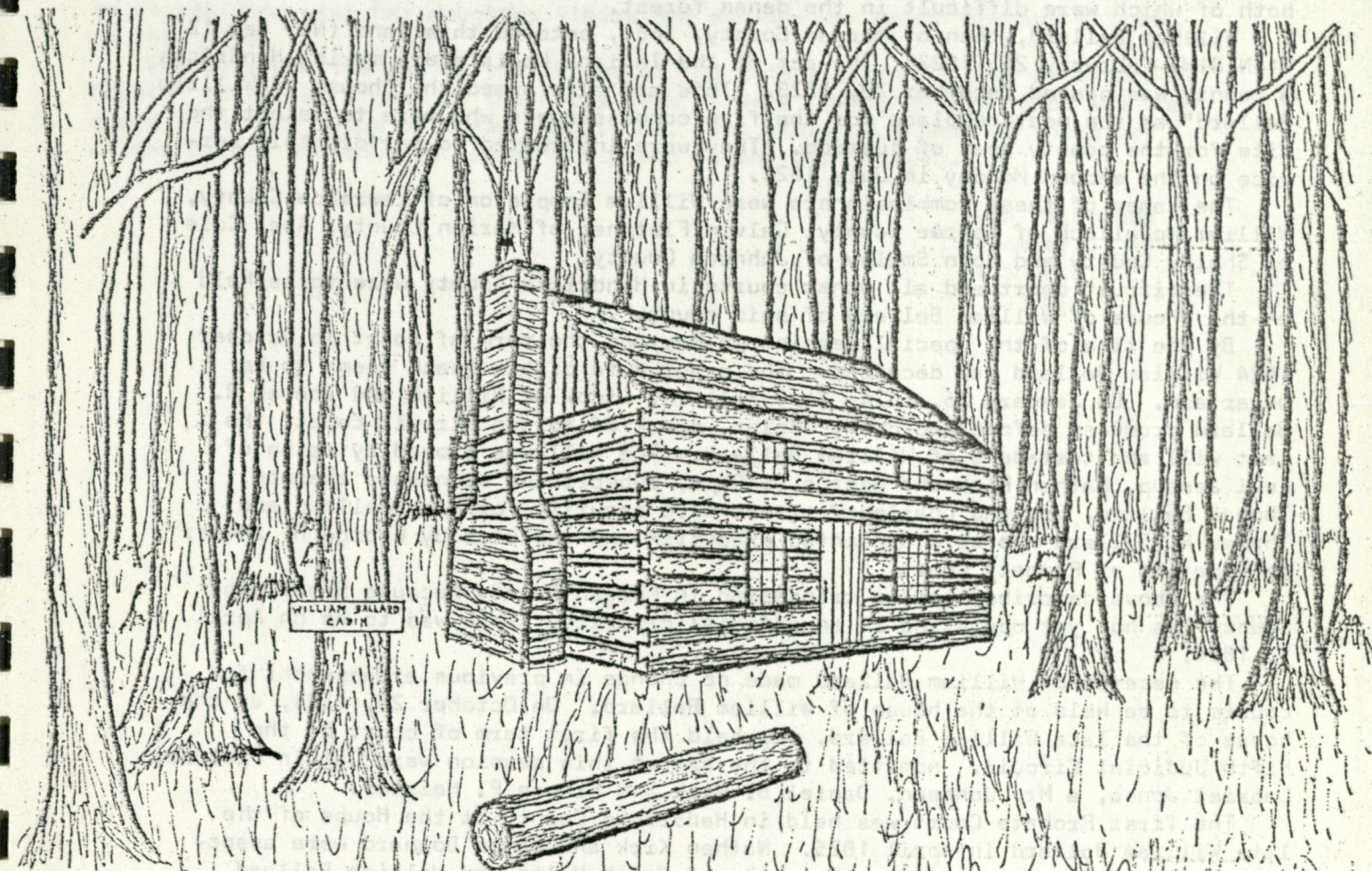
Farewell and the way to fare well is to do well.

Charles Vertrees

Query

During 1920s - 1930s a granddaughter of Charles Vertrees, named Ella Musselman, gave some letters written by Charles Vertrees, to various societies. The Wabash County Historical Museum has one and The College Club in Springfield, Missouri has another. Does any one know the location of others?

HCHS



RUTH PRITCHARD SEPT. 25 1973

First court of Hendricks County held at the Cabin of William Ballard located on the Terre Haute Trail, Section 12, T14N R1W (Just south of present Belleville). Court was held at this location from Oct. 25, 1824 - April 1825.

(1878 Atlas of Hendricks County)

"WILLIAM BALLARD CABIN"

On Ancestor - Descendant Certificate

One aspect of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial celebration is the part honoring ancestors and early settlers, by awarding certificates to descendant, (regardless of present residence) after proper application.

These certificates name the earliest proven ancestor (s) and give line of descent to the applicant. On the perimeter of the certificate are sketches representing the following: each of the twelve townships; the three periods of immigration prior to 1901 (pioneer, anti-slavery and development); religion; education; government; industry; tragedy and passers - through.

The Liberty Township drawing depicts the William Ballard Cabin, described by one writer as the largest and most commodious within the bounds of the new county of Hendricks. Whether or not this was true can not be ascertained. However, William Ballard did choose a location on the Terre Haute Trail, for building his log house. This provided some advantage in transportation and communication both of which were difficult in the dense forest.

William Ballard, then of Morgan County, Ind., entered this land (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 12 T14N R1W) February 21, 1823. The act of the Indiana Legislature making Hendricks a county was passed December 20, 1823. This act also named the "house of William Ballard" as the meeting place for the five commissioners who were to select the site for the county seat of justice. They were instructed to perform this service on the second Monday in July 1824.

The names of these commissioners were William Templeton of Lawrence County, William McCulloch of Monroe County, Calvin Fletcher of Marion County, Abel Cole of Shelby County and John Smiley of Johnson County.

The circuit court and all other courts in Hendricks County were to be held at the "house of William Ballard of said county".

By the time of the special session in May and the term of court in October 1824 William Ballard was deceased. The exact date of his death seems to be uncertain. On January 26, 1824, Mary Ballard, widow of William and Thomas R. Ballard produced before George H. Beeler, clerk of Morgan Circuit Court, the last will and testament of William Ballard. The will was proved by oaths of Levi Jessup, Nathan Kirk and George W. Pope, subscribing witnesses thereto. Thomas Ballard, Sr. and Charles Vertrees were security for Mary Ballard and Thomas R. Ballard who were appointed executrix and executor by George H. Beeler in vacation of Probate Court.

The above described action transpired in Morgan County because Hendricks County was not yet operating in an official capacity. This was to be on April 1, 1824.

The decease of William Ballard made no change in previous arrangement for courts to be held at the house of William Ballard. On October 25, 1824, at the house of the late William Ballard, was held the first term of court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Admitted to the bar at this session were Calvin Fletcher, Gabriel Jones, a Mr. Johnson, Daniel B. Wick and Craven P. Heister.

The first Probate Court was held in Hendricks County at the House of the late William Ballard in April 1825. Nathan Kirk and James Downard were associate Judges. "At this meeting the wills of Uriah Hultz and William Ballard were admitted to probate".

Presiding Judge at the October term 1824 was William W. Wick. Levi Jessup was Clerk of the Court. Hervey Gregg was prosecuting attorney and Jonathan Jessup was appointed to attend to Jury. Add to the names already given, those of jurors for these terms of court and a small list of "guests" at the Ballard appears:

Moses Alderson
Pollard Baldwin
Adin Ballard
David Ballard

David Demoss
James Downard
James Dunn
John Fowler

Thomas Lockhart
James McClure
Abijah Pinson
David Ross

John Ballard
Noah Bateman
Abijah Bray
John W. Bryant
Stephen Cook
Robert Cooper

Thomas Gilbert
John Hawkins
Ezekiel Hornaday
Samuel Jones
Jesse Kellum
John Leamon

James Thompson
Daniel B. Tryer
Samuel Woodward

Plus names of
19 witnesses.

The house of Mary Ballard probably remained the convenient gathering place of the community, for some time after her husbands death. Possibly hospitality was extended many times to travelers or new comers. The Liberty Township election on August 7, 1826 and on August 7, 1827, were held at the house of Mary Ballard.

In land transactions from Mary Ballard and Thomas R. Ballard to different grantees, mention was made of "William Ballard late of Hendricks County". Thus assumption is that he died in Hendricks County or was a resident of Hendricks County at the time of his death.

Mary Ballard apparently was still living in Belleville in 1844. She seemed to be residing with her daughter Almira and son-in-law Joseph Hawkins Matlock, in the 1860s.

Whatever was the end of the "House of The Late William Ballard of Hendricks County" it filled a need in the early days of said county and no doubt was the scene of a wide scope of human experience. Its story is a part of the story of the county and thus it earned its place on the certificate.

Ruth Pritchard
December 3, 1973
11:50 P.M.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 158
Danville, Indiana 46122
ACQUISITION INFORMATION REPORT

OBJECT'S TITLE AND APPROXIMATE DATE IF KNOWN _____

DESCRIPTION _____

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF OBJECT (If additional space is needed use reverse side) _____

COLOR _____

MEASUREMENTS _____

CONDITION _____

OWNER _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

RECORDED BY _____ DATE _____

INFORMATION REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____

DATE REVIEWED BY ACQUISITION COMMITTEE _____

DATE SUBMITTED TO STAFF _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DISPOSITION OF INFORMATION/MATERIAL _____

ACCEPTED DATE _____

REJECTED BY _____ DATE _____

REASON FOR REJECTION (If additional space is needed use reverse side) _____

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME V NUMBER II
April, 1974
PUBLISHED BY
THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

H
977.253
H498 L

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Officers

President

Mr. Floyd Hufford
35 W. College
Brownsburg, In 46112
Tel. 852-4161

Vice President

Mrs. Dessie Davis Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lizton, In 46149
Tel. 991-5311

Secretary

Mrs. Roy Pritchard
R. R. 1, Box 209
Clayton, In 46118
Tel. 539-6890

Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Helen Walker
R. R. 1, Box 121B
Clayton, In 45118
Tel. 539-4951

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian

Mrs. Harold Templin
R. R. 1, Box 86
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 539-4311

Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

H C H S

The nature of this bulletin is historical, and the change of the seasons is timeless. So, as we go to press, since Spring is so definitely in the air, we can't resist greeting the fresh new season with the following favorite lines by D. F. Gurney:

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of a bird for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on Earth.

The Publication Committee

Mrs. Ruth Hall
Mrs. Albert Reitzel

Mrs. Sherman Crayton

Mrs. Zona Walker
Mr. Joe Davidson

From Our President. . .

Floyd Hufford Sez:

What did your great grandfather have for breakfast? Few of us really know and most of us have very little knowledge of their problems, pleasures and weaknesses of that day. Why? Because most of them were so busy living their life that they just didn't take time to write anything down.

What are you doing about your family one hundred years from now? Are you letting them know how much coffee, eggs and bacon costs per pound? How many dollars you bring home to live on?

Even the term pounds will cause them to compute it into the metric system of that day.

Isn't that what we are all about in the Hendricks County Historical Society? We are trying to pass the thoughts, problems and fun of the early days to a new generation now born but uninterested until they have the time to think about their heritage.

It has been my good fortune to know and visit with people much older than I. You just couldn't class them as all saints, or sinners either. They were beautiful people moving through their time, sometimes smoothly, at times stumbling, grumbling about taxes, wondering about the younger generation and glad they had their problems behind them.

Many times their faces show that serenity, not of living a perfect life but they did the best they could with what they had in the time they worked. It just might help if you wrote a few things about your life to help somebody over the rough spots in 2074 and help them with your experiences. We are all examples, to follow or to stay away from.

Put it in the family Bible. They won't burn it. They will find it when looking for their Social Security information at the age when they will read it with the most interest.

HCHS

Important Notice

Please don't believe everything you read in the last bulletin!!!!

The next meeting of our Society will be April 21, at 2:00 P.M. at the Pittsboro Christian Church. The program should be especially interesting since Mike Lynch, President of the Indiana State Junior Historical Society, will be the speaker. He will talk on old homes and old architecture and discuss what the State Junior Society is doing. We are proud to have a State President from Hendricks County, and this program should be interesting to young and old alike. Margaret Spoon will preside, and the ladies of Union and Middle Townships will be in charge of refreshments. You will be sorry if you miss this meeting.

HCHS

Despite snowy, icy roads, forty-three members and seven guests assembled in Fellowship Hall of the Danville Christian Church, January 13, for the first meeting of 1974. Dr. Joseph Stump, pastor of the church, gave a short devotion and invocation. Mr. Floyd Hufford, president, conducted the business meeting, during which much emphasis was given to the upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration which will open officially April 1, at the Danville High School Auditorium. The feature of this meeting will be a talk by The Honorable Richard Lugar, Mayor of Indianapolis. Other appropriate activities scheduled for our celebration include a mock Civil War, a parade, a pageant, and a costume ball.

Mr. Max Lee presided and presented Dr. Sherman Crayton who talked on the subject, "Changing Times". He mentioned many facets of change and development since earliest territorial days in a most interesting discussion. Center Township ladies furnished refreshments for the social hour.

Page 1

Remember the Kick-off - April 1st

New Members Since January

Mrs. Paul E. Andres, 926 W. 20th, Santa Ana, CA 92706
 Clarence Bray, Pittsboro, IN 46167
 Mary Bray, Pittsboro, IN 46167
 Edward T. Brown, R. R. #1, Box 108, Plainfield, IN 46168
 Robert S. Castetter, 312 Rains, Plainfield, IN 46168
 Irene Clark, Box 96, Stilesville, IN 46180
 Grace Cox, 494 W. Clinton, Danville, IN 46122
 John H. Durham, 3095 Susileen Dr., Reno, Nevada 89502
 Helen Elmore, 93 N. Tenn. St., Danville, IN 46122
 Chester J. Elson, 360 Heritage, Danville, IN 46122
 Mark M. Hadley, R. R. #1, Box 103-C, Coatesville, IN 46121
 Willard C. Heiss, 4828 N. Illinois, Indianapolis, IN 46208
 M. Richard Himself, R. R. #2, Box 154, Danville, IN 46122
 Gladys Hovermale, R. R. #1, Box 143, Pittsboro, IN 46167
 Joyce M. Hutchens, R. R. #8, Box 321, Indianapolis, IN 46234
 Miss Margaret Ann Keller, 1174 Buchanan St., Plainfield, IN 46168
 Betty Lane, 5420 E. 81st St., Indianapolis, IN 46250
 Robert J. Low, R. R. #1, Box 17-A, Clayton, IN 46118
 Pauline May, 750 E. Main St., Plainfield, IN 46168
 Thelma D. McCartney, Box 11, North Salem, IN 46165
 Lillian M. Miller, R. R. #1, Box 178, Clayton, IN 46118
 Rosaleen Nicholson, 12 Northview Dr., Danville, IN 46122
 Ernie Pierson, R. R. #3, Box 315, Danville, IN 46122
 Judith M. Pringle, R. R. #3, Box 174, Danville, IN 46122
 Howard L. Pritchard, 1033 N. Indiana Road, Mooresville, IN 46158
 M. O. Scamahorn, Pittsboro, IN 46167
 Audrey Stotts, 4121 First St., Des Moines, Iowa 50313
 Donald H. Stuart, R. R. #2, Box 329, Danville, IN 46122
 Linda Tolen, 1216 S. Osage, Independence, Missouri 64055
 Dorothy Ward, Pittsboro, IN 46167
 Betty Jean Weesner, 48 Maple Lane, Danville, IN 46122
 Alma Wells, R. R. #2, Box 309, Clayton, IN 46118
 Marilyn C. Wood, 16 W. King St., Sullivan, Illinois 61951
 Vitra S. Wood, 2303 E. 5th St., Anderson, IN 46012

HCHS

North Salem

by Zona Walker

North Salem was laid out in 1835 by John and David Claypool and John S. Woodward. The building of the railroad, now the Baltimore and Ohio, helped the town to develop from a pioneer settlement to a progressive town.

The early industries included a flour mill, saw mill, tannery, saloon and the usual stores incidental to a village. Located nine miles northwest of Danville, the county seat, it was connected by what was known as the "gravel road" which was a toll road for many years. Population was given in the census of 1930 was 590. It now has 601 residents.

Main Street runs north and south and the main thoroughfare of the town is officially named Pearl Street which is now S. R. 236. California Street runs north and south and is locally called "Depot Street," since it is the usual route to the railroad from the main part of town. Unlike most towns it does not possess a Washington Street but has one named McKinley.

In 1899 the town was incorporated. It then had an acetylene plant installed which furnished a dim and flickering street light on several corners and served the stores and some residences with a fair amount of light.

In drilling for gas years ago, a fine stream of water gushed forth, taking with it part of the drilling machinery. While the general thinking locally was that there was a reasonable quantity of gas in the area, the operations evidently were "bought off" for they left without finishing the well. The clear, cool water continued to flow from this abandoned well, and was dubbed the "gas well," which was a definite part of the village for years. There the young swains met their "fair ladies," the elderly persons hobbled down to get a refreshing draught from its bubbling fountain and the urchins of the town made many a penny by carrying jugs of drinking water from this well to the proprietors of the various stores.

When one lacked for something to do to while away the time, it was the custom to walk down to the gas well. The small stream flowing nearby and fed from the well was sweet with watercress and mint. Shaded by a rambling willow tree, this spot made a natural park for the town, long before landscaping was resorted to in producing a place of beauty and restfulness.

Today it furnishes water for the community in a modern waterworks system. The water bank marks the site of the old jail topped by a beacon light visible to the surrounding country for many miles.

The old flour mill is gone, the saw mill long ago discontinued operations and the tannery also outlived its usefulness. These activities were all powered by the flowing spring and small stream of water that emptied out to form Ramp Run.

This village was a religious community. Pioneer founders held services in the homes before the first log church was built. Methodist, Christian and Baptist groups established their houses for worship, and it was no uncommon sight to see old men sitting along the streets arguing scriptures. Stoop-shouldered, with long white chin whiskers, they chewed tobacco, expectorated the juice thereof and good-naturedly cracked each other over the shins with their canes as they drove home some divine truth as they saw it.

After such a heated discussion "Old Uncle George Fleece" was overheard to remark to "Old Uncle George Davenport," by your own argument, George Davenport, there won't be a Baptist in heaven.

The town had its spots of evil, too, for we have record of a still being operated in a hollow east of town long before it became illegal. A saloon conducted a thriving business and witnessed the killing of a man in a brawl, leaving others bearing scars of the escapade until the day of their deaths. A murder was committed south of town when a sheriff attempted to make an arrest for a violation of the law. A fugitive was shot by a posse after he had robbed some pioneer houses.

The old "fair ground" south of the railroad was often host to circuses and to "colored camp meetings," Fourth of July celebrations, and picnics. It was a scenic spot with a band stand and shelter house, well, and benches provided for the comfort of visitors. It was owned by James A. Hadley, who freely offered it to any and all, and the children of the community were often treated to free rides on some of his little black ponies that he kept in this grove.

Patriotic memorial services and other large gatherings were also accommodated. In the adjoining pasture a race track once catered to the sporting element of the countryside. Later, this field was used as a baseball diamond, and the high school used it as a football gridiron. The "tile factory pond" nearby furnished limited space for ice skating. Bicycle racing in the days of tall front wheels furnished sport for a time.

All these activities were enacted 138 years ago and North Salem is yet in there "batting." This little town has gone through six heartbreaking wars, the worst depression the world has ever known, and it is yet in there preparing to "come through" with a new sewer system, a big fine consolidated high school system, new sidewalks and no generation gap. All this and more, too, in this corn, hogs, and cattle township because, "You can't keep 'em down."

"Down on the Farm."

HCHS

Remember the Kick-off April 1st

WHERE WAS THAT?

History seems always to have to have a place in which to happen. If the place is lost, the event becomes unreal in our perceptions. If it can be said that X marks the spot, the event comes alive, no matter how long it has been buried.

Here is a list of place names in Hendricks County. Some are still in use, but not well known except to people who live nearby. Some are previous names of towns well known today by other names. Some are names of towns that were platted but never developed. Some are names of postoffices . . . and little or nothing more.

Now test your own knowledge . . . and then turn to page 6 for the answers. If you think our answers are wrong or if you can add to the list, please let us know.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bradshaw | 24. Needmore |
| 2. Brayton | 25. New Elizabeth |
| 3. Buzzard's Roost | 26. New Philadelphia |
| 4. Center Valley | 27. New Williamsburgh |
| 5. Chiselton | 28. North Belleville |
| 6. Cincinnati | 29. Oak Plain |
| 7. Claysville | 30. Pecksburg |
| 8. Clermont | 31. Progress |
| 9. Crittenden | 32. Quebec |
| 10. Euphenia | 33. Reno |
| 11. Friendswood | 34. Roundtown |
| 12. Gail | 35. Rubberneck |
| 13. Georgetown | 36. Singer Station |
| 14. Hampton | 37. Six Points |
| 15. Hardscrabble | 38. Smootsdell |
| 16. Harrisburg | 39. Spicklepoint |
| 17. Hillsboro | 40. Spray Station |
| 18. Jacktown | 41. Tank |
| 19. Joppa | 42. Tilden |
| 20. La Clair | 43. Toll Gate |
| 21. Mimosa | 44. Union |
| 22. Morristown | 45. West Centerville |
| 23. Mount Sterling | 46. West Milton |

HCHS

(Again we thank Mr. Willard Heiss, chairman, Genealogy Section, Indiana History Bulletin, for the following interesting article. And a special welcome to him as one of our new members!)

1894

A short history of the Hardwick Family from about 1760 to 1894 by Wesley Hardwick of Hendricks County Indiana.

As I am the oldest one living of the Hardwick Family living I am over 80 and I know more of the Family than any of them My Great Grand Father came from England and settled in South Carolina Blacksmith by trad and he learned his son Thomas which was my Grand Father the trad and his Step mother was so hard on him he concluded to run a way he was 15 year old he had a sister married to a man by the name of Ballard living in Virginia and one Sunday mornin his Father told him to take a basket of corn and go feed a Sow and pigs at the foot of the Mountain he went and fed them and hung the Basket on a limb and went to his sisters in Virginia and he never heard of them after that them times there was no letters sent like it is now the Ballards Mother was a Hardwick the Ballards are related to the Hardwick Family my Grand Fathers name was Thomas he Married in Virginia Rachel Sullivan an Irish Woman all this was before the

Revolutionary war he was in the Army but I the he shad horses the (?) I heard of him was in Tennessee and from there to Lexington Kentucky he owned a farm there and had slaves while there he bought a section of land on Duck River in Tennessee he gave 9 Negro men and a 100 pound in gold pound shilling and at that time he took his Boys and son in laws and went down there to get out timber to build a mill camped out and he took the Chills and he called in his hands and went back to Lexington Ky and (?) the land a way all of this I got from my Father from Lexington Ky he went to Ohio up on still water and then back to Montgomery County Kentucky there is my First Remeranc of my Grand Father about 1815 he had he 4 Boy and 3 girles Charles William John and Thomas I never knew but one of the girles Rebecca she married Jack Farmer they settled up in the north part of Madison County Indiana Aunt Beckey died there and uncle Married and went to Iowa the other two I have no recollection of one Married another other Farmer and the other a Nelson Charles Hardwick married Betsey Crook and they settled in Hendricks County Indiana near Danville and both died there and buried in the Strange grave yard and they had 2 Boys and 2 girles all dead Uncle William settled in Delaware County Indiana where the town of Yorktown is and built a mill on Bock creek about 68 years ago and it is kept up yet he had 5 Boy and 4 girles all dead but one the youngest Timothy he was there 2 or 3 years ago Uncle and Aunt died at Yorktown or close there

Uncle John Hardwick Married Sarah Gulley and moved from Kentucky to Mooresville Morgan County Indiana and both buried at Mooresvill Morgan County Ind they had 4 Boys and their names was William the oldest Married Elizabeth Cox both dead Jack the next Married Elizabeth Grant both dead Thomas the next Married Rebecca Ballard both dead Younger the last Married a Miss Summers Younger is dead but his wife was living the last I heard from her Polly Married Alfred Mathes and moved to Illinois both dead Nancy Married John Richard and is dead I do not know what became of Richard Fanny Married William Black he died at Indianapolis and Fanny was still living there the last I heard from her Elizabeth Married a Morgan she is dead and never knew what became of Morgan Melissa Married Alexander Conduit and both live in Indianapolis Thomas Hardwick Married Polly Strange and moved from Kentucky to Indiana and settled in Hendricks County near Hadley he had 2 Boys and 3 girles all dead but one I am the oldest son and I live near Hadley station Hendricks County Indiana this is the history of the Hardwick Family From my Great Grand Father down to my cousins families and their families are scattered so I have lost the sum of them my two Aunt Hardwick that married Farmer and Nelson I nev was acquainted with two married Farmers I was acquain with the one that settled in the north part of Madison County Old Grand Mother Hardwick died in Rockcassel County Kentucky Grand Father in Hendricks County Indiana an buried in the Strange grave yard since writing the above about Uncl William Hardwicks Family I got a letter from one of them that gave me some Information about them he had 5 Boys Will is dead he was 85 years old Tom is dead he was 82 they died in Delaware County Indiana William is still living he lives in Worth County Missouri he is about 70 years old. John Hardwick is dead he died in Missouri Timothy Hardwick is the youngest Boy he lives in Yorktown Delaware County Indiana there was 4 girles Polly is living she lives in Windfall Tipton County Indiana she is about 82 Malinda lives in nebraska she is about 67 Betsey is dead and I dont know her age Metilda lives in Muncie she is about 55 years old Uncle William is your Fathers uncle and these children are his cousins

Aunt Rebecca was my Fathers sister she had 2 Boys and 1 girl I dont know what become of them the girl Married a man and settled in Delaware County and he liked music a man stoped to stay over night with him and he had a French harp the next morning Beckey man bought the harp he gave a rifle gun worth ten dollars and his nights lodging and the man wen on his way rejoicing he lay in another supply of harps for the nex fool Uncle was so mad he wanted the fool killer to come around and kill hi son in law

there is eleven of the Hardwick Family buried in the Strange grave yard near Danville Indiana where I leave out letters and words you must guess at the meaning.

This for

Alexander

Hardwick

and his Friends

(signed) Wesley Hardwick

THOMAS HARDWICK SR.

m. Rachel Sullivan Va.
1800 Kentucky Census Madison County
1820 Indiana Census Jackson County (p 262)
bur in Strange Graveyard in Indiana

THOMAS HARDWICK JR.

b. (probably Va)
m. Polly Strange (probably in Montgomery Co, KY)
1820 Indiana Census Jackson County (p 262A)
bur. in Strange Graveyard in Indiana

WESLEY HARDWICK

b. Nov 4, 1813 Montgomery County, Kentucky
m. Susan Ann Hutchins
d. Sept 4, 1901 ? Indiana
bur. Mill Creek Friends Burying Ground
Danville, Hendricks Co, Indiana

Margaret Jane (Hardwick) Strange
Francis Alvin Strange
Anna Marie (Strange) Jones
Maryalice (Jones) McDonald

HCHS

Remember the Kick-off April 1st

Answers to "Where was What?"

1. Bradshaw, in NE Washington Twp. on the B. & O. RR.
2. Brayton (?)
3. Buzzard's Roost, Hazlewood, Liberty Twp.
4. Center Valley, 2 mi. S. of Belleville, Liberty Twp.
5. Chiseltown, Liberty Twp, on Morgan Co. line, SW of Hazlewood or Coatesville
6. Cincinnatus, Clay Twp, on Vandalia RR, and 650 W.
7. Claysville, Clayton, for Henry Clay
8. Clermont, E. of Brownsburg, 1 mile from Marion Co. line
9. Crittenden, same as Cincinnatus, Clay Twp.
10. Euphenia, Liberty Twp. US 40 and 200 W.
11. Friendswood, Guilford Twp. 800 S, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Marion Co. line
12. Gail, US 36 and 300 E. Center Twp.
13. Georgetown, Stilesville, Franklin Twp.
14. Hampton, earliest P.O. station in Avon area
15. Hardscrabble, US 36 and 500 E. Washington Twp.
16. Harrisburg, Brownsburg
17. Hillsboro, 2 miles E. of Belleville, proposed County seat, Liberty Twp.
18. Jacktown, same as Euphenia
19. Joppa, SW corner of Guilford Twp.
20. La Clair, P.O. at Liberty Twp. Chiseltown
21. Mimosa, Hadley, Clay Twp., an Indian name
22. Morristown, Amo, for James Morris
23. Mount Sterling, 2 miles N. of Lizton, Union Twp.
24. Needmore, Marion Twp. 200 N. and 425 W.
25. New Elizabeth, Lizton, for Isaac Veiley's wife Elizabeth
26. New Philadelphia, a very temporary name for the Avon P.O.
27. New Williamsburgh, Billtown, U.S. 36 and 525 W.
28. North Belleville, Liberty Twp, N. of Belleville on Vandalia
29. Oak Plain, 2 miles E. of Plainfield

30. Pecksburg, Clay Twp. on Vandalia and 250 W. named for President of RR
31. Progress, Maplewood, at intersection of Center, Middle and Center Tups.
32. Quebec, Southern Middle Twp.
33. Reno, Clay Twp, on Big Four RR 1 mile from Putnam Co. line; named for the outlaw Reno boys.
34. Roundtown, 2 miles South of North Salem, Bel River Twp.
35. Rubberneck, 1 mile north of Hazlewood, Liberty Twp.
36. Singer Station, Montclair, SW Union Twp.
37. Six Points, SW Washington Twp, near Marion Co. line.
38. Smootsdell, P.O. at Avon, for John Smoot
39. Spicklepoint (?)
40. Spray Station, Washington Twp, on Big Four RR, inside Co. line
41. Tank, Center Twp, on Big Four RR near Mill Creek, 250 W.
42. Tilden, on B. & Co. RR and Lincoln-Middle Twp line
43. Toll Gate, SE Washington Twp on US 40
44. Union, Liberty Twp, S. of Cartersburg on US 40, platted in 1827
45. West Centerville, 2 miles W. of North Salem, 13 lots platted, no business
46. West Milton, Coatesville

Lois Crayton

HCHS

BIG SAM THOMPSON - BASEBALL HALL OF FAMER

Recently Big Sam Thompson was chosen to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Although he has been dead for more than 50 years, his name will stand, along with Babe Ruth's and Lou Gehrig's, among the all-time greats of baseball. Jewell Thompson, Danville, has collected many clippings about his famous great uncle, and he and Mrs. Thompson have organized them into something that reads more like fiction (and exciting fiction too) than fact. Here is his story as told by clippings:

Although probably not many people now living in Danville, or Hendricks County, remember Sam Thompson, there are undoubtedly many who do remember Sam's brothers and sisters.

Sam was born near Danville on March 3, 1860 and was the fifth of eleven children born to Jesse and Rebecca (McPheeters) Thompson. When grown, his height was listed at 6'-2" and also at 6'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Which is correct? I do not know. His weight was 210 lbs. Sam's older brothers were Lawrence, Arthur, Nathan and Cyrus. Lawrence and Arthur were carpenters. Nathan (my grandfather) was a farmer and Cy was a druggist and had the Thompson Drug Co. which is still on the north side of the square. Jessie, the first girl in the family, was born two years after Sam. While a teen age girl she entered the milinery trade and at that time, hats were made by hand and required the finest of stitchery. Next, was William, better known as "Humphrey" who had a bakery beside his home. His bread was more tasty than most bakery's cake. Julia, the second daughter, married Fred Warner who at one time was editor of a local paper. Their son, Clifford, died a few weeks ago in North Carolina. Then came Charles and Ethan, both of whom died young. The youngest was Anna, who married Porter Blair. Many will remember Anna Blair who worked in the First National Bank in Danville until she died in 1955. When the six sons of this family were grown, they were all over 6 ft. in height and each weighed over 200 lbs.

On page 486 of the 1885 History of Hendricks County, the fourth line mentions the first physician in Center Township was Dr. Garrett. This Dr. Garrett was a great-grandfather of Samuel Thompson.

Dr. Caleb Garrett was born in North Carolina in 1778. He was the eldest of sixteen children born to Welcome Garrett. Welcome Garrett was a descendant of William and Ann Garrett who came to America in 1684 from Darby in the county of Leicister, England, and settled in Darby Township, then Chester Co., Pa. --- Caleb Garrett married Beulah Jackson of Guilford Co., N.C. and in 1816 he brought his wife and their six children to Salem, Indiana, where he practiced medicine. It was at

Salem where Caleb's fifth child, Anna, met Sam McPheeters. Anna and Sam were married there in 1828. The following year, 1829, Sam McPheeters and his family and Dr. Garrett and his family, which had increased to 12 by this time, all moved to Danville. Dr. Garrett practiced medicine in Danville until his death, which was on July 31, 1831.

Shortly after Sam McPheeters and his wife Anna Eliza, daughter of Dr. Garrett, moved to Danville, they entered government land about a mile west of Danville. He became a prosperous farmer. They had several children and one of their daughters, Rebecca, was married to Jesse Thompson in Danville in 1849. Jesse Thompson was one of Hendricks County pioneer cabinet makers. He was born in Guilford Co., N.C. and when a child, came with his father, stepmother and brothers and sisters to the Danville area. This Jesse Thompson and Rebecca were the parents of "Big Sam," the ball player.

(Clipping dated April 30, 1925)

THE THOMPSON BOYS IN BAREFOOT DAYS

HOW CYRUS LEANDER AND SAMUEL LUTHER DISAPPROVED A LIBEL AGAINST LADY BETTY

By Lannes McPhetridge

This Thompson sextette knew Danville and its environs as a spider knows its web. They knew where blackberries grew thickest; knew which watermelon patches were unguarded in the dark of the moon; where hickory nuts, walnuts and paw-paws grew; where swimming holes were deepest and where fishing was best. They were the first Danville boys to go barefoot in spring and last to put on their shoes in autumn. If any two of the Thompson youngsters could be paired as cronies, they were Cyrus Leander and Samuel Luther--of near the same age.

Far back in those barefoot days there once came a favorable spring and summer which ripened an enormous crop of mulberries--mulberries as large as a youthful Thompson thumb. North of Danville stood a mulberry tree, the bark of which year after year showed the marks of the climbing Thompson pair--Cyrus and Samuel. With this year of plenty in mulberries there also came to Hendricks County clouds of a pest known as Lady Betty bugs, also nearly as large as youthful Thompson thumb. Lady Betty soon won unfavorable comment throughout the community. She and her kind were inordinately fond of ripening fruits, and she stung the cherries, grapes, peaches and mulberries to drink of the delicious juices. Some of the Danville horticulturalists like Allan Furnas and Dr. Kennedy went so far as to say that after a Lady Betty bored into a cherry or mulberry, she left an injection of poison. But the two Thompson boys had not heard of this poisoning antic by Lady Betty. They only knew that the mulberries were ripe and that the berries fairly covered the tree north of Danville. They had shinned up this tree one afternoon, had filled their "tummies" with the rich mulberries, and had slid down the tree with well stained faces, when a passing farmer hailed them.

"Have you boys been eating mulberries?" asked the farmer. With the telltale evidence on their faces, the two Thompson boys frankly and unreservedly admitted that they had partaken of the luscious fruit. "Did you know them mulberries was stung and poisoned by Lady Betty bugs?" asked the farmer, his face turning pale at the thought. "Your Dad is an undertaker and you had better hurry home and give him an order for two coffins."

The two boys went home but they hesitated and postponed placing a coffin order with their Dad. What Dad did not know about Cyrus and Samuel and Lady Betty would not worry him.

The family gathered around the supper table, according to the Thompson routine. It was a spacious table, for in addition to dad, mother, and the sextette of boys, there was a sister--nine in all. The two mulberry eaters secretly and sorrowfully wondered if it was to be the last supper the family would have as a complete unit. Early the next morning the family breakfasted together, as it had supped the evening before. Nothing uncommon had happened between the two meals. There were no after-effects from the mulberries which Lady Betty had poisoned with her sting. There were still nine in the Thompson family. The fact is, the horticulturalists had libeled Lady Betty. The two coffins were not ordered. Instead, soon after breakfast the same two Thompson boys hustled back to the mulberry tree north of Danville and stripped it clean of its fruit, even to the mulberries in the topmost branches.

(Clipping undated)

DAN O'LEARY TELLS HOW HE DISCOVERED BIG SAM THOMPSON

"Boys, Sam, Tall Farmer Sam, one of the honestest and most conscientious ball-players in the league, is my idol," said Dan O'Leary. "I brought him into the diamond and have never been sorry." Then in his inimitable way the veteran related the story. "Danville had a good nine and wanted to show it off. I had the Indianapolis winners--O'Leary's Indians, some called them--and we finally consented to give them a game Saturday afternoon. The next day I had to place my men against the Metropolitans and, of course, I changed the team about a bit to save the players. We were given a great ovation upon entering Danville---Our boys put up at the hotel and the mayor insisted upon walking arm-in-arm with me about the town. 'If we had Farmer Thompson to play right field for us today, Mr. O'Leary, I'm afraid our boys would defeat your Indians,' he said. 'Who is this Farmer Thompson?' I asked. 'A big, tall fellow who always loses the ball when he bats it' was the answer. Well, I was looking for chances to try out such men and I asked the little official to take me to Mr. Thompson. 'But he's out at -- farm, clap-boarding the house' was the mayor's reply. 'I'll pay for a rig to drive out. How far is it?' I asked. On the way the mayor told me more stories about the great ballplayer. My curiosity became aroused to the highest pitch. Soon we passed a break in the trees and about a furlong up an incline we saw our goal. Up on a scaffold stood Sam, working like a beaver. He looked every inch a thoroughbred ballplayer. I likened him to a stake horse. Introductions followed and I questioned the tall carpenter. 'Will you come down and play ball with the Danvilles against our team?' I asked. 'I'd like to, deuce knows, but I can't afford to leave my work' replied Sam. 'How much are you getting for this labor?' I asked. 'Two dollars and fifty cents a day.' 'I'll give you \$5 if you knock off and play this afternoon,' I said.---So Sam came into the game. I was at the gate taking tickets. I heard the Danvilles had the bases filled and Sam was at the bat. Suddenly an explosive sound was heard. I shuddered as I recalled the mayor's words. Sure enough, Big Sam had sent the leather away into the corn field. It was never found. The bases were cleared and the score was Danville 4, Indianapolis O. Veach, my pitcher, was slightly "gay" owing to frequent social tipples with the Danville entertainers and I sent word for him to send them wide when Thompson came to bat. We couldn't do a thing. Danville managed to score one in the next inning and we duplicated our goose egg production. Once more the bases were filled with Danville farmers. Again did the tall sycamore of Danville grasp his big bat. Veach floated a pea up about a yard off the plate. But Sam's extension gear and long driving rods found the round object. It found a lodging place out in the field of waving green. The ball was never found. Score: Danville 9, Indianapolis O.---That night I signed Thompson. It was a remarkable event.---Tall Sam Thompson put himself into the game. And he did play! The next year he was gobbled up with the other Indians by Detroit--."

(This clipping is from the Detroit News. Charlie Bennett, a teammate and a long time friend of Sam's, gave this story to C. D. Cameron)

"Sam came into the game very suddenly, in a way. Everyone in Detroit remembers Dan O'Leary. Well, Dan was managing the Indianapolis team in the early 80s, a minor league team. Sam went on the Indianapolis team and was such a hitter and fielder that Dan talked of him all the time. He told Manager Watkins, of the Detroit team what a wonder he had. There were two men on the Indianapolis outfit that attracted Watkins--Thompson and Moriarty. The owners of the Detroit team bought a lot of players to try them out. Moriarty was a wonderful fielder but not a hitter. Watkins put him into right field, holding Thompson back, though Dan O'Leary and others were urging him to put Thompson in there. Do you remember the little tiny white fences that ran around the field side of the bleachers in Recreation Park? Well, one day Moriarty went dashing after a high fly, looking up and not down and he rushed straight into that fence and fell over, banging both hands hard down on the first bleacher bench, and at the same time striking the little fence with his foot so hard that the right toe was badly broken. Thompson was then called on, and then things began to happen, I tell you. I remember the first time Sam went into the uniform. We had some extra

uniforms that would fit an ordinary big man but on Sam the trousers looked almost like a pair of swimmers' tights. He came up to bat at a time when we had a man on first and another on second. Burdock, the second baseman on the other team took his place right on the base line between first and second. I was over near first base and I called to Burdie: 'Better field back--you don't know that fellow--he'll knock the ball right through you!' But Burdock said, 'Can't knock 'em through Burdie.' Then Sam made that little step back of his and banged the ball so that it shot along by Burdie like a flash of light, and almost before you knew it the ball had banged against the right field fence, and Sam was running around the bases. But, as he ran, his trousers worked up, and while he was running the big giant had to bend over and pull the legs down while he ran.---But while we think of Sam as a wonderful player, don't ever forget other things about Sam. He was a wonderful friend. No one ever quarreled with Sam. No one ever knew him, with all his strength, to be rough or brutal. He was always even tempered and plain.

(Monroe, Michigan, April 7, Special)

A movement is on foot to purchase the Johnson Island baseball park from George J Wahl, which is one of the best in the state.---The park will be named "Thompson" in honor of Sam Thompson, of Detroit, who will be remembered by local fans of having done much damage to fences by his terrific hitting.

(Clipping from Detroit News, Saturday, November 11, 1922)

ALL BROTHERS ONCE MORE AT SAM THOMPSON'S BIER

Far out on Trumbull avenue in a block of little gray homes there stands a little gray home more tiny than even its neighbors, and on the pillars of the porch there still grows in the November air a green and vigorous vine. Friday afternoon there was a gathering before this small cottage, a group such as never before had graced the street of little homes and may never again grace it. A group of millionaires, high officials in the government of city and state, judges and bankers and manufacturers. The group was so large that it filled the walks and overflowed into the well kept and tiny yard and into the yards of the neighbors and the street was filled with a dull uproar as automobiles by the score drew up alongside the little gray home and deposited their loads and then purred on to stand as near as possible beside a curb that was lined with similar vehicles. An ambassador holding court or a famous diva making her last appearance might have brought such a line, but it was neither. Beside the green and vigorous vines on the pillar there was hung a wreath and those purple ribbons that bedeck this symbol of the dead.---They were holding funeral services for Sam Thompson in that little cottage and the "boys" had come to pay tribute. They had come from various posts and from high places. A federal judge nodded to a millionaire manufacturer, a banker "borrowed a light" from a famous corporation attorney and a "merchant prince" whispered with an alderman, while in the cottage doorway a priest and a Methodist clergyman smiled on each other and talked of "brotherhood of man." There were men whose pen could scrawl a signature for a fortune and men whose pockets sagged with nothingness--for the poor as well as the rich were there.---The neighbors stared wonderingly out on the crowd and wonderingly at the thousands of flowers as they came pouring from the doors ready to take up the journey to Elmwood Cemetery. "Old Mr. Thompson" they had known as a good neighbor, a quiet, unassuming man, who mowed his own lawn and carried home his own bundles, even as they, and now that he was dead they were a little bewildered to know that the world was giving him a stately farewell. The men who had grown great with Detroit and those who had just drifted the tide of life stood with uncovered heads as the casket was borne out and hundreds of automobiles that had rushed along the Grand boulevard halted while their occupants stared down the block and wondered what dignitary was being borne out with such pomp and circumstance. The purple ribbons and the wreath came down from the little door, and the long procession moved away.

Thus ended the saga of Big Sam Thompson, undoubtedly one of the most famous persons Hendricks County has ever produced. And we can be proud that fame and fortune never went to his head, and that he was always a gentleman. Thank you, Jewell and Lenora.

HCHS

GOOD OLD DAYS?

Cleaning Cellars - Rats, Roaches

From page 210

"Domestic Cookery, Useful Receipts, and Hints to Young Housekeepers" by Elizabeth E. Lea - Eighth Edition Baltimore: Cushings and Bailey 1855

In the spring, cellars should be swept, and all refuse vegetables taken out; if left till warm weather, they will become putrid, and endanger the health of your family. The sprouts should be rubbed from the potatoes; all the barrels should be moved and swept under. Have boards laid on the floor for meat and fish barrels, and after they are emptied, have them washed and drained ready for use. Empty flour barrels should be swept out and the heads and hoops saved. Have lime sprinkled over the cellar floor twice during the summer or oftener if it should be necessary. If the windows are kept shut in warm weather, the air will be unwholesome. Do not trust to servants, examine and see that it is done thoroughly.

The apartments where cold meat and milk are kept should be cobwebbed and swept once a week, and the safe washed out at least that often. If the cellar is paved with brick, keep a part of it washed clean, to set cold meat and milk on; cover them with tin pans and put a weight on the top if rats are troublesome. If there are rat holes have them stopped with pieces of brick, and broken glass bottles; never use ratsbane without the greatest caution, as it is a dangerous remedy. No food or milk should be in the cellar at the time, and keep it locked up all the while it is there. Have water set about in pans for the rats to drink, and after three days, clear it all away and have the cellar cleaned and aired before putting any thing in it.

Mice are kept under by a good cat, and traps. If roaches are troublesome, set bowls or deep dishes, with molasses and a plate on the top, with room for them to get in, and set it close to a wall. Hundreds have been caught in this way in one night, and it is much safer than setting any thing poisonous about the kitchen or pantry. They should be burnt in the morning, and the dishes set again at night. If you find a closet infested with ants, remove every thing that will attract them, scald and clean it well, and they will soon leave it. It is said that strips of cotton or linen dipped in spirits of turpentine and placed about the closets, will drive them away.

Contributed by Ruth Pritchard

HCHS

Remember the Kick-off April 1

BERT'S OLD DEN

My old friend, Bert Sheets, down south of town
Has a place I like to hang aroun'.
It isn't a show place so spick and span,
No place for a gentleman or a business man.

It's just an old shack in the countryside,
A good place to loaf or sell a coon hide.
Now Bert has a home so neat and trim
It makes his old shack all the more grim.

And many a time 'long in the fall
I've seen a dozen coon hides tacked on the wall.
Now this is no place for ladies, it's just for men
Down south of town in Bert's old den.

The boys congregate here on Sunday morn
And tell of things that happened before I was born.
I call them "boys," they're around seventy-five,
With no aches or pains, wide awake and alive.

They chew tobacco and spit in the fire,
Just takin' life easy, they're not for hire.
They don't wear false teeth or walk with a cane,
Why, they can wade the snow or take the rain.

These boys won't gamble but they'll bet and swear
And tell wild cat stories that'll raise your hair.
They handle the truth a little reckless now and then
Down south of town in Bert's old den.

They tell of the days they had real hounds,
Wouldn't track a coon that weighed less than forty pounds;
And their old muzzle loadin' guns would shoot to the sky,
Why, the ducks and the geese never flew too high.

How well I remember that one old fellow said
He was twenty years old before he slept in a bed.
And brother "Chick" just sits with a grin,
He lets them talk, he won't chime in.

Now the Good Book says we shall not lie,
So these boys formed a club and that lets them by.
They can balance the budget without pencil or pen
Down south of town in Bert's old den.

Now if you ever go down to Bert's old shack
They'll make you welcome and ask you back
With that old-time spirit so few possess,
It dates farther back than the pony express.

And you don't need to shave or shine your shoes,
Wear tailor-made clothes or be up on the news.
For personal appearance and current events
Play no part in life with these old gents.

But from these men with their hearts of gold
Have come many good deeds that will never be told.
And if I outlive my three score and ten
I'll always remember Bert's old den.

--Arnold Stanley
a new member

HCHS

Deceased

A faithful member, Geneva Ward, passed away since our last meeting, and we extend sympathy to her family. She will be missed by all of us, as she has attended every meeting since she joined, April 12, 1971. The Harold Templins are to be commended for their thoughtfulness in furnishing transportation for Geneva.

HCHS

Sesquicentennial Towels

Mrs. Max McClain, Brownsburg artist, has completed the designs for the Sesquicentennial towels which will go on sale in the near future. Mrs. McClain has spent many weeks on this project, drawing almost all of her designs at the locations. Each township will be represented on the linen towels which promise to be lovely and interesting and will make treasured heirlooms of the future. Included in the scenes are the Stilesville Cemetery, one school, two churches, one farm house, the Hendricks County Court House, one elevator, one rail road, one barn, several business buildings and Governor Chase's house in Danville. No date has been announced for the towels to go on sale, but for further information, you may call Mrs. McClain at 852-2859, or write her R. R. 2, Brownsburg, 46112.

HCHS

The Sesquicentennial Publications Committee, headed by Ida Mae Miller, has told us that a booklet explaining the drawings on the Ancestor-Descendant Certificates will soon be available.

HCHS

SCHOOL DISTRICT #7

In the beginning, there was no school, nor was there a school district. The federal government donated the sixteenth section in every congressional township to the cause of common school education. The 1816 state constitution provided that none of these lands be sold before 1824. Thus until 1824, Indiana was without a comprehensive law to aid people in the matter of common schools. In that year, an act was passed, providing for the organization of school districts, three trustees to each one and for the erection of "suitable" school houses. Among other things the law directed that "the school house be eight feet between the floors and at least one foot from the surface to the first floor."

An election was held at the house of Henry Bray, Jr. on the twenty-fifth day of August 1828, in Township 14N R1E for the purpose of "giving the voice of people of said township for a sale, or no sale, of the section 16." Those who voted were:

Henry Bray	Thomas Hooten	Thomas Shelton
Isaac Prather	Henry Bray, Jr.	Joseph Bray
Hardin Osborn	Nicholas Osborn	William Pope
James Pope	Jesse Hoggett	Eleazor Bales
Edward Bales	Abner Blair	Brazelton Brown
Pollard Baldwin	William Townsend	Solomon Blair
Edward Hobson	Samuel Guin	Evan Davis
Benoni Pearce	James Prichet	

All twenty-three men voted in favor of selling section 16.

In time, Township 14N R1E was, by the proper authorities, duly divided into seven school districts, with number seven situated about the middle. It included sections 15-16-21-22 and parts of sections 14 and 23, that were west of White Lick Creek. District #7 was also south of The Terre Haute Trail which had been cut through the county in 1820.

The above "proper authorities" were the three civil township trustees for which the law of 1838 made provision. They also were to build and care for roads. The three school district trustees were entrusted with the duty of examining and employing teachers.

Laws to improve school conditions were not just happening. They were results of determined and consistent effort on the part of many dedicated men of such stature as the renowned Caleb Mills. At least a brief note is here due Caleb Mills (1806-1879).

Born and educated in New Hampshire, he worked for almost one-half century to see that schools were established. He was exceedingly well informed on domestic and social conditions of pioneer life. He deliberately sought to arouse the Indiana Legislature as the rightful instrument for securing a reform of our educational system.

On February 22, 1838, a meeting was held for the voters of School District #7. They decided: to support a district school, decided to draw money from the school fund to aid in building a school house, and to build a house eighteen by twenty-four feet. At this meeting Jacob Farmer offered land on which to build the school house but no action was taken, then, on the matter.

However, county deed record #6 page 526, shows that on September 28, 1838, Jacob Farmer and Philpena Farmer, his wife, deeded to the inhabitants of school district #7 in Township 14N in Range 1 east, a parcel of land twelve rods by seven rods. The trustees of this district were Jonathan Moffett, George Stalker, and Josiah Mills. (Jacob and Philpena Farmer both signed with "X")

In the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 16 T14N R1E near a spring, the log school house was erected. It was called "Pin-Hook." Equiped with an ax for clearing a path and for blazing the trail, a number of fathers set out, with their children, toward the school house. It was rude and simple, but was the best these hard working pioneers could then do. Of varying economic situations and with different capabilities for assisting their children in study, these settlers shared an intense desire that their children have the chance to "learn from books."

Incomplete records give only an occasional glimpse of the "three-months" schools. In September 1845 the teacher at #7 was paid \$9.56. Years later, a Millikan Woodard paper indicated that this teacher was Amos Doan. The school enumeration figure for 1845 was sixty-nine. John Farmer taught in 1844 - Gully Sanders in 1846.

The 1852 law placed management of schools, with the three civil township trustees, who would employ teachers, visit schools, establish and conveniently locate a sufficient number of schools. The county recorder's books show that these trustees "got in earnest" about their responsibility, acquired many school sites and built many new buildings.

Boundaries of School District #7 remained essentially the same under Guilford Township Trustees' supervision, as they had been under the congressional township rule. District #7 did get a new frame building in 1855. It was twenty feet by thirty feet in size, was at the same location and was still called Pin-Hook. There was an addition of ground to the school lot. Deborah J. Morris, on February 8, 1868, was paid \$106.75 for teaching at #7. On March 1, 1869, Maggie Mills was paid \$126. for teaching there. Two earlier teachers were Evan Hadley and Catherine Farmer.

Some time during the year 1869 Pin Hook, in district #7, burned. On October 21, 1869 Aaron Mills was paid \$4.70 for repair at #7. (Was this to fit a building for school use?) On March 6, 1870, John Farmer was paid \$5.00 for use of house for school.

The township school directors decided upon a new location for the building, in School District #7. A site three-quarters of a mile west and a little south from the Pin Hook school house, was selected. This new frame school house, thirty by forty feet, was called Oak Ridge. Entrance was at the east end, four windows on north and on south walls with a solid west wall.

This same year, 1870, another school house, two miles north east of Oak Ridge, was built. It is reported to have been the same size and was called Sugar Ridge. Expenditures for construction of these two houses, are recorded together, by the trustee, because the work was done by the same carpenter.

After a red brick school building replaced the frame building at Oak Ridge in 1890, the frame structure was purchased by Eli Anderson Hadley and moved near his dwelling and farm building to be used as shop and tool shed. This property is now (1974) owned by Mrs. Edith Plummer of the Joppa neighborhood.

School District #7-OAK RIDGE
(And #8-Sugar Ridge)
Expenditures

9-27-1870	George W. Grant & Co. School Furniture	\$1207.90
12-31-1870	Jehu Parsons, material and building #7 and #8	1020.50
6-26-1871	William Hockett & Son, material & building wood houses & fence #7 and #8	328.00
	A. Hunt & Co. Curtain #7	4.58
6-28-1871	Tomlinson & Ellis, pumps #7 and #8	20.40
7- 6-1871	Jesse N. Townsend, digging well at #7	105.00
7-20-1871	Jehu Parson, building back house at #7 and shingling #7 and #8	203.75
1-16-1872	William H. Morgan work on #7	5.00
3- 2-1872	Jesse N. Townsend wood #7	20.00
1- 1-1873	Tomlinson & Ellis pump #7	8.55
4- 4-1873	J. N. Townsend wood #7	18.00
10-7-1873	T. S. Pollard painting houses at #3, #4, #6, #7 and #8	107.16
10- 7-1873	J. M. Townsend work on #7	2.25
6- 4-1874	J. N. Townsend cleaning well #7	3.00
10-30-1874	N. W. Bryant Janitor 40 days #7	7.00
4-24-1875	Jesse N. Townsend wood, glass and putty at #7	18.35
11-20-1875	William McKhan fixing black-board #7	4.80
3-10-1876	Jesse N. Townsend cleaning well #7	4.50
10-31-1876	Jesse N. Townsend 4 cords wood #7	13.00
1-31-1877	W. J. Feree Janitor 2 months #7	2.00
6-18-1877	J. N. Townsend repairing privy #7	2.00
9-13-1877	William Morgan plastering #5, #7, #8	38.00
9-15-1877	W. J. Feree Janitor 120 days #7	6.75
3- 2-1878	C. E. Townsend Janitor	2.50
6- 2-1880	E. P. Thompson Janitor 105 days	7.50
3- 5-1881	William H. Morgan plastering #7 #8	20.50
6-23-1881	Aaron Mills repairing fence & privy	2.20
10-31-1881	L. Kendall putting in pump #7	16.00
11-19-1881	R. C. Townsend Janitor	6.07
3-24-1882	E. P. Thompson Janitor	2.62
3-27-1882	John Bowen Janitor	3.00
10- 2-1882	Kate Beeson Janitor	8.25
11- 2-1882	Aaron Mills repairs #7	4.50
9-19-1885	John Douglas painting #7 #8	5.50
11-16-1885	William Morgan plastering #1 #11 #7 and #10	70.30
11-25-1885	J. M. Cook 63 fence posts and services as director #7	15.34
10-31-1889	M. R. Ellis & Sons lumber #3 #7	185.70
11-23-1889	J. W. Johnson 2 days building fence #7	4.00
12- 2-1889	Eldridge & Co. lumber to #3 & #7	25.14
12- 9-1889	G. W. Watson hauling lumber to #7	4.00
3-26-1890		

Oak Ridge - New Brick Bldg. 1890

6- 7-1890	W. H. Lakin freight on lumber to #7	1.02
6-14-1890	C. H. Mills hauling sand & water 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ days	16.50
6-14-1890	Jesse Doan laying brick 9 days at #7	36.00
6-14-1890	Oliver Moon making mortar and carrying hodd 14 days	28.00
6-14-1890	Ellsworth Tomlinson carrying hodd 8 days	12.00
6-14-1890	J. A. Tomlinson laying brick 9 days	33.75
6-14-1890	Oscar Plain carrying brick 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ days	9.00
6-14-1890	W. Matthews laying brick 9 days	33.75
6-14-1890	M. L. Eaton laying brick 7 days	26.25
6-14-1890	G. W. Watson hauling lime and lumber from Indianapolis to #7	19.00

6-18-1890	Green & Hadley, balance on lime, glass paint, slating, chalk & hinges	304.73
6-23-1890	C. Green freight on lumber	1.44
6-25-1890	W. H. Lakin hauling sash & doors #7	.50
7-17-1890	Goddard & Co. stone for #7	11.30
7-17-1890	Indianapolis Manf. & Carpdors, sash & lumber	52.00
7-19-1890	W. C. Swindler, lumber	100.00
7-19-1890	C. H. Mills hauling sand 2 days	6.00
7-19-1890	J. F. Jones hauling lumber & lime	9.00
7-19-1890	G. W. Watson hauling lumber & lime	8.00
7-22-1890	Frank Douglas plastering 310 yds @ .12	37.20
7-23-1890	Douglas & Johnson Carpenter work	150.00
7-23-1890	Swearingen & Hadley lime putty, glass, & paint	65.01
7-26-1890	Y. L. Pollard painting 4 days	8.00
8-14-1890	Henry Holderman 4 days horse hire to #7	1.50
9- 9-1890	W. H. Morgan plastering	3.00
9-10-1890	Ed Hiatt, varnishing desks	1.50
9-10-1890	Scrubbing floors	1.50
9-29-1890	Henry Bell 6 1/2 days calcimining	12.50
10- 6-1890	Harbard Fansler, Broom	.30
11-30-1890	George Cumberworth, 40000	300.00
11-20-1890	J. W. Johnson, 2 days building fence	4.00
1-17-1891	2 out houses 30.00 2125 ft. of lumber 31.88	61.88
2- 9-1891	William Lewis, Jr. shingles & nails	30.77
2-17-1891	Jonathon Tomlinson, putting up desks	4.50
3-30-1891	Alva Mills Janitor 6 months	19.00
8-31-1891	Oscar Plain, cleaning well	3.00
9- 4-1901	Jesse Doan, 3 days brick work	10.50
9- 9-1901	Al Pointer, building fence	11.25
9-13-1901	John Douglas, painting	22.50
10-19-1901	A. M. Pointer, repairing coal house	3.50
11-17-1901	T. H. Rynerson, black board	13.50
12-31-1901	P. E. Balch, painting	4.50
Sept. 1903	A. M. Pointer, cutting weeds and cleaning	3.50
Sept. 1904	C. R. Harvey, painting	34.35
Sept. 1904	Al Pointer, cleaning	3.00
Sept. 1907	Joseph Alexander, work on well	7.00
Nov. 1907	A. J. Crayton, work on well	4.00
Oct. 19, 1909	John Baldwin, work on well	4.00
Dec. 14, 1910	E. S. Tinder, well and pump	103.00
Aug. 1903	Otto Crews, building fence	1.75

In summer of 1910, excavating under building was in process in preparation for installing a furnace. Excessive rain one Saturday night, before this project was completed, caused a portion of the wall to cave-in at the southeast corner of the building. Mr. Reeder, from Plainfield put in the furnace and Clark Sellars helped do the work.

The last term of school taught at Oak Ridge was 1919-1920 by Helen Coble.
The Oak Ridge school house now (1974) serves the Weddle family as a dwelling.

Oak Ridge #7 1895-1896

9-16-1895 Contract signed: Oscar Hadley, trustee
Mary Bell, teacher

for \$2.25 per day

School term 9-16-1895 to 3-27-1896
130 days

26 pupils: 12 male - 14 females
average attendance 19

Subjects	Number of Pupils
Orthography	13
Reading	15
Arithmetic	26
Penmanship	26
Geography	9
Grammar	26
History	9
Physiology	5

Guilford Township School Wagon Drivers

Feb. 29, 1909	J. A. Brown	\$ 84.00
4- 8-1909	Roland Osborn	15.25
4-18-1909	Larue Davis	63.00
5- 5-1909	Hazel Gibbs	7.00
10- 8-1909	John H. Jackson	2.50
12-16-1909	Hazel Gibbs	14.00
12-16-1909	Omer Bolen	9.00
12-16-1909	Mont Johnson	115.25
12-17-1909	William Greeson	19.50

Aug. 20, 1909	Ira Fogleman, work and painting wagon	18.50
Sept. 11, 1909	C. J. Olson, school wagon	193.00

Guilford Twp. District Schools

No.	Name	Dates	Location
#1	Starbuck	1858-19	Sec 32 T15N R2E
#2	Almond	1879-	Sec 25 T15N R1E
#2	Carter Newlin	1856-	Sec 36 T15N R1E
#3	James Wilson	1845-	Sec 29 T15N R2E
#4	Sugar Grove	18 -1929	Sec 3 T14N R1E
#4	Ash Grove	1887-1904	Sec 10 T14N R1E
#5	Fairfield	1860-19	Sec 8 T14N R2E
#5	Fairfield	1864,1883-	Sec 17 T14N R2E
#6	Union Hill	1855-1866	Sec 14 T14N R1E
#6	Black Rock	1886-1922	Sec 23 T14N R1E
#7	Pinhook	1838-1969	Sec 16 T14N R1E
#7	Oak Ridge	1870-1920	Sec 16 T14N R1E
#8	Sugar Ridge	1870-1886?	Sec 15 T14N R1E
#9	Carter	1862-	Sec 1 T14N R1E
#10	Little	1883-	Sec 33 T14N R1E
#11	Jessup	1857-18	Sec 20 T14N R2E
#11	Friendswood "Fairwood"	1884-19	Sec 17 T14N R2E

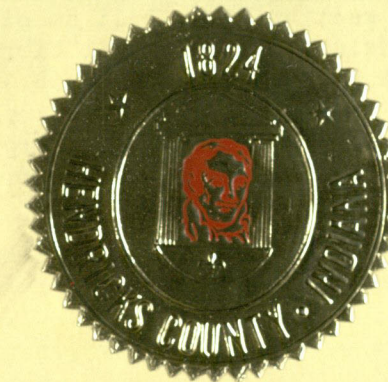
+ 3 Colored Schools

School District #7

Date	Teacher	Pay
9- -1844	John Farmer	
1845	Amos Doan	\$ 9.56
1846	Gully Sanders	
1868	Deborah J. Merris	
1869	Maggie Mills	
2-12-1870	Elvira Hornaday teaching	120.00
	(This no doubt was in John Farmers house) (Oak Ridge brick school building)	

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VI NUMBER III

July, 1974

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, N.J.

3-12-1877	W. J. Feree	90 days	202.50
6-18-1877	W. J. Feree	40 days	100.00
1-31-1878	W. J. Feree	120 days	300.00
4-5-1879	Mary E. Jackman	120 days	288.00
3-28-1880	E. P. Thompson	80 days	180.00
4-17-1880	C. E. Townsend	40 days	80.00
6-20-1880	Summer School		
3-5-1881	E. P. Thompson	105 days	210.00
3-27-1882	(Cora Townsend (Starbuck 8 yrs)) (E. P. Thompson)		250.00
	Kate Beeson		
	Lillie Feree, Summer School		
3-3-1883	A. Kate Beeson	110 days	250.00
3-27-1884	Ada Dewees		207.00
3-29-1885	M. E. or "W. L." Dewees	110 days	238.70
3-22-1886	Lillie Gunn (Bell)	117 days	248.40
3--1887	Lillie D. Gunn (Bell)	120 days	264.00
4-6-1886	Sue S. Morris	130 days	292.50
4-7-1886	R. (Ruth) A. Cammack	130 days	305.50
3-2-1889	S. S. Morris	110 days	247.50
4-12-1890	Rolena Morgan (Hagee)	130 days	260.00
	Last in frame bldg		
3-30-1891	Alva Mills	6 mo.	240.00
3-28-1892	Mary Bell	6 mo.	240.00
5-10-1893	Addie Almond (Roberts)	149 days	298.00
4-14-1894	Zeno H. Doan	150 days	300.00
4-23-1895	Mary Bell	145 days	326.25
3-30-1896	Mary Bell	130 days	292.50
3-3-1897	Charles Mays		
4-2-1898	Harlan York (30 pupils)	135 days	294.00
4-1-1899	Mertis Brown		303.75
	Ella Hadley Gambold 1899-1900		
4-10-1900	R. J. Underwood		257.50
4-13-1901	Norma Wright		280.00
1901-1902	Norma Wright		
1902-1903	Charles Reagan		
1903-1904	Robert Shirley		
1904-1905	Vernia Smith		
1905-1906	Bessie Silvey		
1906-1907	Bessie Silvey		
1907-1908	Earl Sanders		
1908-1909	Albert Barlow		
1909-1910	Clara Ward		
1910-1911	Ethel Scott		
1911-1912	Mary S. Winks		
1912-1913	Mary Barlow (McClain)		
1913-1914	Mary Barlow (McClain)		
1914-1915	Estelle Phillips		
1915-1916	Cebryn Joyner		
1916-1917	Cebryn Joyner		
1917-1918	Donald Winsted		
1918-1919	Ruth Thompson		
1919-1920	Madge Herringlake		
	Helen Coble		

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Officers

President

Mr. Floyd Hufford
35 W. College
Brownsburg, In 46112
Tel. 852-4161

Vice President

Mrs. Dessie Davis Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lizton, In 46149
Tel. 994-5311

Secretary

Mrs. Roy Pritchard
R. R. 1, Box 209
Clayton, In 46118
Tel. 539-6890

Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Helen Walker
R. R. 1, Box 121B
Clayton, In 45118
Tel. 539-4951

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian

Mrs. Harold Templin
R. R. 1, Box 86
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 539-4311

Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

H C H S

It is not how much you know about life but how you live your life that counts. Those who can avoid mistakes by observing the mistakes of others are most apt to keep free from sorrow. In a world full of uncertainties, the record of what has gone before - human experience - is as sure and reliable as anything of which we know.

Ray Lyman Wilbur

H C H S

The Publication Committee

Mrs. Ruth Hall
Mrs. Albert Reitzel

Mrs. Sherman Crayton

Mrs. Zona Walker
Mr. Joe Davidson

April 21, 1974

Seventy-four members and 16 guests were on hand for our April meeting at the Pittsboro Christian Church to hear Mike Lynch, Brownsburg, president of the Indiana Junior Historical Society, talk on "Indiana 19th Century Architecture" and how it relates to Hendricks County. Mike is very knowledgeable on procedures of architectural survey. He showed slides of different types of architecture found in Hendricks County, and mentioned that the results of this survey project will soon be published in booklet form, to be announced in the Indiana History Bulletin. The Brownsburg Junior Historical Society is outstanding in the state, and we are proud to claim them.

Mrs. Esta Saltee gave a delightful organ prologue and the Rev. Glen A. Clarkson gave the invocation and the benediction. Mr. Floyd Hufford, president, conducted the business meeting in which Mr. Jack Gambold discussed a possible trip for our next meeting and Mr. Scott Hozier gave a progress report on Sesquicentennial activities. Ladies of Union and Middle Townships furnished delicious refreshments. Each meeting you miss is your loss.

HCHS

July 14, 1974

The next meeting will be held July 14 at the Mill Creek East Elementary building....a spanking new, modern, air-conditioned edifice second to no elementary school in Hendricks County. So if it is hot the 14th (or if it's cold) come join us in comfort to enjoy what promises to be a most enjoyable program. Ruth Gregory will be presiding, and Frances Fisher is chairman of the following committee which will have a lot of fun depicting an old fashioned school: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davidson, Mr. Clarence Edmondson, Mr. Leonard Fleenor, Mr. Gerald Jones, and Mrs. Ida Mae Miller. It is whispered there will be good students and bad students, dunce caps and all in costume. So bring books, slates, lunch boxes and anything you may have for the display table. Incidentally, the display table has been the most popular spot at our meetings, and what would the display table be without all the items Mr. Will Templin brings? For the sake of the record, the editor would like to say that Mr. Templin brings more enthusiasm, and more things of interest, to our every meeting than any other one member. The Society thanks you, Mr. Templin.

Mrs. Winkleman, program chairman assures us that this will be an outstanding meeting, and the ladies of Liberty and Franklin Townships will polish it off with refreshments for the social hour.

HCHS

We welcome the following members who have joined since April, and we want to remind our readers that if you are not enjoying the benefits of membership in our Society (still \$3.00 per year including four Bulletins) you are really missing a bargain. With the cost of paper, postage and labor going up, up, up, as everything else, we can't continue long on this basis. So you better join now at these bargain rates. After all, name us one other organization that offers so much for so little.

New Members

William E. Craven	Randall Joseph
Garnet Christie (Mrs. Harry L.)	Doris Kennedy (Mrs. Edward H.)
Rosemary Helton (Mrs. Richard H.)	Mrs. Mary McCollum
Mrs. C. Richard Whicker	Edgar Parker
Maxine M. Cox (Mrs. Reginald)	Charles Dinsmore
Mrs. Helen Bulion	Ruth Dinsmore
Fred H. Worrell	Dwight Kelley
George R. Harvey	Dorothy Kelley

"The Pageant of Hendricks County" is the title of a 32-page booklet that is on sale at Ye Booke Shoppe in Danville. They will also be on sale on the street tomorrow for 25 cents. The proceeds will go to meet the expenses of the day. Tomorrow is the great day for the Centennial Day of Hendricks County."

From the May 22, 1924 issue of The Republican.

Thanks to Mr. Gerald Jones of North Salem, I am the happy owner of a copy of "The Pageant of Hendricks County of 1924". It is amusing to note that several hundreds of us budding young thespians were scheduled to make our dramatic debut (I as an apple blossom!!!) but the weather man refused to co-operate. (He must have been related to our weather man.) Who knows what the world has lost because our theatrical dreams and ambitions were washed away in a deluge, and our careers died a-borning!

It is fascinating to read the old booklet and to see so many familiar names. A quick, perhaps not too accurate, check revealed the following HCHS members who took part: Mrs. Herbert C. Sears, who was an episode director; Mr. Claire Sellars, Mrs. Mabel Davidson, Roy Fisher, Frances Weaver (Mrs. Roy Fisher) Mrs. Ansen Kellems, Mrs. Vera Hall (recently deceased), Virginia Mattern (Mrs. John Kendall), Rosaleen Barnes (Nicholson), Mary June Pierson (Mrs. John Edwards), Lois Shirley (Mrs. Sherman Crayton) and Naomi Joseph.

I have derived so much pleasure from this little publication that I realize how valuable the programs, booklets and souvenirs the Sesquicentennial Committee is now offering will be in years to come; therefore, I am stocking up on them so, hopefully, I will have enough for my grandchildren and great grandchildren. Then, maybe 50 or a hundred years from now, they will read, and smile, and ponder what their little old grandmother was up to 'way back in 1924. Why don't you do the same?

Margaret Baker

Miss Hazel Hargrave, invalid sister of Mrs. Kate Hargrave Smith of Danville, wrote the following poem for the Centennial. It is as beautiful and appropriate now as it was fifty years ago.

Our Heritage

No epic-making history is ours,
Within our borders, battles there were none,
World histories make no mention of our towns or men.
Of world events we have not had a single one;
No mighty rivers gave us arteries for trade
Nor ores or oil wells brought us crowds and fame;
Only a smiling land, a richness of the soil were here
To hold the sturdy pioneers who came.

But after all, what blessings we have had,
Peace and prosperity and progress mark the years -
The hundred years we now look back upon,
A hundred years of work, hope, faith and fears -
A splendid heritage is given us;
We need not seek afar for beauty, comfort, health.
We have them here and give our thanks heartfelt
For these, that make our Hendricks County's wealth.

HCHS

The Job Hadley Barn

by Ruth Hall

In the June 1972 Hendricks County History Bulletin we have the story of a house west of Danville, which has been torn down, that had a secret room where slaves were hidden. It was a part of the "Underground Railway." We have heard of another station near Hadley Station at the home of Addison Coffin and another north and east of Lizton on the Job Hadley farm.

There is a Boone, Clinton and Hendricks County History written in 1894 that gives a personal history of Job Hadley. Of course it does not mention an underground railway station since these places were kept very secret, without even the neighbors knowing of them. Job was born in Chatam County, North Carolina in 1816. He came to Indiana in 1839, taught school three years in Morgan County, and in 1842 moved to farm in Clay Township, Hendricks County. Then about 1849 moved to a farm in the north center part of old Middle township, as it was at that time. Mr. Hadley was a Quaker and was very interested in anti-slavery and advancement of colored people in the south. When in North Carolina he organized a Sunday School for freed colored children, the laws of the state preventing the education of the slave. He also taught a class of freed colored people in a school house, but the school was finally stopped by the popular excitement against it, but he was satisfied that the colored people could learn.

The Job Hadley house was about where Chester Prices' House is today. Back of the house stood the barn. There were double doors about the middle of the barn and a buggy or a wagon could be driven inside the barn. There were trap doors in the floor and steps that went down into a cellar. The story is that after the negroes went into the cellar the trap doors were closed and covered with fodder or hay and then the sheep were driven in, the idea being that the sheep odor would kill other odors and the blood hounds would not be able to follow. The barn is still there and in good repair. It has had an addition built on the north and has been changed inside and that cellar was filled in many years ago.

Here is a description of the cellar as written by Dr. Clarence Hickman who lived on this farm when he was about eleven years of age. He said they always called Job Hadley 'Uncle Job.' Quote, "In regard to the cellar, it sure was there. I was afraid of Uncle Job's ghost, my older brother Will, who was a big tease, said Uncle Job's ghost was down there. The stairway down was made with open risers but made of very heavy planks and was about two and a half feet wide. The cellar was half full of fodder, hay and trash. We heard that it was built for a harness room. It seemed strange to me at that time that they would build such a harness room. Another strange thing about it was that the walls were made of planks that ran up and down. The cellar must have been at least twelve feet square. In addition to the walls, there was another wall space about two feet wide that ran all around the cellar walls. The boards of this wall also ran up and down but did not go down into the ground very far. Part of this wall had planks missing so that if we wished we could have crawled all around the passageway. Our hens would go back into this passage way and lay eggs. I had to crawl in to get the eggs. I never had nerve enough to crawl all around the passageway. I was afraid of Uncle Job's ghost. The hens did not seem to mind."

"I am fascinated with the suggestion that the cellar in the barn on Uncle Job Hadley's farm was used in the underground railroad. I can well believe this story for he was a very resourceful man. The Island Grove Church was on the southwest corner of his farm. When Joe Dungan bought part of the farm he made this church into living quarters while he built his house." (Clayson Smock lives there now and the church building is still there and is used for a garage.) Quote "I went to the Quaker Church and you would sit and wait until the spirit moved someone and they would speak. I also went to Sunday School there and I remember one lesson that the teacher gave. He took two calling cards and on one he put a spot of ink

and he called this a bad boy but on the other he put no ink and he called this one a good boy. He then said that if a good boy runs around with a bad boy he becomes bad and he rubbed the two cards together and the good one looked just as messy as the other one." unquote.

Job Hadley's 295 acres were entered from the government by others about 1839. I believe this to be the last land to be sold by government in what is now Union Township. Job's first wife died before he came here. He married Tacy Burgess of Richmond, Indiana and they came to this farm about 1848 or 1849. They had three children who all died in infancy. They reared Sarah Appleby from 5 to 21 years, also her sister and brother who died at the ages of 7 and 14. They also reared from age of 3 years Jesse H. Blair, son of Judge Blair. Their pioneer life was so very hard for the children.

This farm was originally very swampy and consisted of prairie and woods, but Mr. Hadley spent a large amount of money in drainage and converted it into a fertile farm. A quote from Clarence Hickman's letter, "The land there was very wet, and Uncle Job dug lots of open ditches. He built a house on rollers that was large enough for a team of horses to walk around in, to turn a large capstan that in turn pulled scrapers with a rope that was wrapped around the capstan. That house was still on the farm and was astraddle a big ditch when we moved there." unquote.

Mr. Hadley was County Surveyor from 1846 to 1852 and 16 years later was elected for two years more. During the vacancy he was frequently called upon by the County Court to lay out roads, divide estates etc. He surveyed the town of Lizton when it was laid out in 1851.

To show Job Hadley's ingenuity he had a windmill that pumped water from a driven well to a water tank on the east end of the porch. The overflow from this tank went into the milk house at the bottom of the windmill. The overflow from the trough in the milkhouse went to a large tank in the barn lot between the house and the barn. This was a round type tank with up and down staves with large metal hoops. The overflow from this tank went to one just like it down in the pasture. The overflow from this tank went into the big ditch which he had dug with his ditch house.

HCHS

Mr. Max Gibbs, principal of the Danville Community Schools, presented his teachers with a copy of the following:

RULES FOR TEACHERS 1873

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.

9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

HCHS

North Salem

by Zona Walker

Musical Memories of Eel River Township

Eel River Township has always had the distinction of possessing much musical talent. In the early days the first settlers, the Woodwards and Claypools were beautiful singers and they sang on many occasions.

The Waters family, beginning with Father Nathan and on down to the present generation, have been musical. Joseph Waters, (son of Nathan) led the singing in the North Salem Christian Church for years. His work was then carried on for some time by his son, George H. Waters, of California.

California, as well as North Salem, will cherish the memory of George H. Waters and the influence of his beautiful voice will live. After his passing, it was his nephew, Arthur Waters, who took up his work as chorister in the Pomona, California Christian Church and served in that capacity.

Harvey Waters followed George H. as leader of song in the North Salem Christian Church and carried on until his death in 1915. He conducted many singing schools over the township and there were but very few who could not sing readily by note.

Harvey Waters died at the age of 72, with a record of 45 years of service in song.

The name of Jacob Waters is closely associated with band music in North Salem. After moving to Advance, he became song leader in the Christian Church there and continued until his last illness. After his death, Glen H. Waters took over as director of the music.

In 1894 Jacob Waters organized and directed the "North Salem Juvenile Band." This organization was composed of boys from 8 to 14 years of age.

Attired in black satin blouses with huge sailor collars and white bow ties, navy blue knee pants and blue caps trimmed in gold braid, these boys looked the part when they marched forth to play.

Among the members were Arden Waters, Ed Hadley, Fred Hadley, Harry Page, Edgar Duckworth, Fred Click, Frank Davis and Brewer Clay.

The band continued as an organization for about four years and became quite an accomplished bunch of musicians.

About 1883 a band was organized by a Mr. Schweitzer as director. Later, R. B. Rudy of Indianapolis became their director.

They met for practice in the frame building owned by William H. Fleece. The following were some of the members: John Adair, William Hacker, Jacob Fleece, John Duckworth, Crit Clay, Frank Waters, Grant Carter, Roy Moore, Joe Clay and Jim Duckworth.

About 1889 or 90, R. B. Rudy directed a band composed of Lon Davis, Homer Bales, Jacob Waters, Charles Gregory, David Clements, Clarence Carter, Percy Adams, Deloy Landers, Brewer Clay, Arthur Waters, Billie Stevens and Joe Clay.

Bands of a later date have flourished under the leadership of Sherman Waters, former resident of both North Salem and Pittsboro, who was a high school principal, printer, editor, scientist and inventor.

Walter Huckstep of Lebanon also was involved in later bands. All the Huckstep family were among the musical groups of North Salem.

A program, lavishly decorated with pink rosebuds and gold leaves, announced the first recital of the Ladies Choral Union, to be given at the parlors of Dr. and Mrs. T. J. Adams on Dec. 8, 1892. This organization had its beginnings in the early part

of 1892, under the direction of R. B. Rudy of Indianapolis. Both instrumental and vocal was taught and there were about 40 members. This group continued through the 90's and gave many concerts, not only in North Salem but in surrounding towns. Space does not permit the listing of this group. Another group during the 90's was the North Salem Mandolin Orchestra directed by C. W. Hume. Those participating in this group were; Arden, Will and Glen Waters, Brewer Clay, Will Perkins, May, Effie, Dora and Deloy Landers, Eva Martin Hadley, Fred, Ed, and Grace Hadley, Walter McCown, Robert Stevenson, Badger Bymaster, Frank and Lottie Davis, Herbert Whitenack, Ed Keith, and Charles Fleece.

On down through the years, North Salem developed musical talent.

The next generation produced musicians like Geraldine Trotter, who taught piano in the Indianapolis Conservatory of Music, and at Shortridge, and was supervisor of music in all the Indianapolis Schools.

Mrs. Belle Hennon and Mrs. Helen Jones have each been organist at the Methodist and Christian Churches for 50 years or thereabouts. Belle taught piano for 55 years and is on call for funerals with organ music.

Brewer Clay was a member of the Grotto Band in Indianapolis for years and this reporter values the words and music sent to her by Ned Clay of Indianapolis, who several years ago wrote a song that has been adopted as the theme song of the 500 mile race.

Mrs. Inez Waters and Mrs. Louise Wiseheart Black were well known violinists. Mrs. Waters traveled on a Chatangua circuit. Also, she and Lottie Waters Coshaw played regularly at a health spa at Martinsville.

Following them are the late Judge George Hadley, James C. Hadley and Richard Trotter. James C. Hadley played for a number of years in the old Appollo Theatre and arranged music for numerous orchestras. Richard Trotter, who was drummer when a small lad had a trip abroad because of his skill with the drums.

North Salem had its own band for many years until music was added to the school curriculum.

When this reporter started writing about music in North Salem she soon got in over her head. There have been so many better than "good" that one can't begin to mention them all: such as Mamie Davis Schwartz, Mrs. Jennie Osborne in the horse and buggy days to teach piano. Later she went in her Model T Ford.

Each generation can and does repeat a ludicrous episode concerning each musical group that will never be forgotten. Like the beloved Sherman Waters who loved music more than food.

He had a boy in his band who would never make a musician. One night at band practice he asked Mr. Waters in a high falsetto voice, "Mr. Waters, at the rate I am going when do you think I can play "Poet and Peasant"? The old maestro, who was quick with an answer replied, "Just a million years, Sonny, at the rate you are going".

Another story that is repeated yet tells of the janitor at the church who had a grudge against the choir leader. At this time churches had huge cast iron coal burning stoves for heat. They made ear splitting noises when replenished. When the song numbers were called the janitor would pour in the coal to the utter amazement and chagrin of all concerned. This went on until the church board put a stop to it.

A book could be written on music in Eel River Township.

Among the better singers were all the Waters family, all the Hucksteps, J. B. Bowen, Russell Wynkoop, Charles C. Clay, Mrs. Charles C. Clay, Retta House and on and on and on.

HCHS

Vera Hall (1891 - 1974)

With the death of Vera Hall, May 16, 1974, Hendricks County lost one of its most outstanding citizens. Since she and her husband, the late Alvin Hall, came to Danville in 1916, she has been an energetic and vital force in all civic and cultural endeavors, not only in this area, but state wide and nationally. The many honors and recognitions she received attest to the esteem in which she was held from Presidents of the United States down to the state and local levels. Modest, but not retiring, she accepted responsibilities as they came, and dispatched them with grace, dignity and efficiency. She had much to give, and she gave generously of her time and her unusual talents. Space in our bulletin will not allow us a tribute worthy of her accomplishments.

It must suffice, then, to say that she was a dear friend, a delightful companion, and an inspiration and ideal to one who would have chosen to have lived her kind of life had not romance, matrimony, and the sweet, tender trap of wifely and motherly responsibilities intervened.

She scorned and disdained age, and never discussed it. But in August, 1972, she gave herself a birthday party to mark (and to acknowledge) her 80th milestone. People from all walks of life came to pay tribute to this remarkable woman. To express her philosophy of life, she gave each guest a copy of the following poem:

How Old Are You?

Age is a quality of mind ...

If you have left your dreams behind,

If hope is lost,

If you no longer look ahead,

If your ambition's fires are dead ...

Then you are old.

But if from life you take the best,

And if in life you keep the jest,

If love you hold,

No matter how the years go by,

No matter how the birthdays fly,

You are not old!

When Vera Hall died, the calendar said she was 82 years old, but Vera was never old. The last time I talked with her, she was radiant, alert, and stimulate over the "This is Your Life, Vera" which the Hendricks County Democratic Women's Club presented before a large audience. She was grateful, she was humble, and she was young.

When I grow old, may I be as young as she.

Margaret Baker

HCHS

We lost another member in the death of Ernie Pierson, and we extend sympathy to her family. We wish also to express condolences to Mrs. Clara Reitzel in the loss of her sister, Mrs. Mabel Baldock, as well as to our vice president, Mrs. Dessie Huddleston, whose sister, Miss Adele Davis, passed away May 29. Miss Davis was a native of Hendricks County and a noted nutrition author.

HCHS

Query

From Mrs. Frank Hern, 155 California St. # 1 F, Arcadia, California, 91006.
Any information: Hiram Toney, b. 1841, Eel River Twp. Grandfather was Steven Toney, b. 1763, moved to Hendricks Co. 1830. James Adams moved from Kentucky to Hendricks Co. 1845. Daughter Luvica Adams moved from Kentucky to Hendricks Co. 1845. Daughter Luvica Adams Davidson, widow of James L. Davidson. Married Hiram Toney 1869, Lizton.

- From Mrs. Marion VanGordon, 529 E. 11th St., Apt. J, Upland, California 91786
1. Isaac Hardin - b. 1859 in Boone Co., Ind. (?) d. 1933 Plainfield, Ind. Wife was Jamina Laurena Faucett, m. 4 June, 1880. Who were their children?
 2. James Lackey, b. 12 April, 1809 - ? Wife Matilda Curry or Kirby, b. 1813 - 14 Who were their children and parents?
 3. Joseph Curry or Kirby - wife Elizabeth?

HCHS

We marked Flag Day last month, and the Spirit of the Glorious Fourth is still with us, so the following eloquent prose poem merits space in our bulletin. Written by Franklin K. Lane, then Secretary of the Interior, it was published in The Ladies Home Journal, July, 1919.

I am not the flag; not at all. I am but its shadow.
I am whatever you make me, nothing more.
I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a People may become.
I live a changing life, a life of moods and passions, of heartbreaks and tired muscles.
Sometimes I am strong with pride, when men do an honest work, fitting the rails together truly.
Sometimes I droop, for then purpose has gone from me, and cynically I play the coward.
Sometimes I am loud, garish, and full of that ego that blasts judgment.
But always, I am all that you hope to be, and have the courage to try for.
I am song and fear, struggle and panic, and ennobling hope.
I am the day's work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring.
I am the Constitution and the courts, statutes and statute makers, soldier and dreadnaught, drayman and street sweep, cook, counselor and clerk.
I am the battle of yesterday and the mistake of tomorrow.
I am the mystery of the men who do without knowing why.
I am the clutch of an idea, and the reasoned purpose of resolution.
I am no more than what you believe me to be and I am all that you believe I can be.
I am what you make me, nothing more.
I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dream and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your hearts. For you are the makers of the flag and it is well that you glory in the making.

Hendricks County History

Mr. Scott F. Hosier, Jr., general chairman of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee, has given countless hours and much effort to make our celebration a success. The Kick-off, April 1st, was a great occasion, and we must keep the momentum going. Everyone has something to offer in order to make this year a memorable one. A sesquicentennial..... 150 year celebration ... comes only once in a life time ... and we cannot afford to pass this up.

You have no interest in Hendricks County history, you say. Why not? You are a part of Hendricks County history. No matter if you started yesterday or a 150 years ago. History is being made every day.

Mr. Hozier is offering the last opportunity to include your biography and your family's history in a deluxe volume that will forever commemorate your family's contribution to our rich heritage. Due to some recent changes, no charges will be made for a biography, and there is no requirement that you buy a book. This material must be turned in soon, however, and the committee is asking for volunteers to assemble and organize the contributions.

This is your chance to make a most worth while contribution, not only to our Sesquicentennial Year, but for all future years. Don't let this opportunity slip away. It will not come again in your lifetime.

HCHS

The following letter was received recently. The Bulletin has no information on the Danville Plank Road Company, but we would certainly appreciate such. Please send any clues to The Editor.

Dear Sir,

I am gathering material for an article on the history of plank roads in the United States. Can you tell me if your Bulletin has published information on the Danville Plank Road Company located in Danville during the 1840-50 period.

Very truly yours,

Richard Poe
3216 Sharer Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

HCHS

The following interesting article appeared in the December, 1945, issue of "The Danville Gazette":

Local Bank Honors War Prisoner's Check

When the First National Bank officials of Danville become puzzled—that's NEWS. Because men and women trained to look after the financial welfare of the community seldom are at a loss for an answer. But even W. F. Franklin, president of the leading financial institution of the county had a few bad moments.

The situation on was a by-product of the war.

A check came in. It was not an orthodox check. It was written on a small sheet of ordinary paper. It was a small piece of paper because the maker did not have a big supply at his disposal.

Few people know that if one has funds in a bank he can write a withdrawal on a shingle and if the banker recognizes the signature he will honor it. Checks of this kind never come in.

So the officers of the First National Bank went into a huddle when they received a small sheet of paper which purported to be a check. It was for ten dollars. It bore the signature of Merrill D. Vaughan. It was undated. All banks are forbidden by custom and by law to inform anyone about the personal deposits of an individual—Federal authorities excepted.

The hustling reporter, however, gathered that the drawer of the check had no money on deposit. Good bankers, on receiving a check of this sort hasten over to the sheriff.

But the First National Bank honored it!

The check was written by Durwood Vaughan, son of County Superintendent Jewell Vaughan, to help out a buddy.

The check is endorsed Morris J. Roy, of whom the bank never heard.

The pay-off is that both men were prisoners in a German prison camp, after being shot down while doing their bit to bring victory to the United States forces.

Roy needed some funds and Vaughan knew his Hendricks county. So he wrote a check to help his friend—knowing that people back home would understand the circumstances. He is now back home, and is just an ordinary person when one meets him on the street. But he has lived more stories than the imagination of fiction writers can conjure.

The conservative First National Bank honored the check of the imprisoned boy. It should get a medal from Congress, or whoever it is that gives honor to whom honor is due.

The story is badly told—but if you hold that prison-written check in your hand you will have an understanding of the fact that those who have been chosen to take the risks for a nation have explicit confidence that those they are protecting will not let them down.

HCHS

"THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE"

The first endeavor of pioneer settlers was to provide shelter for their families. After assurance that food could be procured, they constructed log school houses and churches. Less than three years from the time the first ripe ear of corn was gathered by civilized hand in Hendricks County, two schoolhouses had been built.

An old history says that 'beech was the educational timber of the times; out of trunks of trees were built the school houses, and limbs in the hands of the teachers furnished the unanswerable arguments in most cases of discipline.

Schools ran along in the pioneer style which prevailed elsewhere until 1870, when there was a decided awakening. In 1873 the county superintendency was instituted. The selection of teachers by officials and not by the rabble was introduced, a higher course of study adopted for pupils who had completed the common-school course.

The last log schoolhouse disappeared, frame or brick structures replacing many of them. Teachers trained in normal schools became the accepted rule, if not a law.

The Danville Academy brick building was erected in 1829. A Presbyterian Seminary is mentioned as having flourished in North Salem for a short time previous to the Civil War.

Churches tried to solve the problem of popular education for a time. Almost every preacher was a school teacher. Many private subscription schools were founded. The Baptists, as early as 1834, began an agitation for a college under their own control. The Friends established seminaries and academies,—but intense religious feeling interfered with any united effort in higher education.

Central Academy was established at Plainfield in 1881. About this time the young people in the northern part of the county enrolled in an Academy at Ladoga, Montgomery County. In 1876 this school was moved to Danville and became Central Normal College.

The township school houses were all built on the same pattern, beginning in the seventies and eighties.

There was ample light because there were three or four common size windows on each side. The door was either on the south end or north end. The floor was raised from twelve to twenty inches off the ground, and most every boy in school had, at one time or another, crawled under the floor to rescue a ball or a rabbit.

The stove sat in the middle of the room and many is the time that the larger boys piled an armful of wood to keep the fire replenished during the study hours. Each school district had a "precinctman" who was responsible for keeping the school supplied with wood and to keep the building in repair.

And many a hobo stayed overnight by a warm stove. The more affluent teachers usually hired some one of the larger boys to sweep the floor, empty the ashes and carry in wood and build the morning fire.

A long bench sat along the entrance wall and it was used to store the lunch pails. Hooks or nails were driven above the bench to be used to hang the pupils' outer wraps. And just above the door was the American flag and many times the pupils were required to stand and pledge allegiance in unison.

Drinking water was carried from a nearby well. And the bucket and two tin cups were placed on the bench.

The teacher's desk was on a dais and the wall behind was covered with blackboard. Above the blackboard was the map rack which provided not only geography but recreation as well. And above the rack was a handy place for the inevitable bunch of beech tree switches used for disciplinary measures.

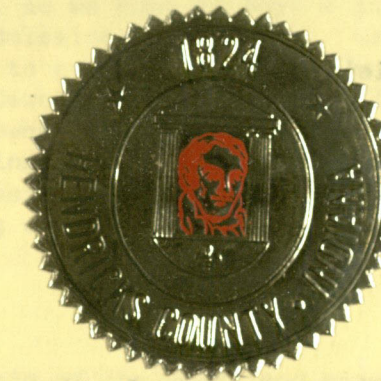
Most of the teachers were "dedicated teachers". Usually all eight grades were present, and the best learning device yet devised by educators, that of "learning by listening" was used in the one room schoolhouse. And "woe was the teacher", who did not have a beginner reading by Christmas, which is quite a slam on our remedial readers in high school. It is an established fact that if a pupil can't read when he gets in high school, the miracle will never be performed.



Schools have come a long way for which we are all happy, but never, never ridicule the "little red school house" because they were the means of getting some of our best citizens, finest statesmen and beloved presidents.

Zona Walker

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME  October 1974 NUMBER 

~~1973~~
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

Jewell Bell has done a tremendous amount of work for the Society. Her notices go throughout Marion, Hamilton, Boone, Putnam, and Morgan Counties, and, of course all papers in Hendricks County, as well as Jewell Bell is a big factor in our public relations department, and we can give her much credit for

Our July meeting was held in the beautiful new Mill Creek Elementary School at Clayton. After the meeting was called to order, we got off to a rousing start by singing "Happy Birthday" to Will Templin and to our president, Floyd Hufford.

The Rev. Rebecca Bunton, pastor of the Stilesville Christian Church, gave the devotions, and after various and sundry business matters were dispensed with, Miss Ruth Gregory introduced the program, the subject of which was "The Old Fashioned School". Speakers were Mrs. Frances Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davidson, Mr. Clarence Edmonson, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Jones and Mr. Leonard Fleenor. They described the one room schools, and recalled many aspects of school equipment and school programs. It was a delightful afternoon, and the ladies of Clay, Franklin, and Liberty Townships, with Mrs. Sherman Crayton as chairman, served refreshments which we enjoyed while browsing around the interesting relics on the display table.

H C H S

October 13 - Connor Prairie

Jack Gambold, chairman of the October meeting, announces that a bus will be leaving Eaton Hall parking lot promptly at 1:00 Sunday afternoon, October 13 for a trip to Connor Prairie Farm, near Noblesville. A visit to this historic settlement is a fascinating experience, so we hope to have a good crowd. Bus fare will be approximately \$1.75, plus admission to the farm. We need a good crowd to make it worth while, so if you plan to go, please notify Jack Gambold, R. R. 2, Coatesville, In. 46121 - tel. 386-7240; Jewell Bell, 212 E Road 200 N., tel. 745-4055, Danville, 46122, or Floyd Hufford, Brownsburg, 33 W. College, tel. 852-4161. Following the trip, a short business meeting will be held at the Shelter House for the purpose of electing officers and discussing prospects for a museum in the old jail. Let's make this last meeting a big one. (Reservations should be in not later than Friday, the 11th).

H C H S

This is the last Bulletin of the year, and some "thank you's" are past due. It takes much work to put out a little magazine of this type, and it wouldn't ever get done without a lot of help. First, the Publication Committee has been so helpful, and I have to go on record as saying that I just love my two "faithfuls"....Zona Walker and Joe Davidson. We are three kindred spirits in that we all love to talk and to write. They, however, have such a rich store of knowledge combined with the happy faculty of being able to tell it or write it "like it was" in a refreshing and delightfully interesting style. Ruth Pritchard keeps me supplied with much information, and until this year, she assumed the back-breaking job of putting the seals on the covers, addressing and stuffing the envelopes and mailing! No one person should ever have to do all that, so this year, Mary Jeannette Winkleman takes care of the covers and all that licking and addressing! Then the Committee without a name assembles. Oh, we can think of many names for it...we could be the Giggle Gals or the Staple and Stuff Committee...anyway we gather in Blanche's upstairs bed and ironing room combination and assemble and staple and stuff. The membership on this committee is honorary and varies, but it usually consists of Mary Bell, Jewell Bell, Dorothy Templin, Mary Jeanette and the Ed. (whenever she can make it). Occasionally we honor other members by asking them to assist, but very few people ever get beyond the sacred portals of that bed-and-ironing-room door! And, really, we could not function without the ironing board! Then, occasionally, we conjoin Harold Templin into carrying all the bulletins to the post office.

Jewell Bell has done a tremendous job as publicity chairman. Her notices go throughout Marion, Hamilton, Boone, Putnam, and Morgan Counties, and, of course all papers in Hendricks County, as well as our radio station, WJMK. So Jewell Bell is a big factor in our public relations department, and we can give her much credit for the excellent attendance we have had at our meetings.

To all these and to many more, the Editor says "Thanks" for helping to make the Bulletin what it is.

H C H S

The following colored-with-age clipping from the Indianapolis News...undated.....showed up from nowhere, and is presented herewith:

Interesting Relics Found in an Old Corner Stone

Scraps of Paper Give History of Long Ago Events in Hendricks County....

The Campbell Family

(Special to The Indianapolis News)

Danville, Ind. Nov. 13. - The box that has been in the corner stone of the old court house, which was laid June 5, 1860, was opened by the county commissioners when the old building was wrecked. The contents are in good condition, though slightly musty. Many items were dropped in the box at the last minute. Some were scraps of paper with a name and address. There were bibles, papers, programs, pictures, coins, a full set of Masonic jewels, a list of the singers forming the choir which sang at the corner stone laying, almanacs, biographies, and cards. A small bottle of fall wheat was deposited by Martin Gregg, one of the county commissioners, and to all appearances it is as good as the day it was placed in the bottle.

A slip of paper contained a short history of L. M. Campbell, at that time one of the leading attorneys of this part of the country. This says: "Leander M. Campbell, born February 12, 1833, in Lewis, Kentucky; married, September 20, 1855, to Matilda Hammond. At this time they have two children, Cora Belle, born August 10, 1856, and Louis Davis, born February 22, 1859. Now residing three fourths of a mile southeast of this courthouse, on the road to Plainfield, in a brick dwelling. Forest trees all around the house." Mr. Campbell is now dead, but Cora Belle, mentioned in the note, is now Mrs. Cora Campbell Barrett, a society and club woman of Indianapolis.

One relic is a small "form" of type containing the names of printers on the "Danville Ledger", who were J. N. Vestal, T. O. Thompson, William P. Gregg, George Gregg, William Irvin, J. M. Matlock. A copy of the "Ledger", dated July 13, was also in the box. Henry L. Dickerson, then pastor of the Presbyterian Church, deposited a confession of faith and a Holy Bible, and Jacob K. Moore had deposited a copy of the doctrines and principles of the M. E. Church.

H C H S

THE GARDENS OF YESTER YEAR

Seventy-five or eighty years ago most folks in Hendricks County were farmers. There was a minority who farmed on a big scale and boasted of their acreage, crops and numerous types of fine live stock but most folks over the county tilled eighty and a hundred acres while fewer yet were content to earn a living on forty to sixty

acres and less. Every township had its families who could never own a farm and rented land or labored for a man who had empty houses and out-buildings on more or less scattered farm land. On practically every farm was a garden plot; some large, some small, but strange to relate while all had gardens there were very few interested and dedicated gardeners. The old time garden, was too often the step-child on the farm and its weedy, ragged looks in July and early fall was enough proof.

When grandfather had prepared the garden ready for planting, he, like those about him was done for the season with the patch and the sole interest lay in the fields to be plowed and planted in crops. Most early gardening was left to the farm wife and children and if vegetables got to the table through the summer season it was up to them to do the tending and bring to the kitchen for preparation.

The chief garden crops of yesteryear were potatoes, both Irish and sweet, tomatoes, cabbage, beans of many kinds, peas, parsnips, lettuce, onions and radishes. The last named were often planted in a bed spaded up before the garden was made ready.

I never knew of anyone planting a carrot but a very few men would undertake a strawberry patch. One man in Clay Township named Silas Clark would put out more than an acre and sell berries over the county for miles around.

Commercial fertilizers were unknown and the garden in early spring usually received a load or more of barn yard manure and it was often the horse variety. Nothing could have been scattered over a piece of ground that would produce more weeds per square inch than this particular fertilizer. Weeds sprouted and had to start ahead of beans and other vegetables and they were to be fought with hoe and plow until harvest time. Too often the weeds won.

The old time garden was often kept fairly clean until mid-July and then mother and her less interested helpers gave up the patch as a hopeless job. Weeds and grass, aided by rains brought a rank vegetation that proved beyond control. Wife and children tramped down grass and weeds to find tomatoes and onions or early "spuds"; and when a heavy dew was on it was like wading a stream to navigate the garden patch.

There were reasonable excuses for weedy gardens. Women folks in days gone by had their tasks for the days ahead as same as the men. Granny did her house work well; milked three or four cows twice each day took care of the milk and churned the butter. She looked after a half dozen sitting hens, gathered the eggs each day, fed hens, a hundred or more hungry chickens and turkeys and carried water to them. She made the lye soap for the wash day and other uses. On wash days she often took grand dad's ax to chop old fence rails into the right length to go under her kettle. She had a loom and when not too busy wove rag carpet or rugs. Often, if no children were about she went to the field twice each work day to carry fresh water in a jug to the plowman and maybe take a sandwich or slab of pie.

I well recall a morning when grandma tucked up her dress knee high and entered her wet and weedy garden near the barn. In a few minutes she came out with a lot of speed for her bare feet had connected with the cold, squirming body of a huge black snake that had taken shelter in the weed grown patch. It was time for grandpa to sythe down the weeds.

Here and there over the county one could find a real gardner, a dedicated one; an old uncle or grand dad who tended the patch from April to September and kept it as "clean as a pin". When his straight rows had been cultivated he took his garden rake and walking backwards smoothed the plowed earth and left the garden with never a human track showing. When he was ready to dig the old time Mechanic or Peachblow

potatoes there was never a weed to be mowed. His garden was near perfection.

It was seldom that the old time garden ever grew sweet corn. When the family wanted roasting ears, some member went to the corn field and plucked the required number for the meal. It was good enough for the farm members and even the preacher when he came.

In late July a farmer was fortunate who had a moist piece of ground along a creek where he could sow turnips and before cold weather he could pull large, sweet and tender ones from the rich soil. Times were when one had such favorable ground for melons and cucumbers. I recall going with a neighbor and a son my age to a patch of cucumbers and when our search was ended a washing tub was heaped with the green fruit of many sizes. Later they were sorted and sold to house wives in the neighboring towns of New Winchester, Hadley and Amo. I have seen scores of huge watermelons, half hidden in grass over two or three acres of rich, low land. To pull one from the vine on a chilly morning prior to the coming of Jack Frost could be a happy experience. Insert a knife into its middle and the rind would pop and crack would show the red goodness beneath. The heart of such a melon would be deliciously cold, sweet as sugar and the juice that ran down one's chin and dripped over his shirt got but little attention. One just ate and ate and laid everything else aside. As one thinks back he has hopes that such things may be lived over in heaven.

The word "garden" makes me think of my grandma Nancy Harris and she and I are in bare feet. We stop in the potato patch and I watch her "gravel" a pan full of new potatoes to cook on top of beans or peas for dinner. The tender grace of that time long gone brings many happy thoughts.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

Copied from News Paper Clipping about 1935

by Ruth Pritchard

Scholarship issued in 1854 will admit University Heights Brothers to De Pauw

Contents of Scholarship

No. 457 - Know all men by these presents that John Miller of the county of Hendrix and the state of Indiana, has by the payment of One Hundred Dollars, into the treasury of the Indiana Asbury University, purchased a perpetual scholarship in said University containing provisions and limitations as follows.

1. One scholar at a time may be kept forever free from Tuition fees in any of the classes of the Academical or Literary Department of the University, in such studies as are or may be essential to graduation.
2. The scholarship shall not be assignable or transferable.
3. Only one student, during the same session, can, under any circumstances, be kept on said scholarship.
4. During the life of the purchaser, no student (except as specified below) can receive tuition on said scholarship, unless he be the purchaser himself or his son or his grandson.
5. After the death of the purchaser, the right of tuition for himself, his son or grandson shall descent in perpetuity to such descendant or other persons, as may be specified in the Will of the purchaser; and the right shall descent from generation to generation, by Will, and not otherwise.
6. Should the purchaser die intestate, then the right of personal tuition shall descend to any or all of his sons, or grandsons, who may claim such tuitions, one at a time in succession.

7. It is further agreed, as a modification of the above articles, that the purchaser aforesaid, shall have the additional right of keeping in the institution as aforesaid any young man whom he may select to educate, and who shall bring with him a certificate from said purchaser, that he is sent by him without any compensation, received or expected from the student or his friends; provided also that but one student at a time shall be received on said scholarship.

8. Nothing in the above is to be construed as giving any right, to any student, to remain in the institution, who is guilty of immorality or disobedience to the rules and regulations of the University, as established from time to time, by the Trustees or Faculty of the University.

In Testimony whereof, The Trustees of the said University have issued to the said John Miller this scholarship signed by the president and secretary of said University and dated this twenty-second day of June A.D. 1854.

I. P. Southard, Secretary
John Cowgill, President

Burke Miller, grandson of John was living in University Heights at 4020 Bowman Avenue when he found this Scholarship and was interviewed by Claude A. Mahoney. Burke & brother Hugh E. Miller had worked their way through school.

President of De Pauw, G. Bromley Oxnam stated that the scholarship "was as valid as the day it was issued".

H C H S
FROM OUT OF THE PAST

North Salem's One Bid To Fame
It Levied No Taxes in 1922

Old newspaper clippings, and legal records can yield a world of information as well as hours of recreation and fun. The following story is gleaned from a conglomerations of facts welded together by clippings and memories of our senior citizens.

It is the story of North Salem's one bid to fame. It made the city dailies. The town at the time suddenly galloped into the limelight by announcing to the world that it was a taxless town.

The Indianapolis papers carried the story in a countrywide sweep and it was learned by a "nosey reporter" in the county auditor's office.

Called upon by the county auditor to make its report of tax assessments, the blanks were returned with the word "none" written with flourishes and many "where-as's" across the page.

The auditor promptly called the town clerk at North Salem and demanded "what the heck" and, "dispense with the levity".

The official explained "we are not going to levy and tax this year, because we have enough left over from last year".

And now the news was out. And that was when William Herschell, staff correspondent for the Indianapolis News, came to visit North Salem.

"And that was the week that was."

Apparently North Salem didn't crave the National reputation of being a taxless town. Leading citizens said, and here we quote Mr. Herschell, "that to the rest of the world, this was a slow burg, and that it was not a spender or municipal improvements".

It might look good on paper but what if a stranger would come into town and see that chuckhole up by the Christian Church, a chuckhole into which a prominent citizen wrecked his automobile some time back. His right front wheel was wrecked and he said words that can't be printed about a town board that would not spend a little money on the streets.

And then right on the heels of the wreck came the announcement by the old town board that no tax assessment would be made for North Salem for the year 1922.

Somebody spread the word and again we quote Mr. Herschell that, "a certain member of the board wouldn't improve the street in front of the Christian Church because he 'jes natchurllly' didn't like the Christian Church".

Now the battle was on. North Salem had a town meeting and a citizen's ticket was placed in the field, one that favored making a tax levy for 1922 in order to get money for just and proper improvements. The new ticket was elected with a "burst of approval", and this is also a quote.

The result: W. C. Dickey, Joseph H. Fleece and Dr. C. M. Trotter were named on the ticket. The battle cry was "Get out the vote", and never let it be said that North Salem is lacking on that score.

Another thing--North Salem had never had a marshal. It was said that the new board favored one of those he-badged individuals into the town's life. The town was as peaceful as a June Day most of the time and a marshal's job would be a picnic.

But above all else that chuckhole up by the Christian Church must be filled. A. D. Wright, the town clerk, when asked about the failure to make a levy for 1922 said the town board said they didn't need it. Now that was all good, if it wasn't for that chuckhole up in front of the Christian Church. The warfare continued from foxhole to foxhole.

Most of the streets were well-cared for but again others had not yet known modern improvement. One of the latter was the street that passed the Christian Church, which stands on a hill in the western part of town and that was the hill that wrecked the automobile of one of the brethren.

So if the old town board had improved the hill street that leads to the Christian Church, North Salem would not have made the front page as a taxless town. And if the town board had not been so thrifty that it didn't need money so quoting Mr. Herschell again, the old town board "literally chuckholed itself into oblivion".

So no wonder on election day North Salem voted to be taxed. Apparently the townfolk like to pay taxes that will improve the town and make it grow.

North Salem was laid out in 1835 and has been the center of an active farming community ever since. But it did not really get into the national spotlight until newspapers of the country heard the story of "North Salem To Make No Tax Levy for 1922".

But now North Salem was taken from the gallery of the immortals and returned to a humble place among those who say:

"Well, here it is again---time to pay taxes. Looks like a fellow never gets anything ahead."

H C H S

Out of the Past

"The Old Brick," at the corner of Pearl Street, S. R. 236, and Broadway in North Salem received the death knell on Saturday, August 24, when Tommy Goode and his two sons and Ray Larmer and Buddy Clements, with wrecking equipment, dismantled it with the ease of professionals.

It was the oldest business landmark in North Salem. It was constructed in 1856. All these years the "Old Brick" stood a mute evidence of a task well done. The south wall and part of the west wall was removed about 35 years ago because of a fire hazard.

When Capt. Will Neff of Ladoga was asked, at the age of 95 years, "Can you tell us anything about the Old Brick at North Salem?" his face brightened and he immediately replied, "I made all the brick by hand that is in that old building".

Here is the story. When a lad of 17 or 18 years, his father, John Neff, took the contract to build a two story brick building for Jacob Fleece and George A. Given for the sum of \$1000.

John Neff owned the farm northwest of town, known now, as the Grafton Trair's farm. The bricks for the building were made and burned on the farm. The brick kiln stood across the road west of the residence. To the son, William, fell the task of molding the brick. The lime for the mortar was hauled by ox team from a kiln at Stilesville.

John Robbins, who lived south of North Salem, was foreman of the brick layers. James David Walker, his son-in-law, was one of the carpenters and built the cornice around the building. Burdine Harris, grandfather of Belle Hennon, North Salem was a carpenter who worked on the job.

An unusual bit of family history is interwoven with the bricks and boards of the old landmark. John Robbins supervised and helped lay the bricks. His son-in-law, James David Walker, was one of the carpenters. Oliver M. Walker, son of James David assisted with the carpenter work. When the interior of the building was remodeled for a postoffice, Treat W. Walker assisted his father Oliver M. with the carpenter work. Thus, a four generation family knew the "Old Brick".

During its life span, it has served the younger generation as a skating rink in the 80's. A generation used the upper floor for dancing. There they do-se-do-ed until the clock struck twelve. They also played host for surrounding towns for ball-room dancing. Mayme Conover Trotter and Ott O'Rear are remembered as winners in the "light fantastic".

The "Old Brick" was originally built for a community and general store and anything wanted could be purchased at "Fleece and Given" and it has memories that "bless and burn".

The site will be used as a location for the new North Salem Post Office. A parking lot will be made on the site of the dwelling which is also being dismantled adjoining the Old Brick site.

Zona Walker, North Salem, In

Do You Think Your Taxes are High?

Mrs. Charles G. Miles, R. R. Danville, handed us this tax receipt, dated Nov. 28, 1846:

Received of Charles Clark, Two dollars and eleven cents in full of State and County Tax for the years 1845 and 46 on \$300, personal property, with the penalty and interest.

Signed:

James S. Odell, Treasurer of H. County

H C H S

Death claimed one of our members, Mrs. Gladys Bolin of Indianapolis, and to her family we extend sympathy. We also share the grief of the following who have suffered bereavement: Ida Mae Miller's mother, Mrs. Lola Good, passed away on the day of our last meeting, July 14; charter member Lena McDonald lost a grandson; Mary Canganelli's brother, Charles E. Swain, passed away, and Doris Ward Hubble and Bessie Ward Hardin lost their brother, Kenneth Eugene Ward.

H C H S

Welcome to the Fold

New members we have added to the rolls since our last publication are Geraldine Drorbaugh, Walter Edmondson, The Rev. and Mrs. James Shockley, Mrs. Keith Brock, Mary Ellen Bunn, Maxine Dale and Mrs. Earnestine Blair Wallace. We hope you will enjoy our meetings and help if you are asked, for we do need people willing to do their share.

H C H S

QUERY:

Desire information and parentage of John Hooton (Hooten) and wife, Susan (Susannah), both born (where?) Kentucky. Children: born (where?) Indiana, 1832-1850, Thomas J.; John W.; Levi Frank; William R.; Benjamin A.; James M.; Sarah F.; Martin G.; Susan E. Family in Madison County, Iowa, in 1850 and 1860 census.

Mrs. Sam Henderson
R. #2, 770 S. River Drive
Heyburn, Idaho 83336

H C H S

From the President.....

It is time to elect new officers, so the next meeting will be my last as your president. No doubt it has been a busy year with all the activity of the Sesquicentennial and the planning for our new home.

1974 has really been a great year for Hendricks County Historical Society. Our membership has increased and the interest at all the meetings has never been better. The best thing of all has been the privilege of knowing and working with so many nice people over the county.

It would seem to me that this is only the beginning. As we grow and work together, our Society will be the means of uniting all the people of Hendricks County.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your co-operation and able assistance on committees. To our new President, you may suspect that you are getting into a lot of work and problems; however, they will all be small when you find that all the members are so willing and capable in helping you.

Would it be asking too much to expect to have 100 new members in 1975?

Sincerely,

Floyd B. Hufford

H C H S

Three Performances of 1974 Pageant Presented

Representative players from all parts of Hendricks County dramatized the story of Hendricks County on the evenings of August 2 and 3 and 9th. Rain prevented the fourth production on August 10.

The history with its historical incidents was outlined by Amos Shelton. The history was told in five episodes as worked out by Mrs. Roy Fisher, Mrs. Lester English, Mrs. Robert Castetter, Mrs. Randall Joseph, Miss Mary Joseph, Mrs. Peggy Kennedy, Mrs. I. E. Lewis, Mr. Archie Rinehart, Mrs. Rawleigh Baker, and Mrs. Margery Clay.

The cast numbered over 200 persons from all parts of the county depicting the early scenes of the Indians and the pioneers down through the age of the underground railroad, the coming of Central Normal College, the Plainfield Boys School, Cartersburg Springs era, the famous baseball team, the interurban down to the present day with the modern Hendricks County hospital, school consolidations and the challenge of the future.

This production was given in the Danville Ellis Park. Mr. Charles Epstein was director. He was assisted by Mr. Bill Karnowsky and Mr. Karl Illg. Karen Hayes Bailey was the choreographer and Mike Riggs was director of music. Mrs. Blanche Wean was Pageant Chairman.

H C H S

(In a recent issue of The Bulletin, we used an article about Big Sam Thompson, Hendricks County's claim to fame in baseball. Two of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Thompson of Danville, attended the ceremonies when Big Sam was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Since this is an honor that comes to only a few, I asked them to write of their experiences. Ed.)

On the morning of August 12, 1974 a crowd of about 10,000 people gathered in front of the National Baseball Library at the Baseball Hall of Fame in the little village of Cooperstown, N. Y. The occasion which brought these people together was the induction of six men into the Baseball Hall of Fame. We were fortunate in that we were guests of the Baseball Hall of Fame and had seats in front of the stand in the first row. Those who were not guests had been standing for hours waiting for the induction. Other Thompson's there, also as guests, Mrs. Maurice Thompson and her son David from Salinas, Calif., her other son, his wife and 2 sons of New York, Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Wallace of Sheridan, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thompson of Brazil, South America, their son Fred and his family of Detroit. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thompson of Shelbyville, with their two sons and wives, and of course, the two of us from Danville.

The induction ceremony was quite impressive. On the stand were 12 to 15 microphones and on either side were members of the Hall of Fame and those being inducted. In front of the stand were the TV camers, magazine photographers, and the enormous crowd. The ceremony began with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, without accompaniment, by all the people. Then followed a speech by the mayor of Coopers-town and introduction of the Distinguished Guests, which included Grove, Gehringer, Terry, Lyons, Cronin, Feller, Rice, Stengel, Ruffing, Waner, Medwick, Campanella, Musial, Haines, Satchel Paige, Leonard, Irvin, Kelly, Spahn and others such as Mrs. Babe Ruth and Mrs. Lou Gehrig.

Bowie Kuhn, Commissioner of Baseball, presented the plaques to the newly inducted members, which were James Bell, James Bottomley, John Conlan, Edward "Whitey" Ford, Mickey Mantle and Samuel Thompson. James Bottomley and Samuel Thompson received their plaques post humously.

After the ceremony all of the Thompson family were told to go inside to have their picture taken beside the plaque of Sam which will hang in the Baseball Hall of Fame. When the photographer came to take the picture, his mouth dropped, for there were twenty-two of us, the largest group of any of the new inductees. Following this was a huge feast at the Otesaga Hotel. We all ate enough to last a week.

While there, we were given a small ribbon & badge to wear which gave us special privileges. I realized none of us deserved the honor given us, for all of us just happened to have been born, or married into, the Thompson family. Sam and his wife did not have any children. It was a once-in-a-lifetime occasion, and it does not happen in very many lives.

The papers give some of Sam's records which he made while playing ball, but some of the more interesting things are never mentioned.

For example, everyone knows Hank Aaron recently surpassed Babe Ruth's old home run record. But you never see who held the record prior to Babe Ruth. It was none other than Sam Thompson, who held it for almost a quarter of a century. Why it does not come out, I do not know, unless someone would not like to answer a lot of questions. For there would be quite a few.

For Sam's record was 128 home runs, while Ruth's and Aaron's were over 700. There are several reasons for this wide spread in their records. First, during Sam's days they played with a ball which is now referred to as a "Dead Ball". It was made differently. Our present ball has a cork center, then a thick layer of rubber over the cork and then the string windings. This gives the ball a lot of bounce and can be hit harder and farther than the Dead Ball. Also, in Sam's days, the pitcher stood 10½ ft. closer to the batter than at present. I believe if today we should use the dead ball and the pitcher stood 10½ ft. closer to the batter, many of our present players would be making records in the strike-out column instead of hits and home runs. (Sam struck out only 226 times in his 15 years in the major leagues) Another item to consider, is the length of playing season. Now it begins in early spring and lasts until cold weather. The more games you play, the more times you are at bat which increases your chances for more hits and home runs. Also, in the old days, the players were discouraged from trying to hit home runs. It was thought it took a lot of the excitement from the game for all they had to do was hit the ball over the fence and then trot around the bases. The crowds liked the hit and run play and sacrifice flies.

So, if some young student could feed into a computer the differences between the game in the old days and at present, I believe he would find Sam at a par with Ruth and Aaron. Perhaps it has been done, I don't know.

Contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Thompson

Congratulations to Ruth Hall!

My Indiana Magazine of History just arrived and lo and behold! about half of it consists of an article written by Don Alan Hall and Ruth A. Hall. The article entitled "The Plaque of New Elizabeth" is most interesting and well researched. It is complete with a map of Lizton and numerous pictures. We are very proud that a member of our publication committee has gained such recognition. If you don't belong to the Indiana Historical Society, you must find a copy of this September issue.

Just as we were going to press, the following article appeared in the Plainfield Messenger, September 23, 1974. This is certainly good news for H C H S, but we must all bear in mind that such an endeavor will involve much work, and we will need the co-operation of every member of the Society as well as many other Hendricks County people.

The Hendricks county commissioners have, according to commissioner Lowell Franklin decided to donate the living quarters of the old county jail here to the Hendricks County Historical Society for use as a county museum.

"That's where it's supposed to go," Franklin said Friday morning. "We took a tour of the old jail last week and decided to put the welfare and juvenile department in where the radio operator used to be, and the museum in the old living quarters."

Franklin explained that the remaining part of the old jail will probably be used for office space.

"The living quarters appear to be in good shape," the commissioner recalled. The only thing that appears needed in the living quarters is a new roof. The old slate roof will probably, unfortunately, have to be replaced, because it leaks so bad.

Franklin said that the commissioners just recently had a man out at the old jail to estimate the cost of a new shingle roof, "but we haven't heard from him yet."

"As soon as we receive an estimate, approve it, and complete the project, the society will be able to move into the living quarters. If they get it before the first of the year we're flying, but it could possibly be completed before then," the commissioner said.

Scott Hosier, Jr., general chairman of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial committee, explained that plans have already been made to give the historical society the money left over from the Sesquicentennial events, "and, especially from the sales of the 1974 history books which are currently being prepared," Hosier said.

He explained that about \$10,000 has been ear-marked for the museum, most of which will be spent for equipment.

"There are some things which are stored here and there, which could be used by the museum committee. But right now there is no place in the county where things can be donated and adequately displayed.

"We've already lost several things which have been donated by county residents to other county museums, or the state museum because of the lack of one of our own. We should be able to keep things at home where they belong," Hosier said.

The general chairman explained that the historical society has been considering a county museum for several years, but the vacancy in the old jail just happened to coincide with their plans.

After the museum has been established, Hosier said, it'll be up to public subscription, "whether or not it is successful. If the county residents don't support it, then there is no sense in maintaining it."

Hosier indicated that the only thing the county has nearest to a museum is the veterans' room in the courthouse. "There are half-a-dozen Civil War relics being stored there, and only a few of them are on display."

The 1974 history book, Hosier emphasized, will be the main source of money for the museum. He explained that every current county resident is urged to submit a complete family biography.

The biographies can be mailed to - The Hendricks County Historical Society, P. O. 128, Danville 46122, or call Mrs. Phyllis Urban, 852-8306, or Miss Grace Cox, 745-2552 for further information.

Families don't have to buy the book to have their biographies included. The book which is specifically designed to outlast any book, is expected to cost \$25.

"The paper, ink, and binding is specially designed by the Virginia State Archives. They are specially designed not to show any sign of age or deterioration," Hosier said.

Mrs. Raleigh Baker, a committee member, explained that the historical group is expected to meet Oct. 1 to further discuss the museum. "We're all really excited about the possibility," she said.

Members of the committee are Floyd Hufford, president; Mrs. Blanche Wean, Mrs. Ed Winkleman, Sherman Crayton, Clark Kellum, Mrs. Francis English, Mrs. Dessie Hudleston and Mrs. Baker.

H C H S

As we will ring down the curtain on our Sesquicentennial year we each should ask ourselves, "Did I do my part toward making our Sesquicentennial Year a success, or did I sit back and let it pass me by?" Few people, in their life span, are privileged to take part in two sesquicentennial celebrations... Indiana's and Hendricks County's....and in two more years, a bi-centennial. If you feel that you have missed something....and you did if you didn't pitch in and help....then new challenges are coming up with maybe a museum in our future and another historical event soon. So next time, let's all get in on the fun. Don't let life pass you by!

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VII NUMBER IV

October, 1974
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Officers

President

Mr. Floyd Hufford
35 W. College
Brownsburg, In 46112
Tel. 852-4161

Vice President

Mrs. Dessie Davis Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lizton, In 46149
Tel. 994-5311

Secretary

Mrs. Roy Pritchard
R. R. 1, Box 209
Clayton, In 46118
Tel. 539-6890

Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Helen Walker
R. R. 1, Box 121B
Clayton, In 45118
Tel. 539-4951

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian

Mrs. Harold Templin
R. R. 1, Box 86
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 539-4311

Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

The Publication Committee

Mrs. Ruth Hall
Mrs. Albert Reitzel

Mrs. Zona Walker
Mr. Joe Davidson

Mrs. Sherman Crayton

H C H S

"A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about."

Woodrow Wilson

H C H S

"Do not pray for eash lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. The the doing of your work will be no miracle; but you will be the miracle. And every day you will wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."

Bishop Phillips Brooks

H C H S

July 14, 1974

Our July meeting was held in the beautiful new Mill Creek Elementary School at Clayton. After the meeting was called to order, we got off to a rousing start by singing "Happy Birthday" to Will Templin and to our president, Floyd Hufford.

The Rev. Rebecca Bunton, pastor of the Stilesville Christian Church, gave the devotions, and after various and sundry business matters were dispensed with, Miss Ruth Gregory introduced the program, the subject of which was "The Old Fashioned School". Speakers were Mrs. Frances Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davidson, Mr. Clarence Edmonson, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Jones and Mr. Leonard Fleenor. They described the one room schools, and recalled many aspects of school equipment and school programs. It was a delightful afternoon, and the ladies of Clay, Franklin, and Liberty Townships, with Mrs. Sherman Crayton as chairman, served refreshments which we enjoyed while brousing around the interesting relics on the display table.

H C H S

October 13 - Connor Prairie

Jack Gambold, chairman of the October meeting, announces that a bus will be leaving Eaton Hall parking lot promptly at 1:00 Sunday afternoon, October 13 for a trip to Connor Prairie Farm, near Noblesville. A visit to this historic settlement is a fascinating experience, so we hope to have a good crowd. Bus fare will be approximately \$1.75, plus admission to the farm. We need a good crowd to make it worth while, so if you plan to go, please notify Jack Gambold, R. R. 2, Coatesville, In. 46121 - tel. 386-7240; Jewell Bell, 212 E Road 200 N., tel. 745-4055, Danville, 46122, or Floyd Hufford, Brownsburg, 33 W. College, tel. 852-4161. Following the trip, a short business meeting will be held at the Shelter House for the purpose of electing officers and discussing prospects for a museum in the old jail. Let's make this last meeting a big one. (Reservations should be in not later than Friday, the 11th).

H C H S

This is the last Bulletin of the year, and some "thank yous" are past due. It takes much work to put out a little magazine of this type, and it wouldn't ever get done without a lot of help. First, the Publication Committee has been so helpful, and I have to go on record as saying that I just love my two "faithfuls"...Zona Walker and Joe Davidson. We are three kindred spirits in that we all love to talk and to write. They, however, have such a rich store of knowledge combined with the happy faculty of being able to tell it or write it "like it was" in a refreshing and delightfully interesting style. Ruth Pritchard keeps me supplied with much information, and until this year, she assumed the back-breaking job of putting the seals on the covers, addressing and stuffing the envelopes and mailing! No one person should ever have to do all that, so this year, Mary Jeannette Winkelman takes care of the covers and all that licking and addressing! Then the Committee without a name assembles. Oh, we can think of many names for it...we could be the Giggle Gals or the Staple and Stuff Committee...anyway we gather in Blanche's upstairs bed and ironing room combination and assemble and staple and stuff. The membership on this committee is honorary and varies, but it usually consists of Mary Bell, Jewell Bell, Dorothy Templin, Mary Jeanette and the Ed. (whenever she can make it). Occasionally we honor other members by asking them to assist, but very few people ever get beyond the sacred portals of that bed-and ironing-room door! And, really, we could not function without the ironing board! Then, occasionally, we conun and Harold Templin into carrying all the bulletins to the post office.

Jewell Bell has done a tremendous job as publicity chairman. Her notices go throughout Marion, Hamilton, Boone, Putnam, and Morgan Counties, and, of course all papers in Hendricks County, as well as our radio station, WJMK. So Jewell Bell is a big factor in our public relations department, and we can give her much credit for the excellent attendance we have had at our meetings.

To all these and to many more, the Editor says "Thanks" for helping to make the Bulletin what it is.

H C H S

The following colored-with-age clipping from the Indianapolis News...undated.....showed up from nowhere, and is presented herewith:

Interesting Relics Found in an Old Corner Stone

Scraps of Paper Give History of Long Ago Events in Hendricks County....

The Campbell Family

(Special to The Indianapolis News)

Danville, Ind. Nov. 13. - The box that has been in the corner stone of the old court house, which was laid June 5, 1860, was opened by the county commissioners when the old building was wrecked. The contents are in good condition, though slightly musty. Many items were dropped in the box at the last minute. Some were scraps of paper with a name and address. There were bibles, papers, programs, pictures, coins, a full set of Masonic jewels, a list of the singers forming the choir which sang at the corner stone laying, almanacs, biographies, and cards. A small bottle of fall wheat was deposited by Martin Gregg, one of the county commissioners, and to all appearances it is as good as the day it was placed in the bottle.

A slip of paper contained a short history of L. M. Campbell, at that time one of the leading attorneys of this part of the country. This says: "Leander M. Campbell, born February 12, 1833, in Lewis, Kentucky; married, September 20, 1855, to Matilda Hammond. At this time they have two children, Cora Belle, born August 10, 1856, and Louis Davis, born February 22, 1859. Now residing three fourths of a mile southeast of this courthouse, on the road to Plainfield, in a brick dwelling. Forest trees all around the house." Mr. Campbell is now dead, but Cora Belle, mentioned in the note, is now Mrs. Cora Campbell Barrett, a society and club woman of Indianapolis.

One relic is a small "form" of type containing the names of printers on the "Danville Ledger", who were J. N. Vestal, T. O. Thompson, William P. Gregg, George Gregg, William Irvin, J. M. Matlock. A copy of the "Ledger", dated July 13, was also in the box. Henry L. Dickerson, then pastor of the Presbyterian Church, deposited a confession of faith and a Holy Bible, and Jacob K. Moore had deposited a copy of the doctrines and principles of the M. E. Church.

H C H S

THE GARDENS OF YESTER YEAR

Seventy-five or eighty years ago most folks in Hendricks County were farmers. There was a minority who farmed on a big scale and boasted of their acreage, crops and numerous types of fine live stock but most folks over the county tilled eighty and a hundred acres while fewer yet were content to earn a living on forty to sixty

acres and less. Every township had its families who could never own a farm and rented land or labored for a man who had empty houses and out-buildings on more or less scattered farm land. On practically every farm was a garden plot; some large, some small, but strange to relate while all had gardens there were very few interested and dedicated gardeners. The old time garden, was too often the step-child on the farm and its weedy, ragged looks in July and early fall was enough proof.

When grandfather had prepared the garden ready for planting, he, like those about him was done for the season with the patch and the sole interest lay in the fields to be plowed and planted in crops. Most early gardening was left to the farm wife and children and if vegetables got to the table through the summer season it was up to them to do the tending and bring to the kitchen for preparation.

The chief garden crops of yesteryear were potatoes, both Irish and sweet, tomatoes, cabbage, beans of many kinds, peas, parsnips, lettuce, onions and radishes. The last named were often planted in a bed spaded up before the garden was made ready.

I never knew of anyone planting a carrot but a very few men would undertake a strawberry patch. One man in Clay Township named Silas Clark would put out more than an acre and sell berries over the county for miles around.

Commercial fertilizers were unknown and the garden in early spring usually received a load or more of barn yard manure and it was often the horse variety. Nothing could have been scattered over a piece of ground that would produce more weeds per square inch than this particular fertilizer. Weeds sprouted and had to start ahead of beans and other vegetables and they were to be fought with hoe and plow until harvest time. Too often the weeds won.

The old time garden was often kept fairly clean until mid-July and then mother and her less interested helpers gave up the patch as a hopeless job. Weeds and grass, aided by rains brought a rank vegetation that proved beyond control. Wife and children tramped down grass and weeds to find tomatoes and onions or early "spuds"; and when a heavy dew was on it was like wading a stream to navigate the garden patch.

There were reasonable excuses for weedy gardens. Women folks in days gone by had their tasks for the days ahead as same as the men. Granny did her house work well; milked three or four cows twice each day took care of the milk and churned the butter. She looked after a half dozen sitting hens, gathered the eggs each day, fed hens, a hundred or more hungry chickens and turkeys and carried water to them. She made the lye soap for the wash day and other uses. On wash days she often took grand dad's ax to chop old fence rails into the right length to go under her kettle. She had a loom and when not too busy wove rag carpet or rugs. Often, if no children were about she went to the field twice each work day to carry fresh water in a jug to the plowman and maybe take a sandwich or slab of pie.

I well recall a morning when grandma tucked up her dress knee high and entered her wet and weedy garden near the barn. In a few minutes she came out with a lot of speed for her bare feet had connected with the cold, squirming body of a huge black snake that had taken shelter in the weed grown patch. It was time for grandpa to sythe down the weeds.

Here and there over the county one could find a real gardner, a dedicated one; an old uncle or grand dad who tended the patch from April to September and kept it as "clean as a pin". When his straight rows had been cultivated he took his garden rake and walking backwards smoothed the plowed earth and left the garden with never a human track showing. When he was ready to dig the old time Mechanic or Peachblow

potatoes there was never a weed to be mowed. His garden was near perfection.

It was seldom that the old time garden ever grew sweet corn. When the family wanted roasting ears, some member went to the corn field and plucked the required number for the meal. It was good enough for the farm members and even the preacher when he came.

In late July a farmer was fortunate who had a moist piece of ground along a creek where he could sow turnips and before cold weather he could pull large, sweet and tender ones from the rich soil. Times were when one had such favorable ground for melons and cucumbers. I recall going with a neighbor and a son my age to a patch of cucumbers and when our search was ended a washing tub was heaped with the green fruit of many sizes. Later they were sorted and sold to house wives in the neighboring towns of New Winchester, Hadley and Amo. I have seen scores of huge watermelons, half hidden in grass over two or three acres of rich, low land. To pull one from the vine on a chilly morning prior to the coming of Jack Frost could be a happy experience. Insert a knife into its middle and the rind would pop and a crack would show the red goodness beneath. The heart of such a melon would be deliciously cold, sweet as sugar and the juice that ran down one's chin and dripped over his shirt got but little attention. One just ate and ate and laid everything else aside. As one thinks back he has hopes that such things may be lived over in heaven.

The word "garden" makes me think of my grandma Nancy Harris and she and I are in bare feet. We stop in the potato patch and I watch her "gravel" a pan full of new potatoes to cook on top of beans or peas for dinner. The tender grace of that time long gone brings many happy thoughts.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

Copied from News Paper Clipping about 1935

by Ruth Pritchard

Scholarship issued in 1854 will admit University Heights Brothers to De Pauw

Contents of Scholarship

No. 457 - Know all men by these presents that John Miller of the county of Hendrix and the state of Indiana, has by the payment of One Hundred Dollars, into the treasury of the Indiana Asbury University, purchased a perpetual scholarship in said University containing provisions and limitations as follows.

1. One scholar at a time may be kept forever free from Tuition fees in any of the classes of the Academical or Literary Department of the University, in such studies as are or may be essential to graduation.
2. The scholarship shall not be assignable or transferable.
3. Only one student, during the same session, can, under any circumstances, be kept on said scholarship.
4. During the life of the purchaser, no student (except as specified below) can receive tuition on said scholarship, unless he be the purchaser himself or his son or his grandson.
5. After the death of the purchaser, the right of tuition for himself, his son or grandson shall descent in perpetuity to such descendant or other persons, as may be specified in the Will of the purchaser; and the right shall descent from generation to generation, by Will, and not otherwise.
6. Should the purchaser die intestate, then the right of personal tuition shall descend to any or all of his sons, or grandsons, who may claim such tuitions, one at a time in succession.

7. It is further agreed, as a modification of the above articles, that the purchaser aforesaid, shall have the additional right of keeping in the institution as aforesaid any young man whom he may select to educate, and who shall bring with him a certificate from said purchaser, that he is sent by him without any compensation, received or expected from the student or his friends; provided also that but one student at a time shall be received on said scholarship.
8. Nothing in the above is to be construed as giving any right, to any student, to remain in the institution, who is guilty of immorality or disobedience to the rules and regulations of the University, as established from time to time, by the Trustees or Faculty of the University.

In Testimony whereof, The Trustees of the said University have issued to the said John Miller this scholarship signed by the president and secretary of said board and dated this twenty-second day of June A.D. 1854.

I. P. Southard, Secretary

John Cowgill, President

Burke Miller, grandson of John was living in University Heights at 4020 Bowman Avenue when he found this Scholarship and was interviewed by Claude A. Mahoney. Burke & brother Hugh E. Miller had worked their way through school.

President of De Pauw, G. Bromley Oxnam stated that the scholarship "was as valid as the day it was issued".

H C H S

FROM OUT OF THE PAST

North Salem's One Bid To Fame
It Levied No Taxes in 1922

Old newspaper clippings, and legal records can yield a world of information as well as hours of recreation and fun. The following story is gleaned from a conglomerations of facts welded together by clippings and memories of our senior citizens.

It is the story of North Salem's one bid to fame. It made the city dailies. The town at the time suddenly galloped into the limelight by announcing to the world that it was a taxless town.

The Indianapolis papers carried the story in a countrywide sweep and it was learned by a "nosey reporter" in the county auditor's office.

Called upon by the county auditor to make its report of tax assessments, the blanks were returned with the word "none" written with flourishes and many "where-as's" across the page.

The auditor promptly called the town clerk at North Salem and demanded "what the heck" and, "dispense with the levity".

The official explained "we are not going to levy and tax this year, because we have enough left over from last year".

And now the news was out. And that was when William Herschell, staff correspondent for the Indianapolis News, came to visit North Salem.

"And that was the week that was."

Apparently North Salem didn't crave the National reputation of being a taxless town. Leading citizens said, and here we quote Mr. Herschell, "that to the rest of the world, this was a slow burg, and that it was not a spender or municipal improvements".

It might look good on paper but what if a stranger would come into town and see that chuckhole up by the Christian Church, a chuckhole into which a prominent citizen wrecked his automobile some time back. His right front wheel was wrecked and he said words that can't be printed about a town board that would not spend a little money on the streets.

And then right on the heels of the wreck came the announcement by the old town board that no tax assessment would be made for North Salem for the year 1922.

Somebody spread the word and again we quote Mr. Herschell that, "a certain member of the board wouldn't improve the street in front of the Christian Church because he 'jes natchurly' didn't like the Christian Church".

Now the battle was on. North Salem had a town meeting and a citizen's ticket was placed in the field, one that favored making a tax levy for 1922 in order to get money for just and proper improvements. The new ticket was elected with a "burst of approval", and this is also a quote.

The result: W. C. Dickey, Joseph H. Fleece and Dr. C. M. Trotter were named on the ticket. The battle cry was "Get out the vote", and never let it be said that North Salem is lacking on that score.

Another thing--North Salem had never had a marshal. It was said that the new board favored one of those he-badged individuals into the town's life. The town was as peaceful as a June Day most of the time and a marshal's job would be a picnic.

But above all else that chuckhole up by the Christian Church must be filled. A. O. Wright, the town clerk, when asked about the failure to make a levy for 1922 said the town board said they didn't need it. Now that was all good, if it wasn't for that chuckhole up in front of the Christian Church. The warfare continued from foxhole to foxhole.

Most of the streets were well-cared for but again others had not yet known modern improvement. One of the latter was the street that passed the Christian Church, which stands on a hill in the western part of town and that was the hill that wrecked the automobile of one of the brethren.

So if the old town board had improved the hill street that leads to the Christian Church, North Salem would not have made the front page as a taxless town. And if the town board had not been so thrifty that it didn't need money so quoting Mr. Herschell again, the old town board "literally chuckholed itself into oblivion".

So no wonder on election day North Salem voted to be taxed. Apparently the townsfolk like to pay taxes that will improve the town and make it grow.

North Salem was laid out in 1835 and has been the center of an active farming community ever since. But it did not really get into the national spotlight until newspapers of the country heard the story of "North Salem To Make No Tax Levy for 1922".

But now North Salem was taken from the gallery of the immortals and returned to a humble place among those who say:

"Well, here it is again---time to pay taxes. Looks like a fellow never gets anything ahead."

H C H S

Out of the Past

"The Old Brick," at the corner of Pearl Street, S. R. 236, and Broadway in North Salem received the death knell on Saturday, August 24, when Tommy Goode and his two sons and Ray Larmer and Buddy Clements, with wrecking equipment, dismantled it with the ease of professionals.

It was the oldest business landmark in North Salem. It was constructed in 1856. All these years the "Old Brick" stood a mute evidence of a task well done. The south wall and part of the west wall was removed about 35 years ago because of a fire hazard.

When Capt. Will Neff of Ladoga was asked, at the age of 95 years, "Can you tell us anything about the Old Brick at North Salem?" his face brightened and he immediately replied, "I made all the brick by hand that is in that old building".

Here is the story. When a lad of 17 or 18 years, his father, John Neff, took the contract to build a two story brick building for Jacob Fleece and George A. Given for the sum of \$1000.

John Neff owned the farm northwest of town, known now, as the Grafton Trair's farm. The bricks for the building were made and burned on the farm. The brick kiln stood across the road west of the residence. To the son, William, fell the task of molding the brick. The lime for the mortar was hauled by ox team from a kiln at Stilesville.

John Robbins, who lived south of North Salem, was foreman of the brick layers. James David Walker, his son-in-law, was one of the carpenters and built the cornice around the building. Burdine Harris, grandfather of Belle Hennon, North Salem was a carpenter who worked on the job.

An unusual bit of family history is interwoven with the bricks and boards of the old landmark. John Robbins supervised and helped lay the bricks. His son-in-law, James David Walker, was one of the carpenters. Oliver M. Walker, son of James David assisted with the carpenter work. When the interior of the building was remodeled for a postoffice, Treat W. Walker assisted his father Oliver M. with the carpenter work. Thus, a four generation family knew the "Old Brick".

During its life span, it has served the younger generation as a skating rink in the 80's. A generation used the upper floor for dancing. There they do-se-do-ed until the clock struck twelve. They also played host for surrounding towns for ball-room dancing. Mayme Conover Trotter and Ott O'Rear are remembered as winners in the "light fantastic".

The "Old Brick" was originally built for a community and general store and anything wanted could be purchased at "Fleece and Given" and it has memories that "bless and burn".

The site will be used as a location for the new North Salem Post Office. A parking lot will be made on the site of the dwelling which is also being dismantled adjoining the Old Brick site.

Zona Walker, North Salem, In

Do You Think Your Taxes are High?

Mrs. Charles G. Miles, R. R. Danville, handed us this tax receipt, dated Nov. 28, 1846:

Received of Charles Clark, Two dollars and eleven cents in full of State and County Tax for the years 1845 and 46 on \$300, personal property, with the penalty and interest.

Signed:

James S. Odell, Treasurer of H. County

H C H S

Death claimed one of our members, Mrs. Gladys Bolin of Indianapolis, and to her family we extend sympathy. We also share the grief of the following who have suffered bereavement: Ida Mae Miller's mother, Mrs. Lola Good, passed away on the day of our last meeting, July 14; charter member Lena McDonald lost a grandson; Mary Canganelli's brother, Charles E. Swain, passed away, and Doris Ward Hubble and Bessie Ward Hardin lost their brother, Kenneth Eugene Ward.

Welcome to the Fold

New members we have added to the rolls since our last publication are Geraldine Drorbaugh, Walter Edmondson, The Rev. and Mrs. James Shockley, Mrs. Keith Brock, Mary Ellen Bunn, Maxine Dale and Mrs. Earnestine Blair Wallace. We hope you will enjoy our meetings and help if you are asked, for we do need people willing to do their share.

QUERY:

Desire information and parentage of John Hooton (Hooten) and wife, Susan (Susannah), both born (where?) Kentucky. Children: born (where?) Indiana, 1832-1850, Thomas J.; John W.; Levi Frank; William R.; Benjamin A.; James M.; Sarah F.; Martin G.; Susan E. Family in Madison County, Iowa, in 1850 and 1860 census.

Mrs. Sam Henderson
R. #2, 770 S. River Drive
Heyburn, Idaho 83336

H C H S

From the President.....

It is time to elect new officers, so the next meeting will be my last as your president. No doubt it has been a busy year with all the activity of the Sesquicentennial and the planning for our new home.

1974 has really been a great year for Hendricks County Historical Society. Our membership has increased and the interest at all the meetings has never been better. The best thing of all has been the privilege of knowing and working with so many nice people over the county.

It would seem to me that this is only the beginning. As we grow and work together, our Society will be the means of uniting all the people of Hendricks County.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your co-operation and able assistance on committees. To our new President, you may suspect that you are getting into a lot of work and problems; however, they will all be small when you find that all the members are so willing and capable in helping you.

Would it be asking too much to expect to have 100 new members in 1975?

Sincerely,

Floyd B. Hufford

H C H S

Three Performances of 1974 Pageant Presented

Representative players from all parts of Hendricks County dramatized the story of Hendricks County on the evenings of August 2 and 3 and 9th. Rain prevented the fourth production on August 10.

The history with its historical incidents was outlined by Amos Shelton. The history was told in five episodes as worked out by Mrs. Roy Fisher, Mrs. Lester English, Mrs. Robert Castetter, Mrs. Randall Joseph, Miss Mary Joseph, Mrs. Peggy Kennedy, Mrs. I. E. Lewis, Mr. Archie Rinehart, Mrs. Rawleigh Baker, and Mrs. Margary Clay.

The cast numbered over 200 persons from all parts of the county depicting the early scenes of the Indians and the pioneers down through the age of the underground railroad, the coming of Central Normal College, the Plainfield Boys School, Cartersburg Springs era, the famous baseball team, the interurban down to the present day with the modern Hendricks County hospital, school consolidations and the challenge of the future.

This production was given in the Danville Ellis Park. Mr. Charles Epstein was director. He was assisted by Mr. Bill Karnowsky and Mr. Karl Ilg. Karen Hayes Bailey was the choreographer and Mike Riggs was director of music. Mrs. Blanche Wean was Pageant Chairman.

(In a recent issue of The Bulletin, we used an article about Big Sam Thompson, Hendricks County's claim to fame in baseball. Two of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Thompson of Danville, attended the ceremonies when Big Sam was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Since this is an honor that comes to only a few, I asked them to write of their experiences. Ed.)

On the morning of August 12, 1974 a crowd of about 10,000 people gathered in front of the National Baseball Library at the Baseball Hall of Fame in the little village of Cooperstown, N. Y. The occasion which brought these people together was the induction of six men into the Baseball Hall of Fame. We were fortunate in that we were guests of the Baseball Hall of Fame and had seats in front of the stand in the first row. Those who were not guests had been standing for hours waiting for the induction. Other Thompson's there, also as guests, Mrs. Maurice Thompson and her son David from Salinas, Calif., her other son, his wife and 2 sons of New York, Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Wallace of Sheridan, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thompson of Brazil, South America, their son Fred and his family of Detroit. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thompson of Shelbyville, with their two sons and wives, and of course, the two of us from Danville.

The induction ceremony was quite impressive. On the stand were 12 to 15 microphones and on either side were members of the Hall of Fame and those being inducted. In front of the stand were the TV camers, magazine photographers, and the enormous crowd. The ceremony began with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, without accompaniment, by all the people. Then followed a speech by the mayor of Coopers-town and introduction of the Distinguished Guests, which included Grove, Gehringer, Terry, Lyons, Cronin, Feller, Rice, Stengel, Ruffing, Waner, Medwick, Campanella, Musial, Haines, Satchel Paige, Leonard, Irvin, Kelly, Spahn and others such as Mrs. Babe Ruth and Mrs. Lou Gehrig.

Bowie Kuhn, Commissioner of Baseball, presented the plaques to the newly inducted members, which were James Bell, James Bottomley, John Conlan, Edward "Whitey" Ford, Mickey Mantle and Samuel Thompson. James Bottomley and Samuel Thompson received their plaques post humously.

After the ceremony all of the Thompson family were told to go inside to have their picture taken beside the plaque of Sam which will hang in the Baseball Hall of Fame. When the photographer came to take the picture, his mouth dropped, for there were twenty-two of us, the largest group of any of the new inductees. Following this was a huge feast at the Otesaga Hotel. We all ate enough to last a week.

While there, we were given a small ribbon & badge to wear which gave us special privileges. I realized none of us deserved the honor given us, for all of us just happened to have been born, or married into, the Thompson family. Sam and his wife did not have any children. It was a once-in-a-lifetime occasion, and it does not happen in very many lives.

The papers give some of Sam's records which he made while playing ball, but some of the more interesting things are never mentioned. For example, everyone knows Hank Aaron recently surpassed Babe Ruth's old home run record. But you never see who held the record prior to Babe Ruth. It was none other than Sam Thompson, who held it for almost a quarter of a century. Why it does not come out, I do not know, unless someone would not like to answer a lot of questions. For there would be quite a few.

For Sam's record was 128 home runs, while Ruth's and Aaron's were over 700. There are several reasons for this wide spread in their records. First, during Sam's days they played with a ball which is now referred to as a "Dead Ball". It was made differently. Our present ball has a cork center, then a thick layer of rubber over the cork and then the string windings. This gives the ball a lot of bounce and can be hit harder and farther than the Dead Ball. Also, in Sam's days, the pitcher stood 10 1/2 ft. closer to the batter than at present. I believe if today we should use the dead ball and the pitcher stood 10 1/2 ft. closer to the batter, many of our present players would be making records in the strike-out column instead of hits and home runs. (Sam struck out only 226 times in his 15 years in the major leagues) Another item to consider, is the length of playing season. Now it begins in early spring and lasts until cold weather. The more games you play, the more times you are at bat which increases your chances for more hits and home runs. Also, in the old days, the players were discouraged from trying to hit home runs. It was thought it took a lot of the excitement from the game for all they had to do was hit the ball over the fence and then trot around the bases. The crowds liked the hit and run play and sacrifice flies.

So, if some young student could feed into a computer the differences between the game in the old days and at present, I believe he would find Sam at a par with Ruth and Aaron. Perhaps it has been done, I don't know.

Contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Thompson

Congratulations to Ruth Hall!

My Indiana Magazine of History just arrived and lo and behold! about half of it consists of an article written by Don Alan Hall and Ruth A. Hall. The article entitled "The Plaque of New Elizabeth" is most interesting and well researched. It is complete with a map of Lizton and numerous pictures. We are very proud that a member of our publication committee has gained such recognition. If you don't belong to the Indiana Historical Society, you must find a copy of this September issue.

Just as we were going to press, the following article appeared in the Plainfield Messenger, September 23, 1974. This is certainly good news for H C H S, but we must all bear in mind that such an endeavor will involve much work, and we will need the co-operation of every member of the Society as well as many other Hendricks County people.

Old Jail Becomes Museum New Home

The Hendricks county commissioners have, according to commissioner Lowell Franklin decided to donate the living quarters of the old county jail here to the Hendricks County Historical Society for use as a county museum.

"That's where it's supposed to go," Franklin said Friday morning. "We took a tour of the old jail last week and decided to put the welfare and juvenile department in where the radio operator used to be, and the museum in the old living quarters."

Franklin explained that the remaining part of the old jail will probably be used for office space.

"The living quarters appear to be in good shape," the commissioner recalled. The only thing that appears needed in the living quarters is a new roof. The old slate roof will probably, unfortunately, have to be replaced, because it leaks so bad.

Franklin said that the commissioners just recently had a man out at the old jail to estimate the cost of a new shingle roof, "but we haven't heard from him yet."

"As soon as we receive an estimate, approve it, and complete the project, the society will be able to move into the living quarters. If they get it before the first of the year we're flying, but it could possibly be completed before then," the commissioner said.

Scott Hosier, Jr., general chairman of the Hendricks County Sesquicentennial committee, explained that plans have already been made to give the historical society the money left over from the Sesquicentennial events, "and, especially from the sales of the 1974 history books which are currently being prepared," Hosier said.

He explained that about \$10,000 has been ear-marked for the museum, most of which will be spent for equipment.

"There are some things which are stored here and there, which could be used by the museum committee. But right now there is no place in the county where things can be donated and adequately displayed.

"We've already lost several things which have been donated by county residents to other county museums, or the state museum because of the lack of one of our own. We should be able to keep things at home where they belong," Hosier said.

The general chairman explained that the historical society has been considering a county museum for several years, but the vacancy in the old jail just happened to coincide with their plans.

After the museum has been established, Hosier said, it'll be up to public subscription, "whether or not it is successful. If the county residents don't support it, then there is no sense in maintaining it."

Hosier indicated that the only thing the county has nearest to a museum is the veterans' room in the courthouse. "There are half-a-dozen Civil War relics being stored there, and only a few of them are on display."

The 1974 history book, Hosier emphasized, will be the main source of money for the museum. He explained that every current county resident is urged to submit a complete family biography.

The biographies can be mailed to - The Hendricks County Historical Society, P. O. 128, Danville 46122, or call Mrs. Phyllis Urban, 852-8306, or Miss Grace Cox, 745-2552 for further information.

Families don't have to buy the book to have their biographies included. The book which is specifically designed to outlast any book, is expected to cost \$25.

"The paper, ink, and binding is specially designed by the Virginia State Archives. They are specially designed not to show any sign of age or deterioration, Hosier said.

Mrs. Raleigh Baker, a committee member, explained that the historical group is expected to meet Oct. 1 to further discuss the museum. "We're all really excited about the possibility," she said.

Members of the committee are Floyd Hufford, president; Mrs. Blanche Wean, Mrs. Ed Winkleman, Sherman Crayton, Clark Kellum, Mrs. Francis English, Mrs. Bessie Hudleston and Mrs. Baker.

H C H S

As we will ring down the curtain on our Sesquicentennial year we each should ask ourselves, "Did I do my part toward making our Sesquicentennial Year a success, or did I sit back and let it pass me by?" Few people, in their life span, are privileged to take part in two sesquicentennial celebrations ... Indiana's and Hendricks County's....and in two more years, a bi-centennial. If you feel that you have missed something....and you did if you didn't pitch in and help....then new challenges are coming up with maybe a museum in our future and another historical event soon. So next time, let's all get in on the fun. Don't let life pass you by!

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VII NUMBER I
January 1975
PUBLISHED BY
THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Officers 1975

President

Mrs. Dessie D. Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lizton, In 46149
Tel. 994-5911

Vice President

Mr. John Miller
525 E. Main St.
Plainfield, In 46168
Tel. 839-6883

Secretary

The Misses Mabel &
Naomi Joseph
R. R. 1, Box 186
North Salem, In 46165
Tel. 539-4772

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian & Publicity Chairman

Miss Jewell Bell
212 E Road 200 N
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-4055

Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

H C H S

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

I keep a part of Christmas
For it helps to add a glow,

To the January darkness
And the February snow.

If March is cold and blustery
And though April brings us rain,

The peace and warmth of Christmas
With its happiness remain...

There's a beauty when it's Christmas
All the world is different then,

There's no place for petty hatred
In the hearts and minds of men.

That is why my heart is happy
And my mind can hold a dream,

For I keep a part of Christmas
With its peace and joy supreme.

Author Unknown

H C H S

H C H S

President's Message

Greetings to each member of our Historical Society!

We begin the year of 1975 with high hopes and great ambitions. We have been offered the use of the rooms at the 106-year old jail to use as a museum under the management of the Historical Society. The very fact that it has an historical background is a feature that will add interest to the Museum, in addition to whatever items are placed there. We are indebted to the County Commissioners for the gift of rooms. Let us all work to make this gift a successful and going concern.

The Program Committee has prepared four meetings that will be of interest to each member. We hope you will attend these meetings and we also urge and invite any prospective member to come, too.

It will be my pleasure to serve as your president in 1975, and I want to take this opportunity to thank those persons whose suggestions have already been a great help in planning the coming year.

Dessie Davis Huddleston

H C H S

October 13, 1974

On Sunday, October 13th, 34 members of our Society gathered at Brownsburg and traveled by bus to the historic Connor Prairie Settlement, near Noblesville, and spent the afternoon browsing through the famous village. Our thanks to Jack Gambold for making the arrangements. Following our return to Brownsburg, a short business meeting was held at Eaton Hall. Mr. Hufford, retiring president, thanked his committees for the year's work, and reported on a tentative agreement between the Hendricks County Commissioners and the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. concerning museum space in the former Hendricks County Jail. Officers for 1975 were then elected. (These officers are listed elsewhere.)

H C H S

January 12, 1975

Our first meeting of the year will be held, January 12, at 2:00 P.M. at the United Methodist Church, West Mill St., Danville. During this important business session, we will discuss and vote upon the agreement between the Hendricks County Commissioners and the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. Every member should attend for this will be a big decision. Following the business meeting, Mrs. Ruth Hall will preside over the program entitled "Do You Remember?" The making of lye soap, hucksters and peddlers, hog-killing day, the old family doctor, and threshing day will be discussed by Mr. Roy Fisher, Mrs. George Huber, Mrs. Nellie Beagley, and Dr. Malcom Scamahorn. Any old pictures or artifacts of these occasions or customs will be fine for the display table. The ladies of Center and Marion Townships will be in charge of the social hour.

H C H S

MEETINGS FOR 1975

January 12, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Danville United Methodist Church

Business Meeting

Program: "Do You Remember?" Ruth Hall presiding

Social Hour - ladies of Center and Marion Townships

April 13, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Lizton Christian Church

Business Meeting

Program: Literary Works Then and Now - Dr. Sherman Crayton

Social Hour - ladies of Union, Eel River, and Middle Townships

July 13, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library

Business Meeting

Program: Hendricks County Fairs - Mrs. Roy Fisher

Social Hour - Guilford, Lincoln, and Brown Townships

October 12, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Place of meeting T B A

Business meeting

Program: Headlines of Yesteryear - The Rev. James Shockley

Social hour - Washington, Liberty, Franklin and Clay Townships

H C H S

BACK BULLETINS

Mary Jeanette Winkleman asks those of you who have back bulletins coming to you to pick them up at our meeting. She always has a supply with her as well as a record of who should have them. This will be a great savings in postage if you will cooperate.

The entire membership was saddened with the death of Mrs. Jean Sellers, wife of Mr. Claire J. Sellers, Mooresville, R. R. Jean and Claire have contributed greatly to our Society and she will be sadly missed. Always ready to fill in at the piano or to do whatever was asked of her, her enthusiasm and charm lent a special sparkle to her every endeavor. Our deepest sympathy goes to Claire in his great loss.

Mrs. Ina Russell, of Earlham, Iowa, also lost her husband.

MUSEUM NEWS

Much work and planning have been done in the last few months in anticipation that the long-dreamed-of Historical Museum might become a reality. Representatives of the Society have met with the Board of Commissioners and their legal counsel, and have drawn up an agreement which now awaits the sanction of the Society. This board consists of the officers of the Historical Society, Hendricks County Council president, Marvin Money, the Hendricks County Commissioners, Lowell Franklin, Howard Gibbs, and Arthur Himsel, and the following representatives from each township: Brown, Scott Hosier; Center, Willard Eggers; Clay, Sherman Crayton; Eel River, Rita Lieske;

Franklin (none yet); Guilford, Clark Kellum; Liberty, Helen Walker; Lincoln, Dorothy Kelley; Marion, Dorothy Templin; Middle (none yet); Union, Ruth Hall; and Washington, Donald Shields. That every member may know just what is being decided, we include a copy of the agreement.

AGREEMENT TO OPERATE A HENDRICKS COUNTY MUSEUM IN THE FORMER HENDRICKS COUNTY JAIL

This Agreement entered into this ___ day of November, 1974 at Danville, Indiana; by and between The Board of Commissioners of Hendricks County, Indiana and The Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc.

WHEREAS, Hendricks County Indiana owns a certain tract of real estate located at 140 South Washington Street, Danville, Indiana formerly used by Hendricks County as a Jail and;

WHEREAS, The Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. an Indiana not-for-profit Corporation, desires to operate and manage a "Hendricks County Museum" on said property and;

WHEREAS, both parties recognize the need for the establishment of a museum in which historical artifacts, materials and information may be kept and the need for an organization to collect said materials, preserve them, store them and to display them to the general public, and;

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are granted certain powers under the laws of the State of Indiana, over unused county buildings, and;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid property is, in and of itself, of historical value and;

WHEREAS, Hendricks County Indiana does not have a present need for all the space therein;

NOW THEREFORE come the parties and agree as follows:

1. Hendricks County, Indiana, by its Board of County Commissioners agrees to dedicate that portion of the aforementioned real estate consisting of the old residence and excluding all jail cells and the new addition, which is now occupied by the Hendricks County Welfare, for the establishment of a "Hendricks County Museum" for so long as said premises are not needed for the use of Courts or County Officers or other County business; or until terminated as hereinafter provided. And further agree to furnish the utilities therefore, Insure the Building,

2. The Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. agrees to make the operation and management of said museum one of their major projects; and, further agrees to:

- Collect acceptable historical materials, and to arrange said materials so as to be displayed in an interesting manner to the residents of Hendricks County and other visitors. As to what is "acceptable historical materials", shall be determined solely by the "museum board" as hereinafter provided for in Paragraph 3.
- Provided personnel to manage and to keep artifacts and historical materials.
- Plan programs which will interest persons who make gifts of historical materials with the assurance that said gifts shall be kept in good condition for future generations. Such a program may include meetings or exhibits or other activities planned by said corporation, with the approval of the "museum board".

- D. Provide space for the Hendricks County Veterans Service Officer, and to receive, preserve, store and to display at various times, all military artifacts now located in the Hendricks County Court House.
- E. To supervise and provide the meeting place for certain groups of Hendricks County citizens who have been approved by the "museum board" to hold meetings there, without charge, except janitorial fees. It being mutually agreed that any such meetings are to be held only during the regular museum hours or at such other times as can be mutually agreed subject to conditions imposed by the "museum board".

3. The parties further mutually agree, that for direct control of said museum, there shall be established a "Museum Board." Said board shall consist of the Hendricks County Commissioners, President of the Hendricks County Council, and the five officers of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc., along with one person from each township, appointed by the executive committee of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc.

Within thirty (30) days from the execution of this Agreement, the aforesaid executive committee of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. shall create said board by notifying all of the persons holding the above offices, who will be a member of said board by virtue of their office, and shall appoint the township members from an alphabetical listing of the townships as follows: four (4) township members for a period of one (1) year; four (4) township members for a period of two (2) years; and four (4) township members for a period of three (3) years.

All township appointments shall expire on the 1st day of January of the second, third and fourth year respectively, following their appointment. Thereafter, as the terms expire, each appointment shall be for a term of three (3) years.

4. Within thirty (30) days after the appointment as aforesaid, the board shall meet and elect from its members, a president and vice-president and a secretary and treasurer. Said elections, shall be held thereafter, at the first regular meeting of each year of the board. At the organizational meeting, the members shall adopt by laws to govern the conduct of the "Museum Board" and the operation of the Hendricks County Museum, as shall be necessary to carry out their duties under the terms of this Agreement.

The board shall keep minutes of its meetings and other records of its actions; and, all minutes and records shall be kept in the Hendricks County Museum.

5. The Parties further mutually agree, that this agreement is cancelable by either party upon 1 year notice to the other.

H C H S

JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The November Bulletin of the Indiana Historical Society deals in its entirety with the activities of the Indiana Junior Historical Society. As we all know, our own Mike Lynch, of Brownsburg, served as president of that energetic organization and guided it through many and varied projects. His year's leadership was climaxed with the Thirty-Eighth Annual Convention held at Brownsburg.

In his report of that Convention, published in the Bulletin, Mike wrote: "This year, much to the delight of the officers and the staff, the Convention was larger than in recent years. There were approximately three hundred students representing

twenty-five statewide clubs. Every one of these students brought with them excitement and enthusiasm. With the contests, the exhibits, and the elections, there was also an air of competition. These three emotions rolled together produced one of the better conventions in recent years."

We are all proud of Mike's accomplishments and we wish him well at Purdue University. We are happy to note, also, that his sister, Linda Lynch, is following in her illustrious brother's footsteps. She was elected secretary of the Indiana Junior Historical Society and she also contributed an article to the Bulletin. In reporting on the Kentuckiana Officers Meeting, she wrote: "On Wednesday, August 7, state officers from the Kentucky Young Historian Association and the Indiana Junior Historical Society met at Spring Mill State Park for the annual two day meeting where the officers and directors present and exchange ideas and plan for the coming year."

Our love and best wishes go with these fine young people and our congratulations to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lynch, who produced such an unusual family. Mike has four sisters, one of whom is a graduate of Purdue University, two others along with Mike are attending Purdue, and Linda is a student at Brownsburg High School! And we are proud to claim their mother, Darlene, as a member of our Society.

H C H S

Correction

A "goof" escaped the eyes of the proof reader in the October issue of our Bulletin. It was numbered Volume VII. It should have been Volume VI, Number IV. This issue is Volume VII, Number I. If you are keeping your bulletins in order, you will want to make that change.

H C H S

"HONORING OUR HERITAGE IN HENDRICKS"

Our tireless Ruth Pritchard has written, and will soon have published, a book entitled "Honoring Our Heritage in Hendricks". This well written, thoroughly researched work concerns the fourteen drawings which appear on the Hendricks County Ancestor-Descendant Certificate issued last year during the Sesquicentennial. In the foreword, Ruth writes, "This book presents the fourteen drawings which appear on the Hendricks County Ancestor-Descendant Certificate issued during 1974, the county's sesquicentennial year."

The several drawings are representative of Hendricks County and its various aspects of home, church, school, government, travel, industry, business, occupation and even tragedy and adversity.

These outlines are indicative of the three settlement periods: pioneer up to and including 1830; the anti-slavery, 1831-1860; and the development period, 1861-1900. The sketches include something from each of the twelve townships.

The book is being printed by the Publication Department of Cascade High School under the direction of Mr. Don Whitehead. Ruth hopes the book will be out by the last of January, and if you are interested, you can give her a call 539-6890. It is a must for those of us who are proud owners of certificates and for anyone we may have given them to, and it will be a valuable addition to your sesquicentennial material.

H C H S

ANOTHER NORTH SALEM "OLD BRICK"

This "Old Brick" is located on South Broadway, North Salem, Indiana.

It has been there a long time, since the early 1880's, or thereabouts. Time was when it was a creamery, which was a common way of making a living then. When the creamery was started, it was a large wooden building, built by a group of North Salem residents whose names are now unknown. I was told that if anyone knew its story it would be Ed Hadley, who at that time was 94 years old, but who had a memory as sharp as a knife. One Thursday he talked to me and I wrote it down as accurately as I could.

The original wooden building caught fire and burned to the ground. The fire was so intense that trees standing yet to day show the scars. It was rebuilt of brick and the creamery started again.

Elmer Duncan, (brother-in-law of Ed Hadley) and father of the late Glenn Duncan, had charge of it. A brick ice house was attached to the south side and is still standing.

They made a world of butter and sold it to all the surrounding towns. They had a good business and hired a good crew of workmen.

Then Elmer Duncan, the owner and manager, lost his health. He decided to go to Boulder, Colorado. While convalescing he met and became a friend of a workman of Swedish descent, Nels Nelson, who knew all about the creamery business as well as cheese making. When Duncan came home Nelson accompanied him. They started a "cheese factory" and made good from the start. Then James Hadley (Ed Hadley's father) began to operate the cheese factory. James Southwick was the cheese maker and the brick building was used to its capacity. Ed was only 14 or 15 years old at this time yet he remembered the recipe which was two ounces of rennet and one ounce of coloring to 1,000 ounces of milk.

James Hadley bought a pair of black ponies. They wore bells on their harness. They were hitched to a special wagon which became a common sight on all the highways. The drivers went to all the surrounding towns, south to Greencastle and as far west as Marshall and Walter Wynn did most of the driving. Omer Soots, uncle of Victor Carpenter and a teen age lad of 14 or 15 years, worked in the factory taking care of the machinery. After a few years the cheese industry began to dwindle and sales slackened.

Then around 1910 George Davis of North Salem had a grain store there and specialized in buying and selling clover seed. He stayed in this business a short time.

As time grew apace and the automobile became common, Elmer Duncan's son, Glenn, learned the rudiments and the repairing of anything that used wheels. He started a "wheel factory" in the building. He invented, constructed and patented a wheel that made it impossible for a car to be stolen. Quite a few Eel River Township men were interested in the wheel project. But it was not profitable and therefore failed.

Then Glenn Duncan and Ken Smith, life-long friends started a garage and repair shop in which they were partners for several years.

After a period of time the "Old Brick" was rented for various purposes. It is now owned by Don Barnhart and houses his construction machinery, and it has the appearance of many more years of service.

Zona Walker

H C H S

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The author of the following poem is unknown, but for miles around the Salem Church community the poem was inseparably associated with Howard C. Rushton.

In his way, Howard Rushton was quite an entertainer, unassuming and dependable. From the early 1900's through the depression years and World War II he contributed to "the lighter side". A successful farmer, a staunch Methodist, an honorable citizen, he ranked high among his many friends. Such readings were common in the period of Literary Societies and, to some extent, in oratorical contests. This example might rate mention in the history of entertainment in the county.

(Contributed by Ruth Pritchard)

"OLD BILL SNYDER"

You see that red-haired feller
a sittin' over yonder,
With freckled face and turned-up nose
and only one suspender?
You'd think to look at him he'd be
mighty meek and mild,
But he's tougher than any cow-boy
and twenty times as wild.

One night I took him with me
way down into the cellar
To draw a jug of cider and
get some apples meller.
He pulled the plug from out the barrell
while I held up the jug.
The precious cider gurgled forth,
Kerchug, kerchug, kerchug.

Now when we got about as much
as any man could lug,
That boy looked kind of scared and said,
"Say, Pop, I've lost the plug.
Now if you want to keep your cider,
just put your thumb right in it.
I'll go get another plug
I'll only be a minute".

Well there I stood for more than an hour,
a holdin' in that cider.
I cussed that kid 'till the air was blue
as sure as my name's Bill Snyder.
At last I had to give it up,
For I had got my fill.
I pulled my thumb from out that hole,
And let the cider spill.

You should have seen that mess
 All over that cellar floor.
 Samantha Ann, she mopped and swabbed
 A couple of days or more.
 You bet I licked that kid
 'Till he was black and blue,
 Cause I knowed he was playin' tricks
 And I guess he knowed it, too.

See that there thumb, looks as if 'twere dead
 as white as this here ceilin'.
 I could stick a knife right through it;
 'Taint got a bit of feelin'.
 There's many a trick been played before
 On honest old Bill Snyder,
 But I never had a thumb before,
 Get paralyzed on cider.

H C H S

From one of Edward A. Leary's interesting columns in "The Indianapolis Star" last year, we "snitched" a few little tid-bits:

Custom: In early days when a wedding notice was delivered to the local newspaper editor, it was accompanied by a handsomely decorated cake for the staff to enjoy.

Bad Luck: It was considered bad luck in pioneer days to start a journey on Friday or to pay a bill on Monday. It was also considered bad luck to turn back from a journey unless for a funeral.

Greeting: A favorite pioneer greeting was, "Come in and set. You kin have as good as we got."

Death: Burglarproof caskets were a best seller in the early 1900's following the capture in Indianapolis of a gang who robbed graves and sold corpses to medical schools. Whenever such ghoulish proof coffins were used, it was duly noted in newspaper obituaries, presumably to warn off other grave robbers.

Weather: The year of Indiana's statehood, 1816, is often called the year without a summer. Indiana suffered several frosts in May and June, July was cold and frosty and in northern Indiana, the corn crop was killed five times. For changeable weather, Jasper County set some kind of a record in 1836, recording temperatures of 116 degrees in July and two weeks later reporting a chilling frost in the northern part of the county.

Scandal and Recession: Fifty years ago, 1924, Hoosiers were reading about the Teapot Dome scandals and the nation was undergoing a sharp, but brief depression.

More of Same: Fifty years before that, 1874, Hoosiers still were recovering from the shock of the Credit Mobilier scandal and the near impeachment of Vice-President Schuyler Colfax of Indiana, when they read of the conviction of Democratic "Boss" Tweed, and tightened their belts for five years of a secondary post-war depression.

H C H S

H C H S

We welcome the following new members: Elizabeth Warrick, Brownsburg; Leon D. Pritchard, Cincinnati; Paul W. Swisher, Mooresville, and Charles Weilhamer, Danville.

H C H S

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. INCOMES & DISBURSEMENTS

October 1, 1973 - September 30, 1974

RECEIPTS:			
Sesqui Merchandise		\$	54 00
Book Sales	\$ 3 929 00		
Costs	<u>3 031 50</u>		897 50
Dues			706 00
Bulletins			47 25
Stationery			17 25
Interest Income			<u>63 50</u>
TOTAL		\$	1 785 50

DISBURSEMENTS:			
Postage	\$ 167 94		
Meeting Expenses	20 00		
Office Supplies	24 76		
Cost of Bulletins	<u>571 47</u>		
		\$	784 17

Increase in Net Worth		\$	1 001 33
Cash in Bank 10/1/73	\$ 503 96		
Certificate of Deposit	<u>1 088 76</u>		
Net Worth 10/1/73	\$ 1 592 72		
Increase in Net Worth	<u>1 001 33</u>		
Net Worth 9/30/74		\$	2 594 05

Cash in Bank 9/30/74	\$ 841 79		
Inventory of books Paid for	600 00		
Certificate of Deposit	<u>1 152 26</u>		
NET WORTH 9/30/74		\$	2 594 05

H C H S

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VII April 1975 NUMBER II

PUBLISHED BY
THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

We welcome the following new members: Elizabeth Warrick, Brownburg; Leon D. Pritchard, Cincinnati; Paul W. Swisher, Mooresville; and Charles Velthamer, Danville.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

INCOME & DISBURSEMENTS

October 1, 1973 - September 30, 1974

RECEIPTS:	
Seedling Merchandise	24 00
Book Sales	3 925 00
Costs	3 031 50
Dues	897 50
Bulletins	706 00
Stationery	47 25
	17 28

Interest Income

69 60

TOTAL

1 785 50

DISBURSEMENTS:

Postage	167 24
Meeting Expenses	28 00
Office Supplies	24 76
Cost of Bulletin	271 47

794 17

Increase in Net Worth

1 001 33

Cash in Bank 10/1/73

203 96

Certificate of Deposit

1 088 76

Net Worth 10/1/73

1 292 72

Net Worth 9/30/74

2 594 02

Certificate of Deposit

1 122 50

Net Worth 9/30/74

2 594 02

Certificate of Deposit

1 122 50

Net Worth 9/30/74

2 594 02

Certificate of Deposit

1 122 50

Net Worth 9/30/74

2 594 02

Certificate of Deposit

1 122 50

Net Worth 9/30/74

2 594 02

Certificate of Deposit

1 122 50

Net Worth 9/30/74

2 594 02

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Officers 1975

President

Mrs. Dessie D. Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lizton, In 46149
Tel. 994-5911

Vice President

Mr. John Miller
525 E. Main St.
Plainfield, In 46168
Tel. 839-6883

Secretary

The Misses Mabel &
Naomi Joseph
R. R. 1, Box 186
North Salem, In 46165
Tel. 539-4772

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian & Publicity Chairman

Miss Jewell Bell
212 E Road 200 N
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-4055

Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

H C H S

Within the span of our lifetime, we the living, and others of our generation, hold in our hands all that is of value from the past, and in those same hands we hold the hope of all that is to come. We are the living link, poised, if but for the brief span of a lifetime, in eternity, and through us will be transmitted the values of the ageless past to the timeless future.

From Inspiration for Living by Paul S. McElroy

H C H S

President's Message

Since the January meeting of the Society work has gone right ahead on its big undertaking: the establishment of a County Museum at the old jail.

The rooms at the jail were presented to us at that meeting by Mr. Lowell Franklin and accepted in the name of the Society by its President. Since then, officers of the Museum Board have been elected, and its president, Mrs. Raymond (Rita) Lieske, has been working on her committees. Her report of what has been accomplished is found elsewhere in the Bulletin. The Executive Board of the Society feel that its goal of a worthwhile museum is starting to be materialized.

Dessie Huddleston

H C H S

One of the best meetings ever was held January 12, at the Danville United Methodist Church when between 70 and 80 members gathered for a business meeting and a delightful program. Mrs. Baker presided and introduced the Rev. H. Orval Moore, pastor of the church, who gave the devotions. She then introduced the new officers and Dessie Huddleston, incoming president presided at the business session. Among other things, the organization voted to accept the rooms of the old jail, which had been offered by the county commissioners, to be used as a Hendricks County Historical Museum. Mr. Lowell Franklin, representing the commissioners, made a short talk. Mrs. Ruth Hall was in charge of the program entitled "Do You Remember?" and she, Mr. Roy Fisher and Mrs. Nellie Beagly gave a lively description of such old customs as making lye soap, huckstering, and butchering day. Other members added interesting recollections to the discussion and the afternoon proved to be most interesting. Center and Marion Township members furnished refreshments for the social hour.

H C H S

The next meeting, April 13th, will be held at the Lizton Christian Church at 2 P.M. The speaker for the afternoon will be Dr. Sherman Crayton who has entitled his talk "The Birth of THE Nation". It is sure to be one we will all enjoy, for whatever Dr. Crayton does, he does thoroughly and well. The social hour will be the responsibility of Middle, Union and Eel River townships with Mrs. Nellie Beagly chairman of the hostesses.

And for the exhibit this time, it is the suggestion of our president that you bring whatever you have that has not been identified, or, if you know, something that was used long ago and you think it will not be easily recognized. The Smithsonian has an exhibit of this sort, and if it's good enough for the Smithsonian, it is good enough for us!

H C H S

Now that the old jail is taking on new stature and new importance as work on transforming it into a museum progresses, we thought it would be appropriate to learn as much as possible about the sturdy old edifice. So we put Dorothy Templin on the trail, and we couldn't have chosen a better person. If we ever have need of a private eye, we will know where to turn, for Dorothy has spent hours sleuthing and snooping around in musty old records and newspapers, and she has come up with some most interesting facts and figures. It seems that in less than a decade, more than a hundred years ago, the County Commissioners managed to see to it that Hendricks County had not only a new Court House and new Jail, but a new County Home for the Poor as well, and with all that, they came out in the black! Now, if only the keepers of our coffens, from the federal level on down could.....oh, well, we can

dream, can't we?

Although it was the jail that we were mainly interested in at this particular time, Dorothy's research was all so interesting that we are printing it in full.

Thanks Dorothy!

THE JAIL

From the 1885 History of Hendricks County "the Jail and sheriff's residence is a building worthy of the county and its inhabitants. In its construction the comfort and health of those who were to be confined there were considered, and the best arrangement consistent with the safety of the prisoners was made for both. All prison reformers who have inspected this jail are constrained to compliment the humanity of its designs. The cost of this building was about \$30,000."

From the records of the Board of County Commissioners, "At a special term of the Board of County Commissioners held at the Court House in the Town of Danville in Hendricks County on January 30, 1865 called together by the Auditor of said County for the purpose of taking into consideration the proposition to pass an order paying a bounty to volunteers under the present call of the President of the United States. Also to make some arrangement in regard to a County Jail.

Whereupon it is ordered that the Sheriff of said County be and he is hereby authorized to use the jury room in the north side of the courthouse for a county jail until further ordered.

Ordered that the Sheriff of said County be and he is hereby ordered to sell at Public outcry to the highest bidder the old County Jail reserving all the Iron and Stone in said building to the county also to sell the old fence around said house.

Ordered that Martin Gregg be and he is hereby appointed to examine jails in other Counties and employ some architect to give a draft and estimate, the probable cost of such building and report at the March Term 1865 of this Board."

Hendricks County Union--February 9, 1865--Sale of the Old Jail.
The County Commissioners are in earnest about building a jail. In pursuance to an order of the Board, Captain Straughan sold at public sale, on Saturday last, the fencing around the lot to Colonel Shuler for \$10 and the building to R. K. Carter for \$75. Mr. Carter was the builder who erected it.

March 16, 1865--Board Meeting.
The subject of building a new jail was discussed and the Board are determined to move cautiously in the matter. They intend to move slowly but surely, believing that the interest of the county will not suffer by a dilatory movement, especially as they intend to perfect their arrangements so that when they are ready no delay will occur to speedily finish the work.

Board of County Commissioners--December Term, 1865
Ordered that Martin Gregg be and he is hereby appointed Agent for Hendricks County to prepare a plan and specifications for a new Jail for said County and contract for the burning or furnishing brick for the same, issue orders to procure necessary funds and pay all necessary expenses incurred in building same.

June 14, 1866--Board Meeting
The Board of Commissioners of Hendricks County adjourned last Saturday having finished their business. At this term the report of the Auditor was submitted from

which it appears that \$26,000 have been paid during the year to soldiers and their families, and that after paying all expenses of the county there is still a balance of \$12,000 in the treasury. This with the tax levied for this year will furnish the means to pay for the new jail.

The people should feel proud of the Board of Commissioners, that could, during the war, pay large bounties, complete one of the finest Court Houses in the State, erect a new jail and yet come out of debt and have money in the treasury. We do not think there are many counties in the state so well off financially. This year the county tax will be less than last and will continue to decrease for several years.

The following compose the Board, all good, substantial farmers and deserve to be remembered by the people, Harlan Carter, Martin Gregg, and John Robbins.

February 8, 1867

At a term "special term" of the Board of County Commissioners held at the Auditors office in the Court House in Danville in Hendricks County on the 8th day of February 1867. Called together by the Auditor of said County for the purpose of declaring the Building Erected on lots No. Four (4) and Five (5) in Block twenty eight (28) in Danville in said County: The County Jail for Hendricks County. Present; Martin Gregg and John Robbins, two of the Commissioners in and for said County of Hendricks.

Ordered that the Building Constructed and Erected on Lots No. Four (4) and Five (5) in Block No. twenty eight (28) in Danville, Hendricks County, be declared The County Jail for said County; and that the Sheriff of Said County be authorized to use said building as such till further ordered. And the Board adjourned.

John Robbins
Martin Gregg

Hendricks County Union--February 28, 1867

The County Commissioners from the Counties of Wayne and Henry have been on an official visit to our town this week for the purpose of examining our Court House and Jail with a view to building similar structures in their own Counties. Hendricks may justly be proud of her public buildings and thank her Commissioners for them.

March 14, 1867--County Commissioners

A county that can erect such stately buildings as the Court House and Jail of this county has a standing advertisement of the prosperity and enterprise of its citizens.

Board of County Commissioners--March Term 1867

Ordered that Martin Gregg, Agent of County be and he is hereby allowed \$500 for Contracting and Superintending the building of the County Jail.

A new Hendricks County Jail will be located east of the County Home between the fence and the 4-h Fairgrounds by a decision of the County Commissioners, April 3, 1872. A major cause for the decision to erect a new building is lack of space in the present jail, which is over 100 years old. (Republican--April 6, 1872)

First step toward construction of a new three-story jail in Hendricks County is taken this week with the legal advertisement seeking bids for the project. The new jail is to be constructed on county property, located between the County farm and the 4-h Fairgrounds on the south side of U.S. 36 east of Danville.
(Gazette--July 13, 1872)

Final contract for construction for Hendricks County's new jail was awarded on October 16 by the County Commissioners. Total cost of the new jail for contracts is \$749,388. However this does not include engineering fees and other associated expenses.
(Gazette--October 19, 1872)

Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Hendricks County Jail on U.S. 36 east of Danville were April 2, 1973.

The Hendricks County Commissioners and Sheriff Russell D. Carmichael will host open house at the new \$1,000,000 jail Sunday from 2-5. The jail has room for 95 prisoners compared to the 18 prisoner capacity of the present jail constructed in the 1860's at a cost of \$30,000. The first jail was built in 1826 of peeled hickory logs and was considered impregnable from without or from within its thick walls, small high windows, puncheon floors and dungeon. (Republican--July 25, 1974)

Use of the present facility at the corner of Washington and Broadway has not yet been determined by the County Board of Commissioners. Under consideration is a plan to let the County Historical Society use a portion of the old jail. (Gazette--July 25, 1974)

The Hendricks County Museum is well on its way to being a reality. A Museum Board has been chosen and officers elected. This board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Museum, 170 South Washington St., Danville, the former residence area of the old jail. (Republican--March 6, 1975)

THE COURT HOUSE

Four court houses have marked the square owned by the county in Danville. The first was of peeled hickory logs and cost \$147. It was completed in time for the April term of court, 1826 to be held in it. A log jail of hickory was also built, this standing on the lot now occupied by the home of Mrs. H. B. Lingenfelter.

The second court house was of brick and was erected about 1830. There were really two buildings, the court house proper and another building, close at hand, in which some of the county offices were housed. The third court house was completed in 1862 and was counted one of the show buildings of Indiana for many years. The accumulation of records and the great increase in public business and the demands of the times were rapidly making it out of date although it appeared to be such a splendid structure that it would have probably been used many years had not disaster overtaken it. (Republican--September 8, 1915)

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. The Board of Commissioners will hold a special session in August to receive plans, etc; and one member of the Board is now absent inspecting buildings in other counties, and drafts in the hands of distinguished architects, that he may be qualified to act judiciously when the time comes. We suppose the contract will be let sometime soon after the meeting in August. A sum of about \$11,000 has already been raised towards defraying the expenses of the work.

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. We have not been able to learn the size of the building or the probable cost, but the latter will be in the neighborhood of \$40,000. The plan however is said to be a good one and makes a favorable impression upon all who have seen the draft. We understand that a larger draft, colored and so adorned otherwise as to make it presentable, will be prepared in a short time--framed and hung up in the Auditor's office where the public can see it.

August 11, 1860

The work on the Court House is progressing with undiminished vigor.

February 9, 1861--The New Court House

A number of stone masons are now employed in dressing stone for the completion of the new Court House. It is the intention of the energetic Superintendent of the building, Mr. Gregg to complete it as soon as possible.

June 23, 1864

Henry Howell & Co. has a heavy force at work removing the remains of the old County offices. This looks as if the County Board are in earnest.

November 3, 1864

Our new Sheriff is having horse racks placed around the public square, a thing very much needed.

The Republican--September 8, 1915

The erection of this Court House was commenced in the spring of 1859 with Isaac Hodgson, architect; Martin Gregg, principal superintendent; Frederick Wagonlander, superintendent of stone work; Thomas J. Bacter, superintendent of brick work; and Ephriam Colstock, principal carpenter. The corner stone was laid June 5, 1860 and the roof collapsed Tuesday night, January 9, 1912. The sealed box from the corner stone was opened in the Auditor's office November, 1912 and the cornerstone of the present Court House was laid May 29, 1913. The building was dedicated in September, 1915.

THE COUNTY HOME

Board of County Commissioners--March 19, 1867

Ordered that the Auditor of Hendricks County be and he is hereby authorized and ordered to issue to Martin Gregg County Orders in payment for the tract of land recommended by the Township Trustees and ordered by the Board of County Commissioners to be purchased of him: the amount of such orders to be limited by the number of acres ascertained to be in said tract of land by actual survey, at \$75 per acre when he shall have made to the County of Hendricks a Warranty Deed for said tract of land. The orders to be drawn payable March 1, 1868. Martin Gregg to have possession of the said tract of land until March 1, 1868, the County reserving the right to make the Brick and deliver the Material necessary for the erection of an Asylum for the Poor of the County on said tract of land prior to March 1, 1868.

Ordered that Martin Gregg be and he is hereby appointed Agent for Hendricks County to prepare a plan and Specifications for an Asylum for the Poor of the County, to contract for the Burning or furnishing Brick for the same, the delivery of all necessary funds and pay all necessary expenses incurred in building the same.

Martin Gregg
Harlen Carter
John Robbins

(Newspapers--Hendricks Ledger ends August 24, 1861; Union begins May 19, 1864)

October 27, 1858

The drawings of our new Court House were received at the Auditor's office last Saturday. The Specifications are also there. Sealed proposals for furnishing materials and putting up the building are to be opened and the contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder by the County Board on the 10th day of November.

November 17, 1858--Court House Let

Pursuant to notice given by the Board of County Commissioners an extra session was held at the office of the County Auditor on Wednesday the 10th inst. to examine the bids of Builders for the contract to furnish the material and build a Court House for Hendricks County. Thirteen bids were entered which on examination were found to be as follows:

J.W.L. Matlock - - - - -	\$43,950	McGrew & Silver - - - - -	\$39,740
Lowe & Carlisle - - - - -	42,405	Craig & Davis - - - - -	44,500
B.V. Enos - - - - -	40,550	W.W. Irons - - - - -	48,500
D.E. Kurtz - - - - -	43,900	James Burgess - - - - -	48,000
Thomas Hyde - - - - -	41,675	Ed. Clark - - - - -	49,500
Amos Compton - - - - -	51,400	W.W. Miller & Co. - - - - -	38,744
Daniel Behymer - - - - -	43,600		

Miller & Co. it will be seen made the lowest bid and to them the contract was awarded accordingly. The Company reside in Boone and are the builders of the Court House at Lebanon--a job which is said to be a good one and entirely satisfactory to the people of the county.

They have given an approved bond for a faithful performance of their contract here and are to commence the work by the 22nd of December next.

May 18, 1859

The Architect is to be here today or tomorrow to define the precise limits of the foundation of the new Court House. We notice also that the pile of stone for the foundation walls is gradually increasing in size, and it is said the masons with their working tools will be on hand in a short time. The old Court House fence has been purchased by Esqs. Kennedy & Astley and removed; and the locust grove, the building containing the county offices, etc. are now "outside."

May 25, 1859

The excavation for the foundation of the new Court House is nearly completed, and we understand the walls will be commenced in a few days. Mr. Curry who has charge of the brick department of the Court House contract will commence burning a kiln of 150,000 next Monday.

June 22, 1859--The Brick

A portion of the brick for the walls of the new Court House have been delivered upon the ground; and persons reputed to be good judges say they are the best ever manufactured in the county.

March 14, 1860

The work on the Court House under the superintendence of Mr. Martin Gregg is progressing finely for the number of workmen employed.

The Hendricks County Union--March 21, 1867--Poor Farm

The County Commissioners being unable to agree upon the selection of a suitable location for the Poor Farm, called the Trustees of the respective townships together, and submitted the matter to them. Last Monday the Trustees, twelve in all, assembled and proceeded to visit, and examine the several tracts offered. They finally decided to purchase the tract of 88 acres belonging to Martin Gregg and lying South of the Rockville road, and joining the present Poor Farm, at \$75 per acre. (Deed recorded April 8, 1867--\$6618)

May 16, 1867--Commissioner

We understand that Martin Gregg, whose term expires next on the County Board, emphatically declines a renomination. He has served the county ably and faithfully for 14 years, and desires his friends not to use his name in connection with the office of County Commissioner. This is not the time perhaps to speak of the public services of Mr. Gregg, but we cannot refrain from reminding the citizens of Hendricks of the proud and honorable position the county has attained financially, and the credit her public buildings reflect upon the enterprise, intelligence and wealth of the county.

H C H S

CHURCH HYMNS TO REMEMBER

Our Pioneers Sang Them

We go to our respective churches on a Sunday and sing from various song books and hymnals and do we ever give a thought to the length of time the song has been sung? Did Peter Cartright use it in his meetings back in New Salem, Illinois when Abraham Lincoln was a young man attending a revival service? Back in 1517, Martin Luther ushered in Protestantism and wrote songs to go with it and a very ancient song of his, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," is sung today in Clay Township Methodist Churches and in all likelihood in many churches throughout our county. What religious songs did our Pilgrim Fathers sing? History tells us that the songs they used were sung by the congregation, never in solo or quartett. To carry out God's will songs had to be sung by the whole church body. These good people considered an organ "The Devil's Bagpipe" and hoped they would never see the day when one would be in a church.

The first Methodist church built near Coatesville, and on a slight rise called Pleasant Hill was broken up and church and grounds deserted when part of the congregation desired an organ to use in the services years ago.

There was a time long ago when the Friends at Hadley and Old Mill Creek had their week day and Sunday meeting with a song service unaccompanied by an organ. The day came some eighty years ago when an organ came to the church and when it was used that first Sunday more than one "Slow Quaker" looked at the floor or covered his eyes. The Primitive Baptists today have no organ in their churches.

When I was a youngster, attending the Friends' meetings at Hadley with my parents, and prior to my beginning school days, two songs were often sung that impressed me with both words and tune as no others did. One was "A Shelter In the Time of Storm." It is sung nowadays at Hadley and I sang it with a home coming crowd but a few years ago. The chorus was, "Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, O, Jesus is a rock in a weary land and a shelter in a time of storm."

The second song was a Christian battle hymn entitled, "Hold the Fort." A long time New England Quaker writes that his father was a positive thinker, a strong believer and worker and he loved, "Hold the Fort." The last verse of the song, found in an ancient Friends' song book reads as follows: "Fierce and long the battle rages, But our help is near; Onward comes our Great Commander, Cheer, my comrades, Cheer. Hold the fort for I am coming, Jesus signals still; Wave the answer back to heaven, "by Thy grace we will." It was a moving song when huge, bearded farm men and spirit moved wives and young folks sang with a will and all could read the devil's defeat.

Here might be one classification of our early songs; the hymns that were joyous and gave praise, songs heard a few times could be carried home and sung as folks went about their home work. My Mother for years sang in her home, "Is my name written there, on the page bright and fair, Tell me Jesus, My Savior, Is my name written there?" Her Mother, a Primitive Baptist sang, "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wistful eye, On Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie."

When I was a grade lad, James Hayworth, then in his early eighties, sang a song, never likely to be found today: "If you cannot give your thousands, You can spare the widow's mite, For the least we do for Jesus, will be precious in his sight. Farther on in the realms of beauty, far away on the golden shore, Pressing on in the line of duty, we shall meet to part no more."

An old time song loved by James Christy who farmed north of Hadley was this one. He often sang it as he laid aside his corn-cob pipe and pitched ears of corn to his hogs: "How tedious and tasteless the hours when, Jesus no longer I see, Sweet prospects, sweet flowers and sweet birds have all lost their sweetness to me."

As a lad sitting on a road side bank where farm men were working on the road with teams and shovels, "Antney" Kelley, a gray, bearded man in his seventies called to a man swearing at his horses, "Since swearing won't make them mind, try singing "Old Hundred" to them." He had learned the long ago song in the New Winchester or Reno Churches.

A second classification of early songs was the type to persuade the sinner to be saved. Billy Graham has his last song, "Just As I Am, without one plea." The Salvation army favorite has long been, "Are You washed in the blood of the lamb?" A poem reads, "Booth came boldly with his big, bass drum, Are you washed in the blood of the lamb." During revival meetings years ago in Hadley a favorite song to move the sinners was "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross, there a precious fountain, free to all a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain." Another favorite was "Lord I'm Coming Home." A Friend's minister one time asked for a lively song and Maggie Hayworth started one; "I can, I will, I do believe that Jesus saves me now." All the big, boy, sinners on the back benches helped to sing it.

Good Maggie Hayworth long ago loved to start the song that all could learn in a short time and fall readily into the tune "It's the old time religion, it's the old time religion, it's the old time religion and it's good enough for me."

"It was good for Paul and Silas, It was good for Paul and Silas, It was good for Paul and Silas and it's good enough for me." A half dozen or more verses were sung to the preachers loud, cheery "Amen!"

The third category of songs were funeral hymns. One, a very old song was, "In the Sweet Bye and Bye." This song I heard a number of times at Hadley funerals.

All these songs I have mentioned as sung in the Hadley Friends Church where I hold a birth right membership were no doubt familiar ones over all Hendricks County.

Charles Wesley wrote over 200 hymns and all these are old songs that in all likelihood Abraham Lincoln helped sing. Still used today are "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Come Ye That Love the Lord" by Isaac Watts, "How Firm a Foundation", "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name", "Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing", "Jesus Lover of My Soul", "Lead Kindly Light", "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?", "My Hope is Built", "Sweet Hour of Prayer", "Blest Be the Tie That Binds", and "Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound."

All are old time songs, written and sung in generations long ago. They were beautiful to our grandsires and grandames and they cheer us today who hear them and heed their words.

These great hymns have given thousands life and light here and around the world. They have been sung in many languages.

An aged man in a Putnam County Hospital bed a few feet from mine brought me wide awake around 3 o'clock one morning. He was singing real low, "On Christ the Solid Rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand." As badly burned as he was he recovered and as low as I was from an operation I got well. Thanks to that man's song.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

QUERY

Need information re: ancestor or descendants of Dr. Wilkins B. Brown who came from N.C. to Clay Co., In about 1836, M. Selah Wilson 1840, D. Dec. 2, 1892 in Clay Co. Could Selah be sister of Peter Wilson B. 1819 in Vir. Came to Clay Co. as young man, and daughter of Joshua Wilson who came from Vir. an old man, D. Clay Co. Need information on Richard Baker, B. Ky. 1819. Came to Clay Co. at early age. M. Elizabeth about 1840. Their son Andrew Baker M. Mariah Jane Brown, Clay Co. Nov. 15, 1865. Will exchange information. Maurice D. Way, 50 N. Hobart Road, Hobart, In. 46342.

H C H S

We want to extend sympathy to Mrs. Ruth Dinsmore, who lost her mother, Mrs. Chester Parker, recently, and our sympathy goes to Mr. Parker too. Through a typographical oversight condolences to Mr. Fred Worrell and to Miss Betty Jean Weesner were omitted from our last Bulletin. Fred lost his brother through a tragic accident, and Betty Jean lost her father and business partner, Mr. Edward J. Weesner, Editor Emeritus of the Hendricks County Republican. We are sorry for the oversight.

H C H S

Those of you who missed the column written by Mrs. R. F. D., Sunday, January 26, in The Indianapolis Star will find the following interesting:

Asking a question in a column is considerably like Stevenson said of starting stones. "You sit at the top of a hill and away the stone goes, starting others" all the way downhill.

A woman I remember as being a young woman in college, with reddishbrown hair and very long eyelashes inclosing wide-a-wake eyes and a pert, intelligent interest in whatever was going on or about to, has rolled some quotable stones down hill in answer to my earlier comment about old ways of harvesting ice.

Lois Shirley Crayton, now of Danville, writes, "You remarked that possibly there is no one still living who provides that service. My husband, Sherman, wants you to know he's still breathing and that he and his father and brother-in-law cut ice from the Hadley Pond northwest of Plainfield."

(In a postscript she says he is 79 and was probably in his early teens when he cut ice and helped dig wells.)

"Near their house," Lois writes, "the Craytons had an ice house with about 8 inches of sawdust between the double walls. They cut the ice with a saw similar to a cross-cut saw, except it was shorter and had only one handle. They began cutting when the ice was 8 to 10 inches thick and made the blocks about 2 by 4 feet. They pulled them out with ice hooks. Later, when they had sold the season's supply they bought more from a large ice plant at Mooresville."

(There's a peculiar, hypnotic charm about rolling stones down a hill. You sit at the top and listen for them to crash below, and are inspired to start another one.) Lois continues: "You might not find many who helped dig wells, either, but that was another of the several services my husband's family provided to the people of Plainfield."

"Sherman's father and grandfather were well-diggers, and as a youth Sherman would ride the bucket down with a pick and shovel, load it with dirt and be hoisted out. They worked down, removing the dirt until they struck a good vein of water, then lined the walls with brick, no mortar, keeping the walls quite vertical by use of a plumb line.

"To test the air in the well for 'damps' they lowered an iron kettle, containing fire, into the well. If there were 'damps' the fire flickered, but sufficient fire would eliminate the 'damps.'" (My encyclopedia defines "chokedamps" as a "heavy, odorless, colorless gas, mostly carbon dioxide, which neither burns nor supports combustion and is more than 1½ times as heavy as air. It has caused many deaths in well-digging.")

Lois goes on imperturbably. "Sherman says the deepest well he remembers was on the Isaiah Savage farm east of Plainfield, about where the Ashley restaurant now is. It was 90 feet deep. In it they discovered 'damps' at about 80 feet."

In a final, gay, Lois-like gesture she adds, "Now isn't that a lot more than you were just dying to know about ice-harvesting and well-digging?"

No, there is one more thing I'd like to know. Those wells the Craytons dug, were any or most of the sites chosen by waterwitching?"

Mrs. R.F.D.

H C H S

The late Mrs. Claude Walls, Danville, who for many years was Hendricks County Executive Secretary of the American Lung Association (formerly the Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association) received not long before her recent death a letter from Mr. Alfred E. Kessler, Managing Director of that organization. He enclosed a picture of the statue of William Hendricks which stands on the lawn of the Capitol Building. The letter read, in part:

"Hendricks was quite a guy and you should be proud of having your county named after him. Now that we're becoming better acquainted with the history of our component counties, the pieces are beginning to fit together. For example, the enclosed photograph shows a statue on the front of the Capitol building lawn. This photo was taken when the youngsters were going to the Julia Jameson Health Camp for Children for the second session in July of this year. A couple weeks later, Steve Powers and I went down to the Shelby County fairgrounds to put up our "Test Your Breath" exhibit and, lo and behold, there on the fairgrounds was the actual one room log cabin in which Hendricks had been born or reared as a youngster. In addition, there is a bronze plaque telling of the four or five major points in his career."

H C H S

Hendricks County Historical Museum

Mrs. Rita Lieske, president of the Museum Board of the Hendricks County Historical Society reports that progress is being made and many committees are at work with plans. In a project as big and as important as this, the wheels must turn slowly for it is a time that calls for careful thought and planning. Although the Museum is sponsored by the Society, the Commissioners and the Hendricks County Council, to be a success, it must be supported by the entire county. It is hoped that all civic and cultural organizations of the county will get behind us and give us all the moral, physical and/or financial support they can. And we want to congratulate the Board on the progress already made.

Standing Committees named to serve with the Museum Board of the Hendricks County Historical Society are:

Ways and Means; Jack Miller, chairman; Scott Hosier, Willard Eggers, Everett Weaver, one person from the Docent Committee.

Acquisition; Mildred Hosier, chairman; Darlene Lynch, Dorothy Basham, Donald and Elizabeth Shields, Roy and Frances Fisher, Blanche Wean. Acquisition of books and important papers; Thelma McCartney.

Publicity; Jewell Bell

Curatorial; Dessie Huddleston, chairman; Rita Lieske, Dorothy Kelley, Barbara Stauch, Sarah Parsons.

Maintenance; Clark Kellum, chairman. Volunteers from the Historical Society would be appreciated.

Clerical; Ruth Hall and Diana Helton, co-chairmen; Rose Marie Warren, Evelyn McKee, Ruth Dinsmore, Helen Walker.

Docent Committee will be interested ladies of the Historical Society and will serve as tour hostesses in the Museum.

By-laws; Dorothy Kelley, chairman; Dessie Huddleston, Jack Gambold, Darlene Lynch.

Here are some suggestions, but not definite guidelines, of materials wanted:

Pewter, paper weights, Indian artifacts, primitives, bottles, candlesticks, various lamps, quilts, coverlets, odd chairs, pattern glassware, cut glassware, painted bowls, plates, dishes, compotes, old copper, brass and silver. Silhouettes, paintings by Hendricks County artists, certain mirrors and quality rugs.

It is our hope to have actual rooms displayed as a living museum to represent life in Hendricks County from the middle 1800's to the early 1900's. We are interested in acquiring furniture and accessories that would have been used in a Victorian parlor; examples would be: loveseats, chairs, tables, vases, and clocks. The bedroom furniture could be from any period from our early Hendricks County heritage. One example that should be displayed with the bedroom furniture is a washstand and wash bowl and pitcher set.

The Clerical Committee of the Museum needs a desk and a typewriter that is in good enough condition to be utilized. If you should have a desk or a typewriter that you would like to donate, please call Ruth Hall 994-5775 or Rita Lieske 745-4334.

Let's not use the Museum for our cast offs but rather for teaching youth and creating a pleasant reminder of our heritage.

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VII NUMBER III
July 1975
PUBLISHED BY
THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Officers 1975

President

Mrs. Dessie D. Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lizton, In 46149
Tel. 994-5911

Vice President

Mr. John Miller
525 E. Main St.
Plainfield, In 46168
Tel. 839-6883

Secretary

The Misses Mabel &
Naomi Joseph
R. R. 1, Box 186
North Salem, In 46165
Tel. 539-4772

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian & Publicity Chairman

Miss Jewell Bell
212 E Road 200 N
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-4055

Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

H C H S

As we look forward to our country's Bicentennial Year, these words of one of our greatest statesmen, Benjamin Franklin, are especially appropriate. Would that those in Washington and elsewhere who are guiding our country's destiny could read and heed these words of wisdom: "And have we forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance? I have lived a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth; that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

President's Message

Inasmuch as many of the Society members traced their ancestry for the Certificates last year, they might be interested in the following information about The Society of Indiana Pioneers, 140 N. Senate, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

To belong to The Society of Indiana Pioneers the ancestors of a person from Hendricks County must have come to the county by 1830. The Society publishes a Yearbook with articles on Indiana history, news pertaining to the Society, and a roster of members, with brief information about their pioneer ancestors.

The Society holds an annual dinner and meeting at the same time of the State History Conference in November. The Society also has two pilgrimages a year, in the spring and the fall for members and friends. The trip this fall will be to Jeffersonville, New Albany, Clarksville and Louisville. Notices will be sent to new applicants and an invitation to take the trip.

The cost of membership is an entrance fee of \$5.00 and yearly dues of \$3.00. Requests for membership blanks may be sent to Carolyn Dunn, Sec., at the above address.

Dessie Huddleston

H C H S

The April meeting of the Society was held Sunday, the 13th, at the Lizton Christian Church. The Rev. James Shockley gave the invocation and Mr. Floyd Hufford introduced the speaker, Dr. Sherman Crayton. Dr. Crayton gave a most interesting talk entitled "The Birth of THE Nation" in which he discussed the groups of people who made up the population of the 13 original colonies, the acts and legislation by British Parliament for ruling the colonies, Colonial activities for resisting laws passed in London, and how the above led to the American Revolution.

During the business meeting, Mrs. Huddleston and Mr. Lowell Franklin, County Commissioner, signed the contract which gives the old jail to the Historical Society for use as a museum. Mrs. Rita Lieske, president of the Museum Board, discussed plans for the museum and urged members to help and contribute. Steve Koras gave the benediction. Ladies from Union, Middle and Eel River Townships served refreshments. The display table was interesting with many antique tools, difficult to identify.

H C H S

The following statement was made by our president, Mrs. Dessie Huddleston upon signing the contract for the museum:

The Historical Society accepts the gift of the rooms at the old jail for a county museum with gratitude.

We have felt for some time the need of a place to display items of our heritage. From these displays we will learn more than the shape and proportions of the items. They deepen our knowledge of their owners and their times. Having these things assembled in our own museum will increase public as well as private awareness of our great heritage.

It is most fitting that there should be a museum in a county, growing and expanding as is Hendricks County.

We most sincerely thank you.

Heigh Ho! Come to the Fair!

Our next meeting will be held in that lovely Plainfield Library, 1120 Stafford Road, at 2 P.M., July 13. Our hostesses will be the ladies of Guilford, Lincoln and Brown Townships. Frances Fisher will be chairman of the program, and that fact alone, assures us of an excellent one. But add to that the fact that the subject will be "County Fairs"; furthermore, the early period of fairs has been thoroughly researched and the history of them will be given by Lois Crayton, the middle period including the 1880's and 1890's will be discussed by Elizabeth Bray, and the period up to the present will be presented by Martha Winkleman Carter. Now, doesn't all that add up to something yummy? Well, I guess programs aren't really yummy, but they can be dandy, and that's what this one is going to be...I feel it in my bones. And you'd better be there!

For our display table, bring items of any kinds that have been exhibited in any fair, county or state, and, of course, bring the ribbons.

There Was a Time for These

Grandmother put on a better dress, combed her hair back and picked up her butter and egg baskets and started her walk to the old dirt road west of her log house. She had but a few minutes before she heard the long and odd sound of the conch shell horn blown by the huckster as his white, canvas covered wagon turned into the Dead Sea Road a half mile away. She had a full basket of eggs and several cakes of lovely Jersey butter to sell or barter.

The day came when the huckster came no more. The world had changed and lack of profits took him and his team and wagon from the weekly round over the rural highways. The huckster had enjoyed his days, made scores of friends as had his patrons but changed times made it mandatory to hunt a different occupation.

Two gray-haired women entered the small town store that as well as groceries and dress goods carried "notions". On a counter was a medium sized basket filled with steel-rimmed spectacles or "specs" as these ladies called them. The two were interested immediately and sought the product to try on. The partial page of a newspaper was nearby, and as the two tried on each pair they looked at the news print and commented on how well they could read the print. Each found the "specs" that suited her eyes and they were happy, each with her dollar purchase. Those cheap spectacles had their day. While people bought them and wore them to their dying hour a time came when they were seen no more. At one time they had served a real want but like so many things, there was found something much better. The old gives way to the new, maybe, as it should be.

The time was that "sugar camps" not too many miles apart opened for boiling down maple syrup in the warm thaws of late February and early March. The camp was usually placed near the center of population of huge trees that could average each a barrel of sweet sap. The long boiling tank of metal or great kettles were under the protection generally of a shed made of rough lumber. Our very elderly people can recall the camp nearest them and the hard work that went with syrup and sugar making. One may recall a hundred or more troughs a yard long, often of white ash, and hollowed out some four to six inches wide and about as deep. These were fashioned with saw, ax and adze and took long weary hours. Each would hold from two and a half to three gallons of "sugar water". The trees were bored with an augur and "spiles", two to each tree inserted in the holes. They led the sap from the tree to the troughs, buckets or what ever came handy to catch sap. The boiling down often drew company at night and wasn't it grand when the syrup was more than

half done to fill a cup or gourd dipper, set it in a left over bank of snow to cool and then drink this sweet and flavorful product? There were boards laid in garrets and pounds on pounds of hard maple sugar cakes sweetened the pioneer family needs for the next year. During the Revolutionary War a Captain Campbell led scores of his county men across the eastern mountains to fight the British at Kings Mountain and the Cowpens. Each rode a horse and to each saddle was tied a great bag of parched corn and another filled with maple sugar. This was the food to last them for the many days away from home. They ate the corn as it was, with bites of sugar and the corn boiled at morning and night made good enough coffee for these hardy soldiers. A farm woman is recalled in Clay Township who helped boil down syrup and sugar, year after year and used it for all sweetening purposes. A child who visited her was always given a huge chunk to eat on his way home. A dollar a gallon was a good price for the thick syrup. Sugar camps are rare over rural Indiana today.

Farmers over our county, nearly a hundred years ago, picked their seed corn from cribs, tested it in a way, and shelled it, weeks before planting time. As the corn slid down while gathering it for feed each day one could see and lay aside the best looking ears. When a few sacks were filled and more than enough for planting was assured the sacks were, some evening, carried to the roomy farm kitchen for shelling. This task nearly always followed supper and when dishes were cleared away, father, mother and all children old enough to help, seated themselves in a ring and the shelling of ears started. The first task of all was to shell the larger, irregular kernels from the but of each ear and the small grains at the tip. This surplus corn could be fed to poultry or calves. Each and every ear was tested as father bit off the ends of grains to determine if a grain had a live sprout. When all ears had passed this test the big shelling was under way. No one objected to the job though time came when thumbs and palms got red, and rough and a piece of cob had to substitute at times for the hand. Workers talked, laughed, told news and tales and sometimes a song got started. All made the best of a necessary farm chore. Various types of corn were used over the neighborhood. Some farmers planted "Bloody Butcher," a red corn with almost unbreakable cobs while others grew a bright yellow corn called "Mortgage Lifter".

An agricultural revolution has taken place since farmers grew their own seed and shelled it by the old wood cook stove. The advent of hybrid corn, grown scientifically and tested has put the old ways out forever. The small farmer and renter are known no more. Never again will a happy, farm family chat together and shell seed corn. Time has changed their whole way of life. Times are in His hands. The old time corn shelling chore can never be forgotten by those who once lived it.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

Query

My grandparents, William Harm or Hyrum Harris and his wife Martha (Sears) Harris. Their son, George Riley Harris, my father, was born in Danville Sept 9, 1880. My father had two brothers, Frank and Lewis, a half-brother Will, 3 sisters Lily, Martha and Mary. My father married Hattie Wood. I am the youngest daughter from my father's 2nd marriage. Would be willing to pay for information. Virginia M. (Harris) McDowell, 260 Bradley Ave., Space 8, El Cajon, Cal. 92021

H C H S

Query
My ancestor, Anthony Swaim, sold land to the trustees of the Baptist Church of Little White Lick in Hendricks County on Jan. 2, 1836. I believe part of this land was for a cemetery. Does it still exist, and where is it? I would like to correspond with anyone who has information on the Swaim family in Hendricks Co. and also the Moore family. Dr. Henry H. Moore, Emaline, his wife, and Timothy, his father are in the 1850 census of H. C. Where did they go? I have quite a bit of information on the Swaim family that I will share. Sara Cushing, 703 W. Market, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Query
Who were the parents of Elizabeth Hardwick who married Thomas Ballard, 1763 Hanover County, Virginia? Later went to Surry County, North Carolina. Her son, William Ballard, was an early pioneer of Hendricks County, Indiana where he died 1824.

Mrs. Dorothy D. Hammill
1905 N.E. 77th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97213

Query
Need surname and parents of Eleanor (Ellen or Nellie) who married John Matlock 1801, Roane County, Tennessee. Moved to Hendricks County, Indiana about 1820, then to Kendall County, Illinois about 1833, where she died 1839.

Mrs. Dorothy D. Hammill
1905 N.E. 77th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97213

H C H S
We are happy to add the following names to our membership roll: Sharon Arbuckle, Margaret Keller, Elizabeth Warrick, Rita Lieske and Ellis and Beulah Weaver. Welcome!

H C H S
Dues and The Bulletin

Publishing The Bulletin four times a year is rather costly for our organization but most historical societies find that it is worth the time, effort and expense. We do, however, have to have some guidelines to keep our mailing list current. Mary Jeanette Winkelman and her committee, who spend hours assembling and mailing The Bulletin, explain it this way: a member is considered delinquent if dues are not paid by March 1 and the bulletins will not be mailed to that person. If dues are paid after March 1, the back issues may be picked up from the secretary at the quarterly meetings. New members may pick up back bulletins when they join. No back bulletins will be mailed unless postage is paid in advance by the new or delinquent member. Now, is that perfectly clear?

H C H S
Our Society was greatly saddened shortly after our last meeting to hear of the death of one of our finest members, Mr. Leonard Fleenor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fleenor have been interested and active members of our Society, and gave much of their time and energies and their unusual abilities. He will be greatly missed in our organization and we extend to Mrs. Fleenor our deepest sympathy.

Each drove was "lotted" to itself and "corned" by the wagon load. The first wagon was driven through each lot, scattering the corn, half and half and to the rest, literally covering the ground.
The Indiana Junior Historical Society will hold a workshop this summer at Spring Mill State Park, and our Society voted to sponsor Liz Erickson, junior historian of Brownsburg High School. Congratulations, Liz, and we will count on having a report from you later on.

H C H S
I have before me a beautifully hand-written diploma issued from Central Normal College and Commercial Institute, Danville, Indiana, which reads as follows: "Alfred I. Alley having this 14th day of May 1883, completed the right course in Phonography in this Institution and having given evidence of a good moral character and a thorough knowledge of the art merits this Diploma as a token of confidence and esteem of his instructors and of his qualifications as a Teacher of Phonography." It was signed by Mrs. F. P. Adams, president, J. A. Steele, vice president and J. R. Long, teacher. Quick now, how many of you can tell me what you teach when you teach Phonography?

H C H S
U. S. 40 Once Used By Drovers As A Supply Route

U. S. Road 40 is a hauling route as well as a thoroughfare that teams with swift-running vehicles.

But in another age when it was known as the National Road, folks called it drover's road and it was the main road that was used to open up the west.

For more than 50 years the old plank and corduroy road boiled with dust of the great droves of Ohio and Pennsylvania hogs, cattle, sheep and turkeys bound for Illinois, Kansas and Missouri. Our records show that an average of 150,000 hogs, driven on foot about eight miles daily, came this way annually.

It was big business for the "stock stand" operators, along the National Road, especially in corn, since 24 bushels a day was required to feed each 1,000 hogs. Between Indianapolis, Terre Haute and St. Louis many stock stands and wayside inns had stockyards at intervals of two to six miles apart. They gave "bed and board" to the weary drovers and feed to hogs, sheep, and cattle, horses and mules which made the National Road a heavily traveled thoroughfare up until the Civil War.

A popular inn was half-way between Indianapolis and Terre Haute at the present town of Mt. Meridian in Putnam County. It was formerly called Carthage and was soon nicknamed Cat. The inn was named the Halfway House and at that time was a famous hostelry. About three or four miles west at the Junction of 43 and 40 was a large 2½ story brick house located on the north side of the junction. It did a thriving business in food and drink and often became a rendezvous for many tough characters.

Just a mile or so further west was another inn. It was the well known Old Trails Inn.

These hostelries were scattered along the road as far as to St. Louis. During the summer and fall there was an almost continuous string of livestock going west for the settling of the Midwestern States. It was not uncommon for 10 or 12 droves numbering from 300 to 1,000 or 2,000 to stop overnight to feed.

Page 5

Each drove was "lotted" to itself and "corned" by the wagon load. The feed wagon was driven through each lot with 10 or 12 men scattering the corn, left and right and to the rear, literally covering the ground.

The drovers who provided their own blankets, were furnished large rooms which had immense fireplaces. They would form a semi-circle on the bare floor, their feet to the fire and thus pass the night.

Many innkeepers kept little stores and bartered or sold everything on credit. In the fall of the year they would advertise that on a certain day they would receive corn in payment of store accounts run up by local customers. On such occasions, the farmers would begin delivering, frequently, by daylight and continue until midnight, and their wagons would be strung out for a mile and as thick as they could be wedged. The price allowed the farmers for corn on their store accounts was 50 cents per bushel.

The stock stand operators would furnish the corn to the drovers at 20-25 cent "per diet," meaning per meal for their drivers, asking the whole in lame hogs at so much per pound, or a due bill from the manager of the drive to be paid as he returned on his way home after selling his stock.

Cash was rarely ever paid. The lame hogs were kept until a suitable time for killing when they were slaughtered and converted into bacon and lard.

The "pig pelters" were a colorful lot.

Sometimes they frequented taverns where they pulled long and hard from bottles and then whooped it up with a fiddle for hours.

The first drovers began moving their herds of hogs and cattle along the National Road in the early 1830's.

There were no stock stands at that time and they camped wherever night found them. They kindled a fire, spread blankets on the ground and turned in shortly after sundown.

The pigs roamed the woods and morning found the pelters up early. An hour or more was spent daily hunting porkers that had strayed during the night.

Frequently a couple dozen or more strays were left behind, but the percentage of last pigs was extremely low.

Thunder storms and swollen creeks were the greatest hazards to the drovers. Like cattle, the hogs stampeded when there was thunder and lightning. They lost all the sense they ever had.

The stock stands became a boon to all settlers and drovers. They served their purpose at the right time and place. Then stands and the many inns began failing. The Civil War demonstrated the need of better and swifter transportation. The era of railroading was at hand. Shipping yards were built along the railroads, displacing the stock stands.

Along came hard surface roads and the automobiles. Some declare the roads brought the motor car while others claim the automobiles brought the hard surface roads. Be that as it may, the autos soon displaced horses. Thus the National Road became the greatest thoroughfare in the midwest and the grainery and bread basket of the United States.

Huge trucks were the best and quickest way to transport cattle, hogs, sheep and turkeys. So swift are these trucklines that no feeding places are needed.

Now as the National Road became known as U. S. 40, it's a hauling route as well as a scenic thoroughfare that teams with swift running vehicles.

Zona Walker

This letter just came to our attention, and is an interesting follow up of Zona Walker's article.

Dear Sir:

Pardon our long letter. We have a tremendous idea and we want your support. Please bear with us.

The Vandalia Bicentennial Committee has taken on the project of spearheading an effort to gain federal recognition of National Road (U.S. 40) as a National Historical Road. We have set aside National Forests, National Monuments, National Seashores and National Waterways but we have no National Roadways.

Roads have been important throughout the history of the world. Those nations with well developed road systems have always been powerful. Rome, with her Appian Way and the Incas, with their Royal Road, were leaders in their worlds. Germany and the Autobahn almost succeeded in wiping out the Western World.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson thought a road to the West of paramount importance; the people of Ohio were crying for a road to the East for transportation of goods and produce and finally, in the precedent setting act by which the state of Ohio came into being, the first monies came to be set aside by federal edict for the express purpose of building a road to the West. A bill approving the laying out and making of a road from Cumberland, Md. to St. Louis became law and the National Road, conceived of the people, by the people and, most of all, for the people, was born. Today, known as U.S. 40, it extends from Atlantic City, N. J., to San Francisco, Calif. Nothing has played a bigger part in the early development of our western country than National Road.

Why should we let such an important part of our history fade away and crumble into dust? We feel that the acceptance by Congress of National Road, U.S. 40, as a National Historical Trailway would be a truly outstanding goal for our country's Bicentennial and one in which a great many cities, towns, and states can join in. Won't you help us?

In anticipation of accomplishing this goal, we think the following effects could be achieved:

A. National Road could be turned over to the National Park Service and developed in the same manner as the Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway which runs north and south along the Appalachian Mountains. National Road would be the east-west parkway, perhaps extending the Skyline Drive to meet it in historic Frederick, Md., home of Barbara Fritchie and Chief Justice Taney of the Dred Scott decision.

B. Markers could be placed in areas of historical importance. These markers could be designed in such a way as to call attention to the fact that, by traveling from east to west, you are traveling in time through the history of the opening up of the West.

C. It would be a leisurely travel with speed limits controlled at 40 mph. There would be turnouts at places of historical interest. Historical towns and cities along the way could become entry and exit terminals to the road. They

could have historical zoning so that they might develop these areas in accordance with their proper era on the National Road, much as Williamsburg has been developed in its era.

Every town, city and state along the way would benefit both culturally and economically by such development. It would be a mistake to underestimate the impact the restoration of Williamsburg and other such places has had on the economy of the surrounding countryside.

Inasmuch as this is not a project which can be accomplished by one small town, we urge you to join with us, incorporating this goal into your town's Bicentennial effort. Help us by arousing an interest in your area, letting us know of your interest so that regional committees can be formed with representation from all the areas. Promote the plan by writing to your congressman. Call attention to it through your local newspapers. Also, send us any information you have about your area that will help to develop a master plan for the roadway. Above all, let us hear from you. We need each other.

Sincerely,

Judith Truly

Chairman, National Road Committee

P. O. Box 1776

Vandalia, Ohio 45377

H C H S

Lest we take ourselves too seriously, a thing we are all prone to do occasionally, consider the following:

"State personnel, in the Health Department, photographing old vital statistics and records, recently discovered the following causes of death:

"Went to bed feeling well, but woke up dead."

"Died suddenly. Nothing serious."

"Don't know cause. Died without the aid of a physician."

"Blow on the head with an ax. Contributory cause: another man's wife."

"Had never been fatally ill before."

H C H S

One of the oldest and most successful institutions in the Hendricks County business community is the C. M. Hobbs & Sons nursery. In the March 25 issue of The Indianapolis News the following article appeared written by Robert Corya, business editor of The News:

A Century Later, Hobbs Still Grows

The interurban tracks have long since disappeared, and rail siding into the place is gone, too.

But one thing goes on and on just west of Bridgeport to the west of Indianapolis - C. M. Hobbs & Sons nursery, where the products just keep on growing.

Well back from the old National Road - U.S. 40 - is the office of the 100 year old Hobbs nursery, and that, too, is historically interesting because it once was a toll house for users of the highway.

Page 8

C. M. Hobbs & Sons, 9300 W. Washington, puts a lot of history into its 1975 catalogue as it gears up for the big spring selling season now under way.

There was a time, too, when Kingan packing company supplied Hobbs with all the fertilizer it needed on a regular basis. Kingan is gone, so Hobbs has turned to commercial fertilizers.

Robert Hobbs, grandson of the company's founder, says that while the nursery has weathered a century at the same site, you have to go back another 63 years to the Salem, Ind., area to trace the nursery's beginning. That's 1812 - or four years before Indiana became a state.

That's when Quaker Dr. Benjamin Albertson, William Hobbs and others left North Carolina for Salem in Southern Indiana.

What they found back then were ample trees, in fact a state covered with hardwoods. So why begin a nursery? To specialize in fruit trees, which were in short supply but badly needed. To this day, Hobbs & Sons specializes in fruit trees.

Dr. Albertson's daughter married C. M. Hobbs, who was William's son. In 1875, C. M. and Oliver Albertson moved to Bridgeport and established what was later to become C. M. Hobbs & Sons nursery.

As family evolution would have it, the company grew to its national stature today on roughly 400 acres in Marion and Hendricks Counties, divided by the County Line Road.

Eighty-year-old Fred R. Hobbs, son of the founder, is president of the company, with Robert as vice president. Fred's sons, Tom and Gordon, are secretary and treasurer respectively.

Bob Hobbs says, "We were probably a little hasty in getting rid of the interurban." It went to Terre Haute. Trucks eliminated the need for the railroad spur into the Hobbs grounds.

Hobbs Nursery is a wholesaler, primarily, to Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio and Iowa nursery outlets.

If there's one thing necessary for the business, Bob Hobbs says, it's patience. It takes up to eight years for yew cuttings to mature enough for selling. And it might take a blue spruce 15 years just to reach four or five feet, he said.

This is the time of year employment jumps from about 25 to 75 or so, he said. After mid-June employment eases again until around October when the year's second season begins.

Hobbs said he'd like a nickel for every pound of earth that has left the nursery, referring to the soil around many trees and shrubs when they are sold. Many are sold bare-root.

Has the encroachment of the city caused any problems? While some buildup has occurred, Hobbs says that instead of moving the family-owned company continually hunts for ground to acquire. "Someday we may have to relocate," he said.

The grounds are zoned agriculture so that taxation is the same as farm crops, to be assessed when crops are marketed.

Page 9

Will there be a Hobbs & Sons nursery in another 100 years? Could be. Tom Hobbs has a son, James, with the company four years, and he's the fourth generation.

The nursery is a member of the American Association of Nurserymen, the Indiana association and the Indiana Landscape Association. Bob Hobbs was national president of AAN in 1959.

H C H S

Cemetery Inscriptions

The death of Uriah Carson in 1822 was the first in the county (Page 274 - 1885 History). His and countless other early graves are unmarked. Some grave stones were never inscribed, some have become illegible and some have been removed from pioneer cemeteries.

At the time of the State Sesquicentennial cemetery locations were noted. Later under direction of George Heavilin many inscriptions were obtained from grave stones and lists placed in county libraries and in the genealogical section of the State Library. (See Hendricks County History Bulletin Volume 1 Number 1)

This cemetery project is uncompleted and could be one of Hendricks County's contributions to the Bicentennial Celebration.

Mrs. Judith Tansey, a volunteer, copied inscription from the east part of the Clayton Cemetery. Jeremiah Johnson and members of his family occupy graves there (see page 642 of Hendricks County History - 1885)

Grace Cox and Ruth Pritchard have been spending many hours of their spare (?) time...as busy as those two are, I doubt if they know the meaning of spare time...working on these cemetery inscriptions. I would love to see them as they start out on one of these missions armed with a bucket full of equipment! This includes everything imaginable from bug repellant to long and short pronged forks, clippers, liquid chaulk and erasers. With a few more people as energetic and as dedicated as these two, this project could be finished soon. Any volunteers?

H C H S

The Museum Board

Mrs. Raymond Lieske, president of the Hendricks County Museum Board, tells us the Board will maintain a booth at the Lion's Club Fourth of July Festival at Arbuckle Park, Brownsburg. The booth will be open throughout the festival from June 30 to July 5. It will be manned by members of the Historical Society and the booth will be open Monday through Thursday from 5 to 10 P.M. and Friday and Saturday 12 to 12. This booth was furnished by the Lizton State Bank, and will contain displays and information as to what the museum needs. It also had Sesqui-centennial items on sale. (This festival will have been over by the time your bulletin reaches you.)

Mrs. Lieske announced that there will be no Board meeting in July, but one will be held in August at the regularly scheduled time. Some one will be at the museum the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays in each month to receive items. You are urged, however, to watch the county papers for any possible change in dates. The County papers have been giving the museum board excellent publicity, for which the board and the Society are grateful.

H C H S

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VI

NUMBER

IV

October 1975

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

Officers 1975

President

Mrs. Dessie D. Huddleston
R. R. 1
Lizton, In 46149
Tel. 994-5911

Vice President

Mr. John Miller
525 E. Main St.
Plainfield, In 46168
Tel. 839-6883

Secretary

The Misses Mabel &
Naomi Joseph
R. R. 1, Box 186
North Salem, In 46165
Tel. 539-4772

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian & Publicity Chairman

Miss Jewell Bell
212 E Road 200 N
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-4055

Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
387 E. Broadway
Danville, In 46122
Tel. 745-2115

H C H S

COMMONPLACE

"A commonplace life," we say, and we sigh,
But why should we sigh as we say?
A commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
Makes up the commonplace day;
The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
And the flower that blooms, and the bird that sings;
But dark were the world, and sad our lot
If the flowers failed, and the sun shone not;
And God, who studies each separate soul,
Out of commonplace lives makes His beautiful whole.

Susan Coolidge

President's Message

The October Meeting concludes my year as president. It has been a year of great importance to us as a historical society. It is appropriate for us to look back and consider: What have we done to further the aims of the Society? And to look forward: What are we going to do as an active chapter of the National Society of men and women dedicated to the promotion of our American Heritage?

First of all, the programs at the quarterly meetings have been ones that increased our knowledge, or recalled to mind, events and practices of earlier years.

Secondly, the Society has started a museum to house items that belonged to residents of Hendricks County. To do this and to maintain it has been the aim of the Society since it was formed. To accumulate the items that are necessary to make it attractive and worth while, we have found, is a slow and somewhat disappointing process. But the groundwork has been laid, and the work will proceed.

I consider it a privilege to have served as your president, and it certainly as been a pleasure to have met you all at the meetings, and to have worked with the members of the committees. I thank you.

Dessie Huddleston, small picture of "Miss Jeanne" Williams has been given a picture of "Miss Jeanne" Williams which is badly in need of framing. The picture measures 2 1/2" by 1 1/2". Does anyone have a frame suitable? It so call Miss Jeanne.

The July meeting was held at the Plainfield Library and the program planned by Frances Fisher was everything we had hoped for. "County Fairs" was the subject covered thoroughly by Lois Crayton, Elizabeth Bray, and Martha Winkleman Carter, the lovely young daughter of Ed and Mary Jeanette Winkleman. The displays were interesting and provocative...trying to put names to faces, etc. Business? Well, we did have a business meeting, but it was secondary to our most interesting program.

October 12, 1975

The October meeting will be held the 12th at the Avon Methodist Church. This is a new church located just west of Avon on the north side of Road #36. It will be a lovely place to have a meeting.

The Rev. James Shockley will speak on the subject "Dates that Changed History". The Rev. Shockley is a splendid speaker and this is bound to be another interesting program. Elva Watts and Elizabeth Shields, with other ladies of Washington, Liberty, Franklin and Clay Townships will furnish refreshments. The nominating committee composed of Floyd Hufford, chairman, Frances Fisher and Mildred Smith will give a report and we will elect officers for the coming year. The meeting time is 2:00 P.M. Dues are due, preferably paid before this date.

Dues Are Due!

Unless you have been secretary or treasurer of a large organization, you probably have no idea how much work it takes to carry out these duties. Most of us pay our dues at the October meeting, and of course, that is when they are due; but we don't realize what this does to our secretary and treasurer. It means that they sit at the table all afternoon, taking money, giving receipts, writing out membership cards, and after it is all over, trying to tally out. So the October

meeting for them is nothing but work...work...work. However, there is a better way. If you would sit right down now and write a check and send it to Mabel or Naomi Joseph, R. R. 1, Box 186, North Salem, In 46165, it would make them so happy, and it would assure them and Blanche Wean, treasurer, that they could enjoy the next program. So, come on now, let's co-operate, for if we don't, I'm afraid they are going to ask for an increase in their salaries, and our budget doesn't provide for that.

H C H S

One of our members, Mrs. Hallie Mae Kellems, passed away Sept. 5, at Bradenton, Florida, where she and her husband were spending the winter. She has been a member for a number of years, and we shall miss her. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband, Mr. Anson Kellems.

I consider it a privilege to have met you all at the meetings, and to have worked with the members of the committee. Wanted...Picture Frame.

The Museum has been given a picture of "Blue Jeans" Williams, taken June 2, 1877 which is badly in need of framing. The picture measures 24 1/2" by 18, almost 19". Does anyone have a frame suitable for this picture? If so call Rita Lieske, 745-4334, or Ruth Hall, 994-5775.

The July meeting was held at the Plainfield Library and the program planned by Frances Fisher was everything we had S.H.C.H. "County Fair" was the subject covered thoroughly by Lois Crayton, Elizabeth Bray, and Martha Winkelman Carter. The lovely young daughter of Ed and Mrs. Winkelman. The displays were interesting and provocative...trying to put names to faces, etc. Business? Well, In our last January issue of The Bulletin, we thought we were so smart when we pointed out a mistake in the numbering of the bulletins. It has since been pointed out, however, by Dorothy Templin (new name Eagle-Eye) that the first error occurred in the July, 1974 Bulletin, so we weren't so smart, after all. So those of you who are keeping your bulletins in order, go back to July, 1974 and correct them to read as follows:

The October meeting will be held the 12th at the Avon Methodist Church. This is a new church located just west of Avon on the north side of Road 436. It will be a lovely place to meet.

1974	1975
July Volume V	Number III
October Volume V	Number IV
January Volume VI	Number I
April Volume VI	Number II
July Volume VI	Number III
October Volume VI	Number IV

And may the gremlins stay out of our numbering system from now on!

DUES ARE DUE!

H C H S

The following letter was written by Dora Carson, while she was a student at Plainfield Academy. Dora later became Dora Littler and was the mother of Esther Littler of Valley Mills. The letter was written to Elnora Hadley, who is now, and has been for quite some time, Elnora Shirley, the mother of Lois Crayton. See if you can recall some of the people whose names are mentioned.

Plainfield, Indiana
Nov. 20, 1895

.....Well, I suppose you want to know all about Old Central. There are about 70 students, I think, but so many new ones that you would hardly know the place. I thought at first I could not stand it, for only one of my class are back, Smythie, and so many new students that it did not seem like school and two new teachers besides. I am enjoying it much better now I like Miss Mendenhall as well if not better than Miss Kellum. I don't have any recitations to Mrs. Parker, but haven't taken much of a fancy to her. I am boarding at Dr. Harvey's together with Alice Kellum, Carrie White, and Ella Hadley. Ella and I room together and Alice and Carrie. Dr. Harvey's nephew Herbert Harvey also stays there and goes to school. The hired girl, Ona Powers, is just about our age too and some High old times we have. Today is Mrs. Harvey's birthday and they made a surprise for her, or tried to but she was not very surprised I guess. She and Dr. went to the city yesterday and came back this morning. She went marching in on the company and told them she was expecting them. We had a splendid dinner, roast chicken, sweet and irish potatoes, beef, chicken dressing and gravy. Several kinds of pie, two kinds of cake and lots and lots of other good things. I suppose you know Ella's sister Josie. She came and Ella didn't know it and was lots more surprised than Mrs. Harvey. Willis Doane was there too. I guess you remember him, if you don't just think of the time when he and Charley Bray met you and Elsie and I on the street and wanted to take us to a oyster supper and you told Charley you didn't think you would. I don't think I'll ever forget the way you looked when you said it. We didn't get to speak to Willis at noon for there was such a crowd we wouldn't go out to the setting room at all. I do hope he won't be gone this evening when we get home.

The algebra class is reciting now. Prof is trying to teach them those same old theorems that you learned last year.

Evan's folks are all well so far as I know. Elsie is at least and as gay as ever. She sits just behind me in school and of course I get shook and my hair pulled and ever other imaginable thing almost. I get it back once in a while when Prof looks the other way but he doesn't often do that for he knows he can't trust us. Bessie Hadley sits in front of me. She said give you her best.

Elsie and Osie gave a social to the students Halloween night. We had a most splendid time and saw witches and ghosts and all kinds of scary things.

This week we received a lot of new machinery for the science classes, especially the philosophy and chemistry classes. The Academy is almost as well fixed for science work now as some of the colleges. We are going to have some new reference books soon too.

Well, "school is over, work is done, bedtime is swiftly coming on" so I must not say much more, but I must tell you what Mrs. H got for birthday presents. Dr. gave the nicest silver set I ever saw. There is a teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, spoon holder and a dozen silver spoons each with her initials on it. There was also a nice vase, some towels, a handkerchief, a bottle of wine, a bottle of perfume, and a few other things. She was 43 years old and she said this evening if she lived to be 86 she would never have any use for the wine. (Ed.'s note: Seems that in 1895 girls were just as giggly, giddy and interested in the boys as they are today!)

H C H S

Voting Records - 1835

Ruth Pritchard can always be counted on to come up with some fascinatin' tid-bits (and some of them are much more than tid-bits) and this time it is a zeroxed copy of voting records of an election held in Marion Township, 1835. We wish it were possible to reproduce the old document with its hard-to-decipher script, but since it isn't, here is the way it goes:

At an Election held on the 3rd day of August 1835 in the Town of New Williamsburgh in Marion Township Hendricks County Ia to elect 1 representative to Congress 1 Representative to the state Legislator One Sheriff, and one probate Judge, the poles were opened, the Votes for the several Candidates Stod (stood) thus

The candidates were: for Congress, Jacob B. Lowe, George L. Kennard; for Representative, C. C. Nave, James Anderson, Job Osburn; for sheriff, James Sigerson, Edmond Clark, Thomas Walker; for probate judge, Henry H. Marvin, James McClure, Solomon Blount.

The 31 voters were as follows (and the way they voted is there for all the world to see!): William Hodges, Elijah Sutton, David Fox, Henry Tomlinson, William Bailey, Abraham Lewis, Alexander Bryant, William Tomlinson, James Turner, Bradford Samuel (should that have been Samuel Bradford?) R. W. Shannon, Jeremiah Culbertson, Joseph Lewis, Jr., James MacCoun, (although he didn't capitalize the second 'c'), John Higgins, Jacob Fox, Henry Bland, William Hayworth, John Mahan, John Robins, Jordan Denny, William Robins, John Vicory, Joseph Robins, Wesley Morgan, Hiram Tomlinson, B.S.B. Parker, Moses Tomlinson, Zimeriah Hunt, Martin Hancock, Thomas Higgins.

The final tally "stod" thus:

Jacob B. Low - for Congress	15
George L. Kennard for Congress	14
C. C. Nave for representative	14
James Anderson for representative	13
Job Osburn for representative	3
James Sigerson for sheriff	7
Edmond Clark for sheriff	23
Thomas Walker for sheriff	none
Henry H. Marvin for probate judge	24
James McClure for probate judge	none
Solomon Blount for probate judge	none

Time to pay your dues! \$3.00

Would anyone please contact me who know of any of the descendants of Samuel B. Hall. Samuel B. Hall, b. Oct. 8, 1812 m. July 12, 1835 to Mary A. Fitch. They came to Clayton from Nicholasville, Kentucky in 1855. He was a charter member of the Clayton Christian Church, was a "silversmith" and had a store in Clayton. They had ten children, Thomas, Charles, Elisha Henry (who had a son named Albert F.) Mary, Lola, Julia Amanda (who married Aaron Acton) Maria, Emma, Olive and Aurelia Hall.

Please write or call, Ruth A. Hall, Lizton, In. 46149 or call 994-5775.

THE EARLY RURAL SCHOOLS

In Our County

It has been said with perhaps some truth that in early times a man who had failed at everything he had tried would finally try preaching or teaching a school. Early teachers were handicapped for most schools of higher learning were far away and money was too scarce in most homes to pay for transportation, board, room and books. There were teachers and others who were self taught as was Abraham Lincoln and became good teachers in all schools they taught.

My grandmother Harris must have had a good teacher in Liberty Township where as a girl she attended a subscription school and learned to read quite well and to write a letter. Over in east Putnam County a Coatsville Quaker teacher named Abner Miller taught for several years and some place or other he had learned to do beginning problems in algebra and plane geometry.

The early school had no frills. Three subjects were enough for any boy or girl. The subjects were reading, writing, and arithmetic. Reading was important for folks took county papers, they wanted to read tax receipts and government news and politics. Many people had one book, a Bible and they longed to read it and understand it.

Writing was just as important. One was called on time and again to write his name or make his mark and the latter was unsatisfactory and one felt ashamed when his neighbor signed his name and taught his children to sign theirs. Folks in pioneer days parted and were never to meet again but those who left home and could write, could send home word of where they were and what they were doing. It was a pleasure to have one in a home who could read the letters and later answer them.

Some of the old time letters were modeled on the style of ancient Rome. One letter comes to mind that began like this: "I now seat myself and take my pen in hand to write you a few lines. It will inform you that we are all well and hope that you are enjoying the same great blessing."

Along with reading and writing came a series of readers that took our state almost by storm and the old McGuffey Readers for all grades were in our early schools for years. The stories and poems in these books were true to life and appealing to those who could read. They increased the desire in folks to want to read. Cleaner texts were never put before the public. They were a boon of early education.

An old time arithmetic was Ray's. A small book known as Ray's 2nd Part Mental Arithmetic was used in the grades and covered many phases of the subject. The latter part of the book brought the students to beginning Algebra and the problems had to do with land and cloth measurement, problems of grain, pastures, live stock and money. Seldom can one find so many problems that require thinking, and clear thinking. Any boy or girl who could solve most of the problems of Ray's 2nd and 3rd Part Arithmetics had girded themselves well for most of the problems they might encounter as working and progressive citizens. But few ever dreamed of college in by gone days and the three R's as taught by some of the dedicated teachers such as Uncle Abner Miller, a Coatsville Quaker, farm man and educator fitted the growing citizen to meet his rural problems.

Since nearly all people farmed, the following example of problems will illustrate what a future farmer might have to assume and the problems were his preparatory steps to success. Following are some sample problems. A man bought a sheep, a cow, and a horse. The sheep cost \$8.00; the cow cost as much as the sheep and 1/4 as much as the horse, and the horse cost twice as much as both sheep and cow;

what did each cost? To fill a certain bin with wheat at 6 dimes a bushel requires \$8.00 more than to fill it with oats at 3 dimes a bushel: how many bushels will it contain?

A, B, and C rent a pasture for \$92; A puts in 4 horses for 2 months, B 9 cows for 3 months, and C 20 sheep for 5 months. What ought each to pay, supposing 2 horses eat as much as 3 cows, and 3 cows as much as 10 sheep?

Some fraction problems are as follows: If $\frac{5}{9}$ of a ton of hay cost \$15, what will a half a ton cost?

It $\frac{3}{8}$ of an orchard contains 30 fruit trees, how many trees are there in $\frac{7}{16}$ of it?

If 3 bushels of corn feed 4 horses 6 days, in how many days will 16 horses eat 14 bushels?

Below are some fractions problems that could be puzzling to many pupils of today: $\frac{2}{3}$ of $1\frac{1}{5}$ is $\frac{2}{7}$ of what number?

$\frac{5}{7}$ of $5\frac{4}{5}$ is $\frac{7}{10}$ of what number?

These were all problems to set one's mind to work. Most of them had to do with rural living.

One might say that during the 1880's and well into the 1890's the three R's gave a farm girl and boy a chance for a better than average education. There could be no objections to many of the early books unless one figured the arithmetic might be too difficult. The little, old Ray's Second Part today as plenty of problems that modern youngsters from our best schools cannot solve. The excuse generally given with a shake of the head, is, we have never had a problem like that! Well, it's arithmetic is it not, that requires thinking to solve? Here is a final, easy, but a "think" problem from Ray's. A man had 80 eggs that he wished to sell as follows: 36 eggs at 3 for 4 cents: 24 eggs at 4 for 3 cents, and the remainder at 10 for 17 cents. Getting them mixed accidentally, how much must he sell them out per dozens to get his intended price?

Pioneer teachers maybe had trouble as well as their pupils in finding the correct answers to these many problems.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

Have you paid your \$3.00 Dues?

H C H S

McCloud Valley

The McCloud Valley story gains dimension and from one who has Eel River Township "by the hair of the head," or so he claims.

Ethridge Morphew third generation of the "McCloud Clan" who lives on S.R.136 entering Crawfordsville told us a marvelous story, Wednesday afternoon. And time flew like magic.

It seems the McClouds and Morphews have been marrying each other until they are nearly all cousins, some close and some far removed. And he knows the story and tells it well. Mr. and Mrs. Morphew, both in their eighties, were most gracious hosts the entire afternoon. They asked us back to "set a spell".

He asked the first question like "are you related to Lottie Walker?" I answered, "She is my sister-in-law and lives in Asheville, North Carolina." With that out of the way, along came a vivid remembrance of a beloved school teacher in 1902 who taught the Mahoney School near McCloud Park. He even remembered the names of most of the pupils. And they were "mostly" McClouds, Morphews, Pages and Rev. Ray Brittan who "actually accumulated nearly 2,000 acres of good farm land," according to Ethridge.

When we got the subject back on McCloud Valley, he said in no uncertain terms, "I know all there is to know about it."

Straightaway he brought me a large atlas containing maps and pictures of by-gone era. There was a plat book of each township in Hendricks County.

On the county-line road can almost be pinpointed where the first McCloud entered Eel River Township. Dr. Hall Ellis of Lixton owned a cottage and acreage there. The entrance looks like the spot where Dr. Ellis has his chained gate. Down the hill is a small stream, called Little Walnut, which is fed by another stream called Rany's Run and there lies McCloud Park. It contains several acres of rich land which has not been in cultivation for several years. And what a corn crop could be raised there! No wonder a lady from Utah called it a beautiful valley. And here Mr. Morphew left me speechless with his vehemence and eloquence.

He informed me that the government made a treaty with the Eel River Indians of the Delaware tribe in 1810. The land was surveyed in 1819 and opened for settlers. The Indians left in 1820, but to this day remains of their village can be found in McCloud Valley. Eel River is the Indian name for "slippery fish."

"Red Buck John" McCloud purchased 80 acres of land for \$1.25 per acre, where McCloud Park entrance is now located. He came here from southern Virginia, in a covered wagon pulled by one horse and one ox. He brought along one cow, six hogs and twelve chickens.

Then later Joseph Morphew also of Virginia came to this valley, after a sojourn in North Carolina. The map shows plats of ground all in 40, 60, 80 and 100 acres. Nearly all in the names of Morphew, McCloud and one marked S. Page. All these settlers had a skill. A McCloud operated a blacksmith shop near the Clinton Anderson house. A Morphew had a grist mill where the Vickery house stands. The creek running through the valley furnished power for these operations. It was a self sustaining community. The land and streams furnished raw materials. Settlers kept coming, mostly from the southern states.

The wagon train tragedy was well known. Mr. Morphew told of the deaths and burials. The bodies were laid on a wide board then another board covered it. Then the torso was wrapped in a large blanket and placed in the final resting place. He said they were buried in the McCloud cemetery, unmarked and unkept.

A man and wife came bringing with them a goodly amount of gold coins. The gold was never found. The assumption being that the man hid it in McCloud valley for safe keeping until he and his wife could recover from their illness.

Mr. Morpew had no hesitancy in proclaiming their loyalties to the southern states during the Civil War along with the McClouds. So while the war was in progress between the states, they joined the organization called "Knights of the Golden Circle" which was dedicated to furthering the Southern cause. People's sympathies often die hard.

The land of the McClouds was held intact for many years. Some of the kinfolk went back to North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. Even Ethridge lived in Tennessee and Kentucky for some time. In later years some of these came to reclaim the land settled by these pioneers. They could find no legal claims to it. As one of them said "it caint " be claimed "cause interest and taxes gobbled it up".

My Utah correspondent will be disappointed since we could find no mention of the Henry Bray family or Rushton in that vicinity. Could be that they were relatives who returned to the South.

McCloud Valley is yet to be seen and enjoyed in all the majestic glory; however it is a far cry from where the Eel River tribe of the Delaware Indians roamed the hills and valleys. Be it said that no Indian or white settler ever had any trouble in Eel River Township. There was good hunting and fishing and "corn patches for all."

Zona Walker

H C H S

VANDALISM IN DAYS GONE BY

Have you ever given a thought as to where and when Vandalism started? The name comes from a great mob of ignorant warriors of Southern Europe who ravaged the French province of Gaul, robbed and burned churches, destroyed and sacked the city of Rome.

The dictionary defines this vicious action of mankind against people, places and things as the ignorant and malicious destruction of good and useful property oftentimes art. We sometimes wonder how soon after the landing of the Pilgrims came the first case of vandalism in America. Did some boys or men go some night and under cover of darkness destroy the stocks and pillory established by law of that day to punish certain evil doers? We are told that Thomas Jefferson once carved his initials on railing or seat in the Burton Parish Church in old Williamsburg, Virginia. The poet Whittier in his well remembered poem "In School Days" mentions the "Jackknife's carved initial" on the desk that helps destroy its usefulness as a place for writing. This minor form of vandalism could be found in hundreds of pioneer schools over our state; in Hendricks and adjoining counties. It was stopped when trustees and school boards collected the price of the defaced desk from the lad who occupied it.

Halloween night was often the chance needed for wanton destruction of property. Farm gates were often lifted from the hinges and carried away which permitted live stock to escape pasture and barn lot and wander about over the township. Since the wooden pump was found on all farms fifty and more years ago, it became a sort of sport of the Halloweener to snap off the wooden pump handle and the spout.

Gangs of lads with much energy, but lacking in brain power have been known in Clay and Marion Townships to visit a watermelon patch, be courteously treated by the owner, treated on all the ripe melon they could eat and then, on a Saturday or Sunday night, call again at the patch, and haul away dozens of the best melons or

worse still, burst all the melons, pull the vines and stack them in the center of the patch. A case of this kind came years ago to a Coatesville farmer.

One of the lowest types of vandalism came when lads with little or no conscience invaded the village or rural cemetery and overturned all the stones, many of the old marble monuments breaking apart by the fall. At other times paint has been used to blot our names and dates of the dead and the paint oil has been absorbed by certain stones and ruined.

In Clay Township long ago a prominent man put a few acres into an orchard and when the trees had grown to some size a young man went one night with a hatchet and girded all the trees. Other boys came to the same man's farm and destroyed the dam to his fish pond sending a great flood of both water and fish down stream.

Our study of vandalism takes us some 20 years ago to a village grade school. A lady teacher presided. One Friday night an ignorant and malicious young man visited this school on the back of a horse. He rode on the two sides of the building that contained the windows and wielding a heavy club he beat out every window, even the sash. Some good police work months later located him.

Some folks hint that the devil is in some people and they can't help from rampaging against property and people. Others call it ignorance and lack of proper home training. When too many boys get together, a mob spirit can make itself manifest that cannot be resisted. It would seem that as long as humanity exists, forms of vandalism, like Tennyson's "Brook", will run on and on forever.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

Museum News

Rita Lieske, chairman of the Museum Board, and her various committees have spent a busy summer doing the many things that must be done to work up a museum. Don Keller and George Weilhamer have assumed to duties of the maintenance committee and for their services we are truly grateful. Catalogue indexing of articles received by the museum have been done by the clerical committee which consists of Dianna Helton, chairman, of Hazelwood, Ellen Keeney and Evelyn McKee both of North Salem. I think our organization should know that Dianna is Librarian at Tell City Junior High School. I wondered aloud to Rita how she was so fortunate to secure the services of such a competent and trained person, and she confessed that Dianna is her niece. So it pays to know or to be related to, the right persons! We want to thank Dianna, Ellen and Evelyn for their help, for it is most important that these articles people are kind enough to give to us are properly marked and catalogued.

From funds from the Sesquicentennial, the Board bought filing cabinets for Grace Cox in which to file the material gathered in the ancestor-descendant project.

The museum desperately needs kitchen and living room furniture. These are large articles, but the committee will accept these items on a loan basis with a guarantee that they will be properly cared for. Surely some one, some where in Hendricks County has something of this nature he would be willing to loan for awhile. If so, give Rita a ring.... 745-4334.

H C H S

Leter to the Editor.....

Dear Ed:

You have been harping about paying dues. In fact, almost nagging. One question I would like to ask: have you paid your dues?

Signed: Just Wondering

Dear Wondering: Nope. But I am writing my check right now, because, you see, it is one of the rare bargains we get these days....for \$3.00 you belong to a great organization that furnishes four interesting programs (with refreshments) and four bulletins per year. And this year I can mail my check for 10¢. Next year it will cost me 13¢ or more. Ed.

Some of the bulletins this time will come without seals on the cover for the simple reason that we ran out of them. The seals add much to the attractiveness of the Bulletin but at the same time increase the cost. We are thinking of eliminating them in the future, although this decision will be the responsibility of the new Executive Board.

...

...

...

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA